



InTouch

Newsletter 1/September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we start our new term, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to Kingsdown School, whether you are returning to school, or here for the first time. I hope you all had a restful summer break and are ready for the new term and year ahead.

On the 3rd September we welcomed 14 new colleagues to the school. As part of this new team we welcomed 3 new Assistant Headteachers - Mr Salles, Mrs Magenty and Mr Edwards. They all join Kingsdown from very high performing schools and have already had a real impact across the school.

We were delighted that our whole school GCSE results improved upon last year. We were very encouraged to see improvements in English and Maths in particular. We were thrilled to see many of our Year 11 students achieve some fantastic individual performances - most notably:

- Joe Lenihan
- Summer Lowe
- Molly Diamond

Our congratulations to Cohort of 2018. We are very encouraged to see that so many are continuing with their education as well as many joining excellent apprenticeship programs. We wish them all the very best for their futures.

In August we all shared a great sense of pride in our Year 11 students. They worked really hard, supported by a dedicated teaching and support staff team who always sought to exceed rather than meet expectations. My thanks to all the staff - past and present - who supported cohort 2018 throughout their 5 years at Kingsdown. And a special thanks to our parents who supported the school and their son/daughter's education over this time.

A few weeks ago we welcomed back close on 1100 of our students to Kingsdown School, especially our Year 7 students. All were impeccably dressed in our new Kingsdown uniform. It was truly a magical time to see the new era for Kingsdown literally open up before our eyes. My thanks to our parents in ensuring that your child was fully equipped and ready to learn from day 1. We all want the same thing - for your child to be and feel safe, feel and be happy and succeed across every subject.

As shared with you before, the number one priority remains to embed high expectations and in particular our expectations for behaviour. My thanks to all parents who have supported these expectations and shared them with your son/daughter in advance of starting in September. Term 1 has started exceptionally well and there has been little or no disruption to learning. Term 1 has already been characterised by praising and rewarding our students especially those demonstrating our Kingsdown Beats of Pride and Ambition, Stretch and Challenge and Respect and Responsibility.

There are many key events planned for this term. I remain incredibly privileged to be the Headteacher of Kingsdown School and I look forward to seeing you at Kingsdown over the next few terms.

With very best wishes.
Mrs Leigh-Bennett

MESSAGE FROM HEAD BOY/GIRL (2017-18)

Kingsdown Champions

Kingsdown School is more than just a place of academic learning, it is a place in which I was able to grow as a person and make friends for life. I was always supported by staff and students alike throughout my time at Kingsdown, creating a friendly atmosphere in which I could learn to the best of my ability. I am forever grateful to everyone who helped me achieve the GCSE grades I did and to those who have inspired me to further continue developing, both academically and personally.

I have achieved more than I imagined I could at Kingsdown, from learning the flute to becoming Head Boy. I was thoroughly prepared to enter college and later university by receiving vital careers guidance, learning important skills and listening to a wide variety of visitors talk about their own experiences in life.

I am incredibly grateful to have spent five years of my life at Kingsdown and I know that it has enabled me to build a great foundation for the future.

Joe Lenihan (Head Boy 2017-18)



Throughout my time at Kingsdown I have always felt extremely challenged, encouraged and supported in every way possible. I have been given limitless opportunities that have really helped me develop into the confident and well-rounded individual that I am today and will always be grateful to the astounding effort that all the staff put in to aid that personal growth. Due to this, I came out with GCSE results that I am proud of and have succeeded in smoothly starting the next chapter of my life.

Summer Lowe (Head Girl 2017-18)

MESSAGE FROM HEAD BOY/GIRL (2018 - 19)

Neena Marjason (Head Girl)

Kingsdown School is a school that will motivate and challenge an individual to reach their full potential. It is a school filled with supportive staff that will help you to the best of their ability. I personally feel Kingsdown is the best choice for me.

The school has encouraged me to do things out of my comfort zone for example; I completed my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh in Year 10 which was an amazing experience.

When I leave Kingsdown School I would like to be a Royal Air Force Biomedical Scientist, the reason for this is that I have always wanted to work in the medical industry and since being at Kingsdown and being taught more sciences it has motivated me even more to achieve this goal.

Ciaran White (Head Boy)

Hello, my name is Ciaran White, and I am the Head boy of Kingsdown school for the next academic year.

Kingsdown school is a school that makes every student feel unique and offers a lot of different opportunities for each and every student. It is a school bursting with ambition and pride as well as motivation. Without this school I would never have got to where I am today. The school has encouraged me to do a lot of things out of my comfort zone for example; I am currently in the process of completing my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award in Year 10 which, so far, has been a fantastic experience for me.

When I leave Kingsdown School I would like to be an officer in the army, more specifically in the Grenadier Guards. I want to be an officer in the Army as I have always wanted to work in a leadership role and since being at Kingsdown I have gained experience in leadership as well as a wider range of people skills.



Anti-Bullying focus and plans for Terms 1 and 2

Making sure that our students feel safe and happy in school is a priority at Kingsdown. Over the next two terms we are sending a clear message to all students that bullying will not be tolerated and the importance of building positive relationships with your peers. As part of our zero tolerance pledge we have signed up with The Princess Diana Award who have trained our senior students and two students from Year 9 to become anti-bullying ambassadors.

The focus of this role will be to provide peer mentoring and support to those who are being bullied. They will also be organising a series of events, starting with Anti-bullying week in November.

ESCs / TAs - the change at Kingsdown School

This academic year we have made some significant changes to the support we give our students with additional educational needs.

We have developed five different hubs of support to include behaviour, anxious and vulnerable, literacy, numeracy and health. Students who need this support will be given intervention in small groups or on a 1-1 basis and work through a programme that enables them to manage their concerns more effectively or raise their attainment in English or Maths depending on the hub they are supported by.

Students are undergoing a period of assessment currently to establish if they will benefit from an intervention package and you will be contacted shortly by our team if this is appropriate.

Safeguarding leads at KDS

We have a new safeguarding team at Kingsdown this year, Mrs Magenty is the Designated Safeguarding lead who will be working closely with Mrs Agambar who is our Child Protection Officer. Should you have any concerns about the safety and well being of a child, please email us at cp@kingsdownschool.co.uk. Please encourage your child to be safe when on line and make sure that you check the privacy settings on your electronic devices regularly and monitor the online activity of your child. For a comprehensive guide on how to keep a child safe online please visit <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/#>

Contacting the school

If you would like to contact the school at any time, email addresses are listed on the website; www.kingsdownschool.co.uk, click on Contact Us and there is a word document with a list of email addresses.

Lockers

The school has a limited number of lockers available for students' use. There is a non-refundable charge of £15 for the use of the locker, which covers the period of application to the conclusion of a students' time at Kingsdown School.

Locker Application Forms are available from the front office.

PE CLUBS - Term 1

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Lunchtime 1.25 - 1.55pm	Netball shooting New Gym Mrs Wright		Dance New Gym Miss Winwood	Dance New Gym Miss Winwood
After school 3.05 - 4.05pm		'This girl can' Club Miss Winwood Rugby Fixtures Mr Shepherd Fitness Fitness Suite Miss Peters Netball Fixtures Mrs Wright Miss Maller	Girls Touch Rugby Mr Radcliffe Netball Miss Maller Mr Salles Rugby Mr Mason Mr Shepherd	Netball Fixtures Mrs Maller Btec & Cam Nat Catch-up Mr Mason C27

KEY EVENTS FOR TERM 1

Date	Event
26th September	Open Evening
3rd October	KS4 Year 11 Information Evening
9th October	KS4 Year 9 Information Evening
17th October	KS4 Year 10 Information Evening
24th October	TD Day
25th Oct - 2nd November	Half Term
5th November	Students return to school @ 8.30am

**Reminder that students finish at 1.20pm on
Wednesday 26th September due to the
Open Evening.**

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

There will be a high focus on Attendance and Punctuality this year and all students have already been made aware of our expectations in Year Assemblies the first week back.

You can find Attendance & Absence information on the school website. This will be updated regularly: <http://www.kingsdownschool.co.uk/Parents/Pages/absence.aspx>

Please take a few minutes to familiarise yourselves with the information and procedures, if you haven't already done so.

A couple of things that may be new to you are notifying the school every day that your child is absent and requests for medical evidence:

"It is essential that the Attendance Officer is notified every day that a student is off sick. This not only keeps your child's Attendance records accurate but also ensures their safety. If you were to send your child back to school and we assume they are still absent due to illness an incident could occur, on the way to school, that neither parties are aware of.

Medical Evidence may be requested for 5 or more consecutive school days absence due to illness (3 days if prior to or after a school holiday)".

May I take this opportunity to thank those of you who have already used the reporting procedure for your support. By working together, we will raise the attendance of every student and in doing so, raise their achievement.

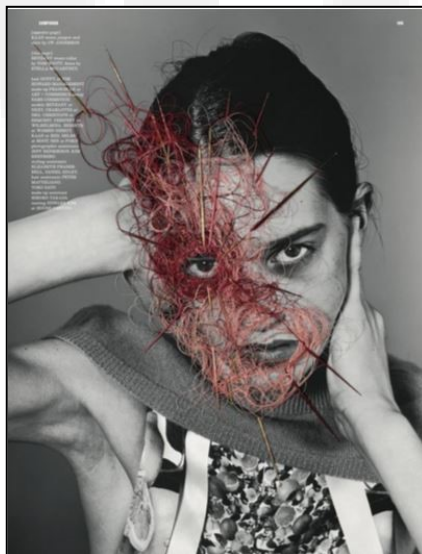
Kay Bradbury, Attendance Officer,
kbradbury@kingsdownschool.co.uk

CREATIVE FASHION AND TEXTILES

This is a new subject at KS3. It is a fusion of Art, Fashion and Textiles. Students, while studying the work of famous Artists and Designers, practice inventing their own designs through the investigation of: Up cycling, Plastic fusion and use of Computer aided design.

Art Textile Club will run in D19 with Mrs Walters every Wednesday 3.00 - 4.00pm. Exciting times.

Mrs Walters



EXAM INVIGILATOR VACANCIES

Casual Work Contract

Approximately 8 weeks of the year

£8.74 per hour plus holiday allowance

We are looking to recruit reliable, excellent communicators, who are able to work under pressure to join our Exam Invigilation team to oversee our examinations. This is a casual contract which would include attendance of Team Meetings and Training Events.

Exams are the most important and stressful events in the life of a learner. That's why it is so important they are managed in the correct way. Invigilators are crucial to this process; ensuring exams are conducted in accordance with Exam Board and School Regulations. Working as a team, invigilators contribute to ensuring a calm environment for the exams, giving candidates confidence in the process.

Kingsdown School is part of a Multi Academy Trust and joined the River Learning Trust on the 1st September 2017. The successful applicants will join the School as River Learning Trust employees.

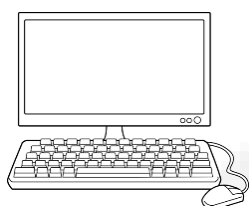
Kingsdown School is a mixed 11-16 Academy situated on the eastern outskirts of Swindon. The most recent OFSTED inspection commented "Leaders provide a curriculum that is broad and balanced. A notable strength of the school is its care for pupils facing particular difficulties, the work the school does to support pupils' personal development and well-being is good".

Kingsdown School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced DBS Disclosure.

For any enquires, please contact recruitment@kingsdownschool.co.uk or telephone the HR Department on 01793 837087. Applications will only be accepted on a Kingsdown School application form via eteach.com.

NEWS FROM THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

At the beginning of September 2018, myself, (Mr Wise) and Mrs Love became the new faces of the LRC. We are both extremely excited and grateful to be a part of an amazing learning environment, and a school that promotes and encourages its use every day. We love reading, learning and helping students to unlock their own potential. We welcome back our students, especially our new year 7's, who look incredibly smart and ready to learn.



Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have regular library lessons, but all students in the school can use the library as often as they wish. Our Fiction Library has over 5,000 books available. Here, you will find all the most popular authors of teenage fiction, as well as magazines and graphic novels. Students are also able to use our Study Area of the LRC for independent study, or as part of a small group or class. Over 5,000 non-fiction and reference books are available, as well as computers with internet access.

Accelerated Reader

Our LRC is equipped with Accelerated Reader Software. AR is a programme for monitoring and managing independent reading practice. Reading material is based on each student's independent reading level, which is determined by Accelerated Reader's STAR Reading assessment. The English teachers are able to set individualised reading goals for each student.



Literature Festival 2018

Our annual Literature Festival will take place between 12th-16th November. We have an exciting week planned with author visits from Steve Cole, who writes the Young Bond series, Ash Dickinson, a poet who will be getting students involved in writing activities, and a Wyvern trip to see Jonathan Meres, author of 'The World of Norm' series, perform live.

COMPETITION TIME!

There is still time to enter the Literature Festival's inter-schools Creative Writing competition and Illustration competition! Details on how to enter are in the LRC.

BOOK QUIZ

We will also be looking for a Book Quiz team to compete with other Swindon Secondary schools during our Literature Festival week. The team will consist of six students.

2 students each from Years 7, 8 and 9. If you think you have a good general knowledge about books and authors, please come to the LRC and put your name forward for this fun event!

LRC opening times:

Monday—Friday 8:00am—4:00pm

Wednesday 9:00am—4:00pm

Friday (wk. 2) 8:00am—3:00pm