

Our Ref: Admin/TSE/KDA-6145

16th July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Here we are again at the end of a very unusual and busy academic year. I am sure you will agree that the pandemic has made education a very difficult process which has been fraught with last minute planning, uncertainty and national lockdowns. I am immensely proud of both the staff and the students at Kettering Science Academy (KSA), who through this entire period have focused on 'being the best they can be'. We have achieved so much together to maintain as much uninterrupted education as possible. Student attendance at KSA over the year has been above the national average. We have provided a full online teaching programme during lockdown, provided over 200 laptops for those most needing them and maintained a very low rate of Covid infection meaning that very few students have had to be sent home from school. During the course of the year KSA has had two online Ofsted inspections, both of which were very positive and reflected the progress made even during this difficult time.

Following the latest government announcement concerning 'Stage 4' we are planning a return to school in September without bubbles, masks and social distancing meaning the students will return to a more conventional approach. However as Covid is still with us I would strongly advise that all students continue self-testing at home over the holiday period, follow rigorous hand washing routines and remain aware of possible Covid infection. We will maintain the handwashing routine at KSA and following government guidance, we will be testing students twice a week using lateral flow tests upon their return to the academy. I would highly recommend that all students go through this testing regime so as to keep our community Covid free, for this to happen we will require a consent form to be completed by all parents and this is available using Microsoft forms via this link <http://bitly.ws/fzvK>.

Due to the testing that we have to carry out, the return to school in September will be phased in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Year group</u>	<u>Start time</u>
Thursday 2 nd September	Year 7 and Sixth form	08:40am
Friday 3 rd September	Years 7, 8, 11 and Sixth form	08:40am
Monday 6 th September	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and Sixth form	08:40am

During these days students will get the chance to re-orientate themselves with the school operation and start their 2021-22 timetables.



I would like to remind you of our school uniform policy as we will expect students as always to be in full correct school uniform from their first day <https://www.ketteringscienceacademy.org/page/?title=Uniform&pid=89>. KSA will not be returning to the use of lockers and we expect students as with this year to use a school bag to transport their equipment, books and P.E kit on a daily basis. At break time and lunch time we will be returning to communal eating areas such as the school restaurant and the main hall. I would also like for you to remember that we have a no mobile phone policy which means students must turn off and store their mobile phones in their bags during the school day, failure to do so will result in confiscation. From September, all students and staff must wear their KSA lanyards and ID badges at all times. Each year group will have their own colour lanyard. If your child does not have an ID card please order a new one, through Wisepay, in good time before the start of term. If you have any old, good quality uniform we would be very grateful if you could donate these items to the school via Reception or the Safeguarding Office. We welcome any uniform items including P.E. Kit.

The summer holidays can be an uncertain time where routines and daily life are different. If you feel that your child is struggling with their mental health and/or wellbeing, we have prepared a Padlet with many different resources that may help. <https://en-gb.padlet.com/cgreaves3/llwtinrkmvv2xo4z>. Additionally our website also has Wellbeing information. Please remind your children about how to stay safe online, as they will probably be using their phones and devices more over the next few weeks.

One thing we have learnt about the pandemic is that it is an ever-changing situation, therefore should any arrangements change over the holiday period I shall write to you again after the week of 9th August and we will also keep you up to date on our website. I would at this point like to take the opportunity to once again thank you for all your support this year and wish you all a happy summer break. I look forward to welcoming all the students back in September, hopefully in a more favourable situation.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Segalini
Principal

