

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are doubtless now aware, Prime Minister Johnson has given the instruction that schools must close. A difficult decision for any Government to take, but one that is backed by the scientific advice that a crowded school could cause a faster rate of disease transmission over the coming days and weeks.

I am incredibly reassured, however, that the advice also suggests that schools with less dense populations can still function, because it is possible to reduce the proximity of people from each other and also to increase the amount of clear spaces in a building designed to contain more people than the current proposals would permit.

As such, I am delighted that we are able to act with our social conscience and offer to continue to serve certain members of our community. Thank you to all parents who have responded to our request to get in touch if they are a keyworker. The deadline is 9am tomorrow - please write the email to keyworkers@kings-international.co.uk **leaving the body of the email blank and stating only in the subject line the name and tutor group that your child is in and also the profession in which you work.**

While the definition of key worker was not discussed by Mr Johnson, this traditionally refers to NHS workers, police officers, supermarket delivery drivers and those who look after the vulnerable and elderly. To support other local schools we would also like to get an indication of how many children of teachers and school workers we have. A full list has not yet been revealed by the Government but those classed as being a key worker could be expanded over the coming hours. Needless to say, I will keep in touch with you all to update you as I am able.

We are currently working to devise a suitable timetable for the children, who are likely to be taught in key stage groups. It is currently likely that we will start the school day at 9 and finish at 2.30. In the first couple of days next week, the kitchen will only be offering a simple packed lunch service until we can gauge the likely numbers. All children who are eligible for a free school meal are welcome to sign in between 12-1pm to collect their packed lunch. If we are in the position to offer a hot meal, and numbers support this, we will confirm the times at a later date.

All children on EHCP's will have received a phone call to establish if they are taking up the offer of the school continuing to educate their child at this time.

This will all need to be quite fluid and is likely to change as we experience this new regime. It is also likely to change as the numbers of children attending go up or down and also as the number of available staff inevitably reduce.

All free school meal children will be given a printed pack of work to complete at home and any of those children who are already self-isolating will have this pack either posted or hand delivered over the coming days.

All children will receive an assembly on how to access the home learning resources and we are currently preparing guide to effective home tuition that we hope will support families in trying to maintain routine and structure as well as creating a study support email address for parents which should be **your one point of contact** from Monday 23rd March
studysupport@kings-international.co.uk

All students, before Monday, will be provided with a safeguarding card containing links and a guide to access the student systems.

Year 11 only – last day

We have met with all Year 11 students this morning and expressed to them how much we value their hard work over the last 5 years. I have also promised them that if it becomes inevitable that the prom in June cannot go ahead we will find an alternative date before the end of 2020 for the prom to be held. To ensure that they have recognition and an opportunity to say goodbye to staff, as we are working on the principle that they will not be returning, we have arranged a free leavers' breakfast tomorrow in the Cyber Café from 8.40am, shirt signing and a leavers' assembly. They deserve to have the same opportunities as school leavers have had for generations at Kings and we will share this message with them. Students have asked that this is a MUFTI day for Year 11 which I have happily agreed to. Students will be dismissed by 10.40am. We will minibus home any students who come in on school transport.

After the government announcement last night it became clear that the 2020 cohort will not sit exams. It is unclear how students will be assessed but we must ensure that the government honours their pledge that no students are disadvantaged by this turn of events. Certainly we will do everything in our power to support every student to access the next stage of their education.

Please feel reassured that this difficult time will pass swiftly, as much as it is currently causing much strain. I very much look forward to, when we have all worked together and pulled through, the opportunity to welcome you all back to Kings in the near future.

Thank you once again for your continued support, and the lovely messages we have received.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J. Luhman
Headteacher