



# THE KING'S SCHOOL

GRANTHAM

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well and thank you for your continued support.

The weather has clearly turned Autumnal this week and Public Health England have asked that we share the following website and information with you: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-parents-and-guardians-when-you-should-book-a-coronavirus-test-for-your-child/letter-to-parents-and-guardians-when-you-should-book-a-coronavirus-test-for-your-child>

## School reopening

Fortunately, we have been able to operate a relatively 'normal' day with boys having five-hour long lessons. We are pleased to report that we have not had to reduce the curriculum offer in any area. The use of the one-way system and longer movement time has been adhered to by the vast majority of students and this has enabled us to continue to maintain the current number of sessions. We have been pleased with how students have complied with the decision to wear face coverings between lessons. We hope that this measure may reduce the need for us to close to entire year groups in the future.

We have invested additional money in measures to ensure that the school site is clean and safe. This includes recruiting additional cleaners and contracting a company who specialise in antimicrobial technology to spray all highly touched surfaces in the school such as tables, chairs and door handles. The spray is designed to eliminate bacteria and enveloped viruses, such as COVID-19, for periods of up to 90-days.

## Year 13 Parents' Evening

The Year 13 Parents' Evening scheduled in the calendar for the 07 October will be held virtually rather than on the school site. Year 13 parents will receive information on how to book appointments.

## Attendance

We are very pleased to have 96.8 percent attendance in school for the term to date.

## A message from the Parents Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA)

The Parents, Teachers, Friends Association actively supports the school and the teachers by organising events to raise funds for the school community. The PTFA is a registered charity, impartial in its actions and the officers of the PTFA include Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, who are elected at the AGM each year. Every parent or carer is automatically a member of the PTFA and is welcome to attend all the meetings and to contribute to the decision-making process.

The PTFA AGM will be held on the 30 September at 19.00 via Zoom and we would like to invite parents to attend. The current Chair will be stepping down at this AGM therefore the PTFA is looking for a new Chair as well as an assistant Treasurer. We look forward to you joining us.

<https://zoom.us/j/97164091169?pwd=TFhOZE04NFBIL29TaXZ0dXpVUEpFUT09>

Meeting ID: 971 6409 1169 | Passcode: 563044

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## Year 10 support evening

The Year 10 Parents' Support Evening is unable to take place this year given the current restrictions on large gatherings. We will provide information on the school website: <http://www.kings.lincs.sch.uk/page/?title=Year+10+Support+Evening&pid=310> to equip parents with information that will enable them to support their son through the GCSE years. If you have any concerns regarding your son's progress we ask that you contact the Form Tutor in the first instance. If you wish to discuss your son's work, conduct or issues of a personal nature, please contact The Head of Year 10, Mr Collins. An appointment can be made either in writing or by telephoning the school. Please note it is often not possible for teachers, other than Heads of Year, to speak to parents on such occasions due to their teaching commitments. In addition, as Heads of Year also have a heavy teaching commitment, they may not always be available at short notice.

## 2021 GCSE changes

Ofqual instructed the examination boards to adapt the content of the 2021 GCSE examinations scheduled for the summer. Changes have been implemented to address the loss of learning during the period of lockdown. These changes are to enable three quarters of a million Year 11 students to access their GCSEs. I am pleased to report that Subject Leaders at King's are confident that these changes will enable our students to achieve success in the final GCSEs. Currently, there are some subjects that are awaiting final confirmation of syllabus changes and we shall ensure that this information is conveyed to students and parents. We are also identifying students who may need some extra support and will be implementing a tailored programme for them shortly. The examination board changes that have currently been announced are:

### Art

The final information on the changes to the Art examination have not been released yet, however, additional GCSE revision sessions now take place at lunchtimes in the department.

### English

There are no changes to the English Language examination. The department is already running catch up sessions at lunchtime and will analyse performance in the Mock Examination and use this to target further intervention.

In English Literature there is no change to Component 1, which covers Macbeth and An Inspector Calls and this is still a 'closed book' examination. However, in Component 2 only two out of the three sections are required to be answered. The department have decided to remove the 'seen poetry' component of the examination. This removes the need for students to memorise 18 poems for the examination. Poetry is still covered in the 'Unseen Poetry' component.

### French and German

In both French and German on the writing paper pupils will have more choice. Instead of choosing between two questions for the 90 word essay and the 150 word essay, they will have a choice between three questions so that they can write on their preferred theme. Both subjects will still cover all the course content for the writing paper. The papers will also be slightly longer so that pupils have more time to make their choices.

### Geography

In Geography the layout, structure and question type in these papers remains the same as previous year's. The content of the 2021 exams also remains broadly the same as previously. The only change in content is the requirement for boys to undertake two days fieldwork has been removed and questions associated with pupils own fieldwork experience have been replaced with questions on general geographical skills.



The implications for the teaching of Geography at King's are minimal. Boys will follow the curriculum in full as outlined on the curriculum section of the School website. We are confident the Year 10 curriculum was completed in full, with the exception of fieldwork which has now been removed from the exams. Staff will, however, regularly review the home learning in lessons and intervene on an individual basis where necessary. Additional GCSE revision sessions now take place Monday evenings after school in the department.

## History

AQA have taken the decision to only assess three out of the four modules. This means that for students at King's they will no longer study, or be examined on, Britain: Health and the People c1000 to Modern Day. They will still be examined on the following modules:

- Russia 1894-1945
- Conflict in Asia 1950-1975
- Norman England 1066-1100

As a school Health and People would have been the final module and this has removed any time issues.

## Mathematics

There are no changes to the mathematics GCSE and the department will be working to ensure that students are appropriately prepared for the summer examinations.

## Music

In music the requirement to perform as an ensemble has been removed. The solo performance has been reduced in length to at least 90 seconds. In composing, the number of compositions has been reduced from two to one. These two changes have mitigated against the issues resulting from lost time and the department are confident that they will complete the course in good time for the examinations.

## Physical Education

In physical education the practical element of the Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) has been reduced from assessment in three sports to assessment in two sports. In addition, all moderation of the NEA will be 'by post', meaning that video evidence will be essential. The NEA written element remains unchanged.

## Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Science practicals have been removed from all three sciences. This will have no impact on course content, however, staff are confident that students will finish the courses in time to allow a thorough revision programme to be implemented.

Thank you for your support in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

Simon Pickett

Head Master