

Headmaster
Peter Roberts
01227 595501
headmaster@kings-school.co.uk

13 March 2020

Covid-19: Lent Term

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Further to my email/letter on March 10, there have been further updates of regulation and advice from the Government.

Our Plan A remains to play out the Lent Term (finishing on Friday 27 March) carefully and with our present measures in place. We will continue to run our sports programme and run internal events. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the school choral concert of the Poulenc *Gloria* in the Cathedral this Saturday, thinking about our singers, in particular.

We will be following the Government guidance about trips overseas, starting with the Easter holidays: this is to ensure the continued good health of our pupils and staff. The School will be in contact with those King's families involved in the Easter trips overseas as soon as the practical arrangements are finalised.

Our Plan B, should parts of the School community need to self-isolate, would be to implement the remote teaching and learning programme outlined by Mr Bartlett on the next page.

Plan C would obviously be the early closure of the School for the Easter holidays by the Government; if this does happen, then we will issue further guidance on the management of pupils getting home.

My wish would be that we are able to keep to plan A and get through to the end of term, albeit with a reduced programme. I will up-date you when we know more in Tenth week (next week).

Best wishes,



Peter Roberts
Headmaster



KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY
ON

The King's School Remote Teaching & Learning Programme in 2020

We will continue to teach and support pupils who, for any reason, are not in school over the next few months. Within the school term dates pupils are required to engage with the lesson structures, resources provided and work set, and to submit work to their teachers for marking and feedback, along roughly the same timetable as at school. The intention is that no pupil who engages fully with this programme should make less progress than they would if here at King's.

This style of learning gives more independence and requires more self-discipline; some will appreciate this but others will need daily structure and guidance from parents/guardians. A supportive working environment includes a spacious desk to work at, reliable internet connection for a laptop or PC (a tablet or phone is not as useful), quiet and undisturbed hours during the day, a good level of lighting, sensible sleeping hours, and a balanced diet. It may help for pupils to switch off their social media notifications during chunks of working time, as during lessons here, to avoid distraction and to aid deeper thinking and learning. It is also not recommended for students to listen to music while working or revising, to allow their full concentration and longer-term recall of the work studied.

Our teachers and departments will provide appropriate structures for their courses with resources including King's-made video/audio/podcasts/screencasts plus directions to specific internet resources (eg from Khan Academy or YouTube), and King's-created written resources, document packs, model answers, class worksheets and prep tasks – i.e., everything that pupils in class here will use, and more.

It is vital that pupils continue to submit work to the deadlines set via the VLE (Virtual Learning Environment & intranet) or email (these may be scanned or photographed attachments if handwritten) and they will keep in touch directly with their teachers principally via email to/from school addresses. Teachers can arrange phone calls with individual pupils on request to keep up the 1:1 feedback and guidance to each pupil when away from King's.

Some teachers and classes already use Microsoft Teams, One Note, Googledocs, and other educational software but the standard and sufficient means of two way communication are through our VLE and school email systems.

We ask you to support the purposeful working of your daughter/son, and to encourage them to communicate regularly (perhaps even daily during term time) with their teachers to keep on track.

Please do contact the relevant Heads of Departments, Tutors, Housemasters/mistresses, or Mr Luke Bartlett, the Deputy Head (Academic), if we can help with any aspect of the distance learning outlined above, particularly with preparation for public exams. The expectation and guidance from the Government remains that all public exams and internal exams will go ahead as planned next term. Modern Language GCSE oral exams which were scheduled for next week will be rescheduled for any pupils away from school to early next term (the exam boards require that they must be completed by the end of April).