

Dear Parents / Carers

We have now completed a second cycle of our timetable after some changes to our Behaviour policy. We are really pleased to see how the introduction of the strategies we shared with you last week have reduced internal truancy by 32%. With thanks for all your support.

Kingsdown and The River Learning Trust

We joined the River Learning Trust [MAT - Multi Academy Trust] in September 2017. We are very proud to be part of the RLT. We receive regular support from the Trust which includes curriculum development support, professional development for our teachers and professional support staff. There are regular meetings that take place throughout the year for senior leaders as well as subject leaders. We have a RLT support and challenge partner - Mrs Warwick who visits the school every three weeks to review our strategic priorities and supports us with our improvement planning. Paul James is the CEO and he also visits the school every two terms.

Attendance every day and for every lesson

Current attendance for Kingsdown School year to Date is 91.2% with a persistent absence of 24.6%. PA (Persistent Absence) is an attendance of 90% and below.

Year	Persistent Absence
Year 7 = 93.1%	PA = 20.2%
Year 8 = 92.9%	PA = 19.7%
Year 9 = 89.1%	PA = 32.1%
Year 10 = 90.8%	PA = 25.5%
Year 11 = 89.3%	PA = 27.8%

Safeguarding

Please be aware that we have been alerted to a new vape that is circulating within the community which resembles a gel pen. It is a THC vape (Tetrahydrocannabinol), a crystalline compound that is the main active ingredient of cannabis.



Uniform reminders

We still have a small number of students coming into school in the incorrect uniform. We have moved to having a morning roll call for Years 7-10. As part of the roll call we are checking uniform. Where uniform is not in line with the uniform policy, students will be loaned the item of uniform and will hand over their phone in exchange. Please ensure that your child is leaving for school in the morning wearing the full correct uniform. If you need any support with this, please let your Tutor know.

Further removing disruption to learning - changes to Parking at KDS

This week we have modified our parking system to try and help reduce the number of parkings across the school. We have introduced a parking room where students are supervised by a member of staff rather than parking students in other teachers' classrooms. Students who have been parked also spend 15 minutes of their social time in the parking room which is helping to improve the effectiveness of our repair conversations. We have been very encouraged to see that this week we have had a 24% reduction in the number of parkings so far this week.

Year 10 Mocks

Year ten students will begin their exams on Monday 18th March. They will receive an individual exam timetable next week and be given instructions in tutor time about the procedure for attending exams in the Sports centre and expectations regarding conduct in exam conditions. We will write to Year 10 parents and Carers closer to the date with more detailed information. In the meantime, Year 10 students will be receiving information from subject teachers about what to revise and they should remind themselves of their ELEVATE session from January which was all about exam preparation and revision techniques.

Year 11 Mocks

As the second period of mock exams comes to an end this week, we would like to congratulate those students who have really challenged themselves. So many Year 11 students have commented on how much more confident they are feeling with the exam process and with their ability to achieve success. In particular students have identified the 'Blurting' revision technique and the use of past exam papers as being really beneficial in preparing students for exams. Teachers are now in the process of marking and moderating and students will receive their result w/b 25th March.

Register for Elevate's Parent Webinar Series

We were pleased to get positive feedback from Parents and Carers of Year 10 & 11 students who have attended the Elevate Parent Webinars.

This Term Elevate Education delivers high-impact workshops to our students that help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, you're invited to join their parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

Upcoming Webinars:

How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams - 5th March 6:00pm

How You Can Support Your Child During Exams - 19th March 6:00pm

Register for the series by clicking the link below and learn some great practical strategies to help support your child this year. <https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukschoolwebinar>

MCAS reminder and support

The MCAS app allows you to track your child's attendance and behaviours throughout the day. Please can you ensure that you have downloaded the MCAS app to support you with this.

Lockdown 2nd practice

We will be having another announced lockdown practice on the 12th March. Please can you remind your child that this has to be taken seriously and with the same respect as when they have a fire drill.

The next time we have a lockdown drill it will be unannounced so it is important that we all make the effort to do this announced drill brilliantly.

Introduction to Anne Featherstone

Hello, I am Anne Featherstone and newly appointed to Kingsdown School as a Community Governor. I was a Headteacher in schools in Luton for many years, then retired and relocated to this area.

Kingsdown School is a great place to be, and I feel privileged to be a Governor here. I have two main areas of responsibility, and these are Attendance, and Attitude and Behaviour.

I have just completed a series of induction visits. I have observed and spoken with some exceptional students. Staff here are extraordinarily passionate and hardworking and go the extra mile to help students. It is not difficult to see why Kingsdown is the school of 'first' choice.

You will have picked up from the media the concerns nationally about student absence post pandemic. Our young people need to be here, in school where many creative initiatives are being explored to ensure their learning is interesting and relevant.

If you have a concern, there is a phenomenal and very effective team here who can help. Just give the school a call.

I look ahead to the many exciting things that are to come.

Our Chair of Governors - Lynne Scragg

Lynne Scragg, Kingsdown School's Chair of Governors, is retiring at the end of the term after 10 years service on the governing body. We would like to thank Lynne for all her work and support of the past 10 years. If anyone would like to send a good wishes message to Lynne please forward an email with your message to jellis@kingsdownschool.co.uk and this will be inserted into a book of thanks and presented to Lynne on her last day - 28th March.

Events for term 3

w/c 4th March	: NEA Food Exams/MFL speaking exams
Tues 5th March	: Recital Evening 6.30pm
Thurs 7th March	: Year 9 HPV
Thurs 14th March	: English KS4 Macbeth Trip 5.15pm -11.15pm
w/c 18th March	: Year 10 Mocks for 2 weeks
Weds 20th March	: Pencelli Parents' Evening - 6pm
26th March	: Year 11 Mock Results Assembly
27th March	: Year 11 Parents' and Carers' Steps to Success evening
28th March	: End of Term - Students finish at 12.00pm
15th April	: Start of Term

With our continued thanks. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need any further information.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher