

30th August 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

We hope you had a relaxing and peaceful Summer holiday. Now that the holiday is over, we are looking forward to welcoming your child back to Kingsdown. We are looking forward to another year of high impact learning with them. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your child attends every day, is on time and has all their equipment needed and is in full school or PE uniform. Please refer to our Parent Portal if you have any questions - you will find all the information that you need here. You can access the Parent Portal from the school website.

Sometimes the Summer holidays present a few challenges. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything that you think your child's tutor, our SEND team or our Pastoral / Safeguarding teams would benefit from knowing so we can champion your child.

We want to ensure that your child has a highly successful year and they engage fully with the Kingsdown expectations. Below is some information to support you and your child.

Start of term - Tuesday 5th September

All students will return to Kingsdown at 8:30am on Tuesday 5th September. Students in Years 8-11 need to check their Bromcom and meet their Tutors in their Tutors rooms ready to start at 8:35am. Year 7 need to Roll Call on the front field. We will have an extended tutor time and then all lessons will start after breaktime. All students need to be in full school uniform on Tuesday.

Ready to Learn / High Expectations in and outside of the classroom

There are still a number of students who arrive at school without a fully charged Chromebook. This is a significant barrier to their learning. A number of tasks in lessons require students to work on their Chromebooks. Please can you support your child by reminding them that they must charge their Chromebook overnight and bring their charger into school with them.

Uniform and equipment

Thank you for ensuring that your child is in the correct, full school uniform. A reminder that there will not be any practical PE for the first week of school so students need to attend school in their school uniform, even on PE days. Please contact your child's tutor should you need any support with this. It is also essential that your child brings a full pencil case with them to school every day. This ensures that they can engage in their learning and barriers are removed. A link to the uniform and equipment page has been included in the email.

Attendance

Once again this year, our Year 11's GCSE outcomes were directly linked to their school attendance - every day counts. 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.

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 needs this call to be made before 8.00 am so she can correctly code your child's absence.

Parent Portal and MCAS - My child at school - app

Our parent portal is your go to place for information about your child at Kingsdown school. Here you will find the calendar of events for your child for this year.

MCAS has now been in operation for over a year and our parents find this invaluable. Through the app as a parent you can track your child's attendance, progress and achievement points throughout the year. Our target this year is to get 100% of our parents accessing the app. If you do not have access to MCAS can you please contact our Student Services team who will be able to support you - 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.

I am looking forward to seeing you at some point during the year.

With best wishes for the year ahead

Mrs Leigh-Bennett & SLT Team