

17th January 2025

Dear Parents / Carers

On Monday we had a really productive teacher training day. Here we focused on the impact of two terms of our up-date teaching and learning framework - TEMPO. What follows below is an overview of TEMPO - what it is and what it means for your child. A student copy of TEMPO can also be seen below.

Kingsdown School is committed to continually improving the quality of teaching and learning, and in doing so truly championing each and every student in the classroom. Our whole-school teaching and learning framework is built around the concept of TEMPO teaching, which focuses on implementing five key pillars:

Task Design - tasks offer a high level of challenge whilst still being accessible to students through support and scaffolding.

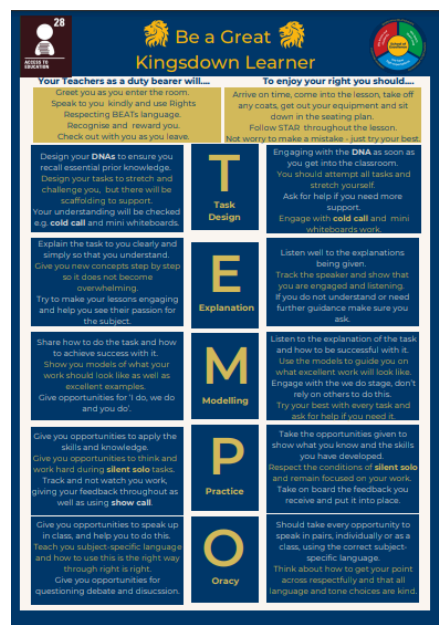
Explanations - teachers ensure explanations are simple, clear and well planned, with new ideas and concepts introduced in a step by step approach.

Modelling - teachers share what success looks like to students before they attempt a task.

Practice - students have the opportunity to practise applying their skills, knowledge and understanding.

Oracy - students have the opportunity to discuss what they are learning with opportunities for questioning, debate and discussion.

Consistent, rigorous and robust checking for understanding underpins 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.



Attendance

Attendance year to date = 91.9% Persistent Absence year to date = 23.8% [less than 90%] Lates = 3.3%			
Year Group	Year to date	PA	Lates
Year 7	93.9%	18.3%	1.4%
Year 8	92.2%	22.8%	2.9%
Year 9	91.2%	26.8%	4.1%
Year 10	91.6%	25.1%	3.4%
Year 11	89.8%	27.8%	5.1%

Extra Curricular opportunities this term

Students have a wide variety of extracurricular opportunities which they can get involved in at both lunch and afterschool. Enrichment clubs allow students to explore new interests, develop valuable skills, and boost their creativity outside the regular curriculum. They also provide opportunities to build social connections, relieve stress and demonstrate initiative, all of which enhance students personal and academic growth. Thank you for discussing and sharing with your child.

Lunch extracurricular opportunities

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lego and films C31	Lego and films C31	Lego and films C31	Lego and films C31	Lego and films C31
Maths Club G14	Maths Club G14	Maths Club G14	Maths Club G14	Maths Club G14
Board games G21	Board games G21	Board games G21	Board games G21	Board games G21
Uno C11	Uno C11	Uno C11	Uno C11	Uno C11
		KS3 Basketball - New Gym	KS3 Basketball New Gym	KS4 Drama
		Chess club C26	Choir B23	
		Geopolitics C21	Dodgeball Old Gym	
		KS3 Drama		
		Keyboard B23		
		Netball Courts		
		Uno C11		

After School extracurricular opportunities

Name	Year	Days	Meet	Teacher
Girls football	All	Tuesday	Tennis courts	GVI
Badminton/ Dodgeball	All	Tuesday	Tennis courts	TSV, SDA
Girls Basketball	All	Wednesday	Tennis courts	PFO
Boys football	All	Wednesday	Tennis courts	CSH, NMA, SHO
Creative writing	All	Thursday	A11	HJO
Key Art Club	All	Thursday	E11	ASL
GCSE year 11 art club	Y11	Thursday	E12	CHE
Debate Club	All	Thursday	A13	KPU
Fitness suit	Y10 & 11	Tuesday Thursday	Tennis courts	SHO
Sport studies & Sport science	Y11	Thursday	C14	NMA, CSH, LMA
Manga / Anime / Cartoon Club	All	WK2 Thursday	A18	CRO
Dungeons and Dragons (D&D)	All	Tuesday (KS3) Thursday (KS4)	A14	HSE

Accelerated Reader

For KS3 students, we offer the exciting opportunity to read a range of up-to-date titles through our Accelerated Reader (AR) programme. All of the fiction books in our well-stocked Learning Resource Centre have AR levels and quizzes. Consequently, each student's progress in their reading can be tracked, monitored and supported all of the way from Year 7 to 9. By reading their AR books for at least 20 minutes a day, everyday, students are guaranteed to make progress with their reading accuracy and fluency: impacting on their lives now and into the future for GCSE success and beyond. Therefore, it is vital that everyday each student has with them a reading book which befits their reading level (which is tested 3 times a year) and they are reading this book at home every evening. As has regularly been proven since we began AR at Kingsdown, the more students read through AR, the more successful they will be with the programme and the more successful they will be across their schooling.

Support for Year 10 and Y11 parents with exam preparation

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting their first free parent webinar for the term on **note taking** on January 21st.

Future webinars include:

- *How to Make Technology an Ally (& Not the Enemy!) - 4th February*
- *How to Help Your Child Prepare for Exams - 11th March*
- *How Your Child Can Maximise Marks in the Exam Room - 25th March*

Elevate works with our students, delivering high-impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn **how you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.**

Sign up for the session below to learn **how you can help your child to take notes in the right way for effective revision.**

How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking

Tuesday 21st January 6:00-7:00 pm (GMT)

[Click here to register for free](#)

Communicating with school

If you need to contact the school please direct your communications as follows:

Subject query : Please contact your child's subject teacher

Attendance : Please contact your child's tutor

Behaviour : Please contact your child's Progress Leader

Please use the contact form on the website to send emails to the relevant staff member,

<https://www.kingsdownschool.co.uk/info/contact-us>

Future Events

23rd Jan	- Year 9 Parents' Evening 4.00pm
6th Feb	- Year 7 Parents' Evening 4.00pm
10th Feb	- Year 9 Deadline for Options Form
14th Feb	- End of Term, students finish at 2.55pm
17th - 21st Feb	- Half Term
24th Feb	- Students return at 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