



The King's School

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THE KING'S SCHOOL

5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that this finds you and your families well, having enjoyed a restful Christmas break. Unfortunately, this letter follows on quickly from the previous one and we find ourselves in a different situation with regard to school opening. As I am sure you are all aware, the Prime Minister announced yesterday that England will go back into national lockdown and schools will now remain closed until at least February half-term. This is with the exception of remaining open for children of critical workers and those who are vulnerable. These changes will of course raise questions from parents/carers and I wanted to put you in the picture with regard to what will happen at The King's School.

Whilst there is still some uncertainty about what this means long-term, I reassure you that we will continue to prioritise the learning and wellbeing of all our students over the coming weeks. There will be anxiety for all parents/carers, but in particular those of Year 11 due to sit GCSE and vocational exams this summer. Our main consideration is to be able to help all students navigate through what is a difficult time for them with as much information and support as possible.

Remote Learning

I have been extremely pleased with the levels of engagement with live online lessons since we returned to school. It has been fantastic to hear feedback from teachers over the last two days that refers to excellent attendance and motivation. Please can I remind you of the information found on the 'Home Learning' tab on the website where you can find details of student expectations and frequently asked questions. In particular, please can you help to ensure that your child has their camera turned on during online lessons so we can track attendance and engagement.

From **Monday 11 January**, we will be making a slight change to the timings of lessons. This is so that all students both in and out of school have lessons at the same time and this will be easier for them to manage. You will be aware that in school we have split breaks and lunches and all students following the same timings below will mean more consistency and less disruption i.e. Year 7 will no longer have a break in the middle of a live online lesson.

Period	Time
Form Time	9.00 – 9.20
Period 1	9.20 – 10.20
Break	10.20 – 10.35
Period 2	10.35 – 11.35
Period 3	11.35 – 12.35
Lunch	12.35 – 13.05
Period 4	13.05 – 14.05
Period 5	14.05 – 15.05

**Lessons will last approx. 45 minutes to allow for students to log off and log back in to their next lesson.*

Attendance

It is vital that all students continue to aspire to having fantastic attendance, albeit remotely. There is a clear relationship between excellent attendance and academic achievement, and as such, all online lessons are compulsory. Registers will continue to be taken as normal at the start of each lesson, and we will be in touch with families where students have not logged on as expected. If your child is unable to attend due to illness or other mitigating circumstances, please contact school.

Year 11 Exams

With regard to summer exams, the Prime Minister stated, "it is not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal. The Education Secretary will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements". Whilst I recognise that this message may cause some anxiety it is important to note that the Prime Minister has **not** stated that all public exams will be cancelled. We await further information. In the meantime, Year 11 students must remain focused on their remote learning in anticipation of how their work might be assessed. The situation is ever-changing and we will keep you updated as best we can. Please know that your child is not alone and we will continue to do all that we can to support them.

Year 11 recently completed mock exams in all subjects. Our intention was to have a mock results day but unfortunately this is no longer possible. These results will be shared prior to the Y11 Parents/Carers Evening alongside realistic expected grades.

Parents/Carers Evenings

These will go ahead as planned, virtually. You will have received a letter in December but all key information can be found on our website under the 'Parents' tab and 'Virtual Parents/Carers Evening'. This starts with Year 10 on Thursday 7 January.

Students of Critical Workers

Our provision continues for students of critical workers. Those in school will access their live online lessons in a computer room. If you are a critical worker and your circumstances change, meaning that you would now like your child to have a place, please contact school via email at admin@kings.patrust.org.uk.

Free School Meals

There is already provision in place for those who have requested it as per our letter dated 31 December 2020. More information about arrangements for free school meals will be communicated once we receive further guidance from the Government.

Finally...

During the original lockdown in March, we endeavoured to provide students with a range of alternative activities that would keep them engaged and safeguard their mental wellbeing. It is our intention to do this again over the coming weeks and really re-establish the (online) King's community spirit.

I thank you for your continued support in what is a trying time for all of us. We have done this once and we will do it again and continue to work together to ensure the best for all our students.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. D Pinto
Headteacher