



# THE KING'S SCHOOL

The King's School

Mill Hill Lane

Pontefract

West Yorkshire

WF8 4JF

T: 01977 601701

W: [kings.patrust.org.uk](http://kings.patrust.org.uk)

E: [admin@kings.patrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@kings.patrust.org.uk)

12 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that this letter continues to find you and your families well. It is less than a fortnight since I wrote to you with some key updates and I cannot believe half-term is here already! Time flies...

## **Remote Learning – Survey**

In my last letter I asked that parents/carers provide us with feedback on our remote learning provision. Many thanks to all who responded and took the time to not only answer the questions but also provide really helpful comments and feedback.

The responses were overwhelmingly positive. **98%** of parents/carers stated that they were very happy/happy with our remote learning provision. In addition, **94%** stated that they were very happy/happy with the support we were providing. An overwhelming majority also felt the amount of work we provide is just right at **86%**, with some feeling there could be more – **5%** and others feeling too much – **9%**.

As delighted as I am with the above, we are always looking at ways in which we can improve and give our students the best deal. Whilst I think (generally) we are getting it right, we will not become complacent and all comments will be taken on board to improve our practice further.

## **Screen Time**

I am aware of the demands placed on our students. Screen time is a concern for some and we continue to try and strike the right balance. As I have said before, there would be very few situations where we would be encouraging children to sit in front of a screen all day. However, structure and access to learning is crucial so that our students do not fall behind. Our staff have been working hard on developing new methods of delivering online lessons so that students can spend more time working away from the screen. We will continue to do this and will allow more time for students to work independently during PE lessons after half-term. We will continue to set challenges and tasks that students can complete away from the screen, with family members for those who wish to do so.

## **Wellbeing**

Following on from the above, never has wellbeing been more prevalent than during lockdown. Our pastoral team continue to make welfare calls on a daily basis, in addition to all students having form time, which allows form tutors to 'check-in' with students in their group. We have been developing the wellbeing section of our website, which I would encourage all students to access. There are also resources which parents/carers may find beneficial during a time that is challenging for us all! Please see the link below:

<https://kings.patrust.org.uk/wellbeing/>

## Achieve

Achieve sessions will begin again after half-term. These will be **optional** for Year 11 students and **highly recommended** for identified students in Year 10. They will begin week commencing 1 March.

We are still unclear as to how GCSE grades will be awarded in the summer so want to provide Year 11 with the means to access additional support. We will also look to incorporate bridging work to help them prepare for post-16 education as we move closer to the summer term. For Year 10, we have to be mindful of the time they have missed in school and the assumption they will sit exams as normal in summer 2022.

Achieve sessions will be only be for Maths, English and Science and all sessions will be 30 minutes so not to add too much screen time at the end of the day. There will be two sessions weekly for each subject and the focus of these will be published on Google Classroom and shared by form tutors after half-term. For Year 11, we will ask students who wish to attend to sign-up online and for Year 10 students, we will communicate with the parents/carers of those we wish to attend after half-term.

Please also be reminded that homework extension tasks are available for students to access on our website. [Remote Learning: The King's School \(patrust.org.uk\)](https://patrust.org.uk)

## Year 11 Vocational Subjects (Coursework)

We are still unsure as to how exam boards will grade vocational subjects and want to ensure that all students have their coursework to the highest possible standard. Due to time away from school this year and last, some time has been lost. We will be running drop-down days for Year 11 students in Sports Studies, BTEC Music, IT, Health & Social Care, Engineering, Hospitality & Catering and BTEC Performing Arts, during the week commencing 22 February. Parents/carers of the students to be involved will receive a separate letter today with the relevant information.

## Parents/Carers Evenings

We have now completed our cycle of parents/carers evenings for all year groups. We have received a great deal of positive feedback, with most people seeing the virtual evening as 'the future'. Below is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts, which will allow us to shape our plans for similar events in the future. If you are a parent/carer of a Year 11 student, please be kind! We did experience a system failure beyond our control which had an impact on that event and following weeks. Below are the links by year group and if this could be completed no later than **4pm on Monday 22 February**.

Y7: [Y7 Parents/Carers Evening Survey](#)

Y8: [Y8 Parents/Carers Evening Survey](#)

Y9: [Y9 Parents/Carers Evening Survey](#)

Y10: [Y10 Parents/Carers Evening Survey](#)

Y11: [Y11 Parents/Carers Evening Survey](#)

Thank you for your continued support and I hope that we communicate positive news in the not too distant future regarding welcoming our students back to school.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr. D Pinto**  
**Headteacher**