



THE KING'S SCHOOL

GRANTHAM

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well as we come to the end of this strange and unusual term. The school has been closed to the vast majority of students for 14 weeks. I am extremely pleased to know that in September we will be welcoming all students back to King's. As with all of my colleagues I am eager to return to teaching here in the school. The Senior Team are reviewing and monitoring the daily releases from the Department for Education. We anticipate further guidance about the September opening in the coming weeks. In August I will send out to all parents, students and carers an information pack identifying the new one-way system in the school; hand washing guidance; the timings of the school day (please note the start and end times of the school day will remain the same as they are currently, i.e. 08:45 until 15:45), etc.

Can I remind you that the Department for Education's information on schools reopening can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Communication from the School

For your information if you unsubscribe to emails from e4education you will no longer receive communication from the school. This has caused an issue for a number of parents.

Year 10 and 12 students

It has been a joy to have the Year 10 and 12 students back on the site. I know a number of them have been worried about the content of their examinations in 2021. They are understandably concerned about the time that they have missed in school. Although we do not yet know the content of the GCSE and A level examinations and how this may be adapted in 2021, there are a number of changes being proposed to accommodate the loss of learning due to the virus SARS-COV-2. You can see the consultations at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2021>.

I hope this reassures you that Ofqual are considering ways to address the reduced learning that may have occurred over the past months.

Year 11 and 13 students

A letter has gone out this week outlining the arrangements for the release and collection of GCSE and A level results. We hope to make this as 'normal' and swift a process and celebration of your successes as we can.

Further information including requesting remarks, can be found at: <http://www.kings.lincs.sch.uk/page/?title=Exam+Information&pid=255>

Music

From September the Music Department would like students to provide their own headphones for class music lessons. These will need to be brought to every music lesson. They will need to have a standard 3.5mm jack on them. Please note that Bluetooth headphones such as AirPods won't connect to the keyboards. Students will be responsible for looking after their headphones when not in use.

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Lincolnshire Music Service who provide individual instrumental and vocal tuition at school have changed the way they will charge parents for lessons next academic year. All tuition will now be booked and paid for directly through the Lincolnshire Music Service website. book lessons please go to:

<https://uklincomusicservice.speedadmin.dk/registration#/>

Jazz Piano Lessons with Mr Nowell will also be booked through the website but invoiced by the school.

Trip Refunds

Although we have been assured by our insurers that our claims for cancelled trips will be approved, it is likely that the monies will not be received for a number of weeks possibly months. We are one of many thousands of school insurance claims and although they are being processed it will take time to resolve. As soon as we receive the money from the insurers we will then process refunds to parents as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding regarding this issue.

Health and Safety

As a reminder, testing is available to anyone in England and Wales who has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), whatever their age. Tests are free and can be requested through the [NHS website](#).

Priority testing is available for essential workers and anyone they live with who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). Priority testing can be arranged through the self-referral portal on GOV. UK. [Apply for a coronavirus test if you're an essential worker](#).

Mental Health and Well Being

Summer is a great time to take a break and look after yourself. Getting some self-care habits in place now will really help over summer and when you come back to school. Things like a getting into a good sleep routine, eating healthy food and doing regular exercise can all boost your mood, help you manage stress and build up your resilience. This week on FROG is a short pack to help you make a self-care plan - take some time to look through it and get some ideas to add into your day.

If you need someone to talk to over the summer break lots of services are still open to support you - Shout, The Mix and Kooth are all there to listen and help, they're all free and confidential to use and can give you a space to work through your worries safely. Get in touch with them if you need to, they're available to help.

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.

Rotary Club Creativity Opportunities

There are three competitions which Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven will be running to challenge, stretch and entertain students over the summer. The 3 competitions enable students to showcase their creativity using the media of Photography, Creative Writing and Filmmaking, and are open to competitors between the ages of 7-17 in 3 age group categories.

Each competition has a different theme, and winners of our local competitions will advance into regional and national heats if they are successful at each stage. The closing date for entries for all competitions is 07 February 2021. The three competitions are:

Young writer: <https://rotary1070.org/youth/competitions/y-writer/>

Young photographer: <https://rotary1070.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-21-Young-Photographer-Information-Pack-RI.pdf>



Young film maker: <https://rotary1070.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2020-21-Young-Filmmaker-Information-Pack.pdf>

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>.

Catering

We will have a new catering contract with Chartwells for the new academic year providing a variety of options for all tastes and preferences. Chartwells will also be introducing contactless debit card payments including Apple Pay and Android Pay which we think the older year groups will particularly appreciate. Top-up through ParentPay accounts will continue as normal for meal accounts using this system. More information will be sent to parents and students before the new academic year.

Financial Difficulty

The school will be closed during the summer holiday period. If families are facing hardship, they can access the Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant. [Further government support](#) is available for families struggling as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19). If families need urgent help, they can [contact their local council](#) to find out the services are available in their area. You can also contact the school to enquire about referral for the Grantham Food Bank. please email admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk for more information.

Thank you for all your continuing support and positivity during this difficult time. I hope that you all remain well and have a wonderful summer. I really look forward to seeing you all in September as well as joining Year 11 and 13 students on exam results days.

Yours sincerely,

SIMON PICKETT
Head Master