

## Update from Kingsbury Green Academy

### Jason Tudor - Principal

I am really pleased to inform everyone that the return to school at KGA has been successful. So far!

We have introduced a wide range of safety measures to ensure that pupils, parents and staff feel safe and secure and that they can focus on the important business of learning. Attendance to date this year is 97% and when you consider the national average attendance rate in a secondary school is 94.5%, this shows you the confidence parents have in the measures we have in place. We have communicated with parents throughout this difficult period of time and will continue to do so in the event of any changes.

The changes we have put in place include:

1. Staggered arrival and departure times for all year groups so that we are able to bubble each year group and reduce the risk of transmission. This means that in the event of a positive case, we would only have to ask that particular year group to isolate.
2. Staggered breaks and lunch times. Each year group now have their own break and lunch time. This has been the biggest logistical challenge as we now have five breaks and lunches where before we had one. There is a major benefit to this system, which is that managing a single year group of 150 pupils at break is significantly easier. The pupils have enjoyed having the canteen and playing fields to themselves as it gives them far more freedom.
3. To enable the above, we have had to extend the lesson length to 120 minutes. Lesson still follow our previous learning cycle so structures and curriculum are unaffected. Where other schools have condensed their curriculum, we have maintained a broad and balanced curriculum. Extending lesson length means we now have 3 lessons per day. The intention behind this is to reduce the number of transition points between lessons and therefore reduce the number of transmission points.
4. We have introduced a one-way system around the school, which in line with the split breaks and lunches, keeps contact points between year groups at an absolute minimum.
5. We have increased the number of cleaning staff at school with a rota throughout the day of key areas such as ICT rooms and PE changing rooms between changeover.

In terms of supporting our pupils to catch up, we have a recovery curriculum in place, which we launched before the summer holidays. We share online and via post for disadvantaged families, the key curricular areas that pupils need to know for their stage of learning. These are known as 'knowledge organisers' in teaching circles and are basically summaries of key knowledge and skill requirement. Pupils are currently having baseline assessments based on these knowledge organisers, which will inform teacher planning moving forward.

In addition to the above, we have extended the school day to 4:00PM for all Y11 pupils. We have formalised an after-school revision programme for Y13 pupils and will operate a revision school for both year groups during October half term and Easter. This will hopefully have the same impact as the summer school that we ran for our new Y7 pupils in the summer. We were the only secondary to do so and it has meant that transition in to KGA has gone well.

The government has pledged around £60k to fund catch up and in addition to the above, we are employing more staff. We are advertising for a Key Stage 3 Pastoral Support Advisor and two specialist tutors to help pupils who have fallen behind. We will also be subscribing to the national tutor programme for one to one tuition for pupils identified as having difficulties post-lockdown.