



# THE KING'S ACADEMY

*Emmanuel Schools Foundation*

Friday 10 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## **New Academic Year, 2021-22**

A very warm welcome to this new academic year especially to all new starters who are settling in so well amidst the challenges of unfamiliar circumstances. Last month we celebrated a record year of students' GCSE and A-level results, with many ex-Year 11 students joining our Sixth Form and great success in our Year 13's securing remarkable quality places at university and in apprenticeships, employment and training. We anticipate much greater normality throughout this year, along with further advancing our already-rich provision to students and to the community.

**1. Developments:** Recent visitors to King's will have noticed our new **entrance vestibule**, being one aspect of building improvements that also include: a much-expanded **upstairs dining room**; new self-contained individual **cubicle toilets**; a new **science classroom** and enlarged **catering facilities**. Routine annual refresh of the building fabric has included carpeting, decorations and lighting, and the Sports Hall will benefit from a new floor surface and high intensity lighting during this year. Most visible will be the **£2.4m extension** (8 classrooms, student cubicle toilets) that we expect to be underway next to the bus turning circle throughout most of this year, for completion in August 2022.

Our extra-curricular programme will resume in full including sports, drama, music, and Year 7 have already heard of the privilege of their violin lessons through the sponsored, highly exclusive (yet inclusive!) MiSST programme supported by Middlesbrough LA and Andrew Lloyd-Webber. Duke of Edinburgh and Royal Marines cadets return in full, as does our annual Activities Week (June).

**2. New staff welcomes:** We are delighted to welcome new starters to our staff body, and again to have been able to attract and recruit staff of exceptional quality to support our growing school. These are: Mrs Bunce (Engineering); Mr Butler (Senior Science Technician); Mr Ellison (Science); Mr Everson (PE); Mr Fernandez-Mayo (Engineering Technician); Mr Finn (Languages); Miss Flint (History); Mrs Harrison-Potts (Science); Mr Janicki (LSA/House Manager); Miss Morden (Science); Miss Portwine (Computer Science); Mrs Robinson (Science Technician); Miss Spencer (RE); Miss Sturdy (English); Mr White (PE).

**3. Covid measures: twice weekly home testing arrangements (throughout September, initially):** Thank you to the great majority of parents who consented for their children's at-school lateral flow testing, and for the tests at home before attending school on Monday/Tuesday. These tests identified a small number of potentially infectious members of the school community, who immediately isolated whilst seeking a confirmatory PCR test.

Government guidance is for all students (and school staff) to lateral flow self-test twice weekly until the end of September, initially. We recommend tests are taken routinely at home on **Wednesday** and **Sunday evenings** please. We will not seek formal declarations, although tutors will regularly ask their tutor groups, and will supply test kits.

### **General notices**

- a. **Teams** will continue to be used for homework, with Year 7 training during the first two weeks of term.
- b. **Drop-off:** students may be dropped off from 8am; please do not wait with your car on site.

Yours sincerely

David Dawes (Principal)

David W Dawes BA (Hons), MA, MEng Principal

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