



01 May 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope this update finds you and your family continuing to cope with the wider impact of the COVID-19 outbreak as well as the school closure. All of us are adjusting to a new 'normal', and we are really aware as a College of how difficult things can be for students and families.

Here are some updates from this week;

Keeping in Touch

It's been great to see teachers and students staying in touch around their distance learning over the past week. Of course, with the school shut we cannot do our usual tutor meetings with parents and carers, and we also really miss our daily contact as form tutors with students.

Starting next week, form tutors will be making courtesy phone calls to check in with families, find out how you are, and see if we can help with any problems. We aim to get around everyone (including Year 11s and Year 13s) by May 24th.

Distance Learning

It's great to see all of our learning now set up on google classrooms, and we've also been impressed at how online video conferencing by teachers using google meets is starting to work. As always, our message to students is to do what you can manage as this difficult time, and not to worry or become anxious about falling behind or not understanding.

Whilst we'd always recommend students to follow the work their own teachers set, there are of course some extensive national resources available online if your daughter or son would like to try something different or additional. The BBC teach site and the Oak National Academy sites have a range of resources, lessons and schedules students might want to explore;

www.bbc.co.uk/teach

www.thenational.academy

Laptop Access

We are acutely aware that for some families getting online is difficult. The government has announced a scheme of free laptops for a limited number of students, although these are unlikely to be with schools until later in May. In the meantime we are trying to source and provide devices for those most in need ourselves, and this week we have managed to deliver the first set of laptops to identified families.

If lack of a suitable device is preventing your child from learning, we would like to know. Unfortunately, with school finances nationally under pressure we cannot guarantee we can provide promise free devices, but we can assure you we will try our very best to help. Please contact Anne Law, Assistant Principal, if you are struggling and would like to be considered for help.

Food and Essentials

We are also aware that the current economic situation is making things really difficult for families. We're currently looking at ways we might be able to provide additional help for families with food and essentials. If you are struggling, please do let Heads of House know. They will treat this information sensitively and in confidence. Their email addresses are;

Babbage House: Mike Morgan mmorgan@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

Davis House: Alison Marshall amarshall@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

Gyles House: Sally Hinchcliffe shinchcliffe@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

Scott House: Nicola Ambrose nambrose@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

Sixth Form: Amy Withers awithers@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

Free Books and Free Theatre!

Last week we drew your attention to our free online library of 5000+ books you can access via the RM Unify log in page- use the details below;



School Name: find King Edward VI in the drop-down menu

Username: this is the same as your Unify logon (the beginning part of your school email address)
e.g. 19jhershaw

Password: abc

This week we can now offer a free (virtual) trip to the theatre thanks to a scheme that includes productions from the National Theatre, The Globe and the RSC. They have a whole host of amazing live filmed performances that are available to students using the details below;

<https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com>

Username: 4Gq#9Uq9b%

Password: 6Su!9Xlwr#

I can thoroughly recommend "Jane Eyre" and am looking forward to Benedict Cumberbatch's "Frankenstein"!

Thank you again for all your feedback and the support you are showing to our College community at this time. Please do get in touch if there is anything you feel we can improve upon or that we have overlooked.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Salt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Alan Salt
Principal