



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

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Headteacher: Ms J Rutherford BA (Hons)

4 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has certainly been a busy fortnight at King Edward VI School. It is lovely to see some festive decorations being added to our reception areas, classrooms and around school. On Tuesday Years 7 and 11 were treated to a Christmas lunch by our wonderful catering team. We were fortunate to appreciate beautifully decorated tables, students chatting, enjoying social time with their friends and an incredible feast. On Thursday 10 December Years 8 and 9 will be served their lunch in Bader Hall, followed by Years 10, 12 and 13 on Wednesday 16 December.

Our Year 7 students have enjoyed sending update cards to their primary schools and teaching staff have been nominating students for end of term certificates to reward and acknowledge outstanding effort in subject areas this term. These will be handed out by tutors during the last week.

### **Messages to school – support, hope and thanks**

It has been a very unusual term and we are incredibly pleased and proud at how our community has risen to the challenges this term has brought. Adapting to new ways of working, being resilient in the face of so many unknowns, and responding to changes at lunchtimes, or to wearing masks – the whole school have been brilliant. As we approach the end of the year and the school term we would like to celebrate and give thanks for the positive way in which our community has responded and would like your help to do this. We are hoping to create a display in school and virtually to share messages of hope and positivity.

We would really appreciate it if you could follow the attached link and use it to share a message of support, hope and thanks. Thank you as ever for your support and kindness.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SvYnzX1YzUyhznVrI8BXVPZvGSR8YRPseWi4nwg\\_vxUODRZTEFSWUNHV0ZDTRNOVIESIkYRDNaRS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SvYnzX1YzUyhznVrI8BXVPZvGSR8YRPseWi4nwg_vxUODRZTEFSWUNHV0ZDTRNOVIESIkYRDNaRS4u)

### **Jolly Jumper Day**

On **Friday 11 December** we are inviting all students to join in with the 'Jolly Jumper Day' by wearing a Christmas jumper and/or Christmas accessories along with their usual school uniform to help raise funds for the Birmingham Children's Hospital. Christmas may be different for most this year, but the Children's Hospital are working hard to make sure that there's plenty of festive cheer for their patients. Donations will be collected via ParentPay and all will be very gratefully received.

### **Building update**

The building work in Bader is coming along well. An eagerly awaited student reception area and four new classrooms are really starting to take shape and the progress made is visible daily. Work has also begun to refurbish the former science rooms in Bader and we expect this to be complete by February. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our students and families for their patience and support while we have had to partially close the school due to issues with the heating system in one of our main buildings.

## Newsletter publication

We are looking forward to publishing our final newsletter of this term by Friday 18 December. In the meantime there are some key messages and updates provided below:

## Travelling to school by car

If students are driven to school by car, please could we ask parents to think carefully about where students are dropped off. At the start of the year we shared a travel plan which was designed by the local authority to ease congestion around the school site. This includes a map showing areas within a five minute and fifteen minute walk: <http://www.keslichfield.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/King-Edward-VI-travel-plans.pdf>. We are finding that Kings Hill Road in particular is very busy. This is a narrow road with the pavement on only one side of the road. In addition to our school buses and students accessing the sixth form car park; there is traffic for Saxon Hill Academy (a special needs school with students needing to be driven to the door of the school) and currently deliveries for the building work taking place at the top of the road. If parents could drop students off-site rather than bringing them into the visitors car park this will help to reduce the volume of traffic and the difficulties for traffic leaving the site. Thank you for your support in keeping all our students safe.

## Supporting families and our local community

The Charity Helping Each Other has contacted us to see if any of our families can support with donations. They provide food hampers for families and at this time of year they also provide Christmas toys for families in need. They would gratefully receive donations of non-perishable food items, toiletries, household items or monetary donations. On Saturday 5 December and Sunday 6 December between 10am and 3pm they will be at the Horse and Jockey Christmas Fair in Lichfield (by the rugby club). They would welcome any donations delivered to the stall over the weekend.

Our very own **Senior 5** have also been collecting donations for Lichfield Foodbank to support local families on the run up to the Christmas period. We would like to thank you all for donations that we have received so far. We will be continuing to collect items on Monday 7 December and Tuesday 8 December. Items can be dropped off at the Space Base (next to the Library Resource Centre) before registration. Any donations are very gratefully received and we are really pleased to offer our support to the food bank.

## Covid-19 update

The overwhelming majority of students continue to respond sensibly to the routines and measures in place to help keep them and others safe in school. It is encouraging that the local and national cases are decreasing but as we approach the Christmas season we continue to remind students of the importance of hand washing, space and face coverings and re-iterating that every little action they take can help to stop the spread of the virus. This importantly includes the wearing of face coverings on public transport. We have recently received further communication from the train station to ask us to remind students travelling from Shenstone to wear face coverings during the journey (unless exempt). We continue to carry out checks at the station and thank you for re-iterating this message to students travelling on the train.

## Online safety

We would like to make our parents and carers aware of a social networking site called Omegle which we believe some young people are accessing. Children under 18 should have parental permission to sign up to this but on investigation there is no registration process or age verification. This is a free social networking website in which users are connected with other unknown users at random in order to chat via video, text or audio. This is known as a 'virtual chatroom'. The tag line for Omegle is "Talk to strangers". Omegle can be used for text and video chat.

The concern with video chat is the user's exposure to harmful or sexual content. As with any webcam based platform, there is always a possibility that footage can be recorded, and possibly distributed, with or without the user's knowledge. Our PSHE curriculum covers online safety with students and we urge parents and carers to also be vigilant in monitoring the sites and groups that children belong to so we can all help ensure their safety online.

Finally we would like to wish our Year 11 students good luck as they enter their Mock examination period from Monday 7 December. There has been some press coverage this week relating to the summer examination series 2021 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55160374>. Schools haven't received any additional communication at the point of publication of this letter but we will of course keep you informed as or when further information is released. All we can ever ask is that our students try their best, and ask for help when needed. In challenging times we know that our Year 11 students continue to do just that. Good luck Year 11.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Hurn  
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs C Forster  
Deputy Headteacher