



KING EDWARD VI HIGH SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: Mr J Christey

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Dear Parents/Guardians

Hopefully you are all feeling well and continuing to keep yourselves safe during these difficult times.

We find ourselves coming to the end of another half term where so much uncertainty and change is upon us. We know that schools may not open until the 8th March 2021, and how this will happen is still unknown at the moment. The Government has said they will give us all two weeks' notice to prepare for any changes moving forward. Once a decision is made we will inform you how this will impact upon the pupils.

The provision that the school has provided for your child over this time is something that I am very proud of. The engagement by the vast majority of pupils has been exceptional. I am sure the face to face teaching that has taken place for all pupils in all subjects, is something that has helped to alleviate some of the pressure of being at home. I know this doesn't replace the teaching that takes place in school, but it goes a long way to ensure that pupils continue to progress with their learning and limits the time missed from their education. The majority of pupils will have weekly contact from teachers and support staff to ensure everything is OK during this difficult period and many parents have also been contacted.

I am pleased to inform you that lateral flow tests (LFT) are currently performed on those staff and pupils who are in school. They are done on a voluntary basis but they do give that little bit more confidence and security for pupils and staff when it comes to working in the school. Again, once we receive clear guidance around when pupils will be returning and if the Lateral Flow Tests are required, we will update you with more details.

The additional Inset Day on 18th December 2020 that was taken in line with Government guidance, means that we have had to cancel an Inset Day planned for later during the academic year. Therefore, Thursday 1st April 2021 will now be a normal school day. The only Inset Day this academic year is the 25th June 2021, which will go ahead as planned.

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There are many things that the school is reorganising in order to better support our pupils. Some of the reports and Parents' Evenings will be changed due to the current lockdown situation. Year 11 and 13 pupils will have some opportunity to show their ability through internal exams at some point on their return. I can assure you that we will give you adequate notice once these changes have been decided upon, and that all of these things we have planned will take place at a point more appropriate in the academic year.

Many of you will have received the additional IT equipment that helps your child to access the lessons on-line. The Government may have struggled on a few things, but giving the schools the IT resources to support the pupils in their learning is something that we have experienced as a positive. The parents that have received the free school meal vouchers so far, should continue to receive support over the February half term.

Many pupils will be experiencing additional on-line tutoring lessons with the catch-up funding that the school received from the first lockdown, and many more pupils will receive additional support once more funding is released from this current lockdown situation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those parents who took the time to thank and praise the school for how quickly and efficiently the virtual provision was put in place.

Have a restful half term, and we will be in contact soon to update you on the Government's plans to re-open schools, hopefully in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Christey
Headteacher