



Kingsdown Secondary School

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

13th Jan 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year. All of us at Kingsdown hope you had a lovely holiday season despite the awful weather. It was lovely to see all the boys back this week and we are hoping to work with them to achieve even better results this term.

I would like to say a big thank you to all parents who were able to take some time from their busy schedule to attend the parent's consultation last term. We would also like to extend our gratitude to parents/carers who managed to attend and participate in our drumming, dancing and story telling workshop to mark the black history month. It will be a pleasure to see many of our parents/carers joining us in future workshop and celebrations.

Overall we were very pleased with pupils' progress last term even though some of our boys need to put in more effort particularly our year 11 pupils who have few months left to finish their course. The vast majority met or partially achieved their targets in all the academic subjects and where they did not it was usually due to erratic attendance.

We experienced some erratic attendance last term with some of our pupils; this could potentially affect their academic performance. We cannot emphasise enough how important regular and punctual attendance is if pupils are to be successful in their learning. We would like to use this opportunity to encourage parents/carers to make sure their children/wards are attending this term. The spring term is the shortest of the three terms, therefore the need for the boys to be in all times to finish their coursework particularly the BTEC courses.

I have the pleasure in enclosing your son/ward's termly target sheet. Most of you will have discussed this term's targets at the Consultation meetings on the last day of term. If you were not able to make those meetings and have any queries or concerns about the targets please do phone the school and make an appointment to come in and discuss them. Even if you did come at the end of term we are always happy to see you so if you would like to come in again just let us know.

Our next formal Parents/Carers Consultation Event will be on the last day of term – Wednesday March 23rd. We will send out more details nearer the time but it will include a Celebratory/Award Assembly and a Buffet lunch.

We would like to appeal to parents/carers to speak to their sons/wards regarding smoking. We have a non-smoking policy, therefore would be much easier for everyone if we ensure they do not leave home with cigarettes and its associated items such as lighters. We did organise a workshop on Smoking and Health last term to support those of our boys who are smokers to help them quit or to begin to discuss the subject. We will continue to support them but will also entreat parents/carers to encourage them to seek help.

Also a reminder that boys will be required to hand in all mobile phones and any other electronic gadgets at the start of the day and will not be given them back until home time. It would be much easier for everyone if you ensured boys did not leave home with these items in the first place but if they must have phones etc with them we hope you will remind them

that they will need to hand them in and support us when boys are found in possession of banned items. We will be wandering every day this term for the protection of everyone.

In the event of bad weather forcing a school closure we will make every effort to phone you as early as possible but the website will have up to the minute information about whether the school is open or closed for the day. We have started putting information under parents page on the websites particularly letters, homework and information on safeguarding.

Our half term break is between 15th-19th February 2016. We will be closing for the Easter's break on 23rd of March 2016 which will also be the parent consultation, Awards and Buffet Lunch. Our usual Easter service will be held at Sanderstead Evangelical church on the Monday 21st March 2016. On the Tuesday 22nd March students will be attending their usual vocational studies at NESCOLT College. We will kindly ask parents/carers to mark down these dates in their diary particularly the parents consultation date.

We started looking at post16 preparations with our students last term and would like to continue this term. It will be helpful if parents/carers could remind their son/wards' of the importance of post16 preparations and also encourage them to attend the open days of colleges of their choice.

Even though we have sent exams schedule for this term to you I would like to reiterate it:

8th January 2016 - BTEC Hospitality External written examination

13th January 2016- Functional Skills maths exams

4th February 2016- BTEC ICT online external exams

4th March 2016 - BTEC Science external written exams

We look forward to another successful and productive term.

Best wishes

Yusif Assim
Head of School

