



July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

If ever a year deserved a sporting analogy it would be this one – a year of two halves.

It had been a fantastic year up until the pandemic hit – filled with the buzz of activity and the promise of more trips, more activities and tremendous academic success. As it was, Year 11 students finished their time with us abruptly and still have the uncertainty of the national system for grading ahead of them. We will see them all on results day and hope to recognise their time with us in the Autumn term.

In the meantime, I am sure you will join me in recognising the remarkable work of teachers and teaching support staff in switching to remote provision. Having worked on site with the children of key workers since lockdown, I have seen personally the quality of videos produced by the excellent staff we have here and the engagement of students as they continue to learn. Similarly, I would like to formally recognise the support you have given remotely. I know how challenging home schooling has been for many parents and carers, and how well people have risen to teach, guide and support your children. As is natural, some students have found it easier than others to adapt to this different way of schooling and we know we will have to work with patience and precision to help fill gaps in learning from September. Plans are already afoot here as I will explain later in this letter.

Finding our Futures

As well as our core provision, we have continued to pursue opportunities for students to participate in the Finding Our Futures programme in a virtual capacity and we have been astounded by the commitment and enthusiasm students have shown.

Our Brilliant Club students successfully finished their essays remotely and submitted these to their tutor. The Year 7 students wrote 1,500 word essays on preventing a malaria outbreak and all students received a 1st or 2.1 grade - a fantastic achievement by all.

Some Year 10 and Year 11 students participated in the University of Surrey's European Connect programme. The programme saw students participate in a series of webinars and workshops across 8 weeks, which concluded with them presenting online to university academics in their chosen subject. The commitment and confidence in presenting with peers virtually was fantastic to see.

Over 30 students across the school have thrown themselves into the University of Surrey and HEON's Book Quest programme. Students have been reading new authors and exploring these texts via assignments, pursuits and expeditions. We have loved hearing the students' thoughts on the book and hope they enjoy the final two.

We have also launched a Virtual Latin and Classic Club this module and it has been wonderful to see students take on a new extra-curricular activity and learn more about the origins of language. Our Year 10s have also embraced finding their futures virtually through our alternative work experience programme. Students have completed work related tasks including writing CVs and producing reports for companies.

Staff changes from September

As is tradition with end of year letters, I have a chance to share news about staff changes for the forthcoming year. We look forward to welcoming some fantastic new staff:

- Miss Cherry joins permanently in English and Performing Arts
- Mr George joins in Maths
- Mr Cushen in PE and Geography
- We are also delighted to have two trainee teachers with us next year, Miss Ortucu (who has worked with us on occasion over the last two years) in Science and Mr Gomes in History.

I know you will join me in welcoming all of these teachers into the Kings family in September as our numbers continue to grow.

We also welcome Mrs Thompson to reception and thank Mrs Ryce-Kelly for her work this year.

Mrs Robberts returns as Assistant Principal following maternity leave and we look forward to having her back in the team for the year ahead.

It is exciting to welcome new staff, but sad to see others move on to different opportunities. We are very lucky this year that we have very few departures. Mr Moulton has been with us on secondment from Thamesmead School for two years. It had originally been for one, but such was the impact of his work here that we negotiated for him to stay for a second year. He heads off to Chessington School next year and I know he will do a tremendous job. We shall miss him in PE and in the Senior Leadership team where he has offered great support to us all.

We also bid an incredibly fond farewell to Mr Le Brun who leaves us to move with his family to Singapore. Ed joined us from Broadwater in 2013. He served as Assistant Principal here for 4 years, before changing roles to focus his significant energies in the classroom as our Lead Practitioner. His work in the classroom, as a tutor and as a colleague has been a source of great and continued inspiration for us all. It was an honour to see him rightly recognised in the Pearson Awards as a Silver winner of the Secondary Teacher of the Year this year. Although we are sad to see him go, we are excited for him to explore the opportunities of a different culture and education system.

Remote provision report

Our remote online provision went 'live' for all students in Years 7 to 11 from the first day of the school's closure. Since that point, our provision has run unceasingly during term time and has been adapted and improved to meet the needs of all pupils, staff and parents – including those pupils who've attended school as children of key workers and those in Year 10 who've returned to school part-time for face-to-face provision.

The GEP IT team set up a brand new Student Learning Environment (SLE) that was up and running the week prior to closure – staff and students were trained on how to use it. 64 tablets and laptops have been given to students (approximately 20% of students) so they can access online provision, including several donated by the RGS community.

Our remote teaching philosophy has been to retain the highest sense of normality as possible, including a focus on providing high-quality pre-recorded lessons posted to the SLE for pupils in all subjects across all year groups. Lessons have continued to follow the Remember-Talk-Model-Do-Review structure and students have been supported by 'live' drop-in sessions over Zoom, 1-1 TA support sessions and support over email. We have also asked students to submit all of their written work twice each week via the SLE allowing teachers to offer feedback and for the school to hold students accountable for engaging with their learning. Students have been further supported with

videos and how-to guides for accessing and uploading completed work onto the SLE which have been published publicly and sent to all students directly. We have also provided students and parents a window to collect new exercise books from the school – over 400 were distributed.

Since 15th June, 50 out of 62 Year 10 pupils have returned to school two days per week for face-to-face provision. In school, students have been taught new GCSE content and addressed misconceptions which may have occurred while learning remotely. This has been supplemented by remote online learning that has built upon the learning taking place in school. Year 10 students have also engaged with our Virtual Work Experience provision and courses part of the European Connect provision through the University of Surrey. The students who have not returned for face-to-face provision are provided with pre-recorded lessons covering the same content that is covered in school to ensure they aren't disadvantaged.

Key dates

Tuesday 1st September – INSET (School closed for students)

Wednesday 2nd September – INSET (School closed for students)

Thursday 3rd September – Year 7 and Year 11 students only (Year 11 from 12pm)

Friday 4th September – All students return to school

Updated equipment list

As we return in September, we will be unable to loan pieces of stationery to students due to restrictions caused by COVID-19. All students must have a pencil case containing:

- Blue and black pens
- DART pen (will be provided)
- Highlighters
- A sharpened pencil
- A ruler
- A compass
- A protractor
- A glue stick
- A scientific calculator (we recommend the Casio fx-85GTX)

Where circumstances require, we will be able to support families if necessary in providing equipment at the start of term.

I hope that you all have a safe, restful and enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing you all in September.



Mr A. McKenzie
Principal

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Changes in September as a result of new guidelines

You will be aware that guidance around COVID-19 is subject to change. The plan, as set out below, is right as per today (10th July 2020), and will be reviewed throughout the summer.

As you will expect, we have had to make some significant changes to how the school will run in September in order to ensure all students can return as safely as possible and to follow the current guidance set out by the DfE. Our philosophy around these changes has safety at the heart. Where we have had to make compromises, these have been logistical rather than educational. Our curriculum, with the breadth that we believe young learners need, remains unaltered.

Our numbers allow us to operate two distinct zones within the school – an Upper School bubble (Years 9, 10 and 11) and a Lower School bubble (Years 7 and 8). The two groups will be based in two distinct and separate parts of the school and will not mix at all.

Upper School (Years 9, 10 and 11)

The Upper School will enter through the door by the Cloakroom where Mandy is based. All of their classroom based lessons will take place in the rooms currently housing Maths, Geography and Languages. Their break and lunchtimes will have the canteen and playground available, with the 3G pitch available on a rotation.

Lower School (Years 7 and 8)

The Lower School will enter through the current student entrance. Their lessons will be in the English block and DT wing of the school with canteen services available in a re-modelled Drama studio. They will also have space in the quad and playground area behind PE, and the 3G pitch available on a rotation.

Rooms containing specialist equipment, such as Science labs, ICT rooms or Performing Arts and PE spaces may be used by both bubbles. These rooms will be cleaned using a specialist virucide before the next group enters.

The times of the school day will be unaltered.

It will be important that all students and families are aware of the following:

- Students must not come to school if they, or any member of their household is displaying symptoms which may be linked to coronavirus. This includes a high temperature or new persistent cough. Where students show these symptoms they should seek a COVID test before returning to school.
- Students will be expected to be in full school uniform. DfE guidelines say that additional washing of this beyond usual expectations will not be needed.
- Students will be expected to adhere to the uniform policy in terms of hair being of natural colour and no new facial piercings. Where piercings exist, students should wear a clear stud only.

- All students will need to have a pair of football boots for the 3G pitch for their PE lessons. Unfortunately, due to restrictions we will not be able to give any out at present.
- Students must only bring to and from school the items needed for lessons or clubs. They must bring a bag containing their books as well as a pencil case containing:
 - Blue and black pens
 - DART pen (will be provided)
 - Highlighters
 - A sharpened pencil
 - A ruler
 - A compass
 - A protractor
 - A glue stick
 - A scientific calculator (we recommend the Casio fx-85GTX)

Due to guidelines, staff will not be able to distribute replacement items. The cloakroom will not be open at this time so students will have to carry their equipment with them.

- Students are expected to wash their hands immediately when they arrive at school. A member of the leadership team will direct students as they arrive.
- Students should use the hand sanitising gel provided when moving between classrooms.
- Students should only go to the medical room where absolutely necessary.
- Should we have 2 or more confirmed cases in school we will follow guidelines which mean it is likely that we would have to close for a period of two weeks. In this event, we would revert to the remote provision we have used this term.
- Behavioural expectations will remain high. Should any students disturb or endanger their peers, our sanctions policy, including the adaptations for coronavirus, will be engaged. This year behaviour will be overseen by Mr Ferguson.
- Attendance is mandatory for all students.

Parental visits to school

In order to allow us to ensure we are keeping students and staff safe, we would ask that parents only visit the school by appointment.

It will all feel a little odd at this stage, but we shall quickly adapt and find our feet. We have missed quite a chunk of time and teachers have worked hard on adapting curricula to help your children catch up. We will make use of our additional funding from the DfE to run interventions over the course of the year, utilising our skilled and experienced staff.

The over-riding message is that we will be fully open, with our curriculum remaining full and complete. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.



Mr A. McKenzie
Principal

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