

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Headteacher's Update**

It has never been a more difficult time to stay together as a community which means that it has never been more important that we do everything we can to remain united. Our shared goal has to be that we support every student to be learning from home. I think that the first thing to be acknowledged is that we cannot provide the same level of education that we would if we were open as usual (if we could, then we would serve no purpose). We must work together to do the best possible job that we can, given the circumstances. I also know that we will not be able to deliver a provision that will make everyone happy (I have received emails from students in the last week asking for more work and others, asking for less work). What we can and will do is our best to provide tasks and activities with educational value and support via Show My Homework and our Student Share drive to students and parents.

To ensure that we were prepared with plenty for each student to do, we have placed a good number of tasks on Show My Homework. However, we recognise that every student is an individual, with their own needs and working speed. You know your child so please support by helping them to prioritise and set realistic goals. If your child cannot complete all of the work then we understand. Keep in good communication with teachers and share your experiences (we are all still learning our way through the process of remote learning). I do expect students in Year 10 to be more independent than those in Years 7-9.

### **We would suggest the following for our students:**

- Students should try to study subjects as per their fortnightly school timetable
- Teachers will set a separate piece of work for every timetabled lesson on Show My Homework
- Each period of study should be approximately 40 minutes in duration
- Work will be assessed by teachers through online quizzes/tests (accessible via mobile phones), frequency will depend on the time allocated to subjects in the timetable. i.e. core subject assessments will be more frequent than subjects such the Arts, RS or Technology

I have received a number of queries about the prospect of live streaming lessons. This is something that we are currently pursuing. However, I have a number of concerns about this approach, including the burden that it will place on staff and students to structure their uncertain days around specific times which may not be achievable (for example, many of my staff are working from home while caring for their own children and/or elderly relatives). I am also worried that there will be students who cannot access live streams and will therefore be disadvantaged. We will continue to review this as the situation develops.

It will be important that everyone has as much of a break as possible over Easter. Therefore we will not be setting any work for students in years 7- 9 whilst students in Years 10 should try to ensure that they use the time to revise the work completed during the last two terms. There will continue to be activities that are optional on our Kings Facebook learning hub <https://www.facebook.com/groups/21433964670834/> I really want the staff to be able to

have some time away from their laptops and therefore individual staff will not be answering emails over the holidays regarding work that has been set. This is important as it gives all of our families some time to do things together without other pressures.

The school will remain open for the children of keyworkers over the Easter holidays with a skeleton staff. Our [studysupport@kings-international.co.uk](mailto:studysupport@kings-international.co.uk) email for any password or access to work queries and [dsl@kings-international.co.uk](mailto:dsl@kings-international.co.uk) email for safeguarding issues will remain monitored for any student or parent.

For parents of Year 11, we know how worrying this time has been. Please see the attached letter from Ofqual regarding GCSE's which we received this morning.

If your child receives free school meals you should by now have received your national voucher via email.

Finally, I think it's essential that we all look for the positives and find time to have fun. This video (which I'm sure many of you will have seen already) nicely sums up what many of us are experiencing at present: <https://youtu.be/wdcS0Nbo7Ng>

Take care.

Best wishes,



Mrs J. Luhman  
Headteacher