



Dear Parent/Carers

It's hard to believe that I have been Headteacher of Kingsdown for only a month. It seems so much longer and I have loved every minute. I have felt so welcomed by all the staff, students and the many parents that I have met. In so short a space of time, so much has been achieved. I wanted to write and thank you for all your support in making our September start for your son / daughter, so successful.



In this last month we have welcomed:

- Over 220 new Year 7 students
- Back our Year 8 - 11 students
- 17 new teachers and support staff to our Kingsdown team

Additionally we have

- Embedded our revised Behaviour policy which, as you know, comprises 3 very simple rules, namely to:
 1. Follow an instruction the first time
 2. Stretch and challenge ourselves in all we do
 3. Show respect for the rights and responsibilities of others
- Achieved a monthly attendance percentage of 95.4%
- Welcomed Post 16 Providers who have shared the many opportunities available for our Year 11s as well as
- Hosted a number of successful visits, including from members of the River Learning Trust.

So a new chapter has begun.

There are many events planned for the coming term. Do please take a look at our website for further information. Key events for October and November include:

- Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening - Wednesday 8th November
- The next Headteacher / Chair of Governors Open Session is on the 23rd November at 8.30am

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support by ensuring that your son / daughter:

- Attends school every day and is on site from 8.30am - ready for Period 1 at 8.40am
- Is in full school uniform and ready to learn
- Completes their Prep / Homework and hands it in on time
- Reviews and talks about any concerns they may have about their learning.

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

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your son / daughter's Progress Leader in the first instance and then their Director of Progress. They and their email addresses are below:

Year	Progress Leader	Director of Progress
7	Mr Hathaway lhathaway2@kingsdownschool.co.uk	Mrs Temple mtemple@kingsdownschool.co.uk
8	Ms E Koza ekoza@kingsdownschool.co.uk	Mrs Temple mtemple@kingsdownschool.co.uk
9	Mrs M Davis mdavis2@kingsdownschool.co.uk	Mr Rumble jrumble@kingsdownschool.co.uk
10	Ms D Howard dhoward@kingsdownschool.co.uk	Mr Rumble jrumble@kingsdownschool.co.uk
11	Mrs Matthews lmatthews@kingsdownschool.co.uk	Mr Rumble jrumble@kingsdownschool.co.uk

My vision for Kingsdown School is that we will become a School of Excellence. In order to achieve and secure this we have:

- a clear School Improvement Plan
- very experienced and talented school leaders
- excellent support and challenge from the River Learning Trust
- well trained teachers and support staff
- and students on board and working with us

I look forward to meeting you in the next few weeks and months.

With best wishes

Mrs E Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher

Message from Chair of Governors - Lynne Scragg

The Governors of the School have been delighted with the progress the school has made during the first term of this year.

Staff and students are all working really well and have appreciated the leadership of our new Head, Mrs Leigh-Bennett. There is a very positive feel within the school. Having said that, change is always difficult for some and we are grateful to parents for their ongoing support. We all want the same - the best possible outcomes for every child and a safe and respectful learning environment.

Swimming Challenge

Peter Knowles in year 10 is taking on a marathon swimming challenge for charity. Over the course of 12 weeks he will be swimming 22 miles - the distance of the English Channel - to raise money for Aspire, a charity that helps people who have suffered a spinal injury.

Peter said "I enjoy swimming and this challenge seemed a good way to help others while keeping fit. The money raised will help people whose lives have been drastically affected by spinal injury to keep active and live in their own home by providing things like lightweight wheelchairs, adjustable furniture and kitchen equipment so that they can retain some independence."

Peter can be sponsored using the Just Giving link <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/peter-knowles-2017-channel-swim-16959>.

Kingsdown School is going to space.....

A committed group of Year 10 and 11s are currently working on an inspired Kingsdown School Project. They want to send a high altitude balloon with a payload into near space. This balloon will travel to approximately 110,000 feet. The balloon will be filled with Helium and will be sent up with a pay load which contains a GO PRO camera, a black box and tracking devices – both satellite and GPS for recovery. Harry Harvey in the picture below holds the parachute which will guide our payload back down to planet earth once the balloon explodes in near space. Once retrieved, we hope to have captured some stunning footage to share with the school.

The group meets straight after school on a Tuesday in V2.1 with Mr Mays. If you would like to join please come along. At present the group are designing the payload and thinking about weather proofing, placing of objects, balancing and insulating for the flight....

The project is progressing well... more details on the launch to follow

Mr Mays – Computing Department



Discover Wushu with Freddy Paillard, new British Champion

Freddy Paillard and his course of Kungfu Wushu, offer a new showcase in Swindon.

Freddy, the new British Champion in 2 categories, is a professor convinced of the benefits of the Wushu, a complete discipline, "which is not only a sport but also a lifestyle".

Classes are open to all levels (beginners and advanced): men, women and children. Members will practice Kungfu Wushu (modern and traditional, shaolin), Chinese kickboxing "Sanda" and self-defence (Jeet Kune Do).

Course of "Kungfu Wushu - Chinese kickboxing" are supervised by fully qualified professional instructor and 4th DUAN Black Belt.

Every Wednesday 6.30pm - 7.30pm.
Kingsdown School Sports Centre (Fitness Studio)
Contact : 07713 132888 kfwacademy@gmail.com

Eurogamer - 21st September 2017

On the 21st September 57 pupils plus four members of staff visited Europe's largest gaming convention, Eurogamer at the NEC in Birmingham.

A great day out was had by all looking at the latest consoles and games plus the high specification PCs on show. The students had a chance to try out these plus take part in tournaments, visit shows and gain insight into how to get into the industry by visiting the university stands. The staff enjoyed reliving their youth by playing games such as Doom 2 in the retro section!

Overall it was a great day out to gain an insight into one of the UKs largest industries and the feedback from the students was very positive.

Special thanks to Mr Vigar, Mrs Weston and Mrs George for their help with this trip.



The Platform Project

[Want to learn how to make money?](#)

[Dream of running your own business?](#)

[What to develop business skills?](#)

[Need to add experiences to your CV?](#)



The Platform Project is a new social enterprise that helps young people (aged 14-19) to develop their employability skills, confidence and opportunities through a number of enterprise projects that simulate setting up your own business (similar to The Apprentice).

Each project runs for 1 week (in school holidays), has a different theme each time, and in each challenge participants work with a number of local business people to learn some of their "saleable" skills (like marketing, event management, arts & crafts, website design, printed goods, sales skills, and digital media etc).

And participation is **FREE!**

[When is it?](#)

**Mon 23rd - Fri 27th
October Half Term**

10.00 - 15.00
at
Christ Church
Community Centre
Old Town

[Event Management Challenge](#)

[Are you a great planner?
Fancy learning skills for the event
management and music industry?](#)

In our October challenge, you will spend a week learning how to organise a (REAL!) Battle of the Bands fundraising event, including how to:

- Market events
- Book bands
- Organise a venue
- Generate income
- Sell tickets
- Make a promotional video

And the winning band will get a single recorded and played on the radio!



[Interested?](#)

Email us on
info@platformproject.co.uk
or go to
www.platformproject.co.uk
for more information

Exam Invigilator vacancy

Exam Invigilator Casual Work Contract Approximately 8 weeks of the year

Lead Exam Invigilator

£9.24 per hour plus holiday allowance

Exam Invigilator

£8.11 per hour plus holiday allowance

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

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

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

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

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

Come and join FC Abbeymeads



FC Abbeymeads are looking for new players, coaches and sponsors! We are looking for players in the following age groups U7, U8, U9, U10, U11, U14, U15s and U17/18s.



FC Abbeymeads are a FA Charter Standard Club. All of the club managers/coaches are FA trained and qualified with appropriate CRC, Safeguarding and First Aid qualifications. If you are interested in joining the team, being a coach please contact clint.ricketts@fcabbeymeads.co.uk / 07585 162655



Attendance

As you are aware, the role of Attendance Officer is new to Kingsdown School and some changes have been made to the absence reporting procedure.

You can find Attendance and Absence information on the school website. This will be updated regularly: <http://www.kingsdownschool.co.uk/Parents/Pages/absence.aspx>

Please take a few minutes to familiarise yourselves with the information and procedures, if you haven't already done so.

A couple of things that may be new to you are notifying the school every day that your child is absent and requests for medical evidence for example appointment card, compliment slip date stamped from the surgery or copy of prescription is sufficient:

It is essential that the Attendance Officer is notified every day that a student is off sick. This not only keeps your child's attendance records accurate but also ensures their safety. If you were to send your child back to school and we assume they are still absent due to illness an incident could occur, on the way to school, that neither parties are aware of.

Medical Evidence may be requested for 5 or more consecutive school days absence due to illness (3 days if prior to or after a school holiday).

May I take this opportunity to thank those of you who have already used the reporting procedure for your support. By working together, we will raise the attendance of every student and in doing so, raise their achievement.

Kay Bradbury

Parent/Carer Drop in Session

The first parent/carers drop in session took place on the 27th September 2017 with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors. This was an opportunity for parents to raise any questions at an open session. Some of the comments received after the meeting are as follows:

"Very relaxed environment, informative session, no subject was off limits. Would thoroughly recommend making an appointment to ask any questions".

"Felt we were listened to and that actions are going to be taken forward, positive that things are going to be acted on and that we were listened to".

"Lovely to know about all the positive changes that are happening within the school since September".

The next parent/carers drop in session is on the 23rd November at 8.30am, if you would like to come please give Jude Carter a call 01793 822284 to put your name down and what issues you would like to raise.

Careers and Year 11

Year 11 is a crucial year for all our students. It is a time where choices need to be made. Students now need to stay in education or training (which means apprenticeships) until they are 18. The recommendation is that **all** students apply for College as a back-up, even if they hope to obtain an apprenticeship.

On Tuesday 26th September our three local partner Colleges came in to present to all Year 11s. Representatives from each College visited the Tutor Groups to answer detailed questions from students - the current prospectuses will be available for students to take home and share with parents and carers very shortly.

The next step in this process will be to visit the College Open Days and Evenings. All websites will have a wealth of information to help students make these crucial decisions.

In addition to the three College open days there are other educational destinations for Kingsdown students. These include Wiltshire College - sites at Lackham (Land based courses); Salisbury; Chippenham (Engineering and Motorsport) and Trowbridge; school sixth forms and specialised Colleges such as Welbeck (Sixth Form Defence College) and Hartbury (specialising in Sport and Animal & Land Management). All these will also hold open events where students can visit and obtain further information.

Wiltshire College : Dates from 14th October

Welbeck 6th Form Defence College (Booking required) : Saturday mornings :
4th Nov, 14th Nov, 2nd Dec

Hartbury : Saturday 4th Nov 9.00 - 2.00pm : A Level and Diploma Open Morning

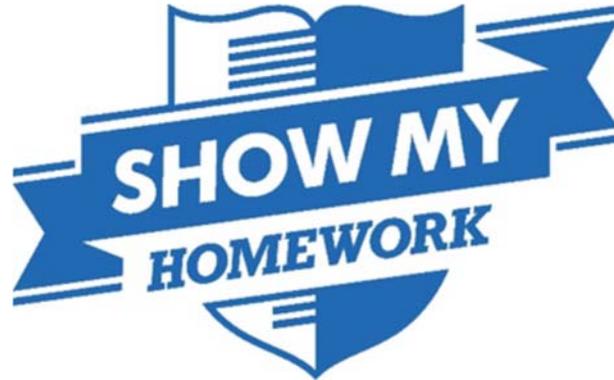
The Careers Information sheet covering these issues will be made available via the website and a link mailed to Year 11 parents. For any queries regarding Careers and post 16 options, please contact :

Ms B Stockford; email bstockford@kingsdownschool.co.uk

Miss I Humphries; email ihumphries@kingsdownschool.co.uk

Sunrise Nursery

A plea to parents from the Sunrise Nursery, when dropping off students to Kingsdown please can parents/carers use the correct exit route out of the School, this is through the School's car park. There have been a number of cars speeding past the nursery when parents have been dropping their children off.



After the October break, we will be launching a new device called 'Show My Homework' (SMHW). SMHW is a powerful simple online homework software accessible on desktop, tablet or mobile. Teachers can create and set engaging homework and students can submit online and parents can track details and deadlines.

It is a key priority here at Kingsdown that all of our students are challenged both inside and outside of the classroom. This is essential to ensure that every child finishes their learning journey here at Kingsdowns with the best possible grades.

Show My Homework is an online tool that allows all homework to be set online (as well as in their planner) so that teachers can upload useful resources and parents/carers also have the ability to monitor and support their child with the homework. The SMHW app can be downloaded directly from the play/app store which will allow notifications to go straight to your pocket.

We will be sending more information out regarding login details, after the October break.

Mrs Criddle

Contact details

Please can you notify the school if you change your contact details, it is really important that the School has the correct details for parents/carers in case of emergency.

If details do need updating please either contact the Progress Leader for your child's year or email head@kingsdownschool.co.uk



News from the Learning Resource Centre

Welcome to our new Year 7 students! As well as visiting the LRC for library lessons with English teachers, students can use the LRC for quiet studying, using a computer or relaxing with a book! In our **Fiction Library** over 5,000 books are available. Here, you will find all the most popular authors of teenage fiction, as well as magazines and graphic novels.



Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have regular library lessons, but all students in the school can use the library as often as they wish. Students are able to use our **Study Area** of the LRC for independent study or as part of a small group or class. Over 5,000 non-fiction and reference books are available as well as computers with internet access.

The LRC uses a library management system called *Eclipse.net*. Students can access Eclipse on the School Intranet to view their library record and search for books online. Other features include, reading and writing online book reviews and a 'Meet the Author' link where pupils can listen to authors talking about their books. Eclipse is explained more fully during library induction lessons



Forthcoming events for 2017-18!

Our annual **Literature Festival** will take place during week commencing 6th-10th November! Many events and activities are planned throughout the week! We will be having visits from authors, poets and illustrators as well as a visit to see author, Jonathan Stroud, at The Wyvern Theatre. Information about all the events will be available in the LRC nearer the time.



Competition Time!!!

There is still time to enter the Literature Festival's inter-schools Creative Writing competition and Illustration competition! Details on how to enter are in the LRC.

We will also be looking for a Book Quiz team to compete with other Swindon Secondary schools during our Literature Festival week. The team will consist of six students; two students each from Years 7, 8 and 9. If you think you have a good general knowledge about books and authors, please come to the LRC and put your name forward for this fun event!

The LRC opening times are:

Monday to Thursday – 8.00am to 4.30pm
Friday – 8.00am to 3.30pm

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>Netball Academy (All Years) Netball courts Mrs Wright</p>	<p>Basketball (All Years) Sports Centre Mr Mason/ Mr Shepherd</p>	<p>Fitness (All Years) Fitness Suite Mr Shepherd</p>
<p>Dance (All Years) Dance Studio Miss Harris</p>	<p>Dance Elite (Selected students only) Dance Studio Miss Harris</p>	<p>BTEC Catch Up (Year 10/11) C2.7 Mr Mason</p>
<p>Football (Year 7/8) 3G Mr Sharp</p>		<p>Hockey (All Years) 3G Miss Maller</p>

All clubs run from 3.15pm - 4.15 approx.