



## HM Friday email 23-4-21

Dear Parents and Guardians

The students have settled well into their routine, and staff are working hard to ensure that they get the most from the summer term; in academics and extra-curricular activities. We have been fortunate with good weather so there is plenty of opportunity and space for students to head outside on their breaks; for some fresh air and a short stroll on the campus.

[NPHET](#) expressed some concern, in their press conference last night, about the increase of positive Covid tests in the 13-18 age category. We are resolute in the enforcement of our mitigations during school time; and educating students of the importance of maintaining vigilance outside school. However, with the longer evenings and milder weather, the temptation will be greater to gather outside school, particularly at weekends and the upcoming bank holiday weekend. Please can you reiterate at home the importance of respecting the ongoing restrictions; so we can avoid an outbreak, and ensure all students and staff can make it through safely to the end of term.

The dates for the start of the next academic year will be on the Google Calendar shortly and are noted below:

<b>Wednesday August 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Form 1 induction 11-1pm ½ day boarders arrive that day
<b>Wednesday August 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Form 6 induction 11-1pm ½ day boarders return that day.
<b>Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Form 5 & 4 induction 11-1pm ½ day boarders return that day.
<b>Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Form 3 & 2 induction 11-1pm ½ day boarders return that day.

For those of you who have children coming into Form 1 there will be further information sent out over the next few weeks, on their induction days. The Scholarship Exam (CAT4) will be held on Monday August 30<sup>th</sup>. A virtual meet and greet for Form 1 parents and students, with staff, is in the planning stages.

Please see a few reminders and updates from the School Leadership Team below

### **ACADEMICS – [Siobhan Daly](#)**

If you have any queries regarding comments in the Easter Progress Report, please contact me or your child's houseperson.

If a student is leaving school for an appointment during the day, they must sign in and out at reception. This is crucial information to have on file if there is a fire drill or critical incident.

### **Form 6**

Assessments continue until May 14<sup>th</sup>. There will a normal timetable of classes May 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> with one hour classes from May 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>. Further detail on the arrangements and expectations for the period after the 14 May will be provided. However, in principle, the students will have 3 options during the last two weeks:

- Attend Class
- Attend supervised
- Remain home

If a student remains home on any day the parent **MUST** email [absence@the kings hospital.ie](mailto:absence@the kings hospital.ie) for student registration purposes and parents' peace of mind.

Information on the Leaving Cert Portal and Valedictory will go out in a separate email.

## Summer Exams

- Students are encouraged to make a study timetable; and can make an appointment with the guidance team, if finding that challenging.
- Forms 1, 2 & 3 have now all attended their Study Skills Seminar.
- Forms 1, 2, 4 & 5 will have summer exams the week of May 24<sup>th</sup> that will test curriculum taught since their Christmas exams in November 2020, with the exception of subjects where there is natural incremental knowledge acquisition, like languages and maths.
- JC assessments will take place the week of Fri 21<sup>st</sup>– Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> May. The assessments will test curriculum taught since their Christmas exams in November 2020, with the exception of subjects where there is natural incremental knowledge acquisition, like languages and maths.
- The Junior Cycle “Certificate of Achievement” will be presented in mid-September. It is important to understand that the grade awarded will be based on a range of factors. These factors will be informed by classwork, summative and formative assessments undertaken throughout the Junior Cycle; and will be moderated using the professional judgment of the classroom teacher. Our goal throughout this process will be to present a picture of the students’ learning and progress that best reflects their three years of engagement with the Junior Cycle program.
- Summer exams and JC assessments will be of maximum one-hour length under Covid-safe conditions.

## Irish Maths Teachers Association Junior Maths Competition

Congratulations to the three Form 1 students with the highest score in the nationwide Junior Maths Competition. They received trophies from IMTA, presented by Math Department Co-ordinator Corina Geraghty:

1<sup>st</sup> Aryell Sheedy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Orlando Gale-Scourfield, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grace UaBruadair

## CHATTA

[CHATTA](#) is an education app that we are using to support a literacy initiative to enhance students’ progress in oracy, vocabulary use, writing, memory and wider learning. SEN teachers, Rachel Tyner & Gillian Lacey, are facilitating a group of Form 1 students, using all the skills they are acquiring through CHATTA, to publish a book of short stories. The book will also contain illustrations in a collaboration with the art department. We will update their progress of this exciting project on the school website.

## PASTORAL & BOARDING – [Cormac UaBruadair](#)

### Well-Being Pathway

Clair Breen is our school well-being coordinator and an accredited psychotherapist. As well as offering a fee-based service for ongoing counselling or therapy, Clair can be accessed by students with a mental-health concern, and if a student requires further services, parents will be advised, and can determine how they wish to proceed, in collaboration with the well-being team. However, it is important that students use the [well-being pathway](#) and email [wellbeing@thekingshospital.ie](mailto:wellbeing@thekingshospital.ie) in the first instance, to determine the next steps best suited to their needs.

Our therapy dog, Nala, has been specifically trained for this task, by the Irish Guide Dogs. Outside therapy session times, students may ask Clair if they can pet her, but it must be permission-based led by Clair, so as not to undo her training and the safety and comfort she provides to other students.

### Face Masks

Additional face masks are available for boarders to allow for laundry time & a fresh mask each day. Please see Mr UaBruadair.

## **SPORTS, PERFORMING ARTS & ECA – Derek Maybury & Kerrie O'Reilly**

### **New Sport & Performing Art TY Strands**

We are delighted to offer optional TY strands in Sport and Performing Arts, piloted from September 2021. Mr Cunningham will be in contact shortly with Form 3 parents and students regarding all options for their TY programme. Included in this will be an expression of interest form relating to these optional strands.

### **Royal Irish Academy Speech & Drama Exams**

Drama exams will be taking place in school from May 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> with Ms O'Reilly and Mr Hickey. Students have been assigned a day and time for their exam, which will be held in the Drama Room in the F-Block. The exams will be recorded and submitted to the RIAM by the Drama Department. The exam timetable has been posted in the Performing Arts Room window and on screens within the school.

### **Royal Irish Academy Music Exams**

Students sitting their RIAM summer music exams will be contacted by their teacher to arrange their exam recording day and time.

### **TY Plays**

Two original plays have been created during lockdown by our TY Drama students for submission to the Briary Gap Theatre Festival. Best of luck to both groups who will be recording their performances in school on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Orchestra**

The KH Orchestra along with Ms Wright created a wonderful musical performance video, which will be shared out to class groups next week and is [available to view here](#).

### **Amber Flag Committee**

The Amber Flag is a Mental Wellbeing initiative in conjunction with Pieta House. The KH Amber Flag Committee are delighted to invite the entire school community to participate in a very special Darkness Into Light event this May 8th. [Darkness Into Light](#) is a fundraising event in support of Pieta House, who work tirelessly to support those impacted by suicide and self-harm.

### **FINANCE – [Tony Kearney](#)**

An update on school finances will be emailed early next week. If you have any queries once received, or wish to engage with the Finance Department, please email them directly.

I hope you can enjoy the forecasted fine spring weather for the weekend ahead.

Yours,

Mark Ronan

Headmaster / Principal