



# THE KING'S SCHOOL

GRANTHAM

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well. It has been busy in school as we prepare to welcome back Year 10 and Year 12 students for their meetings next week. I am looking forward to seeing more of our students as I know that, like my colleagues, I have really missed the daily interactions with them. This week a significant number of staff have taken tours around our socially distanced one-way system and learnt about all of the changes that we have made to classrooms to allow teachers to support students whilst observing a 2m exclusion distance. At the time of writing over 250 students have signed up to the opportunity of a face to face meeting with a member of staff.

It is also a week where, in America, the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of George Floyd has solidified our resolve for systematic and systemic change. Our thoughts are with his family and all families who have lost a loved one in such terrible circumstances.

## Mental Health and Well Being

Taking care of ourselves can feel quite overwhelming. If you're struggling with mental ill health it can sometimes feel quite lonely and overwhelming. Add in something like a pandemic and we're suddenly cut off from friends, family, and face-to-face services that we might have relied on when we're not well. If you're finding it hard to reach out to people at the moment, there are some great apps available that might help you get through a really tough time, so you can get to a point where reaching out to people again is possible. On FROG this week are some of the apps available that you can download, so you've got something available if you find yourself in a difficult spot. Of course, if you ever feel that school might be able to help at all, please be in touch via [justin.dixon@kings.lincs.sh.uk](mailto:justin.dixon@kings.lincs.sh.uk).

The King's School is now registered as a referral agency for Food Bank vouchers in Grantham. If you are in need of additional support in this area please get in touch though [admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk)

I would encourage our Year 12 students to make the most of the wellbeing resources within the Know-How Guides on their Unifrog platform. Students can access excellent resources and practical advice on a range of topics including coping with anxiety, social media addiction, mindfulness and many more.

## Independent Learning

There have been an incredible uptake in the use of the Frog Quizzes by students to extend their learning. Particular mention must go to those on the current King's Leader Board:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Josh Mack (8M) - 72 hours 10 minutes and 34 seconds completing quizzes, answering 7870 questions
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Toby Hughes (7C)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ajushan Thavaseelan (8M)

Head Master: Simon Pickett BSc

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4<sup>th</sup> Monty Leeming (8F)

5<sup>th</sup> Liam Lowes (8B)

## Year 12 Examinations

Subject Leaders will be contacting Year 12 students on Frog over the coming days to inform them of a suggested date and time for their end of year exams. After the extended period of remote learning we value the assessment point to allow both staff and students to reflect on individual levels of knowledge and understanding. Analysis of student papers will allow staff to offer optimum individual face-to-face support when students are in school. Structured feedback will allow students to better understand how best to use the summer months to consolidate their Year 12 work and launch themselves more confidently into their final year. Once again, we would urge students not to worry about their exam performance but to embrace the opportunity to gain an honest understanding of their levels of progress and hopefully gain a positive reinforcement of their commitment to their learning and revision practices. To try and ensure their integrity and maximise their potential benefit parents and carers are requested to do all that they possibly can to ensure that the examination is conducted as per the instructions accompanying the relevant paper.

## Year 10 and 12 Students

At the beginning of this letter I mentioned that we are looking forward to welcoming Year 10 and 12 students back to school next week. Can I remind students, who have not yet signed up for a 1 hour meeting with one member of staff that the link to the online booking system is: <https://kingsgrantham.schoolcloud.co.uk/> and the booking should be made by 10:00pm on Friday 12 June. We have asked that boys return to school wearing their uniform. Blazers do not need to be worn.

## Year 11

The Year 11 Induction into Year 12 will take place online from 09:00 on the 01 July. Students will have access to subject specific guidance and activities to prepare them for their A Level studies. They will also have specific guidance on the content for the reintegration assessments in September. Mr Whales will provide a recorded commentary to accompany a PowerPoint explaining the details of the induction process and the transition to the exciting and stimulating next stage of post 16 education. Mr Whales is also in the process of contacting any Year 11 students who currently have a clash with their A Level options.

## 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 primary and secondary age children. Further information can be found at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets>.

## Fundraising

I wrote earlier this term to share the fantastic charitable efforts of Year 12 student, Rory Mapletoft. Rory's initial plan was to run 100 miles in May and he set himself an admirable target of raising



£300 for the Trussel Trust to support local food banks. Having completed his 100 miles within 3 weeks Rory added a further 26 miles to his total in support of the 2.6 challenge and raised a grand total of £750! Well done Rory. Donations can still be made at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rory-100-mile-trussell-trust>.

## Refunds for Trips, Visits, Music and Catering

We are still waiting for information from our insurers regarding overseas trips but we are in regular communication and will update you as soon as we have news. I have been reliably informed that we are now on Zurich's (our insurance company) priority desk for action. We will endeavour to pass on information regarding refunds as soon as it is possible to do so. Catering refunds are now being processed by Edwards and Blake and should be completed in the next week. All individual music tuition refunds have now been completed, and group tuition refunds have been identified and will be processed shortly.

## 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. Key worker students are to continue to wear their home clothes when in school.

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

Yours sincerely,

SIMON PICKETT  
Head Master