

9th February 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Today marks us being half way through this academic year. My sincere thanks for your continued support. We have been very encouraged by seeing our attendance continue to be above 90%. I would love term 4 to be close to 96% for each and every student. Please keep sending your children to school each and every day. You will remember me sharing and telling you about the impact of attendance and your child's success in their assessments and GCSE results.

We have had many visitors visit classrooms this term and key observations have been around the ambition of your children, the good relationships across the school and the quality of education available and how students respect this and each other. Thank you for talking about the importance of education and learning.

Our Safeguarding team will be on duty over the break so if you or your child needs Kingsdown, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via SHARPs or through email.

For now, wishing you and your family a restful break.

School Production

It has been thoroughly enjoyable to see the school production on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Both events have been wonderful evenings and a testament to students' hard work during rehearsals. A huge thank you to Mr Lawson and Ms Peters who have carried out weekly rehearsals with students to prepare them for such wonderful performances. Congratulations to all involved.



Monday 19th February - arrangements

Please ensure that you use the break to get our students term 4 ready. This includes having a fully stocked pencil case and the correct school uniform- including black polishable shoes. If you need any support, please contact your Tutor.

Student Leadership opportunities

Year 9 and 10 Prefect and Senior Student applications

Thank you to all of those year 9 and 10 students who have already handed in their applications for head student, senior student and prefect. Students wishing to reply still have to the **22nd of February** to complete this.

For the first time year 9 students have also been offered the opportunity to become a Senior Student instead of just a Prefect in Year 9. If your child is interested in becoming a student leader they need to complete a form, paper copies are still available from Mrs Strett and electronic copies was sent to emails.

To apply they get support from their teachers as well as signatures from you as their parents/carers. Those wishing to become a Senior Student need to apply by explaining also how they demonstrate the BEATs. Year 10 students also have the opportunity to apply to become Head Students and will need to complete a letter of application in addition to the above.

Year 8 Student leaders

Year 8 students have begun their sports leadership programme with Mr Shepherd where they have looked at what good leadership looks like. Further sessions will run next term. If there are any more Year 8 students interested in joining this group next term they should see Mr Shepherd.

Year 7 transition ambassadors/Peer educators

An application form is coming out via email this week to year 7 students who wish to apply to be transition ambassadors; they will then over the next couple of terms undertake training for this role which will include both looking after Year 6 students on transition as well as becoming peer educators . They will need to complete the form in full which can be done all online. The deadline will be the **1st March**

Eco/ Charity/ Rights respecting steering groups.

Student voice is incredibly important to the school. Article 12 states “Students should be heard and listened to” this is why we have our school council structure set up as it is as well as why smaller focus groups at the request of students are being set up with interested students participating.

This term our **Eco group** has met, this is made up of students in years 7 and 8 who have a keen interest in our school and global environments. They are looking at campaigns to improve the school environment.

Our **charity group** has met and planned a number of events throughout the rest of the school year to raise money for the Mayor’s charities aimed at supporting young people.

Our **Rights respecting steering committee** has also met to look at the campaigns and awareness that they want to raise on global issues in the coming terms.

There will be further opportunities for student involvement in new enrichment groups and teaching and learning focus groups coming next term. If your child has opinions that they want to share and should be heard please do encourage them to join one of these groups, speak to the school council or Mrs Strett and Mr Raisey directly.

Year 9 Blunt Truth - Knife Crime event

We have arranged for our year 9 students to take part in a weapons awareness lesson called the Blunt Truth on **21st February**. This is promoted by Wiltshire Police supported by NHS Emergency Medical Practitioners. This will be part of their Personal Development lessons. We are very fortunate that Kingsdown will take part in this innovative educational experience giving students a real insight into the dangers and implications of knife crime.

Ready to Learn

It is very important that students come to school ready to learn with their full set of equipment, including a pencil case, chromebook and headphones. This makes such a difference to the beginning of their day and ability to access their learning. Thank you for encouraging your child to pack their bag the night before, reviewing the lessons for the following day to make sure they have everything they need to be successful at school.

The Learning Lounge

A reminder that students are always welcome to use Kingsdown School's Learning Lounge in the library. This is a supportive facility for students to complete home learning. Here, students may work in a calm, suitable learning environment and have access to resources and ICT facilities to help them complete their home learning successfully. This facility is open before (from 08:00am) and after school (until 4:00pm) and at break and lunch. Home learning is an integral part of the curriculum at Kingsdown School. Research shows that students who commit to Home Learning achieve, on average, one grade higher than their target grade at GCSE. We need our students to complete their home learning each and every time it is set so please encourage them to use the Learning Lounge if they are finding it difficult to complete work at home. Your support in monitoring completion of your child's home learning is greatly appreciated.

Championing your child

Teenagers are notoriously difficult to communicate with. As parents and carers wanting to know how best to support your child, it can often be quite a challenge. Here are some top tips on how you can spend some time with your child [Quality time with your teenager](#)

Events for term 3

w/c 19th Feb	: Year 11 Mocks
Tues 20th	: Harbourside trip
Weds 21st Feb	: Blunt Trust Year 9
w/c 26th Feb	: Year 11 Mocks
w/c 4th March	: NEA Food Exams
Tues 5th March	: Recital Evening 6.30pm
Thurs 7th March	: World Book Day
Thurs 7th March	: Year 9 HPV

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