



The King's School

Mill Hill Lane

Pontefract

West Yorkshire

WF8 4JF

T: 01977 601701

W: kings.patrust.org.uk

E: admin@kings.patrust.org.uk

THE KING'S SCHOOL

24 April 2020

Dear Student & Parent/Carer,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well and that you have managed some normality over the Easter break. As the lockdown period has been extended, I wanted to provide you with an update on a number of things, especially home learning.

Thank you to all that contributed to the home learning online survey. We have taken into account your thoughts and opinions and have tried to address any issues that were raised. We know it is difficult for families at the moment and home schooling can be an added pressure. Our intention is to make life as easy as possible – supporting you, whilst ensuring students continue to access the highest quality of education we can provide in the circumstances.

As you will appreciate, we had to respond quickly to the situation at the end of March and work had been prepared for the short term. As we have now had some time to evaluate (and breathe) we are looking at making some key changes detailed below that will take us into phase two and more long term planning.

Organisation

We have made slight alterations to the website to make it easier to navigate with the 'Home Learning' tab now featuring more explicit video guides for our online platforms. There will also be a simple weekly overview of the topics students will focus on for all subjects. This will be published on a Sunday to assist with forward planning at home. In addition, all home learning work will now be displayed on Show My Home Work (SMHW) on Sunday as opposed to Monday and this is in response to some families expressing a desire to plan for the following week in advance. Finally, some tasks set by subjects will be 'Key Pieces' with an expectation they will be submitted and feedback received. This will be mapped out for students and parents and again will feature in the Home Learning section of the website for tasks up to May half-term.

Home Learning

I hope that this will provide clarity with regards to the expectations we have for our students during the time of closure. As you will remember, I referred to 'best endeavours' previously and we appreciate that students can only do their best. We do not want to put too much pressure on our students, so from the week commencing 27 April, relevant subjects will set a **core task** and an **extension task** weekly. The expectation will be that all students complete the core task as best they can and the extension work is there for those who may require or want extra. There will be personal introductions from teachers on SMHW (either written or a short video) which will set some context of the work for the week ahead.

There is a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document under the 'Home Learning' tab on the website. This aims to address any queries you may have regarding home learning.

Enrichment/Wellbeing

Academic work should only be one element for any school to provide a well-rounded and balanced experience. That said, we know the challenges that we are all facing in keeping busy, interacting with friends and family and looking after our wellbeing. Despite the vast array of social media platforms – it is not the same as the real thing!

As you will be aware, most, if not all our teachers have a form group and they will be calling you next week to check in. They will also provide you with their email address so that you have a more personal point of contact should you need it.

We have been working hard to put together a weekly timetable of social and fun events that students can dip in and out of as they wish. If Joe Wicks can do it then so can the King's PE department! There has already been lots of things of this nature happening through the Key Stage Three Classroom and that will continue in future weeks. There will be a timetable of events that will be published through SMHW and under the 'Home Learning' tab on the school website every Sunday. It will involve assemblies that the students can 'tune into', quizzes, challenges etc. and hopefully provide students and wider families with some light relief. On this point, I hope you all enjoyed the video that the staff put together for the students – we continue to miss them more as every week passes. There may be a King's School Video sequel... watch this space!

Thank you once again for your support at a testing time for us all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dominic Pinto', written in a cursive style.

Dominic Pinto
Head of School