

2nd December 2022

Dear Parents / Carers

Please find our last parent letter for this year. Thank you for your continued support. Next term the format of this communication will be changing and we hope you will find this helpful and more accessible. For now, thank you for your ongoing support. 2022 has been a different year and at times difficult. I remain indebted to you and your support. Please look at the timings below that go through the end of term arrangements as well as the dates for term 3. I look forward to seeing you in 2023.

Safeguarding at Kingsdown



A Warm and Welcome Space is a council or community venue available to residents to visit to spend time, stay warm and feel safe. These spaces are open to anyone. Visitors won't be asked why they are there and won't have to take part in any activities if they don't wish to.

The facilities at each venue will vary – some venues may offer hot drinks, free Wi-Fi or activities may be taking place. The services at each space could include:

- further support with the cost of living
- opportunities to participate in activities
- free internet access, computers and charging points
- a friendly environment to connect with others within the community

These spaces will be available for people to use and visit during the winter period and beyond.

[Cost of living support](#) for more help and support with the cost of living, including a list of 19 things that you or someone you know can check to increase your income or save money.

MCAS & our Parent Portal

Thank you again for your continued support in tracking your child's progress through the MCAS app and online portal. As we approach the first Parents Evening of the year, it's vital that you have the app downloaded and ready to book your appointments with your child's subject teachers. We will also be launching our redesigned Parent Portal site next year which should make finding key information much more accessible. If you have any suggestions you think would be helpful, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Reading Curriculum - Our T D Day

The two TD Days this term were focussed on reading at Kingsdown. Reading is a vital skill for improving examination outcomes as well as success beyond school. During the two days staff received extensive training about the creation of a reading curriculum and its delivery in all subjects as well as time for further curriculum development. This is to ensure that our most able readers are stretched and challenged and those whose reading ages are not yet in line with their chronological ages are supported to accelerate their progress through the universal curriculum offer. Through this provision and its expert delivery, students will deepen their knowledge as well as develop their reading skills, whatever level they are working at. Thank you for continuing to champion reading and supporting your child with reading at home.

Road Safety

We were all so saddened to hear of the tragic accident last week where a member of our community and a student at Nova Hreod academy lost their life. As the nights and mornings are growing ever darker, please can I remind our students of the importance of being alert on their journey to and from school and whilst out in the community, this means phone away, ear pods out and be aware of the hazards around them. The footpaths are very narrow as you walk further down Ermin Street, so please walk in double/single file where necessary. Students who choose to ride a bike to school must have working bike lights and be wearing helmets. Your child's safety is our number 1 priority.

Christmas Jumper day- Thursday 8th December

On Thursday 8th December, millions of people up and down the country will come together to make the world better, with a sweater. This year the government has agreed to double up the funds raised by Save the Children UK. Save the Children UK is a charity that helps mums-to-be, new mums, tiny babies and bigger kids get the food and medicine they need to be strong and healthy. On Thursday, students need to wear their Christmas jumper and bring in a £1, if you do not have a Christmas jumper, do not worry, we would still like you to come in in non school uniform and donate £1 so that we can work together to support this incredible charity.

Parent Events in term 3

Our home / school partnership is key to the success of your child's time with us at Kingsdown. We have a number of events coming up. Thank you for putting these dates in your family calendars and making the time to attend. Do please link to your child's year group through our parent portal in advance of these events.

- 6th Dec - Yr 7 Disco - 4:30-6:00pm
- 8th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day - £1 donation to 'Save the Children' charity
- 12th Dec - Reports home - please access via MCAS and discuss with your child
- 12th Dec - Christmas Concert - 6.30pm
- 12th Dec - Yr 11 Mock results
- 13th & 14th Dec - Christmas Lunch
- 14th Dec - Year 11 Parents' evening
- 16th Dec – Last day of term - school closes at 12pm
- 3rd Jan - students return at 11.00am
- 18th Jan - Y7 Parents' Evening
- 26th Jan - Y9 Options Evening
- 3rd Feb - Y9 Taster Day & Options Survey

Sporting Engagement and Teamship - Head of PE up-date

It has been a busy yet successful two weeks for PE. We had a fabulous Swindon schools cross country championship where the students showed **stretch** and **challenge** throughout some tough races. In the year 7 girls race, our year 7s girls Natalia, Zara and Izzie finished strong with Zara finishing 6th and Izzie finishing 5th. Year 7 boys also competed well with Kayden the pick of the day finishing 17th. Year 8 and 9 girls also ran a good race with Sophia finishing 9th and Ella finishing 16th. In the year 8 and 9 boys we had 12 students compete with Josh finishing 2nd place, a fantastic achievement! In the Year 10 and 11 girls race Elise finished 7th. We also had year 10 and 11 boys compete, Aston and Callum, both did fantastically well on the day, as did all of our students.



Our year 7 boys also went to Swindon Rugby club to play in their first ever rugby tournament where they competed against 5 other Swindon schools. They fought well and with **pride**, drawing two but losing three scoring plenty of tries in the process.. A special mention to Logan as he was Kingsdown player of the tournament. They are already looking forward to next year.

Year 7 Netball players have also done extremely well playing in a tournament against other Swindon schools. We managed to score 33 goals across the games winning the competition. The second place team managed to get 7 goals. Well done girls!

Our year 10/11 basketball team managed an emphatic victory against Royal Wootton Bassett Academy, beating them 31-28. Erik getting man of the match in this one.



In other basketball news, our year 8s beat Ridgeway 29-6 in their first game of the season with Austin and George getting joint man of the match. Mr Blacklock said: 'The boys played very well today, I'm very proud of them all. They really showed a lot of **responsibility** on

the ball and worked together as a team.'



The year 9 team have also claimed victory against a strong Dorcan side. The first two quarters were close but Kingsdown showed resilience and went on to produce something special in the final half of the match. They ended up winning 24-14. Man of the match went to Teon. Well done all.

Overall a very successful two weeks for our sports teams at Kingsdown. We are all very proud of the **ambition** you have all shown. Well done.

Student Enrichment

Our annual **Christmas Carol Concert** resumes this year post Pandemic **Monday 12th December 6.30pm** at **St. Philip's Church - Beechcroft Road** all welcome, but please be aware that there is limited car parking at the venue. We will be making the school car park available from 6pm-8pm for parking though and it's a 15 minute stroll to the church. Our Whole School Production Wednesdays after school and **Mock Trial Competition** Club Thursday after school continue to be popular activities that really **stretch** and **challenge** our students and showcase their **ambition**. **Children In Need** saw our Kingsdown family raise over **£700** for this worthy charity showing once again the **responsibility** our students take in supporting important events that impact others' lives positively. **#pride**



Attendance - championing your child

Thank you for all your help in ensuring that your child attends school each and every day. This has a significant impact upon their learning, progress and outcomes. In order to ensure that your child makes the progress that they need and must, they need to secure an attendance rate of 95% or better. Thank you for your support here. Every day lost to learning is 6 hours of lessons. We saw from our GCSE results that those students who had an attendance of 95% or better went on to achieve one grade higher, per subject - attendance really, really does matter. Thank you for championing the attendance and progress of your child. Our Attendance Champion is Mrs Cheryl Blake. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

As a reminder, if your child is absent you need to call our main school number **01793 822284** and select option one. This will put you straight through to our absence line. Please call before **7.30am** so we can record all absences correctly. Please do not email or leave a message for the Progress Leaders as this may mean your child's absence is not coded accurately.

We will be rewarding 100% and most improved attendance in the final week of school so everyday really does count!

Change in your circumstances - we are here to support you and your family

If you are experiencing a change in circumstances e.g. the current economic climate, please do not hesitate to contact us through your child's Progress Leader. We are here to help and may be able to sign post you to other agencies or organisations that are also here to help.

With best wishes to you and families over the festive period. If you do need us, please do not hesitate to get in touch through our SHARPs button or head@ account.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett & the Senior Leadership Team



Monday 12th
December

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**Kingsdown School
and
Ruskin Junior School**

St Philip's Church,
Beechcroft Road.
6:30pm