

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are well and that everyone in your family is managing to remain healthy, safe and in good spirits despite the on-going global pandemic. Our thoughts and prayers as a school community go out to those who are suffering bereavement, living in fear and anxiety, and struggling to cope with the on-going emergency situation. Please be assured that as a school community we are wanting to help in any way possible and so please do get in contact with us if there is anything that we can do.

There have been many examples over the past few weeks of pupils working really hard and producing outstanding work and I am really impressed with the effort and resilience that they are showing. Those who are considering their next steps such as apprenticeships, university courses, GCSE and Post-16 options will have seen the letters, questionnaires and bulletins that we have sent out which contain a lot of information and guidance. It is really important that our older pupils and students in particular are using this time to think carefully about their next steps and their future career and educational pathway. Again, we are happy to help pupils individually with any questions.

We are very keen to ensure that all pupils continue to make good progress in their learning whilst the school remains partially closed. Over the coming weeks we will be looking for creative ways to make the distance-learning more interactive and recognise that there are lots of things in the school calendar for the summer term that we are all missing out on which we will be looking to recreate 'virtually' where possible. This includes our annual 'Pride of King's' awards evening which will be taking place on Thursday 25th June. It is a chance for us to recognise pupils who have displayed our school values and excelled in school this year, including during the Covid-19 crisis.

Schools re-opening to Years 10 & 12

You will be aware that the government have announced that they will be asking schools to re-open more fully over the next couple of months. The latest guidance states that *'from the week commencing 1 June 2020 at the earliest we will ask secondary schools, sixth form and further education colleges to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year'*. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>)

With Year 10 and 12 we will be putting into place a staged approach to re-opening. It will certainly not be 'business as usual' and there will be highly regimented systems and processes in place to ensure that pupils and staff can remain socially distant whilst they are on the school site. Our plans are at an early stage and we will share them with you when they have been fully agreed. A separate letter will be sent out with further details for parents of pupils in Years 10 and 12 later this week.

Key Stage 3:

We are really pleased that we may be able to begin some face to face teaching with Years 10 and 12 as we know that distance-learning is nowhere near as effective and engaging as having a teacher on-hand to present and explain the work. However, this also leaves us with a lot to consider and the re-

opening to these year groups will be undertaken in a very measured and cautious way, ensuring that the safety of everyone remains the number 1 priority. It also leaves us with the prospect of Years 7-9 not returning to school until September at the earliest and that is why the changes to the work we are asking pupils to complete and the increases in teacher-pupil engagement and interaction are so important. It is also why we have decided that pupils in Year 9 will begin to study their Year 10 curriculum, including their option subjects from the beginning of June.

Years 11 & 13:

We have also not forgotten about Years 11 and 13 and will be continuing to support them with their transition to the 6th form and to university or apprenticeships. We are very keen to ensure that we mark this transition in some way through a leavers' service and celebrations. We will be considering the best way to do this over the coming weeks.

Pupils whose parents are key workers:

As you know, school has continued to be open for children whose parents are classed as key workers as well as those who are vulnerable. With all schools nationally being asked to open more fully before the summer holidays, there may be some parents who are key workers and who are now being asked to go into work. If you fall into this category and would like your child to start re-attending school rather than remain at home then I would be very grateful if you could let us know by Wednesday 20th May at the latest by emailing keyworker@kingswolverhampton.co.uk

New leadership arrangements from September:

I mentioned in my last letter that Miss Langley would be taking over as acting Principal from September and I can also announce that we have made some other great appointments to further strengthen the leadership of the school. Mr Sutton will become the acting-Senior Vice-Principal and Mr Lingard will be the acting-Vice Principal. Additionally, Mrs Morgan-Jones will be an acting-Assistant Principal and Mrs Rowley an acting-Associate Assistant Principal. I am delighted to be leaving behind such a strong team of leaders who will take the school from strength to strength. They will ensure that the re-opening of the school, once the crisis is over, is done in a caring and positive way so that everyone is fully supported and that the focus can return to outstanding achievement and well-being for all as we aspire, believe and achieve together.

Thank you:

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for your support at this challenging time. We have received some lovely messages from you as parents and carers and from our pupils. This makes a huge difference to us. As a staff, we are becoming adept at new ways of working and are making exciting plans for next year as well as planning for the short term. I think it is fair to say that we are all wishing that our school could re-open fully straight away because we are missing the daily interaction with our pupils, students and with the wider school community. We know that the work we do in school is valued and makes a difference and we are really hoping that the national and global situation improves very soon.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any queries, questions, suggestions or concerns and I really do look forward to seeing you all as soon as it is safe to do so.

Best Wishes



Mr Ludlow