

1st April 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

In this letter there is important information on:

1. Covid testing and home testing over the Easter holiday
2. Training days to prepare for the Year 11 exams/ assessment process

It has been wonderful welcoming pupils back to the school for the last three weeks. The excitement of pupils returning to learning in classrooms and seeing their friends in the dining hall and playground, has brought the school building back to life! Thank you for your support with high standards of uniform, I know buying new uniform for your growing children has been a challenge with many of the shops closed and we have been understanding of the difficulty to replace items of uniform. However, shops will now be open in the Easter holiday so please make sure your child returns to school on Monday 19 April with full school uniform, including black shoes. An immaculate school uniform is such an important part of setting our standards at Kings. If you do have any concerns obtaining uniform, please contact the relevant Student Support Manager, who will be able to help. Please find a link to our school uniform:

<https://arkkingsacademy.org/page-strips/secondary-uniform>

Lateral Flow Testing and Covid reporting:

I have been really impressed by the positive attitude the vast majority of pupils are showing with their learning, along with the following of our safety measures with hand sanitising, social distancing and the wearing of face masks in classrooms and indoor communal areas. These arrangements will continue until government guidance changes. The Testing regime for pupils regarding covid has been really successful. There have been over 2000 tests in school with no positive results. As you know, those pupils that have given consent for testing have been issued with home testing kits and will be bringing home another testing kit this week for use over the Easter holiday. There are two tests per week, to be taken on a Sunday and Wednesday. Please remember to let us know the result regardless of whether it is positive or negative via this link

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=dBTLADSljUaCn2NuzjLCTNEXfYVT8yZOqQhcn2Qq_jJUOFFMVjZSTU4yNk9HRDk1V1JZU1ZJRDNLRY4u

If the result is positive you will need to follow up with a PCR test and inform us of result. Can you please make sure you inform us of the result and send a copy, including your child's name, year group and date of result to info@arkkingsacademy.org (home test results need to be sent to the link above)

Shannon Road
Kings Norton
Birmingham B38 9DE
Tel: 0121 459 4451

Email: info@arkkingsacademy.org
Website: www.arkkingsacademy.org

Training Days:

This has been a very turbulent twelve months in school and for society in general. We are all hoping that in the coming months life will return to some form of normality. Our Year 11 pupils have faced huge disruption in their exam preparation over the last year and will not be sitting examinations in the traditional way. Government has decided that the fairest way for pupils to demonstrate their levels of achievement is for schools to arrange a **Centre Assessed Grade (CAG)** process, with further details expected in the coming weeks. Once this information comes to school, we will have to determine how they are implemented and design the exams and assessments that pupils will take. In order to prepare effectively for this we will need to arrange a **staff training day on Friday 23 April and the school will be closed to all pupils**. Pupils will continue their learning remotely, using their digital devices, on Friday 23 April with work set by their teachers.

After the Year 11 sit their exams and assessments, teachers will need to mark, moderate and ensure a rigorous and fair quality assurance process takes place. Normally exam scripts are sent away to be marked externally, taking a number of months. However, this year school has to undertake this, in a very short timescale. In order to do this effectively there will be a **training day on Monday 24th May and school will be closed to all pupils**. Again pupils will work remotely on this day using their digital devices.

Alongside the additional training days as above, we will be holding a training day on Monday 7th June. This is a change from the planned training day of Thursday 1st July. The training day on Friday 2nd July will remain.

Please see attached calendar for confirmed training dates. These can also be found on our website.



Copy of Ark Kings
Term Dates 2020-21()

Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times. It certainly feels that things are looking brighter for the coming months and I am hoping you will be able to enjoy some sunny weather over the Easter holiday!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Punton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roger Punton
Principal

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