

Dear Student, Parent and Guardian

Following on from my email to you last evening it has now been confirmed by government that Form 6 students will not be taught in school from Monday January 11<sup>th</sup>, but will instead receive online lessons for the next three weeks. The Minister for Education, Norma Foley, did say that the decision remained under review and she would continue talks with education stakeholders. I am aware that for some of you the decision comes as a relief but not for others.

Your teachers are fully committed to your learning and will collaborate with you to optimise your online classes and independent work and study, outside those times.

All Form 6 students can come on campus to collect any books or personal belongings between 2 & 4pm, Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Please contact [Cormac Ua Bruadair](#) with any difficulties around this time slot.

This is also a crucial time for finalising your college choices and applying to the CAO. Online appointments can be arranged with the Careers Counsellors to fit around your class and study timetable, so please email [careers@thekinghospital.ie](mailto:careers@thekinghospital.ie) to arrange this. There will be a direct call to each student to check in on your progress.

### **Academics – [Siobhán Daly](#) – Deputy Head Academics**

This email contains the Remote Learning and Teaching Timetable up to January 31<sup>st</sup>, along with planned ECA classes and activities, the updated [Remote Learning and Teaching Policy](#), and other information on expectations for student behaviour, attendance, and engagement during this time. In addition, we will be arranging for you to have timed exam questions in each of your subjects on certain afternoons that will be corrected and feedback provided.

In producing this timetable, we have consulted with and considered all stakeholders in order to deliver a program that maximises engagement, positive well-being and is equitable for all. Some of the issues remain for students, staff and families that existed before; poor WiFi, access to devices, parents and staff partners working on the front lines, lack of childcare and eldercare support, while primary school and services remain closed.

There has been much research undertaken into online teaching and learning this past year. Some of the key findings were:

- Zoom fatigue – loss of concentration, lack of engagement
- All day screen fatigue – mental & physical toll
- Attention span online is lower than class time
- Traditional class time is not all teacher input, ie, there is time spent doing written work, watching online tutorials, group work, etc.
- Online classes should be shorter than traditional classes with more breaks, just as recommended in study skills classes
- Important for wellbeing to have boundaries at home
- Balance the day with; learning when most productive in the morning and ensure time for fresh air and fitness while it is still bright in the afternoon.

Taking account of this research and feedback since the previous school closure, we plan to deliver an online timetable with 6 periods - which are taught mornings only - in half hour slots - with 15 minute breaks in between.

The outline of the week is shown below:

### **Monday – Friday Online Teaching & Learning Timetable**

Tutor Group F1-3 only	8:35-8:45	
Period 1 - 30 mins	8:45-9:15	
Break 15 mins	9:15-9:30	
Period 2 - 30 mins	9:30-10:00	
Break 15 mins	10:00-10:15	
Period 3 - 30 mins	10:15-10:45	
Break 30 mins	10:45-11:15	
Period 4 - 30 mins	11:15-11:45	Classes finish after Period 4 on Wednesdays
Break 15 mins	11:45-12:00	
Period 5 - 30 mins	12:00-12:30	
Break 15 mins	12:30-12:45	
Period 6 - 30 mins	12:45-13:15	

### **Roll Calls**

- Form 6 will have their roll call in Period 1.
- If a student is not going to be present a parent or guardian must email [absence@thekingshospital.ie](mailto:absence@thekingshospital.ie) in advance.

### **Student Attendance**

A roll call will be taken at each Period and if there is a pattern of unexplained absence Siobhan Daly will contact the parent or guardian to discuss.

### **Student Academic Concerns**

Please continue to email your child's houseperson if you have any concerns about their academic progress or difficulty accessing google classroom through their school email. Siobhan Daly is heading up our Remote Learning Programme in conjunction with the Digital Working Group, so please email her with any concerns specific to that. Google Classroom can be accessed through most internet browsers including, smart phones and gaming consoles.

### **Student Behaviour**

Unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated as outlined in the attached Remote Learning and Teacher policy. Incidents will be reported to Siobhan Daly, who will call you to discuss solutions and/or sanctions.

### **Student Pastoral Concerns**

Students are encouraged to use our [Well-being Procedural Pathway](#) if they are feeling anxious or isolated. Please also get in touch if you have any concerns about your child. As in the previous school building closure, students will receive a well-being call, through your phone, from their houseperson, tutor, or portfolio teacher to check-in.

**SEN** Each year group SEN coordinator will be in touch with you regarding the SEN provision for your child. If you have any concerns please contact Yvonne Mahady at [specialneeds@thekingshospital](mailto:specialneeds@thekingshospital)

**ECAs – [Derek Maybury](#) Director of Sport, [Kerrie O'Reilly](#) Head of Performing Arts & Culture**

Our virtual Sports, Performing Arts and ECA programme will go live from January 11th, please click here to view the schedule <http://bit.ly/OnlineECA>

If your child would like to sign up to any of the activities please email [sportsandeca@thekingshospital.ie](mailto:sportsandeca@thekingshospital.ie)

Many of the live sessions will be re-posted on our social media accounts so that students can partake at any time.

Music and Drama lessons will be taught online, your child's teacher will be in touch with you for your permission to conduct live Zoom classes. If your child does not have access to the instrument they are learning please let us know at [music@thekingshospital.ie](mailto:music@thekingshospital.ie).

I encourage students to use the next three weeks productively but to also balance your time connecting online with friends, and taking some exercise and time out to relax. I sincerely hope that these stringent measures in Level 5 will bring us to a safer and healthier place, come February.

Yours,

Mark Ronan

Headmaster / Principal