**April 2025**

**APRIL UPDATE FOR PARENTS**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now at the end of the Spring term and look forward to the promise of better weather and the shorter half-term coming up. We are currently busy getting our Summer events ready, which culminate in our Sports Day and Activity Days in July.

**Headteacher Appointment**

Following a rigorous two-day selection process last week, Mr. Paul Averis has been appointed to the post of Headteacher at Kingsmead. He will take up his position for the new school year in September.

Mr. Averis has a long and established teaching career, having held six senior leadership positions in schools, including Headteacher posts. He is currently the Principal at a school in Birmingham, where he has led the school from pre-opening and has remained the lead professional for over 3 years. Mr. Averis is planning to undertake a number of preliminary visits to Kingsmead in the summer term in order to meet staff and the school community, and to prepare for his new post.

**Attendance**

Attendance has continued to improve during this half-term. We are pleased to see that more and more students are getting here, every day, ready to learn, and on time. With Year 11s and 13s starting their exams, we are reminded of the importance of strong attendance throughout a child’s whole time at secondary school. Recent research from the DfE indicates that students who only attend 85-90% of the time reduce their chances of a GCSE grade 5 in English and Maths by half.

**Kingsmead Values in Action**

We have received a number of compliments regarding Kingsmead students in and around our community. These are from people unconnected to the school. They have been described as polite, smart and respectful. We love to hear that our students continue to behave as well as they do in school, in our local area.

**Uniform**

We too have seen our students stepping up. They do generally look smart and behave well. We are not having to challenge for nose studs, which are not allowed in our school uniform, and students are wearing appropriate footwear. However, we do want to remind students that they should only wear

appropriate skirts and trousers, not leggings. We have seen a small number of these reappearing and will be checking in tutor groups after the break. We do have high expectations and standards, and we know that you support us with this.

**Revision Sessions**

There are revision sessions for Year 11 and Year 13 that run through the Easter holiday period. We know from student feedback that they appreciate the time given by staff for this and to learn with their friends. The sessions have been shared on MCAS to parents and to students separately.

We wish all our families a lovely Easter break and look forward to seeing the children back at school, for a Week 1, and 8:30am start on Monday, 28th April 2025. School is open from 8.00am for students and lesson start promptly at 8:30am.

Best wishes,

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Mr. S. Cope

Acting Headteacher

**Dates For Your Diary**

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| Date | Event |
| 28/04/25 | EXAMS: GCSE Languages speaking exam window starts |
| 28/04/25 | EXAMS: BTEC external and NEA window for assessments continues |
| 30/04/25 | MOCK EXAMS: Year 10 and Year 12 trial exams start |
| 05/05/25 | Bank Holiday Monday |
| 06/05/25 | EXAMS: A-Level Art starts |
| 08/05/25 | EXAMS: GCSE main exam window of assessments starts |
| 12/05/25 | EXAMS: A level main exam window of assessments starts |
| 26/05/25 | Half-term holiday |