



## End of Year Newsletter 2023-24

Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again we have had a busy and eventful year at Kingstone, we have said goodbye to our Year 11s with a wonderful Prom at the Left Bank and are fully subscribed in our Year 7 cohort for September. We are also saying goodbye to some members of staff who are moving on from Kingstone and welcoming new members to join our team. Our farewells this year go to Mr McGuire in Science, Mrs Morgan in MFL, Mrs Wright in Food and Mrs Townsend, our Exams Officer, who is retiring. We wish them all the best for the future. We will be welcoming Mrs Burnside and Mrs Robey into science, Ms Elliot into music, Mr Bromage into PE and Business Studies, Mrs Fox into Food and Nutrition and Ms Healy into Humanities.

There are also changes to the Head of Year structure, Miss Bythell is Head of Key Stage 3 – Years 7, 8 and 9 and Miss Parker is Head of Key Stage 4, Years 10 and 11, and to the Pastoral structure. Mrs Darcy is Pastoral Lead for years 7 and 8, Mrs Seymour the lead for Year 9 and Mrs Morris the lead for years 10 and 11, supported by Mrs Roden.

We are fortunate to have staff that give so much of their time to organise trips, this year we have had a ski trip for the first time in many years and a trip to Normandy just after the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day which was fantastic timing. In addition there were a series of theatre and city trips for each year group before Christmas last year. We really value how these opportunities enhance the curriculum we offer and bring a wider cultural understanding to our students.



**Normandy 2024** “A standout experience for Year 8 was the tour of Normandy in June during the 80th Anniversary Commemoration of D-Day, where we explored the D-Day landing sites and the medieval town of Bayeux. We embarked on an epic journey with over 80 students, which included an unplanned sleepover in the Sports Hall due to a transport delay. Nevertheless, we completed our planned itinerary and even added some extra sites of interest. Our visits included Arromanches Mulberry Harbour, The Merville Battery, Pegasus Bridge, and the D-Day Experience, the highlight of which was a simulated plane ride during the Normandy landings. Additionally, we made a poignant visit to the British Normandy Memorial to experience the Standing With Giants

installation. Back at school, we integrated our D-Day experiences into the Creative Curriculum and crafted our own memorial. The trip to Bayeux offered a chance to immerse ourselves in a French market and practice speaking French, guided by a Cultural Challenge booklet from Mrs. Jones of the MFL Faculty. The Bayeux Tapestry visit was a bucket-list worthy highlight, enriching the curriculum for those considering History at GCSE, where they further study the Norman Conquest. Reflecting on this incredible tour, we are eager to repeat the experience, incorporating new ideas and, perhaps, skipping the cheese factory. My thanks go to Miss Bythell and Miss Parker for their diligence in planning such a large trip, along with staff in our finance office who had so many passports to process.” Mrs McLachlan

## Creative Curriculum

“This year saw the school launch its Creative Curriculum over the last 3½ weeks. The idea was to create some space in the school calendar, to provide students with the opportunities to do things that would not normally be possible within the constraints of the normal timetable. Consequently, we have students having the opportunity to try new activities, visit new places and learn new things. This has included some students having the opportunity to try Boxing



and Surfing and all students in Year 8 had the opportunity to gain a certificate in First Aid. There have been educational trips to places such as Shrewsbury Prison, Blists Hill Victorian Village and a variety of different places of worship. We have had a range of guest speakers including the singer ‘Ladybyrd’, a Court Custody Manager and a visitor from Hereford Knife Angels. Students have also

found out about D Day and the Parliament which led to the school having a Mock Election, which the Reform Party actually won! Talking with students and staff, they have identified many different highlights and the concept is something that we are looking to replicate in some format next year. If you have any feedback on the Creative Curriculum, please email me your views to [mbooy@kingstoneacademy.co.uk](mailto:mbooy@kingstoneacademy.co.uk). We have popped some photographs in a gallery on the website for you to see.” Mr Booy

## Changes for September 2024

In September there will be some changes to the timetable as we move to a 2 week timetable with 5 one hour lessons per day. Students will be given planners to help them manage the changes to the timetable as well as continuing to use GO4 schools for homework. The first planner will be provided free of charge, but should it be lost, damaged or defaced planner, it will be requirement to pay for a new one.

New learning packs will be available for year 7 students and students in other year groups can replace theirs if need, as they are available to purchase on ParentPay for £2.55. Students are required to have 2 writing pens (black ink), 1 purple pen, 1 HB pencil, 1 highlighter pen, ruler, rubber, calculator, headphones. Spares are always useful.



## New Timings for the School Day

Time	Plan
8.50am – 9.00am	Morning Registration
9.00am – 10.00am	Period 1
10.00am – 11.00am	Period 2
11.00am – 11.20am	Break Time
11.20am – 12.20pm	Period 3
12.20pm – 1.20pm	Period 4
1.20pm – 2.00pm	Lunch Time
2.00pm – 2.20pm	Afternoon Registration / Assembly
2.20pm – 3.20pm	Period 5

## Week A and Week B on our 2 week timetable

Autumn Term			Spring Term			Summer Term		
Week #	Week Beginning	Timetable Week	Week #	Week Beginning	Timetable Week	Week #	Week Beginning	Timetable Week
1	02.09.2024	A	15	06.01.2025	A	28	28.04.2025	B
2	09.09.2024	B	16	13.01.2025	B	29	05.05.2025	A
3	16.09.2024	A	17	20.01.2025	A	30	12.05.2025	B
4	23.09.2024	B	18	27.01.2025	B	31	19.05.2025	A
5	30.09.2024	A	19	03.02.2025	A	Half-Term		
6	07.10.2024	B	20	10.02.2025	B	32	02.06.2025	B
7	14.10.2024	A	Half-Term			33	09.06.2025	A
8	21.10.2024	B	21	24.02.2025	A	34	16.06.2025	B
Half-Term			22	03.03.2025	B	35	23.06.2025	A
9	11.11.2024	A	23	10.03.2025	A	36	30.06.2025	B
10	18.11.2024	B	24	17.03.2025	B	37	07.07.2025	A
11	25.11.2024	A	25	24.03.2025	A	38	14.07.2025	B
12	02.12.2024	B	26	31.03.2025	B	End of Summer Term and Academic Year		
13	09.12.2024	A	27	07.04.2025	A			
14	16.12.2024	B	End of Spring Term					
End of the Autumn Term								

## A new One-way System

In order to reduce congestion, there will be a one-way system in place for most of the school from September. This will further support our school principles of Ready, Respectful and Safe. This will reduce the large volume of children passing each other in narrow corridors and on the stairs.

As lessons will be 60 minutes, and with the one-way system in place, there will be a 5 minute transition time, which will only apply between lessons / classrooms and not at the start of the day, or after break and lunch to allow time to get to the next lesson.

## Changes to the Kingstone High School Uniform

There is a new PE kit, which will be phased in, and a new skirt. The new pleated logoed school skirt is compulsory for all year 7 students. For other year groups, only when skirts get replaced do they need to be wearing the new style. However, this is as long as their existing skirts are the appropriate length and material as stated in our uniform policy – just above the knee and not made of Lycra.

If any students come into school in September with an inappropriate skirt – either in length or material – parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child and to return them to school in an appropriate skirt or purchase the new one.

We have had concerns about the length of skirts for some time and despite attempts to amend this throughout the year many skirts are still worn too short, which is also a safeguarding concern.

We have worked hard with the school uniform shop to reduce the cost of uniform and PE kit whilst retaining the quality and durability. There is more information on this including pricing on the website.



### **Jewellery**

Only a watch and one small stud earring in each ear lobe is permitted. No other jewellery is permitted. Students will be asked to remove them or they will be confiscated. Outside of school, students can have other piercings (when not in uniform and with parental consent). However, other than a small stud earring in each ear lobe, they need to be removed when in school and/or in school uniform. Tape and/or clear studs to disguise jewellery will not be permitted.

### **Mobile Phones**

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents of the Mobile Phone Policy. Students are allowed to bring mobile phones to school however the mobile phones MUST remain switched off, and remain in the student's school bag – out of sight and not to be used during the hours of 8.50am -3.20pm. Any visible phone will be confiscated – this includes the front pocket of PE hoodies. Our policy is in line with Government recommendations and research that evidences the distraction that mobile phones have on learning and student concentration.

### **And finally .....**

Due to our Insurance and Risk Assessments no dogs are permitted on site including in the bus bay area, this applies particularly at pick up and drop off time. Thank you for your understanding in the matter.

**GCSE Results day is Thursday 22nd August.** Results will be available for collection from school. Year 11 collect between 10am-11am and Year 10 collect between 11am -12noon.

I would like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday period and look forward to seeing all students ready for the new term on Wednesday 4 September 2024.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Butler". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mr L Butler  
Head teacher