



Striving for Excellence

# Cirencester Kingshill School

Head: Christine S. Oates

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have all had a good week and are continuing to keep safe and well. We continue to be very proud and impressed with how positively the pupils have approached their lessons, and the commitment that has been shown by all of them in following their timetables from home. As ever, we are aware that it is a very different way of working for both pupils and teachers, and we really do appreciate the support that you as parents and carers are giving your children at home.

If you have any questions, concerns or need to check anything at all with us, please get in contact with school via your child's tutor, Head of Year or the main school office, who will pass a message on to the most appropriate person in school.

## Homework during lockdown

We recognise that the learning experience is different via home learning, and so we also need to adapt our approach to a range of aspects, including homework. We are mindful of the amount of screen time that pupils are currently engaged in on a daily basis, and understand that it can be difficult to find a balance between screen time, independent work time, and pupils' free time.

For this reason, during this period of home learning, we will not be setting homework as per the homework schedule, but through extension tasks that encourage and support independent learning where the teacher feels it is appropriate.

## Free School Meals

Please remember that the deadline for registration of a hamper for those pupils entitled to Free School Meals is **10:00am on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. To register for a hamper, please email [finance@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:finance@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk) or telephone the school on 01285 651511. You will need to confirm your child's name and tutor group.

If you no longer wish to receive a hamper for your child, please email [finance@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:finance@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk) and you will be removed from the next order.

## Year 11 Assessment

Like all pupils, parents and carers, we are currently awaiting news relating to the systems that will be put in place to ensure that Y11 pupils get a fair set of GCSE results this summer. As soon as we do hear more, we will share our plans with Y11 pupils, parents and carers.

In the meantime, we are able to update Y11 on a number of events that were planned in the school calendar. Due to the current restrictions in place, the Study Skills session scheduled for Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 has been cancelled. With the national lockdown running through until at least February half term, we will also no longer be running the mock examinations scheduled for the week commencing Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021. This also means that the Progress Reports for Y11 will no longer be sent to you on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021, as these were due to contain information based on the results of the mock examinations.

Kingshill Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1HS

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Cirencester Kingshill School, registered in England and Wales under number 7686390.





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However, as part of our work in ensuring that we have a robust process and sufficient evidence for the submission of information on pupils' performance to support the awarding of their grades this summer, we are planning to run a series of formal internal teacher assessments later in the spring/summer term. Updated Y11 Progress Reports will be published shortly afterwards and sent home, to ensure that you receive an accurate summary of your child's attainment and progress. Further information on this will be published to you nearer the time, and will of course be informed by what we learn over the coming weeks from the Government and the awarding bodies, in terms of how the process of teacher based assessment will be carried out.

## **Lateral Flow Test Consent**

We are aware that there has been some press coverage in recent days surrounding the use of the Lateral Flow Testing in schools. At the point of writing, current guidance provided by the government is that we are still obliged to continue with testing of staff and key worker pupils who are on site, providing consent has been given. Having tested our school test site this week with staff volunteers, our current plan is to commence our testing programme from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021, with key worker pupils being tested on either Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 or Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021, and weekly on a rolling basis whilst lockdown continues.

For the wider school community who are currently learning from home, the current guidance requests that mass testing commences on their return to school. Full details about this programme are contained in the letter sent to parents and carers on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021. If you are happy for your child to participate in the testing programme and have not already completed the online consent form, please do so here <https://bit.ly/2KV3HJ3> as soon as possible. There is a significant amount of work involved in setting up the pupils who are consented to be tested ahead of the mass testing process, so your prompt action would be very much appreciated.

Thank you once again to you all for your hard work supporting your child with their home schooling this week. It is very much appreciated by all of us in school.

Please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Miss C. S. Oates  
Headteacher

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