

8th July 2020



King Henry VIII Senior School
Warwick Road
Coventry
CV3 6AQ

Headmaster: Jason Slack BSc, MA Ed

Dear Parent,

We've arrived at the end of the academic year! I suppose that we've always known that we would get here. Quite how that would happen has not always been clear. Neither has it been clear what condition we would be in upon arrival! Regardless, we are here. For the most part I believe that we have overcome the challenge with characteristic mental toughness and determination.

There are a few points of information that I wanted to mention before the start of the summer break when communication may become less frequent as staff also take a well deserved break from staring at a screen and checking emails so regularly.

What will things look like in September?

Guidance on how schools should operate upon their return in September has now been released by the Government. It can be found via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Further information specific to parents can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

The Government have made their intention clear that all pupils should return to school in September. We support this position, and we are now looking at ways of implementing the guidance so that it is safe for pupils and staff to be in school. It is likely that school will have to be organised in a very different way. Pupils should be able to follow their usual curriculum, including option subjects for older pupils. This will be achieved in a manner that keeps pupils within a year group 'bubble' and which minimises contact between different year groups. This raises issues over breaks and lunchtimes, whole school gatherings (such as assemblies and the use of the library), and the transfer of pupils between classrooms during the day. Please be reassured that planning has already started in this regard and you will be kept well informed once these plans are finalised.

Bouncing Back Better

The challenges of the recent months have brought about ways of teaching and learning that, otherwise, we wouldn't have trialled in such an extensive manner! Some of our experience has been very positive and will influence how we teach in the future, even as we return to normality. In the spirit of learning, Miss Bradley and Mr Sewell would like to canvass the opinion of parents and pupils regarding the tools of learning that have been employed with a view to 'Bouncing Back Better' from lockdown. This will come in the form of a short questionnaire that will be emailed next week (to afford some time for reflection). We'd be really grateful for the time taken to complete the survey to inform how we might improve further the education that we offer.

School Shop

Please be aware that the School Shop is now fully open. Relevant precautions are in place to maintain the safety of parents and children. Current guidance allows for two households to be inside the shop at any one time. Visits to the shop are best undertaken by appointment in advance. If you do not have an appointment please queue outside and the staff will call you forward when there is capacity. However, priority will be given to customers with an appointment and the shop staff would urge all customers to book an appointment to avoid long queues. It is our intention that all pupils will be in school uniform in September.

Pupil Work Stored within 'Teams'

Pupils will have amassed a considerable amount of work and resources on 'Teams' in the last 4 months. I would encourage pupils to follow good ICT practice and save their work and resources on their own devices as backup copies. I would appreciate you checking with your child that this has happened. Where pupils have not saved their work they should do so in the first few weeks of the summer holiday. 'Teams' will roll over and be reconfigured for the new academic year. We're all new to how this works and will make every effort to make sure that this happens without a hitch, but important pupil work should be saved elsewhere to be on the safe side.

External Exam Results (Year 11 and Year13)

Mr Sewell is writing to all pupils and parents about results days and the letter should be with you shortly (if it hasn't already arrived). A level results are released at 8am on Thursday 13th August. GCSE results are released at 8am on Thursday 20th August. Priority entry into the Burgess Hall to receive results will be given to those pupils who have already returned their text books and locker keys on the day before their respective results days. Please help us start the next academic year as smoothly as possible for the next cohort of pupils by returning all of your text books according to Mr Sewell's instruction and thank you for your support in this important issue.

Summer Concert

I've tried to keep these letters restricted to the business of organising school and leave the more 'fun bits' to InTouch. However, in the absence of any further newsletters, can I give a quick and shameless 'plug' for the Summer Concert, which consists of new performances from students recorded during lockdown and all beautifully compered by Mr Newton and Mr Dearden.

You can watch the concert by clicking the following link:

https://youtu.be/eKGpT2Dh_uo

And Finally ...

The end of this academic year will see me moving on to pastures new as I leave behind my role as Headmaster at King Henry VIII School. Thank you to all those parents who have contacted me in recent days with their best wishes. The support of parents has been a key feature throughout my tenure and I would only ask that Mr Dearden (who will do a wonderful job) is afforded that same privilege. It has been an honour to lead the school through the last 10 years and I am sad to leave behind this very special community. You and your families have my best wishes for a safe and healthy future of prosperity and success.

Yours sincerely,



Jason Slack
Headmaster