



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

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Headteacher: Ms J Rutherford BA (Hons)

21st September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The first two weeks of term have certainly passed by quickly and students continue to adapt well to our new routines. It is wonderful to have them back in their classrooms and there have been some fabulous examples of student achievement in lessons. Our new Year 7 students have settled well and it feels as if they have been here far longer than 3 weeks. On behalf of the Learning Resource Centre, Mrs Emery would like to say, “a huge well done to all of the Year 7 students who completed the 676 reading challenge. It was wonderful to see such a range of positive reading experiences – your rewards are on their way!”

I was looking forward to delivering my first assembly at King Edward VI. The current situation doesn't allow for us all to come together in the hall in the traditional way, but I did manage to embrace technology and pre-record an assembly to be shown to students in their tutor groups. The key message of the assembly was the importance of community. There have been many challenges over the past 6 months but the community spirit we have seen really has been incredible. We have looked out for our neighbours, arranged shopping for shielding friends/relatives and taken time to ask after each other. As we return to work and school, I asked students to reflect upon the community spirit they have seen and to think about how we could continue to show some of these positives in our own King Edward VI community.

Remote learning

Whilst we are very much enjoying being back at school, we know how important it is that we have effective contingency plans for what will happen if students have to learn from home. We want to reassure you that we are working hard across departments to prepare for remote teaching and learning, should it be needed. We also wanted to update you on the installation of Office 365. This process began over the summer holidays and our ICT team have worked tirelessly to complete this as quickly as possible. In the event that we have classes, year groups or indeed the whole school working remotely – Office 365 and Show my Homework will be invaluable to ensure that we are able to support students in their learning.

Many of our KS3 students have completed the ICT survey that I mentioned in my letter last week and KS4 and KS5 students will be asked to complete it this week. It is important for us to have an accurate overview of the access to ICT that our students have, so that we are able to support them in the event that they need to switch to remote learning. If your child hasn't completed a survey at school by 28th September, they can access the link here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/377NT9Z>

Students will also need to have logged on to the school system whilst they are in school in order to access it from home. KS3 have been doing this in their ICT lessons and KS4 will have the opportunity to do this over the coming week. Sixth form tutors will be providing guidance to their tutees as to how they can do this.

Routines and keeping safe

We would like to congratulate our students on showing a mature response to the measures that have been put in place, and appreciate the conversations that are happening at home reinforcing the message of hand hygiene, respectful distancing and use of face coverings on buses and trains. Students have been brilliant at following the one way system and keeping to their allocated Year group areas at break and lunch time. In our messages given to students on their return to school we reminded them of the 'Act safely and keep hands and feet to yourself' element our Ready, Respect, Strive behaviour policy. Every measure taken by our students can make a difference and we continue to urge them to be mindful of this when with their friends during social time at break and lunch. As we are all aware the rate of COVID transmission continues to rise, and the inevitable uncertainty around how this situation will develop in the future and the impact of the renewed restrictions we are under as a society, may cause some anxiety for some of our students. We would urge them to speak to their tutor or our Student Support team if this is the case.

At this time of year many students (and adults) will develop colds. If your child is unwell with a cold, sore throat or other minor illness that you would have normally sent them into school with, they can come into school as long as they don't have:

- a temperature
- continuous cough
- loss or change in taste or smell

If you are unsure on whether your child should be in school you can seek further support or advice from the NHS website - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> or by calling 111.

Thank you too for your incredible support. We are in the process of giving our fortnightly newsletter a make-over and hope to have the first edition out at the end of this week. This will enable us to provide regular updates, remind you of key events and dates and most importantly share and celebrate the many successes of students that we are privileged to see each and every day.

Kind regards



Laura Hurn
Deputy Headteacher