

# KLA Bulletin

Friday, December 18th 2020.

Dear parents, pupils and carers,

So it looks like we have almost made it!! (Cue for a song right there!)

I did promise last week to provide one final message home before the end of term, and I am glad I waited till now to do so, given the government's latest, last-minute, announcement yesterday about the situation after Christmas. I will try to make clear the situation as I understand it in this letter – as always, though, if you have any further queries please do email me at [alan.fletcher@kla.eastern-mat.co.uk](mailto:alan.fletcher@kla.eastern-mat.co.uk) and I will try to provide answers (although I do not promise I will have any more to add besides further confusion!)

As I am sure you all are already aware, the Department for Education announced yesterday afternoon that secondary schools will operate a staggered start after Christmas. For KLA that means from **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January** Year 11 will attend school as normal, while pupils from Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be asked to learn at home remotely for that week. We will attempt to run a normal week of lessons from school for all pupils working at home, using Microsoft Teams as we usually do in this situation. We have just taken delivery of another crate of laptops from the DfE, so again, if your child is unable to work on a computer at home for any reason, please let us know by emailing [data@kla.eastern-mat.co.uk](mailto:data@kla.eastern-mat.co.uk) and we will try to get one of those newly-arrived laptops to you. Pupils should be well-versed in using MS Teams by now, but I have attached a sheet outlining the arrangements – Heads of Year have been working with pupils in school today to make sure they all have a note of their school logon usernames, passwords and email address and access. If you need any of the login or access information, please email us at the data email address above and the team will do all they can to help (from January 5<sup>th</sup>! They will be on leave until then!)

As well as Year 11, we are going to be open for pupils who are considered to be vulnerable (i.e. those with social workers, those with EHCPs etc) from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January as we were during the spring and summer lockdown. In addition, we will be open to supervise children with parents who are keyworkers and who would rather send their children into school. Finally, Forward Step and CUB in Years 7 and 8 will remain open for all pupils who attend those facilities throughout the week. As before, we are asking those who feel that they qualify for a school place for their child during that week to self-identify (no need for any evidence) and simply send your child in if you need to.

The other part of the DfE announcement was that schools would be 'encouraged' to set up as mass testing centres for pupils and staff from after Christmas. They have asked that school staff administer the tests, complete the recording process, analyse the results and communicate with 'patients.' There remains much that is unclear – for example around parental and/or pupil consent – and therefore I am not yet in a position to be able to share categorically with you yet exactly what our approach to this will look like. I promise to try to do so as quickly as I can in January.

We are awaiting further guidance on this, but it does not appear, from the initial information we have received so far, that this is going to be a simple thing to either manage or organise, and the timeframe we have been given to put this into place is, I'm afraid, not achievable. We are, of course, committed to doing everything we can to support our community during this pandemic, and we will play our part as requested if we can, but I am not prepared to either rush such a testing facility into operation until we properly understand it, or ask any of my team to work through their Christmas holiday to complete training on it. For these reasons, we will be working during that first week back in January to make sure we are able to safely and correctly set up a mass-testing site, following all health and safety expectations, but we will not be in a position to do so from the beginning of next term. I will update everyone on this once we return in January.

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KING'S LYNN ACADEMY

Finally, I just want to take a moment to once again thank everyone for the amazing support we have had at KLA throughout this most horrible of years. I know from my contacts with other headteachers just how lucky I am to have such a supportive parental community, such a caring and dedicated staff team and – most importantly – such a brilliant group of pupils who have all dealt with all that 2020 has thrown at them with incredible patience, resilience and good humour. I am, as always, just so proud of our community, and of our school's place within it. Each and every small act of kindness, care, support, advice and love has added up over this difficult year – but each one has counted more than ever before! Thank you from me for all of this.

I can foresee an equally difficult beginning to next year ahead, but before then on behalf of everyone at KLA I wish all connected with our school a wonderful, restful, safe and healthy Christmas.

With warmest wishes

Alan Fletcher