



# THE KING'S SCHOOL

GRANTHAM

## SARS-COV-2 (Covid-19) update

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the number of positive and encouraging emails expressing your understanding at this incredibly difficult time; it is enormously appreciated.

Following my letter on 01 December 2020 we have continued to receive reports of positive cases of the SARS-Cov-2 virus mainly in Years 9, 10 and 12. Each individual case is resulting in twenty to thirty students being required to self-isolate for a 14 day period. This has also meant that several staff are also being required to self-isolate.

I have discussed the current number of reported cases with the Senior Team, the Governing Body and the Regional Health Protection Team. It is our joint agreement that the school will remain closed to Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 12 and Year 13 until Wednesday 09 December 2020. We have another assessment of the number of current cases on Tuesday 08 December and I will write to you after that meeting.

This weekend the school is conducting an additional deep clean and all surfaces will again be covered with an anti-viral and anti-bacterial coating.

At this time, we are still hopeful that we will be able to start a phased return for some year groups. The earliest this could commence is Wednesday 09 December and would most likely start with Year 13. We are hopeful that Year 7 will be welcomed back on or before Friday 11 December. Other Year groups are unlikely to return before 14 December 2020.

If your son is currently testing or you receive a test result please inform the school so that we can continue to monitor the situation: [admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk)

There has been a significant increase in the number of positive cases across the student population in Lincolnshire. Can I therefore take the opportunity to remind students that the county is now in the national Tier 3 structure: [Tier 3: Very High alert - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tier-3-very-high-alert)

### Vulnerable students and the students of Key Workers.

In addition to Year 11, the school will remain open for vulnerable students and students with a Key Worker parent. If your son is coming into school for this reason, can you please ensure that he has his own headphones with him as he will be accessing his Teams lessons from school. Key Workers are defined here: [Critical workers who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/critical-workers-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings). Students in school will be able to purchase meals provided by the Catering Team.

### Remote learning

Remote learning was initiated on the closure of year group bubbles and continues to proceed well. Can you please support the school by ensuring that your son is ready to log into the lesson in good time to start.

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## Online Safety

ThinkUKnow has created a page to support parents and young people online. The site includes home activity packs with simple 15-minute activities to support children's understanding of online safety. There is also a parent support section for secondary age children. Further information can be found at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets>.

## Year 10 Parents' Evening

The Year 10 Parents' Evening scheduled in the calendar for the 10 December will be held virtually. Year 10 parents have now received information on how to book appointments in good time to make these appointments

## Year 13 UCAS Applications

Mr Whales is continuing to provide feedback on personal statements and applications via Unifrog. If a student is ready to send his application to UCAS, Mr Whales will arrange a Teams call to screenshare with your son to check through the application together and to agree the final send off to UCAS. We have sent 66 applications so far with 8 students having received all 5 offers and 58 students having received at least one offer. We are also delighted to report that 11 students have been invited for Oxbridge interviews which will take place online over the next two weeks.

## GCSE and A level examinations

On Thursday of this week the department for education outlined the plans for the GCSE and A level examinations this summer. I am sure that you, like us, are pleased to see the confirmation that there will be examinations this summer. This gives the boys every opportunity to demonstrate how incredibly well they can perform.

[Extra measures to support students ahead of next summer's exams - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

The key messages regarding the examinations are:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision
- exam aids, for example formula sheets, provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise
- additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation

[Exams 2021 - QA for parents \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com)

Thank you for your support in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

Simon Pickett

Head Master