



Dear Parents

Term 6 starts Monday 4th June at 8.40am

Thank you for your continued support of your son and / or daughter at Kingsdown School. This has been another busy term and again much has been achieved. We have been very pleased with the way in which our Year 11 students have prepared and started their GCSE examinations. These are stressful times but our students have been well prepared by their teachers and have taken opportunity of the many interventions and revision sessions available to them. I would like to thank our parents for their input and the ongoing commitment and dedication of all our teachers and teaching assistants.

As is natural in any school, there has been some staff turnover at Kingsdown. This week I have been delighted to appoint:

- a new Deputy SENCo - Mrs Halsey from John Bentley
- a new Assistant Headteacher leading on Teaching & Learning - Mr Salles from Camden School
- a new Assistant Headteacher whose brief will be our Student Champion - Mrs Magenty from Oxford Academy

Last month I appointed a new Director of Progress - Mrs Boyall - who commences her role in term 6. These appointments are exceptionally strong and will add further and additional strength and capacity to the leadership of Kingsdown School. I am very much looking forward to working with my team. The RLT will continue to support Kingsdown School.

Moving forward into this final term of 7 weeks, I need your continued 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% - and they must be on site for 8.30am
- 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 remind your child 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 behavior and thereby disrupt the learning of others. Students have heard me say that “No means No”. They have seen that I will have no hesitation in excluding students from school where this is needed. That said, students are respecting this message and increased expectations and I have every confidence that this will continue to be the case.



MESSAGE FROM MRS LEIGH-BENNETT (Cont..)

This month we had our photo shoot for the new branding for Kingsdown School. The new website will be ready in September. We are working hard to improve the ease of access and finding of information. You will find key information about our new uniform on the website and Mrs Brown has included an article on pages 4 and 5.

In September we will be changing the school day. The rationale of this is so that we start the day with a Tutor Time. Here students will meet their tutor, review the previous day as well as the expectations for the new day. There will also be a clear and informative Tutor programme which once a week will include an assembly. Full details of the timings of the day can be found on page 6.

You will see that we start the day at 8.35am every day and that there will be no changes to the length of our break and lunchtimes. In light of ensuring and promoting high standards of safeguarding, students will not be permitted to leave the school site at lunchtime. We offer a number of clubs at this time as well as a variety of food options for students. I am sure you will join me in the importance of keeping our students safe.

My thanks again for your continue support. I look forward to meeting our Year 7 parents on 12th June and many of you at our many planned events throughout term 6.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Leigh-Bennett

SANCTIONS

As part of our ongoing drive to raise standards, we have reviewed the detention system and will be changing some of the systems and processes from the beginning of term 6; Monday 4th June.

The majority of children work hard, achieve well and are very positive about their futures. Unfortunately, some make behaviour choices that prevents effective learning. A number of highly effective support strategies are in place to support students as part of our Graduated Response but we want students to appreciate that there are significant consequences to making poor choices. As a result, from Monday 4th June, the following changes will take effect:

- Afterschool detentions will change from 30 minutes to 1 hour and students will be expected to complete written tasks.
- If a student misses their detention, they will receive a 2 hour SLT detention as a consequence but will still need to complete the original detention.
- SLT detentions received for serious incidents will be for 2 hours.
- Students who miss SLT detentions will receive a fixed term exclusion.
- Parents will be informed of the detentions via the school's GroupCall messaging system; please discuss this with your child to support ongoing improvements on behaviour.

Mr Lowe

Congratulations to Tia who has successfully auditioned for Tap Attack for the 4th year in a row. She competed at the Star Tap Challenge in Crawley and has also achieved her highest ever exam results for modern and tap, gaining 87% for grade 6 Tap and 94% for grade 6 modern.

Tia competed at the Janet Cram Modern Awards - West of England Heat recently where there were 30 competitors in her Senior class, 5 went through to the national finals and 8 were called out with class commendations - Tia was one of the 8.

"Why I dance? I dance because it's something that makes me happy. I think of it as a way to make new friends and have fun and to relax. It's a way to get all of your feelings out (which can be very useful at times!). Dance is where many of my true friends are. I always want to go because I know that I'll be happy there.

Dance isn't just about winning! It's about enjoying yourself and always knowing you've tried your hardest. At any festival, awards or shows I always try my hardest because I know that's what matters.

How I got into Dance? I got into dance because of how I was as a child. I was told I was fidgety (and still am) and my mum thought dance would be a good way to stop. My sister does dance as well and that is also how I got into dance. Watching her dance is amazing. She always make me want to dance. I love to dance and ever since my first class at 3 I knew I wanted to stay doing it."



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At our centres we believe that learning is all about confidence and we work tirelessly to ensure that we instill that confidence in every student that comes through our door. We teach English, Maths and Science to Primary, Secondary, GCSE and even A-Level students.

If your child needs extra help at school, call Rhian on 07486 854621 to find out how we can help.

KINGSDOWN SCHOOL UNIFORM UPDATE



Thank you in advance for supporting us to embed this important aspect of our school vision. Our vision is to be a school of excellence, bursting with pride and ambition. At Kingsdown we champion every student and have the highest expectations in all we do, and the presentation of our uniform is no exception.

We began working several months ago with RyeDesign, a creative design company who have supported us through this process. They developed the logo you see below, retaining the important and **deep rooted tradition of our Kingsdown lion.**

The ordering process

For current students Year 7-9, the introductory offer of one Blazer and Tie at the reduced cost of £17.50 **must be purchased directly through the school.** This is because the school is subsidising the cost of these two items to parents. The introductory offer is limited to one offer per student. To secure this price, you will need to make your payment via **Parentpay by 26th June 18.**

We will make arrangements for your son/daughter to be sized during Tutor time during the first few weeks of term. The school will then place an order on your behalf. Delivery is expected around 10th July. The Blazer and tie will be sent home with your son or daughter – if you would prefer to collect, please email Mrs Brown: hbrown@kingsdownschool.co.uk. If you are dissatisfied with the size on delivery you will be able to swap your Blazer at the 'Pop-up shop' on the 12th or 19th July providing you still have the labels attached. Alternatively, you can leave your Blazer (in a bag) at school prior to this date, with a 'swap slip' available from Reception, and we exchange it for you on the 12th or 19th.

Current Year 10 students will be provided with a Blazer and tie free of charge, with the request that the items are donated back to the school or to other students/siblings at the end of the academic year.

Year 6 students This year, **new September starters** have the opportunity to purchase a Blazer and tie for a one off special offer of £22.00 at one of the 'Pop-up shops' on the 6th (Y6 only), 12th or 19th of July, 15:10 – 19:00. If you are unable to make one of these dates, you can pre-order with a cash payment to the school prior to this date, the special offer is limited to one offer per student. **Please note, this offer is not available online.**

The Blazer is available in a vast range of sizes and in-between sizes : 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52 inches. We have a Girls or Unisex cut.

To assist you with sizing, after half term we will hold all sizes of Blazer on site. You are very welcome to come to the school and try for size during office hours before or after the school day. If you wish to order a particular size for your son or daughter please ensure they are clear what size to ask for when they are sized within school - but do remember - we are able to swap Blazers at the 'Pop-up shops' as long as you keep the labels attached.

KINGSDOWN SCHOOL UNIFORM UPDATE (Cont...)

The school tie includes a coloured stripe which relates to the House each student represents. If for any reason you are issued an incorrect coloured tie, or your son or daughter change House group at the school's request, you can simply exchange the tie for the correct colour.

You can purchase additional/other uniform items directly from the [Uniform Direct website](#) from 6th July, or at the 'Pop-up shop' held at Kingsdown School on 12th or 19th July between 15:10 and 19:00.

Further guidance including the [Dress Code Policy](#) and information about [financial assistance](#) can be found on the [school's website](#). All current students eligible for Free School Meals will be provided with a Blazer and tie free of charge.

The uniform takes effect for all in September 2018. The PE kit will see a transition year and will be compulsory from September 2019.

Please use the table below as a price guide:

Uniform Item	Available sizes	Price
Uniform Direct Blazer, Integrated braid*	26,27,28,29	£24.99
	30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37	£26.99
	38,39, 40	£28.99
	42, 44	£29.99
	46, 48	£31.99
	50, 52	£33.99
Tie*	One size	£5.00
Skirt – blue tartan, Stitch Down Pleat ♦	Waist sizes from 20" - 40" All waist sizes come in 20", 22", 24" lengths	£16.00
Long Sleeve Jumper Navy ♦	32, 34, 36, 38	£14.99
	40, 42, 44	£16.99
PE Polo Shirt*	28" - 36"	£8.99
	38" - 48"	£9.99
Reversible Rugby Shirt ♦	28/30", 30/32, 34/36, 38/40, 42/44	£14.99
	46/48, 50/52	£16.99
PE Quarter Zip Top ♦	All sizes	£15.00
Black Shorts	Junior Sizes	£4.00
	Senior Sizes	£5.00
Black Sports Socks	12-3, 3-6, 7-12	£3.00

♦ These items are optional

* These items should be purchased direct from our uniform supplier

PROPOSED TIMINGS FOR SCHOOL DAY



We are keen to return the Tutor period to the beginning of the school day from September. The rationale behind this is to allow tutors to review the previous day, and to ensure students are ready to learn, this is a further opportunity for us to champion our students.

It is proposed that:

- there will be a 25 minute tutor (or Assembly) session every day (rather than the current 4 x 30 mins per week)
- the day will start at 8:35 and finish at 15:00 daily, or 13:20 on Friday wk2. The length of break and lunch remain the same, but start 20 minutes later
- the timetabled fortnight will be 10 minutes longer
- all lessons remain an hour, and we will still have 49 lessons per fortnight

Consultation opened this week and will run until the 8th of June. We welcome any feedback via consultations@kingsdownschool.co.uk

Current 17-18	Monday - Thursday		Friday Wk 1		Friday Wk2	
	Start	Finish	Start	Finish	Start	Finish
Lesson 1	08:40	09:40	08:40	09:40	08:40	09:40
Lesson 2	09:40	10:40	09:40	10:40	09:40	10:40
Break	10:40	11:00	10:40	11:00	10:40	11:00
Lesson 3	11:00	12:00	11:00	12:00	11:00	12:00
Lesson 4	12:00	13:00	12:00	13:00	12:00	13:00
Lunch	13:00	13:40	13:00	13:40		
Lesson 5	13:40	14:40	13:40	14:40		
Tutor	14:40	15:10				

Proposed 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		

This May was our first residential trip. We took the eight students to The Farm Project in Cirencester; here they have experienced milking cows, planting potatoes, making and cooking their own lunches and dinner and seeing how to grow crops organically. These are only a few of the jobs, which had to be done on the farm.

All staff and the students had a wonderful time.



ATTENDANCE

I would like to thank parents/carers for their continued support and ongoing communication regarding attendance and absence during Terms 1-5. There have been various challenges during my first year at Kingsdown School, but good relationships with parents are developing and attendance has started to improve.

In our pledge to raise attendance and achievement at Kingsdown School, we are continually reviewing strategies and procedures to raise not only the school's overall attendance but the individual attendance of all our students.

In doing this, we hope to raise their academic achievement and general perspective regarding punctuality and attendance: An important value as they move into the world of further education and employment.

Raising standards in this area can only be achieved with parental support and engagement of the students themselves.

EVERY school day counts

There are potentially 175 non-school days to spend on family times, visits, holidays for other appointments during the year.

There are 175 **non-school days** a year

175 days to spend on family time, holidays, visits, shopping & appointments

100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Average number of GCSE grades 5+ 7	Average number of GCSE grades 5+ 6	Average number of GCSE grades 5+ 2	Average number of GCSE grades 5+ 1	Average number of GCSE grades 5+ 1	Average number of GCSE grades 5+ 0
190	10 days absence 50 lessons missed	19 days absence 85 lessons missed	29 days absence A term missed 145 lessons missed	38 days absence 190 lessons missed	47 days absence 235 lessons missed
Days for your child's education each year	180 days of education	171 days of education	161 days of education	152 Days of education	143 Days of education
Good		Worrying		Serious concern	

General Information

It should be made clear that any absence, whether authorised or not, will affect your child's overall attendance percentage.

Although we do not expect your child to be in school if they are unwell, we hope that you would not keep them at home for minor ailments like cough, colds and tummy aches etc. If you would like advice on whether or not you should send your child to school please call or email me to discuss. Both school and Swindon Borough Education Welfare feel it is better for students to try and attend school if possible, even when not feeling 100%.

ATTENDANCE (Cont...)

Should your child feel unwell or develop further symptoms during the day, Mrs Ridley, our Principal First Aider, who is highly qualified and very experienced is on hand to assess your child and call you if required.

Attendance is monitored daily and any student falling below 90% will be highlighted for close monitoring and possible further action.

Medical / Dental Appointments

We understand that appointments cannot always be arranged from 3.15pm.

It would be appreciated if routine dental appointments and non-urgent doctor's appointments could be made at the end of the school day or during school holidays. Obviously, hospital and orthodontic appointments cannot always be negotiated and we will authorise time to attend these. Notification of all appointments should be given to the Attendance Officer at least **48 hours in advance** and this will be entered on the electronic registration system and marked accordingly.

If you have any questions regarding Attendance & Absence please do not hesitate to contact me, kbradbury@kingsdownschool.co.uk and I will endeavour to reply the same day.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a relaxing half-term and we hope all our students make a healthy return on 4th June in readiness for Term 6.

Kay Bradbury
Attendance Officer

SPORT UPDATE

New sisters shine in Wiltshire County Championships



With the Summer weather well and truly here, so is the Athletics season. For the New sisters, however, Katie (Year 7- pictured with her bronze and silver medals) and Hannah (Year 11), training did not stop throughout the winter months. Hard work really does pay off as they have both achieved big things in the Wiltshire County Championships.

Katie, won bronze in the 1500m and did not stop there. She also won silver for javelin. This puts her in second place for the whole of the South West of England. Amazing. Well done Katie. Hannah, won silver in the 300m hurdles, ranking her 40th in the whole of the UK. She achieved a time of 48.61 a new personal best. Well done Hannah.

SPORT UPDATE (Cont...)



Athletics: Great start for year 7 Freddie

Promising young athlete Freddie Painter was put forward by his coach because of his promising javelin talent. As a result Freddie competed in The Wiltshire Track and Field Championships. Even though it was his first ever competition and he has only been practicing javelin for 6 months he managed a fantastic 3rd place finish with a BRONZE medal.

He is now hoping to compete in the Inter County Championships in July. Well done Freddie.

Kingsdown School Sports Day 2018

On Friday 20th July Kingsdown School students and staff will once again descend upon Swindon Athletics track for the highly anticipated school sports day. Back again will be all our summer athletics events along with some crowd favourites like 'Tug of War' and the staff relay race. After Coate made a clean sweep in the Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 house competition last year both Lydiard and Stanton houses will be looking for revenge.

Students will make their way to Swindon County Ground Athletics track for 8.40am and spend the day competing and cheering on others in one of the schools most enjoyable days in the calendar. Sports day finishes at 1pm and students are then dismissed from the county ground at 1pm. Unfortunately we do not allow parents/ carers to come and watch due to the potentially high numbers that this would bring to the county ground however, the PE team will do a full write up with results and pictures after the event.

A decision will be made the night before should adverse weather be forecast. If the event is cancelled lessons and school day timings will be as normal for a Friday week 2. Should your child require transport to and from the event there will be a bus running from Kingsdown School at 8.30am to the county ground and returning students at 1pm from the country ground afterwards. There will a 'groupcall' sent out nearer to the 20th July for parents to tell us if their child needs transport.

Year 7 Girls STFC Tournament

Our Year 7 girls played some excellent football when they took part in a football tournament hosted by Swindon Town Football Club Community Trust at Dorcan School. 3 games were played, all against a variety of ages and abilities. 1st game vs Dorcan mixed years was lost 4-0 as our girls were just getting into the swing of things and missing a vital striker- Lara. 2nd game vs Ridgeway was a draw 0-0 with both teams having shots at goal. 3rd game vs STFC development years was lost 2-1 however a vital penalty was given to one of our star players - Leah - who had no problem putting the ball in the back of the net. Players of the tournament were Faye for excellent goal keeping and Leah for her pace and control on the ball.



Our girls showed brilliant team work throughout and excellent sportsmanship at the end of each of the matches. The girls came away with a football, whistle and pen each - everyone loves stash - for them to keep playing even when the season is over. Excellent work girls, we cannot wait to see how far you have come on in the next season!

Thank you very much for Swindon Town Community Trust for organising the event, see you in September!

YEAR 11

After 5 years of hard work and making lots of memories, our Year 11 students will shortly be leaving us to move on to the next chapter in their lives. It has been great to see the Year 11 students working so well in their Revision Sessions and then applying this in their exams. Year 11 stay with us full time for one week after half term and then will be coming in for the final revision sessions and exams only after the 8th June.

We will be celebrating their five years at Kingsdown with their Leavers Assembly on Friday 15th June. This leads up to the event of the year on Friday 6th July, the Year 11 Prom. This is taking place at the De Vere Cotswold Water Park and promises to be an excellent evening. Mr Warren, who was the Year Leader for four years before moving to Australia sends his best wishes to all Year 11 students in their exams and in their future lives.

Mrs Matthews and I would like to wish all Year 11 students the best of luck for the future and look forward to celebrating with you in a couple of weeks time.

Mr Rumble

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TUESDAY 29th

WEDNESDAY 30th

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9.30am - 3pm everyday

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FOOTBALL

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Swindon Town FITC offer a unique opportunity with the delivery of their girls only courses which encourages girls to participate in our fastest growing development programme.

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To all young up and coming Goalkeepers this is an opportunity to be offered professional, personal and expert advice to help improve your performance within this specialist position.

All you will need is a packed lunch and a full playing kit, including shin pads.



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DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SUCCESS

Last week 48 young people from Years 10 and 11 attended the inaugural presentation evening, having achieved their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, along with 62 parents and guests. These were presented by Emma Leigh-Bennet and Holly Welch, a Young Duke of Edinburgh Ambassador for Amey Construction.



Presentation of the Awards.

During the Award presentation we heard from Hannah Cooper about the 6 months of hard work required to achieve the award, and how all the young people developed and honed their skills for the expedition. Hannah said "the experience was great fun, it taught me a lot about myself and how to work as a team".



Hannah Cooper presenting to the pupils, parents and guests

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SUCCESS (Cont...)

Those who achieve their Bronze Award will learn a skill, take part in physical activities and volunteer in the community. This year has been a phenomenal success for the Award at Kingsdown School, with unprecedented numbers of young people taking part. During the last financial year we have had 55 award participants, meaning there has been over 660 hours of volunteering and giving back to the community.

Within the Swindon Community Kingsdown School has the highest number of Bronze award completions, and continue to champion pupils in this area. We have increased participation by 21%, and look forward to growing this even further this year, with 60 spaces on offer for current Year 8 pupils. If any pupils are still interested, please email dofe@kingsdownschool.co.uk in order to get a letter and further details.

Well done to all students who have completed, or are currently undertaking their journey - you should be very proud of your achievements to date.

Thank you to all the staff who have been involved with Duke of Edinburgh, especially to Miss Bryant for her leadership.



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