

8th November 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

On Monday we welcomed back all our staff and students after a half-term break. Thank you for reinforcing our messaging to your children and our students. We would welcome a particular focus on:

- Being on time - on site for 8.15am and in the correct full school or PE uniform as well as the jewellery code - this can be found on our website and in the student planner
- Being fully equipped and chromebooks all charged
- Being on time to lessons - DNAs - Do Now Activities commence at the start of lessons and students being on time is so important
- Following our Kingsdown BEATs - with thanks for referring to pages 28 - 33 in your child's planner and discussing together so they are really clear about all our expectations

During Tutor time our Great Kingsdown Learner sheet was shared with students which supports them in knowing our expectations, what these look like and why they are important. This sheet is now in your child's planner and provides an outline to your child of the different elements to a great Kingsdown lesson for your child to engage with to ensure they are fulfilling their potential each and every day. It explains how tasks are designed to stretch and challenge your child, and how students can best engage with the high quality explanations and modelling that take place to ensure they have the best possible chance of mastering new content being taught. Thank you for reviewing this with them.

Attendance

In term 2 we are going to focus on a 2 week attendance trend for students. If a student has 100% attendance for a consecutive 2 week period, their name will be entered into a draw and they can win their tutor group a reward (PE kit/non uniform day).

Tutors are also focusing on supporting students in their tutor group who have an attendance between 89% and 93% or who are persistently late. You will receive a call or email from the tutor to see how we can support your child further.

Attendance year to date = 92.7%% Persistent Absence year to date = 22.6 % [less than 90%] Lates = 3.1%			
	Attendance	PA	Lates
Year 7	95.1%	16.7%	1.4%
Year 8	92.9%	20.4%	2.6%
Year 9	91.7%	25.8%	4.3%
Year 10	92.2%	23.3%	3.1%
Year 11	90.5%	29.1%	4.8%

The Parent Portal

The parent portal can be accessed at the top right of the school website (you do not need a login for this). Here you can find key information on who to contact for any particular questions you may have and important details on our attendance and safeguarding policies. There is also information

available for all subjects your child is studying which you can read more about below. If you haven't already done so, please go into this section of our website to familiarise yourself with it and contact us if you have any further questions.

PD survey - Friday 15th November

In tutor time in the morning all students will be completing a survey around relationships, health and wellbeing. As a school we have a statutory duty to provide lessons about sex and relationships, mental and physical health, bullying and other health-related and safety issues. We provide this health and wellbeing education as part of our curriculum and to understand what our students need in this respect, we have commissioned a student voice survey which we intend to offer to students on this date, including your child. The survey has been developed over many years in conjunction with teachers, students, and parents. It has been used by schools and Local Authorities across the UK and more widely. The survey is anonymous, so we will not be able to trace individual students, and the results will come back to us as year group or whole school data.

Unfortunately, we do know that a minority of pupils take risks regarding their health and wellbeing, and the survey will include questions around issues such as sex and relationships, alcohol and other substances, gambling, self-harm etc, as well as the education the students are receiving in school about these topics. This is so we can assess if we need to be providing more help and information to keep our students healthy and safe.

The survey is age-appropriate, and we will only be asking students questions that are appropriate for their year group in line with the curriculum we are expected to teach. For example, older pupils will be asked about sexual relationships, but all pupils will be asked about topics such as bullying, vaping, smoking, and cannabis as we know these are relevant for all age groups.

If you do not wish your child to participate in this survey, please let your child's tutor know via email before Friday 15th, otherwise we will assume that you are happy for your child to be sent the survey link for them to access during this tutor time.

We will share the headline data with parents and governors, and we anticipate it will show that most students in our school understand and make healthy and safe choices.

Curriculum Journeys - what they are and where to access

Under the curriculum section of the parent portal you are able to view each subject's curriculum journey map under the 'subject information' section. These curriculum maps outline what topics students study at any particular point of the year and will allow you to track what your child is learning at different stages. Please familiarise yourself with these to ensure you have an overview of what your child is studying. We would very much welcome any questions you have.

Students actively engaged in their learning - Wandering & lost learning

We have seen a significant increase in the number of students who are wandering the school corridors during lesson time which is a trend that is replicated in schools across the country, including other River Learning Trust Schools. We want all students to leave Kingsdown School as well rounded individuals who have the qualifications that enable them to go onto further education and employment that they all aspire to. Students need to be actively engaged with their learning so that learning gaps do not widen so that we can support students to achieve their full potential. In order to reduce the number of students who are wandering during key learning time we have introduced the following:

- **Toilet access:** All students can use toilets before and after school, during lesson changeover and at break times and lunch times. We as a school will ensure that all toilets are accessible during these key times. Students who have a medical condition will be able to access a toilet at all times of the school day. If a student does not have a medical condition they need to access toilets during the accessible times and not during lessons.
- **Learning breaks:** Some of our students have reasonable adjustments in place where they are able to have a learning break. A learning break should be time limited and the purpose is for students to return to their learning within a reasonable time frame of 5 minutes. If a student is taking a learning break they will need to check in with one of the following members of staff: Mrs Daws in Inclusion; Mrs Hewett in the Matrix or Mrs Harker in Student Services and then

return to their learning. Students will be issued with a time ticket from the staff they check in with so that we can monitor how long they are away from their learning. If a student with a learning break is taking longer than they should for their learning break a consequence of 30 mins will be put in place.

Road safety - reminders to our students

An increasing number of students are cycling to school without helmets and lights. We prioritise the safeguarding of our students, this includes their journey to and from school. As mornings and nights are getting darker, it is more important than ever that our students are adhering to the bike permit expectations. Students cycling to and from school without helmets/lights will not be permitted to lock their bikes in the bike shed. Thank you for your support in such a key priority.

House Event - Celebration achievements from the ATLs

The house reward assemblies were held this week where we celebrated all of the wonderful achievements of students across all year groups in each house. It was wonderful to see so many students who have been demonstrating the Kingsdown BEATs in all that they do and showing pride in their achievement. Students were also commended for their overall attendance where we had a large number of students who have 100% attendance so far this year.

Year 11 term 2 up-date

A separate communication has been sent to our Yr 11 parents. Thank you for reading and championing our Yr 11s who start their Mocks next week and supporting them with full attendance.

Registering for FSM

Please contact our front office if you have any questions or need any support.

Future Events

- 11th Nov - 15 Nov - Literature Festival
- 11th Nov - 22nd Nov - Year 11 Mocks
- 11th Nov - Remembrance Day
- 12th Nov - Odd Sock Day
- 15th Nov - Non Uniform Day
- 20th Nov - Recital Evening 6.30pm
- 28th Nov - Year 8 Information Evening 5.30 - 6.30pm

Charity events next week

Monday 11th Nov - Remembrance day- We will be having a 1 minute silence at 11:11 on Monday to show our respect and and remember those who have given their life and served / are serving our country. The assemblies for this next week will be around Remembrance.

Tuesday 12th Nov - Odd sock day - We will be raising awareness for Children's mental health week by wearing odd socks (this is optional). We will not be collecting donations for this

Friday 15th Nov - Non uniform day - Students are invited to wear non-school uniform with a suggested donation of £1. Please ensure that your child comes in suitable clothing for school. We are looking forward to enjoying this day of celebration today.

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