



12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you well. A short letter at the end of short half-term that has probably felt very long to you all.

- 1) Well done. I know that once again you have had to dig deep and do all that you can to support your children in accessing their education. I know that you are doing this at the same time as you face the impact of the pandemic on your working and personal lives. Like me, you will be disheartened by what you are reading, seeing and hearing in the media about the impact of school closures on children. I can only imagine what impact this is having on the children themselves. However, whilst there are undoubtedly challenges ahead, I think it is important that at Kimberley we continue to make sure the positive story is also heard by our children:
  - In September 2020 all students returned to school after a 4-month closure. The whole Kimberley School community worked together to ensure that they quickly and safely returned to the normality, routines and structure of school and learning. We have done this before and we will do it again.
  - The staff at Kimberley School are highly skilled at identifying and tackling gaps in knowledge, skills and understanding. They have done this before and they will do this again. This is what they are trained to do and this is what our curriculum is set up to achieve.
  - We have seen significantly higher levels of engagement in the remote curriculum in the last six weeks. Students' hard work at home during this time will mean that they are well placed to quickly return to school and get back on track to success.
  - In some ways, there has been a positive impact on students that will mean they are well placed for success when they return to school. In September 2020 staff reported that many students had, as a result of school closure, developed independent and resilient study skills; and that many had a different and deeper appreciation of the benefits of school.
- 2) During the February Half Term, the school retains responsibility for Covid-19 contact tracing. This means that if a child who attended school during the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> February tests positive for Covid-19 during half term; parents must complete this [online form](#) to help us identify if the child was infective whilst in school and, if so if there were any students or staff who were in close contact with them during this time. In the event that your child tests positive for Covid-19 as well as completing this form, you should also engage with NHS Track and Trace to identify any close contacts outside of school. This does not apply to students who were not in school during this week.

- 3) The Remote Curriculum will stop at 3:05 for all students and staff today. Everyone needs a break. I do understand that some students in exam year groups may need to spend some time studying this half term but it is important that every one of our students takes a break at some point and ensures that they are refreshed to return to "Remote School" at 8:50 am on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

We are, of course, expecting announcements from the government on a number of matters during the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Please rest assured that as always I will be in touch as soon as I have understood the implications for Kimberley School.

Take care and thank you for all the supportive comments you have sent myself and staff across the school. They are appreciated and they do make a difference.

Andrew George

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. George', written in a cursive style.

Head Teacher