



# InTouch

Newsletter 5 / April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our end of Term 4 In Touch magazine. Term 4 opened and marked us being halfway through this academic year. Thank you for your continued support. This term there have been many significant achievements, these include:

- A positive RLT Behaviour and Safeguarding review in February where no poor behaviour in lessons was seen and the school was assessed to be safe.
- A full RLT Peer Review by 4 experienced school leaders. Some of these reviewers had been on our review last year and commented that 'Kingsdown is a very different school'.
- Our Year 11 students have continued to work exceptionally hard - attending every day, attending morning and after school tutorials as well as completing their out of school learning assignments.
- Continuing to share and embed our improved Behaviour for Learning procedures which are underpinned by our high expectations - here we have seen a significant reduction in the number of times students are choosing to disrupt the learning of others and thereby get themselves sent to Isolation. Parental support here has been truly valued.
- In February we appointed a highly experienced Deputy Headteacher - Mrs Lindley - who will begin her induction in term 5 and take up her full time post in September. She is very much looking forward to relocating to Swindon and joining Kingsdown.
- Improved reporting processes at Key Stage 3 and improved parental attendance at our parents' evenings.



We have continued to focus on improving the quality of our Curriculum, Assessments and Teaching and Learning. Our Kingsdown teaching and learning framework is now embedded across the school and high quality teaching, each and every lesson, is translating in to improving progress for all our students.

I would like to thank all those parents who have attended our information and parents' evenings throughout this term. We saw a significant improvement of parental attendance in Year 8 - from 59% last year to 71% this year. Similar increases were seen in Year 10. So thank you for continuing to support us in our partnership to ensure your sons and daughters achieve their very best. We have seen improvements in attendance across the school and again thank you for your support here. We do remain below national averages and I need your support in continuing to send your child in each and every day.

Within the newsletter is a letter on my views and stance on anti-bullying. I remain firm in my belief that such anti-social behavior will be eradicated from our school. Our next TD Day will be given over to further staff training on identifying, supporting and removing bullying and harassment from our school. If you wish to discuss any aspect of my letter, do please get in touch with either Mrs Magenty or myself via my PA, Mrs Carter at [head@kingsdownschool.co.uk](mailto:head@kingsdownschool.co.uk).

May I remind you that we finish term 4 on Friday 5th April at 1.20pm and return on Tuesday 23rd April at 8.30am - please do read our term 5 expectation message from Mrs Criddle.

Wishing you and your family a very relaxing holiday.

With very best wishes and thanks again for your ongoing support.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett  
Headteacher

## PUNCTUALITY TO SCHOOL

Students are expected to be on site by 8.30am at the latest, we will be closing our gates at 8.35am and students who arrive after this time will be considered late. Students who are late will have a detention on the day that will take place during break or lunch time.

We will be asking all students to use the front entrance of school from Term 5 onwards.

*Mrs Magenty, Assistant Headteacher*

## BEHAVIOUR IN THE COMMUNITY

It has been brought to our attention in recent weeks that some of our students are not showing the local community the respect in which we instill and expect from our young people. We have exceptionally high standards of each and every one of our students and we expect the same level of respect to be conducted both in and outside of school.

Please can you encourage your children to walk directly to school on a morning and straight home in the evening. A small minority of our students are congregating on Derwent Drive and showing high levels of disrespect to peoples properties and the local community.

We take a lot of pride in our local community and we expect our students to do the same.

As a school we will continue to have staff out on duty before and after school however the responsibility does lie with our students, they must take responsibility for their actions and make the right choices.

We thank you in advance for your support and reinforcing this important message at home.

*Mrs Criddle, Assistant Headteacher*

## UNIFORM

As the weather is getting warmer, it is essential that our students continue to wear their uniform in line with the school uniform policy and with pride. Please can I ask that you remind yourself of the school uniform policy which can be found on the main school website. Shoes must be polishable, not suede and not trainers. If you do need to purchase new shoes mid year, the expectation is that they are in line with our uniform expectations.

We do have a supply of spare shoes. These will be loaned in the interim until a new pair can be purchased over the holidays. Please also be reminded that the school tie can be purchased from the main school reception, it is essential that the tie is worn at all times. Should our students forget to wear their tie, one can be loaned for the day from the student reception - your child will hand over their mobile phone to ensure that the tie is returned at the end of the school day. We are seeing more and more students wearing 'cropped, skinny' trousers- this is not in line with the school expectations. Trousers should be mid grey and a straight or standard fit.

Cropped, skinny or flares are not acceptable.

Please click [here](#) to view the uniform expectations

Please click [here](#) for the dress code examples

As we reach the final mile of the marathon, Year 11 students have now completed their Mock exams before the main GCSEs begin. There are just over 15 school days until the first exam and using the Easter break for effective preparation is vital. We will be running a comprehensive programme of support sessions across the two week break and students will soon receive a personalised invitation to specific sessions based on areas of improvement identified from the mock exams. We urge students to attend these sessions and fully engage in all opportunities to build confidence and develop skills in this last phase.

Prior to and during the exams, students will remain in school until the 4th week exam period finishes. This year, the exam period has been condensed into 4 weeks and on a number of days, there are exams in the morning and afternoon sessions. We will be running energizer sessions prior to each exam to remind students of the key points they need to consider for each exam paper. In the morning, these sessions will run from 8.15am - 8.45am before the morning exams and between 12.45pm - 1.20pm for afternoon exams. A reminder that as for every school day, students must be on time and in correct school uniform.

The last exam for the vast majority of students is Friday 14th June at 9.00am and following this exam, students will be dismissed from school for the last time. A small number of students will be back on Monday 17th June for the last German exam. We hope to see as many of the year group as possible at the Prom on Friday 5th July and tickets for this will be on sale shortly. A reminder that GCSE results day this year is Thursday August 22nd. Until then, we wish all of our Year 11s the best of luck - keep calm and carry on!

*Mrs Lees, Director of Progress KS4*

## SWINDON YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR 2019

Emily Phillips and I were asked, by Mr Wicker, to perform at a musical competition on Sunday 10th March organised by the Rotary Club of North Swindon at the Blunsdon House Hotel.

Emily performed a song called 'She Used to be Mine' from the musical Waitress and I played a modern classical piece, on the piano, called 'All is Calm'.

There were musicians from across many different Swindon schools. There were two judges who scored our performances and gave constructive feedback to the contestants.

The Mayor of Swindon was also there to listen in the audience and was very supportive.

Even though neither Emily or I won, we both enjoyed the experience of performing in front of others and would love to have the opportunity to perform again next year.

*Amy Thomas (Year 10)*

## ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL? WE HAVE A VACANCY FOR A PARENT GOVERNOR



As a parent or carer, you naturally take a keen interest in your child's education. Now here's your chance to have a say in key decisions at our school and to make a real contribution to the local community - by becoming a Parent Governor.

School Governors make important decisions with regards to the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school. Committees and Link Governors support and challenge the senior team on all aspects of school improvement and the student experience.

Governors are drawn from all walks of life, and no specialist knowledge is required, the key qualifications for anyone considering the role of governor is an interest in education and a commitment to Kingsdown. There is a broad range of support available to Governors, including newsletters and publications, termly briefing documents, websites, helplines and training, with some specifically tailored for new Governors. Our more experienced Governors are very willing to provide mentoring advice and information.

Governing bodies act corporately, meaning that they are collectively responsible for decisions. The emphasis is very much on collaboration with other Governors and the Headteacher plus our colleagues from The River Learning Trust. The amount of time devoted to governance varies, but an average might be one governing body meeting per term, plus one or two committee meetings, a link visit and some preparatory reading. All meetings are held in term time only.

Governors report that they derive a range of personal benefits from the work - indeed, many find the role enormously rewarding. These benefits include; the chance to acquire new skills and upgrade existing ones, undertake an exciting and challenging role, meet new people and work together towards a common goal.

Governors also report immense satisfaction that they can help make a real difference to children's lives.

If you feel you may be interested in becoming a Governor at Kingsdown School please contact the school via email to [head@kingsdownschool.co.uk](mailto:head@kingsdownschool.co.uk).

On Tuesday 19th March, 40 Year 10 students travelled to Ridgeway School for an afternoon with 'I am a scientist - live'.

Sponsored by the Science and Technology Facilities Council which is based in Swindon, the students heard from 5 scientists (3 born and schooled in Swindon) with interests ranging from lasers, fusion nuclear energy, sea ice and climate change, food security to neutrinos. Plus the person (actually a history and politics graduate) who awarded funding (about £500m/year) to these projects.

The students were then given a chance to ask questions of the panel. These included "Which one of you is the smartest?" allowing the scientists to elaborate that it is more a passion and hard work that gets you what you want rather than being "smart".

Finally, the students had to vote for their favourite scientist. The winner was the PhD student studying neutrinos - I think possibly because he had to admit to our students that nobody actually knows what they are.

*Mr Radcliffe - Science Teacher*

## REWARDS

It's great to see our revised rewards strategy embedding and so many of our students are wearing Beats badges with pride. Some of our students now have more than 3 badges on the lapels of their blazers - this is amazing to see. There has also been an increase in the number of students being awarded the Kingsdown Lion - this is a real honour and something that you and your child should be exceptionally proud of. These badges are awarded to students who go above and beyond every single day and across all of the six Kingsdown Beats - Pride, Ambition, Stretch, Challenge, Respect and Responsibility.

At the start of term 5 we will be launching the end of year rewards trips. It is essential that we recognise the great work of all of our students so during the launch, there will be communication with home along with an assembly to explain to the students what they need to do to gain a place on the end of year rewards trips - we look forward to sharing this with you.

*Mrs Criddle - Assistant Headteacher, Behaviour*

## TRANSITION DAYS

We look forward to welcoming our new year 7s (2019) to their transition days on the 3rd and 4th of July. The planning for these 2 days is already firmly underway and will ensure that the year 6 students are well inducted into Kingsdown School. The students will get to sample a wide range of lessons, enjoy lunch from the school canteen and spend some quality time with their tutor. Information will be out to students in Term 5.

## THE NEW INCLUSION

In September we restructured our Inclusion Department. We moved to an 'intervention' approach where instead of our support staff supporting in classrooms they now deliver intervention to those who most need it in school instead. We created five intervention hubs (Literacy, Numeracy, Emotional, Health and Behaviour Hubs) and trained our Educational Support Champions to deliver effective intervention packages that will support our students in whatever area of need they have.

We are now fully in the swing of delivering intervention in Inclusion and at any one time are reaching to around 150 students in school. We have had positive feedback from the students who are receiving this intervention and they overwhelmingly feel the work we do with them supports their learning or behaviour in the classroom. In addition we now have clear impact data to show how effective our hubs are in improving the learning or behaviours of our students. Each of the students who receive the support complete before and after assessments to show if our has helped them:

Literacy Hub - 92% of students have improved their literacy levels

Numeracy Hub - 92% of students have improved their numeracy levels

Emotional Hub - 85% of students have reduced their anxieties

Behaviour Hub - 68% of students have improved or halted their poor behaviour

We will continue to support our students in this way throughout the rest of the year and beyond. Students can be referred to us through their Progress Leader so please contact them if you feel your child may be in need of some support.

*Mrs Green*

*Assistant Head - Inclusion*

## BAN ON AEROSOLS

Kingsdown School have taken the decision to ban all student use of aerosol in school with effect of Term 5 (23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019). This decision has been taken in the interest of student safety due to the risks posed to students with asthma and breathing conditions as well as other associated health risks.

Additionally, we have on several occasions during the last year, where the use of aerosols has triggered un-necessary fire evacuations by triggering the alarms. This is a huge waste of both public resources and teaching and learning time, which we are of course keen to control.

Please ensure students do not bring aerosol products into school, and are equipped with alternatives such as roll on or pump action sprays. Any such items brought in to school will be confiscated in line with the School's Behaviour Policy.

Thank you very much for your support and understanding.



Matthew Wynne in Year 10 entered a competition, we are pleased to announce that Matthew was commended by the panel and his work which was displayed in 'Better Lives' photographic exhibition at the [Espacio Gallery](#) in London between 26th and 30th March 2019.

The category was - Better environment

### **Ordinance point, Gypsy Cove, Falkland island**

Once a place for battle, this image now shows a complete turn-around to a better environment. No longer destroying the landscape, this is now a Nature Reserve for wildlife and breeding penguins. This shows a change for the good of not only the environment, but also the future of our wildlife. The artillery left behind from the war, rather than wrecking the environment, is now a place of shelter from the harsh weather and a prime spot for birds and other creatures. The grounds are clear of litter and the sea is blue.



*Matthew Wynne Year 10*



## DATES FOR TERM 5

1st May	: Spring Concert
15th May	: Year 7 Parents Evening
27th May - 31st May	: Half Term
28th June	: TD Day

## RECITAL EVENING

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of March, Kingsdown hosted the second Recital Evening of the year. These evenings are a friendly environment for both first-time performers and more experienced musicians where all styles of music are welcome.

There were a number of first-time performers who all did well and should be proud of themselves. Here are some performances I enjoyed: Aibhlinn Delaney and Madison Walters singing 'Count on Me' by Bruno Mars was lovely. Their voices sound very sweet together and Aibhlinn's guitar playing was very confident. I also liked Amy Thomas' performance of 'A Walk at Strumble Head' on the piano. I hadn't heard of the piece before and it had a lovely energy to it; it sounds like it belongs in a movie soundtrack. I always enjoy Amy's performances.

My favourite performance of the night was the languages department's very own Mr Harper who sang 'Where do you go to (my lovely)' and also accompanied himself on guitar. It was very refreshing to see a teacher perform instead of students (not that it ever gets boring) and it was an enjoyable performance all-round.

*Emily Phillips (Year 10)*





Students who took part were:

## **Year 7**

Isabel Rigden

Liam Plumley

Sam Dilley

Charlie Frankum

## **Year 8**

Lucy Booker-Wilson

Carrienne Burberry

Billy Dunning

Jake Irvine

Reece Waterfield

## **Year 9**

Ria Chem

Juan Estrada-Gamboa

Maddie Green

Leah Harding

Ellie Jonas-Collier

Leah Stanley

Kalesha Tuitt

Madison Walters

## **Year 10**

Aibhlinn Delaney

Derry Gallagher

Emily Phillips

Amy Thomas

## **Year 11**

Hannah Cooper

Renee Hill

Leah Plumb

# SPORT UPDATE

## Athletics and Softball season upcoming

After a challenging yet rewarding football season in term 3, Easter brings warmer weather and summer sports. This sees Kingsdown PE moving on to our athletics and softball lessons for the boys and Athletics and Rounders for the girls, with Tennis also being taught. Athletics club will be a Wednesday after school for all years, preparing students to represent their house in the School's annual Sports Day at the County Ground. Disciplines that can be practiced are; Javelin, shot putt, discuss, 100m, 200m, 300m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, hurdles, relay, long jump, triple jump and high jump. Softball club will be on Thursdays 3-4pm and Tennis Club will be Tuesday after school.

## BTEC Unit 1 Result

BTEC students have been studying hard for their exams this year and this week they got their results. The results were fantastic and the hard work has paid off. A special mention to Morgan Heath who achieved a Distinction in his online Unit 1 Exam, which is a very difficult task in BTEC Sport.

## Year 7 fixtures

W/C 11<sup>th</sup> Feb – No fixture

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb – Kingsdown V Swindon Academy (Home) – Lost 2-1

W/C 4<sup>th</sup> March – Cup fixture LPA v Kingsdown (Away) – Lost 4-0

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Kingsdown V Warneford (Home) – Lost 1-0

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March - GWA V Kingsdown (Away) – Lost 5-0

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Abbey Park v Kingsdown (Away) - Still to be played

## Year 8 Fixtures – League one

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb – Bradon Forest V Kingsdown (Home) – Lost 4-2  
(Raff Brackenburg & Alfie Nicholls)

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March - Commonweal v Kingsdown (Away) – Lost 4-1  
(Raff Brackenburg)

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March - Kingsdown V Lawn Manor (Home) – Draw 2-2 Kingsdown win 5-4 on penalties

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Nova Hreod V Kingsdown (Away) – Lost 4-3  
(Alfie Nicholls, Jake England, Freddie Painter)

W/C 1<sup>st</sup> April - Promotion/Relegation play offs – To be played

**Year 9**

No fixtures

**Year 10**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb – Kingsdown V RWBA (Home) – Won 4-1  
(Lewis Bell 3 & Sam Nicholls)

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb – Kingsdown V Commonweal (Home) – 4-0

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March - CUP – Kingsdown V Swindon Academy (Home) - Won 4-1  
(Jack Grove, Lewis Bell 2 & Sam Nicholls 1)

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Kingsdown V Ridgeway (Home) - Lost 2-0

W/C 18<sup>th</sup> March – CUP semi finals V RWBA (Away) – Won 2-1 (Lewis Bell 2)

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Kingsdown V Swindon Academy - Won 5-2

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Abbey Park V Kingsdown (Away) – Still to be played

**Clubs term 4**

Tuesdays – Tennis & This girl can

Wednesday - Athletics

Thursday – Softball & Rounders

**Sport student of the term: Katie New**

Recently Katie competed at the National finals for county cross-country championships in Loughborough. To get to there she first had to go through the tri-counties and then the south-west inter county championships. Katie competed at this event representing Wiltshire. Well done Katie.



## V&A VISIT - 27th February

On Wednesday 27th February we took 45 students from Kingsdown to the Victoria and Albert Museum London. The trip was a great success and our student's behaviour was impeccable. During the visit, students studied fashion from early 18<sup>th</sup> century costume to Contemporary Fashion. Students took photographs made drawings and notes and on return to school produced work to celebrate the learning experience. This work is now on display in D Block.

Ms Walters ran a competition and 4 students were awarded an Easter egg and a Kingsdown badge for Challenge.

Student winners included:

Isabel Rigden (Year 7) - Super paper dress model and inventive presentation

Carriann Burberry (Year 8) - Super pencil drawing and presentation

Lily Hawkins (Year 7) - Great design drawings

Kasey Ryder (Year 8) - Inventive drawings own designs

Holly Marsh (Year 8) - beautiful design drawing showing great skill.

Ms Walters would like to thank:

Mrs Sampson-Emecz, Miss Humphries and Mrs Spooner for helping. It was a truly wonderful day.



Kingsdown is continuing to focus on attendance and punctuality and we are writing to remind you that we expect children's attendance to be at 95% - this is in line with government and Swindon Borough expectations. Currently, we remain below this and need your continuing support to ensure we see an improvement with this important benchmark.

THANK YOU SO MUCH to those families who have been working hard to ensure children's punctuality and attendance is high. THANK YOU for getting these important habits established early on in your child's life as it will make a difference in their futures.

As a school, we are aware lateness can severely affect achievement. We monitor punctuality closely and have strategies in place to address lateness. Awareness of the impact of lateness is raised with pupils, staff and parents regularly.

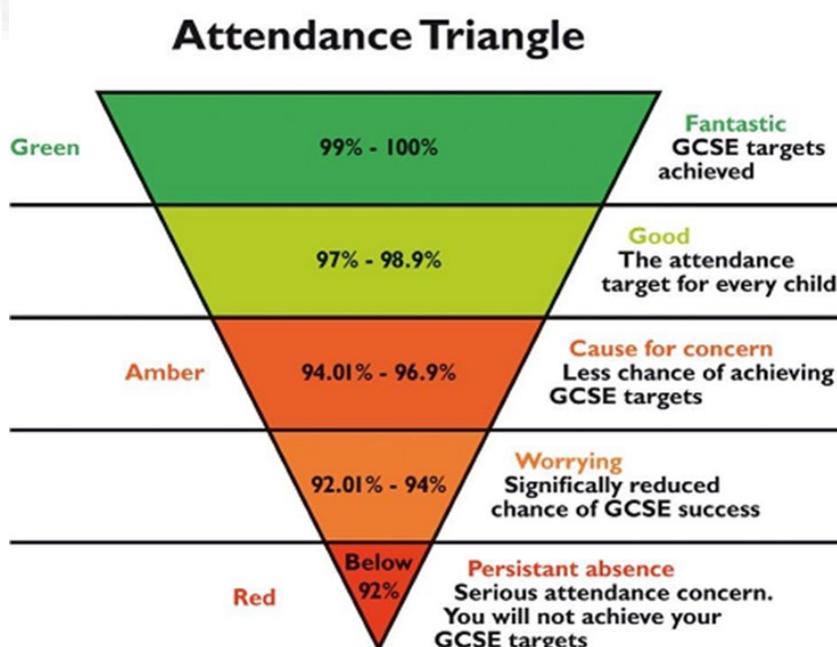
We expect all students to arrive at school at 8.30am and be in tutor time by 8.35am. There are an increasing number of students who are arriving to school after this time. Students who arrive after 8.35am will have a late mark and this can affect their attendance. Tutor time is a very important session at Kingsdown, it is a time for tutors to check in on their students, deliver important messages and a time for us to educate our students about important topics linked to our PSHE curriculum.

There is a link between attendance and achievement and therefore it is very important that your child attends school every day unless there are exceptional circumstances.

A couple of things that may be new to you are notifying the school every day that your child is absent and requests for medical evidence:

*"It is essential that the Attendance Officer is notified every day that a student is off sick. This is not only keeps your child's Attendance records accurate but also ensures their safety. If you were to send your child back to school and we assume they are still absent due to illness an incident could occur, on the way to school, that neither parties are aware of."*

*Medical Evidence may be requested for 5 or more consecutive school days absence due to illness (3 days if prior to or after a school holiday)".*



# ANTI-BULLYING

As the Headteacher of Kingsdown School I see it as one of my key responsibilities and priorities to ensure that each and every student is and feels safe each and every day. As a school we take the issue of bullying and harassment very seriously. Indeed in September 2018 I appointed a new Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Magenty as our "Student Champion". She has the strategic responsibilities for Safeguarding all our students. Additionally, she leads on the personal development curriculum which includes educating all our students about anti-bullying.

In order for our school to carry out its duty of providing all students with a safe environment in which to learn, grow and develop – we seek to enlist the support and co-operation of all our parents in our school community.

Recent research suggests that young people who are bullied, may not always tell adults, as they may be afraid or ashamed. This may result in a student being victimized for a prolonged period of time before it is discovered and carries the potential for serious short, medium and long-term side effects.

Although bullying occurs only very occasionally at Kingsdown, we want to remain vigilant in order to eradicate it completely.

The purpose of this letter is to share with parents some of the signs that you need to be alert to. Young people who are being bullied may display one or (usually) several of the following signs:

- Comes home from school with torn or disordered clothing, with damaged books.
- Has bruises, injuries, cuts, and scratches that cannot be given a natural explanation.
- Doesn't want to go to school and finds excuses to stay at home (for example, feeling sick).
- Wants to go to school a different way to avoid the children who are bullying them.
- Seems very tense, tearful and unhappy after school.
- Talks about hating school or not having any friends.
- May not have a single good friend to share free time with (play, shopping, sports and musical events, chatting on the phone, etc.).
- Has restless sleep with bad dreams, may cry in their sleep.
- Has lost interest in school work and gets lower grades.

These signs may not necessarily mean your son / daughter is being bullied, but if present, it is necessary to check out what is worrying your child. Be assured that Kingsdown is committed to continually reviewing its policies and practices in respect of bullying and harassment.

If you think that your son/daughter is being bullied, below are some tips on how you can support them:

- Try and establish the facts. It can be helpful to keep a diary of events, if the bully is on line, take pictures or copy images and text.
- Find out what your child wants to happen. Help to identify steps you can take; and the skills they have to help sort out the situation. Make sure that you always keep your son / daughter informed about any actions you decide to take.
- You may be tempted to tell your child to retaliate but this can have unpredictable results. Your son / daughter might get into trouble or hurt. Always encourage them to speak with their tutor in the first instance or record it on SHARPS.

Should you have any questions, concerns or observations please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Magenty on [smagenty@kingsdownschool.co.uk](mailto:smagenty@kingsdownschool.co.uk) or indeed me personally at [head@kingsdownschool.co.uk](mailto:head@kingsdownschool.co.uk).

*Mrs Leigh-Bennett*

Many parents and carers will have seen and heard stories in the media about cuts to school funding.

Across Swindon schools are seeing their budgets squeezed, this will of course affect what schools can offer students. Information about cuts to school funding can be found on the Schools Cuts website - <https://schoolcuts.org.uk/>. You will see Kingsdown and our main feeder schools Ruskin and Grange have suffered significant funding cuts. The figures quoted represent the difference between actual funding and the amount needed to protect per pupil funding in real terms. All figures quoted are cumulative losses between 2015-2019.

If you are interested in learning more about the current crisis in school funding there is an Education Question Time event happening at Lainsmead Primary at 7pm on 24<sup>th</sup> April. This Event has been organised by the NEU (National Education Union) and will be attended by Sarah Church; Labour candidate Swindon south, Becky Poole; local parent activist and Mike Welsh; Head teacher Goddard Park primary amongst others. There will be an opportunity for questions and comments from the audience.

Across  
**SWINDON**

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**67 schools**

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**have suffered  
Government cuts**  
to per pupil funding since 2015.

**Is your school on the list?**

 **schoolcuts.org.uk**

# SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding and Child Protection is such an important issue for our young people. Safeguarding relates to many areas of life at Kingsdown including children's physical health and safety, mental health issues, attendance, managing medical conditions, internet safety, substance misuse, bullying, the dangers of radicalisation, child sexual exploitation, gang culture, FGM, neglect, domestic violence, forced marriages, sex and relationships education, British Values and road safety among other issues.

Our Personal Development curriculum gives students opportunities to explore many of these issues during tutor time, assembly and a fortnightly lesson called PD. The aim of these sessions is to equip our students with the knowledge, understanding and right tools to make safe choices.

A key part of our safeguarding strategy is to ensure that students feel safe and are able to speak with an adult that they trust when they have a concern or worry. In September Kingsdown employed a dedicated Child Protection Coordinator, Karen Agambar. Her key role is to ensure that students feel safe and act as a point of contact if a student has a worry or concern. To support this important work, we will be launching a system called SHARPs in term 5 to support this important work.

## **What is SHARP?**

The School Help Advice Report Page allows students to self-refer or report concerns.

## **Why should you use it?**

Report a welfare or safeguarding concern by entering contact details onto our SHARPs page. You can write about bullying, peer difficulties, weapons, drugs, fights, anxiety and mental health concerns. These will be picked up in school by a member of the pastoral team or safeguarding team within 24 hrs.

## **Who can use it?**

Students, parents, family, friends. However, in an emergency, call 999 or 101

The SHARPS system will be on the school website from the start of next term. We will send you a message to announce the launch and provide instructions on how to use it.

*Mrs Magenty - Assistant Headteacher*

# ROAD SAFETY

We have had a number of concerns raised with the school relating to pupil safety on the roads close to Kingsdown. Each day, students are observed riding their bikes in a dangerous manner, not checking to see if the road is clear before they cross and failing to use the pedestrian crossings.

We have addressed these concerns in school through our tutor programme and have given students with clear advice on how to stay safe on the roads.

Please can you reinforce this message with your son/daughter by ensuring they wear a bike helmet and wear a fluorescent strip when riding their bike. This helps to improve their visibility to drivers and should they fall off their bike, protect them from a head injury. Please also impress the importance of using the pedestrian crossing outside of school.

Thank you for supporting the school with this matter.

*Mrs Magenty - Assistant Headteacher*

# BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING AT KINGSDOWN

We have been very encouraged with the way in which our students have responded to our raised expectations. Thank you for supporting from home. This term we had a school review from the RLT and no poor behaviour was seen during lesson time. Indeed one of the reviewers commented on the fact that Kingsdown felt like a very different school from this time last year. We are very proud of our students in the way that they have embraced and come on board with all our expectations.

Next term we will be focusing on further improving the out of lesson behaviour for all students. Here we will be making our expectations very clear around movement in corridors as well as breaks and lunchtimes. Out of lesson behaviour is so important in ensuring good behaviours in lessons. In April during tutor time and assemblies, our students will be introduced to PROUD – our out of lessons expectations. Posters will be around the school to reinforce these expectations.

Thank you for sharing PROUD with your son / daughter over the holiday and reinforcing the importance of being:

- Punctual** - We arrive on time to school, tutor and all lessons
- Respect** - We respect our school by not damaging property or littering the site
- Orderly** - We move around the school site quietly, keeping left at all times and no more than 2 a breast,
- Uniform & Equipment** - We wear our uniform with pride and in line with the school policy and are fully equipped to every lesson
- Dialogue** - We have dialogue between one another which is kind, considerate and respectful.

All students will be issued with a Conduct Card at the start of term 5, this card is solely the responsibility of the student. They must carry the card with them at all times. If a student is observed breaking the Proud protocol, they will be given a conduct mark on their card. Once the student has 5 conduct marks or loses their card, they will be issued with a same day 1 hour detention. The tutor will monitor the conduct cards every morning during tutor time.

Detentions are part of the schools consequence system to encourage students to rectify their behaviour and to recognise that their attitude has not been acceptable. When a student is issued a detention, this is compulsory. Failure to attend the conduct detention will result in this escalating to a 2 hour SLT detention. **Whilst the Department for Education states that schools are not required to give notice, give reasons or gain parental consent for a detention, Kingsdown school will send a text to advise parents of same day detentions.**

I look forward to sharing with you the improvements with our out of lesson behaviour in the next edition of In Touch.

*Mrs Criddle – Assistant Headteacher – Behaviour*



## Kingsdown out of lesson conduct card

Term 5 Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Key

1: Punctuality

2: Respect

3: Orderly

4: Uniform

5: Dialogue

Number	Issue	Date	Staff member
Conduct point 1			
Conduct point 2			
Conduct point 3			
Conduct point 4			
Conduct point 5			
5 conduct points or losing your card = same day 1 hour detention in the old gym			

The 'Kingsdown School Way', we are:



# PROUD

Out of lessons:

P

Punctual – We arrive on time to school, tutor and all lessons

R

Respect - We respect our school by not damaging property or littering the site

O

Orderly - We move around the school site quietly, keeping left at all times and no more than 2 a breast

U

Uniform and Equipment – We wear our uniform with pride and inline with the school policy and are fully equipped to every lesson

D

Dialogue - We have dialogue between one another which is kind, considerate and respectful

