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THE KING'S SCHOOL

SEND Term 2 Newsletter - 2020-21

17 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope this letter finds you and your family well at this difficult time. It has been a while since the last SEND Newsletter and, in that time, much has changed for all of us. The students have responded incredibly well to new ways of working in school and have made a fantastic start to the year. We wanted to take this opportunity to outline the picture within the SEND department as well as some of the SEND specific challenges to give context for our current provision.

Whilst secondary schools are open and trying to operate business as usual within the guidelines, other agencies are not. One of the difficulties is that some of the agencies that we liaise with are experiencing significant backlogs stemming from the first lockdown, whilst others are working from home, making face-to-face meetings impossible. Some of the agencies most effected by this are: Community Paediatrics, Speech and Language Therapist and Wakefield Traded Services The Special Educational Needs Support Service (SENSS).

Where we can, of course, we will try to accelerate things; however, when we rely on other agencies who are experiencing their own challenges, we cannot always achieve this. Equally, within school (as in other places of work) the picture is ever-changeable with staff self-isolating. This is meaning that we cannot always guarantee the same consistency in terms of teaching staff or Learning Support Assistant allocation that we usually can. Please rest assured, we are working tirelessly to ensure that we are supporting our young people but the current challenges are making some of our work more reactive and flexible.

We are continuing to work with teaching staff through our CPD programme on developing their application of pen portrait strategies when teaching for our SEND learners, as well their delivery of Quality First Teaching through enhancing differentiation. This remains a focus and is embedded in our quality assurance processes.

Finally, we would like to extend a thank you for your continued patience, as we find our way through the new normal in school. As ever, should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the SEND team or contact us directly via email: tk-senco@kings.patrust.org.uk alunn@kings.patrust.org.uk

Best wishes,

Mr Lunn
Assistant Headteacher

Miss Brown
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