



# Kingsmead School



A PARTNER ACADEMY IN JOHN TAYLOR MAT

Head of School: Mrs M Mincher, Bsc, NPQH

RESILIENT  INNOVATIVE  MINDFUL  EMPLOYABLE 

4<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We wanted again to express our gratitude for the support our parents are giving through this time. The positive engagement figures are testament to this, and we are starting to get the half term assessments coming through which show the progress Kingsmead students are making.

## **Learning & Teaching**

We continue to look at how we can develop our blended learning approach; student and parental voice are helping a lot. It is a balancing act; some want more zoom, some want less zoom, some want more challenge, some want more support. It is the nature of learning and we hope you see that our approach of using zoom to clarify tasks, challenge students and support groups reflects these views. You will notice that we are upgrading our lesson instruction from Monday. This builds on the best practice we have seen so far. Lessons will better signpost where to get support, what needs to be handed in and how to extend the learning.

We want to remind students that we miss seeing them in person, we can't wait to all be in our Kingsmead building as soon as we are able to. In the meantime, we continue to build our skills of resilience, innovation, mindfulness and employability. It is important students manage their time, being mindful of themselves. For example, we do say that the work we are setting (including any zoom) should total an hour maximum each period. Although it is tempting to continue working on a lesson sometimes this shouldn't be at the expense of other lessons. We don't want to put off students from working hard, far from it. We also need to be able to switch off, exercise and read. There are a range of activities progress teams run which give the chance for year groups to socialise remotely. We encourage your child to get involved if they aren't already doing so.

## **Careers guidance and development of skills wanted by employers**

One of the things we are passionate about at Kingsmead is preparing students for the world of work. Our values days return from this week to support this. In these lessons have an emphasis on learning skills around resilience.

We have our padlet for students up and running. It is accessible through the school intranet for students and the link attached here: <https://padlet.com/scope8/w33awrvemupa3412>. Our website also has useful links: <https://kingsmeadschool.net/curriculum/careers-provision/student-links/>. Students will be looking at this in a tutor time over the next month depending on which year they are in. We are pleased to share a record number of University UCAS applications and successful apprenticeships for Kingsmead students

## **The half-term break**

Our students continue to amaze us with their positive and buoyant approach. We really want Kingsmead students to take the opportunity to enjoy a well-deserved half-term break. All key stages will be sharing next week information about games and activities they can opt into if they wish. Something a little fun and might help them (and you) during a lockdown half-term.

I finally would like to add that this half-term could not have run as successfully as it has without your help. You have been amazing in supporting your child and the school. I certainly don't take the support and useful feedback we get from you for granted. Look after yourselves as well and always know that we are here if you need us.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs M Mincher  
Head of School