



THE KING'S SCHOOL

GRANTHAM

SARS-COV-2 (Covid-19) update

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well. Last week I wrote to you to keep you informed of the ongoing numbers of cases of the SARS-Cov-2 virus in the student population and the resulting isolation of students. We have continued to receive reports of cases this week. This has resulted in a number of students being identified as needing to isolate, often not for the first time.

The closure of the school to all year groups, apart from Year 11, to create a 'fire-break' has seen a slowing in the number of cases being reported and the number of Track and Trace requirements placed on the school. However, there are still cases being announced.

There are still members of staff absent who have had to isolate following both processes here in school and identification through other methods including the Track and Trace App. The result of this is an inability to provide enough staff for the safe running of the school for all year groups.

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 to extend the period that the school will remain closed to Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 12 and Year 13 until Friday 11 December 2020. We have another assessment of the number of current cases on Thursday 10 December and I will write to you after that meeting. The earliest we can introduce a phased return for any year group is Friday 11 December and this will now only be for Year 7, as they have the lowest number of newly reported cases. Other Year groups will not return before Monday 14 December 2020.

As a consequence of this announcement, if you intend to isolate your son for the final week of term, while you consider the implications for seeing your relatives over the Christmas period, could you please email the school. Please use the address admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk and write 'Self Isolation' in the subject line. We will continue to provide Microsoft Teams lessons for those students.

The school has received clear guidance from the Department for Education that we cannot close, in the approach to Christmas, to protect staff and students from having to isolate so that students and staff can see family over the Christmas vacation period.

Even if your son has completed his isolation period or received a negative test result the school remains closed to all except Year 11 students. I am very aware of how frustrating this will be, however, I am very grateful that students are taking a positive approach and engaging with their Teams lessons.

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

This weekend the school conducted an additional deep clean and all surfaces were again treated with a nano technology that acts as an anti-viral and anti-bacterial coating.

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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/guidance/critical-workers-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings). Students in school will be able to purchase meals provided by the Catering Team.

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.

Thank you for your support in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

Simon Pickett

Head Master