

18th October 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

We congratulate our students on a productive first term. Thank you for all your support too. Our students have engaged well with their attendance to school and the vast majority are punctual to school. This term we launched the second phase of our teaching and learning strategy and again our students have engaged well with this.

We have had several monitoring visits from The River Learning Trust and we have been pleased with the support and challenge here as we continue our journey to secure our vision of being a school of excellence bursting with pride and ambition.

This term we have offered our students a number and range of opportunities outside of the classroom and we congratulate all those who have engaged well with these. Additionally our school council has been active along with our 4 Kingsdown Houses and this is made so because of our students and their connection.

Attendance - End of term 1

Last Years Attendance = 93.0% Attendance Year to Date = 93.0% Persistent Absence Year to Date = 18.1% [less than 90%] Lates = 3.2%				
	Last Year	Year to Date	PA	Lates
Year 7	95.2%	95.6%	11.6%	1.3%
Year 8	94.2%	92.9%	17.2%	2.7%
Year 9	91.2%	92.4%	20.5%	4.3%
Year 10	92.9%	92.3%	21.7%	3.3%
Year 11	90.5%	91.0%	21.2%	3.5%

Equipment needed from Term 2

We need your support in ensuring that barriers to learning are removed to help students to engage in their lessons. Please can you double check your child's equipment over the break. They need the correct stationary which includes Blue and Green pens. Thank you for also ensuring that their Chromebooks have enough charge to get them through a school day.

It has been brought to our attention that some Maths sets have been sold with 'paper cutters' which resemble small knives. Please can you check that your child does not have one of these and if it is in the set, it is removed and left at home. I have added an image below of what they look like.



Sporting successes this term



Our Year 8 Netball Team started their season strong with a 5-1 win over Warneford at home. Player of the Match went to Lowri.

Year 10/11s v Dorcan in the Wiltshire County cup

Kingsdown School travelled to a rain-soaked Dorcan Academy on Tuesday afternoon, starting in a 4-4-2 formation. The lads showed perhaps too much respect for their opponents, who they knew well, and found themselves on the back foot early. Three sloppy goals for Dorcan left Kingsdown trailing 3-0 at

half-time. Only Cieran H and Josh B could hold their heads up high after a tough first half.

Determined to change things, Kingsdown switched to a 4-5-1 formation for the second half, with Ryder C, Charlie E, and Spencer B coming off the bench. The changes worked brilliantly. Spencer's direct run saw him taken down in the box, earning a penalty. Ryder C stepped up and calmly converted, making it 3-1. As the pressure mounted, Kingsdown began to relax and play their football, controlling the midfield thanks to Ryder, Charlie E, and Leo R. Some lovely passing sequences put Dorcan under constant pressure. Pushing high up the pitch, the ball broke to Fin M, whose quick feet and trickery outwitted both defenders and the goalkeeper, allowing him to tap home. 3-2. With minutes left, Kingsdown continued to press, and Spencer's clever footwork earned a free kick out wide on the right. Fred M whipped in a dangerous cross, and the Dorcan keeper failed to clear it properly. The ball ricocheted around the box before falling to Ciaran H, who volleyed it home to complete the comeback. 3-3. A fantastic second-half performance saw Kingsdown leave with a well-earned point. The lads showed tremendous pride and ambition, taking responsibility and battling back from adversity. Man of the Match: Ciaran H.



Kingsdown Triumph in Thrilling Wiltshire County Cup Clash

Kingsdown School triumphed in an exhilarating Wiltshire County Cup clash against Marlborough College, riding high after their previous comeback victory over Dorcan. The game kicked off with Kingsdown quickly asserting dominance, controlling 85% of the possession and pressing Marlborough deep into their own half. The breakthrough came when Ciaran H delivered a stunning cross to Charlie P, who finished with ease, putting Kingsdown 1-0 up. Despite Marlborough equalising through a penalty, Kingsdown responded almost immediately, regaining their lead with Charlie P's cool finish after a perfect pass from Fin M.

By half-time, Kingsdown was cruising with a 3-1 lead, thanks to a brilliant chip by Fin M, assisted by Charlie E's vision from midfield. However, Marlborough mounted a surprise comeback in the second half. A scrappy goal made it 3-2, and a goalkeeper error allowed Marlborough to equalise at 3-3. Kingsdown found themselves rattled but not defeated, as they fought to regain control of the match, with key defensive clearances and tactical adjustments helping them stay in the contest.

Kingsdown's resilience paid off when Charlie P sent a perfectly weighted pass through to Lewis E, who broke free of the Marlborough defence and scored the decisive goal, making it 4-3. This time, Kingsdown managed the final stages of the game with maturity, showing composure under pressure and preventing any further slip-ups, eventually sealing the victory. The thrilling match highlighted Kingsdown's ability to stretch themselves and perform under challenging circumstances.

Charlie P and Ciaran H were named joint Men of the Match for their outstanding creativity and composure throughout the game, which was filled with pride, ambition, and responsibility. The victory reinforced Kingsdown's commitment to their core values, earning them a well-deserved spot in the next round of the Wiltshire County Cup.

Stratton Holiday programme

There is a FREE halloween enrichment session at Meadowcroft Community Hall. Students will learn non-contact boxing, martial arts and football.

When: 28th October 2024 (13:00 - 15:00)

More information: info@bestrust.co.uk or call 01793 200124

Future Events

- 21st Oct - Year 7 Halloween quiz 4.00-5.00pm
- 24th Oct - 1st Nov - Half Term
- 4th Nov - Students return to school at 8.15am
- 11th - 15th Nov - Literature Festival
- 11th - 22nd Nov - Year 11 Mock Exams
- 28th Nov - Yr 8 Information Evening 6.00pm - 7.00pm

With our continued thanks for all your championing of your children and Kingsdown School. We look forward to seeing all our students on Monday 4th November at 8.15am. Do please remember that our safeguarding team will be on duty over the break if you need anything. Wishing you all a very relaxing break.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher