



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you well. At the end of another busy week, there are a number of matters that I need to share with you. The first section relates to information that I think you need to be aware of relating to live lessons and then other matters are covered at the end of the letter.

Live Lessons

- From Monday 25th January all Year 10,11,12 and 13 lessons will include a live element delivered by the teacher and 50% of KS3 lessons a fortnight should include the same. Tutors will continue to run two 8:50 am live tutor sessions a week and will also ensure there is a live element of the Personal Development lesson on Tuesday period 3.
- Parents are asked to recognise that a live lesson does not mean that the teacher is presenting for the whole hour. This does not happen in school and it should not happen remotely. There may be occasions when teachers do present for the whole hour but sometimes they may deliver a key explanation or recap live at one point of the lesson whilst the students work independently for other parts of the lesson. Teachers are available to answer questions from students throughout each lesson, even if they are not presenting.
- Parents should understand that it is not possible for teachers to mark every piece of work a student completes. This does not happen in school and it cannot happen remotely. Teachers will continue to mark and feedback on key pieces of work in line with their subject assessment policy. Students will be told which pieces of work are going to be marked. However, on some occasions, teachers will ask students to submit work so that they can see evidence that they have completed the task. Teachers will not mark this work because they would not do if they were in school. Perhaps it would be helpful to view this as the moment in the lesson when a teacher walks around the classroom and briefly checks that every student is completing the work they have been set.
- It may also help parents to recognise that it may not always be possible for teachers to cover content at the same pace as they would do in school. Sometimes teachers will allow more time than they would do in school to ensure that students acquire and retain new knowledge and skills.
- It is crucial that students follow the timings of the school day set out at the end of this letter. If a lesson finishes at 10 am, the student should stop work then and start to get themselves ready for the next lesson. It is understandable that some students may find it difficult to stop working on something they haven't completed but this is what would happen in school. Anything you can do to support your children with this will be helpful. Please also reiterate that punctuality to a remote lesson is as important as it is in school.
- As we start to understand which students we think are not engaging with the remote curriculum we will be in touch with parents and carers. Please remember that this contact is supportive and

is intended to identify if there is a problem and if so, how we can work together to reengage your son/daughter. As ever, if you are concerned please do not wait for us to contact you first.

- I do hope you will understand that I must ask that parents do not interfere with live lessons. Parents should not attempt to communicate with the teacher or students during a live lesson either through a microphone or using the chat function. There are very good safeguarding reasons why parents and carers do not attend lessons in school and the same should apply for live lessons. In order to protect the staff and students in the lesson, I must insist that parents and carers do not interfere in any way with the lesson by communicating with staff or students. If this does happen then staff have been asked to remove the student from the lesson and report the incident immediately to their line manager.

Communication with School

- Please direct all queries relating to any of the IT platforms we are using (including Teams, One Drive, Show My Homework....) to our IT Helpdesk, h.desk@kimberleyschool.co.uk . Individual staff will not be able to help you with these queries.
- Please be mindful of the intense pressure that everyone in the school is under at the moment. I have asked staff to ensure that they respond to routine queries from parents within two working days. If you have an urgent matter that needs dealing with then you should always ring the school reception which is open during school hours. As ever, staff will not respond to a communication from parents that is rude or aggressive.

Lateral Flow Testing

The Department for Education has made a number of changes to this in-school testing. These are summarised briefly below:

- Regular testing of staff and students in school should continue. This is because this is a good way of identifying asymptomatic cases and quickly reducing the chains of transmission.
- Previously individuals who tested positive with a Lateral Flow Test in school were then expected to take a confirmatory test at an NHS testing centre. This is no longer the case. Individuals who test positive in the test at school will have to immediately self-isolate for 10 days and follow the government guidance.
- Initially, schools were instructed to offer daily “serial” testing as an alternative to self-isolation for individuals who were identified as a close contact of an infected individual in school. This has been paused and cannot now be offered as an alternative to self-isolation.
- There is still the intention that all students are tested twice in the first week when they return to school

Full details of the testing programme in school are on this [page of the website](#).

Cleaning

If you are interested in the opportunity to join our team, then there are vacancies for cleaners, a cleaning supervisor and a learning mentor. Full details of each of these posts are [here](#).

Ofqual and DfE Consultation

