

18 December 2020

End of Term Principal's Update

Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you for all your support this term – it means a great deal. This email has some important information for the holiday and the start of the new term. We will write again at the start of January with more detailed information.

Staggered start to Spring 1

The government announced yesterday that secondary schools will operate a staggered start to next term to allow the roll out mass Covid testing. The new “Lateral Flow” Covid tests give a rapid result within 30 minutes and are already helping schools identify asymptomatic cases. We were lucky to be able to pilot these at KAA recently with staff and Year 12 & 13, so these students are already aware of how they work. The start of term will now work like this:

- **Monday 4th January:** School closed to students, staff training day
- **Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th January:** Y11 & Y13 must come in on both these days. Other year groups will be remote learning, and *Y10 and 12 students will be invited in at specific times to get tested*
- **Thursday 7th & Friday 8th January:** Y10, 11, 12 and 13 must come in on both these days. Year 7, 8 and 9 will continue remote learning, and *students will be invited in at specific times to get tested*

Tests are encouraged not compulsory, and it would be great if as many parents as possible would support us with this. We will email nearer the time about remote working arrangements.

Christmas “Stretch” Project

KS3 students are encouraged to complete our Christmas Stretch Project, details of which can be found [here](#). This stretch project is based around the subject of Design Technology – merits and house points are available for each entry, please do check it out. Thanks.

GCSE & A Level Students

Students should have a rest over Christmas, but it would be sensible for them to complete some revision as well. This is particularly true for Y13 students who have important mock exams in the first week back. Students can access revision materials via KAA Online or their own notes, and should be able to independently identify topics they need to cover. If parents of children in Year 11 or Year 13 notice they are not revising effectively at home, they should contact the relevant Director of Learning in January to discuss this, as it is likely to lead to lower grades in the summer of 2021 and should be addressed urgently.

Contact tracing during the holidays

I'm sure parents will understand that we cannot run a normal contact tracing operation during the holiday as our staff will not be at work. We would still ask you report any positive student case to info@kaa.org.uk over Xmas, including relevant information such as the date of the test, the date the child was last in school, and any relevant detail on their contacts at school. We will check the info@kaa.org.uk account periodically from Sat 19 Dec to Weds 23 Dec but not from Christmas Eve onwards. Information of what to do if you test positive for Coronavirus, including how to identify any possible contacts, can be found at the link below and will be texted to you with a positive result confirmation:

Positive case guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Winter Reading Challenge

I'm delighted to announce an exciting Winter Reading Challenge we are offering to students over the holidays. Students will be encouraged to read **three books** over the break, with the following rewards in place:

- 1 Book = Merit
- 2 Books = Silver Merit (30 house points)
- 3 Books = Gold Merit (50 house points)

To receive a gold merit for 3 books, at least one of the three books must be from the **recommended Winter Reads list**. Students have been encouraged to borrow books from the library. Book titles need to be written at the back of the rewards section in the planner and signed by parents to confirm they actually read it. Form tutors will ask students about the books they have read when issuing merits in the New Year.

Aut2 Reports for Years 7-11

Students in these years have completed assessments in all subjects in December. This has been a very importance exercise as Covid has disrupted the normal cycle of assessments so far this year. Many results have already been shared with students, but we will provide them with a full summary in January and write to every parent with a detailed report – please look out for these.

Parents Evenings

Covid has prevented these so far this year but we believe we now have a potential virtual alternative. We are piloting this with Year 13 in January and, if it works, will be rolling out to other year groups, prioritising Year 7 who have recently joined, Year 9 who are shortly due to choose their GCSE options, and Year 11 who sit their exams in May & June.

Thanks again to all parents for their great support this term. We have had some lovely Christmas celebrations this week which students have enjoyed a lot. Parents might want to look at some of the links below to get a flavour of these

- Christmas video: <https://youtu.be/dLbcPwAsXPs>
- Charity collection for local foodbanks: https://twitter.com/KAA_Intrepidus/status/1339948736269709312?s=20
- Latest house points: <https://www.facebook.com/KAAIntrepidus/posts/1833435616812736>

Wishing you all a lovely, restful Christmas break and we will see you all in 2021!

Best wishes,



David Benson
Principal