



5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope you are all well at the end of another week of home schooling. As ever, I hope these updates and reminders are helpful:

Return to School. I am sure that like me you are a little tired of the speculation in the media about when students will return to school. It does appear that some students will be able to return to school on the 8th March but we will not know if this is all or some students until week beginning 22nd February. Please rest assured that we are already planning for a variety of scenarios and that as soon as we know what is happening we will be in touch with you with our plans. If we are expected to welcome all students back on March 8th then we are ready to do so. We are also prepared for a scenario where some year groups return to school and some stay at home for a little longer. Whatever challenges are thrown at us; I am sure that we can work together to make it successful. In the mean-time, all of our efforts should be to make sure that students are accessing the remote curriculum successfully. As ever, if you need support from us then please do not hesitate to contact school reception who will make sure that your concern is passed to the relevant pastoral team.

March 15th. Unbelievably, March 15th is scheduled as an INSET Day which looks like fantastic planning from us! We are going to postpone this INSET Day as it seems unreasonable to me that students who return to school on the 8th March would then have to stay at home again on the 15th March. I will communicate to you the date of the new INSET Day as soon as possible and I will ensure that you have sufficient notice to plan for this. However, I am reluctant to set a new date until we have some certainty over arrangements for the remainder of this school year.

Year 9 Options information

Students and Parents / Carers can now find a dedicated page for the Year 9 Options information on the school website within the Curriculum section.

<https://www.kimberleyschool.co.uk/keystage4options>

You will find there:

- A copy of the Options Booklet 2021-2023
- A video presentation from Mr Park that covers all you need to know about the Options process including how you will receive a link via email to the electronic options forms
- Video presentations about each of the Options subjects produced by the Subject leaders which give greater detail about what is studied

Please ensure you have watched the presentation and take time to review all of the subject videos your son / daughter might be interested in before making your choices. Emails with a link to the electronic options forms will be sent on Tuesday 9th February. The deadline for the completion of the options form is Wednesday February 24th.

If, after you have watched everything, you still have a question, please use the email addresses for subject leaders for any question that is specific to a subject. For any other queries relating to the options process or the options forms please use this email address

year9options@kimberleyschool.co.uk

Monitoring and Tackling Engagement. In line with our statutory responsibility to do so, this week we have introduced enhanced processes for collecting data daily that will help us identify which students appear to not be attending live lessons and/or engaging with the remote curriculum. If we are concerned, then we will contact you to understand if there is a problem and if so how we can support you.

Year 7 – 11 Live Tutor Sessions. These run on a Monday and Friday from 8:50 am to 9:00 am. They are an important opportunity for tutors to:

- stay in touch with students
- provide updates to the students on whole school matters
- tackle any concerns or problems students report to them

They are also an important part of our work on monitoring the welfare of students and so please do stress to your children the importance of attending these tutor sessions. Pastoral teams do contact home where students do not attend. However, if the pastoral team is concerned about non-attendance at these sessions and is unable to resolve this with families they will have to report any welfare concerns they have to the Nottinghamshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.

Parents and Carers of Students in Year 10 should note that we intend to run the planned Parents' Evening on March 4th online. You will be able to make appointments for this evening after half term.

Parents and Carers of Students in the Sixth Form should note that we intend to run the planned Parents' Evening on March 11th online. You will be able to make appointments for this evening after half term.

Year 11 and 13 Grades. We understand that Ofqual will announce the outcomes of their consultation on awarding 2021 grades during week beginning February 22nd. This will, I am sure, then require a significant amount of planning in school for us to ensure that we are implementing the processes correctly and fairly. When this announcement is made, I would ask for patience from parents and carers as we seek to understand how we will implement the process this year. Until we are able to share this with you, our priority has to be to ensure that students are still doing all they can to access the remote curriculum successfully. Please remember my letters to [Year 11](#) and [Year 13](#) last month set out how important the work that students are doing now is.

February Half Term. A reminder that school closes on Friday 12th February for February Half Term. This does mean that the remote curriculum will stop. Whilst some students in exam year groups may need to spend some time reviewing or catching up on work in some subjects, I think it is crucial that we ensure that students have a break from remote learning so that they are refreshed and ready to return to "remote" school on Monday 22nd February.

Thank you for your continued support. Take care.

Yours faithfully,



Andrew George

Head Teacher