



King
Egbert
School

*Celebrating 50 years of King Egbert School
1969-2019*

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Headteacher: Mr Paul Haigh
Chair of Governors: Mrs Karen Milbourn

Date: 13 December 2019

Our Ref: PHA/fh

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Departure arrangements for last day of the Autumn term and key information

As we come to end of our longest term of the school year I reflect on the many high points spread across a term of high quality teaching and learning by our staff and students. In November we welcomed back a group of ex-students from across the last 50 years to celebrate our Golden anniversary, this month we welcomed our very own Golden Girl, ex-student and Olympic gold medallist Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill, who brought the Santander Numeracy Truck to school for a day of fun, sport and mathematics with our wonderful new year 7.

I'm proud that in these days when many young people are sadly struggling with mental health, we are as a school providing better care than ever. Children are just like the 1 in 4 adults who face poor mental health each year. Our weekly wellbeing café means young people can talk to someone early, well before worries and pressures become a serious problem to get support.

I am also really proud of our fund raising work for local charities - our annual Christmas Cracker raising money for the homeless but also the first year of our Egbert Angels, where sixth form teams competed to run businesses to raise money for St Luke's Hospice - a charity close to everyone's hearts in this part of Sheffield.

In 2017, King Egbert School was awarded the World Class Schools Quality Mark, a prestigious award for those schools striving to be 'beyond outstanding'. Earlier this year our school was selected to host the World Class Schools annual symposium which was incredibly successful. We now have a team of Year 10 students working hard to gain re-accreditation of this important award, including a recent visit to Cambridge University.

So I write to wish you and your family a peaceful and relaxing Christmas holiday and send some reminders and updates:



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Last day arrangements

Firstly, as is customary in the traffic chaos of the last and darkest Friday of the school year, we will be doing a phased early release on the afternoon of 20 December to try to help students get home safely on what can be a difficult afternoon for travel:

Year 11	Dismissed at 12.27pm
Year 7 and Year 8	Dismissed at 1.20pm
Year 9	Dismissed at 1.55pm
Year 10, 12 & 13	Dismissed at 2.15pm

Winter weather

As we head into the depths of winter can I remind parents and carers to ensure your children come to school with a warm and waterproof coat and suitable footwear.

Shoes for school must be completely black. I am seeing coloured logos and trim which is not allowed; those students will be asked to wear black plimsolls provided by the school office. We make exceptions when it snows for wellies and boots to be worn.

If the school is to be shut on the morning of bad weather we will get the message out on the school website and via Edulink and radio - we will use multiple channels as a failsafe. More difficult is a serious deterioration in the weather during the school day where we sometimes close early to ensure a safe journey home for staff and students who are not local to the school. Please ensure you have signed the page (page 7) in your child's planner if you are happy for us to release them to make their own way home on such an occasion.

We will make parents aware of early closure in the usual ways and we will care for vulnerable students here until they are collected, but life is easier if responsible children have your permission in advance to leave. Phone lines can't cope with the calls we get when the snow starts to fall so be prepared and make plans with your child for what they should do if school closes.

The bus service

Families who rely on the First South Yorkshire 98 and 798 service to get to and from school will know the service has been very poor this autumn. We have made our dissatisfaction clear to First and involved the Sheffield City Region Mayor's office and Clive Betts MP in our complaints. Please help us campaign for a better service by tweeting complaints about late and missing buses to @FirstSouthYorks

6th Form Certificate and Presentation Evening

We look forward to welcoming back students and families of last year's Y13 for their presentation evening on Thursday 15 December at 5pm.

To clear up confusion, there will not be a GCSE Presentation Evening. In recent years attendance has been very low and we have tried various strategies to make it work better, but at this very busy time of year it does seem to be a challenge for families and the school calendar. As ever more students stay on into our sixth form we aim to celebrate with families at the end of their 7 year school career. We did mark the end of Y11 with an emotional final assembly and a wonderful prom at the Hilton Hotel in the summer. We also have fond memories of results days where lot of photographs were taken along with hugs and congratulations.

As some parents have already contacted the school to ask about GCSE presentation evening can I encourage parents to complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GCSEPresEve> so we can judge the level of interest and find out when the best time is to hold such events so we can make any future event a success.

The New Year

Finally as we end the calendar year we all look ahead to the New Year. I'd like our students to come back in January with a fresh commitment to join in activities beyond the classroom. If your child doesn't play sport, do drama, music, art, technology or go to one of a vast number of other clubs outside lessons, their education and character development is poorer for it.

I would like every single student to be doing at least one school activity a week outside of their normal lessons. We'll be asking students to make this part of their KES pledge. Please can you talk to your child over Christmas about education being more than just passing exams and that exam grades only give them opportunities in life? What they make of those opportunities depends on the kind of young person they grow into.

Growing their character is vital and we have so many opportunities for that in school it is sad that often those who would benefit the most are least likely to join in. Have a fresh look at their KES pledge in their planner, talk to family you meet over the holidays about your child's aspirations and give them encouragement to get there by making the most of their time at KES.

Wishing you all a happy, peaceful and relaxing Christmas holiday.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Haigh
Headteacher

