



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are well. Another Friday, and another set of updates from me. I do hope you find these useful. Don't forget you can see all the letters I've sent this term [here](#). OK. Here we go!

- 1) **Hints and Tips for making the most of live lessons.** Mr Park shared this a video with students in their tutor time on Monday. It sets out what students can do to make sure they are making the most of the remote curriculum. It may be helpful for you to watch this with your child/children before the start of another week of live lessons. You can find it on the [Student Notices](#) page of the website.
- 2) **March 8th.** Following the [statement from the Prime Minister](#), it is now clear that the current arrangements for remote education will continue until at least March 8th. Whilst we were hoping that we would be able to welcome students back into school earlier than this, it is now clear that our absolute priority has to be to work together to ensure that students are accessing the remote curriculum successfully. Next week we are strengthening the approaches that we take to identifying non-engagement and our pastoral teams will be in touch with you if we have any concerns. However, as ever, please do contact the relevant pastoral team if you are concerned about your son/daughters' engagement in the remote curriculum.
- 3) **February Half Term.**
 - The Department for Education has set out that schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week.
 - Kimberley School will still issue Free School Meal vouchers to eligible families during half term.
 - We will continue to play our role in contact tracing during the half term week for those pupils and staff who have continued to attend school. We will contact parents whose children have attended school this half term about the arrangements for this.
 - Regular testing of staff and students in school for asymptomatic cases will not continue during half term. However, these staff and students will be tested on their return to school after half term.
- 4) **Year 7 Exam Week.** This was scheduled to run during week beginning March 8th. These exams will now not go ahead as we cannot plan with any certainty for students being in school during this week. However, please be reassured that subject teams will work to ensure that teachers are able to undertake ongoing assessment of students' progress through the tasks that they are set in the remote curriculum. We will then use this information from teachers to share a progress report with you. Parents' will be able to meet with subject teachers in the online parents' evenings on the 12th and 18th May.

5) **Year 9 Options.** The scheduled Year 9 Options' Evening for the 11th February cannot go ahead. However, information and presentations will be made available online via the school website. Here is a timeline of how and when the information will be made available:

- Mr Park has already run a video assembly with Year 9 students about the Options process.
- Parents can now find the updated [KS4 Options booklet 2021-23 document](#) on the school website. This booklet gives details about the Options process and information on the curriculum students will study at KS4 as well as a detailed page for each of the option subjects.
- Subject Performance Leaders are producing short videos about each of the option subjects. These will be available at some point next week - we will let you know when they are ready to view.
- Mr Park will do a presentation video for parents on the Options process and how to complete the electronic option form. This will be available on the website from Monday 8th February.
- Year 9 students will have a second video assembly on Tuesday 9th February where Mr Park will give further guidance and show them how to complete the electronic option form
- Tuesday 9th February - Parents will be sent the link to the relevant electronic option form via email.
- Wednesday 24th February - deadline for all option choices to be made via electronic form

We know that this is not ideal but, having had to run a similar process for applications to the Sixth Form last year, we are confident that we can work with you through this process to help your son or daughter to make appropriate choices. However, please don't think you will be alone with this. We are here if you need us.

Thank you again for your continued support and the work that you are doing to support your children. I hope you and your families are able to get a good rest this weekend.

Yours faithfully

Andrew George



Head Teacher