

Principal: Nicola Ashton BA (Hons), NPQH

Kepier
Dairy Lane
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25th February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Information on Kepier Opening to all Learners 8th March 2020

I hope that you and your family are well and continue to keep safe during these difficult and unprecedented times. I know that all the staff are looking forward to welcoming all learners back to Kepier for face to face teaching on 8th March.

Lateral flow tests for staff and learners who we have consent for will commence in school during the weeks commencing 1st and 8th March. From 15th March learners will be provided with home testing kits and appropriate instructions. Details will be shared on an individual basis via ClassCharts regarding the dates and times of Kepier's testing programme.

The information in this letter outlines how Kepier intends for this to happen encompassing the following principles.

1. The safety of all learners and staff is our priority.
2. We will implement all of the system controls specified in the DfE guidance and will actively consider all other aspects of the guidance.
3. We will continue to provide a broad and balanced curriculum
4. All subjects will continue to be taught to all year groups. Some subject level adaptations may be required, to ensure adherence with safety guidelines.

It is important to note that the plans outlined below are subject to change, should the Government change their guidelines. If this should happen, we will communicate any changes with you as soon as possible.

Year Group Arrangements

- Year groups will continue to be maintained in the bubbles.
- We continue to encourage social distancing between learners where possible including on their way to and from the school site.
- Learners will continue to be provided with all equipment they require **except** a scientific calculator which we are unable to supply.

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Access to the Site including Transport Arrangements

- Learners are encouraged where possible not to use public transport; they should consider walking or cycling (the bike shed has been relocated to the front of the school site).
- If learners use public transport they must adhere to the Government guidelines on wearing face coverings.
- Learners should not walk to and from school with learners from other year groups unless they reside in the same household.
- If learners from the same household or year group bubble meet on the way to or from school, they need to adhere to social distancing guidelines.
- Learners who are travelling by car should be dropped off at the main gates.
- Learners who travel by a local authority taxi or have a medical condition requiring them to be dropped closer to the school entrance are allowed to do so but need to have prior permission from Mr Van-Lindon, Senior Leader - Pastoral.
- To facilitate the entry and exit to and from school, year groups will need to be on site and lined up at the following times and entry points:
 - Year 7 should assemble at the main entrance for 8.10am;
 - Year 8 should enter via the bike shed gate and line up by the sports block at 8.25am;
 - Year 9 should enter via the side gate next to the canteen at 8.15am;
 - Year 10 should assemble at the main entrance for 8.25am;
 - Year 11 should enter via the bike shed gate and line up by the sports block at 8.10am.
- Learners will continue to be dismissed from the building by members of the leadership team from 2.40pm.

Moving Around School

- Learners must enter the school building via their designated entry points. They must wait outside in their designated area until they are instructed to enter the building.
- Learners may be held outside for a period of time and will need to be clothed appropriately for the weather conditions.
- Movement around the school will be limited.
- Learners should follow staff instructions and only leave the classroom when directed.
- Learners should follow social distancing guidelines at all times.

Break and Lunch Arrangements

- We encourage all learners to pre-order their lunch via the app.
- All learners will remain on site at lunchtime.

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- Learners are encouraged to bring healthy snacks, including a full water bottle. Fizzy drinks are not permitted on site and will be disposed of.
- Kepier will operate the split lunchtime outlined below:
 - Years 7, 11 and 9H will have their lunch between 11.40am and 12.10pm;
 - Years 8, 10 and 9K will have their lunch from 12.30 -1.00pm.
- At lunchtime, learners must remain within a specific area for their year group bubble. All learners will have access to internal and external areas during this time.
- In the event of adverse weather conditions, all learners will be directed to stay indoors.
- Free School Meals vouchers for learners will not be issued from the week commencing 8th March. Should there be any changes to this, you will be advised on an individual basis.

Uniform

- Government guidance recommends that **all learners wear a face covering; mask or visor when in the school building, this includes during lessons.**
- Our uniform supplier, Total Sport is offering a 'Click and Collect' service
- To support with some shops not being open, learners may wear either their full school uniform or PE uniform but they cannot mix and match.
- After the Easter holidays all learners should wear their full school uniform unless they have a PE lesson, when they may wear their PE uniform.
- PE staff will ensure contact is made to remind learners that they have PE - a message will be sent via Class Charts.
- Learners who follow the Football Academy programme should attend school in their full school uniform. They will be able to change into their training kit as part of the timetabled session. All FA learners will be expected to bring their own full drinks bottle with them.

Behaviour

- Kepier continues to have high expectations of all learners at all times.
- Behaviour which puts others at risk will not be tolerated. Amendments to the behaviour policy have been implemented and are available to view via the Class Charts announcement.
- Mobile phones need to be turned off once learners enter the site.
- Kepier's expectations on jewellery, makeup, headphones, chewing gum, etc. remain unchanged.

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Attendance

- Government guidance states that school attendance will be mandatory from March 8th 2021.
- If your child is absent for any reason, please report their absence via ClassCharts before 8.30am.
- We will follow normal procedures regarding non-attendance.

Year 11

- A separate communication will be shared with year 11 parents regarding your child's GCSE and vocational qualifications.
- Kepier continues to offer careers guidance and support on a one to one basis.
- I know that there are a number of learners who are wondering whether there will be any leavers' celebrations or activities. The leadership team is currently looking at possibilities and we will share these plans with you as soon as possible.
- Leavers' Hoodies can be worn by learners from 13th April 2021.

Hygiene

- Hand sanitising will be available for learners on entry to the building. There are additional hand sanitiser stations around the building.
- We will promote the cleaning of hands regularly in the school environment.
- We will be insisting that all staff and learners ensure that when sneezing and coughing they have tissues and dispose of them appropriately ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoid touching their mouth, nose and eyes with hands.
- Classrooms, toilets, corridors, door handles and handrails, alongside other high touch surfaces, will be cleaned regularly.
- Toilets will be available for all learners to access with additional cleaning throughout the school day.

Displaying Symptoms and First Aid

- Kepier will continue to offer First Aid; wherever possible, social distancing will be maintained.

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- If a parent thinks that their child has symptoms of coronavirus, they **MUST NOT** attend school. Parents can ring 119 to request a test kit for their child.
- If a learner in school thinks that they are experiencing symptoms of the coronavirus, they must immediately tell a member of staff.
- A learner with symptoms of the virus will be immediately isolated by a member of staff wearing appropriate PPE.
- The parents / carers of a learner who has symptoms of coronavirus will be contacted and they must **IMMEDIATELY** attend the school to remove their child from the school premises.
- Learners will be allowed to attend school again after either:
 - 10 days isolation or
 - a negative test is shown.
- Any siblings of a learner who is experiencing symptoms of coronavirus will be sent home with their sibling and be subject to Government guidance on self isolation.
- If there is a positive test within a bubble, Kepier will follow the advice of Public Health England at that time.
- There is a bespoke learning package available online for learners who are self isolating. This must be followed as soon as they are identified as being off school for this reason adhering to the following:
 - be contactable during required times (taking into account that learners may not always be in front of a device the entire time);
 - complete work to the deadline set by teachers;
 - seek help if they need it, from teachers or teaching assistants;
 - alert teachers if they're not able to complete work via Class Charts or Email;
 - use proper online conduct, such as using appropriate language in messages.
- If you are self isolating, you should ensure that the Government guidelines are followed.

I appreciate there is a lot of information outlined above and I hope it answers any queries you may have. If you have any further queries, please contact info@kepier.com

Kepier, and the Coalfields Community has always been unique in its strength and unity. However in recent times this has been even more evident.

The staff has very much appreciated your kind messages, emails and thoughtful comments throughout these difficult times.

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I would like to end by taking this opportunity once again to thank you for your continued support and look forward to welcoming the learners back to school.

Yours faithfully,

N Ashton

Mrs N. Ashton
Principal

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