

15th November 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

We have had a very positive week at Kingsdown with everyone embedding:

High expectations especially around lateness, wandering and learning breaks through positive reminders and conversations. We have seen a significant improvement in these areas

Year 11 Mocks began on Monday and attendance has been the highest in the school. Year 11 students have been exemplary and the feedback that will follow in the next few weeks will be invaluable to them as they prepare for their final examinations

Remembrance - we held a minute's silence on Monday and Miss Green led on truly poignant assemblies. Our students were outstanding in their respect and gratitude

Literature festival - during the week Y9 students visited the Wyvern, Y7 attended workshops and we hosted 250 year 5s from our Primary Cluster schools. Our visiting poets were inspirational.

Odd sock day- On Tuesday we wore odd socks to celebrate individuality and raise awareness of anti bullying.

Charity events - On Friday and today we raised money for Children in Need. Our students gave very generously and embraced the day.

Attendance - we were delighted to see every year group with attendance over 93% - every day throughout this week. Thank you for your support here in championing attendance.

Attendance year to date = 92.7%			
Persistent Absence year to date =21.5 % [less than 90%] Lates = 3.1%			
	YTD Attendance	PA	Lates
Year 7	95.0%	14.2%	1.4%
Year 8	92.9%	19.0%	2.5%
Year 9	91.6%	26.3%	4.2%
Year 10	92.1%	23.3%	3.1%
Year 11	90.9%	27.2%	4.6%

20th November - Drop down morning years 7-10

All students in years 7-10 will be off timetable on Wednesday morning next week where they will take part in enrichment activities. This will be the first of 4 over the year where all year groups will get to have a go at sports, STEM activities, cultural activities, first aid and money and finance. These activities are a response to student voice who have asked for further opportunities to look into all the areas being covered on these days.

Year 7 - House Netball and Football - students need to come to school in their PE uniform but ensure they also have a coat and possibly a hat as it will be cold.

Year 8 - House STEM challenge

Year 9 - Finance and budgeting - students will need a fully charged chromebook.

Year 10 - Goals and budgeting - students will need a fully charged chromebook.

20th November - Maths exam

Year 11 will need to be at the sports centre from **8:45 on the 20th of November** rather than 8:20 to support the running of activities on site. For year 11 students who are in school earlier than this the ILS will be available to them from 8:20-8:40 before they go down to their exam.

Parent Governor vacancy

Kingsdown School has a vacancy for a parent governor, if you would like to find out more details please email the Clerk to the Trustees, Mrs Ellis, jellis@kingsdownschool.co.uk who will provide more information and arrange for you to meet with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors.

Home Learning - The Learning Lounge

Please remember the Learning Lounge is available for students to use every weekday to complete extra study and Home Learning. It is accessible at morning break, lunchtime and after school. The space is supervised by our librarian Mr Wise and is a quiet area for students to read, study and access the internet. Please encourage your child to make as much use of this space as possible. It is particularly useful for students if they don't have access to the internet or an electronic device at home.

House Challenge - Swindon Christmas Toy Appeal



The house challenge this term is for students to donate to the Swindon Christmas Toy Appeal. The toys must be new because it is important that every child is gifted a brand new gift that is just for them.

In 2023, 27.5% of households with children under 18 in Swindon were living in poverty.

Deadline for donations: Friday 29th November 2024

House ties

We are getting closer to making sure that every student has the correct ties that match their houses. There are a few groups of students in different tutor groups that need to ensure they are wearing the correct coloured tie. If your child does not have the correct coloured tie can you encourage them to either swap with a friend or find Mr Russell in F1.1 who will swap it for them.

Achievements outside of school

We always end our Monday after school meeting with a Champion of Champions shout out. Thank you for sharing your child's achievements and responsibilities with tutors. Over the last few weeks we have celebrated amazing achievements that have included: sporting successes, competition awards, volunteering awards and much more. We always enjoy hearing about our students' successes outside of school.

GCSEPod

Earlier this year we introduced Year 10 and 11 parents and carers to GCSEPod which is a highly effective online revision resource, not only for GCSE students but for all students who want to make the most of their independent learning outside of school. GCSEPod recently gave a webinar aimed at parents and carers which you can follow the link to below along with associated links to videos and resources.

The recording can be accessed via this link:

<https://unicorntrainingvideos.wistia.com/medias/73dhdyfkt4>

There were 2 videos shared live during the webinar which haven't shown up on the recording, those are:

An Introduction to GCSEPod: [Digital Learning Awards - GCSEPod 2024](#)

A Look into The Teenage Brain: [Why the teenage brain has an evolutionary advantage](#)

GCSEpod also have a fantastic Parent's Page, with lots of handy resources for you and your student: [Parent Resources - GCSEPod](#)

Please do not hesitate to ask if you have further questions regarding GCSEPod.

Cycling/scooting to and from school

The safeguarding of our students is paramount, especially during the winter months when the mornings/evenings are getting darker. To enable your child to lock their bike/scooter in the bike shed, they must adhere to the bike permit expectations. It is essential that all students wear a helmet and have lights on their bike. There are too many fatalities/injuries from cyclists not following these safety measures.

Future Events

- 20th Nov - Drop down morning Years 7-10
- 20th Nov - Recital Evening 6.30pm
- 28th Nov - Year 8 Information Evening 5.30 - 6.30pm
- 9th Dec - Y7 - 11 Flu Vaccination
- 12th Dec - Y11 Parents' / Carers' Evening - 4.30 - 7.00pm
- 16th Dec - Christmas Concert
- 17th Dec - Christmas Lunch
- 18th Dec - Christmas Lunch
- 20th Dec - Students finish at 12.05pm

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