



12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

### **Parent and Carer Update**

As the holiday break arrives again we can reflect on another hugely challenging but ultimately rewarding half term. We've been so impressed with how our students, supported by their families, have stuck at their remote learning during such a difficult time.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our parents and carers and students for bearing with us and showing patience this term when things haven't quite gone to plan. My youngest was especially proud of his unplanned appearance at Y9 Options Evening!

Alongside remote learning and our onsite provision for Critical Worker and Vulnerable Students, it has been really heartening to see House competitions, reading challenges, pastoral support, PSHE and many other facets of College life continuing through this lockdown. We are especially pleased at having been able to loan well over 100 chromebooks to families since Christmas. All of this is part of our effort to make sure that our young people are supported to keep learning as best they can through this time.

Here are a couple of reminders as we look forward through the half term break and for when we start again on 22 February.

### **Safeguarding**

Although it is half term holiday next week, the safety of our students is still our number one priority and concern. Remember, if you have a concern about a young person's safety you can share it via the white "Report an Issue" button in the top right corner of the college website.

Other good sources of support can be via the NSPCC (0808 800 5000) and the Devon Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0345 155 1071. Remember, if you think a young person is in immediate danger, contact the Police on 999.

### **Homework**

Please remember all of our homework is set via Classcharts. As teachers, we have given real careful consideration to the setting of homework through this half term and the holidays, and we are really mindful of the need for all of us to have a break. If your young person is struggling with homework, reassure them not to worry and please make their teacher aware.

### **COVID-19**

Please do continue to take care and stay safe over the holiday period. If your young person has been attending school this week, then it is really important that you inform us if they test positive for COVID-19 over the holidays.

Please do this by emailing [studentabsences@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk](mailto:studentabsences@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk) giving the student's name and date of their test.

### **Next Half Term**

Lessons will start again remotely on Monday 22 February. It will be Week A. The College will be only be open as to Critical Worker and Vulnerable Students who have already registered with us.

### **Parent and Carer online Q and A**

The Prime Minister is scheduled to make an announcement on Monday 22 February about lockdown, and we anticipate that this might have some news about the way forward for schools. We will hold a live online Q and A for parents and carers at **5.30-6.30pm on Wednesday 24 February** to answer any questions and gain feedback.

### **Wellbeing Wednesdays**

It's been great to see such positive reaction to our Wellbeing Wednesday with College finishing at 1.40pm. We will continue this after half term, so encourage your young person to plan their walks and runs now, or start thinking about that book they wanted to start, but whatever they do, encourage them to be away from a screen!

Finally, thank you again for your support and the positivity you continue to show to the College. Staff have really thrived on the recognition you have shown, and knowing that students and their families appreciate our support is the most important thing to us.

Have a great holiday, and we look forward to seeing you again (online!) on Monday 22 February.

Yours sincerely



Alan Salt  
**Principal**