

The important bits within

**20 clicks!**

**School to Home communication**

Your 3 min update

Term 1 – October 2019



For Information

# Welcome to 20 Clicks!



We hope you like our new way of communicating important information to you. This format is less wordy than our usual newsletter, and is easily accessible on mobile devices. The idea is that you have quick soundbites of information that is easier to digest than a lengthy newsletter, keeping you updated and in an efficient way.

You'll notice the pages are colour coded:

**Red** – For Action, for example, we may need some important information from you

**Orange** – For information, for example providing you with dates of school events

**Green** – A page to celebrate, thank or consider student wellbeing

**Blue** – Safeguarding, key messages or updates to ensure your children are as safe as they can be

We want to ensure we communicate with you in the most efficient and effective way possible, so we ask if could you please share your feedback about the new format, good or bad to

[hbrown@kingsdownschool.co.uk](mailto:hbrown@kingsdownschool.co.uk)

Mrs Brown

For Information

# Safeguarding



Wishing you and your children a safe and restful holiday.

Please be reminded that our Safeguarding Leads are on duty over the holiday and the best way to communicate with them is through SHARPS on our website

Mrs Magenty & Mrs Agambar

# Thank you



Dear Parents

I congratulate your child and our students for a great start to this new academic year.

A new term ... it is clear to see that there is an even greater and deeper sense of Pride and Ambition across the school.

Our students are a credit to you and our school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Looking forward to seeing you throughout the next few terms.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett

For Information

# ESC Vacancy



Are you interested in joining the Kingsdown Team in supporting our students? We currently have a vacancy within the Inclusion Department for an ESC. This involves supporting a small number of our students delivering literacy or behaviour intervention and in the classroom. For further information please click on the link below:

[ESC Vacancy](#)

Mrs Green

For Information

# Key Events for Term 2



w/c 11<sup>th</sup> November

20<sup>th</sup> November

21<sup>st</sup> November

26<sup>th</sup> November

27<sup>th</sup> November

16<sup>th</sup> December

17<sup>th</sup> December

19<sup>th</sup> December

23<sup>rd</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> January

6<sup>th</sup> January

Literature Festival

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Year 11 Theatre Trip (War Horse)

Year 11 Steps to Success Evening

Recital Evening

Christmas Concert

Year 7 Christmas Disco

Year 7 Parents' Evening

Christmas Holiday

TD Day

Students return to school on 7<sup>th</sup> January

Mrs Carter

For Information

# Communication



If you have any concerns regarding subjects please email the teacher or tutor directly.

All emails can be found on the school website.

[Contact us](#)

Mrs Carter

For Information

# We have listened



## Detention Process

High Expectations are very important to us and ensuring students meet these expectations is very important. This year, students can be set an after-school detention for a full/lost conduct card or missing homework.

At the start of term 1 – we launched same day detentions as we wanted to stress the importance of homework & good conduct.

We have listened to your feedback and realise that having just a few hours notice can present many challenges for parents/carers.

## From Term 2

As of 4th November, we will be moving to a 24 hour notice period for a detention. This means that you will receive a text from us to inform you that your child has a detention the following day. We will display outside the hall this information so they can check themselves, and their tutor will also inform them on the morning of the detention. We will also text you again to remind you. Please ensure your child is aware as a missed detention will escalate to a day in the Annexe.

## Our Request

Please support our high expectations by ensuring your child attends the detention.

Re-arranging detentions is very time consuming and so we ask that you make arrangements that your child sits the detention on the date it is set. This helps us work together to achieve the best outcomes for your child.

Mrs Lees

For Information

# Homework at Kingsdown



## Purpose of Homework

The more we know, the easier it is to understand new ideas. Homework is designed to help students commit subject knowledge to long-term memory so that they can apply it to new learning.

## What type of homework is set?

Most homework will be retrieval practice through testing knowledge. This will be done either through quizzes on SMHW or in *Homework & Assessment* books where students are asked to demonstrate their revision.

Mrs Lindley

For Information



# How long will I have to complete homework?

A minimum of 5 school days. This gives plenty of time to ask the teacher for help & support.

If I don't do well in a test – do I get a detention?

**No** – if there is sufficient evidence of revision in the *homework & assessment* book

**Yes** – if it is clear that there is no evidence of revision or the quizzes have not been answered on SMHW

Mrs Lindley

# For Information

## How long should be spent on homework?



Year Group	Subject	Set	Duration
Year 7&8	English, Maths, Science	weekly	30-60 minutes
	MFL, Computing	weekly	30 minutes
	Art	fortnightly	60 minutes
	History, Geography, PE	every 3 weeks	30 minutes
	Dance, Drama, Music, RS	monthly	30 minutes

  

Year Group	Subject	Set	Duration	Total per week
Year 9-11	English, Maths, Science	weekly	90 minutes	4.5 hours
	Option subjects	weekly	45 minutes	3 hours
				7 hours

## How can I support my son/ daughter?

- Look at SMHW and support organisation for completion
- Homework may be set through departments – do not be concerned if the teacher name does not match your child's teacher for the subject. If it appears – it is to be completed
- Provide a quiet space
- Support with flash cards/ testing

\*[SMHW](#)

Mrs Lindley

**For Action**

# **Bike Permit Application**



**Students that cycle to school must have completed their bike permit application form by the start of term 2.**

**Please be reminded that the following expectations apply:**

**Students who have applied for a bike permit must:**

- Wear a helmet whilst riding to and from school
- Cycle without wearing headphones
- Ensure they dismount their bike at the top of the drive way and walk it to the storage
- Lock their bike and helmet securely in the storage area
- Service their bike regularly to ensure brakes/tyres are safe for road use
- Ensure bikes are fitted with lights in preparation for winter months
- Cycle sensibly on the journey, using cycle paths and on the correct side of the road, obeying the highway code
- Display their bike permit tag
- Arrive to lock their bike up by 8.25am at the latest

**Mrs Lees**

For Information

## Are they correctly dressed?



Having correct uniform is part of our conduct expectations. For students in incorrect uniform, they will be issued a conduct point and will be issued with the correct item whilst this gets sorted at home. In the last few days, we have noticed that girls' trousers are not full length and their socks do not cover their ankles. Please be reminded that socks should cover ankles fully (not trainer socks) and that trousers should meet the shoe.

A reminder of our uniform policy can be found [here](#)

Examples of appropriate uniform items can be found [here](#)

### **Reminder:**

Piercings are not allowed in school (apart from 1 set of studs worn in the ear lobe)

Make up should be minimal and natural

Acrylic and false nails are not permitted

Mrs Lees

For Information

## Visit from Justin Tomlinson



In early October Justin Tomlinson visited Kingsdown and met with the Chair of Governors and myself. After his visit and tour around the school he shared his opinions in his weekly column in the Swindon Advertiser which can be found on the link below.

[Justin Tomlinson column](#)

Mrs Leigh-Bennett

# Cohort 2019



The provisional performance data was published last week for Cohort 2019 which allowed us to see how our outcomes stacked up with the rest of Swindon schools. We are now ranked 4<sup>th</sup>...up from 11<sup>th</sup> in 2018! Below are the progress 8 scores for the schools in Swindon.

1	Swindon Academy	+0.41
2	Ridgeway	+0.34
3	Abbey Park	+0.07
4	Kingsdown	+0.02
5	Nova Hreod	-0.02
6	Lydiard Park	-0.05

7	St. Joseph's CC	-0.05
8	Commonweal	-0.17
9	Dorcan	-0.18
10	Warneford	-0.21
11	Lawn Manor	-0.52
12	UTC	-0.71

For Information

# Progress 8



Where as in the past, schools would be judged on what percentage of students achieved a particular end point, e.g. 67% of students achieved 5 GCSEs graded A\*-C, we are now judged on how much impact our curriculum has made on our students.

Progress 8 is the most important secondary accountability measure as it measures the progress of students across a set of 8 subjects from the end of primary school to the end of secondary school. Whilst these subjects may be slightly different for each student they all include English, Maths and Science.

A school's Progress 8 score is calculated as the average of its students' Progress 8 scores and is an indication of whether the school made above or below average progress compared to students in other schools.

A positive progress 8 score shows that Kingsdown in 2019 made above average progress for it's students. This is a phenomenal achievement.

Mr Edwards

For Information



# Cohort 2020

Year 11 are now 25% of the way through their final year at school – we are half way through the first mock exam period and will soon be sharing updated professional predictions.

Year 11 can be a stressful year when students leave preparation too late. Revising in small chunks (20-30 minutes) regularly is highly successful. Please click [here](#) for the Cohort 2020 section of the website, containing expert learning and revision guidance from our Directors of Learning.

We wish our Year 11 students the best of luck for the remaining exams!

Mrs Lees

# For Information

## Sport update



### Year 7 netball

After settling in to Kingsdown and training the years 7s had their first Netball match V GWA and came away with a commendable 4-4 draw, against good opponents.

### Year 8 netball

After recently starting and getting a team together the year 8 Netball team also played GWA. Unfortunately the result didn't go as planned but gives Miss Maller and Mrs Wright plenty to work on.

### U14 netball

Our talented u14s team have played 2 matches and in a tournament. In the tournament they came 3<sup>rd</sup> in their pool and had some close matches this term. They have played talented side which includes LPA and Dorcan, both close games which Kingsdown edged.

### U16 netball

Another talented team who have also played 2 matches and taken part in a tournament. They also played LPA and Dorcan and although they lost both the games were very tight.

Netball will continue for all years after half term.

# For Information

## Sport update



### Year 7 rugby

Year 7s have shown fantastic commitment to rugby this term. They have regularly trained on Wednesday, with full contact and this allowed them to play in a number of full contact games. The first game they played was Nova Hreod and won 35-5. They went on to Swindon Academy and won there as well 20-10. Finally they went to a tournament at Nova Hreod and played against both teams again, winning both games again, however they also played a big Lawn Manor side who beat them 20-5. A great start to rugby for this year group.

### Year 8 rugby

Year 8s have been very committed as well this term, playing two games and entering a tournament, unfortunately results haven't gone our way but it gives, Mr Shepherd, Mr Mason and Mr Patching plenty to work on.

### Year 9 rugby

Another committed set of boys have shown real improvements over the past 6 weeks. Their first game against Nova Hreod was a close tie losing 30-20 in an open game. They were slow into the rucks and would lose possession easily, they were not quick enough setting up a defensive line and also didn't get in to an attacking line. They worked hard in training. They then went to Swindon Academy and played another close game losing 20-15 but there was significant improvements in their all round game. Finally they played against Nova Hreod again. They ended up winning 52-0. A special mention to Nathen P for the leadership he has shown.

With the rugby world cup the commitment has been fantastic, we hope to see all players back and enjoying rugby next year. Basketball will start after half term.

Mr Shepherd

Mrs Wright

Miss Maller

Mr Mason

# For Information Feedback



We hope you have enjoyed the first edition of 20 clicks as a new means of our school to home communication.

If you would like to give any feedback on the new style of communication please email [head@kingsdownschool.co.uk](mailto:head@kingsdownschool.co.uk)

For any additional feedback regarding the school there is an Ofsted Parent Feedback form available to complete and can be accessed on the link below

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

Many thanks.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett