



THE
KING'S
HOSPITAL
SCHOOL

Form 6 return to school information 24-2-21

Dear Student, Parent and Guardian

I'm sure you are relieved with the resumption of in-school learning beginning Monday and we are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back. The following should answer many questions you have around the return, the timetable, mock exams, orals & practicals, and Accredited Grades. A separate email has gone to boarding families.

As mentioned in last week's email, the overarching priority now is to get our students and staff safely back to school, and to avoid an outbreak when they return. From August to December, we have shown that our mitigation strategies were robust and we were able to avoid any spread of the virus in school. However, since the reason for this current lockdown is a more virulent variant of the virus, with case numbers remaining high in the community, our guard cannot drop and we cannot allow complacency to set in. This has also informed our decision to move day students into the main school; and the structure of the school timetable.

Therefore, we ask for a strict adherence to public health guidelines at home as at school, and additional precautions must be taken this time around.

A new reusable 3-ply mask will be provided for all students, that has room for a disposable liner, if required.

Day students

Day students should arrive on campus at 08:30, through the Sports Hall Door only & exit through the Tuck Shop Door.

Day students will be unable to use the Bluecoat block until all students are back mid-April. Instead, you will be provided with your own desk and container in the Wilson Wright Hall, where you will also have your lunch, from the cafeteria or brought from home.

The day will end at 4pm, except for Wednesday's which ends at 1pm, as we are unable to facilitate group sport or ECAs during these Level 5 restrictions. There will be exceptions to the Wednesday finishing time for music practical tutoring, or when the optional mock exams begin. Students may not remain on campus after the closing times. We have confirmation that the school bus service will resume and those times fit in with this schedule.

Timetable

In this initial phase before Easter, we will continue to use the remote timetable while in school with some slight changes, detailed below. This will: allow teachers to facilitate your classes and those for the other year groups at home; support public health requirements; enable curriculum coverage; provide opportunity for timed assessments, coursework, practicals, orals and access to guidance and support.

- In-school classes will run for 35 minutes, with travel time between classes incorporated in the break between lessons rather than within the usual 40-minute lesson.
- There will be two one-hour classes in the afternoon starting at 13:50 and ending at 15:50. These classes will allow for further curriculum coverage and timed-assessments. As these timed-assessments will now be supervised, they will form part of the data collected



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for a teacher's estimated mark, as part of the Accredited Grades process. You will receive this timetable tomorrow.

- Wednesday Period 5 and 6 will allow students to: work on practicals, orals, course work; prepare for optional mocks; and attend guidance meetings, wellbeing sessions and SEN support.

Mock Exams (optional)

We have been informed that mock exam data **cannot** be used to inform a teacher's estimated mark, as part of the Accredited Grades process. However, some students may want the experience of taking a fully-timed and supervised exam; so we will be running optional mock exams, outside classtime, on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings beginning March 10th. A timetable will be available in the next few days. If students opt not to sit the mock exams in a supervised setting, the exam papers will be made available to them after the exams have been taken, and can be completed in their own time.

Orals

When you return to School, teachers will go into more detail on the format/timing of Accredited Grades and June exams; as it becomes available from the DES. Decisions are yet to be made on the scheduling of language orals and music practicals over the Easter Break.

Please do get in contact directly at academics@thekingshospital.ie with any further academic questions. If you are experiencing any anxiety around the return to school, please email your houseperson or a member of the [well-being team](#).

Kind regards

Siobhán Daly

Deputy Head Academics