



# THE KING'S SCHOOL

GRANTHAM

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone is well and coping during this period of lockdown. I also hope that you have been able to enjoy Victory in Europe day. It is now 15 school days since we finished the Easter vacation and as such the GCSE examinations would have started on Monday. We really are in unprecedented times.

I am delighted that the Head Boy, Oscar, wanted to include a section in this week's update and he and his team are a real credit, demonstrating the fine gentlemen that they have become.

## Head Boy

Hi everyone, I hope you are all well and not too bored during this period of lockdown. As a way to stay entertained and engaged in school life, we have created a 'Head Boy Page' on the Frog homepage for Kacper (Deputy Head Boy) and I to run. It will have news of any good deeds that King's boys have done. This may range from helping out in your local community, delivering food parcels, volunteering etc. It would be great if you could let us know what you have been doing and possibly even share some photos. You can send us information via our school email at [oscar.clink@kings.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:oscar.clink@kings.lincs.sch.uk) or [kacper.waniek@kings.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:kacper.waniek@kings.lincs.sch.uk)

We shall also be setting weekly challenges for everyone to participate in and earn valuable House Points as a substitute for the House Events that would usually be taking place at this time. Further details on how to enter can be found on the Head Boy page on Frog next week. I hope it is something that everyone can get involved with and use as another distraction to what is going on out there! We look forward to hearing from you all soon, thanks very much!

## Mental Health and Well Being

This week pastoral staff have continued to make contact with families to see how everyone is coping with the lockdown and to offer help and support. It is fantastic to hear that many of the boys are keeping themselves active through jogging, cycling and even working out in home gyms! It is important that we continue to prioritise our physical and mental health over schoolwork at this point in time. Staff will work with students on their return and help to minimise any gaps in learning.

This week on FROG we have shared some resources to help with sleep and rest. Regular sleep and rest can help improve how we feel about almost everything – it helps us to think clearly, manage our frustrations and anger better, and can support good mental health. Sometimes sleep can be hard to come by, particularly if you're anxious or your mind is racing, and this is completely understandable. The resources this week are there to give some tips and support in getting some sleep, so take a look and see if there's anything you can try.

Mrs Wigham, our Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead, and the pastoral team are always available if you need some support from school for your child or yourself. Please contact Mr Dixon by email - [Justin.Dixon@kings.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:Justin.Dixon@kings.lincs.sch.uk) in the first instance and we can direct you to the right place.

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Parents may also be interested in the website <https://www.talkingteenagers.co.uk/>

The website is run by two qualified teachers who have a passion for developing the wellbeing of young people. The website has a series of podcasts which may be of interest to parents on some of the key issues of raising teenagers in today's world including parenting through the coronavirus pandemic.

Teen Tips is another interesting website with plenty of material to support young people and can be found at <https://www.teentips.co.uk/>

Alicia Drummond is the founder of Teen Tips and is a BACP accredited therapist, parent coach, speaker, author and a mother.

## Year 12 and 13

We are continuing to encourage our Sixth Form students to use our Unifrog online platform to support and enrich their A level studies and wider learning. Universities, UCAS and many associated professional organisations are sharing a wealth of online materials. We are redirecting subject specific information to relevant students via their Unifrog lockers. This will enable students to broaden their horizons in preparation for their future university, work experience and job applications. As mentioned in an earlier letter, we invite our Year 13 students to take up the opportunity and sign up for Unifrog. They will then be able to receive subject specific updates and join a forum to share each other's experiences through their correspondence with Universities. We are currently working on developing a Year 13 FAQs section on Frog to provide mutual support through this period of lockdown. We will also soon be in touch with Year 13 students with the very important job of ordering their leavers hoodies.

## Year 11 and Transition to Year 12

We appreciate that Year 11 students are eager to find out if their preferred A level choices have worked with the blocks within the timetable and Mr Whales will be in touch with any students who have a clash before the end of June. Whilst the induction week (1st-3rd July) is unlikely to take place in school as planned, it is our intention to send a welcome presentation and introductory work packages for all of our A level subjects. This will allow students to gain an insight into both the Sixth Form and their preferred subjects before our hopeful return later this year. As I have written before, our intention is to provide a series of tests in September, based on GCSE content for the students. These will not be used to gain access to a specific course, but we hope they will provide a focus and preparation for the transition to A level. Students will be informed of the key points for revision in advance, in order to provide a smooth transition onto their exciting A level journeys.

## Year 10 And 9 Exam Week

The Year 10 Exam Week is scheduled from 11 May until 22 May and the Year 9 Exam Week from 1 June until 12 June. To maintain some sense of 'normality' for the students, we shall set these tests through FROG and staff will notify boys through the platform of when they will take place. We are aware of the different situations that students find themselves in and we remain mindful that they may be ill or have family members who have fallen ill. Consequently, although we will set the tests, we will not use the results for setting or 'ranking' students. We will support any parent who feels that their son should not complete the tests for mental health or other personal reasons. We will,



however, provide this opportunity for those students who do require such focus at this time. As always, no student should be placing themselves under unnecessary stress or anxiety at this time and should prioritise physical and mental health over schoolwork.

## FROG Quizzes

We have had a small number of students this week who have had issues accessing quizzes on FROG. We would recommend that Chrome is used as the internet browser when accessing the FROG platform. If you are unable to access a quiz the issue can be resolved by changing your browser settings in relation to 'cookies'. The information given below will guide you through this process for the main internet browsers.

### Edge

Open the Edge browser and select the three dots in the top right-hand corner.

Select 'settings' and then 'privacy and security' and select "don't block cookies".

### Google Chrome

- Make sure you are using the latest version of Google Chrome and select the 3 dots in the top right-hand corner of the internet browser.
- Click on 'privacy and security' and select 'site settings'. In 'permissions' choose 'cookies and site data'.
- You should now make sure that you have 'block third-party cookies' turned off (this will be greyed out).

### Safari (using a MacBook)

- Make sure you are using the latest version of the Safari browser.
- Open the Safari browser and at the top of the screen select 'Safari' and 'preferences' from the drop-down menu.
- Select 'privacy' and make sure you haven't got a 'tick' beside 'cookies and website data'.

### Safari (using an iPhone or iPad)

- Make sure you are using the latest version of the Safari browser.  
Select 'settings' on your home screen and choose 'Safari'.
- Scroll down to the bottom of the screen and make sure that 'block all cookies' is turned off.

Students should also be aware that the quiz will launch in Frog Play. To complete the quiz, click on a blue box in the left-hand corner of the screen and press 'start quiz without a game'.

## Support in Long Bennington and Westborough

A support team has been set up for residents living in Long Bennington and Westborough. They can provide support for families and vulnerable people through food parcels and access to financial support. If you know of anyone that may benefit from this service please contact [Justin.Dixon@kings.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:Justin.Dixon@kings.lincs.sch.uk)

## Online Safety

Childnet International and the NSPCC have created some useful online safety content for parents and carers which includes advice on talking to your son about online safety and upsetting coronavirus content online. The information can be found at



<https://www.childnet.com/resources/online-safety-activities-you-can-do-from-home> and  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety>

## Refunds for Trips, Visits, Music and Catering

We have received a number of enquiries regarding refunds for a variety of activities that have had to be cancelled. ParentPay has now restored the refund functionality and the Finance Team is now in a position to process music refunds starting next week. We are still waiting for information from our insurers regarding overseas trips but are in regular communication and will update you as soon as we have news. Catering refunds are dependent on our catering contractor and we hope that, where refunds have been requested, these will be processed soon. We will endeavour to pass on information regarding refunds as soon as it is possible to do so.

## Key Workers

We continue to provide an in-school opportunity for students to complete their online work for children of Key Workers and we regularly send out an email asking parents to sign up for places.

Thank you for all your continuing support during this difficult time. It is a pleasure to know that we are still able to work together to ensure The King's School remains as strong as ever.

Keep safe and well!

Yours sincerely,

SIMON PICKETT  
Head Master