

To: All KAA Parents

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

Dear all,

Please see below some important updates regarding KAA's response to Grenfell Tower fire. We will be issuing further regular updates in the coming days and weeks.

### **Feedback from assemblies at BDA today**

There are no words for how proud I was of our students today. Attendance was above 80%, and students have shown great strength of character in coming in and supporting each other. It was lovely to see them all, and we are looking forward to seeing those who didn't feel they could attend today on Monday.

The majority of students were very happy to be back and eager to see friends, teachers and resume their learning. Some were upset, but coping well. A small number seemed, understandably, distressed. I want to make clear to parents the following points:

- We have taken extensive advice from experts on how a large secondary school like ours should respond to a traumatic event. This advice states, unequivocally, that the best policy is to re-open and try to get back to normal as soon as possible.
- We have extensive counselling and psychological support for any students who exhibit distress and we have told students all about this and how they can access it, however no one is under any obligation to take this up.
- It is early days but, as I said, the majority seem to want to carry on with lessons asap. Children are incredibly resilient and an example to us all. However, if any student does want support, it is there at a moment's notice.
- In the unlikely event that any parent does not wish for their child to be eligible for counselling, please let us know at [info@kaa.org.uk](mailto:info@kaa.org.uk) email address.
- We will be providing drop-in counselling for parents and students together as well from Monday. If you would like to take us up on this please come to Ark Burlington Danes Primary Academy (entrance on Du Cane road) between 3 and 4 pm. There may be capacity issues here depending on take-up, but let's see.

### **Parent Communication**

Please be assured my team and I are doing everything we can to issue key updates simultaneously to students and parents, however this is a developing situation and it will not always be possible. Our focus must be our students first. An example of this is the news that KS3 will be based at BDA until the end of this summer term, with KS5 at Latymer Upper School, which we told to students this morning yet are only telling parents this evening. We will do our best to keep parents regularly informed, but as far as possible please trust us and wait for updates on the website. If large numbers of parents call and email during this period

it will be difficult to handle and divert time from our students. Having said that, if you feel you need to, you must email: [info@kaa.org.uk](mailto:info@kaa.org.uk).

### **BDA – Our temporary KS3 home**

When we first opened KAA I remember fielding a lot of questions from parents: “*Will my student receive an excellent education?*” or “*What will behaviour be like?*” All of this was completely natural, and as a parent I would have asked the same at that time. Fast forward three years and KAA is now a hugely popular and successful school, heavily oversubscribed and the school of choice for families in North Kensington.

Today my team and I have been getting similar questions. “*How will behaviour work at BDA?*” or “*Is there a risk of two schools being on the same site?*” I’ll give you the same answer now as I gave in 2013/14: **Please be assured that both teaching and behaviour will be excellent at KAA while we are based here; every lesson, every day.** You have my personal commitment of that.

Some detail:

- BDA and KAA students will not intermingle unless there is staff supervision. KAA students are arriving and leaving at different times and breaks and lunches are separate.
- Senior staff will be a visible presence on local streets at the beginning and end of the day.
- BDA is an outstanding school with outstanding behaviour. It is also, fortunately, somewhere I worked myself from 2006 to 2010. Michael Ribton the Principal is a close colleague of mine. As such, over the last few days we have fallen totally in sync with how Michael and his team run this school. BDA are being brilliant, and giving us everything we need.
- This may sound strange for parents to hear but I honestly think, based on today and how our timetable is coming together, the quality of your child’s education and their personal development, behaviour and safety is going to be remarkably unaffected by this move to BDA.

### **Latymer Upper School – our temporary sixth form home**

- Y12s will be taking their AS Exams here with us at BDA, but will be having their lessons at Latymer Upper on Kings Street, Hammersmith. Given the maturity and independence of our wonderful sixth formers I will not explain more about this here – they can give you the full picture themselves.

### **When are we moving back to our own building?**

Realistically, September. You will have seen that we are right in the middle of the cordoned off area, and we have no firm details as yet on when we will be able to get access to the building.



## **Timings of the day**

### Year 7

*Students arrive and leave via Du Cane road entrance of BDA Primary School (where all Y7 lessons are taking place). BDA have asked that you do not drive your children in.*

	Start	Finish
Line up	08:50	09:00
Lesson 1	09:00	09:45
Lesson 2	09:45	10:30
Lesson 3	10:30	11:15
Break	11:15	11:30
Line up	11:30	11:35
Lesson 4	11:35	12:20
Lesson 5	12:20	13:05
Family Dining Sitting 1	13:05	13:30
Family Dining Sitting 2	13:30	13:55
Lesson 6	14:00	14:45
Leave BDA site	14:45	

### Year 8 & Year 9

#### ***“Half a day of lessons, but a full day of learning”***

It is not possible to have both Y8 & 9 in all day, however my Heads of Department are working intensively to upload lessons and revision materials to our KAA Online website. Y8 & 9 students will be expected to complete this work from home and their work will be marked and turned around quickly. It will be a different kind of learning, but not any less purposeful (as long as they do it all!)

*Students arrive and leave via Wood Lane entrance of BDA Secondary School (where all Y8 & 9 lessons are taking place). BDA have asked that you do not drive your children in. Students should eat lunch at home with the exception of those eligible for FSM who we will provide food for. Any Family Dining payments parents have made for June & July will be refunded in due course.*

<b>Year 8</b>		
Line up	08:50	
Lesson 1	09:00	09:45
Lesson 2	09:45	10:30
Lesson 3	10:30	11:15
Break	11:15	11:30
Line up	11:30	11:35
Lesson 4	11:35	12:20
Leave BDA site	12:20	
<i>KAA Online / Revision</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>	



Year 9	Start	Finish
<i>KAA Online / Revision</i>	<i>Morning</i>	
Arrive at BDA	13:05	
Line up	13:10	
Lesson 1	13:15	14:00
Lesson 2	14:00	14:40
Short Break	14:40	14:50
Lesson 3	14:50	15:30
Lesson 4	15:30	16:15
Leave BDA site	16:15	

### Miscellaneous

- To protect your children and give them the space they need to re-focus on their education please discourage them from talking to the press.
- There is a lot of rumour and speculation out there about what has happened and students from the tower who may be missing. Please discourage them from engaging in that too – we are in touch with emergency services and families and will issue formal, factual statements as and when we have them.
- Upcoming events such as Y9 Options interviews, Y6 Transition interviews, Y6 Parents Evenings and new Y12 induction are currently “on hold” but will all go ahead, in one form or other, as soon as possible. We are quickly getting the school back up to speed and full details will follow. For Y9 parents, please rest assured that every student will be given the GCSE choices they want, irrespective of any exam results later this term, as long as we consider that, based on their performance over the course of the year, they are making the right choices. We have no desire to add to any anxiety Y9 may be feeling at this time.
- You will have questions – I understand this. With that in mind I will be hosting a full parent Q&A meeting as soon as possible, most likely next week. However, as I said, above my focus must be ensuring a smooth and productive education for all our students, starting on Monday.

I will leave it there for the moment, but finish where I started: **KAA students did themselves proud today.** They were brilliant, and they are resilient enough to get through this (with careful support). KAA has a strong ethos and culture which will carry us through this period and out the other side. In fact, I can already see how, however sad and distressing this tragedy is, our school will emerge **stronger than ever before.** But to do this I will need parents support; so please trust us, just as you have always done – we will not let you down.

Intrepidus,

**David Benson**  
**Principal**