



The King's School

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THE KING'S SCHOOL

26 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I write to you in follow-up to our CEO's letter on Friday, to give all parents/carers an update on key developments. Whilst the government have said that primary schools can start to re-open for certain year groups, this is not the case for currently for secondary schools. However, we do continue to be open for children of key workers and pupils considered to be vulnerable. I recognise that this on-going situation is very difficult for families and our pupils and I would like to thank you all for your continued support.

Year 10 'Face to Face' Sessions

Following the government announcement yesterday with regard to 'face to face' sessions with Year 10, we have now received guidance and have been informed that these sessions can start week beginning **15 June**. We are now working through the guidance and planning the support we can put in place for our pupils. The safety of our pupils, their families and staff will of course be the main priority. Looking through the guidance, the amount of time we are able to have Year 10 in the building will be limited, but we are committed to offering them the best support we can with their learning. Many thanks to those parents/carers of Year 10 pupils who completed the questionnaire. This information has assisted greatly in our planning and once we have finalised our plans we will write to all parents/carers with an update.

Home Learning

We have been extremely impressed with the level of engagement with our home learning and we have received a great deal of positive feedback. We do recognise that every family has different circumstances and we have endeavoured to set things up so we don't overwhelm pupils, but allow enough challenge for those who need and want it. We are acutely aware that the longer this situation goes on, the more difficult it is for pupils to remain engaged with the work and with this in mind we are planning some key changes next half-term.

We are preparing to publish a timetable of '**live online lessons**' in a number of the core subject areas for different year groups to access during the week. We are finalising details on how this will work practically and on what software platform. We will communicate the details and timetable in the first week back after half-term.

We are also planning pastoral contact to support pupils with engagement in their learning. Whilst parents/carers have been very complimentary about our communication, we know that it is difficult to keep young people motivated or offer subject specific support. With this in mind, form tutors will be making weekly contact with pupils and families, to encourage them and support their learning. In order to allow all to have a well-earned rest, we are not setting work over the half-term break.

New College Pontefract

The Trust has been working closely with counterparts at New College. Our pupils in Year 11 that have applied and are hoping to attend New College have recently being written to by the college regarding summer work. All pupils should have received a letter and text communication about the

summer work that is available on the New College website. I would encourage all pupils to engage with the work to aid their transition to post-16 study.

The King's Community Classroom

I hope that you have enjoyed and continue to access the various activities that are posted weekly on our King's Community Classroom. It has proved to be a highly successful vehicle to promote social interaction and there is much more planned over the coming weeks! You will note that we have continued this provision this week, despite not setting academic work. Please log-on on Wednesday at 12pm and take part in the Virtual Escape Room competition – the idea is to 'save the teachers' and I hope that some pupils will want to! This is in addition to a multitude of other great activities available. I cannot say too much at the moment but there could be another, now famed, King's School video landing soon... with a musical twist... watch this space.

Finally

Parents and carers will of course be concerned that pupils are picking up gaps in their learning as this situation continues. Firstly, I would say that all pupils nationally are in the same situation so I would urge you not to be too worried. More importantly, we are already thinking and planning a number of initiatives that will support every learner to reach their full potential.

Thank you once again for what continues to be a testing time for us all.

Yours faithfully,

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

Mr Dominic Pinto
Head of School