



InTouch

Newsletter 4 / February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that we are now half way through this academic year. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your son / daughter attends each and every day and is ready to learn.



97% - 100%	Outstanding attendance
95% - 96.9%	Good attendance
93% - 94.9%	Requires improvement
90.1% - 92.9%	Poor attendance
85% - 90%	Persistent absence
Less than 85%	Excessive persistent (inc school refusers)

At Kingsdown our expectation is that all students have good attendance, this means that their attendance is at least 95%. Attendance that is below this significantly affects your child's learning and we encourage all appointments and family holidays to be taken during the school holidays.

Half way through the year we have been encouraged to see that the following changes have and are having a significant improvement at Kingsdown:

Rewards : Term 3 saw the official launch of the Kingsdown beats and the badges of excellence in which contribution to school life was recognized in a revised way. It is great to see so many of our students walking around school with the Kingsdown beats worn with Pride on the lapel of their school blazers. So far in term 3 there have been 2461 individual achievements logged with also over 100 badges of excellence been awarded to a number of our students. We recognize the majority of our students for the continued effort that they put in every single day. It fills us with immense pride when we see so many of our students going above and beyond in every aspect of their school life here at Kingsdown. The kingsdown lions are exceptionally honourable awards which are awarded to students that have excelled across all of the Kingsdown beats - I look forward to seeing more of our students wearing these as we progress into term 4.



Inclusion : The introduction of the new 'Hub' within Inclusion have meant the number of students in Kingsdown that can be supported with their learning or social and emotional needs has significantly increased. The completion of the first few cycles of support is just taking place and the data shows that the impact of these have been significant. Students' literacy and numeracy skills are improving with every student who has taken part in the intervention sessions to date making positive progress. This is really encouraging and should support them in their attainment for years to come.

KEY EVENTS FOR TERM 2

Wandering: Keeping students safe is a key priority here for us at Kingsdown. There has been an increase in students wandering around the corridors when they should be in their lessons. As a result of this we have implemented a wandering strategy to ensure that students remain in lessons so that we are aware of where they are at all times. Lessons are, on the whole, 1 hour long (some are 2 hours), students must remain in lesson for the whole time. Students will not leave lessons to:

- Go to the toilet (unless have medical/toilet card)
- Go to the Progress Leader
- Go down to the hub (unless have an appointment)

Uniform : Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to raise our expectations around our school uniform. To ensure that we continue to keep these expectations high, it is essential that our students do not let the 'finer' details slip. We are starting to see a number of ankles as the gap between the top of the shoe and the bottom of the trouser is beginning to grow. Please can I ask that where our students have had a bit of a growth spurt, can replacement trousers be purchased over the half term break.

Should there be an issue with replacing an item of uniform so that it is inline with the uniform policy, please contact your Progress Leader as we may be able to support

Uniform Item	Acceptable	Not acceptable
Trouser	Mid Grey Flat or pleated front Straight Standard fit	Cropped, skinny or flared Denim jeans, leggings, pin stripes Fashion trim Large belts or buckles

Safeguarding: This term students have been focusing on Internet safety and being safe when using social media. You will see on our school website that we have posted a clip for parents to give you a better understanding of how to keep your child safe when online. If you are concerned that your child is being harassed on line, the first step is to report the abuse to the service provider. Should the messages involve sexual, homophobic or racist language or threats, this should be reported to the police in the first instance. We would like to recruit some parent anti-bullying ambassadors to help raise awareness across the community and shape the work that we are doing in school. If you would like to be part of this group, please email Ms Magenty smagenty@kingsdownschool.co.uk.

Parental support and engagement continues to be a strength of the school. Thank you for working in partnership with us all at Kingsdown. This is truly and much appreciated.

There are a number of events planned for the second half of this academic year. I look forward to seeing you soon. If at any point you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Leigh-Bennett

Headteacher

SALAMANDER PROJECT

On Friday 25th January 2019, I was invited to a Passing Out Parade, at Drove Fire Station, for two of our pupils, who had been on a course, with their parents, with the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service.

While I was talking with the Mayor of Swindon, who was in attendance to present the certificates, suddenly, two fire engines roared in with the blues and twos wailing.



Several people jumped out of the engine, all kitted out in fire personnel wear: safety helmet with visors, tunic, trousers and boots. A scenario had been set up, of a road traffic accident. Two people were trapped and one of the cars was lying on its side. Each individual had their job to do. Firstly, they had to make the area safe and then start cutting the roofs off of the cars – a very impressive sight that thankfully wasn't real – this time. First aid was put into practise and the back boards were used to remove the trapped people. Absolutely amazing stuff to watch and obviously very practised.



The people were taken to hospital and the cars were removed and debris cleared. No time for tea and biscuits, the guys received another shout – a house was on fire and people were trapped. Enter the fire engines with blues and twos again (I think all taking part enjoyed this bit). Each person had their part to play in setting up the hoses, climbing the ladders, donning breathing apparatus and entering the smoked filled building to rescue a mum and baby. Again, it ran like clockwork, as this had been practised so well. End result was, no injuries, mum and baby removed to hospital for smoke inhalation and fire extinguished.

Two of our pupils, Kai and Jake did a fantastic job, along with their parents and we hope they got the most of being on the course.

The Salamander course is a difficult one to get on – it encourages a diverse range of people, to develop a new set of values, address consequences of anti-social behaviour, co-operate with others, see the advantage of improving their own learning and performance, gain self-esteem and self-confidence and also improve their communication skills. It might be that they have had trauma in their young lives and have become shy and introvert, it might be that they are over confident, getting into trouble and just need to readjust their thinking. Whatever the reason, it certainly brings the best out in people.

Thank you to all the people who organise the course – learning comes in many different guises.

Mrs Sampson-Emecz
Year 9 Progress Leader



YEAR 11

As year 11 have very little time remaining until their GCSE examinations begin, it is essential that each and every student is preparing effectively to perform their best. Excellent exam results are the key to the next phase of education or training and so we want to ensure that for Kingsdown students, the future will be everything they aspire for.

We all know that examinations can be stressful, particularly if you feel under prepared. Following this simple advice will ensure that you are ready for every all the exams, feeling confident and happy you have done your very best.

1. Maintaining high standards of attendance and punctuality is the first and most important point. Being in school on time every day will help ensure you don't miss out on any vital information in lessons. For year 11 students, we expect attendance to be a minimum of 95.5%. Even when feeling a little under the weather, students must make that extra effort to get into school as no lesson can afford to be missed. As of 30th January, our morning intervention programme is in place. Year 11 students are welcome to join us for a hot breakfast at 8:15am prior to maths and science sessions beginning at 8:30am. Prompt arrival to these sessions are essential.
2. Planning time effectively helps students feel less overwhelmed. This is because they are able to include homework, revision sessions and other commitments into their weekly planner for before adding in personal revision. We advise breaking revision down into manageable chunks, e.g. on Monday evening, I will revise maths, specifically the topic on ratio and I will do this by watching the Hegarty maths demonstration on the topic and then completing 4 exam questions. This helps students avoid getting put off revising as they have set specific tasks to complete during the time slot.
3. Managing stress and anxiety is really important. If we don't address those feelings, it can lead to things spiralling out of control. Finding an activity that helps you relieve stress is advised. This could be exercising, listening to music, talking things through with friends etc. It is important students are able to recognise the early signs of becoming stressed and act on them quickly. There are also a vast array of people they can approach at school if self-help doesn't seem to do the trick. Tutors, subject teachers, red group champions and Year office staff are all committed to supporting students in any way that we can. Reaching out for support is nothing to be ashamed of; the next few months are a lot to manage and taking guidance on that shows a positive attitude to managing challenges.
4. Revise materials regularly. Spaced learning significantly improves long term memory recall. Using tools like GCSEpod, Tassomai and Hegarty all support this. If you are struggling to access any of these platforms, please see the year office.
5. **POSITIVE MENTAL ATTITUDE!** You can do this if you really put your mind to it. That means doing the very best you can every day. No excuses, no half-hearted days, no poor behaviour and exits, no arriving late to lessons. The countdown is on and there is

PARKING

Residents in Sanders Close are unhappy that some parents are parking across their driveways. Please can we ask that you be considerate to our neighbours and help to keep our children safe by parking responsibly.

YEAR 11 REVISION PLANNER

	Week Beginning:						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Before School							
Lunch Time							
After school							
5-5:30pm							
5:30-6pm							
6-6:30pm							
6:30-7pm							
7-7:30pm							
7:30-8pm							
8-8:30pm							
8:30-9pm							
9-9:30pm							
9:30-10pm							



What Next? is excited to bring you [What Career Live?](#) & [What University Live?](#) this March, packed with all the information you need about school leaver options.

Visit the event in either [Birmingham](#) or [Liverpool](#) and meet with over 100 of the UK's top companies and leading universities, who will be there to discuss their apprenticeship and degree programmes.

Top careers experts will be giving free advice at over 60 talks and in the one-to-one feature areas including the Mock Assessment Centre, CV Clinic and Careers Advice Lounge. Plus, there's dedicated advice for anyone supporting a school leaver in the Parents' & Advisors' Theatre.

Exhibitors include: J.P. Morgan, IBM, Murphy, Deloitte, Jaguar Land Rover, EY, RSM, KPMG, University of Manchester, University of Liverpool, Newcastle University, University of Southampton, University of Birmingham and more!

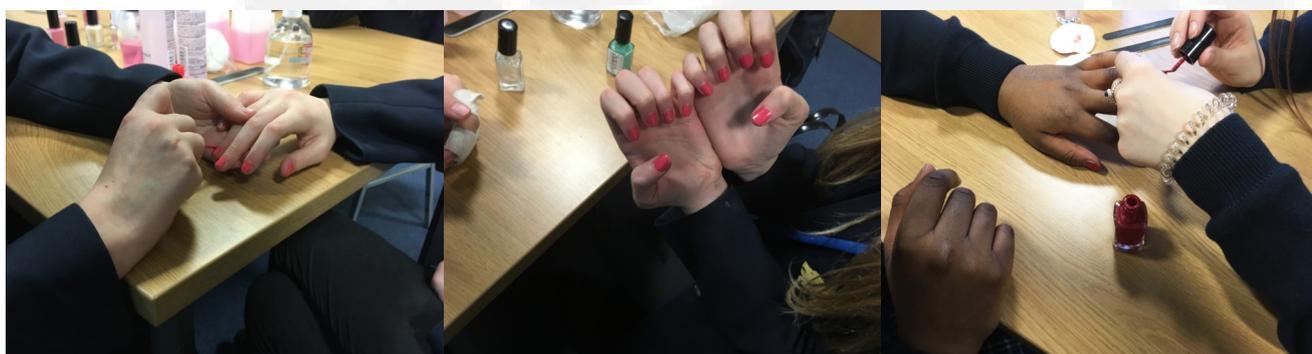
Get your **free** tickets now and start planning for the future - just go to www.whatcareerlive.co.uk

New College Beauty taster session

On 25th January, Nikki from New College came to Kingsdown to run an afterschool beauty taster session for a group of Year 10 students, to help them decide if this is something they would like to study after Year 11.

The students were taught the proper way to file nails, and then how to apply polish. They practised on each other - and were quickly taught how to remove the polish when it didn't quite go to plan!

Hopefully this gave the students a positive introduction to the course, and the Careers Department would like to thank all who came along for their brilliant attitude and conduct, as well as a big thank you to Nikki for running the session.



KEY EVENTS FOR TERM 2

Date	Event
5th March	Year 9 Parents' Evening
11th March - 22nd March	Year 11 Mocks
8 April - 22nd April	Easter Holidays
23rd April	Students return to school



Open event at Rein & Shine on March 6th from 5 - 7pm

If you have an interest in working with horses, but aren't sure where to start, this open event may be for you.

Rein and Shine, a riding school and livery centre, are offering students the chance to take BTEC Level 2 and 3 qualifications.

To find out more information, visit their website or social media pages and sign up to their Open Evening.

Rein and Shine Equestrian Centre, 1 Buryhill Farm, Braydon, Wiltshire, SN5 0AD

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS - Year 11 Students

If you have not yet applied to college, please ensure you have by **February Half Term** - this gives you the best possible chance of getting on to your courses.

You can apply online to all college/6th forms, or by paper to New and Swindon College.

Even if you are planning to apply for apprenticeships, you need to apply to at least one college as a back-up.

Please see Miss Humphries if you need help with this.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) are offering 'Accountancy Uncovered' events for students and parents to discover why a career in chartered accountancy could help you accomplish your career goals and more.



The events are being held across the UK in February and March from 18.30-20.30, so you can register at a local event near you.

These events will involve:

- An expert from ICAEW talking about school leavers, apprenticeships, work experience and graduate opportunities.
- Trainee and qualified ICAEW Chartered Accountants sharing their stories about their career, giving you top tips to succeed.
- Q&A session with local employers offering school leaver and graduate opportunities.
- An opportunity to have detailed conversations and develop links with local and national employers in our mini careers fair and networking session.
- Recruitment options for early careers opportunities.



#iDare Set Up

Want to learn how to set up a business?
Interested in media, reporting & social issues?

The Platform Project is launching a youth issues publication and they're looking for daring young people who would like to undertake an enterprise challenge to set it up in 1 week!

The #iDare publication will take the form of a website / blog / vlog / YouTube channel focusing on youth issues, launching on the 1st March and running for 3 hours on Saturdays for the rest of 2019. This enterprise project will set it up, and the team will work alongside industry professionals to do everything involved in setting up a business and publication, including:

- Design the publications logo and branding,
- Set up the website, YouTube channel and social media accounts,
- Identify what regular features and articles that it will run,
- Propose what kind of topics might be investigated when it launches,
- Plan the launch event.

Participants will (if eligible) have the option of joining the team that will run it after its launch.

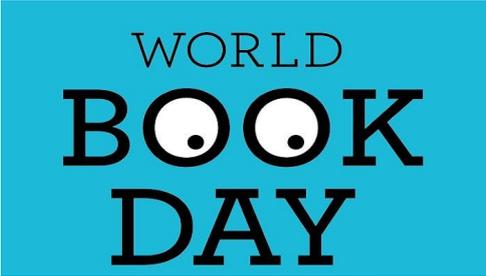
Mon 18th - Fri 22nd Feb '19
10.00-4.00, Central Swindon



Places are **FREE** but limited, so email us
ASAP to reserve your place
info@PlatformProject.co.uk

2019 promises to be an exciting year full of events and activities that bring reading to life. As well as the annual Literature Festival in November, where secondary schools across Swindon join forces for a week of literature fun, we also have World Book Day and the Riveting Readathon fast approaching!

World Book Day 7th March 2019



WORLD
BOOK
DAY

On March 7th 2019, Kingsdown will have the privilege of welcoming the author John Row to our school. "John is able to tailor his set for any age group and fit into any venue. He performs regularly to family audiences.

Customers have included Center Parcs, Chelmsford Council, Cambridge Council and Suffolk County Council Library Service. He has told stories in schools across England, Ireland, Germany and Texas. He encourages participation when story-telling and works towards getting the listeners to repeat the stories to other people." John Row will be working with groups of year 7 throughout the day.

RIVETING READATHON 2019

Plans for this year's Riveting Readathon are taking place across schools where five books from the Carnegie nominations are chosen and read by our students. A Readathon book quiz will take place afterwards, giving our students the opportunity to discuss the books they've read. This year there were 250 books nominated for the 2019 medals! The Riveting Readathon event is set to take place around June or July this year – TBC.

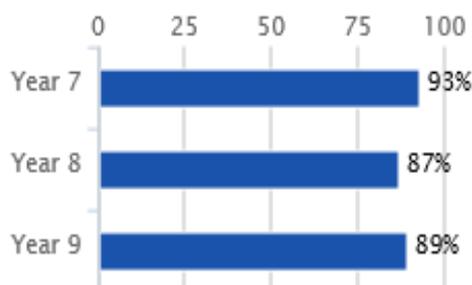


READY
SET
READ!

Accelerated Reader Participation

Kingsdown School

Participation School year to date



To support and develop our students reading skills, we continue to invest in the Accelerated Reader programme. This ensures that students are reading within their current ability and tests their understanding with a short quiz at the end of each book they've read. Since September, with a lot of support, organising and encouraging, more and more students have been getting involved and making progress. We want 100% of students across year 7-9 to be reading regularly and enjoying the feeling of success – no matter how small!

PE UPDATE - TERM 3

Football training and fixtures coming up

A successful boys term with regards to football with over 40 students turning up every week. This has enabled us to run teams for years 7, 8, 9 and 10s. Fixtures start the week beginning Monday 11th Feb.

Year 7 fixtures

Wednesday 26th Feb – Kingsdown V Swindon Academy (Home)

W/C 4th March – Cup fixture LPA v Kingsdown (Away)

Thursday 14th March – Kingsdown V Warneford (Home)

W/C 18th March - Cup quarter finals TBC

Tuesday 26th March - GWA V Kingsdown (Away)

Wednesday 3rd April - Abbey Park v Kingsdown (Away)

W/C 23rd April – Cup semi-final TBC

W/C 2nd May – Cup final TBC

Year 8 Fixtures – League one

Thursday 28th Feb – Bradon Forest V Kingsdown (Away)

Wednesday 6th March - Commonweal v Kingsdown (Away)

Tuesday 12th March - Kingsdown V Lawn Mannor (Home)

W/C 18th March - Cup quarter finals TBC

Wednesday 27th March – Nova Hreod V Kingsdown (Away)

W/C 1st April - Promotion/Relegation play offs

Year 10

Thursday 28th Feb – Kingsdown V Commonweal (Home)

Thursday 7th March - CUP – Kingsdown V Swindon Academy (Home)

Thursday 14th March – Kingsdown V Ridgeway (Home)

W/C 18th March – CUP semi finals TBC

Wednesday 27th March - Kingsdown V Swindon Academy

Thursday 4th April – Abbey Park V Kingsdown (Away)

Girls PE

Football

KDS Year 7 and U14 girls football teams travelled to LPA and played some competitive football representing KDS with pride and ambition. Yr7 squad members included Mollie G, Millie V, Chloe E, Poppy K, Cosima F & player of the match Sophia R. U14 squad members included Frea DD, player of the match Leah W, Lara H, goal scorer Poppy P, Eleanor S, Faye S & Courtne H.

Due to weather and other teams unable to field a team there was only 1 other fixture for these girls. That was an away day to Swindon Academy. We only had 3 year 7 girls available so they joined some Swindon Academy year 7s and split into a fun, yet competitive game. Our U14s played a strong Swindon Academy side and although they did not win the match they showed great attitude and resilience, they never gave up.

Girls Basketball Club – Term 4

Training will be on a Tuesday after school at the KSC for Basketball. There will be fixtures against other schools but they are TBC at the moment.

British Basketball final trip

Mr Mason and Mr Shepherd took 14 students to watch the British Basketball finals on Sunday 27th January. The first game was the Women's Seven Oaks Suns (London) V Sheffield Hatters and was a very exciting tie. In the last 10 seconds of the game Sheffield won by scoring on the buzzer. It was thoroughly enjoyed by the students who even stayed seated as the final whistle went and appreciated the aesthetics of the cheerleading squad that followed.

The Men's final came next, with London Lions V Glasgow Rocks. The game was full of quality, with quick passing and lots of slam dunks. The eventual winners were the London Lions who ran away with the game at the end.

Tickets have been booked for next years BBL final on Sunday 26th January 2020, speak with Mr Shepherd if you are interested.

Sport student of the term: Tyler Hillier – Swimming

Tyler represents Swindon Dolphins ASC and has 12 golds and 5 silvers for his club championships in his squad. He is about to compete in the county championships, where he will compete against the best swimmers in Wiltshire for his age group. He has come 3rd (Bronze), 4th and 5th in Wiltshire previously in a variety of different disciplines. Good luck Tyler!

