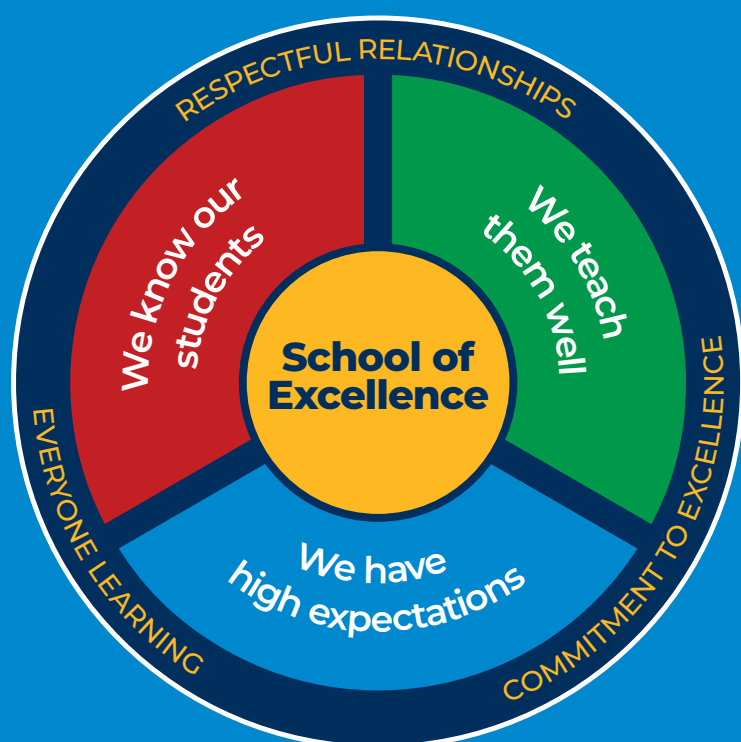




**We champion
each and
every student**

The Kingsdown vision

A school of excellence bursting with pride and ambition



Our Wheel of Excellence helps visualise the key elements that underpin our vision.



It has been my privilege to have been the Chair of Governors at Kingsdown School since September 2017.

My history with the school goes back a long way, having been a student back in the late 1960s. Each yearly report at that time described me as “enthusiastic” – I guess they were right as I am still passionate about education and am ambitious and enthusiastic for Kingsdown’s further and continual improvement.

My career has taken me into residential Social Work, Early Years Education and Further Education and I am now (mostly) retired.

As Governors, we define the vision and strategic direction of the school. We set ambitious targets for the school and monitor whether or not the leaders are on course to meet these targets. We work as a team to challenge, support and contribute to the strategic leadership of the school. We are volunteers but professional in our approach and commitment.

Under the leadership of Emma Leigh-Bennett, and with the support of The River Learning Trust, we firmly believe that we are well on our way to becoming the “School of Excellence” that all our students at Kingsdown so richly deserve.

I also, look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to Kingsdown School.

Lynne Scragg
Chair of Governors



It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself to you as the Headteacher of Kingsdown School. I was deeply honoured by the school Governors' appointment and, with it, the opportunity of leading such a fantastic school. I take enormous pride in the school's leaders, teachers and professional support staff who are the powerhouse behind our collective vision for our school and for our students.

Kingsdown is a mixed 11–16 Secondary School located in Stratton St Margaret, Swindon. It offers a vibrant learning environment, one in which its students take great pride in both their learning, their behaviour and their individual aspirations. Our teachers combine a high level of academic expertise with excellent teaching skills and a real and deep concern for the wellbeing of each and every student. Taken together, these allow us to recruit and retain the very best teachers.

Our vision for Kingsdown School is to become "a School of Excellence bursting with Pride and Ambition". To achieve this our Mission Statement is that we "Champion each and every student".

Three Strategic Priorities underpin our school improvement work. These are that we will:

- **Know our students**
- **Teach our students well**
- **Have high expectations in all we do**

The principles of both our School and the RLT are a commitment to:

- **Excellence** – striving for the best possible educational experience
- **Everyone learning** – creating and taking every opportunity to enhance lives
- **Respectful relationships** – acting with care, integrity and fairness in all we do

As leaders of Kingsdown School we share an unshakable belief in all our students and in all our staff. And unanimously, we believe in the importance and power of the highest quality education to which everyone has the right and which we are determined to deliver.

Kingsdown School is proud of so much that we have to offer and we enjoy opening our doors to current and prospective parents as well as to members of our community.

I look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to Kingsdown School.

Emma Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher

The Curriculum

The Kingsdown Curriculum is based upon the knowledge we believe will be most useful to our students long after they have left school. To support this, we sequence our Curriculum so students can make better links within and between subjects and we develop students' memories by revisiting knowledge at key intervals. We know that the more knowledge students remember, the better they understand the concepts we teach.

We are proud of the broad and balanced Curriculum we offer to all of our students.

During Year 8 our students choose their Options from a wide range of subjects: from Classics to Computing, from Spanish to Dance. We believe our Curriculum truly prepares our students for their study and further ambitions beyond Year 11.

Assessment

Kingsdown teachers and leaders have a clear approach to assessment based on evidence. We know that low pressure and regular testing improves memory, and shows our students what they need to revise. Quizzing in lessons and homework happen weekly. This means that our students get rapid feedback on what they know, where they have gaps as well as how they compare with others.

Regular feedback in class takes place through class ranking, modelling of excellent work and excellent explanation of typical mistakes. Together with teacher comments, these help our students to see what their next steps should be.

Twice a year, students sit longer assessments which helps them see their progress. These assessments give our students high quality feedback on what they have learned and where they have made progress.





Teaching and Learning

Our students experience lessons that challenge them, build on what they already know, and make them think hard. All of our students enjoy getting better at their subjects, because they can see that their learning is well structured, and they achieve higher results. All students are taught what they need to know and regularly revisit it so that their knowledge is secure. Through this process they therefore understand ever more demanding concepts.

Excellent teaching is achieved through teachers planning and developing lessons together as well as teaching the



same range of lessons at the same time. This means that ideas for improvement are constantly shared. Additionally, teachers become and are experts in their subjects.

Their professional learning is based on educational research and teachers test this out see its impact on the progress of their students.

We have an expert team of Teaching Assistants who work with teachers to identify and close those all-important learning gaps for key students.



Inclusion

At Kingsdown we strive to ensure all our students' needs are catered for. We use robust assessments, effective interventions and communication to ensure that no student is ever left behind.

Whether a student needs support for a physical disability, for a specific learning need, or for an emotional or behavioural need, we have a range of precise interventions in place to support such individual learning needs. These interventions are sometimes one to one and sometimes delivered by our team of specialist Education Support Champions in groups of 4 or 5.

At Kingsdown School we are proud of the fact that we truly champion each and every student.



High Expectations & Behaviour for Learning

At Kingsdown School we work continually to ensure our students always feel safe and enjoy being at school.

To support this work, we have a dedicated team of Pastoral staff who are very skilled at supporting students as and when the need arises.

Everyone at Kingsdown holds and sustains very high expectations especially with regard to behaviour for learning. We are a school committed to everyone learning and securing excellent outcomes. We are a school whereby there is zero tolerance to low level disruptive behaviour in lessons. To achieve this, we have a very clear and simple policy which we expect everyone to follow and respect. We also have a graduated response process which supports students in modifying their behaviour when needed.

Our students are motivated by our strong reward system. The high expectations that run throughout and across the school mean our students have a deep sense of pride in their school and have real ambition for their future success.

Progress and securing the best possible outcomes

At Kingsdown every student is set aspirational targets for every subject. These aspirational targets are challenging but are benchmarked against the highest performing schools.

Against these ambitious targets, we use robust assessments in order to give our students, their teachers and their parents a reliable and accurate picture of:

- what our students can do
- where they have learning gaps and
- what they need to do to improve.

This approach allows us to translate our ambitions for every student into a range of actions to keep challenging our students to secure the very best possible results.

Throughout our work, leaders at all levels ensure that data is used to review progress and secure excellent outcomes for each and every student. We share assessment information with our parents three times a year and hold an annual Parents' Evening.

The Tutor / The Student Champion at Kingsdown

At Kingsdown we pride ourselves in knowing our students well. Our Tutors play a key role in supporting our students' development from Years 7 - 11.

Every Tutor will champion each and every student in their tutor group. This means that they will know them as individuals, know their aspirations and always be there to stretch and challenge them as they transition from Year 7 to Year 11 and beyond.

Tutorial sessions meet in the morning for 25 minutes every day. Our Tutorial Programme develops thinking skills, explores values and focuses on personal well-being. The Kingsdown Beats are a key part of this programme.

A highlight of each term is our Student Champion Assembly. Here we celebrate all manner of student achievements and successes. We believe that these assemblies foster a strong sense of community and make our school a highly supportive place for each and every student to develop.





Student Leadership

At Kingsdown we are committed to developing leadership skills and capabilities in all our students. We believe that our numerous student leadership opportunities provide our students the chance to develop problem solving, communication and collaborative skills whilst also building resilience and self-confidence.

At Kingsdown, our students are encouraged and empowered to take on a wide variety of leadership roles. These start with the Leadership Ladder in Year 7, including roles within our School Council and House System. There are also posts such as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

There are numerous senior student leadership roles such as Prefects and Head Students. We are very proud of our Head Boy and Head Girl and the team of Deputy Head Students that they lead. Taken together the Kingsdown student leaders are excellent role models of whom we are very proud.

There are also many opportunities for our students to stretch and challenge themselves, such as event management, sport leadership and volunteer projects. All students from Year 9 are given the opportunity to complete The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

Facilities

We are incredibly fortunate to have some fantastic facilities at Kingsdown School including:

3G Pitch – An FA Accredited full sized AstroTurf pitch.

Sports Centre – A fully functional Sports Centre, with sports hall, dance studio, fitness suite and classroom.

PE – We boast 2 gyms, extensive playing fields, 4 tennis courts and a basketball court.

Learning Resource Centre – Housing several thousand fiction and non-fiction books and other resources, a quiet and supportive study space.

Design and Technology – 9 fully equipped rooms.

Music – A variety of classrooms and practice rooms, plus a bespoke state of the art music technology room.

Science – 9 laboratories and 3 preparation rooms.

ICT – 9 suites including a 120 station Virtual Learning Centre.

Extra Curricular

At Kingsdown we believe that all our students should have the opportunity to challenge and stretch themselves outside of the classroom and thereby explore and develop a wide range of new and important skills.

Kingsdown offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities to suit all age groups and all interests. These are on offer during lunchtimes, after school as well as over the holidays. The majority of clubs and trips are linked directly to our Schools of Learning and these are shared with our students on a termly basis. These include Performing Arts, numerous sports trips and exciting local, residential and overseas trips.

Every student who takes part in our extra Curricular opportunities develops a deep sense of pride and resilience for themselves and the community around them.





The Kingsdown Beats

At the heart of Kingsdown are our Kingsdown Beats. These underpin how we all feel and contribute to the life and development of our school.

Pride & Ambition

pride

I am proud to be a Kingsdown student.

I wear my uniform with pride.

ambition

I expect the best from myself.

I have ambitious dreams for my future.

Stretch & Challenge

stretch

I really want to learn and will stretch myself to achieve what I didn't think possible.

challenge

I am curious, determined & resilient. Set me a difficult task and I will always find the answer.

Respect & Responsibilities

respect

I am considerate. I care about others and my surroundings.

I expect others to do the same.

responsibilities

We are all part of something special and I am not going to let us down.





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We champion each and every student



In September 2017 Kingsdown School became a partner of the River Learning Trust (RLT). In doing so we joined a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) comprising 5 Secondary Schools, 7 Primary Schools, and a school-centred Initial Teacher Training provider.

Since October 2016, the RLT has been working with the teams, leaders and Governors of Kingsdown and has made a significant impact on the general confidence within and across the school, its culture and strategic direction.

What does it mean to be an RLT school and what are the benefits?

The RLT provides Kingsdown with:

- ongoing coaching and mentoring for Kingsdown's leaders, supporting them in embedding the required level of school improvement and ensuring the best possible outcomes for all our students
- access to a wide range of networks which will assist our teams in delivering excellence in and outside of the classroom
- numerous Professional Development opportunities for our staff – both teaching and professional support staff – which has had a huge impact on our all-important staff recruitment and retention strategy
- resources and capacity to support with several key operational processes, previously provided by LAs, such as HR, Financial as well as Governor support and,
- lastly, the leaders across the RLT support Kingsdown in regularly reviewing our Self Evaluation processes – the “where we believe we are” and, more importantly, the “what we need to focus on in order to improve further.”