

20 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Being a most unusual start to a summer term, I thought it would be good to provide you with an update on a variety of KLB related matters. I would first, however, like to reassure you that we are all working hard to support you and your children. Although the school is closed to the majority of students, we are ensuring that our channels of communication are very much open to support you and your children the very best we can. Tutors and heads of year, as well as teachers and heads of department, are available via email to answer any pastoral and academic questions you may have. Please find individual email addresses on the website and if you are still unsure as to where to direct your enquiry, please use info@klbschool.org.uk and someone will get back to you.

The government is currently not publishing any plan for a **return to school** for students, however, I hope and trust this will be a carefully thought through process with the well-being and safety of students and staff paramount. Here at KLB we are developing plans for a range of scenarios and will be ready to respond to a return when it happens.

It is difficult to maintain a **sense of community** from a distance. This term heads of year will be sending out regular bulletins to maintain a spirit of togetherness within year groups, so look out for these over the coming weeks. There is also much to enjoy by following KLB Sport on Twitter with the #StayAtHomeChallenge gaining momentum amongst other things.

The school remains open for vulnerable students and for the children of critical workers. Over the Easter break we relaxed the home-learning element and enjoyed making cakes, the gorgeous weather with more outdoor activity, board games and a few films amongst other things. We are keen to support families but we must continue to apply the government's strict rules on social distancing so ask that applications are made in cases where children are unable to stay at home safely. Please direct any enquiries to hkhan@klbschool.org.uk.

We have been able to support some of our KLB families with **food box deliveries**. This is now supported by a generous donation from the KLB Foundation which will enable us to extend this provision. Where parents have been unable to work, providing food for their families has become a challenge. If you, or anyone you know, is finding it hard to buy food for the family, please let us know (hkhan@klbschool.org.uk) and we will do our best to help.

In addition to the agencies highlighted in the "Where to get help" email sent on 5 April, the **School Nursing Team is offering ChatHealth**, a texting service. 11 – 19 year olds can have a confidential text conversation with a Gloucestershire school nurse about any health issue, worry or concern. There is further information and guidance for students on the School Nursing webpage <https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/school-nursing/cyp-info/>

Whilst there is no indication of when students will return to school, we will endeavour to provide a comprehensive **home learning** experience. Staff will continue to set tasks at the start of each week on Show My Homework, indicating to students in years 7 -10 and 12 how to submit work for checking and marking. Where students do not have access to computers, we will provide packs of work. Please let us know via info@klbschool.org.uk if you require a pack for your child(ren). We have been exploring some of the new online learning platforms to check their compatibility with our programmes of study and will incorporate these into our home learning tasks if appropriate. As a school, we have decided against using video conferencing for reasons of online safety, security and the barriers to access.

Headteacher: Tim Rand
Tel: 01453 842227 Fax: 01453 845480 info@klbschool.org.uk www.klbschool.org.uk
KATHARINE LADY BERKELEY'S SCHOOL, WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE, GL12 8RB

At this stage, we advise **year 9 students** to focus on English, mathematics and science in addition to the subjects that they have chosen to study at GCSE. We are happy that they do not complete work for subjects that they are dropping at the end of this academic year.

For all students, we advise **maintaining the routine of the school day** wherever possible. Feedback from students and parents suggests that this has been the most successful approach.

Please read the home learning assignments on SMHW carefully: note any details about the submission of work.

- The submission of work can be done via SMHW using a smartphone or PC / laptop. This guidance, issued by SMHW, will help: <https://help.teamsatchel.com/en/articles/2912000-submitting-my-work-online>
- Some work will be submitted via a quiz format, or using other self-marking platforms like Seneca Learning, Quizlet or MyMaths.
- If you have no alternative, use email to submit the work (or photos of the work) to the teacher.

Encourage your child to complete and submit what they do as they do it. The teacher can see their progress and keep accurate records.

Contact the teacher via email when essential work is not possible – this will open the lines of communication, inform record keeping and prompt guidance and reassurance where it can be given.

In these difficult times, we appreciate that managing home learning will be one of many challenges families face on a day to day basis. Some families are dealing with the worry of Covid-19 affecting their loved ones; others are supporting family members who are critical workers on the frontline – each family is faced with its own set of unique circumstances. We appreciate that parents are doing the best they can to support learning and we certainly don't want school to be a source of stress for you and your children. As a school, we will find ways to support all of our students for the loss of learning time. We have turned off the behaviour concerns on Parent Portal for the time being. Our staff will continue to log concerns so that the school can build up a picture about a child's home learning but this will prevent parents from receiving negative feedback at a sensitive time. The pastoral team will monitor what is logged and make contact with home to check that all is okay and whether we can help in any way. You will be able to see positive comments still!

Tomorrow, parents and students in each of **years 11, 12 and 13** will receive an email with updates specific to these students.

Yours faithfully



Tim Rand
Headteacher

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