

24th November 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

This week we profiled messages in our student bulletin around road safety. This remains such an important message for us all at Kingsdown. Over the last 5 years we had a tragic fatality as well as 5 very serious RTAs. Do please remind your child / children to walk sensibly and carefully on their way to school. You'll be aware that the pavements on the left towards Ermin Street are exceptionally narrow - and this is despite us working with the Council to review and develop. Justin Tomlinson MP for North Swindon was in last week and we again profiled the importance of a new national road campaign - the last one was shared across the country in 1974! Additionally, there are massive challenges around mobile phones and earphones.

So please - some useful reminders to share with your children:

- Most RTAs take place during the 10 mins before and after school
- Almost 20% of child pedestrian casualties occur on the way to or from school
- Child pedestrian casualties peak at about 12 years of age
- Casualties linked to cycle accidents peak at about 14 years of age

What you can do to support

- Remind your children of these statistics and what the changing lights at a pedestrian crossing mean
- Make sure your child is wearing a helmet if they ride a bike to school or scooter [not electric]
- Lights and reflectors and reflective clothing is worn
- Remove airpods / headphones so you can hear ongoing traffic and not use their phones

### **Year 11 Mocks - Attendance 92.2%**

We are at the end of a very successful mock exam period for our Year 11s who have shown some real dedication and determination. We were pleased to hear that our exam invigilators commented on how well students have respected the exam conditions. Results will be out just ahead of the Year 11 Parents' and Carers' evening on December 15th.

### **SEND - Drop in Clinic**

Our SENDCo, Mrs Russell is offering a drop-in clinic for parents/carers who have a child with an SEND need or for parents/carers who are concerned their child may have an undiagnosed SEND need. If you would like to make an appointment to meet with her please use our new booking system using the link below: <https://www.kingsdownschool.co.uk/info/senco-clinic>

### **Attendance matters**

In this run up period to Christmas we will be sending out letters to parents/carers of any students who have an attendance year to date of below 90%. We understand that this is the time of year when colds are rife and flu is doing the rounds and it is only right that you want to ensure your child is well enough to come to school. Please be reassured that if your child is unwell at school we will do everything possible to look after them and if they are too ill to be here we will contact you and send them home.

## Shoe Box appeal

In December we will be running our reverse advent where we will be filling shoe boxes to donate to Young carers and Swindon food collective. Here we will be asking for your support to donate an item of food, clothing, toiletries or old toys that we can use to support local charities.

Now is a great time to start clearing out for Christmas, so keep an eye out for things you would like to donate. More information will follow next week and will be shared with your child during Tutor time.

## Christmas Jumper day

On Friday 8th December we will be running our annual Christmas Jumper day. We will be raising money for the 'Save the children' appeal. Students will be allowed to wear non school uniform and are asked to wear a Christmas Jumper. Students who are unable to purchase a Christmas jumper but would like to join in with the day can join us after school in the Main Hall from 3:00pm - 3:30pm on Wednesday 6th where they can select one of our new Christmas jumpers to take home and keep. A massive thank you to Amazon for kindly donating the Christmas Jumpers to enable every child to take part in this charitable day. Donations of 50p-£1 will be collected during Tutor time.

## T D Day 27th November

A reminder that Monday 27th November is a Teacher Training Day. Here we will be completing further training on our T & L strategy and a walk through of our Lockdown procedures. More on this will be shared with you in the new year.

## Special Events this last week

The highlight of our week is when we get to celebrate our students by having 'cakes with the head'. This week, the Year 8 girls netball team, who have had a great season were invited to share this celebration with Mrs Leigh-Bennett. This group of students are an asset to the school and are a great set of role models to their peers. Your teamship and ambition is second to none, well done to our very own Lionesses.

This week we were invited and enjoyed our Autumn term recital evening. Over 25 students took part playing / singing pieces from Mozart to The Clash. The audience truly enjoyed the event which ended with our student choir singing "Lean on Me" - brilliantly conducted by Mr Wicker. A guest appearance from Mr Addis on the Drums was inspiring.

This weekend we wish all our Cross Country runners every success as they compete in the inter school Swindon event at Nova.

## Key dates for the rest of this term

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Mon 27th Nov                  | : TD Day - school closed to all students   |
| Tues 5th Dec                  | : Year 7 and 8 Disco (4.30-6.00pm)         |
| Wednesday 6th Dec             | : Christmas Jumper Exchange                |
| Fri 8th Dec                   | : Christmas Jumper Day                     |
| Wed 13th Dec & Thurs 14th Dec | : Christmas Lunch                          |
| Thurs 14th Dec                | : Year 11 Parents' Evening (4.00 - 7.00pm) |
| w/c 18th Dec                  | : Christmas Assemblies                     |
| Mon 18th Dec                  | : Christmas Concert @ St Phillips (6.30pm) |
| Weds 20th Dec                 | : End of Term - 12.00pm                    |
| Fri 5th Jan                   | : TD Day                                   |
| Mon 8th Jan                   | : All students return to school for 8.30am |

With thanks for your continued support and for sharing these messages with your child / children. Wishing you and your family a restful and peaceful weekend.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett