

11th September 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to our first parent communications for this academic year. All the staff returned to school on Friday 1st Sept and we had two very productive training days together. We were very pleased to welcome 14 new staff to our Kingsdown team - especially Mrs Barker our Deputy Head and Mr Law a new Assistant Headteacher. On Tuesday 5th September we welcomed back over 1000 students to school. I pay particular tribute and congratulate our new year 7 students who have adapted to their new school, new routines and expectations brilliantly. I also wish to acknowledge our Y11 students who have returned with a very positive attitude for their last year at Kingsdown.

It's been a very hot week as you have seen first hand and our students have dealt with this very well - as have our staff. Thankfully, cooler temperatures are on the way next week and we return to all students being in full uniform from Monday unless they have PE on that day when students are permitted to wear their Kingsdown PE uniform.

We thank you for taking the time to read this communication, sharing key messages with your child / children and of course getting in touch via head@kingsdownschool.co.uk if you have any further questions or need any further support.

Attendance

The whole school attendance year to date is currently 97.3% which is amazing.

Thank you for ensuring that your child attends school every day. A reminder that if your child's attendance falls below 90% they are automatically classed as Persistent Absentees. You will then be contacted to see how we can work together to support your child in attending.

I am sure you can appreciate that the management of daily attendance is a huge task. Please support us by remembering to call the school on 01793 822284 and press option 1 to report your child's absence. Our Attendance Champion Mrs Bradbury needs this call to be made before 8.00 am so she can correctly code your child's absence. Please do not hesitate to call us if you feel you need any support with your child's attendance.

Uniform

I would like to take the opportunity to provide you all with the clarity regarding your child's PE Uniform for this year. Below you will find the clarity. Thank you for taking the time to read this. You will see that your child is allowed to wear either the Kingsdown logo / branded shorts or skorts or just plain black shorts or skorts.

I did want to remind parents that the cost of our Kingsdown uniforms, both school and PE, are comparatively cheaper than the majority of other local schools. For example our branded / logo shorts are £6.50 and some of our local schools are charging parents / carers £18.65.

If you need and wish to discuss the uniform needs for your child, please contact your child's progress leader. As always, we are here to listen and support.

PE Uniform Item	PE uniform Policy
Kingsdown School Fleece	This is a compulsory item all students must have.
Kingsdown Shorts / Skorts	KDS black shorts / skorts with the school logo or plain black shorts / skorts with no logo or branding. If plain shorts are worn, these must be the same style as the branded shorts. Mid thigh length
Tracksuit bottoms (optional)	KDS black tracksuit bottoms with the school logo or plain black with no logo or branding. No - Sweatpant style, cotton jogging bottoms. Any other colour, overly tight/baggy, stripes, logos are not permitted. Leggings are not permitted
Socks	Any length plain black socks (not above the knee)
Students will be allowed to wear a school coat to and from school with their PE kit but should not wear their school blazer or navy v-neck jumper with their PE Kit.	

For our Year 11 students only, last year's PE uniform policy expectations will remain, meaning non/kingsdown logo tracksuit bottoms/shorts/leggings are acceptable. Please ensure students footwear is appropriate for sport, converse and vans style footwear are not acceptable.

Open Evening - 28th September - 5pm - 7.30pm - School closes at 12.50pm

Our annual Open Evening is a very important event for our community. In order to support our preparations for this evening, Kingsdown will close for all students at the end of period 4 at 12.50pm - home learning and a BEAT task will be set for your child to complete whilst at home that afternoon. We thank the many student leaders and ambassadors who will volunteer their time to support in profiling our school and sharing their experiences.

Parent Portal and MCAS - My child at school - app

Our parent portal is your go to place for information about your child at Kingsdown school. Here you will find the calendar of events for your child for this year.

MCAS has now been in operation for over a year and our parents find this invaluable. Through the app as a parent you can track your child's attendance, progress and achievement points throughout the year. Our target this year is to get 100% of our parents accessing the app. If you do not have access to MCAS can you please contact our Student Services team who will be able to support you - fwilliams@kingsdownschool.co.uk.

Please find a Youtube video link here informing you of some minor changes to our Behaviour for Learning policy- https://youtu.be/wXB2MtuyX_U.

With our continued thanks for working in partnership with us all at Kingsdown School. If you have any questions or need further information please do not hesitate to get in touch with either your child's tutor, teachers / Heads of Department, SENDCo or Progress Leader or indeed myself at head@kingsdownschool.co.uk.

With best wishes and thank you again for all your support in ensuring that your child attends every day and is ready to learn.

