

17 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a little while since I have written to all parents about what is happening in school and our plans for the next few weeks and beyond. I thought this would be a good time to update you on school life.

#### Years 10 and 12 Face to Face

We were delighted to start welcoming members of years 10 and 12 back into school this week as part of the face to face programme. We have about 220 Year 10 students coming in this week for 4 hours in school of either English or science. Enthusiastic staff were very reassured to see so many had accepted the invitation. Student feedback has been positive so far: at home, on their own, Literature students had felt uncertain about the subjectivity involved in the interpretation of the novel's characters and themes – many pupils found it helpful to talk through their responses. Colleagues described the pupils as hard working and adaptive to the new and unfamiliar groups and class sizes. Year 12s have 4 hours of teaching from one of the option blocks this week; already lessons in a number of subjects have taken place and feedback has been excellent. Years 10 and 12 will continue coming in for lessons for the rest of the year across a broad range of subjects.

#### Year 12 Futures programme

Year 12s continue to plan for their futures with a comprehensive programme in place for the coming weeks to encourage them to consider the next stage in their lives. It is not easy to think clearly about what the future may hold but we will support them all the way as they start to make these decisions.

#### Years 7 to 9 Face to Face meeting

We were pleased the Government announced on Monday that we can invite students in years 7 to 9 for a face to face meeting before the end of the year. We intend to provide every student with the opportunity to come and discuss with a member of staff how they are getting on with their home learning and life more generally. We feel this is preferable to writing a report on progress on home learning given the variety of circumstances that families are dealing with. We are currently working on the organisation of this and will write to you shortly about how it will work.

#### Pastoral support

The pastoral team are busy catching up with students and parents by phone or email. Tutors will be in contact at least twice before the end of the year. In years 7-10 you have also been receiving a newsletter once a week to keep you updated with year group specific news. Please find below some changes to Heads of Year.

- Acting Head of Year 7: Miss Johnstone: [ljohnstone@klbschool.org.uk](mailto:ljohnstone@klbschool.org.uk)
- Head of current Year 9: Miss Bell is taking over from Mr Grenfell-Williams as students transition into Year 10: [lbell@klbschool.org.uk](mailto:lbell@klbschool.org.uk)

#### In school provision

We now have close to our maximum of 40 students attending school daily across years 7-10. They are organised into four groups and have been getting on well with their home learning. Their days have also included some more practical activities including PE and making cakes, elderflower cordial, soap and face masks amongst other things.

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## Home learning

The vast majority of students are, of course, continuing with home learning. Karen John is writing to you separately about how this is going and our plans for the coming weeks.

## Primary transition

We would usually be holding information evenings and transition days this term as we prepare for Year 6 students joining us; this, of course, is not possible. Instead, we are busy recording video content, preparing presentations and visiting primary schools, either in person or virtually, to meet the children where possible. We had a lovely day yesterday when ten Year 7 students were in school, in uniform, to do some filming; it almost felt like school again!

## Sport

Sport has been missing from many of our lives. The PE team, however, have done a great job of encouraging students to maintain a healthy level of exercise. You can keep up to date with what is happening on twitter @KLBSport. They are currently planning a virtual sports day for later in the term. Watch out for further information.

## The future

With so much uncertainty, planning for next year is proving challenging. We are awaiting news of what the 'summer catch-up' announced by Boris Johnson might look like and of course, we do not know about the start of next year with regards the number of students returning and which year groups; I am hopeful that we will be able to welcome back as many students as possible. Whatever the future, we remain determined to fully support your child over the next few weeks and months; to help them build back confidence with their learning, fill gaps in knowledge and skills, and to enable them to envisage a bright future ahead.

Thank you for your tremendous support over the past few months. I appreciate it cannot be easy at times but we do know that everyone is doing their very best in these trying times. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Rand  
Headteacher