



King Edward VI Aston School
Frederick Road
Birmingham B6 6DJ

School Tel: 0121 327 1130
Sports Hall Tel: 0121 327 6434
KESSP - Trinity Road Tel: 0121 554 4036

enquiry@keaston.bham.sch.uk
www.keaston.bham.sch.uk



4 April 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

It has been a most unusual end to the spring term; one dominated by the closure of the school and the collaboration between families, staff and pupils in establishing a temporary norm of working and learning online and from home. Thank you to you as parents and carers who have supported your children to establish new routines and learning habits and for encouraging patience with our shared learning about how best to teach and to learn remotely.

Your children have impressed us with their engagement with the learning set and the excellent return rate of high quality work. Teachers have enjoyed developing opportunities for discussion forums and 'live' lessons using Teams; all approaches we hope to refine as we gain more experience in online teaching. Feedback from the pupils tells us that 99% of pupils are able to access Teams and that 69% of them are following their timetable to the best of their ability. The new demands of self-regulated working will not be easy for all and whilst 52% of pupils believe that they are managing their time well, the majority of pupils will benefit from your continued interest in their studying and your support in helping them to organise the structure of their day.

There will not be any work set during the Easter holidays as we hope that pupils will use this time to recharge and to relax. After Easter we will return to delivering the school timetable on Teams for years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. The following information will help you to support them:

- i. Work will be set daily for every timetabled lesson.
- ii. Pupils should spend a reasonable amount of time on each lesson's tasks (up to 50 minutes)
- iii. Lessons are set on Teams but may signpost pupils to other platforms or applications such as One Note, Dr Frost, You Tube, Quizlet etc.
- iv. Teachers will be available online during the course of the working day (9am – 3.30pm) and will endeavour to answer questions promptly although not 'instantly'.
- v. All pupils are expected to regularly check Teams and emails for work set, impending deadlines and feedback from teachers.
- vi. Where project work is set, pupils should still check the timetabled lessons for prompts, tutorials and interim tasks.
- vii. Work completion will be monitored by teachers with half termly deep marking in each subject area.
- viii. Completed work that is not uploaded to Teams should be filed by the pupils to share with teachers when they return to school.

Headmaster: C.Parker, *M.Hist, MBA, NPQH*

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There are numerous opportunities for children to continue their education from home during social isolation. If your son would like to take his learning further he may like to access the following:

- The BBC are running 14 weeks of 20 minutes shows on IPlayer <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer> with additional BBC website <https://www.bbc.co.uk/> resources for 5-14 year olds.
- Eton are giving free access to their online curriculum for 14-18 year olds <https://etonx.com/>

Due to the government's cancellation of GCSE and A Level examinations this summer, pupils in years 11 and 13 will cease to study their courses after the Easter holidays. From 27th April work will be set for year 11 pupils to complete independently to bridge the gap between their GCSE and A Level studies. We advise that pupils select five courses to study for the two weeks, allowing them some flexibility regarding their choice of A Levels in the summer. Further information will be published after Easter.

We will also write to year 11 and 13 families after Easter to explain the process of awarding the pupils their GCSE and A Level grades. If you would like to read the government guidance as it is updated, please use this link [Link to DfE guidance](#). Please be mindful that we cannot answer individual enquiries about your children's potential results but will keep you as informed as possible.

The survey showed that the majority of pupils are enjoying the opportunity to be at home and 61% of them tell us that they are helping with household chores! For some, the worries about coronavirus and the absence from school and their friends will be more challenging. All pupils have been emailed the details of organisations (as well as school teachers and our counsellor) who can support them with their mental health. In addition to this information the Birmingham Mental Health Access Points for children aged up to 18 during COVID19 is PAUSE which is open 10am-6pm, 7 days a week, telephone 0207 841 4470.

Finally, during the Easter break the school will remain open with a skeleton staff every day apart from weekends and bank holidays. For enquiries about keyworker educational provision during or after the Easter holidays please use the email address edprovision@keaston.bham.sch.uk.

We wish you all a safe and relaxing Easter break; take good care of yourselves and thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Ms S Lewsey
Deputy Headteacher

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