



## HM End Term Email to all Parents and Guardians 26-3-21

Dear Parent and Guardian

As we begin the Easter break, I wanted to express my sincere gratitude to Form 6, Form 5, our International boarding students, and colleagues, who have all put in a tremendous effort over the past few weeks, as in-school learning was reintroduced. The resilience and adaptability of this boarding and day school community cannot be underestimated and does not go unappreciated.

Staff will be working hard over the Easter Break to put the final preparations in place for the safe return of all students on April 12<sup>th</sup> (April 11 for boarders). As the government is currently re-evaluating the current Level 5 restrictions and an official announcement is due around April 5<sup>th</sup>, we will communicate further with you in the week before the return.

The plan for now is to return to the timetable in use prior to the school closure; with staggered start and finish times, as well as breaks and lunch. There will be a continued robust cleaning regime and a strong emphasis on compliance around hand sanitising, social distancing and mask wearing. With warmer temperatures hopefully imminent, ventilation will be optimised, and students are encouraged to take breaks outdoors. A 3-ply cotton mask with a filter slot, will be made available to all students, with extras for boarders. For additional masks, there is a minimum purchase requirement of 2 for €5 (note only), to avoid handling of change, available from Reception. A return to school form will need to be submitted for all students. A separate email will go to boarding families, on return to boarding school protocols and infection risk mitigations.

We are all eager to return to school for a full summer term so please encourage your child/ren to be vigilant over the Easter break and to reflect on the [Public Health Guidelines](#) for Social Distancing, Hygiene and Face coverings, and the [Government Restrictions](#) that apply at Level 5, particularly to travel and the mixing of households.

### **ACADEMICS** [Siobhan Daly](#)

The DES has mandated that schools close one week early this year, on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Form 6** - A separate email has gone to the Form 6 students and their families with LC2021 updates, timetable reminder, and self-care tips for recharging over the break. All supervised timed-assessments will be completed by May 14<sup>th</sup>, and timetabled classes continue to be taught up to May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Form 3** – will have end of summer term assessments, to be completed by the 21<sup>st</sup> of May. These assessments, along with other work produced throughout the three years of the Junior Cycle, will count towards the school-awarded Junior Cycle Certificate of Achievement, to be presented at a ceremony in September.

**Form 1, 2, 4, 5** – will all have end of summer term exams the week of May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**A study skills session will take place the week we return for Forms 1 & 3.**

### **Wellread National Award**

Congratulations to KH Librarian, Joan Kelly, and her eager student and staff collaborators, and KH community supporters, on the receipt of the Wellread National Award – Readers for Life Award. 'This award recognises that this school successfully promotes and supports a culture of reading that involves students, teachers, school staff, parents and the wider community.'

## **Environmental Committee**

The Environmental committee under the leadership of Ciaran O'Connor have produced an excellent video and survey to educate the students on climate change and what little things we can all do to help. Watch it [here](#).

## **Form 1 Student Website**

Rachel Tyner leads a creative group of Form 1 students who produced a lovely Christmas Newsletter. They have now really upped their game with a student website, just for students. Check it out [here](#)!

## **PASTORAL [Cormac UaBruadair](#)**

### **Boarding**

Students were asked to remove as much clutter from their rooms as possible to facilitate a deep clean, over the break.

Information will be sent after April 5<sup>th</sup> on return to school protocols for all boarders, so please keep an eye to your inbox. Students return from 7-9pm only on Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup> & rest of term.

### **Well-being**

Members of our well-being team will remain available to students, if required, over the Easter break. Please follow the [well-being pathway](#) and note the new email address to contact the team – [wellbeing@thekingshospital.ie](mailto:wellbeing@thekingshospital.ie).

### **Lunches**

Parents of students that receive hot lunches in the dining hall will receive a reminder email from Sodexo before we return to sign up for the new term. Cost is €235. There will be no cash wallet available for the next term to facilitate adequate distancing in the dining areas.

## **ECA – [Kerrie O'Reilly](#) & [Derek Maybury](#)**

With the planned return to school of all students on Monday April 12<sup>th</sup>, we intend to run the new after-school activities programme for the Trinity Term. Please find attached this [Trinity Term schedule](#) - this is a provisional schedule that is subject to change at short notice, in accordance with any updated Government guidelines.

## **SOCS - Review and Sign-Up**

The new schedule has been added to SOCS so students will need to access their SOCS login as soon as possible to review their chosen activities. They may also wish to sign up to something additional for the coming term. SOCS is used both as a log of activity participation and registers of attendance thus making it vital for our students to sign-up and review their schedule regularly. SOCS can be accessed at: <https://socscms.com/login/1908> by both parents and students. Should you have any difficulties logging in, please visit the SOCS Support webpage [for parents](#) and [for students](#) or email [sportsandeca@thekingshospital.ie](mailto:sportsandeca@thekingshospital.ie).

## **COMMUNICATION SURVEY**

A survey will be sent out next week to ascertain parent preferences on how we communicate. This information will be used to review our communication tools and inform improvements. It is vital we hear every parent voice so we will keep it short, and appreciate your response.

I came across the following poem from Irish Poet and Philosopher, John O' Donoghue, the words of which I found encouraging and comforting in equal measure, during this period of uncertainty and change to all our lives.

## **Time to be slow**

This is the time to be slow,  
Lie low to the wall  
Until the bitter weather passes.

Try, as best you can, not to let  
The wire brush of doubt  
Scrape from your heart  
All sense of yourself  
And your hesitant light.

If you remain generous,  
Time will come good;  
And you will find your feet  
Again on fresh pastures of promise,  
Where the air will be kind  
And blushed with beginning.

I wish you all a restful Easter break.

Yours,

Mark Ronan

Headmaster / Principal