

6th September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

This week we welcomed back all our students for another exciting year at Kingsdown School. Additionally, we welcomed 232 new Yr 7 students who have all been exceptional. This year because of the continued growth in student numbers we also welcomed some new staff to our Kingsdown family. Each and every one has been ready for a new year and ready to show our Kingsdown BEATs.

### The Kingsdown BEATs

At Kingsdown school our BEATs are the heart of all we do.

<p><b>pride</b></p> <p><i>I am proud of who I am and our school.</i></p> <p><i>I take advantage of every opportunity.</i></p>	<p><b>stretch</b></p> <p><i>I really want to learn and will stretch myself to achieve what I didn't think possible.</i></p>	<p><b>respect</b></p> <p><i>I am considerate.</i></p> <p><i>I care about others and my surroundings.</i></p> <p><i>I encourage and expect others to do the same.</i></p>
<p><b>ambition</b></p> <p><i>I expect the best from myself.</i></p> <p><i>I have ambitious aspirations for my future.</i></p>	<p><b>challenge</b></p> <p><i>I am curious, determined and resilient.</i></p> <p><i>Set me a challenge and I will always rise to it.</i></p>	<p><b>responsibility</b></p> <p><i>We are all part of something special and I am not going to let us down.</i></p> <p><i>My attendance really matters.</i></p>

Our students are taught about the BEATs and how to demonstrate them in all that they do, inside the classroom, beyond the classroom and in the wider school community. In the student planner you will find these and how these BEATs can be put into action. Staff also model these BEATs to students in all their interactions. We ensure that the BEATs are also sought by giving our students the opportunities to demonstrate them, from our extra curricular activities and enrichment to our careers program and student leadership opportunities.

Students are then “caught” demonstrating the BEATs with recognition, reward points and gold cards. All students have the opportunity to earn their BEAT badges though the BEAT award (a copy of which you will find in the student planners) It was a pleasure to give out so many badges throughout last year and the BEAT awards at presentation evening.

Please can we ask you to take a look at pages 27-32 so that you too are familiar with the BEATs.

### GCSE results



GCSE results day on Thursday 22nd August was such a lovely event and we were so pleased to welcome many parents, grandparents and siblings along to share in the success of our 2024 cohort of students.

We are happy to report an increase in the % of students achieving 5 GCSEs at grade 4+ and an increase in the % of students achieving 5 GCSEs at grade 5+. There was also success for those students who opted for the English Baccalaureate qualification, which includes a humanities subject as well as a language, where we saw a pass rate that was in line with all schools across the country.

### Year 11 - Summer home learning

Congratulations to our new Y11 students who have been working hard on their Summer home learning tasks over the past 5 weeks. We know that a break in learning over the Summer can have a negative impact at the start of Y11 so we are incredibly impressed with how the 2025 cohort have embraced the challenge to keep their brains ticking over during the holiday. Staff are looking forward to giving prizes including our first, highly sought after ‘golden ticket’ for the Prom in July. Watch this space for a roll call of the top achievers.

## **Summer School for rising Year 7s**

It was brilliant to see over 140 Year 7 students attend the Kingsdown Summer School during the last week of the school holidays. Here students were able to connect with one another and learn more about the Kingsdown BEATs along with how to be the best versions of themselves. It has been great to see our Year 7 students transition so well into Kingsdown. Keep up the good work.

## **Reminder about our school day and the importance of being punctual to school**

The school day starts at 8.15 am. All students need to be on site punctually by 8.10 am.

If your child is late for school they will be asked to go to the ILS where they will have time to settle before going to period 1.

As you are aware we send out a text message to parents/carers when their child has not registered at school for the AM/PM periods. We have now further developed this to support our truancy strategy. If your child has not arrived at their lesson after 10 minutes an automated message will be sent to you to let you know.

Mrs Smith, John has not arrived and registered for this lesson, as part of our Truancy Strategy we want to work together to help John make the right choice, if you are able to, please contact them to encourage them to return to their lesson.

## **Getting in touch with staff at Kingsdown School**

In most instances your child's Tutor is the first point of contact for parents. If you have a general concern please make contact with the school office who will put you in contact with your child's Tutor.

If you have a subject specific enquiry regarding your child you will need to speak with their teacher. You are able to do this by contacting the school office who will put you in contact with your child's subject teacher.

If you have a specific enquiry regarding your child in relation to SEN needs or potential unidentified SEN needs please contact the inclusion team using the following email address:  
[SENDCo@kingsdownschool.co.uk](mailto:SENDCo@kingsdownschool.co.uk).

## **Changes in circumstances e.g. Medical needs / contact details**

It is really important that we have up to date contact details for all of our families. If there are changes to your contact details please ensure that you make basic amendments via the My Child at school app. If you are unable to make these changes via the app please email [mainadminoffice@kingsdownschool.co.uk](mailto:mainadminoffice@kingsdownschool.co.uk)

Sometimes children's medical needs change. If there is a change in your child's medical conditions or medication please email [mainadminoffice@kingsdownschool.co.uk](mailto:mainadminoffice@kingsdownschool.co.uk)

## **Reading in and outside of school**

With GCSE exams requiring a reading age of 16 and literacy levels being a passport to a rich and fulfilling life, we make reading a very important part of life at Kingsdown. To encourage engagement with reading and develop students' vocabulary, in KS3 we use the Accelerated Reader programme to track the amount the students read and their levels of comprehension; our tutor groups, from Years 7 to 10, are read to by their tutors four times a fortnight (a further tutor session is given to individual private reading). With the continued support of our parents and carers, we will continue to push our students to be confident and fluent readers able to tackle their exams and participate effectively in the world around them.

For new year 7 students, those who completed a 100 word book review for every book they read over the summer, you will be rewarded with a new bookmark and your first gold card! Come to the library and tell us all about it!

**Future Events**

- 12th Sept 5.30pm - 6.30pm - Y11 Information Evening
- 17th Sept 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening
- 25th Sept 6.00pm - Sports Tour Parents' Evening
- 26th Sept - Year 7 - Year 11 Flu Vaccination
- 26th Sept 5.00pm - 7.00pm - Open Evening - school closes for students at 12.00pm

With our continued thanks for all your support in ensuring that your child / children are ready to learn each and every day.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett  
**Headteacher**