



THE
KING'S
HOSPITAL
SCHOOL

HM Friday Email – 21-05-21

Dear Parent and Guardian

It is hard to believe we are only one week away from the end of term. Please find below a few reminders about the last week and expectations for students' behaviour to get us all safely and healthily to the end.

The Form 6 students will begin their Leaving Cert Exams in a little over two weeks, so it is vitally important that they remain vigilant inside and outside school; as even being identified as a close contact will result in mandated self-isolation for almost two weeks, with the potential to miss some or all of their exams.

Staff are working very hard to help students get through their Summer exams, within the confines of the necessary Covid-protocols, so any breach of the school [Code of Behaviour](#) will be treated very seriously. We would appreciate full support from parents and guardians.

End of Term Parties

We have been asked to mention that, although we remain in Level 5 restrictions with visitors limited to gardens, there are end-of-term sleepover parties being planned for students across the year groups. This has put many parents and students in an awkward and uncomfortable position. The past fourteen months have proved extremely difficult for our school community; particularly with the more recent prolonged lockdown, and we all must continue to play our part to eradicate this virus. I would ask parents to reconsider the timing of these events, with the variants still causing infection rate to remain elevated, so we can look forward to a safe return to school at the end of August.

Video for Leaving Certificate Students

The Chief Medical Officer Dr Tony Holohan has recorded a video message for Leaving Certificate students to encourage them to stay safe and look out for each other in the run-up to the exams. The video is available on www.gov.ie/leavingcertificate

Students can contact any member of our [Well-Being Team](#) up to the last day of the Leaving Cert exams.

Video Message for all Students

President Michael D. Higgins has issued a [special video message](#) for students in post-primary institutions.

In his message to the students, the President acknowledged the disruptions to students' lives, and thanked students for their cooperation and patience in these testing times.

WhatsApp Hack

We are aware of a WhatsApp hack where you may receive a message from anyone in your contact list, including a school staff member. The message usually reads "Hello, sorry I sent you a 6-digit code by SMS by mistake, Can you transfer it to me please? It's urgent". Do let the contact know by TEXT not WHATSAPP that you received it so they are aware and if you

haven't already done it, set up Two Step Verification on your WhatsApp Account for additional protection.

Anti-Bullying Research Project

Our researchers were very pleased that we received such a large number of consent forms for students to participate in our 3-year study. The students, who received consent, have now been emailed, to ask if they would like to participate in the study. We were also delighted to hear that the researchers From DCU & ARU, have been selected to talk about our project, at the World Anti-Bullying Forum, in Stockholm, this November.

Fuse Anti-Bullying Programme

All Form 2 students have now taken part in the DCU Anti-bullying programme over the last four weeks. In order to complete the programme and to provide important feedback to DCU it is vital that all Form 2 students now fill out a short survey by May 25th. The video and survey are available here: <https://bit.ly/FUSE-KH>.

Summer Exams

Form 3 began their exams today with the remainder of the year groups exams (except Form 6) taking place all next week. Please find the timetable attached in this email and note that as there are no exams in the afternoon, Sport & ECA's begin at an earlier time.

Please email absence@thekingshospital.ie if your child is arriving late or leaving early, as this is essential for roll calls, fire drills and your peace of mind.

TY Graduation Ceremony

This will take place virtually on Wednesday May 26th at 08:45 with all TY parents and guardians welcome to attend. It will be recorded for those unable to tune in at that time. The link will be emailed on Monday.

End of Term Half Day

School officially closes at 1pm on Friday, May 28th, with the school buildings being locked up by 3pm. Please make sure that your child has left the campus by that time, with the exception of students travelling overseas, as there will be no supervision onsite after 3pm.

SPORTS, PERFORMING ARTS AND CULTURE

A big thank you to all of our students and staff who have kept the Sports and Extra-Curricular activities programme going during another unusual school year. The timetable for next week's after-school activities is attached – please notify us if your child will not be attending.

Sports

After-school sports will continue next week at the earlier start times of 1pm or 2pm and students must bring their sports gear with them as normal.

A special thanks to Vicky Harris, our Sports Graduate 2020/21 who has brought the KH community of boarders, day-pupils and staff together through fitness challenges and exercise classes. We are in the final days of the Summer Steps Challenge and are very much looking forward to seeing who the winners are!

TY Plays – Briery Gap Theatre Festival

A big congratulations to both of our TY Drama groups who each wrote and performed original plays during lockdown. Both plays have made it through to the final of the Briery Gap Theatre Festival – a wonderful achievement!

Amber Flag Committee

May has been an important month for the Amber Flag Committee who raised over €1600 for Pieta House through their #KHShareYourSunrise event. This was a wonderful way to raise awareness of mental wellbeing across the KH community and a lovely event to bring us closer together.

Ms Tyner and the Amber Flag Committee welcomed Minister for Children and KH past pupil, Roderic O’Gorman, to the school on May 20th to raise their Amber Flag which was awarded by Pieta House. The Minister gave a speech to the Committee in Chapel and met with teachers and students to discuss various topics around mental health and youth matters.

Transition Year 2021/22 – Sports & Performing Arts Programmes

Students who wish to sign up to the Sports or Performing Arts strands for TY next year must complete their Expression of Interest form as soon as possible. The forms can be found here: <https://bit.ly/TYSportsForm> or <https://bit.ly/TYArtsForm>

Bluecoat Day 2021

It may have been a rainy day in May but Bluecoat Day lifted everyone’s spirits! Teddy’s Ice-Cream and Five6Max Coffee came to the school with some well-deserved treats for staff and students.

Virtual Valedictory Service 2021

The whole-school community will receive a link to the 2021 Valedictory service at 7:30pm on Friday, May 28th. The second link will be sent to all Form 6 students, parents/guardians and staff – this will include the announcement of the 2021 Valedictorians and the Valedictory concert.

I hope you all enjoy the weekend ahead.

Yours,

Mark Ronan

Headmaster / Principal