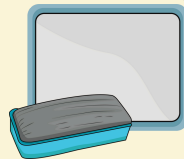


Attendance Ranking

The DFE data for attendance has been released and we are proud to announce that Kingsdown School has been ranked 2nd for best attendance against 21 similar schools across the country. We are also ranked 2nd best for the lowest number of persistently absent students against the same 21 schools. Thank you all for your continued support. We know that attendance over 95% equals to one GCSE grade higher per subject.



Teacher Training Update - Mini Whiteboards



Our teachers have recently completed training focused on the consistent, high-impact use of mini-whiteboards (MWBs) in lessons. This strategy is one of the most effective ways we check for understanding (a core part of our teaching framework). You might hear your child mention:

- "Hoover": This is a key routine where students must wipe their boards completely clean before receiving the question, ensuring they focus fully on the new task without distraction.
- "3, 2, 1, Show Me!": This is the high-expectation routine we use to maximise engagement. It ensures that every student is thinking and responding, allowing the teacher to instantly see what the whole class understands (or where they need reteaching).

These routines ensure that lessons are responsive and that no student is left behind.

Future Skills Questionnaire

Next week in PD students in years 7-10 will participate in the future skills questionnaire, it is a set of questions that have been specifically designed for young people in schools and colleges to help them to think about their skills, strengths and what they might like to do in the future. It is a key feature of our school's careers programme.

We will analyse learner responses to help evaluate our careers provision, plan future careers activities and also identify learners who may need additional support. The questionnaire takes approximately 15 minutes to complete, there are up to three sections of the questionnaire that cover the following areas: careers knowledge and skills, essential skills for life and work and career planning.

If you want to know more about our careers programme please do visit the careers information section of our website.

Conversation starters

We would like to encourage you to maintain an active interest in your child's learning at home. A great conversation starter is simply asking them: "What have you been learning about in Maths so far this term?" This quick conversation reinforces the importance of their learning and helps them practice retrieving the new knowledge they are gaining.

Uniform

We have high expectations of all of our students and we work tirelessly to ensure that these are upheld. Please can we remind you that acrylic nails are not to be worn. If students do attend school with these, they will be in the Matrix until they are removed. Jewellery should also be worn in line with our policy - one stud in the lower lobe of the ear. Thank you for continuing to work with us to uphold our expectations.

Year 9 Hate Crime

Our Year 9 students welcomed Shelley from Wiltshire Police for an informative session on hate crime. She explained what hate crime is, why it matters, and where young people can seek help if they ever feel concerned. Students left with clear messages, a stronger understanding of the issues, and an appreciation of the importance of speaking up.

Student Planners

Our student planner is a key document to support your child in being organised for their day and their homelearning. The planner also has excellent reminders of all our expectations in and outside of the classroom.

Please can you review the student planner with your child this weekend and check they know their timetable for the week.

Careers

Deadline approaching for Year 11 college applications - December 2025. A Google Form will be sent to students in Year 11 to help us identify, who has applied and support those who are unsure of their post -16 options. If you have any questions or need support, please email: careers@kingsdownschool.co.uk



Eco Club

Kingsdown's Eco Club has spent the term exploring climate change and resilience, focusing on **actions to improve the school environment**. Inspired by a trust-wide focus on enhancing natural spaces and well-being, the club is currently developing a biodiversity project. Their proposal aims to transform part of the school grounds into a **richer, greener area** by labeling plants, planting wildlife-friendly species, and creating simple habitats like bug hotels. This effort gives students a meaningful role in shaping a more sustainable and climate-resilient school community. New members are welcome; join the club in **Mr Newman's room (C21) on Tuesday lunchtimes**.



Future events and important dates

- 11.12.25 - Y11 Parents' Evening 3.30 - 6.30pm
- 15.12.25 - ASC Christmas Gathering
- 15.12.25 - Christmas Concert at St Phillips Church 6.30pm
- 16.12.25 - Christmas Lunch
- 17.12.25 - Christmas Lunch
- 19.12.25 - Non school uniform/Christmas jumper day
Students finish at 12.15pm
- 05.01.26 - Start of Term 3



With our continued thanks. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need any further information. Please be reminded that we have a 5 day response time.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher



KINGSDOWN
SCHOOL