Dear Families

I would like to bring to your attention some forthcoming key dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 20th December</strong></td>
<td>The Academy will close for the Christmas break at midday. In line with tradition, the Sixth Form will also organise a Christmas Wonderland fair on the day for all students. This is also a non-uniform day.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 6th January</strong></td>
<td>The Academy will open for students at 8.35am. Students will follow week 1 of their timetable.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th January</strong></td>
<td>Year 11 Progress Interviews and Sixth Form interviews will take place on these days. These are normal school days for all students.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 8th January – Friday 7th February</strong></td>
<td>External examinations in BTEC courses will take place during these days. Students will be issued with an examination timetable informing them of the dates and times of each exam.</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 15th January – Friday 31st January</strong></td>
<td>Mock examinations for students in Years 12 and 13; also, maths, English and science mocks for students in Year 11. Students will be issued with an examination timetable informing them of the dates and times of each exam.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 21st January – Parents’ Afternoon for Year 8</strong></td>
<td>Parents’ Afternoon for students in Year 8 from 1:30pm until 5:00pm. The Academy will close at 12:30pm for all students.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 7th February – Year 11 Progress Day</strong></td>
<td>Only students in Year 11 are expected to attend on the day. There is an external BTEC exam on this day too – all students taking this exam must also attend.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 14th February</strong></td>
<td>The Academy will close for the half term break at 3.10pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 24th February</strong></td>
<td>The Academy will open for students at 8.35am. Students will follow week 1 of their timetable.</td>
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Academy Uniform

You will also find enclosed a copy of the Academy’s uniform policy. Can I please ask that you pay particular attention to our rules on footwear and haircuts? If in any doubt please contact your child’s pastoral manager for guidance.

Revision sessions

The Academy will run revision sessions during the Easter Break and the May Half Term break as well as on the following Saturdays:
  - Saturday 1st February
  - Saturday 7th March
  - Saturday 21st March
  - Saturday 25th April
  - Saturday 2nd May
  - Saturday 16th May
  - Saturday 6th June
  - Saturday 13th June
  - Saturday 20th June

Students required to attend these revision sessions will be informed separately a week before a session is due to take place; students can also check on display boards by the restaurant which revision sessions they are required to attend.

Examinations

All students must attend the Academy as normal during examination periods. Students involved in exams, including mock exams, must be in the Academy’s theatre by 8:35am for morning exams and by 12:45pm for afternoon exams.

Appointments and Interviews

Can I please ask that you make every effort to arrange these outside of Academy hours?

Unauthorised Absence

The Academy is unable to approve requests for holiday during term time, the Department of Education guidance on this matter is very clear. Consequently, such absence will be unauthorised.

Electronic devices

Students who wish to bring an electronic device such as a mobile phone to the Academy must ensure that their device is always switched off and out of sight whilst on the premises. We would also suggest that parents and carers periodically check children’s devices with a view to monitoring use; if something concerning comes to your attention, please feel free to contact the year team, and we will endeavour to help or signpost you to possible areas of support.
Students cycling to the Academy

Prior to cycling to the Academy, we ask that parents/carers complete a cycle permit form; we cannot allow any bicycles on site without a completed form. A key element of the permit form is that the student wears an appropriate cycle helmet whilst riding their bike to and from the Academy. Can I please ask that parents/carers ensure their child has a helmet and wears it?

Free School Meals

Can I remind families that your son/daughter is eligible for free school meals if you meet any of the following criteria:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get any of the above benefits in their own right (ie they get benefits payments directly, instead of through a parent or guardian) can also get free school meals.

To apply or renew your application for Free School Meals on-line you can:

- Apply on-line at www.link2ict.org/FSM
- This is a one off application for your child’s whole school career – your eligibility will be checked electronically every week (replacing the need to bring paperwork into the Academy).
- If you need support with completing the on-line application or have any queries, please contact the KESH reception staff on 0121 464 4428.
- You will also find the link on the homepage of the Academy website.

Water

As you will be aware from previous letters, the only drink allowed on site is water. Water can be purchased and consumed in the Academy restaurant. Students can also fill their reusable bottles (not those purchased with water in) at various locations in the Academy. Students will be able to buy, at cost price, reusable bottles from the Academy.

Water bottles available at KESH are compliant with exam regulations. Students who use their own water bottle may not be allowed to take their water bottle in an examination room if their water bottle is not compliant with exam regulations; when this is the case, water will be provided to students.

Nut allergies

We have a number of students at our Academy who have been diagnosed as having a nut allergy. As a consequence, I would kindly request, you avoid including nut-based products in packed lunches.
Parking when visiting

When visiting the Academy in your car, you are welcome to bring the car on site through the Sheldon Heath Road entrance. Proceed forward, turn right and use the visitor parking. Please can you avoid parking on residential streets.

Dropping off and collecting students

Can I please ask that when dropping off or collecting your sons and daughters, you are mindful of local residents? In particular, can you please not park across drives or block pavements. You might want to consider arranging to pick up your son/daughter at a point away from Kenmure Road. Your cooperation with this matter would be very much appreciated.

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Appointment of New Principal – Message from Roy Palmer, Chair of Governors

“I am delighted to inform you that following a thorough recruitment process, the Governing Body has appointed Ms Rebecca Elcocks as Principal of King Edward VI Sheldon Heath Academy. She will take up her position after the Easter break.

Ms Elcocks will join us from Four Dwellings Academy, part of the Academies Enterprise Trust (AET), where she currently holds the position of Executive Headteacher. Sheldon Heath will be Ms Elcock’s second headship. In addition to her role at Four Dwellings, Ms Elcocks has also provided strategic leadership to other schools in the group.

Ms Elcocks was educated in Birmingham, having attended Perry Beeches School and Rowley Regis College. She gained a BSc (Hons) from the University of Central England and studied for a PGCE in Science at the University of Wolverhampton. Ms Elcocks lives in the area with her family.

Committed to a culture of high aspiration, enrichment and equality, Ms Elcocks genuinely believes education has the power to transform lives. She is highly experienced in building strong teams to drive sustainable change and has extensive involvement in supporting community engagement.

Ms Elcocks’s personal values are strongly aligned to those of the King Edward VI Academy Trust and the Governors are delighted to have appointed such an inspiring leader.”

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Finally can I please take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Yours sincerely

John P Allen
Principal