

12th January 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

We were delighted to see all our students return to school this week and especially see our whole school attendance on Monday reach 94.2%. Kingsdown School's attendance rates continue to be at least 3% higher than other Swindon and RLT schools. Our continued thanks for your help in supporting this important whole school strategy. Do keep in touch and keep sending your children into school each and every day. We particularly congratulate our Yr 8 students who have had a great week of attendance.

Mrs Sedgwick - Head of Health & Social Care / Food

Mrs Sedgwick had some very sad health news at the end of last term. She is currently in hospital and will remain there for several months. She is very much in our thoughts and prayers. We have made staffing / teacher changes to support her absence from school which includes some new appointments and links with the River Learning Trust. We are all thinking of Mrs Sedgwick and her family at this time.

Timetable changes

Students were given a newly printed timetable on Monday. As you know, there have been some necessary changes because of staff movement. BROMCOM is up to date, but there will be a few minor changes ongoing as we realign roomings and accommodate further small amendments

Uniform

Thank you for all of your support with getting uniform right. This is a basic expectation that we expect all of our students to follow. As always if you need any support with uniform, please do get in touch with your tutor. A reminder that PE bottoms must be plain black tracksuit bottoms, not joggers. Please use this weekend to remove acrylic nails and lashes.

Behaviour updates

To support students in getting it right, there have been some updates to how we log and record data. New achievement logs have been added to the system so that we can celebrate and reward our students getting it right. These new logs are modelled around the Kingsdown BEATs and are for completion of Home Learning, participation in extra curricular activities and for modelling the Kingsdown BEATs. There are new behaviour logs to support students in making the right choices. Students out of lessons during lesson time and without a note in their planner will have an 'unexplained wandering' log. To safeguard our students, we expect no more than 1 child to be in a toilet cubicle, with no more than 4 students waiting in the toilet foyer. If a student is not following these expectations then this will be recorded on their Bromcom. Thank you for following these logs up with conversations at home.

Year 9 Parents Evening.

The booking for Year 9 parents evening opens on Tuesday 16th January at 9am and will close on Monday 22nd January at 9am. Thank you for making your bookings through the MCAS app. Any questions please contact hcase@kingsdownschool.co.uk

Celebration assemblies this week

This week we had our BEAT time assemblies, these assemblies are a beautiful way to celebrate our students for modelling the Kingsdown BEATs so wonderfully. Please do celebrate with your child at home- we are so proud of them.

Year 11

Our Year 11 students have made a positive start to 2024 and in this week's celebrations assembly we were able to congratulate the majority who have positive progress predictions for the Summer exams. We have been impressed by so many students who have returned with the clear intention to give their all in securing fantastic results for their future.

Year 11 students now understand the clear expectation that they must spend a minimum of 60 minutes per subject per week on home learning and independent study. To support this teachers have mapped out the home learning activities for each subject over the whole of term 3. This helps students to organise themselves and plan their time effectively. Please also remember the Videos from Mr Salles can be found [here](#). You will also see details below about a Parent Support Webinar on **Tuesday 23rd January** which everyone is welcome to attend.

Year 10 - CAT tests, Mock examinations and support in revising for these

Our Year 10 students did not sit KS2 exams so, in order for us to be able to give them GCSE targets, they will sit three, 45 minute, online Cognitive Ability Tests on **Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd and Thursday 25th January**. There is no need for any revision or preparation, but students must bring their laptop fully charged as usual. Form tutors will facilitate the tests during tutor time and period one and students will be briefed in assembly next week.

Parents and Carers of Year 10 students will be aware that the first formal mock exams for these students will commence w/b **Monday 18th March** and run for two weeks.

To prepare students for these assessments, we are inviting in a company called 'Elevate' who specialise in supporting GCSE students with developing their study skills and revision techniques. All Year 10 students will participate in an Elevate workshop on **Wednesday 17th January** and further details are below regarding their online Parent Support Webinar on **Tuesday 23rd January**.



How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking Tuesday 23rd January 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

[Click here to register for free](#)

Here's what Elevate will be covering on the night:

- ✓ Helping your child to structure their notes effectively
- ✓ Helping your child to remember what they learn
- ✓ Using deliberate practice with your child to improve their grades quickly

Events for term 3

w/ 15th Jan	: Year 9 options taster sessions this week
Wed 17th Jan	: Year 11 Revision session with Elevate [and some Year 10s]
Tues 23rd Jan	: Year 8 & 9 HPV
Weds 24th Jan	: Year 10 Ceramics Day
Thurs 25th Jan	: Year 9 Parents' Evening - 4-7pm
Weds 7th & Thurs 8th Feb	: School Production 7.00pm
Fri 9th Feb	: End of Term 3 - 12.50pm finish

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or class teachers.

With very best wishes to you all and again, our continued thanks for all your support.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher