



KINGSWOOD SECONDARY ACADEMY

29 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I would like to wish you a belated Happy New Year! It certainly has been a busy start to the New Year for us all, as it was a busy end to last year! As you will know we had been selected to take part in a national raft of remote inspections by Ofsted who were tasked with looking at how well schools were responding to the continued education of all students, in the midst of the Covid-19 global pandemic. The inspectors were very impressed by the support we have put in place and continue to develop at the Academy. Their reports are not evaluative like a typical Ofsted inspection as this was not an inspection but rather a review to gauge a perspective on the national picture. However, the letter they sent confirms that the Academy is doing everything within its power to ensure that our students have a good quality of continued education despite the complexities of this pandemic. The report can be found following this link:

<https://www.kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org/page/?title=Ofsted+Report&pid=131>

We are proudly serving our community by opening a daily Key Worker and Vulnerable provision, staffed by our wonderful site team, cleaners, administrative personnel, teachers, leadership team, learning support assistants and learning mentors who are in every day with our groups of learners in the provision. I want to take this as an opportunity to thank them for their dedication and commitment to ensuring our Key Worker/Vulnerable provision continues with success to support those families who really need this facility. At the same time can I also remind families that places are limited and should only be taken up if **absolutely necessary**, so that we can limit the spread of Covid-19. This includes students coming in for mornings or afternoons only if required so if that applies to you and you currently have a place for your child at the provision and wish to reduce the time they spend in school please contact the main school enquiries email so we can accommodate this. It is essential that as many students as possible remain at home to 'Stop the Spread' even those of Key Workers where possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful volunteers who are conducting the weekly testing of staff at the school and to our own support staff and administrative personnel also supporting with the smooth running of this function. The positive news is that there is indeed light at the end of the tunnel as we are starting to see increased roll outs of the vaccines and the potential re-opening of schools in March according to the latest headlines.

In the meantime, we are working harder than ever to ensure that we deliver the very best possible remote learning experience we can for your children. We have been working hard to ensure that as many students as possible have access to a device so they can access online learning. We are liaising with the Department for Education to secure more laptops for our most vulnerable students and those eligible for Pupil Premium. As a school we have also purchased a suite of laptops which we will be ready to loan out within the next two weeks and we are also very thankful to those members of the community who have donated new laptops to the school for us to give to a child who needs a device in order to access the full remote learning experience. Should you wish to donate a new laptop or funds for us to purchase a laptop for a child who needs a device in our school then please contact the main enquiries email and we thank you in advance for your kind donation enquiries@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org

Please can we remind you to sign up to Kingswood's official Facebook page, just go to Facebook and search for Kingswood Secondary Academy and click on the 'Official' Facebook page. Here you will find important information, notices (although the website will always be the official repository for all important news and notices), hints and tips of how to stay healthy and happy during lockdown, support with remote learning, sharing of student work, shout outs and celebrations etc. We would like as many of you as possible to follow us on Facebook so if you have not already done so please check us out and like us today!

Finally and most importantly, we have launched our guide to how Kingswood Secondary Academy is approaching 'remote' learning and we have added this content to our website there is a link below where you can view this policy. The policy sets out how we intend to fulfil the 5 hours of learning per day remotely and of what this is comprised. For example, it is a common misconception that 'five hours' of learning per day means five hours of face to face lessons between teachers and students. There is a recognition by government that this is neither reasonable nor desirable but that 'live' lessons or 'face to face' lessons should be part of a broader programme. For example, the 15 minute lesson by lesson check in enable teachers to inform students of what they will be working on for the remainder of the lesson or to review prior learning etc. That independent work forms part of the five hours per day as does any access to additional activities and viewing of the 'Oak Academy' or BBC lessons available are also there to supplement the five hours of learning per day. In addition, we have daily registration check-ins, weekly assemblies and a weekly PSHEE lesson delivered by tutors. Please do read the full overview of what we are offering as an Academy and should you have any queries about the content or the delivery of our strategy please email Miss Martindale, Deputy Principal, responsible for Teaching and Learning on kmartindale@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org so that we can understand any questions or issues raised and work together proactively to resolve them. Please remember though that technical or access issues and most enquiries can and should be dealt with by your child's form tutor or year team in the first instance.

Please use this link to our remote learning policy for your perusal: <https://www.kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org/page/?title=Remote+Larning&pid=689>

Very shortly Miss Martindale will be approaching you to ask you about your own views and perspectives on the remote learning offered to date, what works well and what could be improved, so please can you find the time to complete the survey when it is sent out to you next week as this will be very helpful in informing our continued professional development and practice so that your child gets the best deal possible.

I would like to end this letter by thanking the staff at the Academy for their tireless hard work and dedication, adjusting and adapting to life in lockdown to ensure that our students get a good quality of education, albeit remotely quite often with their own family pressures or wellbeing matters to contend with. I would also like to thank you, our wonderful parents for being so supportive of your children with their learning at home and of the staff. We have received a number of lovely emails from parents thanking staff for their hard work and dedication and these have been passed onto the team who really appreciate your words of encouragement- we find them very motivating and much needed, so thank you for showing your kindness and support. We hope you are managing to keep well during this period and we would urge you to contact your year team if you feel you are finding it difficult to cope, to see how we may be able to support you and your child/children further. In the meantime, stay safe and stay happy and I look forward to speaking with you again in the near future.

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Newman
Principal