**February 2025**

**FEBRUARY UPDATE FOR PARENTS**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We come to the end of the penultimate week of the half-term. The school’s production continues to garner huge acclaim from everyone who sees it. It is a great way to see the talent and dedication of Kingsmead students.

**Evolving our Sixth Form Provision**

We are excited about the plans that Student Leaders and the Sixth Form team have for further developing our Sixth Form provision. With growing numbers and the need for flexibility regarding learning styles, we are progressing quickly with some notable changes. A new food and drinks area is planned, as well as a larger group learning area to complement the current quieter study facility. The support team in Sixth Form will also increase in size and staff are already delivering 1-to-1 help and small group tutorials.

**Attendance**

We enter Spring next month, hopefully clearing those winter colds. We know that students socially benefit from being in school, with friends and that learning is easier with no gaps in it. Even if they aren’t at their best, being here ‘*helps students to get there*.’ Specifically, by being in school and arriving on time ready to learn, students are more likely to go on and do the things they want to after leaving Kingsmead (i.e. in further and higher education, as well as in the world of work).

**Mrs. Derry**

Mrs. Derry is retiring at the end of February having worked at Kingsmead for twenty years. She has been an integral part of the school’s continued success and supported in many roles, predominantly as the Head’s PA and then Office Manager. Mrs. Derry has also been front of house, Governor Clerk, school event organiser and student and staff wellbeing support. We are grateful for everything Mrs. Derry has done for Kingsmead’s children, parents and staff.

**Revision Sessions**

There are ‘masterclass’ revision sessions for Years 11 and 13 running during the early part of the half-term holiday. We know from student feedback that they appreciate the time given by staff for this and the opportunity to revise with their friends. Letter invitations for these sessions have been shared directly with students and can also be viewed in the Reports section of MCAS.

**Kirkland Rowell School Survey**

We appreciate the number of parents and students who contributed to the November Trust School survey. It was heartening to hear the positive comments and recognition of how the school supports our students and families.

* Particular strengths were: developing moral values, careers advice, security, caring teachers, discipline and quality of teaching.
* Areas that have improved, but we continue to drive, are: ensuring regular communication when needed and school facilities.

We will be running more parent forums, like we have before, after half-term. We would like to explore how we can further develop home learning, as well as the feedback and expectations for this. We would also like to look at lunch times and promoting the alternative options for students which run alongside programmes like the Highflyers.

**School Gates**

A reminder that students should ONLY enter and leave the school through the following:

* The gate on Littleworth Road by the tennis courts
* The gate opening directly onto Rocky Park on Wood Lane

We also would like parent’s help, as some students are being dropped off on Forge Street, directly outside school’s main entrance. This is a very narrow road and as a large school, traffic at the start and end of the day can be problematic. Dropping off a little further away from the school improves the safety for everyone.

**First Aid**

We have a First Aid room here at Kingsmead. The team, led by Mrs. Taylor, support by ensuring students receive First Aid. We have had a few cases now of students seeking broader medical advice, similar to that from visiting a doctor. Unfortunately, we do not have the sufficient level of medical expertise to help in this way. Our First Aid Centre opens from 9:30am, unless there is an emergency, and only looks to provide the help needed for students to return to lessons, where possible.

**World Book Day**

We are excited to announce that World Book Day is approaching on Thursday, 7th March 2025, and we have a fun packed day planned to celebrate the joy of reading with our students:

Dress-Up Day

To make the day special, we invite all students to come dressed as their favourite book character. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to share their favourite stories and characters with their peers. If your child does not want to participate in the dress-up, we expect them to be in full school uniform as normal.

Activities and Events

Throughout the day, there are various activities designed to foster a love for reading, including:

* Book Swap - We encourage students to bring in used books to exchange with their peers, promoting the sharing of stories and ideas,
* Creative Competitions and Library Fayre - Students can participate in competitions and activities throughout the day which will be based in the school library,
* £1 Book Tokens - Each student will receive a £1 book token, which can be exchanged for a special World Book Day book or used to get £1 off any book or audiobook (T+C apply).

We wish all our families a lovely half-term break. We look forward to seeing your children back at school for an 8:30am start on Monday, 24th February. School will be open from 8:00am for students.

Yours faithfully,

A close up of a logo

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Mr. S. Cope

Acting Headteacher

**Dates For Your Diary**

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| Date | Event |
| 24/02/25 | Year 9 Options interviews start |
| 01/03/25 | Invited students trip to Concord College |
| 03/03/25 – 07/03/25 | Year 11 & 13 March Trial Exams |
| 06/03/25 | World Book Day |
| 06/03/25 | Year 10 Apprenticeship taster session |
| 11/03/25 | Year 9 High Flyers |
| 13/03/25 | Aim Higher Evening (Year 10 – options for the future) |
| 14/03/25 | Pi Day – Maths based events throughout the day |
| 14/03/25 | Particle Physics Masterclass trip to Rutherford Appleton Laboratory |
| 17/03/25 | MenAcwy/TdIPV Boosters (Year 9) |
| 24/03/25 | An Inspector Calls production |
| 26/03/25 | In-person Year 8 Parents’ Evening |
| 27/03/25 | Year 10 Mock interview day |
| 28/03/25 - 28/03/25 | Silver DofE expedition |
| 01/04/25 - 02/04/25 | GCSE Geography Fieldwork Day (2 alternatives) |
| 03/04/25 | HPV Vaccinations Year 8 |
| 07/04/25 – 08/04/25 | GCSE Art Practical Exam |
| 9/04/25 – 11/04/25 | GCSE Languages Speaking Exam Window |
| 10/04/25 | KS3 Disco |