



HM Email to all Parents – 22-1-21

Dear Parent and Guardian

I hope that you all had a good week and that your children have settled well into the routine of their daily schedule, incorporating not only their remote learning, but also balancing their homework with well-being, ECA's, and fitness activities.

I would like to reiterate from last week how we understand that each family will have their own set of challenges around these current restrictions, so please do contact your child's houseperson, or the appropriate department head noted below, if you have any concerns.

Each week we are taking on feedback from students, parents and staff to ensure that our remote learning provision is working for everyone.

ACADEMICS – [Siobhán Daly](#)

Remote Live Class Rules contained in Remote Learning & Teaching Policy [here](#)

- Please remind students for next week to be on time for class and use full correct name to enter their zooms.
 - Tip – Find and click on class link before you take your 15 minute break so there is no delay entering class at the correct time.
- Some students have indicated that they are overwhelmed with the quantity of emails, with notifications, reminders, etc., so end up missing some important ones.
 - Tip - We have asked teachers to reuse live class links so students can save the link in their notes for use each time.
- As this is the first experience of Remote Learning for many Form 1, and some of our new mid-stream students, please do let your houseperson know if you are experiencing any difficulties.
- Sharing devices at home – if a student is not able to access a device frequently for classtime, homework or assignments, please contact me directly so we can arrange the loan of a school laptop.
- Please continue to email all planned absences or difficulties logging on to a class to absence@thekingshospital.ie. We are taking roll at Tutor group for Forms 1-3 and Period 1 for Forms 4-6 and you will be contacted if the student is absent. A roll is taken for all other classes and parents will be notified if there is a pattern of unexplained absence.

Form 2 - CBAs

A revised timetable for Form 2 CBA's will be issued once we have a confirmation of the return to school date, and guidance from the Department of Education and Skills.

Form 3 - Mocks exams, Orals & Practicals

As with Form 6, we have postponed the mock exams, orals and practicals. Teachers will be reminding students to keep up the practice for orals and practicals, in order to stay on track for when we reschedule the dates.

Form 4 TY – Subject Choice Week & Work Experience

Students have been engaging very well with their remote learning schedule and we have decided to keep that schedule going, if we do not return to school on February 1st.



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Instead of Subject Choice Week, this will be ongoing for the next few weeks, with a later due date for students to return their subject choices. The careers department is working on providing an online subject information package for students and parents so you can make informed choices together. More information will be sent on this next week.

The activities and workshops scheduled for the two Work Experience weeks, will not be able to go ahead as planned. Even if school were to return on February 1st, we would anticipate that Level 5 restrictions would present challenges for visitors to come on site. We will continue to look at initiatives for students and consider how some of it could work remotely, and postpone the two weeks to later in the term.

PASTORAL - [Cormac UaBruadair](#)

Well-being phone calls

Most students will have received their wellbeing call from a member of staff this week and the feedback provided from those calls is very important to ensure your voice is heard, so that we can support you all in the best way possible. If you were unable to connect with a staff member, for whatever reason, please email your child's houseperson to discuss a time that suits all.

A reminder that the well-being pathway can be found [here](#).

SPORTS, PERFORMING ARTS & ECA'S – [Derek Maybury](#) & [Kerrie O'Reilly](#)

We are delighted with the fantastic engagement by the whole school community in our virtual Sports, Performing Arts, and ECA programme this week and are encouraging our students to keep participating and signing up for new activities.

1KM Time Trial Challenge

Our 1km Time Trial Challenge created by our Sports Graduate, Vicky Harris, saw students and staff both onsite and at home testing themselves for repeatedly faster times. The results are available on our social media platforms - we were all hugely impressed with the standard and willingness to improve!

Fitness Classes

The KH Fitness classes have been hugely popular again this week and Yoga classes with Ms Leahy commenced and will continue again next week on Mondays, Wednesday and Thursdays. These online classes are not only a great way to get active but also to connect in a meaningful way with friends, teachers and colleagues who we miss meeting every day.

Choir Project for all Students

This term the choir has an exciting online project coming up and all students are invited to get involved. In place of singing together in person, they're going to be singing together online! Our new Head of Music, Colm O'Regan is co-ordinating a performance of 'Story of My Life' from Shrek the Musical to be recorded by each student in their own home and collating them into a collaborative video, accompanied by some of The West End's finest musicians! Stay tuned for the finished product!



THE
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Comedy Sketch Writers wanted

For the coming week the KH Library and Performing Arts Department have teamed up for a new KH challenge to bring a smile to the faces of the KH community! They are asking students to write their finest 3-5 minute Comedy Sketch. Prizes will be awarded and the winners will be tested out by our Drama Department! Entries can be sent to library@thekingshospital.ie no later than Friday, February 5th.

Phone-in Book Clinic

Our librarian, Joan Kelly, is offering a Book Clinic beginning next Friday from 12-3pm. A parent or student can ring the clinic on 01 643-6545 to ask Ms Kelly for advice on what to read next and books suitable for their interests. You can also email outside those times to library@thekingshospital.ie to connect with Ms Kelly and arrange a call back.

Activities Schedule

The full list of Sports, Performing Arts, and ECA activities can be found here: bit.ly/ECA25Jan. Remember, if you would like to join a live class [sign up on SOCs](#) or email sportsandeca@thekingshospital.ie. To participate in the video classes at any time, head over to our Youtube Channel: bit.ly/YoutubeKHOfficial, Dance class videos: bit.ly/KH_Dance, Fitness class videos: bit.ly/KH_Sports

Students can contact their teachers or email sportsandeca@thekingshospital.ie if they have any questions about particular activities or would like to know more. Updates regarding our activities are posted daily on our Instagram ([kings_hospital_school](https://www.instagram.com/kings_hospital_school)), Twitter ([@Kings_Hospital](https://twitter.com/Kings_Hospital)) and Facebook ([@thekingshospital](https://www.facebook.com/thekingshospital)) pages so please follow us if you haven't already done so!

Even though there is much speculation and discussion in the media around an extension to the current school closure, we await confirmation of that from government, which we hope will come early next week. I acknowledge this is a very difficult and uncertain time for our students whose families live overseas and have been unable to return. However, I would like to commend our students who returned to us at the end of the December for quarantine, and are now making the most of the opportunities we are providing for them in school, despite this setback.

I was moved by American Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman, as she delivered her 2021 US Inauguration Poem – [‘The Hill we Climb’](#), acknowledging the challenges we face, but lifting us up by offering hope... *‘When day comes we step out of the shade aflame and unafraid. The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light. If only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.’*

I hope that you enjoy the weekend ahead.

Yours,

Mark Ronan

Headmaster / Principal