

Friday 12th March 2021

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A University of Kent Academies Trust School

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back

It has been wonderful to welcome and see the students return to the site this week, positive and enthusiastic about returning, I think we are all glad to return to a level of normality. Thank you all for your continued support while we have been settling students back in and ensured they had their first, and for some second Lateral Flow Tests this week. We are pleased, and I am sure you will feel reassured to hear, that following the hundreds of tests undertaken we have had no positive cases from either students or staff. Once students have had their third test next week we will be able to distribute the home testing kits.

We are all aware this current situation has increased anxiety levels and affected wellbeing for many people. Please be reassured we are here to support our students in whatever way we can to help them adjust and settle back in. Many have already identified themselves to staff as needing extra support, but in case we have missed anyone or students have some suggestions on other ways we could help we are conducting student wellbeing surveys.

What we must avoid is being complacent, forgetting that we are still in the midst of a pandemic, so all our procedures and routines for social distancing and enhanced hygiene must continue. Please remind students that when travelling to and from the academy to wear a mask, particularly on public transport.

As some of you will have seen when coming onsite for testing this week the new building is almost finished. Our new eight classroom block has been an ideal venue as a temporary testing centre, however, moving forward as well as classrooms it will house a new reception, conference room and the Sixth Form work and common rooms. As we only have snagging and landscaping to complete the main gate is now back in use, but it is only to be used for dropping off and picking up students by families with exemptions. If you believe you may qualify for an exemption pass then please contact us. We continue to have two other large projects in operation; water distribution and electrical works, these are taking place every night in our original Victorian building until the end of April.

Next Friday is Red Nose Day, please encourage students to donate £1 and come wearing something red or dress up as their favourite super hero. We will have competitions and events within Personal Tutor and year group bubbles.

Finally, a plea from our neighbours in Ward View and Corral Close, please do not obstruct their driveways and roads if you are dropping off or picking up.

As always please contact us if you have any questions and continue to keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Wendy Walters

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