



THE KING'S SCHOOL

The King's School

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Dear Student & Parent/Carer,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well. Last week I provided you with updates on a number of things including organisation, home learning and enrichment/well-being. Having implemented the key changes which were outlined, and with the first week complete, it seemed timely to provide you with some brief feedback and keep channels of communication open.

It has been fantastic to see the number of students accessing the work on Show my Homework (SMHW). As always, thank you to parents/carers who continue to support students in completing their home learning. I have said it before but I can't stress enough the idea of 'best endeavours' and I know tutors have reiterated this to students in their phone calls to them this week. I believe staff and students alike were genuinely pleased to be able to have a short conversation and hope students felt reassured that we appreciate that they can only do the best they can.

Just as importantly as academic work is our enrichment/well-being offer. It has been a pleasure to see more of our students this week through the King's Google classroom as they step up to various challenges and join in quizzes and other events on offer. I hope that this has provided the lighter relief intended alongside their home learning tasks, and that future weeks are just as successful as this one has been. The timetable of weekly events for this will continue to be published every Sunday on the Home Learning page of the website, along with the weekly subject overview of home learning topics for the following week.

We always welcome your feedback and reflect upon this to try address any issues raised promptly. In these circumstances, which we understand are particularly challenging for families, it is even more essential to ensure students continue to access the highest quality of education we can provide. Simply put: students come first now and always.

This week the high volume of notifications students, and in some cases parents/carers, are receiving has been highlighted. Whilst this is inevitable when using online learning platforms in the manner which we are, our intention, as previously outlined, is to make life as easy as possible. Therefore to address this, we have added instructions to the Home Learning page of the website which outline how SHMW and Google Classroom notifications can be managed, both in browsers and on mobile phones. These instructions include how notifications can be turned off either permanently or periodically i.e. after a certain time in an evening or over a weekend. Of course, whilst some students may prefer to work in an evening or over the weekend, there is absolutely no expectation that students log on to the learning platforms or complete work during these times. I do hope that the instructions provided will help you to manage these notifications how you see fit for your own schedules.

Last night we premiered our sequel King's School video on YouTube to coincide with clap for carers, which now, for many of us, has become part of our weekly routine. Along with the rest of the country, both our staff and students wanted to show our appreciation of the NHS and key workers, especially those living and working in Pontefract. I hope you all enjoyed the video; for staff it was lovely to see some of our students as we continue to miss them. If you haven't yet seen this then please take the time to have a look.

Once again thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dominic Pinto', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Dominic Pinto
Head of School

