



First four weeks

Next week sees the start of October. Time has literally flown since we came back in September. We have been absolutely delighted with attendance and punctuality levels along with students being ready to learn and very high standards of uniform. Thank you.

My message to students as we started a new academic year was around focusing on being 1% better each and every day. Our first term of student data is showing a really high level of commitment here. I sincerely thank your children for their commitment in starting the year so well. On Thursday this week attendance for Year 7 was 98% and Year 11 was 95%.



1% better
**EACH and
EVERY Day**



Year 11 Information Evening

There was a super turn out for our Year 11 Parent Information Evening last Thursday. Please find the slides from last week on our Parent Portal.
#KDSTeam

Dobbies Swindon Visit

Our Year 10 Business students visited Dobbies Garden Centre in Swindon to carry out hands-on research for their upcoming Customer Experience NEA. From seeing the customer experience in action to exploring engagement strategies and how the team handles inquiries, it was a fantastic opportunity to bring classroom theory into the real world.

A massive thank you to the wonderful team at Dobbies Swindon for having us, being so welcoming, and sharing your industry expertise with our students.



Dobbies 16th Sept 2026

Our House System at Kingsdown

This week saw our first house assemblies taking place where students were welcomed into their house for the year. Heads of house and house captains also launched our first house challenge to support our local food bank. Thank you for seeing if you have any spare tins, pasta or toiletries and household cleaning items.



MCAS

To ensure your child never runs out of school meal funds, we've enabled low balance alerts on the MCAS app. You will now receive a direct in-app message whenever your child's lunch account balance falls below £3, making top-ups quick and easy. Please note that ParentPay is no longer used at Kingsdown School.

Reading at KDS

Reading is so important for our children. It really does enrich lives and underpins academic achievements. As part of our change to our Home Learning Policy students are asked to read for 10 minutes every day. Thank you so much for asking your child about their reading. There is a section in our student planner to record and celebrate their reading achievements.



Road Safety

As our students gain more independence travelling to and from school, ensuring their safety on and around the roads remains a top shared priority. We kindly ask parents and carers to remind students of essential road safety habits: staying alert by putting away mobile phones and taking out headphones near traffic, using designated pedestrian crossings, and avoiding stepping out between parked cars. For those who cycle or ride scooters, wearing a helmet and using bright or reflective gear - especially during darker mornings and evenings - is vital. Thank you for reinforcing these important habits and to keep all our students safe on their daily journeys to and from school.

Future events and important dates

- 12.10.26 - Open Morning 9.00am (appointment only)
- 15.10.26 - Year 7 meet the tutor evening 5.30pm
- 16.10.26 - Year 9 Hate Crime talk
- 19.10.26 - Year 7 Halloween Quiz 3.30pm - 4.30pm
- 20.10.26 - Prize Evening 5.30pm
- 21.10.26 - Flu Jabs - Whole School Session 2
- 22.10.26 - Half Term
- 02.11.26 - Start of Term 8.15am
- 04.11.26 - Year 11 Art Mock
- 09.11.26 - Year 11 Mocks (all week)
- 11.11.26 - Remembrance Day
- 13.11.26 - Children in Need - non school uniform
Students need to wear comfortable, casual clothing appropriate and suitable for our school environment
- 16.11.26 - Year 11 Mocks (all week)



With our continued thanks. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need any further information. Please be reminded that we have a 5 day response time.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher



KINGSDOWN
SCHOOL