

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Start of Spring Term, January 2020

We have put together a list of frequently asked questions to help parents and students through new arrangements at the start of this term. If you have any queries that aren't addressed here then please contact us at info@kaa.org.uk and we will do our best to get back to you as soon as possible.

Please note this information is accurate as of Monday 4th January 2021 but is subject to change based on updated guidance. If it does change, we will get back in touch by email.

Reopening Schools in January 2021

Why have changes been made to the start of term in January 2021?

To suppress transmission of the COVID-19 virus and to help roll out mass testing in schools, schools are providing remote learning at the start of this term to most students.

When is school re-opening to all students?

Our current understanding is that for Year 11 and 13 this will be Monday 11th January, and for other years Monday 18th January. If that changes we will extend remote learning arrangements.

My child is entitled to Free School Meals (FSM). Will the school be continuing to provide them?

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) the school will be emailing you a voucher for each week we are closed, in the normal way. Please email finance@kaa.org.uk if you have queries about vouchers, or are worried in any way about having enough food for your children at this time.

What if I am concerned about the safety of a child at the school?

Lockdowns can put pressure on children and families. If you have a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a KAA student being stuck at home and would like to alert us to this, please email info@kaa.org.uk.

Contingency School

I've heard KAA stays open for some students during lockdowns, what is this?

Even when we are closed to most students, we still operate a "Contingency School" for a small number of students here at KAAI. Students receive supervision and support with the online lessons that are being set each day by teachers. Laptops are provided, and students have snacks and breaks during the day. Covid secure measures are in place. We expect between 50-100 students in total at the Contingency School each day.

Vulnerable children and critical workers

Who are "vulnerable" children?

"Vulnerable" is a broad term that refers to a range of possible factors. If a family has ever received support from Social Services or Early Help, for example, they would be considered vulnerable. Students with special educational needs, or others who have difficulty working at home, may also be considered vulnerable. Any student in this category is eligible to attend the Contingency School and we will be in touch directly with parents about this. Parents can contact us about it too, via the email addresses below:



Year	Director of Learning	Email
7	Ms M Reed	m.reed@kaa.org.uk
8	Ms I Dewes	i.dewes@kaa.org.uk
9	Ms S Armitage	s.armitage@kaa.org.uk
10	Ms K Bates	k.bates@kaa.org.uk
11	Mr H Abubaker	h.abubaker@kaa.org.uk
12	Ms H Sandford	h.sandford.@kaa.org.uk
13	Ms O Boyle	o.boyle@kaa.org.uk

Who are critical workers?

Critical workers are defined [here](#). Broadly speaking, they are workers who are essential in the national response to Covid (e.g. NHS staff or those working in the Emergency Services).

I am a critical worker. Do I have to send my child to school?

No, you should only send your child to school if there is no other appropriate care available and they can't learn easily from home.

Exams

Are GCSE and A Level exams still running this summer?

The plan is that exams will go ahead and the Government have reiterated on many occasions of their strong desire not to cancel them. Students should continue their preparations as normal and the school will support them as best as possible. Parents and students should note that even if exams were cancelled, the expectations in terms of the work students are currently completing remain the same. Without exams, teachers will need to assess grades based on the work students produce during the year.

Mass Testing

What is the school doing for mass testing?

The Government announced that they will be introducing mass "lateral flow testing" for students and staff in secondary schools from January 2021. These are rapid tests with results available within 30-40 minutes.

How does it work?

If your child is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they will be offered daily testing for 7 days. If they test positive, they will be sent home and you should book a lab based PCR test or use the one the school supplies you with. We will provide further details about this shortly.

When will the school start this testing?

We are hoping to have this operational w/c 11th January at the latest. Students in exam year groups will be prioritised for testing.

Do I have to consent to my child taking part?

For students in Year 7-11, yes. These tests are optional but you are strongly encouraged to take part. They will help identify students who are asymptomatic who will then need to self-isolate. Students in our Sixth Form can give consent themselves.

What if my child doesn't want to do it?

You are strongly encouraged to discuss this with your child and take part in testing. If you do not give consent, then your child will not be tested and could be sent home if they are identified as a close contact of a student and they will need to isolate as per the Government guidelines.

Home Learning

How will my child continue to learn at home?

Students in all year groups will follow a timetable of home learning lessons from Tuesday 5th January. Every morning, students should log into their KAA email account and look out for a message from their Director of Learning. This email will remind them of the subjects they should work on for that day, and any other important information they may need to know.

For **Years 7-9**, timetabled lessons will be recorded by the classroom teacher and uploaded onto Google Classroom each day (see below).

Y7-9 Jan "KAA @ Home" Timetable	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
P1 - 9:00 - 9:50	Maths	Science	RE	Science	Maths
P2 - 9:50 - 10:40	Geography	English	Computer Science	MFL	DT
Break					
P3 - 11:20 - 12:10	English	Maths	Drama	Music	Science
P4 - 12:10 - 13:00	Catch Up / Reading / Tutor	History	Catch Up / Reading / Tutor	Maths	Catch Up / Reading / Tutor
Lunch					
P5 - 13:40 - 14:30	Art	Dance	English	PE	English

Years 10 – 13 will follow their **normal school timetable** and will have 'live' lessons delivered by their subject teachers.

How much work should students do?

As a minimum, students in Years 7-9 will complete 22 lessons a week. Each lesson should take about 50 minutes to complete. If students are finishing their work much faster than this, please check that they are engaging with the material properly and not fast-forwarding through important content or leaving out written tasks. Students will receive lessons in all subject areas and must make sure they complete everything so they do not fall behind their peers - both at KAA and also nationally.

The 'Catch-up', 'Reading' and 'Tutor' slots on the above timetable are reserved for more ad-hoc sessions that students may be invited to occasionally – they will not run all the time. If a student finds they have nothing to

complete during this time, they should use it to finish any other outstanding work or do some extra 'Intrepidus Learning' work (see below).

KS4 and 5 students should be completing **at least** the same amount of work at home, as they would do when in school. They will have 'live' lessons (or in a small number of cases, be set independent work) at each of their usual lesson times and will have additional revision/work on top of this. This will total a **minimum** of 6 hours work a day. Students will be **registered** as usual for each of their lessons so please make sure your teacher knows you are present.

Where is home learning provided?

Online lessons for all year groups can be accessed through Google Classroom. Students should log on to their usual KAA account and open KAA@Home (a link to this can also be found at the top of the KAA website homepage). Here they will then find a 'Google Classroom' link which says 'click here for timetabled lessons'. Once inside, students should visit the subjects they have that day and complete the lessons according to the above timetable.

Most **Year 7-9** lessons will be presented as a set of slides or a video to watch. Students may also have to open separate documents to complete independent tasks. When work has to be handed in, students should upload it through Google Classroom by using the 'hand in' function.

Students in **Years 10-13** will receive a 'Google Meet' link (invitation) for each of their timetabled lessons via their Google Classroom. They should click on that link at the start of the lesson (which will be at either 9:00, 9:55, 11:30, 12:25, 14:00 or 14:55) and take part in the lesson. In order to make these lessons effective, students should have their computer sound and camera switched on, and be sat somewhere free from any other noise or distraction. Mobile phones should be switched off and put away.

Please click here for a short video guide to KAA at Home:

<https://www.loom.com/share/2f085979d8e8435dbf5cd03498eb854f>

What extra work can students do from home?

In addition to the regular work provided by their teachers or joining live lessons, students can access many more online learning platforms or 'Intrepidus Learning' activities. They should ensure they use these platforms effectively so that they get the most from this period. In addition, teachers may well have provided other learning materials such as exam packs or independent revision materials. Please encourage your child to go beyond the bare minimum of just set lessons.

Key online learning platforms that KAA has bought into are:

- [Hegarty Maths](#)
- [Kerboodle](#)
- [Seneca](#)
- [ActiveLearn, Quizlet and Memrise \(for Modern Foreign Languages\)](#)

If you have forgotten your log in details, please contact your teacher or Director of Learning and they will be able to help.

If I don't have a computer at home, how can I help my child continue their learning?

You can access remote learning via a tablet or phone, so you don't need to miss a lesson. However, it is better to have a computer, so please email info@kaa.org.uk if you would like to borrow a laptop.

What if I need more information?

Our website has a lot of useful information for parents about our response to Covid-19. You can also email your child's Form Tutor or Director of Learning. Please understand however that our staff are extremely busy at present, and if you can resolve your query by using the information here or in other communication that would be best.