



Dear Parents and Carers

At Kingsdown we are extremely proud of all our students. This has been the case particularly this term. As you know, on the 29th April we launched phase 2 of our behaviour strategy. Here students were issued with Conduct cards. This strategy has been designed to improve out of lesson behavior and punctuality - to school and to lessons. In 5 weeks there has been a transformation to all of these expectations. Thank you for your support here in reinforcing these expectations from home.



This term has seen us complete our final and crucial preparations for year 11 - Cohort 2019. As a year group they have been working well and taking advantage of the many tutorials available. I do sincerely congratulate our year 11 students and my thanks to all year 11 parents.

The year 11 public written exams began on 13th May and these will continue until 17th June. So, four full weeks of examinations. In order to support our year 11 in their final, final days, there will be some cover implications for the rest of the school and your understanding here is appreciated. We will be keeping our year 11 right up until 14th June and from time to time teachers will need to be released and covered to allow them to be with their Year 11 classes.

Last week we welcomed all our Year 7 parents to our annual parents' evening. The turnout was 84%. Thank you for supporting your child in attending this evening.

There are a number of key events planned for Term 6 which are listed in the newsletter.

We look forward to seeing our students return to school on Monday 3rd June. Wishing you all a relaxing and peaceful break.

With kind regards

Mrs Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher

TD DAYS 2019-2020

Monday 2nd September

Tuesday 3rd September

Wednesday 23rd October

Monday 6th January

Friday 3rd April

Monday 22nd June

KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

12th June	Spring Concert
17th June	TD Day
18th June	Year 11 Thorpe Park Trip
18th June - 26th June	Year 10 mocks
19th June	Year 6 Parent Information Evening
20th June	Art Exhibition viewing
27th June	New College Taster Day
28th June	TD Day
w/c 1st July	Annual Student Voice Survey
w/c 1st July	School Production
4th July	Swindon College Taster Day
5th July	Cirencester College Taster Day
5th July	Year 11 Prom
10th July	Year 10 Parents' Evening
12th July	Sports Day
24th July	Reward Trips
25th July	Term 6 ends - school closes for students at 1.20pm

UNIFORM

As we move into our final term it is essential that we continue to maintain our high standards and these do not slip as we move into the warmer months.

To ensure that students continue to wear their uniform with pride and subsequently do not pick up conduct points for their uniform, they must wear it all in line with the expectations set out at the start of this academic year. Please click [here](#) to view the uniform expectations.

Many of our students have had growth spurts over the course of the year and we are seeing more and more ankles on display. Please make sure over the half term break that new trousers are purchased. These must be in line with our uniform expectations—not skinny or cropped. Ankle socks must be pulled up.

Shoes must also be of a polishable material, Suede is not permissible. Polishable is 'a surface that when rubbed becomes shiny', trainers are also prohibited.

Once again, we thank you for your support with this. We are proud of our new uniform. It has been a positive year that we must maintain as we move into the summer.

Please click [here](#) to view the dress code examples.

Mrs Criddle, Assistant Headteacher

At the start of term 5 we launched the end of year rewards trip. As a school we feel passionate about rewarding students for doing the right thing. All student behaviours were wiped clean at the start of term 5 as we wanted students to learn from any previous mistakes and rectify their behaviour to ensure that they finish the year on a high. Students who make it to the end of term 5 with 60 or less behaviour points will be given the opportunity to attend the rewards trips on the 24th of July. The qualifying students will be given a letter at the start of term 6 and the opportunity to pick 1 of the 5 trips:

- Thorpe Park
- Chessington world of adventures
- Cotswold wildlife park
- Cotswold country park and beach
- Ice Skating and Trampolining

In order for students to secure their place on the trip of their choice, the cost must be paid in full using ParentPay. Only those who are eligible for trips will be able to access the payment. We are aware that the choices are popular and therefore, when there are no remaining places on a trip, we will not accept any more payments.



The trips with spaces available will remain open until all spaces are filled. The details of each trip are listed above. More information will be given to qualifying students in term 6.

Mrs Criddle, Assistant Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

Research has shown that regular attendance and good punctuality are crucial factors in students achieving their full potential in education. At Kingsdown we wish to work in partnership with parents and carers and so are seeking your full support in ensuring that your child attends school every day and on time. We are always pleased to work together with parents/carers in resolving any difficulties and we are committed to improving attendance levels at the school.

The target attendance figure for all pupils is a **minimum of 95%** attendance.

Your child will be informed of their current attendance by their form tutor. We are monitoring students closely whose attendance is falling and will contact you if your child's attendance does not improve. As a parent/carer you are committing an offence if you fail to ensure that your child attends school regularly and punctually, even if they are missing school without your knowledge. It is important that parents/carers monitor single days of absence, as these days soon add up to weeks.

We also reward students who attend school each day and whose attendance is improving. Students are also rewarded for good punctuality.

Mrs Magenty, Assistant Headteacher

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL?

WE HAVE A VACANCY FOR A PARENT GOVERNOR



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Uniform information

Thank you for continuing to support 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.

The Uniform

Our uniform includes:

- ⇒ Navy Blazer with Royal trim
- ⇒ Mid-Grey Trouser
- ⇒ White shirt
- ⇒ Optional Tartan Skirt
- ⇒ Optional Navy jumper
- ⇒ Black conventional school shoes



Our PE Kit includes:

- ⇒ Royal Blue (black trim) polo
- ⇒ Royal Blue (black trim) Rugby top
- ⇒ Black bottoms
- ⇒ Optional ¾ zip top
- ⇒ Optional skort (skirt with fitted shorts)



Purchasing

'Pop-up shops' will be on site on the 4th and 5th of July, 15:00 – 18:00. Alternatively you can purchase uniform items directly from the [Uniform Direct website](#)

Please remember that the PE kit is now compulsory from September 2019.

A reminder of the [Dress Code Policy](#) and information about [financial assistance](#) can be found on the [school's website](#).

Year 11 Recycling

As mentioned at the time of providing the blazers to our year 11s please, where possible, donate your uniform items back to the school in order to support other families in the school.

CONDUCT CARDS

We wrote to you at the end of term 4 to notify you of phase 2 of the school improvement - conduct cards. The improvement that we have seen in and around the school has been very encouraging. With repeat offenders reducing from 12 (term 4) to 0 (term 5). Students are taking pride in their appearance, shirts are tucked in, blazers worn at all times and they are arriving to school and lessons on time. They are moving around the site calmly and respectfully. Subsequently this has resulted in an increase of achievement points being awarded for responsibility and respect. It has been incredible to see so many of our students buying into this and we look forward to celebrating with them on the rewards trips on the 24th July.

It is essential to ensure that this is embedded, that students take full responsibility for their card. A card with 5 conduct points/lost or forgotten card will result in a same day 1 hour detention. Students must be responsible for making sure that the conduct cards do not end up in the washing machine, on a Friday night. Whilst the department for education states that schools are not required to give notice, give reason or gain parental consent for a detention, Kingsdown will send a text to advise parents of a same day detention.

Conduct cards will be wiped clean at the start of every new term. New cards will be issued to every student on the 3rd June. Some of the reasons that students may gain a conduct point are listed below, however in some cases, further sanctions will also apply*.

Mrs Criddle, Assistant Headteacher

PROUD	Conduct Points issued for
Punctuality	Arriving to lessons late (not with the majority)
	Wandering during lesson time
Respect	Littering
	Graffiti/ vandalism of the school property including books and planners
	Fighting (&play fighting) *
	Smoking *
	Eating in corridors *
	Not following a direct instructions
Orderly	Not keeping to the left in corridors
	Running in corridors
	Walking in pairs/alone- not in groups
	Pushing/silly behaviour
Uniform	Incorrect uniform- no valid note
	Shirt untucked
	Not wearing blazer
	Lion on tie not visible
	No Planner
	No pencil case
	No PE kit
	No food ingredients/reading book
	Jewellery not in line with policy
	Acrylic nails/nail polish
Dialogue	Swearing *
	Name calling
	Inappropriate 'Banter'

On Friday 17th May, 63 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards were presented by Mrs Leigh-Bennett and Mr Fishlock, Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire. The evening began with some words from Mrs Leigh-Bennett before Mr Fishlock was invited to talk about the achievements of the young people. Keeping his speech short, Mr Fishlock highly praised the young people and their commitment to achieving their award and praised the qualities instilled in them by their participation in the award and through the Kingsdown Beats.

The 63 students receiving their awards have given over 756 hours of volunteering to the community as a whole, which is worth £3061.80 if this was paid work. This volunteering has had a massive impact on the community and in the climate where young people can be seen as unapproachable, has broken these barriers down. Of the 63 students that have completed, 33% have faced challenges that could have prevented them completing, however their determination to complete has allowed the staff team to support them throughout. Additionally 27% of the award recipients have some form of Special Educational Needs or Disability - that is the highest participant rate across Swindon for SEND students, including specialist provision schools.

During April 2018-19 Kingsdown School has seen a record number of students achieve their Bronze Award, putting us top of the Swindon schools for this and 5th in the South West Region. Year on year we have increased the number of students taking part in the Award, proving that this is a valuable part of school life. Additionally we have launched Silver for 17 students and have had our first Gold award approved.

Well done to all of the students who have achieved and are working towards their awards and a massive thank you to all the staff who give up their time freely to ensure the continued success of the Award at Kingsdown School.

If you would like to get involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award please email dofe@kingsdownschool.co.uk or speak with Mrs Ridley.

Miss Bryant & Mrs Ridley



Year 11 Cohort 2020

GCSE examinations are now underway for year 11 and for students in year 10, it is time to focus their attention on what must be achieved in the coming year.

For the Year 11 Cohort 2020, the preparation must begin right away. Before we break for Summer, several key events will be taking place to ensure that every student can return to school in September with a clear understanding around the expectations for year 11.

20th May: Elevate study training session

6th June: Spotlight on careers, information event

6th June : Launch of 2020 Cohort for parents

18th June: Year 10 mock exams begin (2 weeks)

27th June: New College taster day

4th July: Swindon College taster day

5th July: Cirencester College taster day

10th July: Year 10 Parents' evening

Above are some key dates for your diary in terms 5 and 6

Our Year 10 parents' evening will take place on July 10th. Here, subject teachers will share results from the recent mock exams and discuss the possible outcomes for students as they approach the final year of the GCSE programme.

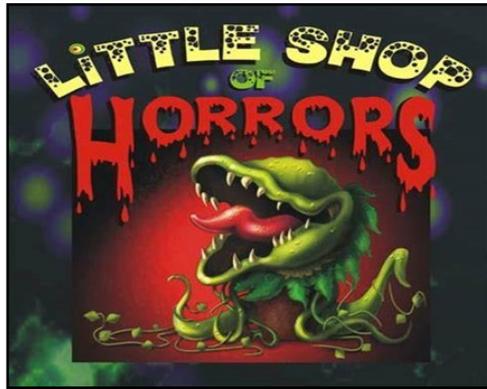
The Cohort 2020 launch and Year 11 information evening will be taking place in September and more information will be shared about this in term 6. We hope to see all parents/carers at this event. Here we will be sharing key concepts on how to prepare effectively for the exams in year 11 as well as giving practical advice on what you can do to support and prepare at home.

Maintaining attendance of 97% is essential in the coming year. No student can afford to miss any content during the course of the year – lessons will be fast pace and rigorously planned. We will also be holding 2 mock exam periods during year 11 and performance in these will indicate how well students are prepared for their main GCSEs next May. Our expectation is that students are on site by 8:30am daily and are here every day. Students will finish their GCSEs by the middle of June next year. Family holidays must not be taken during school time and absence of this kind will be followed up.

Our current Year 11 students will tell you that GCSEs often seem like a distant prospect and that it is very easy to leave it too late to prepare effectively. Starting year 11 in the right way is vital for students. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that every single student achieves the grades they are capable of in every one of their GCSE subjects.

We look forward to welcoming you to Parents' evening on Wednesday 10th July and to working with your child in this very important year. This event will be vital in helping you support your child through this final year at school.

Mrs Lees, Director of Progress



This year's school production will be 'A Little Shop of Horrors'...

A 'Venus Fly Trap' named Audrey II is found and cultivated by an insecure botanist in a florists. Seymour (our botanist) appreciates the attention it attracts because he is trying to impress Audrey, the girl he loves, who also works at the florist shop. When Audrey II develops a carnivorous appetite, Seymour finds himself feeding the plant human flesh and the situation spins out of control.

The stage musical version of 'Little Shop of Horrors' was inspired by Roger Corman's classic 1959 'B-Movie' of the same name. The movie quickly became a cult hit, partly because it featured Jack Nicholson making his debut. After two days rehearsal Corman filmed the entire movie in two and half day at a cost of just \$30, 0000.

23 years later, Howard Ashman decided to turn it into a stage musical.

The 1986 film remake starring Steve Martin, John Candy and Bill Murray cost over \$21 million to make. The film took the tale to a far greater audience than ever before but 'Little Shop of Horrors' really belongs on stage where it remains as popular as ever.

After last year's successful Shakespeare performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'...this year it was decided that we need to celebrate a real coming together of subject disciplines to showcase the amazing students and work that goes on here at Kingsdown School. We look forward to our three evening run on the show **July 2nd- July 4th** in the **school hall 7pm** and **tickets will be on sale shortly**, so look out for when and where you can purchase them! Details will be on our website and social media sites as well. This school production will not just showcase a gifted and hard working group of students, but it highlights what is best about PACE subjects: the collegiate, cross-curricular approach to learning, which is such a vital life skill. You'll see the departments of **Drama, Music, Dance** and **Art** have all been working together to put this show on. Finally, I leave you with this thought ...so many of the positive memories we take away from our time at school are made inside school, but outside the classroom. During the last few months of rehearsals: lessons have been learnt, confidence fostered, a fair amount of hysterical laughter has been had and lifelong friendships have been forged. It's never too late get involved... come and find Mr Lawson, Mrs Norris, Mr Wicker, Ms. Winwood, Mrs Slade if you fancy being involved behind the scenes! Or you're ready to get involved with next year's production...Mr Lawson and Mr Wicker are already in deep discussion!

Look forward to seeing you all in or at the show....

Mrs Norris, Director of Learning (PACE)

SPORT UPDATE

Kingsdown Sports day preparation well and truly underway

Kingsdown PE have moved on to athletics and softball lessons for the boys, Athletics, and Rounders for the girls, with Tennis also being taught. Athletics club will be a **Wednesday** after school for all years, preparing students to represent their house in the School's annual **Sports Day at the County Ground on Friday 12th July**. Disciplines that can be practiced are; Javelin, shot putt, discuss, 100m, 200m, 300m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, hurdles, relay, long jump, triple jump and high jump. Softball club will be on **Thursdays 3-4pm** and Tennis Club will be Tuesday after school.

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

Clubs term 6

Tuesdays – Tennis & Rounders

Wednesday - Athletics

Thursday – Softball

Individual student success

Phoebe McGouran (Pictured top row 9 across), represented Wiltshire u14s in the English schools, south west of England county championships beating Dorset 2-1 in the final. Well done Phoebe.



Sport student of the term: Matthew Ashman

Matthew has captained the school team this year to winning the league and getting to the cup final. He also scored our only goal of the game in the cup final, leading by example in centre midfield. He has now been selected to represent Swindon Schools vs Coventry schools in the annual game at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry. He also plays Rugby outside of school for Swindon Supermarine.



Year 10 Boys Cup Final Match Report

Cup final day for Kingsdown boys Year 10 students who were to face local rivals Abbey Park. The lads were eagerly awaiting the school day to end at 3.00pm. They went home to get a quick bite to eat and hydrate before the big game. At 4.30pm sharp they turned up at Kingsdown wearing their school uniform, the sun was shining brightly, shirts tucked in and the Kingsdown Lion showing proudly on their ties. They got in the mini bus and as they did, the skies opened up. Torrential rain following the Kingsdown boys all the way to Royal Wootton Bassett's plush Gerrard Buxton Ground Sports Complex.

With the Year 9 cup final being held beforehand, the boys decided to watch a little before the heavens opened up again, prompting them to wait in the mini bus to stay dry and warm, whilst the changing rooms were occupied. At 5.45pm the boys got changed and made their way out onto the slick cup final pitch where they would play their hearts out.

A quick warm up with Mr Mason proceeded the game, to get used to the pitch and how it played. As the game kicked off we could hear Mr Coomber, Ms Davies, Miss Maller and Mrs Ridley and especially Ms Brackley screaming and cheering from the sidelines.

From the very first whistle you could tell these two teams deserved to be in the final. The passing was smooth, the dribbling silky and off the ball movement was sublime. Kingsdown drew first blood as a piercing through ball was played through which had the Abbey Park keeper rushing off his line, he was unable to do anything with the ball which was hit hard and skidding off the surface. It landed awkwardly to the right of the left footed Lewis Bell. With an almost open goal he could not connect with the ball and sent it skidding wide of the post.

This prompted Abbey Park to up their game. Some great play down their right had Ethan Jennings hands full but he dealt with their quick and nippy winger well, blocking crosses. They then tried down the left hand side but were met with the force that is Reece Bennett, who continuously kept turning defence into attack. Abbey Park however, kept coming and coming at Kingsdown and eventually squeezed past the defence. A scuffle in the box fell to the Abbey Park striker who riffled the ball off the bar and over. The ball had taken a deflection off a Kingsdown defender for a corner. Some marvellous defending. There were a few other minor half changes that Tristan Meyer dealt well with in goal.

The rest of the first half was like a boxing match. Both teams were in, no holds barred. Each team trying to decisively break the other down. Kingsdown Lions were holding firm and looking threatening with the pace of Lewis Bell and Jack Grove.

At half time the score was 0-0 and Kingsdown came off knowing they could get something from the game. A positive first half at the Garrard Buxton Sports Ground.

In the second half, the physicality of the Abbey Park started to come through. With two huge centre halves, two quick wide men and two strong strikers up top, Abbey Park turned up the heat. They played well first half and were matched by Kingsdown but they came out the second half a different beast. Quick one twos and skilful dribbles down the pitch lead to their first goal. 20 yards out a powerful strike was unleashed, which moved the ball whilst it was in the air making it difficult for Tristen to save. It found the net, 1-0. From kick off Kingsdown were keen to attack. A long ball was too central and was dealt with well by the towering centre half. They continued to play and had Kingsdown rattled. Another intricate bit of play lead to Abbey Park's second goal of the day. Scoring from 6 yards out.

Sport Update

The Kingsdown Lions gave a huge roar and started to play again, the last goal kick started something inside them. Now it was Kingsdown constantly on the attack. Prodding and poking the back line of Abbey Park. They dealt well with it. Until Kingsdown's own Captain Marvel Matty Ashman, broke through. 1v1 with the keeper there was only one thing that was going to happen GGGGGGGGGGGGOOOOOOOOOOAAAAALLLLLLL. Matt had given us a lifeline. 2-1.

Again in a game that can only be described as a boxing match, Abbey Park were not happy. They started to come at Kingsdown. Kingsdown were going at them. This did leave Kingsdown a little open. Abbey Park capitalised. Another through ball caught Kingsdown on the break. They scored. 3-1. A bitter pill to swallow after the excitement of Matty's goal.

Some similar play, saw a similar goal with Kingsdown pushing to get back into the game. A freekick from Sam Love striking the cross bar, Messie himself would have been proud. This caused Abbey Park to increase the pace again. Getting their fourth. 4-1.

Kingsdown had fought tirelessly throughout and Abbey Park held no punches back. The last goal of the game and possibly the most beautiful, came from Abbey Park. A lovely cross from the right caused all sorts of problems for Kingsdown and was volleyed into the back of the next. 5-1. Even at 5-1 down with 5 minutes to go the boys showed pride and dignity fighting for every ball and played until the final whistle. George Barnett and Reece Bennet deserve a special mention for their MOM displays. We couldn't pick between them.

It doesn't happen that often that you get a year group with so many good players in it. When it does happen, they have to have the right attitude to get to a final of this magnitude. This season the boys have been a pleasure to take. They will learn from the defeat and we are sure they will be in many more finals over the years. Runners up is quite an achievement. They have also won the league that they are in. Well done boys.



Routeways to Employment



**Are you struggling to find a career? Unsure what job opportunities exist locally?
If so, sign up to our Routeways to Employment course!**

**Wednesday 5th – Friday 7th June 2019
(10am – 2:30pm)**

Delivered over **3 sessions**, our vocational taster course provides an introduction to:

- ❖ Retail & Customer Service
- ❖ Business Administration
- ❖ Health & Social Care
- ❖ Hospitality
- ❖ Education



The course will take place at **Voluntary Action Swindon, 1 John Street, Swindon, SN1 1RT**. We can also fund childcare to allow you to attend.

The course is fully funded for those who meet the following criteria:

- Learners must be aged 19 or over on 31st August 2018
- Learners need to be in receipt of benefits or earn less than £15,736.50 per year
- Learners must have lived in the UK or an EU member country for a full 3 years prior to starting their learning

For further information please contact Emma on 07387267280 or email swindonacl@wrecltd.co.uk



**Education & Skills
Funding Agency**



**European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills**



**SWINDON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



Young Enterprise Teen Market Project

Fancy learning how to run your own business whilst learning new skills?

Being able to make money from doing something that you enjoy means that you can earn a living without it feeling like work! But to make this a reality, you need to find your creative niche, hone your skills, and learn how to run a business in a REAL environment.

The Platform Project is running a young enterprise project throughout 2019 to help young adults aged 13-24 learn how to make a range of goods that can sell on a teen market, including:

- novelty printed goods (mugs & t-shirts etc)
- fashion up-cycling & custom jewellery
- urban arts & crafted goods

Participants will be part of the team that runs a REAL trading youth social enterprise, learning how to run a business, design branding, social media marketing, managing finances to make a profit, and selling goods online and direct to the public, all whilst working alongside local business people to learn some of their creative and professional skills.

Places are FREE
but limited so contact us
ASAP to apply
Info@PlatformProject.co.uk



Wiltshire
Community
Foundation