

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been great to welcome students onto the site this week, with an 85% turnout for Year 10 students and 90% for Year 12. They have enjoyed being with their peers and say that they have benefitted from the expertise of their teachers. It is clear that many have been working hard at home and have adapted well to the new way of working. We will welcome further students in Year 10 and Year 12 next week and, given the DfE permission to provide some face to face contact for the Year 7 to 9 students, we are considering how we might be able to do this, potentially in the last week of term. It is unfortunate that our Year 11 and 13 students cannot be with us as next week would have been the last week for the majority of them and we can assure you that my colleagues are thinking about them. We hope that the Year 11 students are working hard on their transition packs and are looking forward to their virtual subject briefings which will go live next week. Students will be sent an email to explain how they can access these briefings and how they will be able to seek help from their teachers to clarify or explain aspects of the Transition Work that they have found challenging.

### **Live Lessons**

This has been the first week that we have followed a more structured timetable for the delivery of the learning for our Year 7 to 9 students, supplementing the remote learning, and whilst the majority of lessons have proved successful and valuable with much positive feedback, there have been some teething problems. It is a new way of teaching and learning and we have asked other local schools how they are adapting to this new way of learning, but unfortunately the majority have not yet delivered any live lessons so we have not been able to draw upon their experience. Thank you for your patience and forbearance at this time as well as for the constructive comments that some parents have offered us and the appreciation for my colleagues' hard work.

Our current timetable has been completely re-written to accommodate the Year 10 and Year 12 students into a six period day, with a teacher potentially delivering 6 live lessons on the school site on one day, and other lessons on the school site during the week. This is to comply with the government directive of having no more than 25% of a year group on site at any one time. Lessons have been re-distributed with a teacher delivering the same Year 10 lesson four times (so, 200 minutes for a what would have been a 60 minute lesson), form tutors are meeting with their forms once a week, staff are delivering Teams lessons, teaching Year 10 and Year 12 students on site, giving feedback to students, assessing work, supervising the children of Key Workers, and dealing with online issues. This hugely constrains the curriculum and what we can deliver but we hope that you feel the changes have helped you to more easily support your child in their studies.

### **Current Affairs**

We have been approached by some former and current students in the last two weeks and both Mrs Smith (Head of School at KSHS) and I have engaged in a constructive dialogue with them as we have followed the development of the Black Lives Matter movement.

We spoke about how the school curriculum provides both constraints and freedoms to educate young people about racial injustice, discrimination and inequality and we all agreed that as educators we have a particular responsibility to teach young people in a largely white community about these things. Our socially astute students articulated very well how it is not enough just not to be racist but that all young people should actively be taught about our colonial British history and to be actively involved in political and social debates. We expanded this to wider issues of inequality in different walks of life. We left the discussion with suggestions

of up to date resources that would appeal to our students as well as the offer of ex-students coming in to school in future to deliver assemblies and workshops on these themes. We acknowledge the need to do more to educate our students about global issues and to encourage their involvement in political and social debates; these opportunities to engage are greeted warmly by the school. This will enable our students to truly become the adults of tomorrow's society, and look forward to engaging with our current and former students to educate our students about these issues.

**N M Law**  
Headteacher