

26th January 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Maths - Sparx home learning

Hitting the ground sprinting in 2024. Based on last week's home learning completion, we are now in the top 10% of schools nationally for 100% completion rates. This is down to the continued home school partnership. Please continue to promote Sparx at home and ensure your child is meeting the deadline of every Friday at 8am. We now sit second in Swindon and second in the RLT. This is sensational. We really are becoming part of something special. We congratulate all our students and thank you for all your support from home.

School Production

Kingsdown presents **'FREE!' on Wednesday 7th & Thursday 8th February at 6.30pm**. To register for tickets please email Mr Lawson with the number of tickets you would like and for which date. There will be a donation box on the two nights for all adults to make a contribution to the Mayor's charities should they wish to. All attendees will need to have pre-registered for tickets beforehand. Our play this year about a class is left without a teacher. To relieve the boredom they launch an expedition - two students who never break the rules are sent to steal something from the headteacher's office. The unlikely criminals return as heroes and set about re-enacting the theft. We are looking forward to a couple of great evenings.

SEND support for your child

Our teachers use Quality First Teaching to support SEND students in the classroom. In addition we have a number of additional interventions for students who need additional support. These interventions include Fresh Start literacy, Lexia for reading, group interventions such as self-esteem, making friends, tranquillity and mindfulness are also offered at Kingsdown School to help support our students. If you wish to meet with our SENDCo to discuss your child's support and intervention please book an appointment using the following link:

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/appointments/schedules/AcZssZ38OLwjlDyXHXOzQpUI2hWg4qV_fm1hu7iKwtU9hSfLwqgLkia3lBDkCavD17iGSrGOUi5va0N

Uniform message

It is essential that your child takes responsibility for wearing their uniform with pride. Thank you for ensuring that your child has the correct uniform this includes:

- Black socks
- Plain black tracksuit bottoms (PE uniform) with no branding
- Black polishable shoes
- No acrylic nails or nail polish (Need to be removed by Monday 8th Jan)
- No false eyelashes (Need to be removed by Monday 8th Jan)
- No hoodies
- Only one stud earring in the lower lobe and no hoops
- No nose piercings, including clear studs or bars

Students in the incorrect uniform will be sent to student services to support them in rectifying this. Please note that they must hand over their phone before a uniform is issued. Please do contact your tutor if you have any questions or you need support with anything.

Can we please ask that you check your child's timetable the night before school so that they can prepare the correct uniform, school/PE and help them pack their bags with the items needed for the following day.

Lockdown

On Wednesday 31st January period 6 we will be practising our Lockdown procedures for the whole school. Your child will be reminded of the Lockdown procedure during tutor time and will be told that Wednesday is an announced drill.

All students and staff will be practising CLOSE:

C	Close & Cover	close all windows and doors, cover them if possible
L	Lock	lock up, barricade if necessary
O	Out of sight	out of sight, hide and minimise all movement
S	Silence	stay silent, phones on silent, lights and fans off
E	Endure	you may need to remain in Lockdown for some time

The behaviour expectations of the students during this drill is exactly the same as it is for a fire drill. If a student fails to follow the Lockdown procedure, parents/carers will be informed.

Schools' Football Week (week commencing 5th February)

On the week commencing 5th February, Kingsdown will be participating in Schools' Football Week, an English Schools Football Association scheme. This is an ongoing initiative designed as an opportunity for schools, teams and clubs from across the country to embrace schools' football and the wellbeing benefits it provides to pupils and players. It celebrates the importance of schools' football, competitive or otherwise, to pupils across England and provides an opportunity for staff to further discuss the benefits of schools' football within their educational environment.

There are further benefits for participating in this initiative for students at Kingsdown, including:

- Building interest to the The 2024 UEFA European Football Championship
- Promoting and growing girls football at Kingsdown
- Positive impact on the whole school community, linking to the Kingsdown 'responsibility' BEAT.
- 'Oddballs' charity provides a lecture to male Key Stage 4 students about testicular cancer.

This is an exciting opportunity, and will include the following changes to the normal school week at Kingsdown:

- A change to the CORE PE curriculum where every lesson will become an inter house football tournament
- Friday 9th February will be a non-uniform day. We would like students to wear a football shirt of their choice (or any sports shirt/sportswear if they don't have a football shirt), donating up to £1. Proceedings will be donated to the Mayor's Charity/Oddballs Charity.
- Whole schools activities, including a Lunchtime Crossbar challenge, a penalty shoot out and a Tutor time football quiz .

If you require any further information regarding this event, please do not hesitate to email Mr Dadge at sdadge@kingsdownschool.co.uk

Events for term 3

Weds 7th & Thurs 8th Feb : School Production 7.00pm
Fri 9th Feb : End of Term 3 - Week 2 finish time of 12.50pm - Non Uniform
Mon 12th - Fri 16th Feb : Half Term

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