

20th September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

We have now completed a full cycle of the new year and the vast majority of our students have embedded our high expectations really well. Next week we will review and monitor that all students are in the correct uniform, are on time and engaging well in their lessons including all chromebooks charged. With thanks for your support in ensuring that your sons / daughters are ready to learn and for checking uniforms and reminding of the importance of being on time to all lessons. I look forward to sharing feedback from our monitoring review with you soon.

Attendance

Attendance year to date = 94.5 % Persistent Absence year to date = 12.3% [less than 90%] Lates = 2.5%			
	Attendance year to date	PA	Lates
Year 7	96.4%	8.3%	1.1%
Year 8	94.1%	12.1%	1.9%
Year 9	93.9%	15.0%	2.9%
Year 10	94.1%	12.3%	3.4%
Year 11	93.6%	14.8%	4.2%

Great Learners at Kingsdown - Assemblies this week

This week's assembly focus has been talking to students on what great learning looks like at Kingsdown. It has been wonderful to see how engaged students have been and hear directly from them about what academic targets they are setting themselves this year to maximise their learning and potential. Students have left with a clear understanding on the importance of education and how to make the most of the opportunities provided to them in lessons.

STAR- how can we connect

Be a Kingsdown 

S	Sit up to look interested and stay engaged
T	Track the speaker to show other people their ideas matter
A	Appreciate your classmates ideas nod and smile when your classmates speak
R	Respect everyone's right to an education listen, follow instructions first time, focus on your work



In lessons and assemblies we ask our students to STAR. This is both about our students being ready to learn and enjoy their right to an education as well as encouraging connection and belonging in the classroom.

S - Sit up to look interested and stay engaged - we want students to focus on what is being taught, part of this is tracking what is being said. If students are alert and listening to what is being said it helps them enjoy their right to an education, develop a deeper understanding and ultimately perform better.

T -Track the speaker to show other people their ideas matter - we want students to engage with all who are speaking, this may be the class teacher, or one of their peers answer the question, we want students to look at those talking, to build the connection in the classroom.

A - Appreciate your classmates ideas nod and smile when your classmates speak - we want students to listen to what is being said by all and encourage



them to answer questions, this helps build that connection, an encouraging smile or a nod can help build the connection in the room. It is also a good way to interact in corridors too.

R- Respect everyone's right to an education *listen follow instructions first time and focus on your work.* - all students have the right to an education, to enjoy this right all students need to ensure that they are in school, following instructions of what they need to do and focusing on their work. They should also make sure that they reach out for help when needed.

Houses and ties

Last week saw the beginning of the house system assemblies with the focus being 'connection and kindness' and the introduction of the new heads of house:

Atlas - Mr T Svensson
Mosbach - Mr S Dadge
Barbary - Miss P Foot
Nubian - Mr A Strett

All heads of house were incredibly engaging and inspired students to continue to do the right thing, they are all looking forward to leading their houses to achieve great success in the year to come.

As part of our drive to celebrate the houses that students are a part of, we would like to ensure that each student has the correct coloured tie so that they are truly proud and represent their house in all that they do at Kingsdown School.

We would like all Kingsdown students to be in the correct coloured tie at the very latest by October half term. Students can swap with their friends/tutees or they can get a new tie from student services. If students swap a tie in good condition then they will get £1 off their new tie.

Deadline: 24th October 2024

Tutors - how to get in touch

Your child's Tutor will be point of contact should you have any pastoral questions/ share and celebrate your child. If you have a curriculum question, please contact your child's teacher. Their contact details can be found on our school website-'Our School- Contact us and select the teacher you need to contact on the drop down menu. For any support for MCAS/Google classroom please contact IT support on ictsupport@kingsdownschool.co.uk.

Safety - arriving and departing from school

We would like to thank you in advance for your continued support in ensuring that our school site remains safe as the students arrive and depart Kingsdown School. We have seen a notable increase in the number of cars dropping students off in the mornings and collecting them at the end of the school day. This does impact on the safety of our students and we are looking at alternatives to ensure that we all work together to ensure their safety. If you drop off/collect your child please remember the following:

- There is a drop off/collect area at the sports centre car park
- Cars are only permitted on site to collect students if you have a parking permit. To be eligible for a parking permit you must fit the following criteria:
 - Your child has a blue badge for disability
 - Your child is part of the ASC centre
 - Your child has a recent injury e.g. broken leg, that requires them to be dropped off as close to school as possible
 - Other agreed circumstances authorised by the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- The speed limit for the site is 5mph
- Do not park on the hatched areas
- Do not double park

GLA Testing and Target setting

Please be aware that we are carrying out Reading Age assessments on Monday 23rd September and Tuesday 24th September for all students in Years 7 to 10. It is important we know your child's reading age so that we can put in reading intervention where it is needed and so that our teachers are able

to plan lessons effectively. Can you support us with this by ensuring your child's chromebooks are fully charged and they bring with them their earphones.

Opening message from Miss Jackson & Miss Maller

It has been a pleasure to witness the energy and enthusiasm that our Year 7 and 8 students have invested in the first 2 weeks of this academic year. My favourite moments this week have been listening to all the wonderful ways in which the students have achieved their gold cards. The ambition and determination of the year groups is palpable and I am very much looking forward to getting to know them this year.

Miss Jackson, Lead Practitioner Attitudes and Engagement, Years 6, 7 & 8

I have been extremely impressed with the way that Years 9, 10 & 11 have started the new term, acting as positive role models for the younger years. There have been changes to the timings and structure of the school day and our students have embraced this and our thriving within lessons. Year 11's have had their Parent Information evening informing them of the support we put in place for them to be successful in their last year at Kingsdown.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and supporting our students throughout this academic year. I would like to thank you in advance for working with us and ensuring that our students uphold the high expectations we have of our students.

Miss Maller, Lead Practitioner Attitudes and Engagement, Years 9, 10, 11.

New Year 7 parents - google form - so we can champion you and your child

We were delighted to meet close on 90% of our new parents of Cohort 2029.

A google form was sent on 20th September for Year 7 parents to complete.

Future Events

- 25th Sept 6.30pm - Sports Tour Parents' Evening
- 26th Sept - 5.00pm - 7.00pm - Open Evening - school closes for students at 12.05pm - home learning will be set for 2 periods
- 3rd Oct - 5.30pm - Year 10 Information Evening

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