



22 May 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of Year 7-9 Students

This week there has already been communication and consultation with parents of students in Years 10 and 12 as we start to make plans for a partial reopening of the school. Please be assured that that will only happen when we can demonstrate it is as safe as possible to do so. We anticipate that could be on 8 June but we await further government instruction next week. We are very conscious that students currently in Years 7-9 will inevitably see a continuation to remote learning for some weeks to come. It is important therefore that they continue to feel safe, that the High School community is there to support them every school day and that that they continue to make academic progress.

Thank you to parents who have been in touch with us regarding any of these issues. My communication last week, informing you that we had reviewed the workload for students, was met with an overwhelmingly positive response but I also received a small number of concerns from parents who didn't feel a reduction in work was right for their children. Our decision to have a 'consolidation, catch up and extension week' this past week and to look again at the amount of work being set was the result of a notable number of parental concerns, student concerns raised in the wellbeing survey and feedback from staff who are in regular communication with their classes via email.

We estimate that fewer than 30% of our Key Stage 3 students are privileged enough to have access to a tablet or laptop for the whole school day, many are understandably sharing devices across a family, and whilst practically all have smartphones we appreciate this is not always the best way to access academic work. The Government laptop scheme has provided us with just 4 new laptops for disadvantaged students in Year 10, we have purchased other devices for our most disadvantaged in the lower school and lent out some of the mobile school devices. Next half term please look out for a parent survey so we can more accurately understand how your child is managing in the current situation.

Some of you have expressed a hope for an increase in the use of video lessons. Mostly these have been taking place across a range of Year 10 and Year 12 lessons as well as being used for demonstrations in some of our practical subjects and tutor time sessions for Key Stage 3. As Year 10 and 12 start to return to some face to face teaching we hope to increase Microsoft Teams opportunities for Key stage 3 students. Next half term you will also see enrichment and optional extension work added to lesson content and the publication of some reading lists that tie in with the topics Key Stage 3 students are studying across subject areas. I certainly recommend to you the virtual assemblies staff have uploaded as well as the virtual Teams careers talks we signal to students each week.

We did offer places at the Holiday Club for vulnerable and key workers' children during half term but having received no registrations for this have decided there is no need for the provision to go ahead.

Please do keep in touch with us on any matter. The hardest thing about working remotely is being able quickly to ascertain whether our strategies are having the intended effect. I guarantee that our staff are working tirelessly on behalf of all our students, whilst sometimes juggling the demands of parenting or caring for vulnerable loved ones too just as many of you are. I wish you a pleasant and healthy half term break. Work will be available, as ever, on the Pupil Drive of the school network for 1 June.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Smith
Head of School

- For all learning or student support related enquiries please contact: enquiries@kshs.uk
This inbox is monitored throughout the school day and your email will be directed to the relevant member of staff
- For any queries related to Free School Meals or finance related questions such as refunds for cancelled school events please contact: finance@robertcarretrust.uk
- If you want advice about keeping your child safe online we recommend these unlimited free online safety guides www.nationalonlinesafety.com/guides or the attached factsheet.