



Kings Langley School – Weekly update 4

Dear Parent

Welcome back and I hope you are all safe and well after the Easter holidays. We have returned to school with week 3 of a Virtual Learning Curriculum and for some year groups already enhanced experiences. During these unprecedented times the link between the student, parent and school has never needed to be stronger. I have been through our virtual learning platform and the level of communication seen on the chat function between teacher and student is exceptional, and so is the work being submitted by the students online using the submission tools which is the same as the “Google Classroom” experience. Teachers have been congratulating students for being the first one on in the morning, supporting with difficult Maths equations or just seeing if they are OK. This week has also seen stage 3 of our plan move into action with Zoom lessons trialled with Year 12 for almost every subject. More on these platforms later. I would like to praise Year 12 who have worked so well at home and now seamlessly move into Zoom lessons with their teachers with ease. I know talking with my team they have enjoyed the experience as well.

Yesterday I heard Professor Chris Whitty say it was “wholly unrealistic” to expect life would suddenly return to normal soon and today I read on the BBC “the earliest realistic” point at which schools in England could start re-opening would be 1st June, from the Head of the Association of School Leaders (ASCL), Geoff Barton. As a school we continue to plan for every eventuality and over the course of this letter I will update you on additional features on our virtual learning platform introduce our virtual teaching and also virtual experiences supported by central government along with other key information to support you and your family. In my letter dated 20th March 2020, I was clear about the three stages and we now enter stage 3 with an enhanced virtual experience for our students. I would also like to now introduce stage 4 which will be when we plan our return, I will update parents hopefully before half term when I receive more information on when schools will return and in what format.

Kings Langley School continues to support the NHS and Local Community projects and care homes

I am delighted to report that as a school we continue to support on varying levels the NHS, care homes and our local community during these difficult times. This week we have seen our textiles rooms being set up to make gowns and scrubs for key workers within the NHS and social care settings. A huge well done to Ann Johnson who is leading on this project utilising our facilities, staff and students are making the gowns and scrubs needed within health and care settings.



The Design and Technology team have been busy making masks for local care homes and we are delighted to have supported St Lauras Care Home in Kings Langley by providing 30 masks this week. We have also delivered an additional 100 goggles, 800 disposable aprons and 700 disposable gloves to Watford Hospital.



It was lovely to read the comments made on Facebook and Twitter on how these have been used already.

“This donation of 100 Protective goggles and absolutely hundreds of aprons and many packs of gloves was kindly donated by Kings Langley School, Head Teacher Dave Fisher. Some of these items will be passed to our amazingly kind hearted friends over at the Healing Hands Group that work wonderfully hard not only for the NHS but also Care Homes and others in need throughout our community.

So on behalf of the group I would just like to say a big thank you to Dave Fisher and all at Kings Langley School for helping out our amazing NHS workers.”

Please follow the link to more details, praise and school photos:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/542506522952683/permalink/722441194959214/>

National Voucher Scheme

The headline in a newspaper sums up my own and that of Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Jennings feelings:

DfE urges schools to stop checking swamped free meal voucher website, as system labelled ‘farcical’

Mrs Jennings in particular has been working on ensuring all families either receive their voucher on time or as a school we provide what is necessary for these families. Mrs Jennings has made over 70 calls to families over the Easter period to ensure they are provided for and written over 100 emails to ensure families are supported. To say we have spent days on the national voucher scheme is likely an understatement, well done Mrs Jennings. As a school we continue to raise our concerns with the Department for Education, Hertfordshire and the voucher supplier. However, as a school we are determined that all families needing support will get it from either us or a national support mechanism. As a school we can only apologise on behalf of the voucher scheme provider and continue to raise our concerns.

Aldi has now joined the list of supermarkets that will redeem vouchers secured through the free school meals national voucher scheme. Supermarkets available also include Sainsbury’s, Tesco, Waitrose, M&S, Asda and Morrisons.

National Laptop Scheme

Parents and carers will have seen the government announcement over the weekend about the planned provision of laptops for schools to lend out to disadvantaged children who do not currently have access to online learning whilst they are not in school.

The government has also said that they will provide 4G routers to families who do not have access to the internet for their children's learning. Whilst we are delighted that the government has agreed to provide these resources, we do not, as yet, know precisely how this will happen. The government has not defined who will be eligible for the laptops, and we do not know how, practically, they will be delivered or set up with software for pupils. As soon as we have more information, we will get in touch with parents and carers. In the meantime, please do not contact us to ask about this.

Community spirit and creative use of time

Students currently have a precious gift, the gift of time. Time is the beautiful gift we are all given in life. Time is ticking away every second of every minute. Time is flying past us whether we like it or not, and if we don't stop to take a look, it'll be gone. The time and effort you put into anything shows its sentiment. The time and experience you spend with someone shows its meaning. The time that you set aside to commit to something can never be replaced. Time is the best thing you can share with someone. Time is the gift that we all have. I think it would be great to showcase some of the things that students have engaged with as a result of having more time so there will be some new sections in the weekly letter/newsletter called "Community Spirit" and "Creative Time".

We are sure that there are a number of children who have helped or are helping the community in various ways during these challenging times and as a school we would like to recognise this. Please could parents email the relevant Pastoral Leader below with the child's name and a brief description of stories or photos of either your child or something within the community I will try and get them published to share with everyone else and give some inspiration. We also want to know how creativity is being developed e.g. how they are learning a new language or a new skill. We know from one student they are learning Japanese and another that they are learning how to code in different formats.

Please send your stories, pictures or news to the correct email below

Year 7	harveys@kls.herts.sch.uk
Year 8	jacksona@kls.herts.sch.uk
Year 9	afilakaa@kls.herts.sch.uk
Year 10	thomasc@kls.herts.sch.uk
Year 11	raia@kls.herts.sch.uk
Years 12/13	wrightj@kls.herts.sch.uk

A huge congratulations to Jude – Year 9 on his role in 'Malory Towers'. Students and parents can watch the full series on the BBC iPlayer or alternatively, each episode is on CBBC every Monday at 5.30pm. Jude plays the part of 'Ron Gileson' and is in most of the 13 episodes. Well done Jude!
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p0872dbq/malory-towers>

Parent comments and praise please keep them coming in via admin@kls.herts.sch.uk

It was lovely to see on the Kings Langley Matters Facebook page a great volume of parents highlighting how hard the staff are working during these difficult times and that their child was receiving the correct level of work and being supported on a number of levels. I noted the names of those commenting on their child struggling and have been on SMHW today to check their child's level of activity in terms of work and use of the chat function. It is clear from what I have seen in one case, parents please check on the platform to ensure your child is submitting and completing work and telling you the full picture.

We continue to love positive feedback from parents and students as it really keeps the staff motivated during these difficult times. If you can continue to send these to admin@KLS.herts.sch.uk.

This week I would like to share one that has really kept myself and Mrs Jennings going following our struggles with the National Free School Meal Voucher shambles:

We hope that you, the teachers, Mr Fisher and your families are all well and safe.

We would like to thank you all for the dedication and commitment in providing our kids with plenty of work throughout this difficult time. This has kept them active (especially for their mental health) and engaged in the curricular activities. Also, we are touched by the SMHW messages and prompt responses and the need for checking on kids from various teachers and especially a phone call from Mrs Scanlan, to check on xxxx.

For us as Key workers, it's been especially helpful as we can work remotely to support our health and hospitality clients and community with less distractions. Your continued support is helping us to achieve this, keep up the amazing work you do.

Keep safe and hopefully we will all meet soon.

Over 1000 School Phone Calls

Schools do a lot more than just offer an academic curriculum and I do not want to forget that during these difficult times. I have tasked my team to ensure all students in the school, receive a call from either their tutor or their Head of Year by half term. As a parent if you are called by a blocked number it is likely the school, please answer it and the tutor will talk with you first and then your child to offer encouragement, advice and also take down any feedback or additional support needed and share this with various levels of leadership within the school.

I stress that on the virtual platform teachers are communicating virtually with your child using the chat function either offering encouragement or support. If your child is not using this facility please read my comments below and support them with using it.

GCSE and A level Examinations and Grades:

On the 20th April all parents of students in Year 11 and Year 13 will have received a letter outlining the national situation with GCSE and A level grade submissions. Detailed advice can be found on the Ofqual and Exam board websites <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcses-as-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2020>

I would like to stress to the four boys in year 10 who have not engaged with their virtual curriculum fully, we do not know how grades will be assessed for Year 10 and 12 and do not know what this virus holds for us in the future, hence we could be in a very similar situation next year and staff might need an evidence base to gain a centre assessed grade based on the work you are completing. We have heard from other schools of year 11 students contacting their teachers stating they were about to start their work or revision and would like staff to take this into consideration, they simply cannot and any grade will be evidence based. The key message to all students keep working towards your goals and aspirations, life does not stop, and don't waste time, it is precious.

Exam letter summary:

All schools and colleges are to prioritise ensuring that the grades awarded to students are done so through a fair and consistent process.

Teachers will review evidence on each student's performance in each of their subjects. This could include classwork, progress made over the course, performance in trial exams, performances in practical subjects, NEAs etc. There is no need for students to complete any additional work; indeed, schools have been reminded that any work completed by students after schools closed on 20th March should not be included as evidence.

Teachers and Subject Leaders will then allocate each student a 'Centre Assessed Grade' along with a ranking position for each student within each grade. Subject Leaders and senior staff will review these grades carefully before sending them to the exam boards. It should be recognised that the grades submitted by centres may not necessarily be the same as a student's target grade, most recent predicted grade or a Year 13 student's UCAS grade.

Exam boards will put each school's grades through a standardisation process which will ensure that results nationally are consistent with those achieved in previous years. This could mean that the final grade awarded by the exam board is not the same as that which the school originally submitted.

It is not possible under any circumstances for any member of staff to confirm with parents, carers or students the grades submitted to exam boards. We ask that school staff and teachers are not contacted about grades as all schools are now legally obliged to not share or discuss grades.

Results days for students have been confirmed as remaining on the original dates of Thursday 13th August for A level and Thursday 20th August for GCSEs. Further details on results days will be made available later this term.

The process for appealing grades awarded this summer is currently being finalised by Ofqual and the exam boards but it is likely that students will have the opportunity to take an examination either in the autumn term 2020 or summer term 2021.

Virtual School Platform

Before Easter I explained that in stage 3 (now) we will adjust the delivery again to be more sustainable over a longer period of time that is a varied diet of content and support. This means that for some subjects there may be longer-term projects that students work on rather than needing to be on-line at lesson time to complete the work 'live' as per the timetable please see attached to the email a History department example, that will also be supported through Zoom tutoring, once the project is underway.

We are still encouraging students to keep to a routine around the normal timetable day, but they have some discretionary time during the day then this is surely a good thing to help develop some independence of learning. This is based on parental and student feedback around demands for laptops and work commitments within the home and as such on our platform we have now asked teachers to set work over longer time periods to enable students to work to their own circumstances. This enables those working to a timetable to continue to do so and those who are working either later or earlier to also do so.

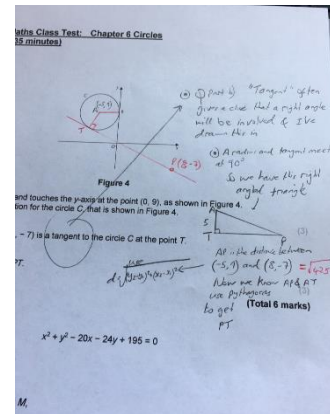
I hear a lot about what Google Classroom can do and over Easter completed a review of its features and what our platform can do. SMHW when used correctly can do all the same functions apart from

full face to face virtual lesson which very few secondary schools are doing, but we now plan to do this through Zoom to all year groups. The main issue in SMHW is that some students and parents are not using the chat and/or the work submission function on our platform correctly. It is clear when students are using these features fully they are getting bespoke support and guidance. Please see the photo below from our platform between a maths teacher, who was communicating with a student through to help and offer bespoke support for this child through a worked example. The example below is also between a student and a Geography teacher on some pastoral support but is also an example of how staff are online all day supporting students.

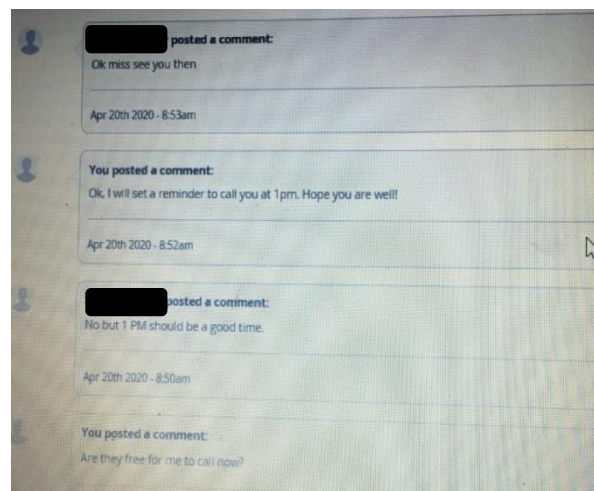
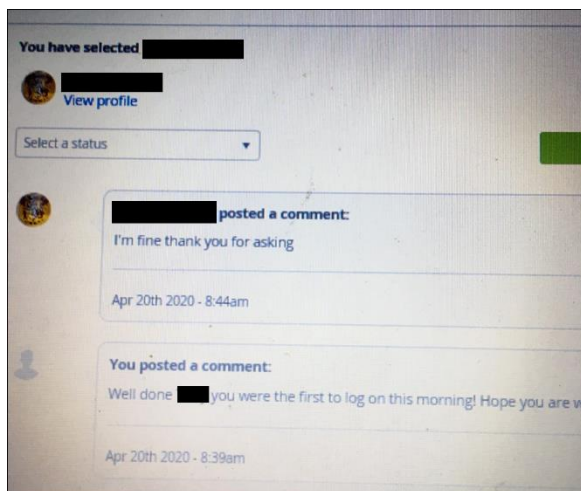
Text within chat function or email:

"Hi, yes thank you I have it. For part a) I wasn't sure whether we could presume the y coordinate was 9, which is why I didn't understand it. Thank you for clearing it up for me."

"I still can't record videos at this time but I've written out my solutions for Ex 14B Q4 and 5".



This is an example of the chat function that students should be using for help and support and staff are working on this platform throughout the day offering any support needed.



The second element is the work submission on the platform. A large number of students are using this feature well enabling staff to review work or misconceptions and offer further guidance. However, some are not using this feature fully. In SMHW every class is linked to a teacher and every student is linked to their classes enabling us to have a virtual school in setting, supporting and receiving the work back in from students and then following up with developmental work securing knowledge and skills. If students are doing the work on a piece of paper they can photograph it and submit the photo to their teachers. Every week teachers can login to their virtual mark book and download the complete file of work which is linked to the lesson and date stamped to when it was submitted for each student exactly the same way Google classroom does.

Virtual Zoom lessons:

In my letter dated 20th March 2020 I outlined the three stages we are working to and outlined that each teacher is also facing their own challenges whether that be bereavement, childcare, internet

connectivity to name but a few. However, I am delighted to confirm that stage 3 has already started this week with almost every Year 12 subject having either a full Zoom lesson or a Zoom support lesson. We have been working behind the scenes to source laptops for every member of staff, ensure all safeguarding measures are in place along with training and support for both parents, staff and students with this type of learning. A huge thank you to those parents who have completed the online safety training which we have provided at our cost to all parents. New school policies will be in place on the school website on Monday and all parents will be emailed a new ICT user agreement, by logging into a Zoom lesson the student is automatically accepting our agreement on Tuesday to Year 10 and 12 first. A help guide will be sent to all students in Year 10 and 12 on Zoom via SMHW and a help guide for submitting work and using the chat function on SMHW. Students must use their Kings Langley email account to access Zoom lessons. The Zoom code will be sent via SMHW as a secure platform and students will be invited in via the waiting room feature. Students must adhere to the user agreement around online procedures and staff using this platform will support this within their lessons. We are working on how these can be recorded and posted on SMHW so those not able to attend at the time of the meeting can still access this resource.

The provision will grow each week with larger faculties such as English and Science being one week ahead of smaller subjects. These are full lessons planned and delivered by teachers, and is above what other secondary schools are offering within their experiences. Parents and students must not share the code. Students without a Kings Langley School email address will not be let into these lessons.

As you can see from the English example below very soon every year group will be supported through Zoom lessons in some subjects.

Class teacher code	CLASS	Content
BUT and HAR	Year 12 English Literature	Introduction Zoom, NEA and how we will teach over the next half term at least
BUT	Year 12 English Literature	The Great Gatsby
HAR	Year 12 English Literature	Othello
HVY	7A and 7C	The Tempest-
VAL	7D and 7G	The Tempest
EVA	7J and 7P	The Tempest
REE	8A and 8C	Rhetoric
TRE	8D and 8G	Rhetoric
THM	8J and 8P	Rhetoric
HAR	9A and 9C	Macbeth
MCU	9D and 9G	Macbeth
EVA	9J and 9P	Macbeth
THM	10A and 10C	Blood Brothers then poetry
MCU	10D and 10G	Blood Brothers then poetry
BUT	10J and 10P	Blood Brothers then poetry

Other departments have very detailed plans and I list the following as examples to show how some of the creative subjects will use this technology:

Art will be hosting individual tutorial sessions with students in year 12 and 10 as each student is on a highly personalised and individual response to the personal portfolios that they are producing. In these personal sessions with students there will be two members of staff present for safeguarding

reasons. Students will be given a time in which to access the meeting and admitted into the meeting at their allotted time. Mr Tubb is looking at producing some recorded 'how to' videos using a portable visualiser and posting these via SMHW.

The technology department as part of their first batch of lessons will be based around theory for year 12 and 10 year groups and projects will continue to be used at KS3 and support lessons coming online shortly. We are awaiting information from the exam boards on how we can complete NEA work or support/preparation work via a Zoom lesson.

The Drama department will be supporting Year 12 and 10 in the first weeks of virtual learning through live critiques of Blood Brothers for year 10 and plays within the National Theatre website. Year 9s are going to be zooming a live weather report play supported by Mr Flowers.

Additional Virtual platforms:

We are aware that we will not be able to deliver a full timetable due to personal circumstances of staff and students. We are also aware that some subjects are not best suited to this method. However, we want to compliment this type of learning through other means and we are delighted to introduce a growing number of tools developed in school and nationally that teachers and parents can direct their students to:

The Maths team are developing Maths Watch support videos and have their own YouTube channel, the first batch are online now and I know Mr Wilshaw and his team are working on growing this over the coming weeks:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=XfKu-i6ahG4>

They are also planning to deliver live question and answer sessions on Zoom through the chat feature and also support through video tutorials.

The History team are delivering most lessons on Zoom but will complement their KS3 and 4 support on their website and new curriculum resources as per attachment to this email and also below:

<https://www.klshistory.co.uk/>

The government has funded a project through a variety of national trusts to put together one platform of online lessons with resources and videos. It follows a programme each week and has a large number of subjects:

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom/year-7/maths/#subjects>

The BBC now has an online platform of lessons and support resources:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/gcse-national-5/znd6gwx>

The Government have also published guidelines for parents on supporting your child during Covid 19:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

I would recommend the following link for all subjects:

<https://www.massolit.io/>

MASSOLIT works with academics from the world's best universities to produce high-quality, curriculum-linked videos for GCSE, A Level and the International Baccalaureate.

It is clearly impossible since much of what we do in school is interactive, and no matter how carefully we can construct a virtual lesson and use the latest technology to enhance delivery, it is never quite the same as being in the same physical environment with all the subtleties at play. We also need time for students and staff to settle into this phase 3 routine so please bear with us whilst this happens. If you need help use the chat feature or email the member of staff directly.

Supporting Wellbeing

During these challenging times, supporting your wellbeing is paramount. Small measures such as staying connected, daily exercise, eating healthily, allowing limited news intake, talking if you are feeling anxious, and having a daily routine can all help. I attach to the email a document from The Key with some ideas on how to talk to your children about what is happening, making home learning work for you, and extra contact numbers/resources should you need them. This is supported by the regular information packs being sent by Rosemary Inskipp and her team along with other updated and information in previous letters, these have been 5 in total to date.

Action for Happiness Calendar.

Having a positive daily focus can also help during difficult times. This Active Coping Calendar, provides some simple daily ideas to try at any time.

https://www.actionforhappiness.org/media/865781/april_2020.jpg



Inspirational Speakers Online

Filling the days with a variety of stimulating activities especially those students in year 11 and 13 can be difficult there is a link below which features talks from inspirational speakers daily. They are running a schedule of virtual talks with experts in a wide range of subjects/areas ranging from TV producers, to entrepreneurs to politicians. Year 12 students in particular are encouraged to participate as they approach UCAS applications, but the talks are also suitable for KS3 upwards.

SPEAKERS
for schools

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BIOGRAPHY

Tom Toumazis MBE has a portfolio of directorships focused in technology, media and the arts. He's a founder investor and Chair of four start-ups from a variety of industries from data analytics, to online art retail, from mobile games and most recently, the biggest Expo in the UK for the Hemp, CBD and Legalised Cannabis industry. He is an External Director of the Performing Rights Society for Music, the leading music rights organisation in the world. Tom has held senior roles in the film and entertainment world at ITV, The Walt Disney Company, Eurosport, Endemol Shine and Yahoo! He's run small and large businesses, from start-ups to businesses employing over 7,500 people.

Tom is a public speaker, sharing his work/life experiences and encouraging young people to explore a career in the world of media and entertainment. He supports Speakers for Schools & London South Bank University, where he's a Visiting Professor of Business and an Honorary Fellow.

Tom is also a Trustee of the NSPCC and has helped raise over £14 million over the last 15 years. He has run 8 London Marathons for Childline and is currently in training for number nine along with his two sons. He's a big Arsenal fan, a movie addict and more recently become addicted to swimming in Hampstead Ponds!

He was awarded an MBE in 2015 for services to children.

@tom.toumazis
<https://uk.linkedin.com/in/tomtoumazis>

Watch Tom's TEDxOxford Talk - "We need to talk about Maybe"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmHDXZaPqgE>

Ramadan

The Holy month of Ramadan begins on Thursday 23rd April and runs until Saturday 23rd May. Ramadan involves a daily period of fasting, starting at sunrise and finishing at sunset, which includes abstaining from food and drink (as well as water). Fasting is one of the five key pillars underpinning the Islamic faith and Ramadan is one of the most important events in the yearly calendar. As well as fasting, this month it is also a time of self-reflection, self-evaluation, prayer and giving. We know that some students may be fasting over the next month and we want to support them as much as possible especially during our Virtual Delivery. Students are encouraged to contact their Head of Year if they are fasting and indicate if/when they may need extensions or support.

SEND advice and seminars

The EP, SpLD and Specialist Advisory team advice line services are all open to parents.

Spot the Signs and Emotional Wellbeing Webinars are also available as below. Please go to Eventbrite <https://bit.ly/2QZqK4f> for more details.

There are also four short courses – Autism for Parents, Learning Theory, The SEND Code of Practice and Working in Partnership with Parents, which are free to anyone. You can earn a certificate on completion. <https://www.oltinternational.net/free-short-courses>

The British Dyslexia Association is holding free Webinars for parents and professionals on a range of topics. <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/events/webinar-when-is-the-right-time-to-carry-out-a-fulldiagnostic-assessment-for-dyslexia>

Learning resources and materials to help your child at home on the Hertfordshire Local Offer website

With children and young people out of education settings at the moment, families may be needing a bit of extra help to keep their child's education progressing, or just to keep them entertained. The Local Offer, Hertfordshire's website for families of young people aged 0 -25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), has a resources area where parents and families can find materials and resources they can use to help their child learn key skills.

The resources area specifically looks to support those families whose child has an additional need, but it can be used by any family, and may have certain educational activities that can help any pupil to develop a skill they may be struggling with

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/resources-for-parents-and-professionals/send-documents-and-resources.aspx?searchInput=&page=1&resultsPerPage=10&view=card>

As always thank you for your continued support of Kings Langley School and we hope the provision and communication you receive help you with your own home schooling. I have seen some funny home school Ofsted reports on the internet recently, don't worry I will not call Ofsted on you.

Mr D. Fisher
Headteacher