



THE
KING'S
HOSPITAL
SCHOOL

HM Email to Form 6 re: Valedictory 12-05-21

Dear Valedictory Students, Parents and Guardians,

Staff, students and parents, have been working on your behalf to find the most appropriate and safe ways to celebrate your time with us at The King's Hospital School. It is not possible, due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, to hold our traditional valedictory events, for the 2nd year in a row.

I acknowledge this is a huge disappointment for the Class of 2021 as it was for the Class of 2020. Your senior years have been tumultuous ones, with many lost occasions and social experiences. I hope that this has somehow strengthened your bonds and that you continue to stay connected and can enjoy new experiences together in safer times.

A letter issued from the Department of Education on the May 5th, provided clarity that 'the recommended approach is to hold an event for a specific class group within the school or to host a virtual ceremony for students and their families. Any activity should be conducted in a safe manner, ensuring that there is adherence to public health advice and the school's COVID 19 Response Plan'.

The Valedictory Working Group; made up of Form 6 students, staff and representatives of the Parents' Association, have therefore worked together to plan these valedictory celebrations in line with the school's COVID 19 Response Plan.

Our priority here must remain the health and safety of the Form 6 students, to enable you to finish out your teaching and revision classes for the next two weeks, and beyond that to be able to sit your Leaving Certificate Exams. If a student has tested positive or is identified as a close contact, they will be unable to present for exams or re-sit them at another time, later in the year. They will be solely dependent on the result of their Accredited Grades.

Virtual Valedictory Service and Concert, Friday 28th May

The highlight of the Valedictory celebrations will take place virtually on the evening of 28th May. The Valedictory working group have come up with lots of fun and creative ways to make Valedictory XXI unique and memorable; and we hope that it will be enjoyed by everyone, far and wide.

The elements that traditionally make up the Valedictory; such as the Service, the performances and the announcement of the Valedictorians, will be pre-recorded during the week of 17th May and shared live on the evening of the 28th.

Last year's Virtual Valedictory Service & Concert was watched by over 2,000, with many sharing the evening, virtually, with extended family and friends, making it a very special occasion for the student. Families appreciated the chance to dress up again and plan their evening in, after months of restrictions, just like we have experienced this year.

Lunchtime Farewell Treats on Friday, 14th May 12:10-14:00

The Valedictory Working Group have organized some surprise treats for the Form 6 students for Friday 14th May, as they finish up their assessments:

- Students go to early lunch at 12:10
- Stations for Shirt Signing, Photos and Treats
- Students leave campus at 14:00

It is paramount that students maintain social distancing and observe the necessary Covid-precautions at all times; so we ask that:

- Students come to school in full school uniform
- After lunch is taken, Day Students go to the Sports hall and Boarders to Bluecoat house to their Rec rooms, for shirt signing, photo ops and treat stations. This is to maintain the safety pods that remain in place.
- We will supply fun props for the photos and students are welcome to bring along their own hand-held props (no costumes).
- Students are unable to use the changing rooms, due to Covid-safety protocols.
- Collection for Day Students and 5-day Boarders is at **14:00** (unless given written permission from your Houseperson to wait for a lift)
- 7-day boarders may also return home this weekend, as if it were a Bank Holiday, but must also leave at **14:00** (unless given written permission from your Houseperson to wait for a lift) and return only between **19-21:00** on Sunday.

Time Capsule & Commemorative Tree

A Time capsule and a commemorative tree has been kindly donated by a parent, Students are considering what they would like to go in it, and we will share the video of it being planted.

I am confident that all Form 6 appreciate how necessary it is to celebrate the end of this particularly challenging school year with respect and dignity for each other, staff and fellow students.

The school [Code of Behaviour](#) continues to apply, right up to the last Leaving Certificate exam on June 29th, which officially ends the school year.

I would like to thank all the members of the Valedictory Working Group who have been working tirelessly to ensure that the students can look fondly back on their final few weeks at KH, and will have memories to last them a lifetime.

Please see below for some operational detail for the next few weeks.

Yours,

Mark Ronan
Headmaster / Principal

May 17-28th

Students can:

- Wear casual clothes instead of uniform
- Attend class, supervised study [WWH], or remain at home
- Enter school at: start of day (no earlier than 08:30 unless on school bus, or have siblings in Junior classes), break time or lunchtime.
- Leave school at: break time, lunchtime or end of day.
- Attendance: Student must sign in and sign out with Duty Teacher.
- Parents must email absence@thekingshospital.ie if student not presenting for school, for fire safety roll taking and their own peace of mind.
- Boarders who remain on campus will have supervision arranged in Bluecoat during the following period: Mon 17 May – Fri 28 May from 08:45 – 16:00

Week 1 – May 17-21

- Normal timetable of classes

Week 2 – May 24-28th

- One-hour classes – timetable attached in this email

More information will be sent out later regarding exam requirements and etiquette. A copy of the Leaving Cert Exam Timetable is included with this email.