



Dear Parents ,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support as Kingsdown parents. In September I took up the Headship at KDS - a school Requiring Improvement - and much has been put in place to secure clear and impactful school improvement. Your support in embedding and reinforcing our high expectations has been key to this success. For that I sincerely thank you for working in active partnership with all the staff at the school. I do appreciate that sometimes this is hard - that said, we want the very same thing - the best possible outcomes and progress for your child. I know you will continue to support the school as we move into year 2 of our securing our 2020 vision - **A school of excellence bursting with pride and ambition.**

This year has seen a number of changes - most notably:

The Senior Leadership Team - In September the Senior Leadership Team will feel very different. In May we appointed 3 new Assistant Headteachers who will add real capacity to the leadership of the school - attached you will find their pen portraits. Since their appointments we have met several times, established very clear roles and responsibilities and written a clear School Improvement Plan to drive our school improvement for 2018 - 20.

So, we say a very fond farewell to the two deputies - Mr Lowe and Mrs Drayton who have given 21 & 14 years of loyalty and service to Kingsdown School. We also say farewell to our Directors of Learning - Mr Rumble and Mrs Temple - again having given 14 & 7½ years of service respectively.

At Easter we welcomed back Mrs Lees from her maternity leave and at the start of Term 5 we welcomed and inducted Mrs Boyall. Our highly experienced Directors of Progress for September are ready to accelerate the progress of your sons and daughters. This term they have been working closely with their Progress Leaders and team of tutors. **We need your support** in ensuring that you raise the profile of attendance - we need you to send your child to school each and every day.

Behaviour for Learning - Kingsdown School has a clear vision - a school of excellence bursting with pride and ambition. To achieve this we have three strategic priorities: we will

1. Know your child
2. Teach them well
3. Have high expectations in all we do

As term 6 closes I remain disappointed with the behavior of a significant minority of students in our school. As parents we will know if your son / daughter has received exits this year and is therefore part of this significant minority. Despite our work to embed high expectations, there is still too much low level disruptive behaviour and indeed too much defiant behavior. Sadly some students feel that they can disrupt the education of others and not follow an instruction the first time. **We need your support here in reiterating this message to your son / daughter. There will not and cannot be any disruptive or defiant behaviour at Kingsdown School and all instructions will be and must be followed at the first time of asking.**

Our Behaviour Policy is clear and will remain unchanged from September onwards. Teachers who have students who are off task and causing disruption will continue to use our 3 stage process:

1. Action
2. Warning
3. Exit

MESSAGE FROM MRS LEIGH-BENNETT (Cont..)

We will be introducing a further sanction and consequence for disruptive and defiant behaviour next year. When exited for disruptive behaviour your child will be isolated for an entire day and this will include breaks and lunchtimes. Clearly your child will have the opportunity to eat, drink and visit the bathrooms but these will be at an alternative time from the rest of the school. Additionally your child will be in school until 3.30pm each day. I sincerely hope that through your support and your child's positive attitude to learning, an Isolation will be a very rare occurrence. **So we need you to reinforce our key messages:**

- 1. There will be no disruptive behaviour in any lesson or at any time**
- 2. Students will be excluded from Kingsdown for defiant / dangerous behaviour**
- 3. Our high expectations will be clearly defined and embedded - no will continue to mean no**

Teaching and Learning - Next term we will continue our work to embed the Kingsdown Teaching and Learning Framework. This Framework is all about good quality teaching for deep learning and long term recall. In essence:

- Every lesson starts with a clear objective and clearly identified success criteria
- Every lesson has a section whereby the teacher clearly explains and models the learning
- This is then followed by a section whereby the students complete a series of activities to apply their new learning
- In the latter part of the lesson there is an assessment or review section whereby the students and teachers assess the learning and progress made.

This model which is all about great teaching and learning will continue into next year and beyond. Our Friday Week 2's will continue to support our commitment to developing the practice for all our teachers. **We need you to reinforce** the message with your child that Kingsdown is a good school and committed to providing a high quality learning experience, each and every day - in essence - **Every Lesson Counts.**

Developing our Curriculum - Since January, there have been some new and clear Government directives about what makes a good Curriculum in a school. This term we have been working in teams to review and develop our Kingsdown Curriculum and Year 7 to Year 11 Schemes of Work. This work will continue into September and beyond. Our work next year will focus on further developing our curriculum and assessment processes at KS3. We will be holding a number of information evenings to support you as parents to understand these changes and how you can support your son / daughter.

Rebranding Kingsdown School - The reputation of any organisation is key to its future success. This year we have worked hard to improve the impression and reputation of Kingsdown. Every Thursday we have opened up the school to new parents. Here they have seen first hand the high quality teaching and learning happening in every classroom and every day. Changing hearts and minds take time but we are seeing the tide turn. This work will continue into September. We have written and developed a new website which goes live in late August. **We need your support in ensuring that your son / daughter is an excellent ambassador especially to and from school.** Please remind them of the importance of being a great role model at this time. I would particularly welcome you reinforcing the need to walk sensibly to school and not riding bikes on the pavements / school site. As parents do please ensure that your child wears a cycle helmet if they cycle. If and when I hear that students have been less than exemplary role models, to and from school, I will be authorising a very firm sanction - for example, I will not and cannot allow poor behaviour and especially smoking of any kind whilst a student is wearing the Kingsdown uniform. As you know from my previous letters, I will not be permitting and authorising any student to leave the school site at lunchtimes next year.

New Uniform - As you know the last uniform was introduced several decades ago. Our thanks for your patience in working with Uniform Direct company and their Pop Up Shops. September will look and feel so different. We are all looking forward to the arrival of our students on their first days please click on the uniform policy link and student dress code examples - [Uniform Policy](#). **We need you as parents to ensure that you are clear about our uniform expectations.** If you need any support please contact the main office on or before 28th August.

Additionally our ready to learn expectations are:

- Enter lesson calmly, orderly and promptly following the teacher's instructions
- Sit in allocated seat
- Remove coat and bag
- Take out required equipment (eg Pencil Case, Link Book)
- Complete 'Do Now' activity silently while the register is taken

We need you as parents to ensure that your son / daughter is ready to learn, each and every day.

Equipment List, a pencil case should contain: at least two black pens, a green pen, at least two pencils, ruler, rubber, pencil sharpener, scientific calculator, compass and protractor. If you have any difficulties in ensuring this, please contact your child's tutor via email before 8.15am.

	5th September	6th September	
9.30am	Year 7 arrive Line up in Tutor Group order - Quad area Lessons from Period 4	Year 8 arrive for 8.30am Line up in Tutor Group order - Tennis Courts Lessons from Period 3	
10.30am	Year 9 arrive Line up in Tutor Group order - Tennis courts Lessons from Period 4	Year 10 arrive for 8.30am Line up in Tutor Group order - Quad area Lessons from Period 3	
11.15am	Year 11 arrive Line up in Tutor Group order - Basketball area Lessons from Period 4	11.00am	Year 7, 9 & 11 arrive Arrive for break
		11.20am	Straight to Period 3

Start of term arrangements - This year, as in previous years, there will be two teacher training days. Below are the dates and times for year groups to return to Kingsdown. Students know their tutor groups and the room numbers.

For now I thank you again for your support. I have enjoyed every minute of my first year as the Headteacher of Kingsdown. My teams have achieved much. We know there is still much to secure but we have a clear plan, very clear expectations and a highly skilled team to do this. We all know that we can count on your support, in reinforcing the same messages and same high expectations from home.

Have a safe, relaxing and rewarding Summer holiday with your children. We look forward to seeing them all safe and sound in September. With my thanks again and very best wishes.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett, **Headteacher**

WELCOME TO THE NEW SLT TEAM

Mr M Edwards, Assistant Headteacher - Achievement, Data and Outcomes

Hello, my name is Matt Edwards and I am going to be, from September, an Assistant Headteacher and one who will be looking after 'Data, Progress and Outcomes'. I am a Science Teacher, with Physics being my specialism and have experience working in schools in both Oxfordshire and Swindon. I am very much looking forward to starting work in September and helping Mrs Leigh-Bennett and the rest of the SLT to continue to hard work to date ensuring that Kingsdown is a school of excellence. I have exceptionally high aspirations for the students at Kingsdown, and I very much look forward to helping support them in achieving the very best that they can be.

Mr D Salles, Assistant Headteacher - Curriculum, Teaching, Learning and Assessment

I have taught English at Commonweal, St Joseph's, Warneford and Chipping Camden Schools. I have been in charge of teaching and learning for the last 8 years, in two schools, helping my current school to be graded 'Outstanding'. I run the UK's second largest GCSE English YouTube Channel and am the author of 'The Slightly Awesome Teacher' and a guide to the English Language GCSE. This year I have worked with Kingsdown teachers and found them to be passionate about making a difference and determined to find ways to help students succeed. I am excited to join Mrs Leigh-Bennett and her new leadership team to help make that difference.

Mrs R Green, Assistant Headteacher - Inclusion & Intervention

I am currently in my ninth year of working at Kingsdown School, four of which have been within SLT. I am very much looking forward to taking on the new role of Inclusion in September as, having previously overseen behaviour, interventions and considered my previous career as a medical professional in the NHS, it brings all the areas I love and have experience in together.

I can't wait to work with the inclusion team who offer a huge range of skills and experience that will support our young people. We will be ensuring all students have access to the intervention and support they need next year through assessment, liaising with their teaching staff, parents and carers and observing them in lessons. This support will help them in their learning and to be happy, well rounded and employable members of the Swindon community when their time comes to leave us. These are exciting times at Kingsdown and I am excited to be part of it.

Mrs S Magenty, Assistant Headteacher - Student Champion

I am passionate about making a difference to children's lives through an excellent, high quality education. I bring 7 years of leadership experience to Kingsdown School which I will use to raise the aspirations of students and teach them how to be leaders of the future. I will ensure that they are given opportunities to experience the wider world so that every student leaves school with strong prospects for the future and pride in themselves.

1. As Student Champion I will lead on the personal development curriculum, student leadership, careers, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) and safeguarding. I have a strong connection with the local community for over 10 years and am really looking forward to contributing to the next chapter in Kingsdown's story.

WELCOME TO THE NEW SLT TEAM (Cont....)

Mrs L Criddle, Assistant Headteacher - Behaviour

I started my teaching career as a PE teacher in an inner city school in Bristol. I worked as a curriculum leader to establish high expectations to engage learners with challenging behaviours. At this time I also completed my Masters which focussed on engaging disengaged learners, the importance of high expectations and the championing of every student.

I have been at Kingsdown for 2 years, initially as a Director of Learning for PACE (Performing Arts and Creative Education) before joining the senior leadership team. This year I move into a new role as the strategic lead on behaviour for learning. I cannot wait to work as part of the new leadership team where we will tighten up for good. I have a wealth of knowledge with working in, and leading the management of behaviour in challenging schools and more recently have been trained as a pivotal instructor around the improvement of whole school behaviour.

I have never worked with a stronger, more passionate staff body than we have at Kingsdown.

Mrs H Brown, Business Manager

I have worked in School Business Management for over 16 years across many sectors including Early Years, Children's Centres, Primary, Secondary, Mainstream, Academy and Multi Academy Trusts. The landscape of education is forever changing and my role is to continually maximise resources in order to support the school, to achieve the best possible outcomes for our students within our limited funds. I am well supported to do so, by excellent Business Support teams including Finance, HR, Premises, IT, Catering and of course the welcoming faces of our front office Pastoral Admin Team.

FAREWELLS

Throughout my 13½ years at Kingsdown School there has been considerable educational change. During this time I have held varied leadership and teaching roles and enjoyed these roles immensely.

I have had the pleasure of working alongside extremely professional and hardworking teaching and support staff and have made some lifelong friends. I have also had the privilege of meeting and establishing some wonderful relationships with students and parents/carers and seen first-hand, the successes of so many students as they progress through the school and embark on adult life. I regularly bump into former students and am always delighted to hear about their continued successes and achievements and to listen to their fond memories of their time at Kingsdown.

I wish the school community all the best wishes and success as it moves into its new chapter.

Mrs Drayton

I joined Kingsdown in September 1997 and much has changed during this time. What has been consistent during my time at Kingsdown, is the immense pride that I have felt to have been part of the Kingsdown story. It has been an absolute privilege to teach so many young people and to see so many of them now as adults, some as parents of children at the school now.

I have many special memories of working at Kingsdown School that will stay with me forever.

Mr Lowe

KINGSDOWN ON THE MOVE WITH RIVER LEARNING TRUST

At the end of the school's first year of RLT membership, we can look back with some pride and look forward with anticipation. The staff team have embraced the opportunities presented by trust membership and embarked on digging deep foundations for the school's future growth. Through regular input from me, in my role as 'Support and Challenge Partner', as well as brokered support from the Good and Outstanding schools in the trust, we have witnessed some important progress and developed some strong professional relationships. We have also made sure that we receive external evaluation from the office of the Regional Schools Commissioner, which in turn has provided both guidance and challenge, helping the school to define that path which will help make our ambitions a reality. This has been matched by a Peer Review, using senior leaders from other schools to help define the priorities, and Governors have been inside our work at every stage.

Important areas of focus during this year and looking ahead to the new academic year include development of a strong, disciplined and ambitious culture; ensuring that the practice of teachers consistently meets high standards so that students achieve more; and developing confident and effective leadership. These are the essential building blocks for the school's future success and we have matched these with support for Safeguarding, Inclusion, Health and Safety and robust attention to providing the best courses for the students.

Kingsdown is now very well placed to grow into a great school: Mrs Leigh-Bennett is very clear about the huge potential of the school and the students in it, and she will embark on the next stage of the journey with a coherent plan and a strong team behind her. The staff of the school are our greatest asset and I take my hat off to them for their commitment, care and energy.

Mrs K Curtis
Support and Challenge Partner

TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY - SEPTEMBER 2018

Timings of the school day from September will be as follows:



18-19	Monday - Thursday		Friday Wk 1		Friday Wk2	
	Start	Finish	Start	Finish	Start	Finish
Tutor	08:35	09:00	08:35	09:00	08:35	09:00
Lesson 1	09:00	10:00	09:00	10:00	09:00	10:00
Lesson 2	10:00	11:00	10:00	11:00	10:00	11:00
Break	11:00	11:20	11:00	11:20	11:00	11:20
Lesson 3	11:20	12:20	11:20	12:20	11:20	12:20
Lesson 4	12:20	13:20	12:20	13:20	12:20	13:20
Lunch	13:20	14:00	13:20	14:00		
Lesson 5	14:00	15:00	14:00	15:00		

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

As we approach the end of my first year as Chair of Governors at Kingsdown School, it is timely to reflect on the positive changes that have been made and the ambitions we have for the future. The school has been in the 'Requiring Improvement' category for too long. Teachers, support staff and students have all worked incredibly hard this year to ensure that substantial progress has been made. I recently had the pleasure of watching the school's showcase performance of *Midsummer Night's Dream*. The students' teamwork, talent and sheer joy were all evidence of a positive learning experience. Some students went the extra mile and put themselves forward for last minute new roles. They can be very proud of that commitment.

Of course, organisational change is sometimes slow if it is to be sustainable. While exciting, it brings its challenges, and sometimes setbacks, but we are confident that the school will continue to go from strength to strength. The improvement of behaviour will continue to be a key aim and the staff value their partnership with you in this.

Some colleagues of long standing are leaving us in the summer for pastures new. My fellow governors and I thank them for their dedicated service and wish them well. We have recruited some superb new senior leaders to help drive improvements at the school and we look forward to welcoming them, and indeed our new Year 7 students in September. It will be exciting to see them, and the rest of the year groups wearing their smart new uniforms with pride.

We do have a parent governor vacancy on our governing board from September. It can be a truly rewarding volunteer role and an excellent way of being able to influence and support the school's mission and vision. If you think you may be interested in joining us, please contact our clerk, Jude Carter, by e-mailing jcarter@kingsdownschool.co.uk for more information.

Mrs L Scragg, Chair of Governors

YEAR 6 TRANSITION

We were excited to welcome Year 6 on Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th of July for their transition days at Kingsdown School. Over the two days Year 6 students worked with their tutors, teachers and Year 8 ambassadors to achieve their Secret Agent Award.

Students completed a series of tasks, to be able to improve their skills and knowledge to be ready to move to Kingsdown School in September. Students decoded secret messages, identified different poisons and created antidotes. They were then able to send the antidote by rockets they created, to save other secret agents. They also used new skills to find their way around the school, uncover evidence from the past and learnt how to take fingerprints.

The two transition days helped us learn more about our new students and be ready for them arriving in September. All students said they had a fantastic time and were looking forward to starting in September. A massive thank you to everyone involved in making Transition such a great success for all students.

Mrs Boyall

PARKING ON SITE

Collecting students from school – parking on site

At the end of the school day, all students want to get home as quickly as possible, and many parents collect students from school. As I am sure you can appreciate, the school car park is nowhere near big enough to allow every parent to pick up every one of the 1100 plus students in their vehicles. The school therefore has to restrict who can access the site, for a number of reasons, including Safeguarding and Health and Safety. We would like to enlist your help and support in this matter as there have been a number of instances, where cars have been deliberately driven at members of staff when they have tried to restrict entry onto site.

The policy adopted by the school is that taxi drivers collecting students, authorised minibus drivers and parents of disabled children, or parents who are registered disabled and display the correct Blue badge, are the key vehicles which will be allowed on site at the end of the school day. Anyone else wishing to collect their child at this time will need to obtain prior permission from the relevant Progress Leader.

Anyone collecting students can, of course, use the Kingsdown Sports Centre car park for waiting in. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Pickett, Site Manager

KINGSDOWN SPORTS CENTRE



Kingsdown Sports Centre is available for hire in the evenings and at weekends, all year round, and we have plenty of availability at the moment. Most sports can be played in the large Sports Hall, so if you are looking for a venue for your local sports team or club, please contact lettings@kingsdownschool.co.uk for more information.

We also have a fully sprung dance studio for hire. Again, please contact lettings@kingsdownschool.co.uk for more information.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE AWARD

July 14th & 15th, saw 42 Year 9's take on their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Assessed Expedition in the beautiful Vale of Pewsey. The students in their groups, had in advance of the weekend, planned and mapped their routes for both days, allowed for one night of camping and prepared all their supplies for walking in the region of 10Km per day

The weather was kind, not baking hot as it has been over the previous days, a cool breeze was much appreciated.

All students were dropped off at the camp site and set off in their groups at regular intervals. Each group had to navigate their planned route, checking in with staff at agreed checkpoints along the way. Essential water stops and the exchange of tales from their travels. Although the odd minor detour may have been taken, each group successfully checked in with all the agreed checkpoints. Back at camp, tents set up, food cooked and a very competitive game of rounder's ensued with students and staff, plus an additional player joining us, Mrs Leigh-Bennett. All that fresh air meant an early night, camp quiet by 10.30 📴.

As is usual on DofE the students were up with the sun, no Sunday lay in here. Breakfasts on the go by 6am. Tents packed away and the first groups off and walking before 8am.

Each and every student completed and passed their Assessed Expedition.

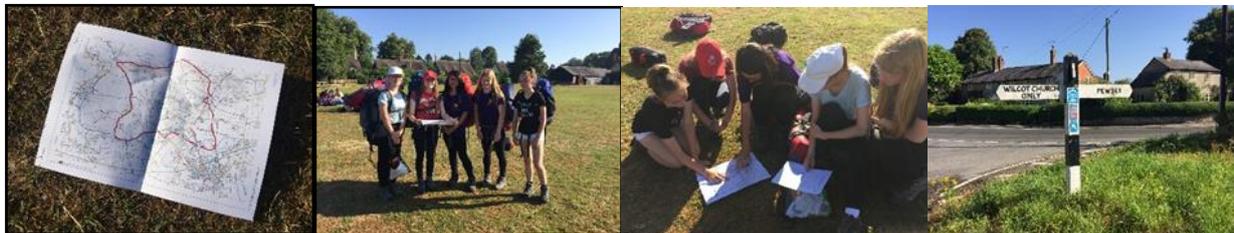
We are so very proud of them all. In addition to their achievement, we as staff would like to congratulate them, as every member of the public that we came into contact with, complemented the students on their behaviour and politeness. They were a credit to themselves, the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and Kingsdown School. Well done year 9.

Thanks also go to the fantastic team of staff who give up their time for free to organise, encourage and take part in these weekends, without them, students would not benefit from this fantastic opportunity.

Congratulations from us all.

Miss Bryant, Miss Maller, Mrs Ridley, Mrs Walsh, Mr Altman, Mr Cowe, Mr Harper, Mr Radcliffe & Mr Tucker.

For more details on The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme visit: www.Dofe.org



SPORT UPDATE

'This Girl Can' Club

This term saw the launch of a new, 'This Girl Can' Club for Year 7, 8 and 9 students. 'This Girl Can' is a Sport England initiative which aims to increase the participation and confidence levels of females in sport and our Kingsdown students have certainly risen to the challenge! Over 50 girls have regularly attended the club each week to receive coaching for a range of different sports and activities including; fitness, rugby, rounders and netball. These students were supported by some fantastic Year 10 sports leaders so I would like to thank Hope, Lily-May, Emma, Molly, Nina, Emily, Caitlin and Shannon for their hard work and commitment each week.



Year 7 and 8 Swindon School Athletics Championships

On Tuesday 26th June 12 schools in Swindon met at Swindon Athletics track for the annual Year 7 and 8 athletics competition. The weather was extremely hot which made some events extremely difficult however, Kingsdown students did the school proud with some outstanding performances in both track and field. The event had more competitors than ever before with Kingsdown fielding 31 students on the day. These students had been through trials within the school and were hand selected to represent Kingsdown.

The stand out performances on the day in the Year 7 boys' team were Dan who won the 300m and Freddie who won the Javelin. On the girls side in Year 7 Katie won the Javelin and 1200m race. From Year 8 Ben and Sam both won their long distance races in the 1500m and 800m respectively. There was a number of other top 3 finishes amongst the athletics teams. A massive well done to all students who competed and earned Kingsdown points on the day. We finished in 7th position overall.

Both Athletics Championships have helped prepare students for the annual Kingsdown Sports Day on July 20th at the County Ground.

Kingsdown School Represented Well at the Year 9 & 10 Swindon School Athletics Competition

A beauty of a day, made for some fantastic atmosphere at The County Ground Thursday 21st June, the longest day of the year and possibly the warmest.

The standard was as high as the spirit at The County Ground and Kingsdown contributed tremendously with impeccable behaviour, attitude and performance.

Kingsdown were represented in a number of different disciplines throughout Year 9 and 10, boys and girls, including Javelin, Shot Put, Discus, Long jump, High jump, Triple jump, 100m, 200m, 300m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, Hurdles and Relay.

Standout performance of the day comes from Emily in Year 10 who finished 2nd in Triple jump.

Although Kingsdown could not claim a top spot, it was an enjoyable day and the students did very well. Well done to all involved. Final standings saw Kingsdown finish in 10th position.

Sports Day 2018

Another fantastic sporting event took place on 20th July at Swindon County Ground with the annual school sports day taking centre stage. The day started with a bang but it was not the starter gun, it was over 70 students dancing in the curtain raiser for the event. The dancers performed a spectacular performance and there was a cameo performance by some staff members, which the students really appreciated. A special thanks to Miss Winwood who truly has inspired so many students to get involved in dance.

The day ran extremely smoothly, with some outstanding sporting performances from both staff and students. The tug of war event was as popular as ever and the rope just about survived the day. Most impressive was a number of students breaking school records. In Year 7, Luke broke the hurdles record and Katie beat the Javelin record. In Year 8, Tia broke the hurdles record. In Year 9, Tom broke the hurdles record. In Year 10, Josh beat the hurdles record and Bethany smashed the girls 400m record by 6 seconds.

The day finished with the staff Relay and it was Mrs Ridley, Mr Mason, Mr Radcliffe and Miss Maller who won the race. The students behaved outstandingly throughout the day and the owners of the venue commented on how clean the venue had been left by the school. On behalf of the PE team thanks to all staff who supported the running of what is the biggest sporting celebration day in the calendar.

Overall Results

Year 7

1st Lydiard - 313 points
2nd Coate - 252 points
3rd Stanton - 209 points

Year 9

1st Lydiard - 213 points
2nd Stanton - 201 points
3rd Coate - 198 points

Year 8

1st Coate - 345 points
2nd Stanton - 276 points
3rd Lydiard - 204 points

Year 10

1st Lydiard - 272 points
2nd Coate - 268 points
3rd Stanton - 149 points

FRENCH TRIP



A group of 33 year 8 students leave for France early on 22nd July. They will have a truly memorable experience. Here are some thoughts in advance of the trip. We are all very excited! Follow our trip on the school website blogs. We will let you know how we got on when we get back.

Au revoir!

I am really excited for the school trip to France, to discover more about the French culture and develop my language skills. Not only that but also learn how to cook a few French recipes, an opportunity to go abroad with your friends, with no parents but our friendly and supportive teachers. Going to theme parks and having a good time, spamming our cameras with photos, being able to go to a chocolate factory makes it feel like Christmas all over again. It may only be a couple of days but it will be a life experience and memory.

Barbara da Silva

I am looking forward to the French trip because I am excited to use the new French I have learned and try to talk to others. I am also excited to make new friends and learn about France. I'm really excited to try new foods as I love to eat. I also can't wait to have fun with my friends. I have only been to Disneyland and not really seen France, so I'm excited to learn about the culture and more about the language and people. I can't wait to take lots of photos and buy souvenirs and just have a really good time!

Ria Chem

I'm going on a French trip with school and I'm am so excited and can't wait to go! The thing I am most excited about learning more about France and possibly trying to speak or understand someone in France. Also I am really looking forward to going to the theme park and watching all my friends scream their heads off. I think I'm going to be a little nervous, going away without my mum but I'm going to have an opportunity to be a bit more independent. I'm also excited about trying new foods and going to some places to make some traditional French foods.

Morgan Evenett

Exam Invigilators

Casual Work Contract

Approximately 8 weeks of the year

£8.74 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 candidate's confidence in the process.

Kingsdown School are 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.

For any enquires, please contact recruitment@kingsdownschool.co.uk or telephone the HR Department on 01793 837087. Applications will only be accepted on a Kingsdown School application form via eteach.com.

Closing date for completed applications is Thursday 16th August by 08:00am. Interview date is to be confirmed. CVs will not be accepted and no agencies please.

If you have not heard from us shortly after the closing date this means that you have not been shortlisted on this occasion.

The Farm Project - By Dylan Anderson

Last month, on 9th – 11th May 2018, some of the ASC students, including me went to the Abbey Home Farm near Cirencester, home to its Organic Farm Shop, for our first residential trip there. For 3 days and 2 nights, we did lots of work and activities such as milking cows, planting potatoes, cooking and more that I will tell you.

When we got there on Wednesday 9th May, we were introduced to a wooden, classic styled cabin by one of the staff of the farm whose name is Maya. After we went to our rooms and unpacked our bags, we introduced ourselves at the kitchen and lounge and Maya and Simon, another staff at Abbey Home Farm, explained to us on the activities we were going to do. We even split up into two groups as well. They even gave us a tour around the farm. Wednesday has been a lovely introduction, as I get to milk cows, make vegetarian pizza from organic veg and even get to know each other.

Things got very interesting on our second day, despite my rough morning, waking up from a window banging crow (at least once). After potato planting (my group planted 1,000 potatoes and even learned some facts) and an organic breakfast, our groups went to do different activities. I did different kinds of wood chopping with Simon and even managed to use flint and steel to light a fire. My marvelling experience with the flint and steel even got me to start one for all of us to sit down by where we had sausage burgers (even had a trivia for the ones that were left) and went for a play around in the woods (the boys did role playing, which was interesting). Thursday has been a superb experience for me around and is one of my favourite days at the farm.

Our last day and short day started with my group going to milk the cows before breakfast and let me tell you, I was on the roll there. After an hour of packing our bags and visiting the Organic Farm Shop, we went to see the pigs on the farm, then went to egg grading, which the latter had us packaging eggs in different sizes and delivered them to the shop. After sandwiches for lunch, we trekked to the open fields and had a chat on remembering the wonderful times at the farm and even played some games. Then we wave our goodbyes to Maya and Simon before leaving for school.

The end of a beautiful and an outstanding trip, in which we learnt the importance of teamwork and some cool facts. Abbey Home Farm is home to the delicious organic food here in Wiltshire and you should go there as well. If you are online next time and you're planning a trip then The Farm Project is just right for you. Visit <http://www.thefarm.education/> and see if you can plan a 3 day residential trip for your class. Thanks for reading and hopefully, you would be learning something that the centre and I have on your visit. I'm looking forward to share some beautiful trips we visit next time. Enjoy the rest of your day.



Music Lessons



Swindon
Music
Co-operative



Swindon Music Co-operative specialises in providing instrumental and vocal tuition on an individual or small group basis.

We operate in most of the Primary and Secondary Schools within Swindon and Wiltshire

Instruments In Kingsdown

Piano	Recorder
Keyboard	Guitar
Drums	Bass
Voice	Ukulele
Flute	
Clarinet	
Saxophone	

To apply for lessons on any of these instruments simply complete an application form, available from your school reception or our website

www.swindonmusiccoop.co.uk.

Return the form to Swindon Music Co-operative by post or email and we will be in touch to arrange lessons.

NEW YORK 2018

The New York trip 2018 left Kingsdown School at 4.30am on the 23rd May. Everybody really enjoyed the flight and everything went to plan and time. We arrived at JFK in the afternoon on the 23rd and immediately encountered the heat and bustle of New York. President Trump was in town which also made security very heightened. At JFK we met Lynn our lovely guide for our stay during New York. During the trip we stayed at the Hotel Pennsylvania. The location was amazing, just next to Maddison square garden and a short walk to Times Square.



The first night in New York took us to the empire state building where we had dinner at the Heart Land Brewery. This was followed by a tour of the top of the Empire State Building Observatory which offered the most incredible views as the sun set on the city of dreams.

Thursday the 24th was full of excitement as our first full day in New York. We had a delicious early breakfast at Café R and went off on our way. The day started with the Ellis and Liberty Island Ferry. We were blessed with beautiful sunshine and we cruised the Hudson and admired the stunning views of the statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and Manhattan.



Once the tour had finished we headed down Wall Street to arrive at the 9/11 Memorial Site and Museum.

Everybody on the trip was humbled and moved by this experience and having the opportunity to individually pay our respect. I think everybody felt the same as we approached the site, moving from a very busy and noisy New York to almost sustained complete silence as people went about their everyday business. With just the noise of the new South Tower fountains in the background. A very moving experience and an absolute privilege to share with such respectful students. On our way back to the hotel, via the subway, we showed the students China Town. After a very quick freshen up we were back out again where we enjoyed dinner at the Hard Rock Café and an amazing show 'A Bronx Tale' at the Longacre theatre.



NEW YORK 2018 (Cont....)

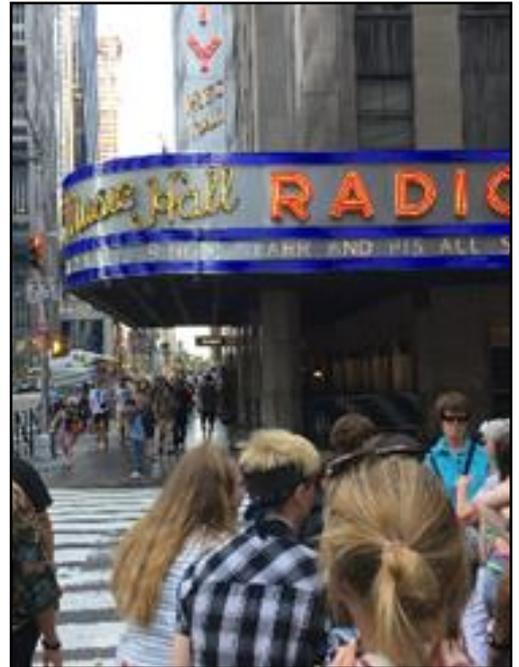
Friday the 25th started with breakfast at Café R and then we headed out to explore the Madison Square Garden and then headed for the highline where we walked to the apartment used for the outside filming of friends. The students loved this and it was a great photo opportunity. During the rest of the day we visited Nintendo world where students explored new technology. The NBC Studio tour allowed students to see the studios for the filming of many great American chat shows and where they even got to film their own chat show.

That evening students had a lovely meal at Bubba Gump and were able to then have some free time shopping in some of New York's finest shops and exploring Times Square.

Saturday the 26th was our last day and we did not waste it. We were up and about early and took in some of the remaining sights we wanted to see in New York. We visited Central Park, Grand Central Station, The Plaza hotel and of course, Trump Tower. The afternoon was given to students for their last minute shopping before we met our coach and made our way home. After such a busy few days in New York the night flight home was welcomed by all and I do not think there was anyone from the Kingsdown party who was still awake...

This trip was truly a trip of a lifetime for all involved. The city which doesn't sleep didn't disappoint and the film set city will be in our hearts for many years to come...

Until next time New York...



Mr Mays

BUSINESS STUDIES TRIP

McDonald's Trip – 11 July 2018

We were all greeted at the door by several members of the McDonalds staff who introduced themselves as being managers and owners of numerous McDonald restaurants within Swindon.

We were taken through the kitchens and into the main office room where we watched a video clip about a vlogger who had spent the day working at a McDonald's restaurant. This gave us insight into the benefits of working at McDonalds such as flexible hours and education support. We were then given aprons and split into two groups. We were given a tour of the entire restaurant such as the crew room and the store room where all of the ingredients were kept in big refrigerators. We were then taken into the kitchen and were shown the safety precautions that every member of staff was trained with and saw the several grills and machines that made the meals. Then, we were shown how the drive thru worked and all the hard effort that was put into making sure every meal was of a good quality before they left the kitchen.

Throughout our entire visit, we had lots of opportunities to ask questions about McDonalds as a business. Then, we entered the main restaurant and was introduced to the new table service that McDonalds now offer and were shown how the ordering kiosks worked. Lastly, we had an opportunity to order and eat our breakfasts using the machines. Thank you Mr Narthey for organising the visit and Mrs Ridley for driving us there and back .

Amber Ray 9.3



National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) News

Back in early Spring, year 9 student Lily Cottrell took part in an NSEA dressage competition, held at Wickstead Farm in Highworth, riding African Safari (stable name Saffy) . She scored 61.5% in a class of 49 competitors from other schools! Her instructor said:

"Lily and Saffy did both dressage and jumping. Lily's confidence is growing everyday."

We wish Lily good luck with any upcoming competitions, and can't wait to see what the future holds for her.

Miss Humphries



TD Days 2018-19

3rd September

4th September

24th October

7th January

28th June

WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK

Back in June, 170 of our Year 10 students ventured out on work experience for one week, with the purpose of enabling them to gain a knowledge and understanding of the working world, better preparing them for life beyond school.

We were lucky enough to work with 111 different employers, ranging from nurseries to wildlife rescue centres to the local radio station, enabling all students to learn and develop new skills in a 'real-life' work setting. Students have come back to school saying they are feeling more confident and will be looking for careers in line with their experience – others have come back saying that the job was not for them! We would like to thank all of the employers for giving up their time to share their expertise with our students.

Several students returned to school with offers of Saturday/part-time jobs and recommendations for apprenticeships due to their hard work and commitment during work experience – here are just a few of the wonderful comments from the employers involved during this week:

She used her own initiative to sort out problems or errors in the store, or made management aware.

Very reliable and helpful. Has completed all work to a very high standard.

Outstanding student, very impressed.

She has done particularly well supporting pupils with additional needs.

It was good to see the students analysing, reviewing and discussing the proposed housing layout that they worked on.

Office staff said that the student was a real asset.

Enthusiastic, punctual, polite and helpful.

It was a privilege to host this student at our head office... I have received nothing but excellent feedback... he is a great credit to your school.

The student seemed to have a personality that was well suited to the hospitality industry and the team. He didn't shy away from anything he was asked to do and was able to use his initiative when in the work place.

Absolutely brilliant!

She has arrived every day with a positive approach, even when she had to get up very early.

Great enthusiasm and initiative during the five days with us. His work ethic is fantastic.

... Has been fantastic this week. She has been friendly, willing to help, punctual and enthusiastic. She has been very flexible and happy to help with anything... she would be very welcome back any time.

Very polite young man, a credit to Kingsdown School.

WORK EXPERIENCE (Cont....)

Some of the comments from students:

I found work experience to be not only enjoyable but very beneficial to my future career choice (doctor) and I would 100% recommend it to others. On top of the week I was offered to return when I was 16 to volunteer further, which I do plan to take up.

My work experience went really well: I went on home visits, went to meetings and had loads of discussions with different people within the work place, and at the end I got a certificate.



My work experience was super helpful to me, I learnt a lot about working in a team and I really enjoyed helping customers. I've even been offered a Saturday job which I'm very excited for, would totally recommend!

I enjoyed my work experience as it gave me a chance to learn about different breeds of fish and the food that have to be given to the different fish.

I really enjoyed doing work experience as it let me learn more about the outside world, and it comforted me to know that it's not as scary as it seems.

I got to learn all of the information and qualifications I'd need to know to get the job I'd like to do. I also got on well with the other people that were there.

I loved it – I just wished it was longer!

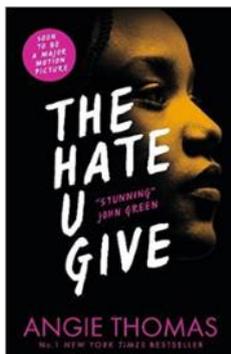
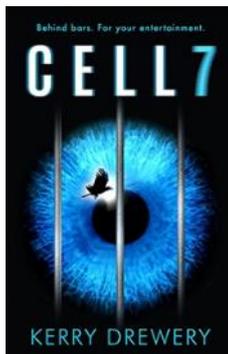
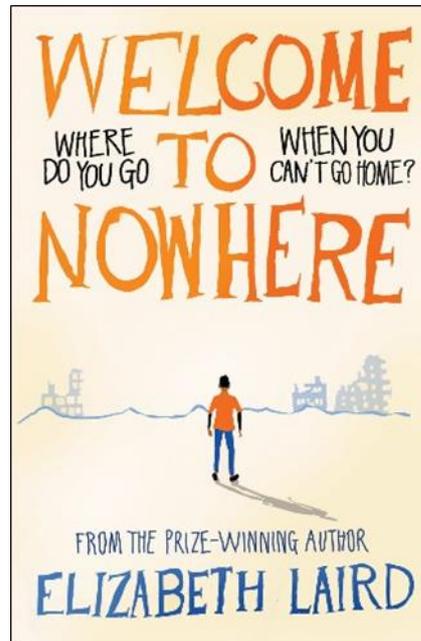
I worked as a mechanic, learning how to strip cars and fix lorries. On my first day I was nervous, however when I got there the people were really nice and we got on well. After half an hour I was out in the van picking up parts for a 7.5 tonne lorry that needed its brake drums replacing. I loved it!



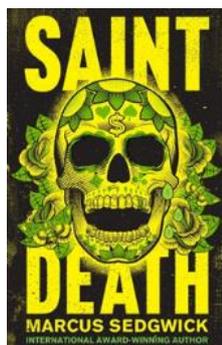
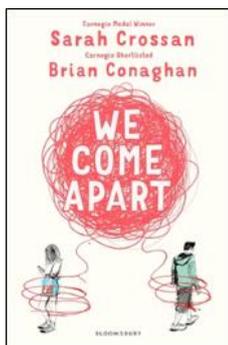
For my work experience, I spent two days with the science technicians at Commonweal School, and three days in SEN. The time I spent in science was relatively enjoyable, but it didn't compare to my time in SEN. I absolutely loved spending time talking to, reading and writing for, and generally interacting with the students in SPLD, Mainstream, and PI, and it showed me that my chosen career as a teacher is definitely the right path for me. Overall, my work experience was equally enjoyable and informative.

Riveting Readathon 2018!

Thirteen brilliant year 9 readers signed up to take part in the 18th Riveting Readathon! Students from Kingsdown School, Dorcan Academy and Warneford School read 5 newly published books which appeared on the Carnegie Medal longlist. On 27th June, we all went to this year's host school, Warneford, where we spent a lively afternoon discussing what makes a great book/character/plot. The students then worked in groups to discuss the merits of the five books and chose their top three titles. Following a break for the best cookies ever, the groups presented their findings and the winning group received book tokens. There was finally a secret ballot for the favourite book, the most Riveting Read...



Although each book received votes, the winning book by some margin was Welcome to Nowhere by Elizabeth Laird. This powerful story begins with twelve year-old Omar and his family living an unremarkable life in the beautiful city of Bosra, Syria. When conflict erupts, bombs start falling and people start dying. The family are forced to flee first their home and then their country, making their way to a refugee camp. But 'Where do you go when you can't go home?'



The 2018 Riveting Readathon brought together students from 3 Swindon schools to celebrate children's literature and their individual reading of 5 magnificent books. The conversations about the issues the books dealt with (from racial stereotypes to the life of refugees) demonstrated the depth of the reading undertaken and the enthusiasm for the novels by all of the participants.

English teacher, Mr Cook said....

Advance notice!!!...

Plans are already underway for our next Literature Festival taking place later this year when students will once again have the opportunity to see popular authors of teenage fiction. Many events will take place throughout the Festival week, including a trip to the Wyvern Theatre to see **Jonathan Meres**, author of the hilarious World of Norm series of books featuring Norm, a boy who can't understand why everything always seems so unfair!...

Also, Kingsdown will be welcoming **Steve Cole**, author of the Young Bond series of books. We are expecting thrills, action, gadgets and tension - the essential ingredients of a classic Bond adventure!

Following previous successes, we are hoping that once again, Kingsdown students will be tempted to enter the Literature Festival's Inter-School competitions:

Creative Writing – 500 words based on an image. Where will your imagination take you?

Poetry competition – a poem based on this year's national poetry theme of 'Change'.

Illustration competition – an illustration based on a passage from this year's Carnegie Medal winning book, 'Where the World Ends' by Geraldine McCaughrean. Art teachers will have all the details on how to enter!

So....come on Kingsdown students, let's see if we can have some winners again this year!!!



Well done to all the students who have achieved fantastic results from their latest STAR reading tests!

This year, over 4,400 book quizzes have been taken by our Key Stage 3 students! Prizes will be awarded to all those students who managed to achieve their Book Point targets for this term and also to 20 amazing students who managed to read over 1,000,000 words!!! Well Done!!!



Celebrating **11** Years

POETRY COMPETITION



Pen a poem based on this year's National Poetry Theme of Change.



MULTI - SCHOOL - EVENT

- Haiku - Limerick - Ballad -
- Narrative - Free Verse -
- Imagery - Sonnet - Acrostic -



Selected entries will be judged by poet Ash Dickinson.

- All works entered for the competition must be original
- Entries can be any length or poetry style

Hand in your entries to the LRC.

Categories: Years 7-8 and Years 9-11.
Prizes : 1st £30, 2nd £20, 3rd £10.

Closing Date: Friday 12th October 2018

Prizes provided by: **ARVAL**
BNP PARIBAS GROUP

Celebrating **11** Years

CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION



What do you see when you look at this picture?



MULTI - SCHOOL - EVENT

Write a short story of no longer than 500 words based on this image.

- All works entered for the competition must be original and not based on existing real or fictional characters.
- Stories can be a maximum of 500 words long.
- The 500 words does not include the story title, your name and year group, which should be written at the top of your entry.

The best story will be awarded the Writing Ambassador's trophy for your school.

Categories: Years 7-8 and Years 9-11.
Prizes : 1st £20, 2nd £15, 3rd £10.

Prizes provided by: **BOWER & BAILEY**
SOLICITORS

Closing Date: Friday 12th October 2018

Hand in your entries to the LRC.

Interested???



Student Librarians!

Would you like to be involved in helping in the LRC?
The assistance of student librarians is always very much valued and appreciated! If you'd like to find out more and you are in Year 9 or above from September, please come and put your name forward!

And finally...

**...this is Goodbye, but not the end of the story!!!
A message from Mrs. Curtis and Mrs. Longthorne...**

With a total of 32 combined years working at Kingsdown School, it is time for a new chapter in the story of our Learning Resource Centre! Therefore, students and staff will be greeted by new faces in the LRC in September! We have immensely enjoyed our time working with many brilliant students, encouraging and discussing books and reading. We are leaving with many happy memories. We have especially enjoyed the Literature Festivals and seeing the enthusiasm and inspiration they bring to students of Swindon schools. We're happy to know that preparations are well underway for this year's Festival with more exciting events and author visits! We'd like to say a huge thank you to all our students and student librarians, past and present, and wish you all well for the future.

