



05 January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I had not expected to be writing to you again so early in the term, nor had I anticipated that my first week as Headteacher would start like this!

I am sure that you will all be aware of the Prime Minister's announcement last night, but for any of you who missed it, we are now in a National Lockdown and for the foreseeable future, all schools will remain closed to all students except for the children of critical workers and children who are classed as vulnerable. Thank you to those of you who have already contacted us about this provision. The suggestion is that the current lockdown will be reviewed in mid-February, and until then King James will only be open to these children, **as well as Year 11, 12 and 13 students who have external exams in January and February. These students will arrive immediately prior to their exam and leave the site straight after it finishes.**

The announcement means that all other students will access remote learning from home every day over the coming weeks in order that they can continue their education and not fall behind with their learning. Teaching staff at King James will continue to offer a variety of online lessons, including live lessons through Google Meet, Voice Over PowerPoints, Loom and other platforms, that will enable your children to make as much progress as possible under the circumstances, whilst support staff will be in touch with those students who are having difficulties accessing their learning.

Students are now expected to register each morning via the homepage of the Academy website and then access their learning through the appropriate Google Classroom. Students are familiar with this way of working as they have been using Google Classrooms since September. We will also record the work set for, and submitted by students on ClassCharts so that parents can monitor the work that is being completed and submitted.

In order to maintain continuity for both students and staff, we will use the timings of the Academy day that have been in place since we returned in September for the foreseeable future. These timings are attached alongside this letter.

The Prime minister announced that '**not all**' examinations would go ahead in the Summer. This would suggest that **some** exams will happen, however as yet this decision has not been communicated to us. **Therefore, those students in Year 11-13 should continue to work towards and prepare for exams as far as possible in the expectation that some of these exams will go ahead in the Summer.**

I would like to thank all parents / carers in advance for their ongoing support

Acting Headteacher: **Mr S Whitehead**

Academy Trust registered company name trading as: **King James I Academy, Bishop Auckland**

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through what continues to be a very difficult time for everyone. On behalf of all the staff at King James we hope that parents / carers and students stay safe and healthy throughout this pandemic and we look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Yours faithfully

Simon Whitehead  
Acting Headteacher



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