

# The King's Chronicles



No.3: Week 5 - 9 October 2020

## Homework = Teams-work

Sometimes homework may seem like a battle-ground for teenagers and parents, but it is a vital part of learning. As well as giving students the chance to practise what they are learning in lessons, it also builds life skills such as resilience, time management and organisation.

Since the start of September, teachers have been setting homework through Microsoft Teams. Teams is available as an app to download free on all devices. Students just need their username (*studentidnumber@esf-schools.org.uk*) and their usual password to be able to access it.

The advantages? Students' homework is now in the same place, so it is easy to keep track of. By using Teams for homework, students are also learning how to use the platform, just in case schools have further periods of remote learning.

And how can you help with homework? There is no need for you to know the answers, but it would help if you could:

- make sure that there is a quiet place to work;
- ensure that notifications are turned off on devices being used for homework so that there are no distractions;
- ask to see Teams classes and homework tasks so that you can sign planners when work has been completed.

*Mrs Taylor (Assistant Principal: Teaching & Learning)*

Hello, we are the Head Boy (Adam Bulman) and Head Girl (Maria Chambers) of The King's Academy. During this uneasy time, we have all had to adapt every aspect of our lives including our studies.

Although at first it took some getting used to, we worked together as a cohort to drive and encourage each other and ensure our health and wellbeing was put first. This helped us and is still helping us complete all of our work to the best of our abilities.

Coming back in to school has reinstated a structure to our lives, as with increasing support from our teachers and peers we are able to balance homework, university applications and extra revision.

### Key Dates

#### October

5th	Virtual Open Evening
10th	World Mental Health Day
w/c 12th	Year 11/6th form Breakfast launch
w/c 19th	House Football & Hockey
26th-30th	Half term
31st	Y6 Admissions Deadline

#### November

5th	UKMT Senior Challenge
10th	Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening
10th-13th	House Assemblies
16th-27th	Year 11 /Year 13 Rehearsal Examinations



Adam Bulman



Maria Chambers

## Introducing.....

### Highlights of the Week

(from Heads of Year)

**Year 7**– The enthusiasm and support shown by the students for their peers in the Year 7 House cross-country.

**Year 8**– The excellent assembly put together by 8Edwards-Bell on the theme of thankfulness.

**Year 9**– The friendly competition and banter that the 'Fri-YAY' quiz has brought out.

**Year 10**– This week Year 10 have been pitching to their peers for representatives for Student Voice. Staff have been impressed with their maturity and the quality of the pitches presented.

**Year 11**– All Year 11 students are being signed up to Uni Frog to help Post 16 intention and careers.

**Sixth form**– Ella Seabourne has been the first to receive a university offer: within hours of submitting it! She has been offered a place at the University of Bristol to study Neuroscience. Congratulations Ella! And good luck to the rest of Year 13 as they submit theirs.

## Focus: Maths

One of the strengths of the Maths Department has always been circulating the classroom effectively and intervening with misconceptions from students while they are working. COVID-19 has forced the team to adapt this practice due to fear of passing the deadly disease from bubble to bubble.

A new way of thinking has been required as a result, and sadly, the historic solution of the teacher sitting at their desk with a board rubber in hand, aimed ready to fire, barking out instructions has been long gone (although perhaps mildly tempting at times!).

Having to engage more in conversation with the students has proved useful in these times, and instead of "Sir, can you have a look at this?" we are now beginning to hear cries of "Sir, you know for that question: I have done this and that and now I don't know where to go from there". Such dialogue has been incredibly helpful in exposing gaps in learning and also providing a framework for others to work from.

There is still a lot to learn through this process, but we are now worrying less and have learnt to adapt effectively to the current restrictions.

*Mr Belmont (Maths Dept)*

# Cross-Country

Over 80 runners have taken part in the House cross-country event after school this week. Each year group ran on a separate night to keep bubbles secure; but, regardless of these amendments, the effort and determination shown was fantastic. This was the first official house event of the year with several more planned to take place before Christmas. The friendly rivalry of the house competition has been rekindled, so let the games begin!

*Mr Johnson (Assistant Principal)*



**Year 7 provide a spontaneous 'guard of honour' as fellow competitors cross the line**



### Additional Notices:

'Thank you' to the students going home on Wednesday evening. The lady car driver who stopped at the crossing near the Parkway Centre said 'you made her day' with your waves of thanks.

Another member of the public rang in to tell us that our students always make a real effort to maintain social distancing when she jogs past in the morning, standing aside to allow her to pass easily and safely.