



Dear Parents / Carers

New Vision for Kingsdown - 2020

Start of Term 4 - Monday 19th February at 10.50am

Thank you for your continued support for your son and / or daughter at Kingsdown School. Early this term we had a Teacher Training Day whereby we focused on the new direction and 2020 strategy for Kingsdown. On this day we reviewed and developed the Vision, Mission statement and Values to lead Kingsdown School forward. We also worked on forming the strategic priorities for the next phase in the school's journey.



As a staff we discussed the new **Vision** - the “What we are aiming to achieve”. We agreed together on the following Vision - “A school of **excellence** bursting with **pride** and **ambition**”.

Our **Mission Statement**, the “What we are all about”, was again discussed. Together we agreed that as a school, we are here to “Champion the **potential** of each and every student.”

We discussed our core **Values** and formally adopted those of the River Learning Trust - namely:

A Commitment to Excellence - striving for the best educational outcomes

Everyone Learning - creating and taking every opportunity to enhance lives

Respectful Relationships - acting with care, integrity, and fairness in all we do

Underpinning this Vision we have identified 5 priority areas and key actions that will drive our school improvement agenda. Linked to these, we are also looking at rebranding the school. So, I am sure you will agree that these are exciting times for our students and everyone associated with the school.

To that end, I would like to invite you to a meeting to share with you our strategic priorities and our plans for rebranding Kingsdown. I am offering two dates, the 8th March or 15th March and hope that one of these dates meets with your availability. Both meetings will have the same content and will start at 6.00pm and last for approximately 1 hour. As you may be aware, our current school uniform has been in existence since 1974 and it is my intention to revamp this as part of the new Vision for Kingsdown. Naturally we have thought very carefully about the financial assistance that may be required and on this evening these plans will be shared with you. There will be no changes to the uniform before September. Polo shirts can be worn during the summer term but would advise that our current Year 7 parents may think twice about purchasing these.

Message from Mrs Leigh-Bennett (cont...)

During this past week we have been reviewing the progress made by all our students. On the whole we are encouraged by the high levels of engagement, commitment and motivation from our students.

Moving forward into Term 4, I need your support in ensuring that your son / daughter continues to understand that:

- Attendance is crucial - our expectation is that all students are in school every day - our School target is 95%
- They are ready to learn in every lesson which means that they are punctual, equipped and engage immediately with the learning at the start of every lesson.
- Low level disruptive behaviour of any kind will not and cannot be tolerated. Please be reminded and assured that, as Headteacher, I will continue to take a very clear and firm line on those students who think it is acceptable to show poor and disruptive patterns of behaviour and thereby disrupt the learning of others. Likewise I will not allow students to be in school if they choose to use inappropriate / offensive language towards a member of staff.

I know I can count on your support here. I know you are behind the high expectations that we have set and are embedding at Kingsdown School.

Term 4 will begin for all students on Monday 19th February at 10.50am ready for a 11.00am start. Students must arrive in full school uniform, fully equipped and be ready to learn for the start of Period 3. Year 11 students will be going straight to their exam venue to complete a Maths mock examination.

Our website is regularly updated so please do take time over the holiday to review the key dates in Term 4.

My thanks again for your continued support.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Like us on Facebook!



@KingsdownSchool



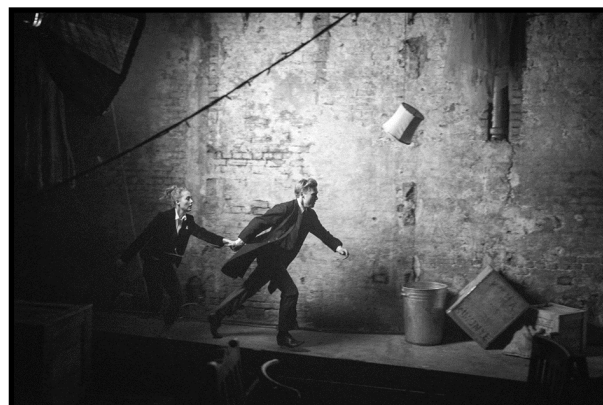
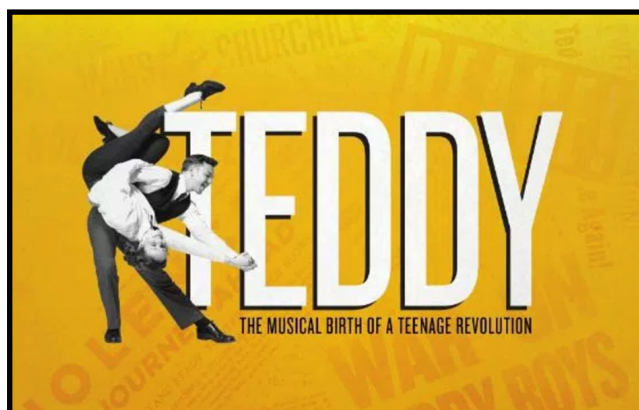
www.facebook.com/KingsdownSchoolSwindon

Year 11 Drama students went to The Watermill Theatre last Wednesday evening to see 'Teddy'.

"Elephant and Castle, London. 1956, Saturday night.

Teddy and Josie are about to hit the streets of London for a good time. Hair quiffed. Red lipstick. Dressed toe to head in the latest threads. So what if it's pouring down, they're totally skint, and someone wants them dead? A little trouble never stopped a Ted from having a good time. Desperate times call for rock 'n' roll."

Students really enjoyed the experience and the production and were a total credit to the school, with several members of the public coming to up to staff to say how well behaved our students were. Analysing live productions forms a large part of a Drama student's written examination in the summer. What a way to learn... Drama in Action!



Uniform at Kingsdown School

A reminder of the uniform that is to be worn at school:

Trousers	:	Plain black trousers, normal cloth, full ankle length and standard fitting
Skirt	:	Plain, black, knee length
Shirt	:	Plain white, short or long sleeved with collar attached. (To be tucked in at all times)
Tie	:	School tie, red and black striped, worn conventionally
Jumper	:	Official School Jumper with Kingsdown logo - not to be tucked in
Shoes	:	Plain, black, polish-able, low heeled sensible design with no visible logo
Socks	:	Plain white, black or dark grey
Tights	:	Plain, black, dark grey or neutral
Outdoor Coat	:	Plain, sensible coat, raincoat or anorak, no sport stripes ie Adidas
Bags	:	Bag is to be big enough to fit A4 books, folder and PE kit in
Hair	:	Only natural hair colours are acceptable. Shaven patterns should not be worn
Jewellery	:	Limited to one earring in each ear lobe (plain stud), one signet ring, one charity bracelet and watch

The following are not allowed:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweatshirts • High heeled shoes • Denim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Shirts • Canvas shoes • Hoodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boots (including ankle boots) • Tracksuit tops • Coats with stripes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nail varnish • Make-up • False/acrylic nails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nose studs or other body piercing • Bracelets • Fashion accessories 	

Parking at the end of the school day

We would kindly request that parents/carers be considerate to the local residents when parking in the Kingsdown Gate area for school pick up. We would like to remind you that there is parking available at the Kingsdown Sports Centre. Many thanks.

GOOD ATTENDANCE = GOOD RESULTS

To assist with the safeguarding, accurate attendance recording and education of your child, it is essential that the following steps are taken:

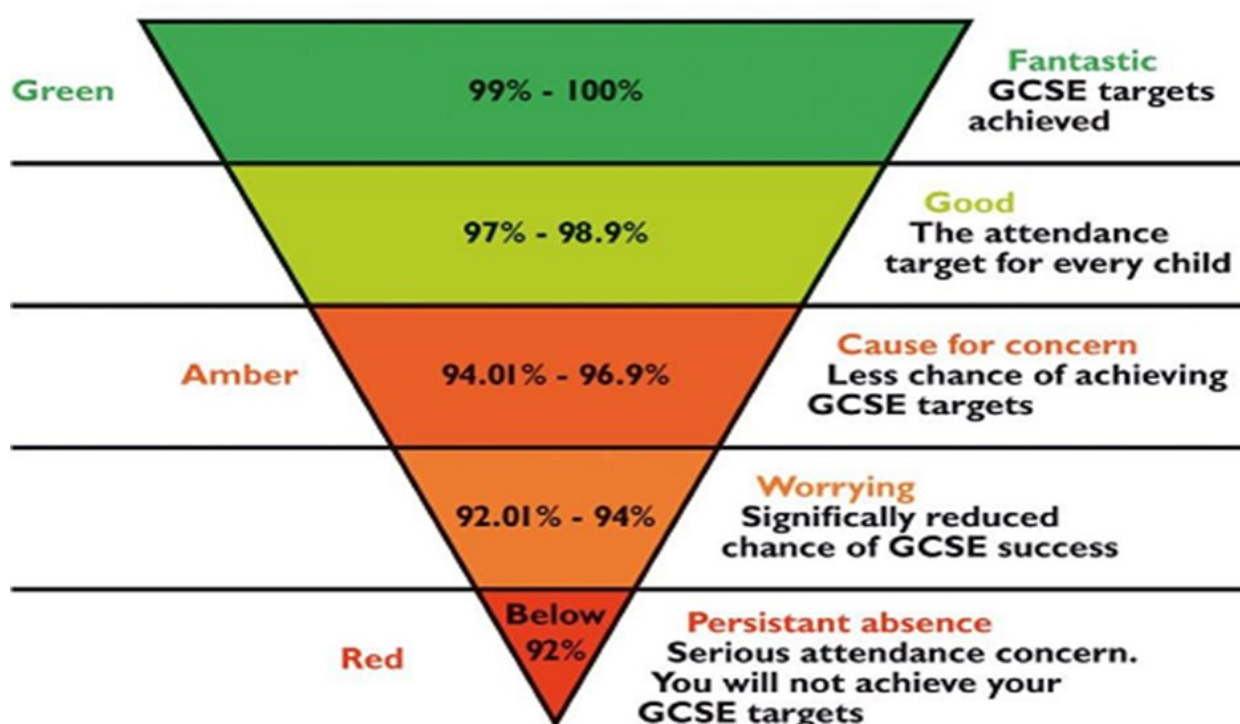
Students:

- be in school every day and on time
- come to school even when not feeling 100% - our excellent First Aider will assess you and call home should you become unwell
- have medical/dental appointments out of school hours or during school holidays if possible
- attendance is expected to be 95% or above

Parents:

- report absence, before 9am if possible and on a **DAILY** basis via the Student Absence Line or email: kbradbury@kingsdownschool.co.uk
- provide proof of appointments during the school day to the Attendance Officer
- inform the Attendance Officer of **all absences** (not including illness) in advance via email or on a Leave of Absence Form which can be downloaded from the school website: <http://www.kingsdownschool.co.uk/Parents/Pages/absence.aspx>
- are encouraged to contact their child's Progress Leader or the Attendance Office regarding any aspect of attendance/absence – we are here to support you and your child through their Kingsdown journey.
- please familiarise yourself with the Attendance information on the school website: <http://www.kingsdownschool.co.uk/Parents/Pages/absence.aspx>

Attendance Triangle



Exam Invigilator vacancy

Exam Invigilator

Casual Work Contract

Approximately 8 weeks of the year

Lead Exam Invigilator

£9.24 per hour plus holiday allowance

Exam Invigilator

£8.11 per hour plus holiday allowance

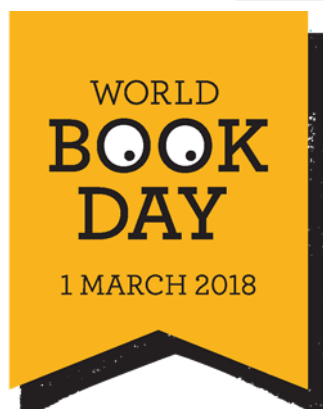
We are looking to recruit reliable, excellent communicators, who are able to work under pressure to join our Exam Invigilation team to oversee our examinations. This is a casual contract which would include attendance of Team Meetings and Training Events.

Exams are the most important and stressful events in the life of a learner. That's why it is so important they are managed in the correct way. Invigilators are crucial to this process; ensuring exams are conducted in accordance with Exam Board and School Regulations. Working as a team, invigilators contribute to ensuring a calm environment for the exams, giving candidates confidence in the process.

Kingsdown School is part of a Multi Academy Trust and joined the River Learning Trust on the 1st September 2017. The successful applicants will join the School as River Learning Trust employees.

Kingsdown School is a mixed 11-16 Academy situated on the eastern outskirts of Swindon. The most recent OFSTED inspection commented "Leaders provide a curriculum that is broad and balanced. A notable strength of the school is its care for pupils facing particular difficulties, the work the school does to support pupils' personal development and well-being is good".

Kingsdown School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced DBS Disclosure.



It is **World Book Day on Thursday, 1st March**. Students will be given £1 World Book Day vouchers. These can be swapped for a free World Book Day book, or to get £1 off any book or audiobook worth £2.99 or more at a participating book shop. Details of the specially published World Book Day books are on display in the LRC, or take a look at the WBD website <http://www.worldbookday.com/>

Alternatively, you can put your £1 voucher towards one of the five fantastic full-length books for teens (see below), priced at only £2.50 each at participating stores (that's **ONLY £1.50** with your £1 book token).



Join in the Book Quiz being held in the LRC on World Book Day

Following on from the success of last year's event, we are going to celebrate World Book Day by holding a Book Quiz at lunchtime in the LRC. Come to the LRC and pick up an entry form to enter a team (maximum of 4 in each team) and compete to see who has the most knowledge of popular and classic children's/young adult fiction!

Staff teams are taking part too!

RIVETING READATHON 2018!

Are you a Year 9 student who enjoys reading? We will be looking for 15 students shortly to participate in this year's Riveting Readathon! Three Swindon Secondary Schools participate in this annual event; Kingsdown, Dorcan and Highworth Warneford schools. The Year 9 students from each of the three schools will be asked to read five specially selected newly published books. In June, all the students will meet at Warneford School to discuss and debate the merits of each book and vote for their favourite. Interested? Speak to your English teacher or library staff to put your name forward.

LRC opening hours:

Mon-Thurs
8.00am-4.30pm

Friday
8.00am-3.30pm