



Kingswinford Academy

A part of Windsor Academy Trust

Kingswinford Academy Parent Bulletin
11th - 15th January 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

As we return to the lockdown with schools closed for a significant period of time, I know that you will share the concern and disappointment that education is being 'interrupted' for our children. This time, however, we are far better placed to support your children at home, having learnt and developed our approaches from last year to ensure that we can have a far more robust online learning approach right from the word go (or perhaps, from the word stop in this case!). Indeed, our amazing staff have already delivered 140 lessons each day since Tuesday with more than 250 of those lessons being delivered live to students. Whilst these figures are high, we look forward to increasing these numbers even further over the coming weeks. We are also setting out new processes to support you in finding out how your child is engaging in their online learning using our 'ClassCharts' app and email. So, starting next week, you should begin receiving short notifications on ClassCharts from subjects letting you know how well your child has engaged in online learning for the week. You may also receive alerts if for any reason your child has not attended a live lesson. This new system is in its infancy so please bear with us as we launch this through the week.

With so much online learning available, we hope you will continue to encourage your child to take part in every lesson - ideally in accordance with their timetable, and certainly at some point on the same day if at all possible. We recognise that this can be challenging, but after so much disruption every lesson counts and if you can rapidly form a strong routine, your child will be able to make excellent progress despite the lockdown.

Thank you all so much for your continued support - this is an extremely challenging time for education, but we will continue to work closely together to keep your children safe, happy and well educated.

Kind regards

Tom Macdonald
Headteacher

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Thank You

P Guest

A huge thank you to Mrs Perry, parent of a former student for donating a brand new chrome book to the school after watching This Morning's appeal to support schools and students in need of computer equipment to enable them to work from home during this latest lockdown. Thank you so very much; it is very much appreciated.



If you have a laptop or other device you are not using (less than 5 years old), all schools would be happy to receive donations to support their students accessing online learning.

Remote Learning Guidance

T Macdonald



To enable continuous learning and support wellbeing, our student and parent remote learning guidance website has been updated.

Please read [here](#)

Class Charts : Student Engagement

S Wilkinson



From Monday, you will be able to monitor your child's engagement in lessons across the week through your ClassCharts app. Teachers will be completing this, taking into consideration your child's engagement in their lessons that week and the work completed.

You will also be notified by email if your child is not in attendance in their live lesson. We would ask that you try and ensure your child engages and joins their live lessons as soon as possible. Your child will be notified when their live lessons are scheduled and the expectation is that your child engages in all of those lessons.

Your child should be attending live lessons or completing online work as per their timetable so that they do not fall behind in their learning and they are able to access their teacher's expertise.

Year 8 Parents' Evening

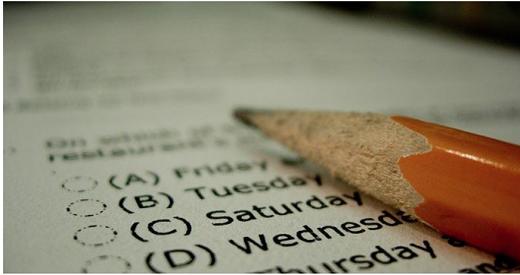
S Fletcher

We will not be running our Year 8 Parents' evening next week - instead postponing it to run later in January.

As soon as we have confirmed the date and methodology we will communicate this with all Year 8 Parents with plenty of time to arrange your appointments with staff.

Year 11 Examinations

T Macdonald



Following Mr Johnson's and Mr Williamson's announcements this week, it is very clear both that standard GCSE examinations will not take place, and that some alternative form of assessment in school will be required to inform teacher assessments and centre assessed grades.

Whilst this is disappointing as we know that our students were well on the way to some extraordinary performances in the (now cancelled) exams this summer - it does, at least, give some clear indication that the work students undertake under lockdown and upon their return to school can inform their final assessed grade. This is fantastic news as it means that students can work hard through lockdown and on their return to school to improve their final grade and prepare properly for Post 16 education. It is vital, then, that year 11s maintain their strong work ethic and engage fully with all online learning during the coming weeks so that we can reward them with the amazing performances we know they are capable of.

Lateral Flow Tests

J Wilkes



Throughout the week we have converted our Main Hall into a 'Lateral Flow Test' centre for our students and staff. Staff have been fully trained in supporting patients in completing these voluntary tests and we have conducted a full Risk Assessment into the use of the tests on site so that we can start offering LFTs next week.

We will start our programme of testing, as advised by the government, with staff volunteers. Soon after this launches, we will contact parents to seek consent for testing those students who are currently attending the school (children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable students).

Please rest assured that testing is optional and relies on consent. We will share with you all our privacy notice, consent form and other details during the next week before any tests are conducted with students.

This will change the way schools can operate during the pandemic as, once this lockdown is over, we will be much more able to keep students in education and protect their futures through the testing regimes being introduced across all secondary schools.

Calendar

Week Beginning 11th January 2021

Week 1

Monday 11th	
Tuesday 12th	
Wednesday 13th	
Thursday 14th	
Friday 15th	

Week Beginning 18th January 2021

Week 2

Monday 18th	
Tuesday 19th	
Wednesday 20th	
Thursday 21st	
Friday 22nd	
Advance notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Year 8 Parents Evening (date tbc)● School closed to students (inset day for staff) - 29th January● Year 7 Parents Evening - 10th February (tbc)● Half Term ends - 12th February

Notices from Dudley Local Authority

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