

21st May 2020

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Headteacher
Mrs E Leigh-Bennett

Dear Parents / Carers

End of term 5 up-date / arrangements for term 6 Up-date on Kingsdown's planning phase

Our continued best wishes to you and your family. Our thanks too for your ongoing support to the school and your child's home learning. We fully appreciate that managing home learning is no easy task. You would have seen that we have shared a survey to capture any barriers that you and your child may be experiencing. Do please let us know what these barriers are and we will look to see how we can support you further. The deadline for this feedback is Friday at 5pm.

As we approach the end of term 5, we have been really encouraged by the quality of work being set by our teachers over the past few weeks and by the level of student engagement in completing the tasks. Teachers are continuing to provide high quality feedback. Do keep encouraging your child to email their teachers if they have any questions.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday evening about the reopening of schools from 1st June, I'm sure you are keen to find out how it will affect your child. We are currently planning the safest way we can manage the return of our students and staff to the school. As ever, the health and safety for your child will always be our priority. The latest government guidance states that:

"Education and childcare settings are already open to priority groups. Now that we have made progress in reducing the transmission of coronavirus we are encouraging all eligible children to attend – it is no longer necessary for parents of eligible children to keep them at home if they can. In particular, as per the [existing guidance on vulnerable children and young people](#), vulnerable children of all year groups continue to be expected and encouraged to attend educational provision where it is appropriate for them to do so. From 1 June 2020, we expect that secondary schools and colleges will be able to offer some face to face contact with year 10 and year 12 pupils. This will not be a return to full timetables or pupils back in school or college full time, rather some support to supplement pupils' remote education."

The department for education are due to publish further secondary guidance for the phased re-opening of schools in the coming days. We are therefore **currently in a planning phase** to look at how this may work within our school context and are working with The River Learning Trust and Swindon Borough Council. Paul James, CEO of The River Learning Trust, has written a position statement to all parents of all students within the Trust. You can access this letter from this link <http://bit.ly/kds-parentmsgs>

www.kingsdownschool.co.uk

We champion each and every student

I will write to you all again on 1st June outlining the provision that Kingsdown will be offering for our most vulnerable groups, our key worker families and all other students and especially our year 10 students.

For those Key Worker and Vulnerable students who are currently attending school, their provision will remain unchanged. Although Kingsdown School will be closed during May half term, Swindon Borough Council are offering placements for those children of key workers, this can be booked through earlyeducation@swindon.gov.uk.

For now, I send you and your family our very best wishes.

Emma Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher