

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now in our fifth week of term and as well as updating you with Covid issues, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all staff, students and parents for helping us to get back to College and back on with the core business of teaching and learning. It has been uplifting to hear the sound of young people in our corridors and classrooms once again. The challenges are very real for everyone in College but together we will face the challenge and respond in the best ways that we can.

As well as reminding you of some of the key messages to do with the pandemic, I am delighted to be able to update you on the College strategies of the Reading Canon and Knowledge Organiser Home Learning. The information below outlines the rationale for these strategies and if you follow the links you will be able to listen to Mrs Stead explaining these in more detail.

Please find below the survey for parents/carers relating to Kingsbridge Community College. We recognise that these are unusual times for the country and education. Please respond to the questions here based on your experiences during the course of the last 6 months. Any constructive comments which you wish to include which might help us to improve, would be most welcome. The survey closes on Monday 2nd November 2020.

[KCC Parent Survey](#)

Please note non-pupil days for staff training are as follows:

- Friday 23rd October
- Monday 2nd November
- Friday 12th February

There is additional survey below for you to complete. The explanation of why it is so important follows.

Best wishes

Tina Graham.

Nichola Offer **Assistant Principal – Quality of Education**

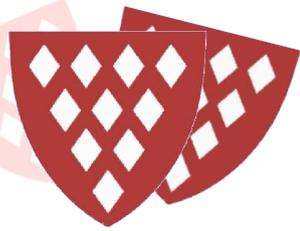
It's a pleasure to introduce myself as the new Assistant Principal at KCC. My name is Nichola Offer and I have joined the College Leadership Team, responsible for Teaching and Learning. As I begin to settle into my new and exciting role, and families and students settle into their new routines it is great to be able to share with you some of the advances we are making as a College with regards to teaching and learning.

One area that we have been working hard on since the return to school has been planning the contingency arrangements in case our school community is affected by another school closure due to Covid 19. Whether this be a partial closure, which involves just one year group having to self-isolate or a full closure, we have been working with our heads of department to ensure that all students and families will be supported to ensure that students can still engage with their learning and remain up to date with the curriculum that we have planned for the year.

This contingency planning has involved sharing with the students our new Office 365 platform and giving them an introduction to 'Teams'. Teams is collaboration platform which allows teachers to share documents, resources, set up live online lessons and many more useful features to engage students in their learning. Should students have to learn from home due to any partial closure Teams will be the platform that the school will use. This will be in addition to Show My Homework, which we will continue to use to ensure parents have engagement with their child's learning.

To help us provide the best quality offer for remote online learning we would really value your feedback. The link below will take you to an online questionnaire that will help us plan for supporting families and students with online learning provisions. If you could give 3 minutes of your time to complete this it would be much appreciated. The survey closes on Monday 2nd November.

[Parent Survey on device use](#)



Kingsbridge Community College Reading Canon: At KCC, one of our core beliefs is that it is a student's right to read, and to read a range of books which allows them to continue strengthening their reading confidence and to explore a range of authors and genres. There is a large body of evidence that suggests that being a more fluent reader enables students at all levels to be more effective learners. In order to systematically support students to be able to become more confident readers, we have introduced the Kingsbridge Community College Reading Canon: a set of 14 books that all students will read during their time at KCC. Students will read these books collectively, during tutor times with their teacher using specific techniques to build students' reading confidence. More information about the KCC reading programme can be found on the website: [KCC Reading Canon](#) .

Home Learning: As part of our ongoing process of curriculum review to ensure that we meet the needs of our students, we have made changes to the home learning timetable and expectations for this year. All subjects have developed 'Knowledge Organisers' for the topics that they will be teaching over the course of the year. A knowledge organiser is a summary of all the key information that students need to learn for a particular topic. We are implementing the use of knowledge organisers as there is strong evidence to suggest that students who spend time learning key information, build up secure knowledge and can use that knowledge more easily than students who haven't learned key information. When students are set a 'knowledge organiser home learning' they will spend 15 minutes learning a particular part of the knowledge organiser using a particular method: look, cover, write, check and review. During the next lesson, the teacher will quiz the students to see how much information from the knowledge organiser they can remember. Students will also be set extended tasks for home learning that will enable them to be creative and explore topics in greater depth. More information about changes to the home learning timetable and the use of knowledge organisers can be found on the College website: [Home Learning Knowledge Organisers](#) .

Student Lanyards

As you are aware every student wears a coloured lanyard according to their coloured zone and it is critical that students wear these as part of their uniform each day. Any student who has lost or mislaid their lanyard will need to purchase another from their Year Leader at a cost of 20p.

Face Coverings on Buses

Students are getting much more used to wearing face coverings in the corridors and are asked every day to wear them as they get on the buses and are reminded daily that it is the law for students of their age to wear them for the duration of the journey home, unless they are exempt. Please talk with your children if they catch a bus and explain the need for them to do this. We cannot ensure this happens universally without your support. We are talking to the students about our duty to Community; not Self. This is a helpful way in which we can support all members of our community to be as safe as possible.

Coats for winter

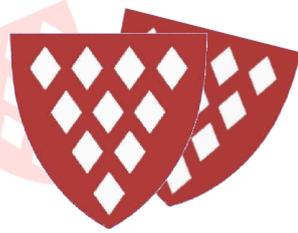
Now the winter weather is making an appearance, please help us keep your children dry by ensuring they bring an adequate winter coat with them to College. We will try to maintain as much outside fresh air for students as we can and this is much easier to manage in school if the students have a warm winter coat.

Uniform

Many students have asked if they can wear additional layers as a result of some classrooms being colder than normal due to the need to have windows open and ventilation in all teaching spaces. We recommend a white t-shirt under their shirt, the College shirt and a College jumper. If students are still cold they can wear a plain black or navy jumper (not hoody) over the top if teachers agree that it is cold enough. Please support us to have high expectations of uniform by ensuring that jumpers do not have logos on the front. We will ask students to remove these. The only hoody that is allowed to be worn at any time is the KCC hoody.

Blazers

A reminder that the Year 7 blazer is compulsory from January 2021 but is available to buy from Proserve now. Jumpers and sweatshirts will not be allowed in Year 7 due the blazer being an extra layer.



Phone scammers & COVID testing advice

Parents being Targeted by Phone Scammers

We have received, from Devon Local Authority, reports of what seems to be a variety of ways of getting people to call/connect to a premium phone line number by saying their child is ill or been in an incident. Parents/carers are being called on the phone, allegedly by their school, to say their child has been involved in an incident or taken ill. An example has been where a parent was called to say the child was ill and asked to dial 1 to be connected to right person to speak to. The phone line had been held open reportedly to a high cost phone line. In another example the parents were asked to contact the school on the number provided, which again turned out to be a high cost phone line.

Please only ever use this telephone number **01548 852641** to contact the College, if you ever receive any communication asking you to make contact.

Public Health - advice on COVID testing for school children

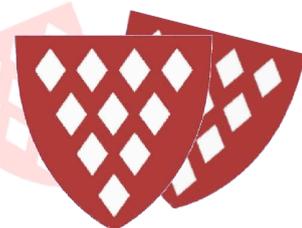
Please see attached letter and information leaflet for schools and parents which has been produced by the local Public Health team. The information has also been replicated on the DCC coronavirus pages see the link here; <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/children-education/covid19-school-absence/>

Key Dates:

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|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 8 th October | - Year 11 Information Evening | 19 th November | -Year 13 Parents' Evening |
| 15 th October | - Year 6 Virtual Opening Evening | 10 th December | - Year 11 Parents' Evening |
| 22 nd October | - Year 7 Meet the Tutor | 14 th December | - Sixth Form Awards Evening |
| 23 rd October | - Non-pupil day | 18 th December | - End of Term |
| 26 th to 30 th October | - Half Term | 4 th January | - Start of Term |
| 2 nd November | - Non-pupil day | | |
| 12 th November | - Sixth Form opening Evening | | |

FAQs regarding student absence

| What do I do if? | Action needed |
|--|--|
| My child has one or more Covid-19 symptoms: High temperature – hot to touch on your chest or back. A new dry continuous cough – this means coughing more in one hour, or 3 or more prolonged coughing episodes in 24 hours. A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything . | DO NOT COME TO COLLEGE Contact College to inform us. Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Get a test and inform College immediately of the result. Remote learning until self-isolation period ends. |
| My child has tested positive for Covid-19. | DO NOT COME TO COLLEGE Contact College to inform us. Agree an earliest date of return. Minimum 14 days. Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Remote learning until self-isolation period ends. |
| My child tests negative for Covid-19. | CONTACT THE COLLEGE |
| My child is ill with symptoms not linked to Covid-19. | FOLLOW THE USUAL ABSENCE POLICY if you would have normally sent your child to College please continue to do so. |



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| Someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms. | DO NOT COME TO COLLEGE Contact College to inform us. Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Household members showing symptoms to get tested and inform College of the result. |
| Someone in my household tests positive for Covid-19. | DO NOT COME TO COLLEGE Contact College to inform us. Agree an earliest date of return. Minimum 14 days. If anyone in the household becomes symptomatic get a test. |
| NHS Test & Trace has identified my child has been in close contact of someone with symptoms of or a positive case of Covid- 19. | DO NOT COME TO COLLEGE Contact College to inform us. Agree an earliest date of return. Minimum 14 days. |
| My child's bubble reports a Covid-19 case in that bubble. | DO NOT COME TO COLLEGE Self-isolation for 14 days. Remote learning until self-isolation period ends. |
| My child has travelled and is required to self-isolate/quarantine. | DO NOT TAKE UNAUTHORISED LEAVE IN TERM TIME Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel. If returning from a destination where quarantine is needed, agree an earliest date of possible return. Minimum of 14 days from return date. Quarantine the whole household. |
| We have received medical advice that my child should be shielding. | DO NOT COME TO COLLEGE Provide College with the medical evidence. Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted. Remote learning. |
| My child has spent the weekend playing with someone who is now displaying symptoms. | COME TO COLLEGE Inform the College of the situation. |