

3rd May 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

This week saw our second round of House assemblies and there was a truly great atmosphere. The relaunch of our Houses has led to a great sense of community and connection across the school. I am looking forward to seeing the students' designs for their houses.

Last Thursday we held our Y10 parents' evening and we had 87% attendance. Thank you parents and carers for your support here. On the 9th May we will be holding our Y8 parents' evening. Do let us know if you are unable to attend - please let Mrs Matthews know at [imatthews@kingsdownschool.co.uk](mailto:imatthews@kingsdownschool.co.uk).

### Attendance

<b>Attendance year to date =</b>	<b>91.0%</b>	<b>Persistent Absence year to date =25.1% [less than 90%]</b>
Year 7	92.7%	20.1%
Year 8	92.6%	21.4%
Year 9	89.9%	33.5%
Year 10	90.4%	24.0%
Year 11	88.2%	28.3%

### Safeguarding

All schools in the UK have recently been sent information from the National Crime Agency, raising awareness of the recent rise in reporting of financially motivated sexual extortion (a type of online blackmail often known in the media as 'sextortion'). Children and young people worldwide are being targeted.

This type of crime involves an adult offender (often from an organised crime group based overseas) threatening to release nude or semi-nude images and/or videos of a child or young person, unless they pay money, or meet another financial demand, such as purchasing a prepaid gift card. Victims of any age and gender can be targets, however a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged 14-18. A child or young person is never to blame if they have been a victim. Offenders will have tricked, groomed and/or manipulated them into sharing an image.

Find out more about online blackmail on [CEOP parents and carers information website](#)

### An update from Mrs Sedgwick

I am about to start my fourth round of inpatient chemotherapy and this may be the last one or I will have a fifth. This will be decided during this round. So far I have responded well to the treatment and am currently in remission, meaning there is no cancer present now. I need these rounds to prevent cancer growing back.

Being an inpatient means I am constantly monitored and so far everything is on target. The treatment and care I have received at the hospital has been first class in every respect.

I do miss KDS, school life and teaching the students so I am looking forward to when I can return once I am fully recovered.

## **New Chair of Governors**

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Vanessa Edwards has been appointed as Chair of Governors, if you need to contact Mrs Edwards she can be contacted at [CoG@kingsdownschool.co.uk](mailto:CoG@kingsdownschool.co.uk)

## **Year 11 Exams have started**

This week, the Year 11 assembly focused on final exam preparation, expectations for the exams and arrangements for the 2024 cohorts' final days at Kingsdown School. The Summer exams will commence on **Thursday 9th May**. We wish all of our year 11 students well as they embark on their final weeks with us. The hard work continues with interventions and after school exam preparation sessions. Subject teachers and pastoral staff are here to support if needed.

## **Register for Elevate's Parent Webinar Series This Term**

Over the next term, you're invited to join the Elevate parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

### Upcoming Webinars:

- How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory - 14th May 6:00pm
- How You Can Help Your Child Alleviate Stress - 18th June 6:00pm
- How You Can Get Your Child Motivated - 2nd July 6:00pm

Register for the series by clicking the link below and learn some great practical strategies to help support your child this year. <https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukschoolwebinar>

## **Future Events**

6th May	: Bank Holiday
9th May	: GCSE Exams begin
9th May	: Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
10th May	: Netball trip to Bath
23rd May	: Year 6 Information Evening 6pm
24th May	: End of Term 5 (Week 2 - students finish at 12.50pm)
24th - 26th May	: DofE Silver Expedition practice
3rd June	: Start of Term 6

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**