

Dear parents/carers

I wanted to write to you personally to thank you for all your effort and resilience with home schooling; both are very much needed.

This is without question an extremely challenging and stressful time for all of you. If you are finding things difficult, I can assure you that you are definitely not alone.

I thought it important to explain what we are trying to do at school. We are working extremely hard to ensure that remote learning is available for all of the students at KSCS. In line with Government guidance, we have moved our provision to predominately online learning.

As our systems continue to develop and evolve, we are able to better track student engagement in lessons and with their learning. As our teachers have become more proficient and confident in online delivery, we believe the provision has also improved. We have seen astonishing levels of lesson attendance and students are working incredibly hard in some really trying circumstances. Quite awe inspiring!

As a school, to mitigate the loss of learning, we are providing a complete education package (virtually). There is a consistent routine, a really important aspect to try and maintain throughout this period. We want lessons to start at 8.45 and lessons to remain as per their normal timetable. We want lessons to be as interactive as possible to make the home study as accessible and as engaging as possible.

We have expectations placed on us by the Department for Education, which we have a duty to follow and deliver. We are also crystal clear that our biggest driver is always making sure we do what is right for our students at KSCS.

We are completely realistic around the difficulties that home schooling presents. Educating children in school with everything at our disposal can be extremely challenging, even for the most experienced teachers. The idea that moving the learning online and all will be well, is simply not based in reality. Many families will be experiencing internet issues, IT concerns, motivation issues, behavioural problems, anxiety, the list could go on. You are also probably experiencing extreme pressures yourself, to do right by your children whilst trying to work at the same time.

To support you we are contacting you frequently to check in. The Connect absent notifications are to alert you to any lessons that aren't attended. To be clear we are not looking to sanction, or put further pressure on you, we are looking to support. If you are struggling to get your child to work, we will try and help in any way we can.

We have managed to access and loan over 120 laptops to those most in need. We have received donations from the public towards further IT support. Obviously, this is still not enough, and we will keep trying to access more.

The teachers too are working through the challenges of this online world. Many of them managing their own children at the same time. We do understand the pressures of being at work and home school, it applies to many of us. All we ask, is that you hang in there. We hope schools will reopen soon and things can get back to normal. Please work with us, I can assure you every decision we make is in the best interests of your children. If there are things we can do better, we are listening and appreciate the feedback.

Thanks for your ongoing support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Whales', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Damien Whales
Vice Principal