



Remembrance

On Tuesday, all students and staff met together and paused simultaneously for a one minute silence. Observing the silence together helped reinforce the idea that remembrance is a shared community act, connecting us to history and to each other.

We hope that this experience helped the students truly grasp the profound message behind "Lest We Forget".



Literature Festival

This week we have thoroughly enjoyed embracing the Literature Festival. Year 7s have experienced performance poetry from Ash Dickinson; Year 8s have listened to the author of the young Bond series, Steve Cole, there have been trips and finally a book quiz where we competed at The Ridgeway School. This was a fantastic opportunity for so many students to participate in these wonderful reading events. We also welcomed 200 year 5 students from our feeder primary schools on Tuesday to hear Gareth P Jones and enjoy time at Kingsdown.

Reading is central to our culture of learning at Kingsdown and we strongly encourage students to read for 20 minutes every day for both mindfulness and as one of the most effective ways to improve student outcomes at GCSE. Please join us in celebrating this week of literature by asking your child what they are reading and encouraging them to use our fantastic Kingsdown library and asking our librarian, Mr Wise, for recommendations.

OxCOP

Last Thursday, six students participated in Oxford's mock climate conference. Kingsdown School represented Uganda, a country in Eastern Africa, and delivered a powerful opening speech, followed by careful deliberations with other countries. All students did themselves proud and are a testament to a positive climate future.



Year 11

Year 11 students have made a brilliant start to their first round of mock exams, demonstrating an exemplary commitment to their academic goals. We are immensely proud that attendance is at an outstanding 99.5%, and punctuality for every session has been truly exceptional. Furthermore, the conduct of our students has been nothing short of exemplary in the exam hall; invigilators have consistently commented on how focused, well-behaved, and hard-working the students appear to be. This level of pride and ambition to do well bodes extremely well for their success and reflects the culture of high standards we are building here at Kingsdown School. We encourage them to maintain this momentum as they head into the final days of the mock period.

Careers

Attached to the newsletter are a couple of PDF documents around New College Taster Sessions for Year 9, 10 & 11 and a careers bulletin.

Swindon Kooth - Parent/Carer webinars - November

There are some Koothtalks webinars in November, one that may help the families of students to support managing anxiety with self-care and another on smartphone safety and cyberbullying. Please use the following link if you are interested .

<https://connect.kooth.com/koothtalks>

Safeguarding - Cyberbullying Advice

Children being bullied online, particularly in games and via messaging apps, remains one of the top concerns of many parents and their children. Internet Matters have a range of guides and articles to support parents and carers which I have listed below:

Talking to children and conversation tips for ages 6-10, 11-13, 14-17 and vulnerable children
What is cyberbullying and what are the signs
Helpful ways to prevent cyberbullying
How to deal with cyberbullying
Parents experiences of cyberbullying
Useful resource

You can access the website via:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/cyberbullying/cyberbullying-conversation-starter-guide/>

Uniform Expectations

As we move through the school year, we'd like to remind families about our uniform expectations. Below is a reminder of our uniform guidelines that are also available on our school website:

- one small stud in each ear lobe
- one charity bracelet
- one simple watch
- one signet ring
- barely visible makeup
- natural hair colour
- blue jumpers are not to be worn with PE kit
- false eyelashes are not permitted

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a sense of pride and unity through our school uniform.

Future events and important dates

- 17.11.25 - Year 11 Mocks (2nd week)
- 17.11.25 - Drop Down morning Year 7 - 10
- 19.11.25 - Year 7 Safer Choices with the Police
- 23.11.25 - Twickenham Rugby trip
- 26.11.25 - Recital Evening 6.30pm
- 02.12.25 - Year 9 Safer Choices with the Police
- 03.12.25 - Flu Vaccinations
- 04.12.25 - Year 7 Christmas Disco 5.00 - 6.30pm
- 09.12.25 - ASC trip to Swindon Art Centre

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**

