



King  
Ecgbert  
School

King Ecgbert School  
Totley Brook Road  
Dore  
Sheffield  
S17 3QU

Celebrating 50 years of King Ecgbert School  
1969-2019

0114 235 3855

enquiries@ecgbert.sheffield.sch.uk

www.ecgbert.sheffield.sch.uk

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

Date: 18 March 2020

Our ref: PHA/fh

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Coronavirus update 18 March 2020**

Thank you to the parents who have contacted us to thank us for our efforts at this difficult time. The whole KES community is pulling together in an inspiring way. This difficult time in our lives will pass but for now, as a community, we are focused on doing what is right and what is needed.

My priority is to keep communications effective, I hope that it's working well for you. Edulink is working really well and our school website has a dedicated page. Obviously there is a great deal of uncertainty around schools and specifically summer exams, but I will communicate with you as soon as things become clear - more on exams below.

Today you will know we have asked children in Year 8 and 9 to stay at home because we have so many absent staff. That will be the same tomorrow. I will also put that in a separate message to make sure it isn't missed.

All our staff are well, we still have no known cases of the virus, but some are isolated because they have children with coughs and temperatures and others working from home as they have underlying health conditions and need to practice social distancing. Please prepare for Year 8 and 9 to be off for some time.

I have chosen Year 8 and Year 9 for now because I want to keep our youngest students and our exam groups in school. While we are allowed to keep the building open we will offer child care *for any secondary school age* child where parents' work is directly related to managing the crisis - so NHS, social care, emergency workers but also other key roles like crisis management in public services, those involved in the food chain and of course teachers and child carers like ourselves trying to provide this service elsewhere.



THE ROYAL SOCIETY  
Associate Schools and Colleges

Please only use this service if you need it; responsible teenagers who can be left at home will be set school work.

**We are still sending home children who are presenting at school this morning with continuous coughs and/or high temperatures. Please do not send them. Your whole household should be self-isolating if your child is showing symptoms.**

We have had lots of questions from parents about the government advice regarding children with an underlying health condition, and if they should or should not attend school. If you are unsure if your child's health condition puts them in one of the 'vulnerable group' categories, please use the government advice on our website, speak to your GP or ring 111.

### Students working from home

I want to give you advice and information about how education will work for the students already at home and how we are planning to work should we have to send more year groups home.

At the moment we are teaching lessons to those who are here and trying to set work for year groups that aren't here, which is tricky. If we have to send more year groups home we'll be able to dedicate more teacher time to setting meaningful work and interacting with students to support them online.

I want to share some principles we intend to work to, which will also help you to keep your family wellbeing good.

1) I'm telling teachers and students to stick to the school time table and set work day by day, not send home lots of resources and open ended tasks and leave your children to it - I know students can't manage that. So I've asked they set short tasks, no more than what would be done in one lesson and then your children should look at their timetable for the day and work only on the subjects they should have that day, ideally at the time they'd have it and for one hour maximum on that subject. We should all protect evenings, weekends and the upcoming Easter holiday as time to not work and be with family, just as we do in normal times.

2) I want teachers and children to follow the school day. Teenagers need to keep healthy routines with sleep, so they should be doing school work between 9am and 3pm and can feel a sense of purpose at the start of the day and sense of achievement at the end. Then they can reward themselves with social time online and movies or getting fresh air. A walk at lunch time, if they are well, is good too.



3) Getting exercise, if they are well, is also important but not going to gyms or indoor or contact sport. It will help them sleep and give social interaction.

4) Teachers who are working at home will be available online to support students who are at home via email and will prioritise supporting their classes at the time they would be teaching that class - I don't want them virtually teaching students outside of the normal school day. I have instructed them not to answer lesson related messages outside of lesson time. This is why it would be far better if children don't end up doing school work we set in the evening, as the teachers shouldn't be online to help them. I want teachers stuck in homes to keep a structure to their day too so they know when to work and when to stop and be with their families. This is a lesson learnt from Italy's experience.

### Support for families

Year Managers will keep working with families who need their support - email has always been the first port of call for them so please use that; if you don't know someone's direct email address use [enquiries@ecgbert.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@ecgbert.sheffield.sch.uk) and it will be forwarded on. The safeguarding team are also carrying on. Vulnerable students can still make contact and will get help from us or other agencies if they need it. We are still here to care for you and your families and we recognise household stress will be high and anxiety made worse – if you need our help, ask for it, we will be working for you even if the building closes. You may need us more than ever and we are here for you.

### Children on free school meals

Plans are being made at a local and national level to ensure these children can access a free lunch if they are going to be away from school for a long period. I will keep you informed. We are also working to prepare laptops for Y11 and Y13 students who don't have computers at home so they can study - please contact us if your child would benefit from that and we will prioritise students eligible for the Pupil Premium in getting them.

### Summer exams

I have spoken to all of Year 11 and all of Year 13. There is no announcement about summer exams yet. We can hope the situation will ease before they start but we are told plans are being made for a range of situations. Again, as we find out, I will tell you. Students in Year 11 and Year 13 should keep working and expecting to take the exams. We have taught 90% of the courses and we would be moving many courses over to revision after Easter anyway. Our e-learning systems are well geared up to support that kind of work. Arrangements will be made nationally to ensure the exams are fair to all. They should not be anxious - everyone is in the same situation. Progression to the next stage of their education will happen, the arrangements will be clear in time. Practical exams such as art have been paused where we don't have the specialist staff to administer them safely and within exam regulations.



## Year 10 and Year 12

Of course we all expect exams in 2021 will be back to normal, with an understanding by exam boards about the impact this crisis will have had on students this year. But those students need to take work we set when they are at home seriously to minimise the amount of lost learning. That way we can get them back on track for 2021. This crisis will be part of their past and they need to plan for their future now by working as best they can.

### Advice in various languages

Please see the link below, which gives basic advice about Coronavirus and Covid-19 in 20 languages.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/193qQN9l04Dvf0N9L5zeWTiXK\\_DRbrAxg](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/193qQN9l04Dvf0N9L5zeWTiXK_DRbrAxg)

Yours faithfully



**Mr P Haigh**  
**Headteacher**

