

15th September 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

We thank you for taking the time to read this communication, sharing key messages with your child / children and of course getting in touch via [head@kingsdownschool.co.uk](mailto:head@kingsdownschool.co.uk) if you have any further questions or need any further support. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Attendance**

The whole school attendance year to date is currently 96.1% which is very pleasing. Good attendance has a significant impact upon your child's progress. Please keep sending your child into school each and every day and on time for an 8.30am start.

Thank you for ensuring that your child attends school every day. A reminder that if your child's attendance falls below 90% they are automatically classed as Persistent Absentees. You will then be contacted to see how we can work together to support your child in attending.

What if my child is ill? Here is the Government's latest guidance 'Is my child too ill for school' [Is my child too ill for school](#)

I am sure you can appreciate that the management of daily attendance is a huge task. Please support us by remembering to call the school on 01793 822284 and press option 1 to report your child's absence. Our Attendance Champion, Mrs Bradbury, needs this call to be made before 8.00 am so she can correctly code your child's absence. Please do not hesitate to call us if you feel you need any support with your child's attendance.

### **Post 16 Options - Year 11**

It is time for year 11 to start thinking seriously about their post 16 studies. All colleges, sixth forms and alternative providers have open days and evenings coming up. All year 11 students this term are focusing on the opportunities available to them, and the process to apply in their PD careers lessons. Please see the attached guidance and list of provider open days.

### **Year 11 Curriculum Information Evening**

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our curriculum information evening on Thursday. This was a fantastic evening with a turnout of 86%. The presentation from last night was recorded and is available on the Parent Portal if you would like to watch it.

### **Behaviour for Learning assemblies this week**

This week students heard an assembly on the updates to the BfL policy. Thank you to parents and carers for watching the video that was sent home on Monday and for reinforcing these messages at home. We have been so proud of our Kingsdown students for modelling our Kingsdown BEATs each and every day. 4856 achievement logs have been submitted this week- please celebrate this with your child #pride

### **PE School uniform**

Thank you for ensuring students are arriving at school in the correct PE uniform on their PE days. Our students are looking very smart and ready to learn. We appreciate ordering new uniforms has a cost and we consider our prices to be very reasonable in comparison with other local schools. The vast

majority of orders have now arrived, however if you are still waiting for some items please write a note in your child's planner. If there are specific larger or smaller sizes you require, you can email our uniform provider at [customerservices@uniform-direct.com](mailto:customerservices@uniform-direct.com). As a reminder here is the [PE Uniform Policy](#). Thank you for your support.

### **Communicating with teachers, tutors and support staff at Kingsdown School**

We would like to remind parents/ guardians that all teachers and tutors can be contacted through our school website via our contact us page. Here you will find an automated contact form, which is located at the bottom of the page. Simply fill in your details and select the person you would like to email from the drop down list and they will receive your message as an email and respond to you as soon as possible. We do not publicly share email addresses online, due to the most up to date cyber security guidance, as outlined by the Department for Education.

### **Safeguarding - reinforcing an important message about playing football with your child**

We are aware of a current tik tok trend where students are tackling each other whilst playing football in a deliberately dangerous manner. Please can you reinforce this message with your child by discouraging this dangerous action. These actions lead to very serious injuries to others and the severity of this type of tackle has no place in football or school. Thank you for your support here.

### **E-scooters - Safeguarding your child**

E-scooters must not be used by our students as a form of transport to and from school. It is illegal to use E-scooters in public places. We have spoken to the local neighbourhood policing team, who have confirmed that the only legal place that you may use them within Wiltshire is on private land with the owner's consent. The Police have said they have and will be seizing e-scooters and those found using them could be liable to receive points on their driving licence. For those who are yet to get a licence these points can be added retrospectively. Therefore, should anyone arrive at school with an e-scooter, parents/carers will be called to come and collect it at the end of the day. For your information, below is the latest guidance from the Government. We hope you will find this useful.

[Government Guidance for e-scooters](#)

### **Key dates for this term**

Thurs 21st Sept	: Year 10 Curriculum Information Evening 6.00 - 7.00pm
Weds 27th Sept	: Year 7 SEND Coffee Morning
Thurs 28th Sept	: Open evening 5.00 - 7.30pm, school closes for students at 12.50pm
Weds 4th Oct	: TD Day school closed for students
Thurs 5th Oct	: KS4 SEND Coffee Morning - no booking needed
Thurs 5th Oct	: Year 8 Curriculum Information Evening 6.00 - 7.00pm
Tues 10th Oct	: Flu Immunisations
Thurs 12th - Sat 14th Oct	: Year 11 Geography Trip to Cornwall
Thurs 12th Oct	: Prize Evening 6.00pm - invites to follow
Weds 18th Oct	: End of Term; students finish at 3.00pm
Thurs 19th - Fri 27th Oct	: Half Term
Mon 30th Oct	: Start of Term 2 - 8.30am
Thurs 2nd Nov	: Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening

### **Parent Portal and MCAS - My child at school - app**

To date we have 90% accessing their child's attendance, achievement points and any communications regarding behaviour & choices as well as their academic progress. If you do not have access to MCAS or you are experiencing a few issues with the app, please can you contact our Student Services team who will be able to support you - [fwilliams@kingsdownschool.co.uk](mailto:fwilliams@kingsdownschool.co.uk).

With our continued thanks for working in partnership with us all at Kingsdown School. If you have any questions or need further information please do not hesitate to get in touch with either your child's tutor, teachers / Heads of Department, SENDCo or Progress Leader or indeed myself at [head@kingsdownschool.co.uk](mailto:head@kingsdownschool.co.uk). Our contact form through our website is the easiest way to make contact. With best wishes and thank you again for all your support in ensuring that your child attends every day and is ready to learn.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett