

Year 11
Parent 20 Clicks
07.12.2020
Term 2



Dear Parents / Carers



Our students continue to show immense levels of pride and ambition - each and every day. Thank you for all your ongoing support here.

This week we have had further announcements from the government about your son/daughter's upcoming GCSEs. We hope that you will find this information supportive and helpful but should you need any further clarification, please do contact us.

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett & the Kingsdown Team

Government Announcement - GCSEs Summer 2021

As you may be aware, the Government announced a number of measures to support the students in Cohort 2021 for their upcoming GCSEs. These include:

- More generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged
- Teachers and students will receive advanced notice of some topic areas covered in the GCSEs to allow them to focus their revision
- Exam aids like formula sheets will be provided in some exams giving students more confidence and to reduce the amount of information they need to memorise
- Additional examinations to give students a second chance to sit a paper if they are absent due to illness or self-isolation
- The exam season will begin 3 weeks later than usual to give more preparation time

Action from Kingsdown - GCSEs Summer 2021

As staff, we will continue to provide support and high quality teaching to prepare students for their summer exams. We will

- Provide exam preparation and revision techniques sessions to students before Christmas
- Give clear feedback following December assessments to allow students to focus their revision
- Work with Heads of Department to review our curriculum plans from January
- Continue to provide high quality advice and guidance in preparation for their post 16 journey
- Share updates from exam boards with parents and students about the content of exams - we believe that this will be around the end of January / beginning of February

Support from parents - GCSEs Summer 2021

Being a parent of a child in year 11 can also be stressful. Over the next 6 months, we ask that you

- Engage with your son/daughter's education - as they ask questions about what they need further help with, take note of the data we share with you
- Ensure they have a suitable work space - a quiet space with a desk/table and no distractions
- Ensure they have a healthy routine for eating, sleeping and working
- Support them with revision - test them, quiz them and engage in their learning
- Support them in finding a balance with their time. They should have time for revision and time for themselves too
- Discuss post 16 options with them - engage in discussions about what options they have and how they can apply

Preparation for students - GCSEs Summer 2021

We are so incredibly proud of the students in year 11. They have shown maturity, resilience and a positive work ethic. We need them to continue to

- Attend every day, fully equipped and ready to learn
- Plan their time to revise and prepare for January Mocks
- Ask for support when they need it
- Believe that they can do it
- Try their best every day

Our students have over an hour with their tutor each day as well as having support from Mrs Sampson-Emecz and Mrs Lees. If there is anything they need, all they need to do is ask.



Year 11 parents

Due to current social distancing regulations we will be unable to hold our usual parent's evening in January. In replacement of this, we are introducing a new method of sharing information with you to ensure you are able to support your son/daughter as we approach their final 6 months at school.

The Parent Forum will be a live session run remotely where you will be able to dial in to access information to support your child. The content of this session will be decided by you. Simply complete this [form](#) to let us know what you would find helpful. Please complete the form by 11th December at 12 noon.

The event will take place in the first week of term 3 and will be recorded and uploaded to the website for reference. After the initial introduction, there will be break out sessions which you can access to allow you to select what sessions you attend. We will be collecting feedback following the event and hope to continue this across other year groups if it is well received.

Contact us:

For general support and guidance

The year 11 tutor team - addresses found [here](#)

Progress Leader: Mrs Sampson-Emecz

msampson-emecz@kingsdownschool.co.uk

For subject queries

contact subject teachers [here](#)

For more specific exam queries

Mr Edwards Assistant head, progress and outcomes

medwards@kingsdownschool.co.uk

For other matters

Mrs Lees , Assistant head attitudes & engagement Years 10 and 11

rlees@kingsdownschool.co.uk

Christmas Jumper Day

**Friday 11th December
£1 donation**



Students must wear correct school uniform e.g. trousers/skirt with the jumper. This is not a non uniform day.

Students may choose not to wear a Christmas jumper and should therefore wear their full correct uniform.

Money raised will be split between Save the Children and the mayor's charity

Friday 18th December- last day of term arrangements



Full correct school uniform must be worn on the last day of term.

Tutor- Normal tutor time

Period 1- Normal lesson

Period 2- Normal lesson

Break

Period 3- Tutor time

Departures

Year 11 - 12:20pm

Term 3 will begin for all students on Tuesday 5th January 2021

Help prevent coronavirus



Wash your hands



Cover mouth if coughing or sneezing



Avoid touching your face



Keep surfaces clean



Stop shaking hands and hugging



Keep a safe distance

The virus spreads in sneeze and cough droplets, so regularly taking the above measures helps reduce the chance of it spreading.

Road safety



Last week we ran assemblies on road safety particularly when students are on their way to/from school. This is aimed at students who walk and cycle to and from school.

Please ensure that your child is adhering to the Kingsdown school cycling permit framework. They must follow the highway code and behave in a safe and sensible manner.

We have also had reports of students not crossing the roads safely. We remind students regularly on how to keep themselves safe whilst walking to and from school. Your support in enforcing these messages is hugely appreciated.

Safeguarding

School based social worker project

Monday 7th December marks the start of a fantastic project that we are involved in with Swindon Borough Council. We have been selected to be part of a national project to have a social worker placed within our school. There are 7 other schools in Swindon who are also part of the project. The project is managed by [What Works for Children's Social Care](#) and is an extension of their original pilot. Results and findings can be found in the above link.

The aim of the project is provide early support to children and families within our school community and build a closer relationship between school and social care. Our social worker is called Richard Griffiths who will be fully inducted and embedded into our school ethos, culture and processes. Richard is an experienced social worker who has a good understanding of Swindon and our context. He is really looking forward to working with us and supporting our children and families.

Should you have any worries or concerns about a child, please continue to contact on of our safeguarding leads:

Shontelle Magenty, Assistant Headteacher, Designated safeguarding lead

Karen Agambar, Child Protection Coordinator, Deputy Safeguarding lead

Our email address is cp@kingsdownschool.co.uk