

WELCOME TO KINGSDOWN SCHOOL



kingsdownschoolswindon



@kingsdowncohort2025

www.kingsdownschool.co.uk

We champion each and every student

Dear year 6 students and parents

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the Headteacher of Kingsdown School. I am really looking forward to meeting and welcoming you to our school / your new school. We have all been thinking of you during this period of Lockdown – well done for staying so motivated and so resilient.

Kingsdown is an amazing school. I have been the Headteacher for nearly 3 years and every day I am incredibly proud of our students and our staff. We are a very happy and successful school and a school that is underpinned by our **Kingsdown Beats**. In all we do there is a great sense of **Pride** and **Ambition**. Inside and outside of every lesson our students **Stretch** and **Challenge** themselves. In all they do, our students show **Respect** and always take **Responsibility** for their actions. Everyone works together as a team.

Kingsdown was recently judged and found to be a “Good” school by Ofsted – in all 5 categories. We are exceptionally proud of this achievement and remain restless to improve our school for you even more. We know you will be part of making our school a great school – a school of excellence at the heart of our community.

Everyone at Kingsdown makes three promises to you and your parents. These promises are that we will:

- **Know our students**
- **Teach our students well**
- **Have high expectations in all we do**

Our new year 7 team will be visiting your school to meet you over the next few weeks and also talking with your year 6 teachers. We will also be arranging an online meeting with your parents. For now, please take some time to read this booklet and then look at our website where you will find further information.

If your parents have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Davis who is our Progress Leader for year 7. Her email address is head@kingsdownschool.co.uk

I look forward to meeting and welcoming you to Kingsdown School in September. In the meantime, keep taking great care and stay safe.

Mrs Emma Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher



Welcome to Kingsdown School

Dear year 6 students and parents

I am incredibly excited to be welcoming you to Kingsdown School, a school that is bursting with **Pride** and **Ambition** for each and every one of our students. This is such an unusual time for all of us, but fingers crossed the end is in sight and we will be welcoming you through our doors very soon. That said, we have and continue to work on our transition arrangements for you and your September start.

I am sure you have many questions. You will want to know 'who is who' and more about what your school year will look like. The Kingsdown team are working hard behind the scenes to ensure that all of this is ready for you and over the coming weeks we will be in constant contact with you and your family.

My name is Mrs Criddle. I am an Assistant Headteacher with the strategic responsibility for the Behaviour and Attendance for every student in years 7, 8 and. I am working closely with your primary teachers to ensure that I know all about you, your interests, likes and dislikes and how we can really stretch and challenge you. I am really looking forward to meeting you in person.

I have been teaching for 14 years and spent 10 years teaching in Bristol (where I currently live). I joined the Kingsdown team 4 years ago. Firstly, well done. Well done on selecting such an incredible school for your secondary education. I have worked in a number of schools and never have I worked in a school that is so determined to champion each and every student. Our pastoral support and challenge is the best. There are many extra curricular activities for you to get involved in. As a PE teacher I know just how important a healthy active lifestyle is for your development and well being. I look forward to hearing all about your interests.

To our parents, I look forward to working closely with you over the next 5 years. Together, we will work together to champion your child and unlock their ambition. Do always remember I am only ever an email away.

With best wishes

Mrs L Criddle

Assistant Headteacher – Key Stage 3 Behaviour and Attendance



Dear year 6 students and parents.

A warm welcome to Kingsdown from me to you. I am looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our school and the start of the next 5 years of your Secondary education.

My name is Mrs Davis and I am going to be your Progress Leader. My role in the school is to work with your tutors and teachers to support your progress in attendance, learning and behaviour. In a nutshell, my role is to support you with any barriers or challenges you may have over the next 5 years that you are with us. I am looking forward to getting to know you all – your likes, your ambitions and your aspirations. I will be here with your tutors and teachers to help you all the way to **stretch** and **challenge** yourself to be the best that you can be. I am really looking forward to seeing you grow as individuals. I am also looking forward to working with your parents.

I have been a member of the Kingsdown team since 2003 and have had several roles in the school. Being a Progress Leader and working with close on 200 students and their parents, is, I firmly believe, the best job in the school. I am not a teacher and so I am available throughout the school day. My latest year group, year 11 left this year and I know many of your parents already.

I am planning to come out to some of your primary schools over the next few weeks but these are different and difficult times. I am working with your Primary teachers and learning lots about you.

My email address is mdavis2@kingsdownschool.co.uk and I am only ever an email away. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

For now, enjoy the end to your year 6 and I look forward to seeing you soon.

With best wishes

Mrs Davis
Progress Leader for year 7



Dear Future Year 7s

As Head Girl and Head Boy, we are excited to welcome you to Kingsdown School, your new school for the next 5 years. We know that starting a new school and a new chapter in your lives can be difficult but here at Kingsdown, we promise to make this transition as easy as possible through a range of resources in place to help and support you as you excel.

We know that you may have concerns when you start Kingsdown and these can sometimes be daunting to talk about with your friends, especially if you believe they do not have the same concerns as you. At Kingsdown, we have Senior Students (recognisable by their striped ties and badges) and Prefects (identifiable by their light blue ties) who help with school events and act as the voice of the student body. One of our duties as Senior Students and Prefects is to help you. So, if you ever have a problem, or if you would feel more comfortable talking in a safe environment, we can direct you to the Here-to-Hear Office, where there are designated Senior Students and Prefects who are trained and dedicated to give you emotional support. If you feel better talking to an adult, at break and lunch times you can visit your Progress Leader or Tutor and they will also really listen and help you.

Another topic you may be curious about are our teachers. Here at Kingsdown, our teachers will support you every step of the way, so that you have the best chance at your education. All Kingsdown teachers have high expectations of students because they want each and every student to be as happy and successful as they can be, so if you feel you need extra support in or out of lessons, please do not hesitate to go and speak to your teachers. You can also contact your teachers outside of school via your school email account. These are easily accessible at home, so you can raise any questions you have when you think of them.

You will all be assigned a tutor who will stay with you throughout the whole of year 7 and beyond. Your tutor will be your 'go to' person who you will see every morning. They will help to keep you on track by monitoring your attendance, your progress in lessons and someone who you can share any concerns or achievements with.

Kingsdown School may seem big and unfamiliar at first and one worry you may have might be about getting lost. However on your first day you will be given a map and you will also have older students and teachers showing you where to go. So please do not worry, because as time flies, you will get to know the place like the back of your hand!

At Kingsdown School you will have the opportunity to make lots of new friends. This does not mean that you have to forget about your current friends, it just means you can add more people to your friendship group. There are lots of different clubs and extra-curricular clubs at Kingsdown School and this is one way of making fantastic new friends who share the same interests as you.

We hope we have managed to address some of the questions and concerns you may have had about starting a new school in September, and we can't wait to meet you all very soon!

Mahira Chowdhury & Matthew Spencer
Head Girl and Head Boy

Welcome from current Year 8 students

Sam

My name is Sam and I came from Ruskin, I have had 100% attendance since starting here. I was worried about lesson changeover and about the fact I was in a

**At Kingsdown
our vision is to
become “a school
of excellence,
bursting with
pride and ambition”.**

bigger school, but I had no need to worry at all. My tutor has been really supportive and has helped us through times when we didn't know what to do. I have won a few different beat badges and also a gold lion. In my spare time, I play piano and I've played at a few assemblies, I also learn the trumpet and play chess.



Rosie

My name is Rosie and I went to Grange Junior School. On my first day I was extremely worried if I would fit in but after the first 3 weeks, I felt like I had been at Kingsdown for 3 years... I do fit in! I



didn't know my way around the school at first and I always got lost, but with the help of other students and teachers, I could go around the whole school with my eyes closed. I love it here.

Ryan

Hi I'm Ryan and I went to Ruskin Junior School. My biggest fear was not being able to find my way around the school, it's a lot of mixed emotions when you move schools, but it was fine when I arrived. My favourite subject is P.E. because you do so many different sports, they usually change every term. My progress leader has been very supportive throughout the year and hopefully I will have her for my 5 years here.



Abi

Hi my name is Abi and I went to Colebrook Junior School. When I first came to Kingsdown in September I was a little bit worried that the older kids were going to make fun of me but in fact they didn't! They are actually really nice. In textiles I went on a really fun trip to London's Victoria & Albert Museum which I really enjoyed. I have a gold lion badge which I am really proud of because I got the most 'outstanding's' on my first report. I am really happy at Kingsdown and it is improving more and more every term.



Jake

My name is Jake and I went to Grange Junior School. I was scared to go to different classes every hour, as I thought I might get lost all the time, but there are lots of people to ask and help you! My favourite subject is D.T. because we get to do lots of different things e.g. cooking, wood work, fashion and night light making! There are lots of school trips and activities like; football, basketball and reward trips to water parks, theme parks, trampolining and ice skating.



Meet the Year 7 team

AHT Key Stage 3
Mrs Lou Criddle



Progress Leader (PL)
Mrs Michelle Davis



Tutors

JMI	Miss J Miller
OZA	Miss O Zehouane
CSH	Mr C Shepherd
APA	Mr A Patching
HJN	Miss H Johnson
NMA	Mr N Mason

Safeguarding Lead
Ms Shontelle Magenty



Safeguarding Deputy
Mrs Karen Agambar



Kingsdown School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of all students. We strive to ensure that consistent and effective safeguarding procedures are in place to support families, students and staff at school. If you have any serious concerns about your child, another student or a member of staff at Kingsdown School please do not hesitate to contact Ms Magenty or Mrs Agambar who will be able to provide you with the best advice and help using the appropriate degree of confidentiality.

A day in the life of a Kingsdown student

The day starts with Tutor Time at 8.35am when all students meet their tutor for an assembly or tutor period. This is one of the key times during the day when students can speak with their tutor about any concerns or worries they have. We also use this time to ensure students are ready to learn by being in full uniform and having all their equipment for the day. The tutor is the champion for every student in their tutor group and the first contact point if you have any questions or concerns.

Our school day has 5 periods. Between lessons students move quietly through the corridors on the left hand side. Break time is at 11am and lasts 20 minutes.

Lunchtime is at 1.20pm. For the first two weeks in September students in Year 7 go to lunch earlier so they can avoid the queues and get used to being at Kingsdown. Throughout lunchtime, there are various sporting activities and clubs on offer for every child to enjoy such as football, film club, rounders etc. Alternatively, students can spend time with their friends or have some quiet time in the library. School finishes at 3pm everyday except week 2 Friday when students leave at 1.20pm. This is to support teacher training and development. Lots of clubs run every afternoon until 4:30

Throughout KS3 students enjoy a broad balanced curriculum. This ensures students can make informed decisions about their option subjects in Year 9

Subject	Lessons a cycle
English	7
Maths	7
Science	7
Computing	2
History	3
Geography	3
Religious Studies	2
French	4
Music	2
Drama	2
Art	2
PE	4
DT	3
PD	1



Clubs / Extra-Curricular



Learning Resources Centre (LRC)

Open to students daily:

8am – 4pm Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

9am – 4pm Wednesday

8am – 3pm Friday



Choir – everyone welcome.

Ensemble – students who play an instrument

Keyboard Club – anyone who wants to practise playing keyboard outside of lessons.

It is also possible to learn to play instruments / have singing lessons in school. These are available but there is a cost involved.

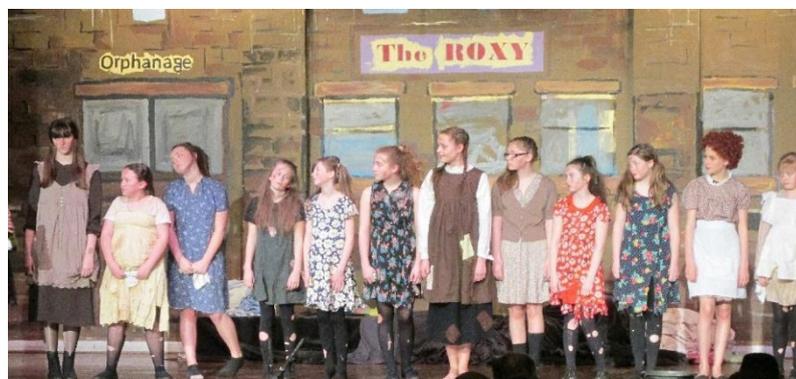
We hold regular Recital Evenings at which anyone is welcome to play / sing.



Sports Clubs - Rugby, Netball, Basketball, Football, Athletics, Badminton, Rounders, Tennis, Fitness, Dance.



Other Clubs Available – Chess, Cooking, Drama, Dance Production Rehearsals (School Play), Special Effects Make-Up, Eco Fashion.



The Kingsdown Beats

At Kingsdown beats are at the heart of everything that we do at Kingsdown school. We do ask you to spend some time reading through and learning what each of these beats means.

#challenge, can you name each beat and be able to define what it looks like?

Kingsdown School focus on six key Beats we believe our students need to reach their full potential.



Students who achieve each of the Kingsdown Beats are rewarded with a badge to wear to show their achievement.

Kingsdown School Uniform information

The Uniform

Our uniform includes:

- ▶ Navy Blazer with Royal trim
- ▶ Mid-Grey Trousers
- ▶ White shirt
- ▶ Optional Tartan Skirt
- ▶ Optional Navy jumper
- ▶ Black conventional school shoes



Our PE Kit includes:

Royal Blue (black trim) polo

- ▶ Royal Blue (black trim) Rugby top
- ▶ Black bottoms
- ▶ Optional ¼ zip top
- ▶ Optional skort (skirt with fitted shorts)



The uniform is available to purchase from our supplier Uniform Direct. There is unfortunately no Pop Up Shop this year, however we have been able to negotiate FREE returns and FREE delivery for orders over £25.

A copy of our Dress Code Policy is available on our website www.kingsdownschool.co.uk. It sets out clearly what is and is not acceptable. Please do get in touch if you have any questions.



Student Dress Code examples

KINGSDOWN SCHOOL



Acceptable shoes – completely black polish-able conventional school shoe with no logo. Flat or low heeled

		Patent		Shoes with Velcro				Block heel under 4cm

Unacceptable shoes – Trainers, boots, heels over 4cms, sandals, daps, canvas

Trainers	Trainers	Canvas or dap	Not completely black	Hiking/ walking boot	Boots	Heels over 4cm	Canvas pump/ dap	Boots	Has a logo

Acceptable trousers -Mid grey, flat or pleated front, straight fit, standard fit, slim fit

Slim fit Mid grey	Mid grey	Mid grey	Mid grey	Standard fit Mid grey	Mid grey				

Unacceptable trousers – Cropped, skinny or flared fit, denim, jeans, leggings, pin stripes, fashion trim, large belts or buckles

Denim Too light	Too dark	Skinny fit	Jeans Too light	cropped	Too light	Too light	Flared	Too dark Skinny		Leggings





Equipment List

Essential Equipment:

All students are required to have the following essential equipment with them at all times

1. Black/dark coloured school bag suitable to carry A4 sized books
2. Student Planner (this will be provided by school)
3. A clear pencil case containing -
 - 2 black or blue pens
 - 2 pencils
 - 2 green pens
 - 2 highlighters
 - a pen of a different colour (for underlining, etc.)
 - pencil sharpener
 - ruler
 - protractor
 - a pair of compasses
 - eraser
 - colouring pencils
 - pocket dictionary
 - calculator (we recommend Sharp ELS31 GH)

Desirable Equipment:

glue stick
plastic wallet/folder for storing loose worksheets, library books, etc.

For particular lessons:

P.E. kit (see uniform lists)

D.T.

ovenproof dishes and a bag/tin/cool bag for the transportation of food

Art

- 2B pencils
- 4B pencils (desirable)
- sketching pencils
- A3 sketch pad (Years 9 & 10)

Active Behaviour for Learning at Kingsdown

We are so proud of the high quality teaching and learning that takes place in every lesson and throughout every day. When Ofsted visited in January 2020 they said that “there was no disruption to any learning seen.” In every lesson, every student knows that they must show excellent behaviour for learning and we call this SLANT.

At Kingsdown,
we take responsibility for our learning



SLANT

During Lessons:

S	Sit up Straight – We sit up at our desk, sitting correctly on our chair.
L	Listen – We listen to the information being given by the teacher and to those involved in the class discussion
A	Answer Questions – We answer all questions from the teacher, sharing our thoughts if we are unsure.
N	Never Interrupt – We allow the teacher and other students to make their point fully before adding our point of view.
T	Track the Speaker – We look at the speaker at all times, whether that be the teacher or another member of the class

#stretch, can you learn all 5 aspect of SLANT and know how to demonstrate them.

Lessons & Homework

At Kingsdown School we are ambitious for all our learners and we ask that you follow our Essential 8 which supports all learners to be the best they can be in the classroom.

The Essential 8 Students' Guide



During lessons Kingsdown learners always:

- 1** **DNA:** come in and start their task straight away. Use knowledge from their previous lessons
- 2** **Silent Solo:** work on their own and in silence for the whole of the task. Work to the best of their ability
- 3** **SLANT:** sit up, listen, answer questions, never interrupt, track the speaker (look at them)
- 4** **Cold Call:** use thinking time and answer when the teacher asks them a question; no hands up
- 5** **No Opt Out:** make sure they have thought of an answer; they can't say "I don't know"
- 6** **Right is Right:** listen to the subject specific language and practise using it in their spoken and written answers
- 7** **Show Call:** watch the improvements being made on the screen and add it to their work to improve their grade
- 8** **Tracking not watching:** use the feedback that is given to them as their teacher walks around the classroom



Homework

Your learning doesn't stop when the school day ends. Each and every day you will be set homework through an on-line platform called 'Show My Homework'. The homework is carefully planned by your teachers to help you remember your learning; not just from the most recent lesson but from previous lessons and topics. In completing your homework on time and by completing it to the best of your ability you will develop habits which will last a life time and this effort will also lead to very good grades.

We understand that not everybody can complete homework at home, that is why we open the LRC before and after school and at break and lunch to support you in completing this essential part of your school life.

Maths, English and Science (known as the Core) typically set 60 minutes of homework per week and the other subjects (known as the foundation subjects) typically set 30 minutes each week.

Students will always have one week to complete homework and so with a bit of organisation, you can review tasks and have plenty of time to ask for further help from your class teacher before the due date.

Parents and carers can also view homework through the parent log-in of Show My Homework and we encourage you to do so each and every night to support positive routines and praise for completion at home.

Reporting to parents and assessment

Our objective at Kingsdown is to ensure all assessments in all year groups are purposeful, accurate and reliable and provide relevant, meaningful and timely information to ensure students make sustained and substantial progress. From year 7, knowledge is expertly sequenced and taught in ways which lead to deeper understanding and better retention of knowledge. Lessons and assessments are planned centrally so that all students receive the same content in the way we think is best for them to learn it. Homework is planned so that knowledge is tested using the principles of low stakes quizzing, retrieval practice and spaced learning to make sure that students remember what we teach them. At Key Stage 3, all departments report home three times a year with a percentage attainment grade for knowledge based assessments and an end of unit assessments. This will allow students, parents and teachers to see progression for each student in comparison to the cohort as a whole. There will also be one parents evening per year along with a 'meet the tutor' evening where we will discuss how your child has settled in to Kingsdown.

Rewards and Behaviour for Learning

Behaviour at Kingsdown School

We are incredibly proud of our students at Kingsdown and as we continue to raise the expectations, our students continue to step up and meet the mark. We feel very passionate about ensuring that all students have access to a high quality education. For that reason we challenge and remove all disruptive behaviours from lessons to ensure that lessons proceed without disruptions.

As a school we feel very passionate about ensuring that all of our students who come to school everyday, work hard and are respectful to everybody are rewarded. The Kingsdown beats are 6 key elements that are at the heart of what makes Kingsdown 'beat'.

Student achievement is recognised every fortnight by their tutor. The tutor will look at the achievement logs recorded by their teachers and nominate students to be in receipt of one of the Kingsdown Beat badges, these are then awarded in assemblies. These badges are worn on the lapels of blazers with pride. Lion badges of pride are nominated to exceptional students who have demonstrated excellence across a number of beats/reports, service to the school or gone above and beyond in an aspect of their school life. It makes us incredibly proud when we award these honourable badges.

At the end of the year there is a reward trip for students who consistently perform well. Students are selected based on their achievement and behaviour points. It is therefore essential that student behaviour is in line with our school expectations every day to qualify for the reward trips.

Year 7 Celebration Assembly



Year 7 Students showed off their gold Lions with pride after achieving over 30 outstanding's on their report. Amazing.



The top performing Year 7 students all showing their ambition to be outstanding in their approach to learning. Congratulations.



Year 7 Students with an excellent report showing how they have stretched themselves all year to achieve their very best.

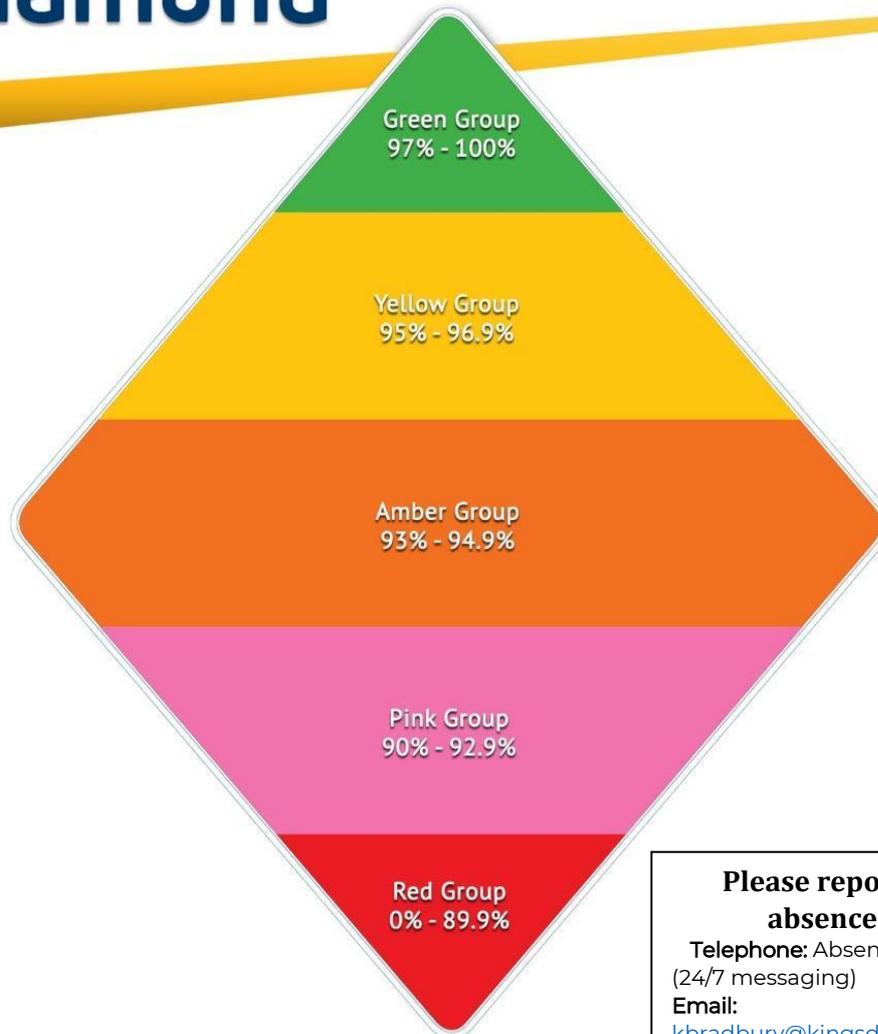
Attendance

Getting to school each and everyday is essential. We expect to see you in school with an attendance of 97% and above.

Attendance Diamond



**KINGSDOWN
SCHOOL**



Please report your child's absence by 8.30am

Telephone: Absence Line 01793 822284
(24/7 messaging)

Email:

kbradbury@kingsdownschool.co.uk

Mrs K Bradbury - Attendance Officer

Attendance Groups	
Green	No risk
Yellow	Risk of underachievement
Amber	Serious risk of underachievement
Pink	Severe risk of underachievement
Red	Extreme risk - Court action



Attendance Matters



**MAXIMISE YOUR POTENTIAL.
ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY.**

Useful websites & contacts

Safeguarding is an absolute priority for every member of staff at Kingsdown school. Below are some useful websites

NSPCC

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Help for adults concerned about a child

Call us on 0808 800 5000



NSPCC

Childline

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Call us on 0800 1111



Mind

<https://www.mind.org.uk/>

Call us on 020 8519 2122

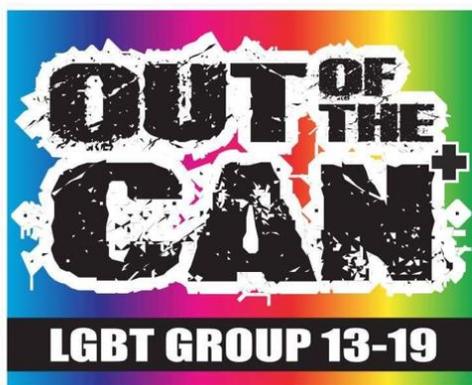
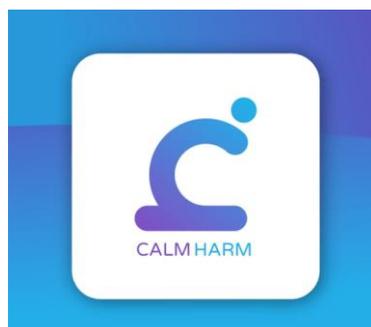
e: supporterrelations@mind.org.uk



Helpful numbers

Swindon Family Contact Point 01793 466903

<https://www.swindonlscb.org.uk/download/downloads/id/140/therighthelpathtrighttimejanuary2018.pdf>



Working in association with



The Diversity Trust



Free, safe and anonymous online support for students

Communication home

Over the next 5 weeks we will be sending weekly communication home to ensure that you are as ready as you can be to start Kingsdown in September. The schedule of information being sent home is below. All of this information will also be uploaded to 'Cohort 2025' on the main website- <https://www.kingsdownschool.co.uk/info/cohort-2025>

Introduction to the Kingsdown team
Welcome booklet
Virtual parents' evening
#ambition #me
Year 7 quiz
Music video

Dates for your diary:

Term 1

Start Tuesday 1st September 2020

TD Day - school closed to students Tues 1st and Wed 2nd September 2020

End Wednesday 21st October 2020

Term 2

Start Monday 2nd November 2020

TD Day - school closed to students Monday 23rd November 2020

End Friday 18th December 2020

Term 3

Start Monday 4th January 2021

TD Day - school closed to students Monday 4th January 2021

End Friday 12th February 2021

Term 4

Start Monday 22nd February 2021

End Thursday 1st April 2021

Term 5

Start Monday 19th April 2021

End Friday 28th May 2021

Term 6

Start Monday 7th June 2021

End Friday 23rd July 2021

General Enquiries:

Kingsdown School

Hyde Road

Stratton St Margaret

Swindon SN2 7SH

Tel: [01793 822284](tel:01793822284)

Please note, all calls are recorded for monitoring and training purposes.

head@kingsdownschool.co.uk

The school is currently partially open due to lockdown. Plans are currently being put in place for a full opening in September but we are awaiting further guidance and confirmation from the government