

17th November 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

Kingsdown is part of the River Learning Trust. Each term we receive data and analysis linked to our school's performance and against the 9 other RLT secondary schools. We were thrilled last week to see that our attendance rates are 3% about the average for all other RLT secondary schools. Thank you for all your support in this area. If you need any further support please do not hesitate to get in touch. Student absence can be a real challenge - we understand and are here to support and listen.

**Year 11 Mocks - Attendance 92.2%**

This week's attendance for year 11 mocks was 92.2%, this is better than it has been so far this academic year but it is still not what we require it to be. We know from our last year 11 data that if your child's attendance is above 95% they will go on to achieve a grade higher in each subject area. We really need you to reinforce to your child that their attendance really matters. If your child's attendance is below 90% they are regarded as persistently absent and will be referred to the Educational Welfare Officer.

**Attendance matters - Attendance Year to Date 92.2%**

Year	Attendance %	Persistently Absent % (90% and below)
Year 7	94.1%	18.9%
Year 8	93.7%	18.3%
Year 9	92.2%	24.8%
Year 10	91.9%	28.5%
Year 11	90.4%	31.2%

We are really pleased that attendance is going up. Thank you for supporting your child's attendance, however our attendance target is 97% which shows there is still a long way to go to achieve this. Please continue to ensure your child is in school so they can continue to achieve and experience the fantastic experiences our school can offer.

**Anti-Bullying messages**

This week, throughout assemblies and tutor time we have been focusing on Anti-Bullying and 'Making a noise' about bullying. Anti-Bullying week highlights the importance of cultivating a safe and supportive environment for our young people. Assemblies have been focussed on empowering your child to be advocates for kindness and inclusivity and tutor time provides an opportunity for reflection, dialogue and action against bullying. Throughout this week, your child will engage in discussions that promote awareness about the impact of bullying and emphasise the role each of us plays in creating a positive school environment. We encourage you to initiate conversations at home, reinforcing the values of empathy, acceptance and inclusion and do contact us if your child needs any support.

Justin Tomlinson - MP for North Swindon

We were delighted to have welcomed Justin for his annual visit to Kingsdown on Thursday. We spent time together talking about the challenges in schools today and for our community. We really felt he listened. He left Kingsdown to go and meet Damian Hinds who is the newly appointed Schools Minister for Education and discuss issues around school funding, recruitment and retention as well as more support and resourcing for children with SEND.

### **Children in Need - Student-led fundraising**

We all came together today for Children in Need. As you can imagine there were a lot of spots at Kingsdown and we were able to raise over £500 for this important charity.

### **Coats and Bike safety**

As the weather gets colder and wetter, please can you ensure that your child is coming into school in a waterproof and warm school coat.

For many of our students, their journey to and from school is happening in the dark. Our priority is that our students are safe on this journey- please ensure that if they are cycling to school, they have bike lights and a helmet. Reflective strips on their bags/ankles are also a good way for both cyclists and pedestrians to be seen.

### **Detention communications**

All communications for detentions are sent the previous day to your MCAS app. Please double check that you have your notifications turned on/you check the messages regularly

### **T D Day 27th November**

On Monday 27th November we have a teacher training day. During this day we will be having training on Teaching & Learning, Digital Learning and a run through of the Kingsdown Lockdown Procedures. The safeguarding team will be sharing more about our school lockdown process in the New Year. The school will not be providing work for students on this day, there are of course assessments coming up towards the end of term and it would be useful for your children to review their learning this term.

### **Sharing your child's interests, achievements and successes #champion shout outs on a Monday**

We love to celebrate the success of our students, both inside and outside of the classroom. On a Monday morning, these achievements are shared with staff through our 'champion shout outs'. Please can you send 'Champion shout outs' about your child to your Tutor. Please also let the Tutor know if you are happy for this to be shared on our social media.

### **Key dates for the rest of this term**

Mon 13th - Thurs 23rd Nov	: Year 11 Mocks - week 2
w/c 20th Nov	: Road Safety Week
Wed 22nd Nov	: Recital Evening (6.30pm)
Mon 27th Nov	: TD Day
Tues 5th Dec	: Year 7 and 8 Disco (4.30-6.00pm)
Wednesday 6th Dec	: Christmas Jumper Exchange
Fri 8th Dec	: Christmas Jumper Day
Wed 13th Dec & Thurs 14th Dec	: Christmas Lunch
Thurs 14th Dec	: Year 11 Parents' Evening (4.00 - 7.00pm)
Fri 15th Dec	: Reports sent home
w/c 18th Dec	: Christmas Assemblies
Mon 18th Dec	: Christmas Concert @ St Phillips (6.30pm)
Weds 20th Dec	: End of Term - 12.00pm

## Basketball team

Congratulations to the Year 7 basketball team who played against Lawn Manor last night and won 26-4. Well done to all the team.



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

Mrs Leigh-Bennett