

In Touch



HEADTEACHER'S LETTER 3

12TH JANUARY 2009

KINGSDOWN SCHOOL
www.kingsdownschool.co.uk

Dear Parents

Happy New Year to you all. As we start 2009 we have some excellent news, following on from our extremely positive Ofsted Inspection we have been successfully re-designated as a Technology College.

We have opened the new Nursery and there have been a number of premises improvements which started over the Christmas holiday.

I am delighted to inform you that two members of teaching staff were successful in winning Swindon Excellence Awards, Louise Morge as Outstanding New Teacher and Claire Gilmore as Best Secondary Teacher for 2008, they will be receiving their awards at the end of January.

I would like to thank all parents who completed the Kirkland Rowell Survey, the results are to be analysed externally and a report will be delivered to the school soon.

We have attached key dates for your diary, may I remind you that on TD Days the school is closed for students.

Wendy Taylor, Headteacher

School Transport

Following the successful opening of the Nursery we are pleased to inform parents that a new building project began over the Christmas period. Work is being carried out to replace all the old windows in our Block C with new double glazed units.

Not only will this improve the look of the building but will greatly enhance the learning environment for our students. The work will take approximately 12 weeks to complete and once finished will enable us to carry out further works to the interior of the building.

The work is extensive and will take a considerable effort to plan to ensure minimal disruption to the teaching and learning of our students.

Because of the nature of the works we are carefully planning and monitoring the health and safety of the programme on the whole site. To this end it has been agreed to continue with the current restriction on site of parent and visitor cars. We very much appreciate the co-operation and assistance you gave us during the construction of the nursery and I am sure you will understand our reasons for continuing to ask parents not to come on site at the beginning or end of the school day during this difficult construction period.

As part of a wider consultation on School Travel I would appreciate if you would spare us 10 minutes of your time to respond to our parent travel survey which can be found on our website. We value the views and opinions of parents and students - by completing the survey we will be able to understand the travel issues faced by everyone who visits our school.

Changes to the School Day

We have been operating changes to the school day since September 2008 and providing supervision to a small percentage of students who remain on site on a Friday. The responses to the changes by staff and students, to date, have been extremely positive.

From September 2009, it is proposed that the new school day timings are formalised and the supervision on each Friday is withdrawn. Governors will make the final decision and the outcome will be communicated to parents thereafter.

Any parents wishing to forward comments either positive or negative about these proposals, should e-mail or write to Mrs Taylor, Headteacher.

TD Days

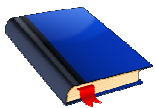
Friday 30th January

Monday 20th April

Monday 29th June

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12th January	Year 10 GCSE Science Exam
14th January	5.00pm - Year 9 Parents Evening
15th January	Year 11 re-takes
15th January	Year 9 Trip to Stratford - Romeo & Juliet workshop
16th January	Year 11 Mock Interviews
19th January	Y11 GCSE Science Exam
20th January	5.00pm - Year 7 Parents Evening
23rd January	Y11 GCSE Science Exam
26th January	Y11 GCSE Geography Exam
28th January	Y9 Options Evening
30th January	TD Day - school closed for students
6th February	World Book Day
13th February - 20th February	Ski Trip to Austria
16th February - 20th February	Half Term
5th/6th/9th March	School Production
10th March	5.00pm - Y8 Parents Evening
17th March	5.00pm - Y10 Parents Evening
19th March	Diphtheria/Tetanus Yr 10 boosters (+ Yr 11 catch-ups)
23rd - 27th March	Kingsdown visit to Poitiers
24th March	Y11 Revision Evening
28th March - 5th April	Ski Trip to Italy
3rd April	School closes to students at 11.55am
6th April - 17th April	Easter Holiday
20th April	TD Day - school closed to students



'The Times' and 'Sunday Times' Books for Schools Promotion

Each week, for 12 weeks, from January 2009, The Times and The Sunday Times will be printing 12 Books for Schools tokens; four in The Sunday Times, three on Saturday in The Times, and one each day from Monday to Friday for parents and teachers to collect.

With some fantastic titles available for as little as ten tokens, one person reading The Times and The Sunday Times could put up to 43 books into a school library during the promotion.

The more tokens you collect, the more books you can help your school claim!

Thank you to all students for your donation to the Non-Uniform Day on 19th Dec, a grand total of **£1,302.04** was raised for Oxfam's Christmas Unwrapped programme to buy a goat.

Kingsdown Extended Services & Community Page



Sunrise Nursery now open!

Kingsdown School and its surrounding community can now benefit from an on site nursery.

Sunrise Nursery moved from Grange Infant School to Kingsdown to open for business on the 5th January 2009. This is a private enterprise, with Sunrise Nursery renting the accommodation from Kingsdown School. The nursery has 34 places made up of six 0-2's, twelve 2-3's & sixteen 3+.

Sunrise offer a welcoming, stimulating and happy environment where children can learn through play. They have some excellent facilities including undercover areas on soft tarmac for all weather play and healthy meals provided by Kingsdown catering.

For nursery place inquiries please speak to Paula McKinna at Sunrise Nursery on 01793 820858.



New Community Room open

Based on feedback from our adult learners we have now created an area that can be accessed in the day for our I.T courses.

Anyone interested in gaining skills can book at a cost of £5 for two hours of learning. Courses include learning to E-mail, basic and improves Internet, Excel or Word.

French week

Across the cluster of schools we will be focusing on France for a week.

Events such as a themed lunch with a film, a French breakfast, Tour de France, wind up snail racing, dance, art & cooking could all be activities on offer at lunchtimes or after school.

Look out in tutor groups and on the Web page for further details.



Free Basic Internet class starting for adults

No experience required

Thursday 22nd January @ 4pm - 6pm

Must be booked in advance

Lesley Bayliss

Extended Schools and Community Coordinator

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