



## **End of Easter Term Newsletter**

Dear parents, carers and friends,

I write to you at the end of a long, complex, but ultimately positive term. As the clocks have changed and the evenings grow longer, we all feel that little more optimistic as we continue to step forward from lockdown and from the stresses and tragedies that COVID has brought.

As a Headteacher, I naturally look at things through the prism of education, and find myself considering just how much we have all learned over the past year. We've realised the 'key' nature of all of the people that let our daily lives continue – the doctors, nurses, supermarket staff, refuse collectors, public transport drivers, social care staff, pharmacists, police, fire and rescue employees, farmers and the many others who have continued to do what they have quietly always done. We've learnt about our need for social interaction, for physical exercise, and for intellectual stimulus. Perhaps most wonderfully, we've learnt that we are inspired by kindness. From the nation's response to Captain Sir Tom Moore and the public outpourings of support for NHS workers, to the local kindness of shopping for neighbours or checking in with those who need a smile.

The world of education has developed as well. Like all schools, we adapted from face-to-face to online provision in a matter of days. For some, this was a smooth transition, but for others we recognise that it has been more difficult. We are all simply grateful to be back and able to work directly with students and colleagues.

The team here has flexed to support the testing programme which has allowed students to return to school. Led by Michelle Lim, and supported by staff re-deployed from administration, finance, and in-class support, our testers completed over 1500 lateral flow tests. I am pleased to report that all were negative. We continue to run our split site, have got through around 40 litres of hand sanitiser, and have adapted to the current recommendation of wearing masks in class, as well as around site. We will let parents and students know of any changes as we hear them. At the time of writing, we have not received any new guidance.

### **Attendance**

School attendance is now more important than ever, and it has been an absolute joy to welcome all students back to school.

Please could I remind parents that students with minor illnesses (headaches/period pains, etc.) should still be sent in to school. Next term we would like every student to have 95% attendance (no more than 2 days absence) in order to best support catch up work which is planned and to ensure your child can continue reconnecting and rebuilding relationships with their friends.

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority, they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court.

Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.



## **University Link**

Students have still been able to take part in a variety of activities within school or being delivered by other universities this term. We have been impressed at their enthusiasm and engagement in exploring their future education and career pathways.

### *National Careers Week*

Remote learning didn't stop students from engaging with National Careers Week where students were able to visit the virtual fair to learn more from employers. We have also been exploring the fair in our Finding Our Futures Tutor Time activity since being back. Alongside this we asked students what they aspire to be when they are older and were thrilled by the answers and results. Our students came up with brilliant suggestions from criminal detectives to vets to teachers to working in construction or engineering. Students were also encouraged to speak to others about their experiences of work and we enjoyed seeing the results of those conversations.

### *Family Futures with the University of Surrey*

Some of our Year 9 families have embarked on a new programme called Family Futures. This programme runs from March to May and those involved are working as a family to consider what the future can hold for them through a range of activities including goal mapping, being their own ambassador, reflecting on their future and trying new activities. Families will be getting involved with new experiences over the Easter holidays and we look forward to hearing more about these and being involved in this new programme again next year.

### *Living a Longer Life - The Brilliant Club*

A group of Year 7 students have taken part in the Brilliant Club since January and whilst it has been virtual their enthusiasm and engagement has been exceptional. Students have been exploring the degree subject Sociology and been focusing on the topic of life expectancy and living a longer life. They have learnt a lot through the tutorials, attended information sessions about university and been working towards writing an academic essay giving their recommendations on increasing life expectancy for a chosen country. We are proud of all their efforts and their commitment to trying something new.

### *Finding Our Futures in the Holidays*

It was brilliant to see students engage with a range of opportunities offered by Miss Trott, the University of the Creative Arts and the University of Surrey over the half-term holidays. Students took part in a range of virtual trips exploring museums, learning more about how a musical production operates and enjoying classical musical. Others took part in the University of the Creative Arts' Creative Workshops where they created their own magazines or photo boxes. Their creative efforts were fantastic, and all enjoyed receiving their art package in the post. Finally, some enrolled in a University of Surrey Experience day learning more about what university is, trying different degree subjects and enrichment activities. It is always fantastic to see our students commit to new opportunities and try things.

## **Uniform**

When we return after Easter, students may choose to wear their house polo shirt, rather than a shirt and tie. All other uniform, including the use of blazers around the school, correct footwear and rules around piercings, etc. remain unaltered. We reserve the right to ask individuals to return to shirt and tie if necessary.



As always, students are expected to wear their blazers around corridors and as they enter lessons, but may remove them in lessons if they wish as directed by their teachers. If the weather becomes too hot, I will issue a message to say that blazers are not required for that specific day or week. I will communicate this with students and parents.

### Eikon virtual Easter programme

Eikon have a virtual Easter programme for young people aged 11-17 in Surrey. Watch the video on [Sharepoint](#) or [Facebook](#) or see attached leaflets for the timetable, but in summary:

- On [Instagram](#) they have **competitions & challenges** for them to get involved with – with prizes!
- Their usual **live Instagram videos on Thursdays** will be looking at topics affecting young people.
- Their **Live Youth Club** sessions held on **Teams on Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays @ 12pm (instead of usual time of 6.30pm)** with games, chit chat and topic themed sessions.
- One of these live sessions will be a **Virtual awards ceremony - Weds 14<sup>th</sup> @ 12pm**. A session to celebrate young people's achievements, skills and development over the past year. *(If you have someone you'd like to celebrate, get them registered to attend & we can create a certificate for them!)*

To attend their live sessions:

Young person & their parent/guardian to fill out this [Consent Form](#)

Send to our team at [eikonline@eikon.org.uk](mailto:eikonline@eikon.org.uk)

### End of term

The term ends at 12.00 on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Students return on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

On behalf of all of the team at Kings, I wish you all a fantastic Easter break.

Alastair McKenzie  
Principal

### Kings College

Southway Guildford Surrey GU28DU t 01483 458956 f 01483 458957e  
[office@kingscollegeguildford.com](mailto:office@kingscollegeguildford.com) [www.kingscollegeguildford.com](http://www.kingscollegeguildford.com)

