

Wednesday 6th January 2021



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Dear Parents/Carers,

School Closure Update

After the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday night, Kineton High School is now closed for most of its students until at least the half term; teaching will now take place remotely.

I am personally very sad that we will not see students in school for such an extended period of time; however, all staff at the school will do everything they can to support our students and keep them focused and motivated to learn whilst at home. Please see below for some further information and guidance. You will be kept up to date as soon as we hear further announcements or news, particularly regarding the examinations season in June.

Mocks and External Examinations

Despite the news this morning, as I write, schools have NOT received any formal information about the cancellation or the format of formal assessments for GCSE, A Level and Vocational qualifications for summer 2021. News will be forwarded as soon as it is in school.

January vocation exams **WILL** take place at Kineton this week and next. Parents and students have been contacted.

Year 11 and 13 students should be taking Mock Exams this term. These are an essential part of a student's preparation for the Exams in every year as they give the clearest indication of how students will perform, and give them a clear picture as to where they need to make gains in their learning.

We still plan to run a full Mock Exam season this term. However, we will not be able to provide a more detailed timetable until it is clear when students will be returning to school. Students should be encouraged to continue revising for these exams; they can rest assured that they will be given ample notice as to when these will take place. This revision should take place alongside any new material they will be learning remotely.

Parents Consultation Evenings

The Year 7 and 12 events will take place on 12th January and information about other years will be forthcoming nearer the time. Year 7 appointment times will be sent this week for the Teams Meetings with form tutors or pastoral leads.

COVID-19 LFD Testing

A dedicated team of staff have carried out training from the Government and NHS platforms and we will be ready to roll out asymptomatic testing from next week. This will initially be for all staff and students currently attending/ working on site. Information about the testing process and a consent form will be sent to all parents/ students this week. I strongly encourage all members of our community to take the tests when the school becomes fully open.

Further Guidance on Remote Learning:

Students will receive an invitation for their timetabled lessons. These lessons will involve an element of 'live' teacher input and supplementary work for the student to complete during this period. All learning will be linked to the subject curriculum plans that can be seen on our website here:

<https://kinetonhighschool.org.uk/curriculum/subjects>

Remote learning will continue to be set through Teams - students will only be able to access the learning through this platform. Students will enter the 'lobby' area for the lesson and will then be invited in by the member of staff when they are ready to initiate the 'live' element of the lesson. The duration of the live element of the lesson will vary from subject to subject and may involve: modelling, Q&A, feedback/quizzing or sharing/presentation of work. All activities should be undertaken and work should be submitted for review as directed by the class teacher. Parents will not be invited to join any lessons for safeguarding reasons.

Teaching staff who need to be supervising the students in school, may not deliver live lessons for these days. At these times, they will upload activities to Teams but may be available to chat or interact with their groups using email or Teams.

Core PE

A menu of activities has been posted on Teams for students to participate in during the school closure period. This will include a step challenge and a spreadsheet for recording results. Please note that Year 7 PE groups have changed and they will be set work in their new Teams by their new teacher.

IT Issues/ Equipment

If your child(ren) has any difficulty accessing a device for online learning, please contact the school as soon as possible and we will support [accordingly: enquiries@kinetonhighschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@kinetonhighschool.org.uk)

Please advise your child(dren) that poor conduct whilst in 'live' lessons may result in a student being removed from the lesson. This will be followed up by a contact home to parents.

Safeguarding

When joining the meeting (lesson), students should join with their microphone muted and their video off. Students should only set their videos/webcams live when directed to by a member of staff. This will only be for a relevant teaching and learning purpose, for example, to provide some direct face-to-face explanation and support. There is no requirement for students to have access to a webcam – they can join the group and remain muted throughout should they wish. 'Live' interactions will be recorded – this will then be automatically saved into the 'meeting' file (under chat) so that students unable to attend will be able to view it. It will also allow for a review of the 'live' session should this be needed. As part of the safeguarding of students and staff could parents/carers please ensure the following should students wish to potentially use the video feed (if allowed):

- Any computers used for 'live' interaction should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms; and the background should be blurred.
- Everyone visible in the feed (at any point) is wearing suitable clothing.

It is important that students are aware that any misuse of the video streams of Teams is likely to fall under GDPR regulations and may well be illegal. The school will treat any such incidents seriously and utilise the behaviour policy/external agencies as necessary. Please could you discuss this with your son/daughter to ensure that they are clear on the purpose, framework and expectations of these sessions.

Please also be aware that all our plans are subject to Government guidance and are subject to change but our most important priority is the safety of all our community.

Pastoral Support and Well-Being

Students may start to feel more isolated and possibly anxious over time. The following steps will be taken to support our students feeling part of a wider community and also helps us understand how they are engaging with school 'at home'.

Form group meetings will take place each day from 8.30am; these meetings will also be used for delivery of any assemblies or well-being messages. Non-attendance in this or P1 will lead to a text message being sent to inform parents.

There will be an opportunity for students to meet individually on the phone or Teams with their form tutor or a key worker; these will be initiated by school staff.

Mental Health advice can be found in the leaflet on our website here:

<https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1608042711/southamcollegecom/rjmyrgczrn3z909pitc5/SocialandEmotionalMentalHealthinYourChild.pdf>

If you have any queries or concerns about the mental health of your child during this time, please use the links in the leaflet above, your GP or contact the school and we will do our utmost to signpost and support.

Free School Meals

Arrangements have been made for the delivery of FSM parcels for the week beginning 4th January. Details of provision for coming weeks will be provided shortly.

Throughout this difficult period, we will endeavour to provide high quality learning experiences for all our students; if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school or relevant staff member. Please allow a 48 hour time period before expecting a full response if it is not an emergency.

As always, your patience and support is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Bridge
Headteacher