

IN TOUCH



HEADTEACHER'S LETTER NO 1

24TH SEPTEMBER 2007

KINGSDOWN SCHOOL
www.kingsdownschool.co.uk

Welcome to the new academic year, especially to the students who have joined us for the first time in year 7. I am pleased to report that our year 11 GCSE results this year were the best in the school's history. Congratulations to all the students on their achievements and I would like to pay tribute to all the staff for their hard work and commitment. We are well on our way to becoming an "Outstanding School".

The school is looking better than ever, we have invested over £200,000 in the upgrading and maintenance of the schools facilities. We now have a fantastic music suite equipped with the latest

Technology, as well as a complete refurbishment of the Food Technology rooms due to be completed this month. Redecoration has taken place in a variety of locations around the school. The school hall has had a "makeover" and is looking very good.

I hope as many of you as possible will take the opportunity to visit the school during our open evening on Wednesday 26th September. Although the evening is aimed at year 6 pupils, all are welcome. Guided tours are available, please let us know if you wish to attend.

Wendy Taylor, Headteacher

Key Dates for your Diary

EVENT	DATE
Y7 Photos	21st Sept 2007
Open Evening 6.30pm	26th Sept 2007
KSFA AGM	2nd Oct 2007
Yr 7 Welcome Evening	10th Oct 2007
Yr 11 GCSE Art Mock Exam	29th & 30th Oct 2007
Recital Evening	6th Nov 2007
Presentation Evening	23rd Nov 2007
Academic Tutoring Day	28th Nov 2007
Yr 11 Parents Evening	6th Dec 2007
Christmas Concert	13th Dec 2007
Church Christmas Concert	17th Dec 2007
School closes @ 12.30pm	21st Dec 2007

New Mini Bus

We are pleased to announce that we have purchased a new 16 seater, Ford Transit mini bus for the school.



PRESENTATION EVENING

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE OF THE PRESENTATION EVENING HAS CHANGED TO FRI 23RD NOV 2007

ACADEMIC TUTORING DAY

Wednesday 28th November 2007 is the date for the school's academic tutoring day. This is an opportunity for parents and students to meet with the tutor to discuss the progress being made and to review and set targets. Please make every effort to ensure that you are available to attend a meeting on that day. Further information will be circulated nearer the time.

TD DAYS THIS SCHOOL YEAR

12th October 2007
16th November 2007
19th November 2007
21st April 2008
30th June 2008

'BUY AT' Kingsdown.

This is the perfect site to buy your Christmas gifts. Every purchase you make from top stores from Amazon to Marks and Spencers earns money for Kingsdown School. It's also easy and cuts out those long hours spent in over-crowded streets! Just click on the 'Buy at' icon on our home page or access through the KSFA page. Happy shopping!

Examination Results

KEY STAGE 3

Here is a summary of the results for Y9 students:

	2007			2006		
Level	Maths	English	Science	Maths	English	Science
Level 5+	77%	TBC	84%	81%	84%	78%
Level 6+	53%	TBC	50%	59%	46%	53%
Level 7+	28%	TBC	20%	33%	11%	27%

Our English papers have been sent back to be remarked as they were significantly below the level that we had anticipated. Following advice from the LA advisor for English, the entire Cohort have been sent back.

KEY STAGE 4

Our Year 11 students achieved the school's best ever GCSE results. The unvalidated results show that 62% of students achieved 5 A* - C grades. The number of students who achieved 5 A* - C grades including Maths and English was 51.2%. Outstanding performers included Darcy Hall who gained 8 A*'s, 3 A's, and 1 B, Kirstyn Norman who gained 5 A*'s, 5 A's and 2 B's, Kate Leedham who achieved 5 A*'s, 4 A's, 1B and 1C and Julie Cook who achieved 5 A*'s, 4 A's and 2 B's. Other students who exceeded expectation were Alex Conn, Jacqueline Case, Roxanne Duff, Daniel Lawrence, Emma Morris, Samantha Reynolds, Zoe Bucko and Shaun Stannard.

Here is a summary of the recent trend of students achieving 5 A* - C's:

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
%	57	61	59	60	60	62

CATS

Year 7 students took part in cognitive ability tests (CATS) throughout the week of 17th to 21st September 2007. This provides the school with invaluable data which is used by teachers to support the teaching and learning strategies adopted in lessons. No preparation or revision is required by students.

KSFA UPDATE

Fashion Show

1st November 2007, a letter will be sent home shortly to order tickets.

Christmas Bazaar

On the 24 November there will be a Christmas Bazaar. At the moment we are looking for people to hire a table to display their craft items. Tables are £10 each plus a raffle prize. Please contact Anne Watkins for more information.

Fones4schools Another push for the Fones4schools.

Website

KSFA have now got a web page which can be accessed from the school website, this gives an date



NEW STARTERS IN SEPTEMBER 2007

Name	Job Title
Lee Simpson	Acting Faculty Leader, English
Kathleen Bennett	Science
Catrina Castan-Remis	Maths
Darren Cluney	D&T
Neil Gutteridge	Modern Foreign Language
Deborah Miller	D&T
Jane Showler	General Subjects
Alan Weatherell	D&T
Andrew Wicker	Music
Owen Reardon	ICT
Mark Davis	PE/SSCo
Louise Kitchener	RE
Terence Hemmings	D&T Technician
Lesley Bayliss	Extended School Service Co-ordinator

Congratulations to the following:

John Rumble	- Acting Assistant Headteacher
Simon Raisey	- Acting Assistant Headteacher
Andy Staff	- Acting Head of Year
Helen Siviter	- Acting Head of Year
Isabelle Muller	- ASD Centre Co-ordinator
Michelle Knowles	- Inclusion Centre Co-ordinator

GIRLS PE—LUNCH TIME CLUBS

Girls PE are running a number of lunch time clubs as follows:

Monday	: Year 8 & 9 Hockey
Tuesday	: Year 7 Hockey
Wednesday	: Year 7 Netball
Thursday	: Year 10 & 11 Hockey, Year 8 & 9 Netball
Friday	: Year 10 & 11 Netball

Please see your PE teacher, Miss Morge, for further details.

LEARNING CAFE

The Learning Café is open once again from 3.25pm to 5.00pm Monday to Friday in the Learning Resource Centre. Students can access books, computers and staff for homework/coursework. Squash and biscuits are provided to keep students going.

UNIFORM

We are impressed with how smart everybody looks, please keep it up and we would like to thank you very much for the support you have shown in helping us to improve the appearance of students.

MOBILE PHONES



Further to my letter regarding mobile phones, I would like to confirm that mobile phones should be switched off and not be seen throughout the school day. We would like parents support on this matter and remind you that you may contact your child in an emergency, by ringing school reception during the day. Mobiles will be confiscated and a sanction applied if students are caught using their phone during the school day.

Extended schools



My name is Lesley Bayliss and I am the Extended Schools and Community Co-ordinator. My aim is to make sure we cover the five key areas of the every child matters strategy, make Kingsdown and its feeder Schools an assessable community resource and provide support and development opportunities to pupils and the community.

I'm a great believer of what you put in is what you get out and would love to hear from parents, grandparents or anyone in the community that could offer a couple of hours a month to pass on a skill. Everyone has something to share whether it be composting to cartooning, bricklaying to Bollywood dancing. If you would like to find out how you could play a vital part in shaping your communities future then please call me on 01793 822284 or e-mail : lbayliss@kingsdownschool.co.uk

Be quick as there are still some places left on the **Free Yr8 Football study support course at Swindon Town FC**. This is a rare and exciting opportunity, open to both girls and boys who will commit for five weeks. All transport included. Starting date is Thursday 19th Sept from 3.30pm until 5.30pm. Please contact Mrs Stockford for more details.

Peer mentoring is an ongoing scheme where by Y9 and Y10 students offer support to younger students. The mentoring cycle will begin in the next month and applications for future mentors will be in the summer.

Watch out for details of further new, different and creative courses in the pipeline!

The Music Department have some exciting classes including a jazz group, choir, Orchestra and even drum kit rooms available after school. Contact Mrs Barnes for details.

The Learning Resource Centre is open from **8.00am until 5.00pm** every day. Facilities include a library and computer facilities, pop in after school to use the facilities and get free squash and biscuits!

Y10 Sports Leader course every Thursday 3.30pm until 4.30pm running all year, term time only, please contact Mrs Handley for details. *A course directed at pupils wishing to work towards a sports leader qualification to enable them to teach sport to primary school children.*

Every Child Matters

Be Healthy



Stay Safe



Enjoy and Achieve



Make a positive contribution to the community in which they live



Achieve Economic Well Being



Soccer Coaching Skills



Date: Mon October 22nd – 26th

Venue: Kingsdown school

Time: 9.00 - 3.30pm

**Cost: £10 per day - £40 per week
25% sibling discount**



The Soccer programme is a one week event aimed at boys & girls who want to develop their soccer skills, but most of all it's fun! Test your ability, co-ordination and meet new friends. Competitions throughout the week and a certificate for completing the whole programme. Programme includes: goal scoring, hit the bar, beat the clock and penalty shoot out. Sound good? Places are limited so be quick to book, contact Michael or Lorraine Burke on 07788553934 or 07917035291. Alternatively e-mail lbayliss@kingsdownschool.co.uk

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically please e-mail newsletter@kingsdownschool.co.uk