

15th December 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

The last newsletter of 2023. My sincere thanks for all your continued support for your children and our staff team at Kingsdown. We end the year in a very positive way. For now I wish you and your families a very peaceful, relaxing and enjoyable festive break together.

All the staff will be back on Friday 5th January for a T D Day and we will be looking forward to welcoming all our students back on Monday 8th January. Thank you for ensuring that your child is ready for a new year, a new month and new term. Term 3 is only 5 weeks so every lesson, every day and every week will be so key to your child's further and future success.

Message from Paul James - CEO from the River Learning Trust

Please find via the link below the RLT Annual Report to Stakeholders: December 2023. This report provides a brief review of the past year across the River Learning Trust.

<https://riverlearningtrust.org/report-to-stakeholders-2023/> We remain very proud and appreciative of all the support and challenge that we have received and continue to receive from the RLT.

Attendance matters

As we come near to the end of the term may we remind you of our expectations around attendance.

We still want a 100% commitment from you as parents and from your child that they will be in school everyday. It would be very easy to say that next week is a short week so why bother, but we need to reaffirm with you that every hour spent learning in school is vital. Any absence will impact on your child's learning and every lesson counts. We will be conducting home visits up until 20th December and attendance reminders will be sent out over the holiday period. Thank you for your continued support.

Attendance Year to date - 91.7%	Persistent Absence - 23.4% [90% attendance or less]
Year 7 - 93.5%	Year 7 - 17.2%
Year 8 - 93.3%	Year 8 - 23.4%
Year 9 - 89.4%	Year 9 - 30.9%
Year 10 - 91.4%	Year 10 - 24.4%
Year 11 - 89.9%	Year 11 - 27.8%

Rights Respecting Schools

As part of our journey to moving from a Rights Committed school to a Rights Respecting school all students on Monday will hear about the UNCRC, what their rights are and why they have these universal rights. This will be delivered during period 1 by our fantastic group of peer educators of which comprises 45 student leaders in years 10 and 11. If you want to know more about what a Rights respecting school looks like please have a look at this [link](#).

Year 9 - term 3 key dates

Please save the date for our Parent Information evening on the 11th January. Here we will be sharing our Option process with you all. This exciting event will take place in the Main Hall at 6pm and last 45 minutes.

Events for term 3

Fri 5th Jan	: TD Day - focus on championing each and every student at KDS
Mon 8th Jan	: All students return to school for 8.30am
Thurs 11th Jan	: Year 9 Curriculum Information Evening 6.00pm
w/ 15th Jan	: Year 9 options taster sessions this week
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 - 3.00pm finish

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

Mrs Leigh-Bennett