



4/12/20

Dear Parent and Carer

I hope this update finds you and your families well as we head into the final month of 2020. As ever, I wanted to write to you to keep you updated with events at the College. My thanks and appreciation go to all of you at this time for continuing to support your young people through the Autumn Term, and especially to those who attended our online Q and A last Monday and for the feedback you gave.

### **COVID-19**

You'll be aware from my letter to you last week that we were notified of a positive COVID-19 case. All of our (by now familiar) measures were immediately put in place, including tracing all students and staff who had been in close contact with the confirmed case whilst they were in school and ensuring they self-isolated.

This is now our 6<sup>th</sup> confirmed case:

- one case affecting no other staff or students during the Summer holiday period
- one case affecting Year 11 students and staff in early October
- two cases affecting Year 14 students and staff over the October half term holiday
- one case affecting Year 11, 12 and 13 students and staff in early November
- one case affecting Y11 students last week

Whilst we are still very clear on the seriousness of the threat posed by COVID-19, it is reassuring that in all of these cases we have no indication of transmission whilst at school, i.e. one positive case has not appeared to have led to others, although of course we are aware of the possibility of asymptomatic transmission in young people.

Please do remain vigilant around any symptoms of COVID-19, and if your young person has them, or needs to isolate because of family members with them, or of course tests positive, please make sure you email [studentabsences@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk](mailto:studentabsences@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk) immediately, regardless of whether it is a school day, a weekend or during school holidays.

### **Summer 2021 Exams**

The Department for Education has now released some more details around GCSE, AS and A level exams for Years 11 and 13 next year. You can see this guidance on this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-support-the-summer-2021-exams/guidance-to-support-the-summer-2021-exams>

The key changes are:

- exams will **start later** on 7 June 2021
- there will be **contingency exams** later in July for students who are sick during the exam period
- Teachers will be given **some advanced notice** of topic areas to be covered - we think we will have further details on a subject by subject basis in the New Year. The idea here is to enable teachers to prepare students in a more focussed way than is usually possible by omitting revision on areas we know will not be examined.
- **Exam marking will be more generous** for summer 2021 at GCSE, AS and A-level to take into account disruption to learning caused by lockdown.

Whilst we recognise students may at times still be anxious about their exams next summer, we are really pleased that these measures are being put in place nationally to support students achieve the grades they deserve. We have shared this information with Y11s today in assembly and Y13 tutors will be making sure A-level students are briefed on this next week.

### **Y11 Making the Grade Virtual Evening**

This **Tuesday 8 December** we have a live online evening for **Y11 students and their parents and carers** from 4.45pm. As well as teachers giving you lots of advice by pre-recorded YouTube videos, we will be live with you on Tuesday to give lots of hints and to answer questions about revision and preparation for the exams.

This evening has always had excellent feedback from parents, carers and students in the past, and teachers have worked very hard to ensure it will be just as informative and useful in a virtual format.

All the details of how to log on to the live sessions, as well as links to pre-recorded videos, are available on our website:

<https://www.kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=654>

### **Equipment**

We've been emphasising with our students a lot recently in tutorial and assembly about the importance of having the right equipment for lessons - this is especially important in the current climate, as we want to make sure we lend as few pens or rulers as possible in order to help prevent infection. Please support your young person by making sure they have pens, pencils, a ruler and a scientific calculator with them every day - as well, of course, as a face covering unless they are exempt.

### **Reading**

As the weather takes a turn for colder, what better way to encourage your young person to relax than with a good book. We've been reminding students in assemblies all week about the great positives of reading, and at the end of this term we will be rewarding those who have met our reading challenge by covering the titles in the KEVICC Canon. I've been returning to my history recently, with Giles Tremlett's amazing book on the International Brigades in the Spanish Civil War, and I'd urge you to discuss reading and your favourite books at every opportunity with your young people.

### **Subject Evenings**

Thank you to all of you who attended our subject evenings for Y13 last week and Y9 yesterday. The online system of video appointments is bedding in well as we all get used to this new way of working. Unfortunately we did have some technical issues at one stage yesterday - investigation has shown this was a national issue due to demand on servers, and hopefully our next event in the New Year will go without any glitches. Please also remember to contact your subject teacher or Head of Faculty at any time if you want to discuss progress - our contact details are all on the website.

Many thanks again for the support you are showing to young people and the school at this time.

With best wishes,

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

Alan Salt  
**Principal**