



THE KING'S SCHOOL

GRANTHAM

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

We have now completed the first week of the second lockdown and Government enforced closure of The King's School for the vast majority of students. I hope that you are all holding up well.

If your son is diagnosed with Covid-19 over the coming weeks can you please inform the school, admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk, so that we have a record of this when we start lateral flow testing on their return.

I am delighted that the significant amount of work done over the summer to our Information Technology infrastructure has meant that moving to a remote teaching offer has been possible. Your son should be following his normal timetable and, apart from games (who have set some activities for students to complete), should log into his lessons at the usual school times, even if he has not received an invitation to the lesson. The normal moving around between lessons is obviously missing and I, therefore, encourage all students to go for a brief walk or have some light exercise between lessons.

We pride ourselves on the pastoral care of our students. Despite these challenging circumstances, we will endeavour to maintain a level of support for every individual and this is why we have maintained form time. Please contact your son's form tutor in the first instance if you have any concerns regarding his progress or wellbeing. However, if you need additional support, please do not hesitate to contact your son's Head of Year. Mrs Wigham and Mrs Bond (Mental Health and Wellbeing team) will also be in contact with those students who meet with them regularly to provide support during the period of closure. We would also encourage any student or parent to contact us if there is anything at all that the pastoral team can help with. Mr Dixon (Deputy Head Master) should be contacted if you have any safeguarding concerns at justin.dixon@kings.lincs.sch.uk

Formal Examinations

For Year 11 and 13 students we will have to wait for greater clarity on how we are to approach Centre Assessed Grades from Ofqual. As soon as we understand the mechanism, I will write to students and parents to inform them of the next steps. We will issue the Year 11 CAT 2 grades to Year 11 students soon which will be based on the mock exam and previous assessments. These grades cannot, therefore, be compared to the Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) that the school will be asked to provide in the future. We are providing CAT 2 grades to assist with the decision-making process around Post-16 education and course options.

Year 9 and Year 10 Vaccinations during Lockdown

We have received the following message from Lincolnshire Community Health Service:

"...During this lockdown, unlike the first, NHSE/I have been very clear in their instruction that school age immunisation programmes must continue to be delivered.

You will be aware that we are already offering these programmes to Y10 in addition to our usual programme offer of Y9 in 2021. This is because we are acutely aware of the importance of protecting our young people from Meningitis, a severe, potentially life changing and sometimes fatal disease.

I hope that reading the letter you will be reassured that we continue to deliver our services following the national infection and prevention guidance."

Once we have more information concerning the exact dates and measures in place for this programme I will write to you with more details.

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Vulnerable Children and Critical Workers

The provision in school will continue for the Vulnerable Children and Critical Workers' group. This will predominantly be access to computer facilities so that they can complete their online lessons with their peers. The Critical Workers definition has changed and the list is now available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Only one parent needs to be a Critical Worker to access this facility. If you would like to add your son to the Critical Workers provision could you please inform the school by email to admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk. Please state the days required over the next two-week period. The school will be open from 08:30 until 15:45 for this small group of students.

We have had clarification from the Local Authority that all buses will run but parents must inform the Council by Friday 8 January 2021 if their child still needs to use education transport from Monday 11 January 2021 onwards. Parents should complete the [Request school transport form](#).

Remote Learning

Our remote learning is now well established, and we will continue to offer online lessons on the Microsoft Teams platform. We have a limited number of laptops available for loan. If you are struggling with Information Technology access, please email admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk and we will see if we are able to assist.

Free School Meals

Students in the Grantham area that receive Free School Meals will have a hamper delivered weekly. Those who live outside of this area will be provided with vouchers so that they can access a meal. We have provided vouchers for all eligible families for this week. If you have any issues accessing Free School Meal vouchers please contact admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk

Lateral Flow Tests

As you would expect the school is ready and operating the lateral flow tests. We will be testing staff and students, including the Critical Worker group. Today we tested over 70 students, all of whom received a negative test result for Covid-19, in readiness for their examinations next week.

Year 9 Parents' Evening and GCSE Options

Year 9 parents will receive a letter next week regarding the Year 9 parents' evening scheduled for Wednesday 20 January and the process for choosing GCSE options next year.

Year 11 Sixth Form Options

Presentations and information regarding the application process for the Sixth Form can be found on the school website at [The King's School Grantham - Year 11 Options Evening - A levels](#). This follows the presentation by Mr Whales in the Year 11 assembly on the 11 December. Year 11 students received an email from Unifrog at the end of last term which invites them to open their online Unifrog account; this email was sent to the student school email accounts. The Unifrog account will give a wealth of additional guidance and will also give students access to the Sixth Form application form. Many of the year group have activated their accounts already although there are a number who still need to do so. If you haven't received your invite can you please check the junk folder in your school email account.



Mental Health and Well Being

We are very much aware that many young people are not finding the current lockdown easy. I would like to reassure you that this is perfectly normal and the School will continue to support as much as we can.

We would also like to make you aware of some resources which the NHS have made available through their Heathy Minds service to support children, parents and carers which we hope you will find useful:

- Online managing worries and anxious feelings workshop a 40-minute-long workshop for Primary and Secondary aged children: <https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/lincolnshire/young-people/helping-you-help-yourself>
- Coronavirus support page- with new videos to support children/young people, parents/carers and teachers during COVID-19: <https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/lincolnshire/young-people/coronavirus-informationresource-hub>

Thank you for your support and co-operation at this difficult time and I hope that we are able to open again soon.

Yours sincerely

SIMON PICKETT
Head Master