

10 September 2020

Dear Parents,

Thanks once again for your support over the last week and for ensuring we had another reasonably smooth week at The English College.

The number of cases in the UAE continues to rise, so it is more important than ever that our Health and Safety guidelines are clearly understood and followed; we are all responsible for the safety of the whole community. We still have concerns with the ability of some of our older children to follow basic guidelines on hygiene and social distancing. We are reinforcing this on a daily basis with your children but we also ask for your support to continue to reinforce our expectations at home.

Year 10, 11 and 12 pick-up continues to be a concern at the end of the school day and particularly their ability to social distance. As of next week, classes will be released in a staggered manner with Year 12 classes going first, then Year 10, then Year 11. One class will be released at a time, but students must show the teacher a message or call from their parent to say that they are here, in order to be released. Students without a message will remain in the classroom until they receive one. Can we please ask that parents do not send a message to say that they are here before they are as this leads to students congregating outside, waiting for their lift. Students who do come outside before their lift arrives will be asked to return inside, or stand outside on a socially distanced spot until their lift arrives. This may result in a slightly longer, but hopefully safer, dismissal process.

Please can we remind parents that if your child is too unwell to come onto school site then they should stay home until they have recovered. They are not expected to access distance learning and staff are not expected to provide distance learning to students that are sick on that day. Distance learning is only provided to students that have a prearranged agreement with the Head of School and is not a provision that can be accessed on days where a child is sick. If your child is off sick for two or more consecutive days, a medical note must be supplied to the school before they return.

This week you will have received an email on behalf of the school from King's College Hospital. As you will be aware from the D6 communication issued last week, KCH is now managing our clinic services and we are already seeing great improvements in this area. The first document from KCH, is to update information held at the school about your child(ren) and the second is a requirement of DHA. We understand that this is quite an undertaking however it is important that we have up to date information to ensure we can provide the very best healthcare to students whilst also meeting regulatory body requirements. We appreciate your support and patience with this.



Our Values are: Collaboration - Aspiration - Respect - Excellence - Responsibility

A number of our teachers have been receiving emails from parents and students after working hours in the evening and at the weekend. To maintain the well-being of our staff, we ask that both students and parents restrict communication to working hours, 6am to 6pm Sunday to Thursday. Any communication outside of these hours, including weekends, should only be in cases of real emergency. Members of the SLT are obviously on call 24/7, again in the case of an emergency.

Update on Primary area car park - we aim to minimise disruption in this area and are completing in stages so as not to affect current parking routines. We have asked for the main works to be done in the October half term to ensure the safety for our community coming to school each day. Please note that sand distributed on to the red pathway is necessary to bind the interlock of the path, we apologise for the inconvenience of this for those parking on the Primary side of the building but be reassured that this is only temporary.

We understand that pick up can be a challenge, but please ensure that when you collect your child, you do not park in a manner that blocks the residents' driveways or access to their garage. We have had a number of complaints recently.

We thank you for your continued support for the school.

Best Regards

Mark Ford

Principal