

*"Leaders, staff and governors share a passionate commitment to raise the aspirations and achievement of all the students who attend the school."*  
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Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your families are in good health and adjusting to the challenging circumstances that we find ourselves in. It has been just over six weeks since schools closed across the country in response to the Coronavirus and I am sure, like many staff here, you are still adapting to the 'new normal'. I know nothing feels normal, especially not seeing the students in corridors and in our classrooms. We miss seeing and interacting with the students every day. We hope that we will see them soon.

As you are probably aware, there have been a number of announcements and press conferences over the past few days providing information about the Government's Covid-19 recovery strategy. The return of children to schools features prominently within this strategy. Further guidance on this has been released and we will be working in partnership with the Local Authority to plan, initially, for the safe return of President Kennedy's Year 10 and 12 students, and staff. We will of course let you know, as soon as we are able, the re start date for these students. As I am sure you will agree it is important that we take time to appropriately consider all the various aspects involved. We know you may have many questions and we will provide more information as soon as we are able to. Please keep checking the FAQs on the front page of the website. The coming weeks will continue to provide challenges to us all but the same resilience, positive attitude and teamwork the school community has demonstrated so far will be key to us making this work well together.

President Kennedy remains open for children of key workers and vulnerable students and we also stayed open over the Easter holidays and both Bank holidays. We are still operating with a skeleton staff rota, a member of Leadership Group on duty and a first aider. I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff for ensuring that the school remains open so that key workers can continue to go to work and support the needs of the community. Headteachers across the city have been seeking advice from the Local Authority on provision for the May Half Term. They in turn have been working with Public Health advisory teams on local Health and Safety needs in the city. It has been deemed a safe strategy for schools, both primary and secondary across the city to close over the May Half Term period. Therefore, I am confirming that we will not be open over this period.

We will be open **from Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June (still just for children of key workers and vulnerable students)** as Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June has been authorised by the Local Authority as a day for all schools to have 'Restart Training'. This training day will allow for schools to consider the health and safety implications for reopening and plan for the safe return of students and staff.

I hope that you are keeping up to date with key announcements via the website and FAQs. Teachers are continuing to upload weekly work on to the **Key Documents** section of the website. We are always looking at new ways to support students, especially as they try to access their learning remotely at home.



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The feedback that we have received from parents and students has been that home schooling is challenging and that parents have found it difficult to juggle their many commitments and support a learning environment. We understand that motivating students to remain positive at home and to keep to a daily routine is hard and may cause you some worry and anxiety. In my last letter I tried to reassure you that not all work may be completed but to just try and complete what is possible each week. We have produced a weekly timetable to give you an idea of how to structure your child's day. We hope this will help you to balance their work as well as maintaining a healthy, physical and mental well-being routine. Please try to keep in touch with your child's teachers for further support. Remember we are still here to help you.

College Directors are also writing to all of their year groups with a weekly newsletter. Assemblies are also now being produced as we know that it is important for students to see teachers and staff that they know so well. We have also produced a 'Stay Safe' video message from staff at the school – we hope you like it. It certainly cheered me up and it was lovely to see so many staff take part. All of these can be found on the **Key Documents** section on the website under each college tab. Enjoy!

Year 11 and Year 13 teachers are working hard to submit centre-assessed grades for the students they teach. This is the grade they believe students were most likely to achieve if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned. Once this has been completed in the next two weeks staff will then rank within each subject, the order of students, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used by exam boards to standardise judgements and therefore exam boards may adjust some grades either upwards or downwards; we have no control over that part of the process. We are working very closely with exam boards and taking advice from the Department for Education and the Local Authority about how to support students for when they eventually return to school. We know that you will be quite anxious about this but please rest assured that we are doing everything we can to plan appropriately for their return. We know that this is a worrying time for us all as we wait to hear weekly updates from the Government.

However, I am sure, like me, you are all filled with hope when we hear of inspirational stories and actions of individual fortitude in our local communities. It is these stories of generosity and human kindness that will support us as we start to move forward with our lives. Please continue to contact us if you have any feedback or queries regarding accessing Free School Meal vouchers; the weekly work or ICT issues at: [info@pks.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:info@pks.coventry.sch.uk). Please let us know how we may support you further.

Thank you for your continued support and please stay safe and healthy.

Kindest regards,



Mr Clayton – Headteacher