



Happy New Year and welcome back to the start of a fresh term. We hope you and your families had a restful and rejuvenating break.

Term 3 is often one of the most pivotal periods in the academic year. As the days begin to get a little brighter, our focus shifts toward consolidating learning, preparing for upcoming assessments, and looking ahead to the future. On the 3rd page you will find key dates for the term ahead.



River Learning Trust Annual Reports

Please find via the link below the RLT Annual Report to Stakeholders: December 2025. This report provides a brief review of the past year across the River Learning Trust.

<https://riverlearningtrust.org/566/report-to-stakeholders-2025>

Two other annual 2024-25 reports for Sustainability and for Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion are available via the following page on the Trust website: <https://riverlearningtrust.org/324/annual-reports-strategy-documents>

Start of Term

It was lovely to welcome all of our students back on Monday morning.

Mrs Criddle and I ran assemblies for all year groups, we reflected on last year, how we can continue to be 1% better and reviewed what we needed to do this year to continue to be the best versions of ourselves. Students heard about our 4 pillars of high expectations when in the lessons, this included Meet and greet, ready to learn, great learning and end and send.

They have had a great first week back.

Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to all students who participated in the Christmas Jumper Day on 19th December.

We raised over £600 for charity.

Good Luck

Best of luck to our Year 7 and 8 Girls Football Team who are in the Utilia Cup - Area Final.

They travel to Coventry University on 13th January for the final football tournament.



Road Safety & Mobile Phones

While we work hard to ensure a focused and secure environment inside the school gates, our care for your children extends to their journey to and from our site.

Recently, I have observed some concerning habits near busy roads, and I am asking for your support in reinforcing the high expectations we have for our students' conduct in the community. We live in a world of constant digital connection, but the pavement is not the place for it. I need all students to:

Remove Distractions: Mobile phones should be put away and out of hands when crossing roads. A split second of looking at a screen can be the difference between safety and a serious accident.

Remove Headphones: Being able to hear oncoming traffic is just as important as seeing it. We advise students to keep at least one ear free or remove headphones entirely until they are safely away from traffic.

Using Designated Crossings

Consistency is key to safety. We expect all students to use designated pedestrian crossings (Zebra, Pelican, or Puffin crossings) wherever they are available. Taking an extra thirty seconds to walk to a safe crossing point is a small price to pay for peace of mind.

Teaching & Learning

Welcome back to a new term! We hope you and your families had a restful break.

As we kick off Term 3, our teaching staff are hitting the ground running with a renewed focus on our TEMPO framework. You may remember that TEMPO is our recipe for great teaching at Kingsdown, ensuring consistency in every classroom.

This term, we are continuing to embed these high standards in every single lesson.

Specifically, we are focusing on ensuring that:

- Explanations are crystal clear.
- Modelling shows students exactly how to succeed.
- Practice time is used effectively to help learning stick.
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Our goal is simple: to make every minute of learning count so that your child can build confidence and achieve their very best. Here's to a successful Term 3!

Year 9 Options

Thank you to Parents/Carers who attended the Options Evening last night. Next week's parent's evening is a great opportunity to ask teachers about subjects and courses.

Please see below some key dates:
w/c 12th Jan - Taster Sessions in lessons
15th Jan - Parent's Evening
w/c 26th Jan - Option choices to be made
Term 6 - Options confirmed

The image shows the front cover of the 'YEAR 9 OPTIONS 2026-2028' booklet for Kingsdown School. The cover features the school's logo (a lion) and the text 'KINGSDOWN SCHOOL'. Below the logo, there is a small photograph of two students looking at a painting on a wall.

The options booklet can be found on the Parent Portal.

Future events and important dates

- 13.01.26 - Utilia Cup Final - Coventry
- 14.01.26 - GCSE Art London Trip
- 15.01.26 - Y9 Parents' Evening 3.30pm - 6.30pm
- 16.01.26 - Staff Development Day
- 21.01.26 - Y8 & Y9 HPV & Td-IPV Injections
- 22.01.26 - Old Vic Trip
- 01.02.26 - Basketball Trip
- 02.02.26 - Y11 Art Mock
- 03.02.26 - Y11 Photography Mock
- 04.02.26 - GCSE Clay Day
- 04.02.26 - Y11 French Speaking
- 05.02.26 - Y11 French Speaking
- 05.02.25 - Y7 Parents' Evening 3.30 - 6.30pm
- 09.02.25 - Science Live Year 11

Artwork by Carson in Year 9



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**