

Dear Parents & Carers,

**Welcome to Term 1
Enrichment Wednesday
Events this term
Some useful reminders**

Welcome to a new term. We wanted to take this opportunity to share some updates with you in advance of your child returning to school. We are very much looking forward to students returning and even more so after close on 18 months of disrupted learning. Your children, our students have been truly remarkable.

Attendance

This year our attendance target is 96% for students in years 7-10 and 97% for our year 11s - Cohort 2022. Our staff have been working hard to assess gaps in knowledge, evaluate progress and update the curriculum to ensure that every minute of learning is maximised this year. We ask that where possible, medical and dental appointments take place outside of the school day to avoid missed learning. This is not always possible and as we move away from the paper Planner this year, any absence or appointments can be shared with the school via studentabsence@kingsdownschool.co.uk. In July, we said farewell to Mrs Bradbury our Attendance Officer and this year, Mrs Williams will be in post. We know that our year 11 students who make the most progress are those who have attendance above 96% and this starts with building good habits right from year 7.

Each week, all students will track and monitor their own attendance, recording the percentage as well as the weekly trends to show rising, falling or maintained overall attendance. This year, all students with 100% attendance the previous week will be rewarded with achievement points to contribute to trips and rewards throughout the year. We know that sometimes, children are unwell or may struggle to get up in the morning. In such circumstances, we ask that you medicate and encourage your child to attend as once they get up and start the day, they often feel much better. Our medical team is always here and on hand to keep students at school but will of course send them home if they are not well enough to be in.

Punctuality

There are also a number of disruptions to travel around the Swindon area at the moment with roadworks taking place on Kingsdown Road, at the White Hart roundabout and on the Oxford Road. Please support your child's punctuality to school by leaving plenty of time to get to school for 8:30am. For students who cycle, please ensure that they are complying with the bike permit and have bike helmets on and are cycling without headphones in. The safety of all of our community is so important here.

Enrichment

We are also excited to share the changes to our timetable for September. We are moving to a 6 lesson day where lessons are 50 minutes in length. Many lessons will be double lessons. Another exciting new change this year is our Enrichment Wednesday. Here a double period in the afternoon will be dedicated to student enrichment. This will be an opportunity for students

to join clubs and societies to learn new skills and spend time doing things they are passionate about. We strongly believe that enrichment is what builds confident, strong and resilient young people who can compete with the best in the world of work. There are in excess of 50 activities for students to select from and they will have the chance to pick new activities each term. We know that this will be a motivator for students to be at school each and every day. More information about Enrichment will be shared with you at our information evenings taking place this term.

Dates for your Diary

To support our home school partnership, please find the termly overviews for each of our year groups. Here you will find the events taking place for your child / children in each of our different year groups.

School will close at 12pm (end of P3) for students in all year groups on September 23rd to allow staff to prepare the school for Open Evening.

Year 7	
Year 7 Parent Information Evening & meet the Tutor	Wednesday 8th September, 6pm
School Photos	Friday 17th September, from 8:30am
Attitude to Learning Reports Shared	W/C 18th October
Year 8	
Year 8 Parent Information Evening	Thursday 16th September, 6pm
Attitude to Learning Reports Shared	W/C 18th October
Year 9	
Year 9 Parent Information Evening	Thursday 30th September, 6pm
Attitude to Learning Reports Shared	W/C 18th October
Year 10	
Year 10 Parent Information Evening	Wednesday 6th October, 6pm
Attitude to Learning Reports Shared	W/C 18th October
Year 11	
Study Skills for students led by Oxford University	Monday 6th September
College, 6th Form and Apprenticeship presentation to students	Tuesday 7th September
Year 11 Parent Information Evening	Wednesday 29th September, 6pm
Attitude to Learning Reports Shared	W/C 18th October
GCSE Art Mock Exam	Tuesday 19th October

A reminder that we have a phased reopening to school in September and the schedule for each year group can be found [here](#). We thank you for your support in this - it is so important that we reopen safely and calmly ready for an excellent year ahead. Please find attached an updated video to guide students through the updated COVID testing process [here](#).

These events will give you the relevant information about the year ahead for your child and how we can work together to support them in achieving their full potential this year,

Your continued support and close links with Kingsdown is much appreciated. Should you need to get in touch, all staff email addresses can be found on the "Contact Us" section of our website. You can also contact us directly at head@kingsdownschool.co.uk should you ever need any support or advice about your child.

With many thanks in advance of a new and exciting academic year.
We are all looking forward to seeing you soon.

Mrs Liegh-Bennett
Headteacher

Mrs Criddle
Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Lees
Assistant Headteacher