



Friday 20 March 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

Coronavirus: Update

Thank you for your patience and support this week as we have been responding to the Government's announcement on Wednesday.

We are trying to make our communications home to you manageable and to include as much information in as few emails as possible, however the situation is developing and by its nature I expect we will be giving regular and possibly daily updates throughout the next week.

This letter contains information about;

1. School Closure
2. Online Studying for Students
3. Free School Meals
4. Staying in Touch

1. School Closure

The College is closed to students from Monday 23 March 2020 until further notice. The Government have asked schools to remain open to vulnerable students, those with Education Health and Care Plans, and those whose parents or carers are key workers.

We have identified students in these categories and have contacted parents and carers of those students separately.

The Government advice is clear that if it is at all possible for children to be at home then they should be

This is part of the national strategy to slow the spread of the virus. We want to make sure we can provide care and supervision for students where it is the case that **their parents and carers would be unable to continue critical work** to continue the national response to the outbreak without our help.

If you feel you need this service because of the reasons above but have not yet requested it, or if your circumstances change in the coming days, then please do let us know directly by email to administration@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

The College is working with other schools and the local authority to ensure this key worker service **continues into the Easter Holidays** after next week is over. Many of our KEVICC staff want to contribute over this time and we will ensure the needs of our students and their families come first.

2. Online Study for Students

We are entering a period of prolonged school closure where we are all - students, staff and parents and carers - adapting to new circumstances. I can reassure you that our staff are committed to providing the best education we can going forward. I'm sure we will be adapting and improving continually over the coming weeks.

Please find attached our **College guide to distance learning**. This shows you the basics of how to log onto various platforms we use such as Classcharts and Google Classroom, and most importantly, what to do if you forget your log-in details. There is further guidance to distance learning on our website.

We are committed to updating work for **every class on a weekly basis as a minimum**. Some teachers may set more in line with their curriculum needs.

We really appreciate your support in **ensuring that students spend an appropriate time studying** that equates wherever possible to their usual time in lessons.

We also realise that students will benefit from having their usual **exercise books and folders** and that these may be in College currently. We are organising to have their books ready for collection next week, and we hope to be able to facilitate delivery for families who cannot come in to collect due to self-isolation. We will also endeavour wherever possible to supply stationery and resources to families who need it.

3. Free School Meals

We have been working with our caterers to find ways of ensuring our students who are eligible for free school meals still receive their entitlement. **We will provide food parcels to eligible families.**

We are still working out the details of when the food parcels will be made available and how it will be collected, and we will update you on Monday with further details. We will endeavour to **deliver food to those families unable to collect it**. It is likely we will be able to provide food from Wednesday - this delay is because of issues in the catering company's supply chain.

We have been **overwhelmed by kind offers** from parents and carers who wish to donate food and necessary items to families in our community who may be in need of extra support. We would be happy to add any extra items to the food parcels we are arranging to send out to our students eligible for free school meals. We know that these uncertain times are creating unmanageable financial pressures for many members of our community.

We know some of our families who are not eligible for free school meals may also benefit from donations at this time. If this is the case, please contact our Business Director, Stephen Corline, in confidence at administration@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk We will do everything we can to support you, including working with partners in the local community.

Any donations of **non-perishable food items and household necessities can be left at Ariel Reception from 9am on Monday.**

4. Staying in Touch

All College staff not unwell themselves **will be available to help with any queries you have over the coming week**, and we know in these uncertain times there may be lots of questions to be answered. We will also need and appreciate your feedback on how things are working.

Our College emails all follow the same format of first initial, surname followed by the web address. For example, mine is asalt@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

You can see **who is who at the College** on the website. Just go to Information/ How to Contact Staff. If your email is to a teacher, it is always good to **copy in the Head of Faculty**, as not all our staff work full-time, and of course currently some of them are away from work unwell.

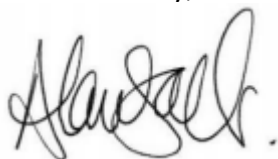
We were due next Tuesday to hold our usual Parent Voice meeting with myself and members of the Senior Leadership Team. We would like to **hold this meeting online** at 5pm next Tuesday and make it available to parents and carers. All you need will be a suitable internet connection, a google account, and a device with microphone and camera. If you would like to take part, **please email Amanda Lane** on alane@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk with your email address and name.

We will continue to send updates and information out at least twice weekly as the situation develops and to ensure we stay in touch as a College community. All updates will be via email and on our website, and don't forget our Twitter feed @KEVICC.

Finally, may I say a huge thank you to all of you in the community who have been so supportive during what has been for many of us working in schools the longest, and strangest week of our careers. We are really proud of the way everyone is pulling together and supporting one another in this difficult time. I know staff in particular have been deeply touched by the thanks they have received from Y11 and Y13 students and their families. This means so much to those of us privileged to work in schools.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Salt', written in a cursive style.

Alan Salt
Principal