



KINGSBURY HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 11 NEWSLETTER

Week commencing: 01/06/2020

Message from the Year Leader

Week 12 of lockdown has seen further easing of some restrictions in England. Non essential shops have now reopened and I hope most of you have got your Primark fix under control.

It has become mandatory to wear a face covering when using public transport in England. Please check with your GP as this may not apply to you if you have breathing difficulties. Do keep yourself safe and be vigilant at all times.

There have been some positive developments in North America with the introduction of “Breonna’s Law” in Louisville, Ky. The law oversees how search warrants are carried out and mandates that cops must use body cameras during searches. This is a small step in the process of positive police reform. You may feel that you do not have a voice, but you can write to your local MP, sign petitions with parental consent if needed, and show your support through the various positive initiatives on social media. **It is advisable not to attend protests or demonstrations as these could be a breach of lockdown laws.**

Information about Leavers Hoodies has been sent to you, parents and carers. **Please ensure that you read all the documents that have been sent to you.** If you receive Free School Meals, are Pupil Premium, SEN or a Looked After Child you will be eligible for a small discount. If you are unsure, do get in touch and I will let you know privately.

There have been a number of birthdays since the last newsletter; **Happy 16th Birthday** to: Hassan A, D’Twaun B, Vishil D, Rafat K and Kapish S.

Our next Newsletter will be on Friday 26th June 2020.

Message from the Stage Leader

The lockdown continues to ease up, and it seems strange that things feel almost back to normal. Most shops have now opened, with massive queues at Primark on Monday!, traffic is busy again on the roads and you can start to see more people out and about. At KHS we are returning to a form of normality, as we start to welcome Year 10s and 12s back into school, but with 2 metre social-distancing and one-way systems to minimise contact.



Also returning is Premier League football, which may help to cheer you up, depending on where your club sits in the table! 33 of the remaining matches will be free to watch on Freeview through the BBC or Pick TV <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/52889445>

For the first 12 matches, the normal players' names on the back of the shirts will be replaced with 'Black Lives Matter', and a Black Lives Matter badge will also feature alongside a badge thanking NHS staff for their work during this pandemic. The Premier League will also support any player who chooses to 'take a knee' before or during matches.



It is important though for us to always be mindful that for many people, normality is even further away, whether through illness or because their financial situation has changed.

The lockdown has had a huge effect on people's livelihoods. At least 70% of UK companies have placed workers on furlough, where the government will pay some of the wages during lockdown. But when the government scheme finishes at the end of October, companies may not be able to pay all their workers and could cut jobs.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefits has gone up as well, with poorer areas being hit hardest. Many families have fallen behind with rent or other bills, and they have had to cut back on food and other essentials. A survey by the Food Foundation in May said that more than 200,000 children in the UK have had to skip meals because their family could not access enough food during lockdown.

If your family circumstances have changed, please let us know and it is also worth your parents going onto <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> where they can enter their postcode and then go onto the website for the borough where you live and can apply online.

The campaign by Marcus Rashford shows that there is support out there, so please do ask for help if you need it.

Stay home as much as possible, Stay safe, Stay strong!

Message of the Week

MARCUS RASHFORD 1 THE GOVERNMENT 0

During the lockdown, the England and Manchester United footballer Marcus Rashford had already been doing great work helping vulnerable people, working with the charity FairShare UK to raise £20m to supply three million meals to children who have been financially affected by the pandemic.



Across England, about 15% of state school pupils are eligible for free school meals, but in some parts, like London and Manchester, the figure is much

higher. While schools have been closed, families who qualify for free school meals have been issued with a weekly voucher to spend at supermarkets. The Easter and May half-term holidays were included, but the government had said that the vouchers would not run during the summer holidays. This prompted concerns that many children could go hungry over the summer months.

Marcus Rashford used his platform as a high-profile footballer to help get publicity and support for the campaign to get the government to think again about this. On Monday, Rashford wrote an emotional open letter to politicians in which he detailed his own experiences of relying on free school meals and food banks growing up.

Rashford wrote: "My mum worked full-time, earning the minimum wage, to make sure we always had a good evening meal on the table, but it was not enough. As a black man from a low-income family in Wythenshawe, Manchester, I could have been just another statistic. Instead, due to the selfless actions of my mum, my family, my neighbours, and my coaches, the only stats I'm associated with are goals, appearances and caps.

"Food poverty in England is a pandemic that could span generations if we don't course correct now. This is not about politics, it's about humanity. Political affiliations aside, can we not all agree that no child should be going to bed hungry?"

(The full letter can be read here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/jun/15/protect-the-vulnerable-marcus-rashfords-emotional-letter-to-mps>)

That same day the government confirmed it would not provide free school meal vouchers during the summer, and the Department for Education said it was not going to change its mind. They defended their decision by saying that extra money had already been given to councils to help.

By Tuesday though, Marcus Rashford's involvement and the fact that some of the government's own MPs wouldn't vote for this, forced the government into a U-turn and it was announced that they would extend the voucher scheme for free school meals during the summer holidays.

Rashford says he wants to do more to help those in need after winning this battle, saying, "I don't want this to be the end of it because there are more steps that need to be taken... People are struggling all year around."

The great reaction to Marcus Rashford's campaign is a change to the stereotype of the selfish, overpaid professional footballer. Alongside Raheem Sterling, Rashford is one of a group of young footballers who are using their celebrity and influence in a positive way, speaking out on topics that they believe in which can only be positive for the future.

Careers Advice and Guidance

Ms Connie Collie (Connexions Advisor) will be available on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday between 9:00am and 3:00pm. Many of you have asked for help to write your CVs/Cover letters, completing college and apprenticeship applications, answered questions about university applications and what to do if things don't quite work out as planned. She is

not currently in school but continues to work from home and can be contacted via email: connie.colli@kingsburyhigh.org.uk or on the phone: 07584 270 467.

If you are 16 years old, you can apply typically for part-time jobs. If you haven't done so already start working on your CVs. All eligible 16 year olds will receive their National Insurance numbers in due course. There are a number of supermarket chains who are recruiting at present. These include: Aldi, Tesco, Asda, M&S, Morrisons, Lidl and Waitrose. If you are considering applying, please familiarise yourself with the rules of Child Employment: <https://www.gov.uk/child-employment/restrictions-on-child-employment>

Exams & 6th Form



Ofqual has provided official information about grading for this year's GCSE exams. Please watch attentively!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXuDOrtJY1Q&feature=youtu.be>

Bridging Work Information

Bridging work was sent out by email this week. Please read the information provided and direct any concerns or questions to the 6th Form team.

Useful Links

What to do if you're anxious about coronavirus -

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/#dealing-with-self-isolation->

If English is not your families first language there are COVID Guidelines in most community translation available from: <https://www.covidmessageforall.com>

Please pass on and share your families and friends so everyone one can understand and keep safe and healthy.