

The King's Chronicles



No.20 Week 24 8-12 March 2021

Full School Re-Opening

It's been an historic week of school re-openings across the country, and nowhere more so than here at The King's Academy. With an absolute priority on the health, safety, welfare and education of students, their full re-start has been tapered in throughout the week and they have shown maturity and calm – whilst we know that for many this has also been a time of some (or even great) anxiety. Well done to all of our students, and to parents and carers for their contribution to this successful full re-opening week.

We've also had the opportunity to reflect together in tutor times, and for Years 8 and 9 who arrived since yesterday this will stretch into next week. We've looked together at how we keep one another safe (including through testing, being alert to symptoms and the need to isolate, face masks, distancing, etc.); and the impact of the pandemic on society and on our communities (including on education, social isolation, employment and bereavement).

We've also looked at what Jesus said about worry and anxiety (Matthew 6), and ultimately how he is the guarantee to faithful believers that God provides for all of our needs. This includes that most important need of an everlasting future with him in heaven that can never be taken, whatever may have been lost during this life – a uniquely unshakable and transformational reassurance.

Mr Dawes - Principal

Monday morning arrives

Monday morning arrives. The test centre is 'built', staff trained and in their PPE, test bays sanitized. Apprehension is the order of the day: how will our students take to the lateral flow testing system? It's certainly not the 'normal' everyday thing to swab your tonsils and then stick the swab up your nose! By morning break it's clear that our apprehensions are unfounded. Our students rise to the challenge and take the whole thing in their stride. The 30-minute wait for results does not phase them: in fact, the chance to sit and chat to friends at 2m distance is a welcome opportunity to renew friendships. The test centre staff report daily that there's a confident 'can-do' attitude from the students. It is remarkable to see such resilience from our young people; and we cannot help but think that- with the positivity being shown- they will adapt well to the challenges ahead.

Mr Whittaker - Test Centre Manager

Testing

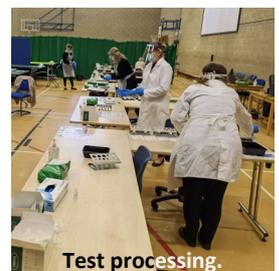
What a week it has been! The staff team have been tremendous in their approach to the challenge of organizing for all year groups to have their first test– and we have even managed to move on to 2nd tests.

It is impossible to single out any one colleague, so I'm going to attempt to give a brief mention to all. Mr Reader's 'work of genius' spreadsheets were a wonder; the senior leaders and Heads of Year brought nervous students in calmly as 'marshals' (and supervised them while they waited for results); the registrars did an efficient job of getting students into the Sports Hall (with rugs over their knees to keep them warm!); our admin team and Learning Support Assistants supported the students with such a lovely manner; our cleaners dedicatedly chasing down every test bay to make sure it was ready; the recorders maintaining their focus throughout to get the results out; and we even had Mr Whittaker brought in from retirement to lead the testing centre team in his inimitable way.

It was a lovely atmosphere, a very proactive and positive team, and a superb job done.

... 1400 tests later- on to week two!

Mr Bulley - Vice Principal



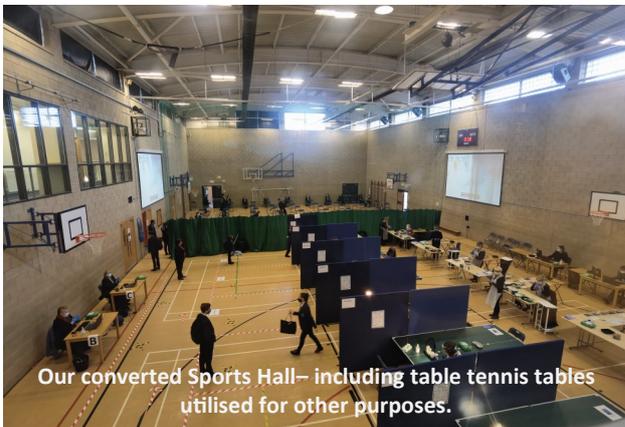
Business as usual

It has been a real pleasure to see our students return to the Academy this week. Whilst there will be inevitable adjustments to some of our routines it is vital that we return to 'business as usual'.

As such we will be talking to our students during tutor sessions next week about our expectations and standards. Within these notices will be reminders about our rules relating to essential equipment, uniform and appearance.

As ever we would appreciate your support in ensuring that your child is correctly dressed and fully equipped for their studies.

Mr Johnson - Assistant Principal KS3



Our converted Sports Hall- including table tennis tables utilised for other purposes.

Highlights of the week

Year 7 - Despite a particularly disrupted start to life at King's, the year group have shown their resilience in lessons this week.

Year 8 - Impressive re-entry to school: in both their uniform and their presentation generally.

Year 9 - Seeing the Year 9 back in school and ready to learn.

Year 10 - Year 10 have come back extremely positively. We have had a couple of new students join us and it has been lovely to see how welcoming Year 10 have been to them.

Year 11 - The focus on Post 16 options has continued, with Mrs Grubb offering many students face to face careers meetings to explore options in education, employment and apprenticeships .

Sixth Form - We are delighted that nearly all of our Year 13 students have now received their offers from university, including two students with Medicine offers and one with Veterinary Science offers. Well done, Year 13: we are so proud of you.

Additional Notices

Covid Winter Grant: Middlesbrough Council is making grant support payments to eligible families for the Easter holidays between 18 and 23 March. If you live in Middlesbrough and got a text message voucher payment for February half term, you do not need to apply again as payment will be automatic. Please visit the Council's website and search "Covid Winter Grant" for further information.

Free School Meal vouchers: Unused credits issued via schoolvouchers.com before 28 February will be reassigned from 17 March- so please redeem any you still have to obtain supermarket vouchers otherwise you will lose access. Supermarket vouchers, once obtained, have longer expiry dates - please see [here](#) for more details. Please also note any remaining Edenred voucher codes must be converted to vouchers within 1 month of issue.

'Fuel for Learning' breakfast packs: In-school collections by students recommence next week. Tuesday 16 March- Y7, Y8 and Sixth Form. Thursday 18 March- Y9, Y10 and Y11. 3.40pm at Sports Reception.

Home Tests

Next week, once third tests are completed we will begin the roll-out of the home-testing kits. Each kit contains 3 tests, and the government have asked that we initially distribute two of these kits each. If you wish to receive these, having opted out of the on-site testing, please email.

We would ask that tests happen twice per week, with a 3-4 day gap between. 11 year olds should have an adult administer the swab; while 12-17 year-olds need to be supervised. A set of instructions will be included (those *inside* the kit must be discarded, and the new ones we attach must be used instead). More details will follow.

Distribution will be as follows:

Years 11 & 13- 17 March.

Years 10 & 12- 18 March.

Year 9- 22 March.

Year 8- 24 March.

Year 7- 19 March.



Please note that all results- negative, void and positive- should be reported to NHS Test & Trace; while we would ask that you phone in any positive result to the school.

Mr Bulley - Vice Principal