

4th October 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

In July all RLT schools issued a statement about smartphones and asked parents to complete a short survey regarding the impact of smartphones on our children and young people. Over 2000 parents across our primary and secondary schools shared their views (562 Primary, 1,555 Secondary) - thank you.

The results of the survey as well as the original letter sent in July can be found in the link attached to the email. Thank you for taking the time to read this message from the RLT - River Learning Trust.

Attendance

Attendance year to date = 93.6% Persistent Absence year to date = 15.9% [less than 90%] Lates = 3.4%			
	Attendance	PA	Lates
Year 7	95.9%	9.4%	1.4%
Year 8	93.3%	17.3%	2.9%
Year 9	93.2%	18.5%	2.3%
Year 10	92.9%	16.5%	3.7%
Year 11	92.0%	18.7%	4.9%

Punctuality to Lessons

To support students in getting to lessons on time, we will be monitoring lateness to lessons. Students who have 3 lates in a day will be issued with a 30 minute after school detention. We will continue to monitor this.

Rights Respecting Schools

Kingsdown School is currently a rights committed school which means we are on the journey to becoming a rights respecting school. This is an incredibly important part of our culture and ethos and is a consideration in all we do. We are currently working towards our silver award. This means all students are:

Taught about rights - students learn about the rights that they have, how they can enjoy them and the respect they need for the rights of others. They are taught rights are universal, from birth and cannot be taken away.

Taught through rights: - students learn about how to demonstrate the rights through how we build respectful relationships, how we treat others, how every child knows where to get help and support and are championed. We use student voice to ensure that all students are listened to and heard and consulted on key issues.



For the rights of others - We ensure that students know their views are taken seriously, that they are aware of when others do not have their rights. Students have the opportunity to be involved in charity activities and groups to help others.

Equipment - Headphones

Please remember that headphones are a compulsory part of a student's daily equipment checklist and should be brought to school every day. There are numerous subjects who regularly require the use of headphones for the work they set and if a student doesn't have them, it is very difficult for them to complete these tasks. Please support us by reminding your child to bring the full set of Kingsdown equipment (including headphones) into school every day.

Toilet Usage

We understand that there are some students with medical needs who need access to a toilet during lessons. However, we are increasingly concerned about the number of students who are leaving lessons to use the toilet facilities who do not have a medical need. We have introduced a tracking mechanism through MCAS which enables parents to see how many times your child has left a lesson to use the toilet. Please support us by encouraging your child to use toilets during lunch and break times and at lesson change over rather than during a lesson.

Car Parking - Kingsdown Arms

Can I kindly ask all parents who park in the Kingsdown Arms car park either before or after school to be mindful of the limited spaces available. We are very grateful to the brewery for letting us use some of this space and it's important that we keep good relationships here. Thank you for your support here.

Harvest festival - collection for Swindon Food Collective

Next week we will be reflecting on the Harvest Festival in our house assemblies and will be thinking about our virtue of gratitude for what we have. We are also thinking about the Rights all children have to food so they can develop in the best possible way, as well as how hard sometimes it is for children to enjoy that right. We are therefore collecting donations of food over the course of week in house assemblies and this will be collected by Swindon food collective to help those in the local community. If you are able to support this with a donation some suggestions are here as to what is needed:

- Tinned Potatoes;
- Tinned Meat;
- Tinned Fish;
- Tinned Tomatoes;
- Tinned Soup;
- Tinned Vegetables;
- Tinned Fruit;
- Jars of Pasta Sauce;
- Small Jars of Coffee;
- Tea (40 bags);
- Small Bags of Sugar (500g); Biscuits;
- 1L Bottles of Squash;
- Washing Up Liquid; Toothpaste;
- Laundry Pods;
- 2 in 1 Shampoo & Conditioner;
- Male and Female Deodorants



Future Events

- 10th October - Year 7 Safer choices day with the police
- 21st October - Year 7 Halloween quiz - 4.00pm - 5.00pm
- 23rd October - End of term - 2.45pm closure

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