

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that everyone is keeping safe and well during this time and that most of you have been able to have a restful Spring holiday in spite of the on-going pandemic. We have all had to adapt to new ways of working, so I want to take this opportunity to say what an amazing job you are doing supporting your child's well-being and learning during this time.

It has definitely been a strange and challenging time, so it is understandable if you and your child feel anxious and frustrated at the moment. Please remember that we are here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together. While we miss having children in the academy, we must continue to follow the Government guidance to keep everyone in our community safe. In the meantime, we will continue to do our utmost to keep connected with you and your family and help provide home learning activities for your child/ren to get stuck into during the day until we are able to re-open the Academy following guidance from the Government.

Finally, as we start a new term, I would like to update you on some of the events that have taken place during the Spring holiday (see below), remind you that the next round of home learning work will be uploaded onto Insight/See-saw on Monday morning and share some important information regarding scam emails.

Acorn – Don't Worry, Be Happy

Whilst working from home, the Acorn team came together to produce two brilliant videos that we hope will put a smile on your face and remind you that we are always here and thinking of you during this difficult time. Please click the links below to watch the videos!

<https://youtu.be/l6abH1NfIDw>

<https://youtu.be/Hsj27vk0qUo>



TRUST RESPECT INSPIRE

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Clap for the NHS at KOA

During the Easter break, King's Oak was the **South Gloucestershire CLF Hub** academy. We welcomed students from John Cabot and Digitech to join our on-site learning provision. Our teachers continued to design creative activities to support the children of our key worker/vulnerable families. Last week, the team made keyrings and hearts for NHS day before gathering on the grass to celebrate our NHS heroes! It was great to see our children recognise the hard work that our NHS is doing to keep us safe during the pandemic.



Year 11 Virtual Assembly

Congratulations to the Year 11 students and teachers who participated in King's Oak's first live virtual assembly. 53 students signed in to watch Mr Cormack and their tutor team deliver the assembly. The tutors were able to thank the students and take a moment to reflect with them on the highlights they have had whilst teaching them this year. The event went extremely well and we are hoping to run more live virtual events in the future.

Home Learning

Our students have continued to impress us with the quality of home learning that they have been completing and uploading via Insight or See-saw. Thank you for your feedback about what is going well and how we could improve our home learning programmes. I hope that the changes we have been making have started to have a positive impact on your experiences at home. In the week beginning 27th April we will share a new Parent and Student Voice survey. This will allow us to continue to work together to support your child/ren as they learn at home.

Looking out for each other

Last week the Government launched the **Looking out for each other** campaign. The campaign focuses on how people can safely friends, family and neighbours in isolation with further information available at [gov.uk/safehelp](https://www.gov.uk/safehelp).



help

In this time of crisis, it is also important that we look out for each other at KOA. You will each have your own networks which will undoubtedly be supporting you in these uncertain times. May I encourage you today to take a moment to think of a friend/neighbour/relative who may be finding things particularly hard and perhaps reach out to them in some way? We are not invincible – and as we lead through this crisis, we will all need a little love and kindness.

Scam Emails

We are aware of some 'scam' emails being sent. It is unfortunate that even during times of national and international crisis some members of society will try to exploit vulnerabilities in our support systems.

One type of email that we have heard of says it is from 'free school meals' providers asking for bank details so they can transfer the free school meals credit directly to your account for use in shopping. This is a scam and trying to obtain bank details. Although we are in the process of sending shopping vouchers to free meals families we will be sending secure vouchers and would **never** ask for bank details. If you are concerned you have given any personal information to websites/links that may not have been legitimate please do contact your bank.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Ogden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katherine Ogden
Associate Principal