



THE
KING'S
HOSPITAL
SCHOOL

HM Email to Parents 5-2-21

Dear Parent and Guardian

This past Tuesday, February 6th, was Groundhog Day, which is synonymous with two things; the movie of the same name in which a weatherman, Phil, finds himself inexplicably living the same day over again, and Punxsutawney Phil in Pennsylvania, USA, who if he sees his shadow when he comes above ground on Groundhog Day, means six additional weeks of winter weather. Neither scenarios sound very appealing but as we have seen at the start of 2021, here we find ourselves in both. In the movie, Phil eventually uses the opportunity of a do-over, to acquire new skills - piano playing and ice carving among them, and become a kinder person. The movie sets out to prove that life isn't about what happens, but how you react to it. Six more weeks of winter can also mean more time for a good book or movie and be more appreciative of the arrival of spring in nature, as we explore every 'nook and cranny' of our 5kms.

I am impressed by what is happening out there in our remote school community, as well as on campus, as students and staff acquire new skills, are open to new experiences and really seem to be making the most of our Groundhog Days. The positive engagement from students and staff is remarkable given the circumstances. Many students have found this a time to shine, taking the initiative on additional projects. I realise that this will not be the experience for all students, as households face different challenges, but we are here to listen and support each other.

Next Tuesday is [Safer Internet Day 2021](#) and our TY Media Team students will be posting on social media and giving students tips on how to remain safe online. Do have a chat with your child about it, especially students in younger forms, who will have more access and screen time, while remote learning.

Below you will find some updates from our department heads

ACADEMICS - [Siobhán Daly](#)

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

Please continue to log absence through absence@thekingshospital.ie and email your child's houseperson as a first point of contact for academic support.

Form 1, 2 & 3

Each morning at roll call, the class tutor will keep students up to date and play Rev. Campion's daily Thoughts from Chapel for them, as if they were together in morning chapel.

Form 3

We have not received any updates from the DES on any changes to the Junior Certificate, so students should continue to work towards the written exam in June, as the content is the building blocks for the next stage in their learning. Timed-assessments begin next week for all students from 2:30pm each day (12:30 Wednesday) as per the timetable below. They will continue again for the week after mid-term.

Form 3 Assessment Timetable

	Time	Week 1 - Feb 8th	Week 2 – Feb 22nd
Monday -	2:30pm	Irish	Maths
Tuesday	2:30pm	History	French/Spanish/German
Wednesday	12:30pm	Block A	Block B
Thursday	2:30pm	English	Science
Friday	2:30pm	Geography	Religious Education

Form 4 TY

This month is Subject Choice Month. Students heard a presentation on Monday, from Career Counsellor, Susan Tanner, and have received the Google Drive link with all the teachers' subject presentations. The online Eirquest/Aptitude test is due back today, however some students are experiencing problems timing out, especially when using a smartphone, so please email Dr McGinn if it needs to be reset, and the deadline can be extended to next Wednesday, February 10th. Students will receive the link to the online Subject Choice Form later today. It is due back March 1st and recommended that students have watched all the subject presentations and completed the Eirquest/Aptitude Test, before submitting it. Copy of last week's TY-specific email [here](#).

This week we had two career presentations for TY, journalist Orla Neligan and Solicitor, Aimee Mulryan. Although we plan to provide a more comprehensive plan for career talks when we return to campus, if an opportunity arises with a guest speaker online, we will take it.

Form 5

Academic staff are discussing ways to augment Form 5's workload, in line with Form 3 and Form 6, and will finalise after mid-term.

Form 6

Form 6 have completed their first week of additional subject review time. We will evaluate both the timed-assessments and additional contact time taking account of any updates regarding School reopening and decision regarding the Leaving Cert, when planning for the rest of the time in remote learning.

PASTORAL - [Cormac UaBruadair](#)

The school will remain open over mid-term for our overseas students that have been with us since the end of December. Any overseas student that remains abroad should contact me to discuss quarantine arrangements for their return, keeping in mind this will be challenging, once school reopens for all students.

SPORTS, PERFORMING ARTS & ECA'S - Derek Maybury & Kerrie O'Reilly

Well done and thank you again to students and their families for engaging with so many of our activities, events and competitions since the beginning of the new term. Keep up the good work! If there are any activities or events you would like to see added to the schedule, please make contact with your Student Council representative or <mailto:sportsandeca@thekingshospital.ie> - we are always open to ideas and would be delighted to have your input.

Exercise

Regular exercise as part of your daily routine is more important now than ever for physical and mental well-being. Our Sports Department continue to encourage everyone to try to accumulate 60+ minutes of daily moderate to vigorous physical activity/exercise.

Step Challenges

Staff and students are participating in Step Challenges this week and next week with some outstanding daily step counts achieved! It is wonderful to see students and staff out and about in the fresh air. The KH Parent's Association have donated a cash prize for the team of students who complete the most steps this week. Keep watch on our social media channels for leaderboard updates.

Orchestra - Whole School Project

Ms Wright and the KH Orchestra are working on a very exciting new project at the moment, where students are busy practising their individual parts at home. The song they have chosen is an instrumental version of "Paint It Black" by The Rolling Stones! The Orchestra is meeting online each Monday at 4pm to discuss all things music and help each other with any tricky parts. All students are welcome to join the project, they don't need to be signed up to Orchestra to take part but should contact Ms Wright - m.wright@thekingshospital.ie - for details of how to get involved in this wonderful whole-school project.

Dance Challenge - KH Jerusalema!

You may have seen the new viral dance "Jerusalema" which was made popular by An Garda Síochána who recorded members of the force dancing to it in various locations around Ireland. You can watch their video [here](#). With this in mind, as a way of bringing the entire KH Community together at this time, we would like to create the KH Jerusalema!

Our Dance Teacher, Anderson Da Souza, has put together a tutorial video, which can be watched [here](#) and we are inviting students, staff, family members, extended family, past pupils, past staff (everyone!) to participate and record themselves dancing to the track. We are looking for you to be as creative as possible, whilst adhering to all Government Covid-19 guidelines. Once you have recorded the video, please send it, along with your name and location e.g. "The Byrne Family in Co. Leitrim" to jerusalema@thekingshospital.ie.

The full schedule of virtual Sports, Performing Arts, and ECA activities can be found here: bit.ly/ECA08Feb

- Remember, if you would like to join a live class [sign up on SOCs](#) or email <mailto: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

I hope you all remain safe and well and enjoy the weekend ahead.

Yours,

Mark Ronan

Headmaster / Principal