

KING EDWARD VI COMMUNITY COLLEGE



learning to flourish

Principal Alan Salt

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29th March 2022

Dear Parent or Carer,

We hope this update finds you well. Time seems to fly so quickly at this time of year, and with the first sunny warm weather it feels as if we have gone straight from Winter into Summer (and possibly back to Winter again) in a few weeks!

I wanted to update you on a few issues, detailed below.

1. Staff Absences

Whilst we are now all aware of the lifting of many COVID restrictions, we are all still having to cope with **high levels of COVID-19 infections** in the community causing sickness and absence. Over the past 2 weeks, whilst student positive tests have thankfully been lower than we have experienced previously, we have had a **high number of staff absences**. Typically, this has meant that most days we have had 5-6 teachers out of school. We know this has an impact on your young people, and we are working very hard to ensure that classes are covered by teachers students know, and of course that there is as little disruption to learning as possible.

This is proving really challenging. Teachers have given up most of their non-contact time to cover each other, and in some cases we have had to merge classes together. Talking to other school headteachers, our situation is by no means unique, and all schools locally are also faced with a lack of suitable supply teachers available for short term emergency cover.

It's been incredible but not surprising to see how staff are pulling together to try to make sure school life continues as normal. We will continue to do so over the coming days. If the situation persists or gets worse, then the safe management of the school can be affected, in which case we may have to consider remote learning for some year groups.

Clearly this would be a last resort and we will do everything we can to keep all students in school all the way through to the Easter break.

2. KEVICC and Education South West

You will know from our recent consultation that KEVICC governors were seeking views on KEVICC formally joining a local school trust, Education South West. We are excited that the governors have reviewed the consultation responses and have committed to going ahead with the plan for KEVICC to join Education South West in September 2022.

Already we have begun collaborating with other ESW schools and sharing ideas around great teaching, great curriculum, and great pastoral care. We are looking forward to being able to further this collaboration on ever-improving education for our students, whilst retaining all that makes KEVICC unique.

3. Term Dates 2022-23

To make sure we can work together efficiently with our partner schools, we will be aligning our term dates from September 2022. I have attached the new dates for your convenience. All the major holidays see no



change, although we have a slightly later start date in September 2022 for students and a day earlier start date in January 2023.

These updated dates will be posted on our website for you to refer to.

4. **Summer Exams 2022**

Those of you with young people in Y11 and Y13 will know the exam season is fast approaching. It has been great to see Y11s engaging so well in extra lunchtime and after school revision for weeks now- and we are privileged teachers continue to put on these extra sessions despite all the other pressures in school at this time.

We will be writing separately to all parents and carers and students with detailed information about the exams, and we would welcome any feedback or questions about the arrangements.

5. **“Living with COVID” National Changes from 1 April**

Finally, we are awaiting with interest further news from the Government from this Friday, which is the proposed date for the next national guidance on the “Living with COVID” strategy. Headteacher trade unions have been pressing the government to continue free LFT testing for education settings, but unfortunately at present there is no clear picture of what awaits us following Friday. Please rest assured we will notify you as soon as we are aware of any changes in guidance.

In the meantime, please keep to the guidance on the NHS website which we signposted you to in our last update. We know many of you are frustrated at the availability of LFT testing and the time students are missing due to COVID, but please continue to do everything you can to keep our school and community safe by following NHS guidance closely.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

As ever, we are keen to hear from you and answer questions about College life in general (and COVID!). We’ve arranged another online Q and A for next Tuesday 5 April at 5-6pm. You can join using this code which will also be circulated that day by WEDUC. <https://meet.google.com/rdp-bxvt-kza> Alternatively, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or feedback by popping me a quick email on asalt@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,



Alan Salt
Principal

ESW School Term Dates 2022-23 Academic Year

| | Sep-2022 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----|----|----|----|----|--|
| Monday | | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | |
| Tuesday | | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | |
| Wednesday | | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | |
| Thursday | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | 30 | |
| Friday | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | |
| Saturday | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 1 | | |
| Sunday | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | 2 | | |

| | Oct-2022 | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----|----|----|----|--|--|
| | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | | |
| | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | | |
| | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | | |
| | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | | |
| | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | | |
| | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | | |
| | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | | |

| | Nov-2022 | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----|----|----|----|--|--|
| | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | |
| | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | |
| | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | | | |
| | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | | |
| | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | | |
| | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | | |

| | Dec-2022 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----|----|----|----|--|--|
| Monday | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | |
| Tuesday | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | |
| Wednesday | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | |
| Thursday | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | |
| Friday | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | |
| Saturday | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | | |
| Sunday | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | 1 | | |

| | Jan-2023 | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----|----|----|----|--|--|
| | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | |
| | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | | |
| | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | | |
| | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | | |
| | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | | |
| | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | | |
| | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | | |

| | Feb-2023 | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----|----|----|--|--|--|
| | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | | |
| | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | | |
| | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | | | |
| | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | | | |
| | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | | | |
| | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | | |
| | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | | |

| | Mar-2023 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----|----|----|----|--|--|
| Monday | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | |
| Tuesday | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | |
| Wednesday | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | |
| Thursday | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | |
| Friday | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | | |
| Saturday | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | | |
| Sunday | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | | |

| | Apr-2023 | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----|----|----|----|--|--|
| | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | | | |
| | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | | |
| | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | | |
| | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | | |
| | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | | |
| | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | |
| | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | |

| | May-2023 | | | | | | |
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| | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | |
| | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | | |
| | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | | |
| | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | | |
| | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | | |
| | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | | |

| | Jun-2023 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----|----|----|----|--|--|
| Monday | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | |
| Tuesday | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | |
| Wednesday | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | |
| Thursday | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | |
| Friday | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | |
| Saturday | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 1 | | |
| Sunday | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | 2 | | |

| | Jul-2023 | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----|----|----|----|--|--|
| | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | | |
| | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | | |
| | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | | |
| | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | | |
| | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | | |
| | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | | |
| | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | | |

| | Aug-2023 | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----|----|----|----|--|--|
| | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | | |
| | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | |
| | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | |
| | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | | |
| | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | | |
| | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | | |
| | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | | |

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|--|--|
| | School holidays |
| | Bank Holidays |
| | Non-pupil days - INSET |
| | Non-pupils days from twilighted training |
| | Non-pupil days - occasional days |