



THE KING'S SCHOOL

GRANTHAM

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are well. I was reminded that the 2 February is Groundhog Day in America emphasising how strange and quiet the school is as we approach the half term at a time when we would normally be a buzz. We all look forward to the return of students to the site, in whatever format that takes.

Mental Health and Well Being

This week was Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week. Kooth ran the "Don't Do It Alone" campaign, designed to encourage open conversations around mental health so children and young people know they are not alone with their struggles. [Home - Kooth](#)

The 'Every Mind Matters' website is also an excellent resource for researching resources to support your mental health. This can be accessed at [Every Mind Matters | One You \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Net Aware have produced some useful resources at [8 tips for keeping your kids safe online during lockdown \(net-aware.org.uk\)](#) on how to keep children safe online during lockdown.

We would encourage all parents and students to continue having conversations around online safety, regularly check phone and app settings together and manage time online.

Mr Dixon (Deputy Head Master) should be contacted if you have any safeguarding concerns at justin.dixon@kings.lincs.sch.uk.

Changes to all students' usernames

As part of our continued improvement in our Information Technology infrastructure we are having to change all student usernames. Passwords will not change.

It will be changed from the format forename.familyname to 18.f.familyname. Please can students watch out for the email confirming that the change is in process. [The 18. represents the year the year group joined the school, Y9 – 18, Y10 – 17; Y11 – 16; Y12 – 15 and Y13 – 14].

We anticipate making the next change on Thursday 11 February for Year 9, although this does rely on Microsoft's availability. This process is already complete for Years 7 and 8 and will continue with other years over the coming weeks.

Vulnerable Children and Critical Workers

Provision in school will continue for the Vulnerable Children and Critical Workers' group.

Only one parent needs to be a Critical Worker to access this facility. If you would like to add your son to the Critical Workers provision could you please inform the school by email to admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk. Please state the days required over the next two-week period. The school will be open from 08:30 until 15:45 for this small group of students.

Free School Meals

All Free School Meals families will be provided with vouchers for £15 per week during the period 25 January to 5 March 2021 through the EdenRed National Voucher Scheme. The February half term break will be funded, and a voucher will be provided with details nearer the time. If you have any issues accessing Free School Meal vouchers please contact admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk. If any families are experiencing significant

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hardship, we are registered as a referral agency with the Grantham Food Bank for families that live locally. Please email admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk if you would like further information.

Wi-Fi Vouchers

We have several additional Wi-Fi vouchers available on a first come first served basis that will connect free of charge to a BT Wi-Fi Hotspot until the end of July 2021. If you think this would be useful and you are in range of a Hotspot, please email admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk

Year 11 A level Options Meetings

All Year 11 students have been emailed a notification of their Microsoft Teams meeting next week to discuss A level options. Please note that these meetings are only for students. We expect all students to attend these meetings even if they are planning on applying for external courses. Students should ensure they join the meeting with cameras turned on.

Year 12 & 13 Unifrog

Students are encouraged to log into their Unifrog accounts at least once a week to make sure they are keeping up to date with important university, apprenticeship and employment opportunities. Mr Whales is posting a large number of online work experience, open days and enrichment opportunities from a range of sources, many of which are operating on a first come first served basis. One silver lining of the lockdown is the proliferation of online opportunities available which will help shape future decisions and enhance future applications.

Year 13 Mock Examinations

The government guidance continues to state that the earliest schools may be able to open will be Monday 8 March. For year 13 students the mock exams are delayed until the school is reopened to them. The order that the mock exams will be sat remains the same as the original schedule.

Thank you for your continued support at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Pickett'.

SIMON PICKETT
Head Master