

Dear Parents / Carers

Thank you for taking the time to read and share the key messages from this week's parent newsletter with your child. We will continue to send home a weekly parent newsletter throughout term 2 but do also remember that there is key information on our Parent Portal which you can access via our website.

A new term - attendance message

Well done to year 11 who had the best start to the new term with an attendance of 94%. Here are the figures for year to date:

Year 7 - 94.5%

Year 8 - 93.6%

Year 9 - 90.2%

Year 10 - 92.5%

Year 11 - 90.2%

95%	-	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	-	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	-	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	-	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

Whole school attendance 92.4%

Sporting success in Term 1

Term 1 saw our KS3 boys compete in Rugby fixtures against local schools with some narrow defeats against Ridgeway and Dorcan for Year 8's. The Year 7's also went close against a strong Abbey Park team. For the girls there were some more encouraging performances in the KS3 netball teams. Year 8 and 9 teams were unbeaten in Term 1. We also saw great numbers of students in Year 7 attending Netball club and over 60 students attending Football club in Term 1. We look forward to competing in Cross Country, Basketball and Football in Term 2.

The Home Learning Lounge - what and where it is and how it can help your child

The Home Learning Lounge is our after school provision for students to attend to receive support in completing their home learning. It takes place in the Library building every day after school between 3pm and 4pm. It is a relaxed environment where students can have help organising, planning and completing their home learning tasks.

Yr 11 message to parents

A big thank you to all the Year 11 parents who are supporting students with their final revision ahead of the mock exams that begin on Monday 13th. Students have their timetables and know about the arrangements for the week, including the fact that they need to be in full uniform for the whole of the exam fortnight. [Here](#) is a reminder of the presentation from our information evening earlier in the year when Mr Salles presented revision techniques. His YouTube site can be found [here](#).

Reading at home

Reading continues to be an important foundation of academic success as well as improving life chances beyond school. This week, we are excited to be celebrating the Swindon Youth Literature Festival for Key Stage 3. We are looking forward to welcoming authors to talk to our students and run workshops for writing.

Please continue to support your child's academic progress at school by encouraging them to read for 20 minutes each day. Not only will this accelerate their progress across the curriculum but it will support their wellbeing and mindfulness as we head into the winter.

River Learning Trust - Kingsdown staff and parent groups

In term 5 parents took part in our annual RLT survey. Thank you for your responses and comments. Looking forward we would like to set up three groups to listen to your voices further. If you are interested in being part of one of the following groups please complete the google form which is attached to the email:

- Group 1 - Kingsdown and improving communication further
- Group 2 - Kingsdown and improving Behaviour further and our Anti-Bullying strategy
- Group 3 - Supporting parents to understand what their children are learning and the progress they are making at Kingsdown.

Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening - Rescheduled to Thursday 9th November at 6.00pm

Please note the revised date for our Year 7 Curriculum and Meet the Tutor evening has been scheduled for next week on **Thursday 9th November at 6.00pm**. We sincerely hope that you will be able to attend. On the night of the evening we will provide you with the opportunity to meet your child's new Tutor and other key staff who will guide, support and champion your child throughout the next 5 years. We will also present essential information about our challenging and exciting Year 7 curriculum, as well as share information on our behaviour policy and rewards systems.

Key dates for term 2

w/c 6th Nov	: Literature Festival - various events happening during the week
Thurs 9th Nov	: Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening (6.00-7.30pm)
Thurs 16th Nov	: ASC Harry Potter Trip
Mon 13th - Thurs 23rd Nov	: Year 11 Mocks [all students in full school uniform]
w/c 20th Nov	: Road Safety Week
Wed 22nd Nov	: Recital Evening (6.30pm)
Mon 27th Nov	: TD Day
Tues 5th Dec	: Year 7 Disco (4.30pm)
Wed 13th Dec & Thurs 14th Dec	: Christmas Lunch
Thurs 14th Dec	: Year 11 Parents' Evening (4.00 - 7.00pm)
Mon 18th Dec	: Christmas Concert @ St Phillips (6.30pm)
Weds 20th Dec	: End of Term - 12.00pm

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

Mrs Leigh-Bennett