



## THE KING'S SCHOOL

**The King's School**

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this finds you all safe and well. I write to you at what is the end of the academic year – it is hard to believe how quickly we have got to this point since March. During that time we have all experienced challenges we did not expect and this is especially the case for our pupils at The King's School. This letter will differ slightly from the 'norm' with regard to end of year correspondence as I would like to add a little more detail on the wider reopening of The King's School following the previous letter from our CEO. This is in addition to a number of more general updates to keep all parents/carers in the loop about the latest developments at the school. I am sure you will forgive the lack of published newsletter that has become a regular feature at this point in the year.

I would like to start with a genuine and heartfelt thanks to all pupils, parents/carers and wider stakeholders. We could not be prouder of the resilience shown by our pupils and how they have engaged with the work we have set, embraced the King's Community Classroom and maintained the King's community feel, despite not being in the building. I hope as parents/carers, you have felt supported during this period and that the work/activities that have been set have been timely and purposeful. Whilst we will not get everything right all of the time, I do appreciate the positive feedback we have received with regard to live online lessons and pastoral care. Our aim is simple – get the teaching and learning right and look after the pupils and we will not go far wrong – we have tried to maintain that as much as we could.

### **September**

As mentioned previously, guidance can and has changed quickly in recent months. We intend to share detailed planning towards the end of the summer holidays for this reason. However, I would like to make you aware of some key detail that will enable you to start planning ahead.

- School will reopen for Year 7 only on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September, and they will be in full time from that day. Years 8 and 11 will return for one day on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> and Year 9 and 10 will return for one day during that week on Friday 11<sup>th</sup>. All pupils will then return full time together from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September.
- School start and end times will remain the same. However to enable us to control and supervise the start of the day, the school gates will not open until 8.25am and the canteen won't be open as usual. Pupils will be expected to arrive in advance of the 9.00am start of the day.
- With regard to transport, we are asking pupils and parents/carers to look at viable alternatives such as walking, cycling or travelling by car. We realise this will not be possible for some, and additional controls around hygiene will be in place.

As I have previously mentioned, full details will follow towards the end of the summer break, which will allow us to make any amendments based on possible changes to guidance.

### **Uniform/equipment**

All pupils will be expected to return in full school uniform as normal. It is also expected that pupils arrive at school on the first day back with the basic equipment they need. This will include two black ballpoint pens, pencil, ruler, purple pen, a rubber and a calculator.

### **Summer work/resources**

All subjects for all year groups have devised an optional summer project task for students to engage with should they so wish, but I would stress that these are not compulsory. As you will appreciate, one of the biggest challenges since March has been making sure we strike a balance between challenging pupils, but not overwhelming them either. There are a range of tasks available for those that want to engage with it. The work will be on the website by the end of the week under a new tab 'Optional Summer Projects'. It goes without saying that work completed will be acknowledged by teachers and there will be prizes for excellent work.

### **Physical Learning Environment**

There are a number of planned building works over the summer, which I am pleased to be able to update you on. It is of paramount importance that any investment we make in building projects is for the benefit of the pupils to give them a better experience. This is the second phase really of the work we did last summer in updating classrooms and modernising areas of school. We will be extending the Deli area, which is currently adjoined to the main dining hall. This will give us significant extra space for all pupils at break and lunch times. This means that Drama will be relocating to a separate area of school and investment will continue in this area to provide a bespoke Drama area, incorporating two studio spaces and a rehearsal room. A continued investment in the Arts sees a complete remodelling of our two Art classrooms. Whilst they were in need of refurbishment, the plans are extremely exciting and will provide pupils with a first class learning environment. These are exciting developments for two high performing curriculum areas.

Finally, the Thornton Suite building at the Mill Hill side of school is being redeveloped to become the main reception area. You will be aware already that the Ackworth Road entrance has ceased to be used this year and this is important for us, both logistically and from a safeguarding point of view. There will be a brand new visitors' welcome/waiting area and an improved area for Student Services to operate, again improving the experience for all pupils and their families.

### **My Child At School (MCAS)**

The King's School is now launching a new online payments module. Further information outlining when you will be able to start making payments using MCAS will be shared in due course to support families in readiness for the new academic year in September 2020. Please note that any credits or debits on your account will be automatically transferred to the new system.

You should be aware that, unless you sign up to this app, **you will not be able to pay for your child's catering service** as The King's School will become a 'cashless school' from 1 September 2020. Those families that have not yet signed up will receive a reminder of their Username and Invitation Code and the School ID shortly.

### **Finally**

For parents/carers of students returning to The King's School, I understand your anxiety around closing any gaps that may exist due to absence from school. We have planned for this and I am confident we will identify issues and correct them quickly – it is what we do. We will have formative assessments in Maths and English and will assess reading levels to ensure that all pupils are back on track. One plea from me to all parents/carers is to encourage as much reading as you can over the summer break; it really is vital for pupils of all ages.

I look forward to communicating our wider reopening plans at a later date but, for the time being, thank you for your continued support, please stay safe and have a restful summer break.

Yours sincerely



**Dominic Pinto**  
**Head of School**