



THE KING'S SCHOOL

The King's School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well. I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on a number of things that have been happening at The King's School in recent weeks.

Remote Learning

We have now completed four full weeks of remote learning. Firstly, can I thank you for working with us to keep our students engaged. Attendance has been very similar to what we would expect in 'normal circumstances' and students continue to produce work of a high standard.

We are acutely aware of the demands on young people at the moment and appreciate the strain that some families are under. We are constantly reviewing our remote learning offer and strive to get the balance between engagement and workload right. Our staff continue to meet, discuss and seek new ways to offer variety during lessons for all students.

In addition to the feedback we have received from both staff and students, I would like to invite you to complete a short questionnaire to let us know how you think we are doing. Your views are valuable in helping us to move forward and shape our offer over the coming weeks. The survey is to ascertain your opinions of **our** remote learning offer rather than the idea of remote learning itself. We understand how difficult remote learning is for parents and carers and hope that you are finding what we do supports your child/children in the best possible way during these challenging times. To date, your positive comments and emails have been very well received by our staff, so I would like to thank you for sharing these – keep them coming!

The link to the questionnaire is below. If you have more than one child in school, please complete a separate form for each child. The deadline for submission of your completed questionnaire is **Thursday at 9am**.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=txMKXIdyeUebS9j6_OXSIF0rRhHEiyFNqpV7EaW-6o1UNVM2WkhCSkZRUDZXT1hXWkFFNTU4M09RVS4u

Remote Learning – Cameras

As a consequence of the above, whilst we need your input, there has to be some 'non-negotiables' to ensure we can improve the experience of our students in and out of the classroom. As I mentioned, students are accessing online lessons well and attendance is now consistently above 95%. However, we are keen to ensure that as we move further into the term and beyond, the level of engagement in these lessons is equally high.

As such, from tomorrow, students without cameras on (unless there is a valid reason) will not be able to participate in lessons. Recent educational research on effective online provision finds that cameras being on significantly enhances the experience of students and the ability of the teacher to interact with students on a more human level. It also more closely replicates the experience of school and creates a sense of relative normality.

We recognise that for a very small number of students they do not have access to cameras or have arranged alternatives and staff are aware of these cases. If you have a valid reason for your child not having their camera on during Live Lessons, that you have not already communicated with school, please contact us at admin@kings.patrust.org.uk and this will be followed up with your child's Student Liaison Officer.

Access to Resources

Alongside completing work on electronic devices, lessons also require students to have additional resources such as exercise books etc. We understand that supplies at home may now be starting to run low, and that the closure of many shops may make it harder to access materials.

If your child needs additional resources from school (whiteboard, whiteboard pens, pens, pencils, paper, exercise books etc.) we, alongside Carleton High School, are going to be offering a number of mobile collection points on **Friday, 5 February**. Our school minibus and the Carleton High School minibus will be parked outside Trust schools. Families can access resources from any collection point regardless of which school your child attends. Students, parents and carers can simply go to a location and pick up the resources they require. There will be no charge for this service. Please note, it is very important that students/families adhere to social distancing guidelines at all times, wear a mask and do not gather in groups when collecting resources; this is a quick collection service. Resource collection points and times for Friday 5 February will be as follows:

Time	Pick-up Point
8:00 – 8:45am	Orchard Head J, I & N School (The King's School Minibus)
8:00 – 8:45am	Carleton Park J & I School (Carleton High School Minibus)
8:00 – 8:45am	The King's School (Reception)
12:00 - 12:45pm	The Rookeries J, I & N School (Carleton High School Minibus)
12:00 - 12:45pm	Halfpenny Lane J, I & N School (The King's School Minibus)
12:00 - 12:45pm	The King's School (Reception)
3:30 - 4:15pm	Larks Hill J & I School (The King's School Minibus)
3:30 - 4:15pm	De Lacy Primary School (Carleton High School Minibus)
3:30 - 4:15pm	The King's School (Reception)

Please note that the lunchtime collection (12:00pm – 12:45pm) is for parents/carers only as students will be in live lessons at this time.

Additional Activities (Homework) / Achieve Sessions

Whilst trying to strike the right balance for our students, we have not set homework this term so far. Whilst we will continue with this approach, we do appreciate, and have been approached by some parents/carers for additional materials to be made available. We have created a resource pack of additional activities tasks, by subject and by Key Stage (Key Stage 4 – Years 10 and 11, Key Stage 3 – Years 7-9). These are now available on our website and can be accessed by students should they so wish. The link is below:

Additional Activities Booklet: [Remote Learning: The King's School \(patrust.org.uk\)](https://www.patrust.org.uk)

Achieve sessions (timetabled lessons from 3.05pm – 4.05pm) will begin again after half-term for students in Years 11 and 10. More information will follow in due course. We feel now is the right time to reintroduce this support in addition to our remote learning provision.

'Dress to Express'

This week is Children's Mental Health Awareness Week and this carries added significance at the moment for obvious reasons. At The King's School, we will be following their theme of 'Dress to Express' and on Friday we will be asking all students and staff to take part. This will be communicated with the students during form time this week but is for your information. This can be a favourite colour, a range of colours or even a sports strip! On this rare occasion, Manchester Utd shirts are also acceptable! More information can be found on our Twitter page @KingsPontefract

Thank you in advance for your time. As always, if you require any further assistance please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mr. D Pinto
Headteacher