



Kingsdown Secondary School

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

22nd September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

A very warm welcome back to all parents, both old and new and I hope that you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer holiday. It has been nice to welcome our boys back for the 2016-2017 academic year after the long break. We missed them. I do hope you feel refreshed and ready for the new academic year.

Overall we were pleased with pupils' GCSE results last term but we would like to work harder to make it better. Our Year 11 cohort results was an improvement from the previous year. All students entered for exams achieved 100% GCSE A-G for Mathematic and English. Overall 4 of the students received 4-5 GCSE or equivalents passes. It just goes to show what our pupils can achieve if they put their minds to it. Our teachers deserve praise for all their hard work – they never give up and it pays off in the end. I have the pleasure in enclosing a copy of the term dates, homework timetable and the student's target sheet. You will also find our Year Booklet very interesting covering the 2015-2016 academic year. I have also enclosed the revised Behaviour and Sanctions/Rewards policy and will appreciate if parent/carers could go over it again with their son/ward.

PE

In PE this term, our boys will be doing boxing and swimming on Mondays and Thursdays respectively. Please note which days your son/ward will need PE kit (all boys go to PE on a Mondays and Thursdays). We have also introduced the Duke of Edinburgh Award this year for our year 10 and 11 boys. This will be run by the PE department. All students who are able to finish all the course units will receive a certificate.

Vocational

We would like to reiterate the information sent to parents/carers before the summer break regarding vocational studies this term for the keystone 4 students (Year 10 and 11). We have changed vocational studies provider from Nescot to Ilderton Motor Mechanic Project. Our boys will have the opportunity to choose either motorbike or car mechanics. At the end of the course they will obtain a vocational certificate. Also the day for the vocational studies has been changed to Wednesdays and Year 10 and 11 can come to school in their own clothes. I have enclosed a leaflet explaining the details of the course. If you need any further information please do not hesitate to call the school.

Life Skills/Preparation for working

In addition to the above we have started teaching Preparation for Working Life to support our boys in developing the needed skills for post-16 education/career. They will have the opportunity to visit some corporate organisations such as the BBC and other career fairs.

Attendance

We will be working with parent/carers and other partners to help improve the attendance of our boys. We like to congratulate those who were able to make 85% and above and encourage others to improve on their attendance. If the boys are not in school they cannot learn which will then impact on their progress and achievement. If your son/ward is going to be absent

please call Lisa to inform her as soon as possible and try to fix medical/dental appointments etc outside of school time.

Courtesy

It is important that we are able to encourage our boys to behave in a polite way at home and school. Ensuring that pupils always say please and thank you, and learn to show respect towards others are vital life skills. As a school we believe it is our responsibility to focus on helping our boys to acquire social skills as well as academic achievement in order to ensure they are properly prepared for the world outside Kingsdown. We are reinforcing behaviour of the week reward to encourage our boys to achieve this goal. We will do our best to work in partnership with you in this task!

Uniform

We would be grateful if all parents/carers could ensure that their child is dressed in the correct uniform. Trousers should be tailored and black. Shoes should be black or dark navy blue. PE kit should be worn for all PE lessons, and should be in school every Monday and Thursday. We suggest that trainers are appropriate for the field.

Time keeping

As usual it is worth emphasising that the school doors open at 8.25 a.m. All pupils need to arrive by 8.40 a.m. to give them time to hang up coats and get organised before 8.45 a.m. If students want to have the breakfast they must arrive by 8.30. Persistent lateness wastes learning time.

Staying Safe

The overall wellbeing and success of your child starts with them feeling safe both in and outside of school. Keeping safe is incorporated into the formal and informal curriculum for students at Kingsdown. Should you require further copies of these just ask the school office or look them up on our school website?

Medical/Contact Form

I am also enclosing a new medical form for you to complete. Please return this as soon as possible in the stamp addressed envelope provided. This is particularly important if there have been any changes and for pupils in KS4 because we will be sharing it with our work related learning partners (e.g. Ilderton).

The Term Ahead

Break up for half-term Friday **21st October**

Half-term break **24th October – 28th October 2016**

Pupils return from Half-term break **Monday 31st October**

Christmas Carols **Monday 14th December 2016**

Parent/carer consultation & Christmas lunch **Tuesday 15th December**

End of autumn term **Wednesday 16th December 2016**

With best wishes

Yusif Assim

Head of School