

22nd November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reference: The introduction of 'working from home' days for year groups 7-11 on a rota basis – beginning Monday 23rd November 2020

I hope you are keeping safe and well. I am writing to update you on some important changes to the opening of school over the next two weeks.

As I mentioned in my previous letter on Wednesday last week, we have experienced a significant increase in the number of staff who are unable to come into school because they are either unwell, shielding or have been identified as a potential contact of a positive case. This appears to be a common situation that many schools across the country currently find themselves in.

As you are aware, we have endeavored to maintain as near to normal education as possible with staff delivering lessons remotely. Last week we had over 15 members of teaching staff (out of a staff body of 42 teachers) whose lessons required covering and we were sincerely hoping that this situation would improve this coming week, as periods of self-isolation and illness came to an end.

Unfortunately, we have been informed over the weekend, of additional members of staff who are unable to come into school due to self-isolation or illness, coupled with some staff, who were due to return, not feeling well enough to come back to school. This means that the extremely high rates of staff absence are set to continue at the current level and, despite our best efforts, we are unable to continue opening fully to all year groups.

We are working hard to ensure we can offer the best learning experience for every year group and have weighed up many factors in making the decision on the best way forward. This has included an analysis of the number of lessons affected by staff absences in each year group. We have also considered the importance of planning and avoiding, where possible, unexpected closures.

The plan for the next fortnight is for one year group to work at home each day - the same day both weeks. 6th form lessons will continue five days per week. Please note that work for the pupils will be set on Class Charts on this day; the lessons will not be taught on TEAMS. An email will be sent out to all pupils with details of how they should access the work that has been set.

The rota for year groups **working at home** for the next two weeks is:

Mondays - Year 9

Tuesdays - Year 8

Wednesdays - Year 7

Thursdays - Year 11

Fridays - Year 10

Telephone: 01902 558333 Email: admin@kingswolverhampton.co.uk

twitter.com/kingsschoolwlv - facebook.com/kingswolverhampton



Please note, **6th form** lessons will continue 5 days per week and students will be expected to attend lessons every day unless they are required to self-isolate.

I know that this is far from ideal and something that we have wanted to avoid if at all possible. Unfortunately, we are left with no other option, given the scale of problems we are facing at this time and the importance of operating at safe staffing levels. I thank you for your understanding.

We are able to make provision for the children of key workers and our vulnerable learners, even on days when their year group are not in school. If your child falls into the key worker category and you would like them to attend school on the day when the rest of their year group are working from home, please could you let us know through the following email address: keyworker@kingswolverhampton.co.uk. If your child is eligible for a free school meal, parents are welcome to come and collect a meal from our school reception at 1pm on the day they are working at home. Please make sure that you email freeschoolmeals@kingswolverhampton.co.uk by 9am in the morning to confirm your lunch order and collection time.

I would like to apologise for any inconvenience that this causes and can assure you that we are only taking this action because we believe it to be absolutely necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all and to avoid a wider school closure.

I thank you for your continued support and hope that you keep safe and well. We continue to pray for everyone in our school community affected by the on-going global pandemic.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. R. Ludlow'.

James Ludlow
(Principal)