

KING EDWARD VI COMMUNITY COLLEGE



learning to flourish

Principal Alan Salt

01803 869200

Ashburton Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5JX

administration@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

@KEVICC



17/11/21

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope this update finds you well. It has been a busy two weeks back since half-term, and as ever there is lots going on. Here are a few key updates for you:

1) COVID-19 Vaccination Offer

We are delighted the immunisation team were able to attend school on Monday and offer COVID-19 vaccines to families who wished to take up the offer.

We are awaiting information from the team on any catch-up sessions they may run in school for those who missed this opportunity. In the meantime, we'd recommend those wanting to get the vaccination take advantage of local walk in centres and clinics which can be booked through the NHS via their website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine-for-children-aged-12-to-15/>

2) OFQUAL Letter for Y11 and Y13 Students

Y11 and 13 students, and their parents and carers, will be interested in the attached letter (and see link, below) from Jo Saxton, the Head of OFQUAL, who oversee all GCSE, BTEC and A-level qualifications:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-letters-arrangements-for-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022/letter-to-students>

Her letter confirms what we understand about exams in the summer of 2022. Of particular interest are the following points:

- Students in many subjects will be given information about topics in advance before February 7 2022 which will help them revise the right content.
- Increased higher grades will be awarded in 2022.
- Exams should go ahead - but contingency plans to award Teacher Assessed Grades if they cannot, have now been formalised.

Please do talk to faculty head Ben Cotton, or myself, if you have any questions about this letter or plans for exams in 2022.



3) Consultation on Site Improvements

We have now published the results of the consultation held in June and July regarding the improvements we would like to make to the College site and buildings over the next few years. A copy of the report is attached to this email and it is also available to download on our website at:

<https://www.kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk/consultationresponse>

The responses to the consultation were overwhelmingly positive regarding the need, and importance of, improving the College buildings and facilities so we will now continue to work on turning these plans into reality. We look forward to continuing to keep you updated on our progress in the coming months.

Thank you to everyone who completed the consultation questionnaire, it was very interesting to read the responses and hear what people had to say about our plans, and it is so exciting to be able to move forward on our ambition to deliver the absolute best facilities for our young people.

3) Staff Absence and Cover Teaching

Alongside schools nationally, we are currently facing higher than usual absences from students and staff. Much of this of course is related to COVID-19. This causes inevitable knock-on effects as we cover classes amongst us, or by using supply colleagues where available. Unfortunately, recent DfE statistics have shown the South West to be the worst hit region this term for staff absence related to COVID-19.

In addition to this, there is an acute shortage nationally and regionally of supply teachers, again partly as a result of the impact of the pandemic.

Please be assured that we are working as hard as possible to minimize any impact of absence on our students' learning. Faculty leaders and colleagues are working extra hard to set cover work and ensure students don't miss out on assessment and feedback. Again, if you have individual concerns please do not hesitate to contact myself, Ben Cotton or Anne Law, or the relevant faculty head.

4) Teaching and Learning update

Please see the attached update from Ben Cotton around chances to feedback on teaching and learning, to give your views as part of our latest faculty review for Science and Technology, and remote learning provision for students who have to self-isolate.

As ever, it would be good to hear your comments and feedback and discuss any of the above, or any other KEVICC topic, at our next Q and A session. This is scheduled for next **Tuesday 23 November at 5-6pm**, and an online code will be sent out to all parents and carers that afternoon. I look forward to seeing many of you then.

5) Enrichment and Extra Curricular

As always, it is great to see so many students taking advantage of lunchtime and after school enrichment. In particular, it has been fantastic to hear about our Y10 rugby teams' recent successes, to listen through the office wall and hear how "Footloose" rehearsals are shaping up, and to see the amazing commitment from Y11 students and teachers in attending over 400 revision sessions as we move towards their mock exams from 29 November.

I've attached both the enrichment club calendar and Y11 revision sessions for you - please congratulate your young person on any enrichment activity they are involved in, and encourage them to take as many opportunities to get involved as possible.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support. Whilst the situation around the pandemic continues to create challenges for us all, it is so reassuring to see how our young people are getting on with their learning with such resilience, and how staff are going all out in their efforts to support them.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,



Alan Salt
Principal

