

IN TOUCH



HEAD'S LETTER NO 1

13TH SEPTEMBER 2006

KINGSDOWN SCHOOL
www.kingsdown.swindon.sch.uk

Dear Parents

Welcome to the new school year, especially to those of you joining us for the first time. Sadly for me this is my last half term as I will be leaving Kingsdown on October 31st. My last day in school will be Thursday 19th October 2006. Mrs Barton will be acting Headteacher until my successor is appointed. Advertisements have been placed in the national press and interviews will be held on 17th, 18th and 19th October 2006.

The summer's examination results have been very good again and I am particularly pleased with Y9 English SATS and Y10 Science GCSE.

May I wish all students, staff and parents an excellent year.

D B Williams
Headteacher

STUDENT INSURANCE

As usual in my first letter of the school year I am asking parents for a *voluntary contribution* so that I can insure all students to cover personal accident in every area of school activity. A voluntary contribution of **£2 per family** will help to offset the insurance costs (please see the reply slip at the end of this letter). Please note that I will insure *all* students in school whether or not parents have contributed. The school is not obliged to insure students in this way; many schools expect parents to organize their own insurance. Please ask your child to bring the money to the school office.

ACADEMIC TUTORING DAY

Wednesday 29th November 2006 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.



NEW STAFF

The following staff have started at Kingsdown this term and we wish them every success in their new posts:

- Mr Cowan Head of Humanities
- Ms Dullroy Head of Learning Support
- Miss Daniell English
- Mrs Gillmore ICT
- Mr King Science
- Miss Muller ASD
- Miss Young Classroom Supervisor
- Ms De Carvalho School Sports Co-ordinator
- Mrs Bryant Faculty Support Technician
- Mr Dobson Audio Visual Technician
- Mrs Parker, Mrs Suppiah, Mrs Stump who are MDSAs
- Mrs Adams, Mrs Harris and Mrs Jarney who are TAs in the ASD Centre
- Ms Braithwaite and Miss Fisher who are TAs in the Learning Support Team

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Our unconfirmed GCSE results are 60%. 5A*-C with again high numbers of A* and A, especially the girls. Many students produced outstanding results, in particular Emily Duncan who achieved 10 A* - a school record. Other outstanding performances came from:

- Rosalyn Taylor
- Stuart Ford
- Jemima Palfreyman
- Luke Clarke
- Eisha Chawla

KEY STAGE 3 SATS

Congratulations to the students now in year 10 who performed so well in the key stage 3 SATS. The English results arrived at the same time as the GCSEs. The results were exceptionally good and well above our targets:

SUBJECTS	Overall % of students gaining level 5 or above
English	84
Maths	81
Science	78

Y10 GCSE

We also received the Y10 Science GCSE results which were outstanding—our highest ever:

%A*-C—75% with 47 A*
(Yes, 47 students gained an A*!)

CATS

Year 7 students will undertake cognitive ability tests (CATS) throughout the week of 2nd to 6th October 2006. 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.

TD DAYS

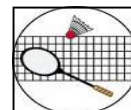
Friday 20th Oct 06
Thursday 21st Dec 06
Friday 22nd Dec 06
Friday 20th April 07
Monday 14th May 07

Y7 PHOTOS

Y7 photographs will take place in school on Friday 22nd September 06.

TESCO SPORT FOR SCHOOLS SCHEME

We will be taking part in this scheme once again this year. Because of your generosity last year, the PE department has received many new items from this scheme and our only problem is storing it all!



Thank you very much for your support and we look forward to another successful year.

Catering News

Do you know what your child had for lunch today?

Government guidelines came into effect this month restricting the sales of certain items in schools. Legislation on the sale of e.g. fizzy drinks and chocolate will not be compulsory until September 2007, however we took the decision to remove both the Coca Cola and Mars confectionary vending machines during the summer break and replace them with a vending machine providing healthy options e.g. raisins, nuts, low fat snacks, fruit juice, water and smoothies. In addition all baguettes and sandwiches are now made using a low-fat spread and fillings and we now use fresh produce and more homemade food.

We have reduced the number of days on which chips will be available to just one day per week and are looking to increase the 'Meal Deal' roast choice to twice per week instead of once as now.

We will shortly be offering a new service selling a 'Lunch Box' option as a complete lunch with the option to pre-order against a two week menu plan; more on this very soon.

Information on government initiatives can be found on the Food Standards Agency webpage at www.food.gov.uk or www.eatwell.gov.uk.

Did you know that your child could have a Smartcard? This means that you can prepay an amount (by cheque or cash) which is credited to the card; when they purchase items the credit is reduced and you can ask for a print out of what they have purchased that day so that you would always know what they were spending their money on! Information on this is available from any member of the catering team or from the admin office at school.



Uniform

Thank you very much for the support that all parents showed last term in helping us to improve the appearance of students. It is likely that this is an issue that we will have to return to from time to time.

For clarification; **all** students **must have** a black v neck jumper **with** the Kingsdown **logo**. Your children will have been issued with a year book at the start of the academic year detailing the requirements and the suppliers.

If you are unsure about what's acceptable and what's not, please contact your child's Year Leader as soon as possible.



Road Traffic Collision

Roadshow

Year 11 students will be invited to attend the RTC roadshow on the 4th or 6th October 2006. This is linked to the MEC Ignition Course which aims to raise awareness of the need to be a responsible driver. It is hard hitting, emotive and targeted specifically at Year 11 and 6th Form students in this area.

ADVANCE WARNING

Parents of students currently in Y9 are invited to attend KS4 Options Evening at 7pm on Wednesday 17th January 2007. More information will be provided nearer the time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
Friday 22nd September 2006	Year 7 Photographs
Wednesday 27th September 2006 at 6.30 pm (Please note that school will close at 12.30 pm on this day)	Open Evening for ALL parents
Monday 2nd October 2006 at 7pm	Full Governors' Meeting
Tuesday 10th October 2006 at 7pm	Kingsdown School Friends Association AGM
Wednesday 11th October 2006 at 7pm	Y7 Welcome Evening and Art Exhibition

Extended Schools

We will be asking for your assistance shortly to give us some feedback on the services that you would like to see offered locally. In particular those that provide before and after school support for your children.

Student Absences

Could parents please note that there is now provision in the front of the new homework diaries/study organisers to record absence notes and appointments.



Please return to your child's tutor by Friday 15th September 2006

- I have received the Head's letter no 1 dated 13th September 2006
- I enclose a voluntary contribution of £2 (to be taken to the school office)

Student's name(s):

Tutor Group(s):

Parent/Guardian's Signature: