

14th May 2012

Dear Parents

### Olympic Torch

Firstly, many, many, thanks to all of you who have been in touch to wish me well following the knee injury I sustained about a month ago. In spite of some fairly agonising physiotherapy, the knee is mending nicely and the prognosis a full recovery.

My chief reason for writing, however, is to remind you of our special arrangements for the Olympic Torch celebrations on Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup>.

As you know, the Olympic Torch will be arriving at the Cathedral that morning at about 8.25 a.m. and then passing the School's front gates on Gouda Way at about 9.00 a.m. before leaving the city for Maisemore, Hartpury and Hereford. Naturally we hope the runners will be greeted by large and enthusiastic crowds.

Given all this – and the fact that central parts of the city will be shut to traffic two hours before and possibly up to two hours after these events, - I have decided that School will not open that morning **until 10.45 a.m.**, with Tutor Registration, morning break and period 3 to follow at the usual time of 11.20 a.m. for the Senior School and for the Junior School as soon after Registration as possible.

Our bus service that morning will therefore be running two hours late, meaning that a 7.30 a.m. pick-up, for instance, will take place at 9.30 a.m. In any case, all buses will have arrived by 10.30 a.m. (i.e. fifteen minutes before Registration). However, if the centre of the city is still closed at that time, pupils may be dropped to walk from the nearest possible point to the school itself.

At the same time, an exceptional arrangement for the 70 or so pupils with exams that morning (beginning at 9.30 a.m.) has also had to be made. As you know from my last letter, our advice here is that, as far as possible, those affected should stay with a friend if they live in central Gloucester and are within walking distance of the school. If this is not possible, please check the maps on local websites to identify possible drop-off points, one very feasible route being into the city from the Tewkesbury roundabout, past Plock Court and up to Estcourt Road.

If your son or daughter has an exam that morning and in order to ensure that they will be at King's in good time, we would like them to arrive by **8.00 a.m.**, reporting at that time to Mrs Rodford, our Examinations Officer, in the **School Library**. A light breakfast will be available for examination pupils, should they wish, at that time. As the buses will be running later, this means, I'm afraid, that it will be necessary to make your own travel plans, which is why I am again reminding you of the intended arrangements.

To complicate things further, the Olympic Torch will also be visiting certain other areas the day before, on Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will particularly affect one of the buses, the Painswick / Brockworth / Hucclecote bus, which will, in order to avoid the various blockades,

leave King's one hour later, at 5.30 p.m. (i.e. one hour after the other bus services) and then travel on an altered route, visiting the same stops but in the opposite order. We are sorry for the inconvenience this will cause, but feel that this is the only practical solution in the circumstances and in light of the information we have been given.

If you have any questions about the above, please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing us at the usual school address, [reception@thekingsschool.co.uk](mailto:reception@thekingsschool.co.uk). Otherwise, we hope the day will be an enjoyable 'preview' of the great events to follow in August.

Yours sincerely

**Alistair Macnaughton**  
**Headmaster**