

10th January 2025

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back to a new year and new term. With thanks for all your support in ensuring that we have had all our students ready to learn from Monday 6th January.

Our vision remains the same at Kingsdown - a school of excellence bursting with pride and ambition. Our mission statement remains that - we champion each and every student. We have developed our teaching and learning framework and we have been really pleased to see how this is embedding across all subjects. Below is a summary of our Kingsdown Great Teaching and Learning Framework - TEMPO.

TEMPO, which stands for **task design, explanation, modelling, practice** and **oracy**, is our whole-school teaching and learning framework to secure great teaching and learning outcomes. It is explicitly linked to each section of the wheel of excellence: High expectations, teaching our students well & knowing our students well. The three strands are implemented as follows:

- **High expectations** through strong routines, relationships and positive behaviour for learning for all students.
- **Teaching our students well** by ensuring that tasks are well designed, explained clearly and modelled to a high standard. This allows students to practise and discuss the content of what they are learning to the highest possible standard. Consistent, rigorous and robust checks for understanding underpin each and every aspect of TEMPO teaching to allow teachers to know if and when students are ready to move on from a particular concept.
- **Knowing our students well** through teachers being aware of what preparation is required to meet the individual needs of students by adapting their planning and resources to specific classes.

Attendance

Attendance year to date = 91.9 % Persistent Absence year to date = 25.1% [less than 90%] Lates = 3.2%			
Year Group	Year to date	PA	Lates
Year 7	93.9%	19.6%	1.4%
Year 8	92.1%	23.7%	2.9%
Year 9	91.2%	28.5%	4.1%
Year 10	91.6%	26.7%	3.4%
Year 11	89.9%	30.5%	5.1%

New Staff

This week we welcomed two new fully qualified teachers to our Kingsdown team - Mr Chapman (Humanities) and Mrs Purton (Science).

Assembly messages this week

This week, we met with all students during their assembly time on Monday to share some key messages. We have extended the **one way system** around the school to support with students moving around the school safely during lesson changeover and break and lunch. We reminded students of the importance of putting all of their **litter** in the bin. We are all Proud of our school and must take great care of our learning environments and social spaces. The amount of litter around the school is not acceptable. Students have had the opportunity to sign up to be an environmental ambassador and we have been so impressed with the number of students who have put themselves forward for this. At the end of term 2, we added some new dining tables to the **Dining Hall**. We know the importance of connecting with one another during meal times and students must sit down at the tables during their time in the Dining Hall. Finally, we updated the parking process. Students must be **respectful of their peers' right to an education** and must not disrupt lesson times. If a student is disruptive and impacts the learning of others, they will be removed from the lesson and continue their learning in a separate room for the remainder of the lesson. If the student is persistently parked, parents/carers will be invited in to discuss next steps.

Breakfast clubs

Breakfast Club is now officially up and running in the Annexe every morning from 7:45am-8:15am. Invited students have access to a warm space inside, great company and a bite to eat to fuel them for the day. Breakfast club is a drop in service and we will still be accepting new students throughout the school year. If anyone would like to hear more or nominate their child then please email: arussell@kingsdownschool.co.uk

Learning Lounge

Some parents have shared with us that their child/children find completing home learning difficult at home. The Learning Lounge is an afternoon provision where students can attend to complete homework in a quiet supervised environment. It is open Monday to Thursday from the end of the school day until 3.30. If you think your child would benefit from having a quiet space to work, or benefit from having staff available to support their learning or get them into a routine of completing home learning in school please encourage them to attend our Learning Lounge that is held in the school library.

Year 9 Parents' evening

This will be taking place on Thursday 23rd January 2025 (4pm-7pm).

Parents can book appointments on MCAS from 5pm on Wednesday 15th January and it will close at 9am on Tuesday 21st January.

Year 9 parents' evening is an incredibly important parents evening in a students' school career as it is an opportunity to discuss students' progress in subjects and consider potential subjects that they might take for their GCSE's.

River Learning Trust Annual Reports

Please find via the link below the RLT Annual Report to Stakeholders: December 2024. This report provides a brief review of the past year across the River Learning Trust.

<https://riverlearningtrust.org/464/report-to-stakeholders-2024>

Two other annual 2023-24 reports for Sustainability:and for Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion are available via the following page on the Trust website:

<https://riverlearningtrust.org/324/annual-reports-strategy-documents>

Parking and pick up

We have been asked by residents in Sanders Close to ask parents not to park in Sanders Close when picking your children up from school. We would be grateful if you could use the Kingsdown Sports Centre for pick ups.

Future Events

- 13th Jan - TD Day (No students in school)
- 23rd Jan - Year 9 Parents' Evening
- 6th Feb - Year 7 Parents' Evening
- 10th Feb - Year 9 Deadline for Options Form
- 14th Feb - End of Term, students finish at normal time
- 17th - 21st Feb - Half Term
- 24th Feb - Students return 8.15am

With our continued thanks. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need any further information.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett

Headteacher