

22nd March 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Thank you for supporting our annual RLT survey. We have had encouraging engagement from all our staff, parents and students. Thank you. We will receive the summaries from these questionnaires in the next month and I look forward to sharing these with you.

Last Monday we had our annual RLT Peer Review and we were encouraged by the feedback from the reviewers. Their positive comments included:

- The warmth of relationships across the school and teams
- The strength of the Kingsdown Curriculum

Our focus now is to continue to work further on how our curriculum is delivered in the classroom. As leaders and teachers we remain restless to further improve in this important area.

### **End of Term 4 arrangements**

Thank you for your continued support since September, but especially this term. It has been a short but busy term. Students will depart Kingsdown school at 12pm on Thursday 28th March. If you or your family need any support over the Easter break please be reminded that our Safeguarding team are on duty.

### **Start of term 5 arrangements**

We look forward to welcoming all of our students back to school on Monday 15th April at 8:30am. All students will start at our Roll Call in their designated zones. A reminder to ensure that you use the Easter break to ensure that your child has everything they need for a successful term 5 - fully stocked pencil case, full correct school uniform and a fully charged Chromebook.

### **Response times for meetings**

We seem to have some parents arriving at school and expecting to see a member of staff straight away. Please note that this is not possible. All teachers teach and there are meetings in diaries after school. We thank you for your understanding in appreciating that we will try really hard to ensure meetings will be arranged within 5 days of your request. Thank you for your understanding here. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's tutor or teachers via email in the first instance.

### **Head Students**

We are delighted to announce that we have a new Head Student team for 24/25 who will lead the school from Easter as our year 11 head students take the necessary step back to focus on their upcoming exams. We would like to thank the Year 11 Head students for their dedication to their roles and the school and for the transformational shift they have made in the school and the student leadership structure for years to come. They have been truly inspirational.

Congratulations to Alex and Daisy who will become our Head Students and to Josh, Ted, Jean-Luc, Erin, Maddison, Giselle and Daniel. They will be a brilliant team who will take on the mantle left by our outgoing head students well. We also have a team of senior students newly appointed in year 9 and 10 who will support and work with the head student team in driving student leadership forward in the coming year.

Well done to all!

### **Safeguarding over Easter**

A member of the safeguarding team will be available over the Easter break.

## Rewards trips launch

Last week during assemblies, we were really excited to launch the Activities Day reward trips for years 7-10. The reward trips will be running on the 24th July and all students have the opportunity to become eligible to attend. Eligible students will have a positive set of net points and no suspensions. It was made clear to all students that previous data would not affect their eligibility but that they had a fresh start from the assembly. We look forward to taking as many students as possible on the external visits.

## Timetable update

In light of some teacher movements and from student voices there will be a revision to our timetable from the start of term 5. These changes will be shared with your children on Monday 15th April. We are pleased with the quality of our revised timetable that has seen a reduction in split classes and more teachers teaching in their subject specialisms. Additionally and through listening to student voices there has been a reduction in double lessons.

## Staffing update

The following staff leave Kingsdown at Easter and we would like to wish them the best of luck in their new roles and thank them for their service to Kingsdown School.

Miss Dunning - leaving education

Mrs Fletcher - promotion

Mr Addis - a teacher of Science position

Mrs Russell - leaving to work nearer her home

Mrs Howard - leaving to work in Post 16

We welcome the following new and experienced members to our Kingsdown team from 15th April

Mrs Dominy - Teacher of Science with a leadership role for Year 9 Science

Mrs Lynn - Teacher of Music & Drama

Mr Strett - Teacher of Maths and ICT

Mrs Clements - a very experienced SENDCo from Oxfordshire

Mrs Buenavista - Data Manager

Mrs Harker - Student Services Administrator

Mr Drawmer-Holmes - Education Support Champion

Mr Ayres - DT technician

Our new staff joined our school last Friday for the first part of their induction. They all commented on the strong attitudes and engagement from our students, the warmth of relationships as well as the coherence behind why Kingsdown does what it does. They are all looking forward to joining the school in April.

## Future Events

26th March	: Year 11 Mock Results Assembly
27th March	: Year 11 Parents' and Carers' Steps to Success evening - invitation only
28th March	: End of Term - Students finish at 12.00pm
w/c 15th April	: Reports sent home Year 7 - 11
15th April	: Start of Term - 8.30am on site / all students to go to roll call
21st April - 26th April	: Pencelli Trip
23rd April	: Watermill Theatre Trip
25th April	: Year 10 Parents' Evening 4 - 7pm
28th April	: Girls Football in Bristol
1st May	: Visiting Artist GCSE Year 10
1st May	: ASC Coffee afternoon - 1.30pm
9th May	: GCSEs begin
9th May	: Year 8 Parents' Evening 4 - 7pm
10th May	: Netball trip to Bath
24th May	: End of Term 5
24th, 25th, 26th May	: DofE Silver Expedition Practice

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