



**Kemnal
Technology
College**

8 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we end our first week back in another lockdown, I commend to you the resilience of our students and staff.

As a College and like all other schools, we have had to adapt since March of last year to a new way of providing learning remotely and have actively been working on ways that we can improve this to ensure that our students stay engaged and focussed. We have been made aware that students can now access Google Classrooms through their Xbox and/or PlayStation but that a keyboard is required. The College is able to offer a loan of a keyboard, should you like to take up this offer then please contact the school office who can arrange this for you. Attached is a leaflet with guidelines and advice on how to do this.

We continue to set work on Google Classroom and as from next week we will be providing "live" lessons. I do believe that 8AL this morning took part in a "live" form tutor session and I am reliably informed that students as well as staff loved seeing everyone and it was fun! This is something we are hoping to roll out next week for more forms and year groups. In terms of live lessons, this will be a blended approach with online work set alongside. We are still having to manage staff absences as well as supervising keyworkers children in school so not all staff are currently available to offer this service.

I am very conscious and mindful that some students may struggle during lockdown and to ensure that we are still very much "in this together", I have asked our pastoral team to contact all students in each year group this week just for a friendly chat, catch up and whether they have any concerns. We pride ourselves on the firm relationship between staff and students and I want this to go from strength to strength. It is my fundamental belief that a casual conversation with any student will ensure they feel supported, connected to school and will have the opportunity to get answers to any questions that they may have.

Similar to that of the last lockdown staff will be rewarding students with R3's for outstanding pieces of work that has been submitted. Students who achieve the most R3's for their work will then be further rewarded with Amazon vouchers. Therefore, I strongly urge all students to continue to do their very best and know that their work is not going unnoticed. I encourage Y11's to continue with their hard work - they gave up so much in terms of after school and coming in on Saturday which was a testament to their dedication in preparation for their exams. I ask that they please continue to work hard in all of their subjects and hand in pieces of work so that they can get the grades they deserve.

As from next Monday, I encourage students to watch BBC2 to additionally support their learning. They will be catering for secondary school students with programmes to support the GCSE curriculum. Content will be built around Bitesize shows and will also be available on demand. BBC have created an excellent resource to support your child's online learning. This is in addition to what the College currently provide via Google Classroom. All materials can be found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>.

www.ktc-tkat.org

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I strongly recommend that your child navigate the website as it's full of educational quizzes, puzzles, games, educational videos and so much more! In addition to the BBC, another website I would recommend is <https://www.thenational.academy>. They have lots of resources to support students and parents working at home.

As a College, we have already provided over 50 devices to students who did not have access to any device at home. We are now waiting for more devices from the DfE and once they arrive we will continue to allocate them to students who are in need of them most. You may have heard through the media that the Government has pledged to help students and young people with barriers to accessing remote learning by providing data increases for certain groups of disadvantaged children. This scheme must be administered through schools and the Department for Education (DfE), families cannot request an increase directly.

Who can get help?

Schools can request mobile data increases for children and young people who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:

- Three
- Smarty
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile

Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage.

What help is available?

This scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted. Increased data can be used when tethering a mobile phone to another device for internet access. Please note, not all networks can offer data increases to Pay-as-you-go customers.

When help is available

Schools, Trusts and Local Authorities can request mobile data increases when schools report a closure or have pupils self-isolating. A table showing the current offer from participating networks can be found at the end of this letter.

Please note, not all networks can offer data increases to Pay-as-you-go customers. We can also make requests for children who cannot attend school face-to-face because:

- they're clinically extremely vulnerable
- restrictions prevent them from going to school

Who can get help?

This scheme is open to children and young people who:

- don't have access to a fixed broadband connection
- cannot afford the additional data needed to access educational resources or social care services
- have access to a mobile device that uses a participating network
- are facing disruption to their face-to-face education, or have been advised not to attend school

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How to make a request?

Schools must make the request on behalf of children via the Department for Education scheme. Families cannot request this directly from their network. In order to request extra mobile data, the school needs to collect certain information, including:

- the account holder's name
- their mobile number (a number beginning with '07')
- their mobile network ● whether they pay monthly or Pay-as-you-go

What data you will get depends on your mobile network. Some networks can't offer data to Pay-as-you-go customers.

What is the process?

- 1 Please email admin@ktc-tkat.org with the information outlined above
- 2 The College will collate the submissions and pass the account holder's name and mobile phone details to the DfE via their online portal. The DfE will share these details with the relevant mobile network operator. The adult account holder's personal data is only shared with their mobile network operator for the purposes of the offer. No names of children or other adults, other than adult account holder, are shared with the DfE or the mobile network operator.
3. The account holder will receive a text message when their free data has been activated which will also give information on when their free data will end.

What if I don't meet the criteria for data increase?

If you are not able to sign-up for this or increasing your data allowance is not going to help you support your child's remote learning, it may be possible for the school to obtain a 4G wireless router from the DfE.

However, these are subject to stricter criteria. These are only provided to disadvantaged children:

- who do not have internet access and whose face-to-face education is disrupted (you need to demonstrate why you can't use the data increase)
- in any year group who have been advised to shield because they (or someone they live with) are clinically extremely vulnerable.

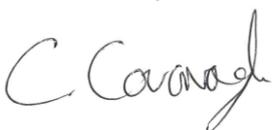
If you wish to request a Wireless Router, please email admin@ktc-tkat.org and someone will contact you to obtain the necessary information.

Further information can be found at <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data>

I do appreciate that this is a lengthy letter with a lot of information contained. Please note, like all correspondence from the College, this letter will be available on our website for you to refer back to at any time.

As always, please keep safe and remain well.

Yours faithfully



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EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

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