

# Newsletter

Issue 1 Vol 1 - 23.06.2020



Dear Kingswood Community,

It is with great pleasure that I am able to send you the first newsletter which I am hoping to send out twice per term to keep you updated with the goings-on at KSA especially during these very turbulent and uncertain times.

I want to personally thank you for your overwhelming support towards the school and our staff as we have been navigating the changing COVID related landscape. It has been a complex affair for schools across the nation, to re-organise and plan so that we can provide learning platforms for all students and arrange for students to be safely brought into school following the guidance. We are now potentially moving to a much broader opening of school provision for the Autumn. We will as ever, keep you updated as to any changes and how this might affect us all.

I also wanted to thank my Team here at KSA for their incredible hard work. I am very fortunate to be leading such an able group of talented and dedicated individuals. The site team have been keeping the school safe and open everyday. The safeguarding team have been checking regularly on our most vulnerable students and working with the local authority and other partners to keep students safe. The teachers and teaching assistants have been developing resources, developing their own knowledge and competence with online learning and then coming in to deliver face to face sessions as well as keeping online learning and assessment going. Administrative and data personnel have been dealing with new GCSE and A Level grade submission processes to ensure fairness and accuracy for our students. In addition, all our staff with pastoral responsibilities including tutors, Heads and Deputy Heads of Year have been calling or emailing their own tutees/year groups as frequently as possible so that we can stay in touch. This has been a mammoth task and certainly something that we have never had to face in education ever before. All this in the context of planning for a new year, with new students, transition, planning new learning schemes and our ongoing whole school improvement journey, recruitment and timetabling in the face of absolute uncertainty has been no easy task. So I want to personally thank the team here at KSA for being incredible throughout and for doing their utmost to support our students and families even if largely remotely and for adapting so beautifully to often daily changing guidance.

I also want to thank parents and students for your positive engagement, your supportive emails and phone conversations and for keeping us updated as we have endeavoured to keep you updated. We are fully aware that this period is and has been difficult for many of us, not least those directly affected by Covid, working on the front line in hospitals and nursing homes with some of you being close to or having contracted Covid yourselves. We would like to thank you for your incredible courage and we wish any of you affected a speedy recovery as we all look forward to spending more time safely and healthily with our wider and extended families in the coming months.

In this newsletter, the aim is for you to get an insight into how the wheels of KSA have continued and will continue to turn and what we can look forward to as we begin to emerge from what has been a very worrying and complex period for us all.

I wish you all well and look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes

Mrs Newman.



## Goodbye Year 11's!!!

I know I speak for Mrs Browning and many of the Kingswood staff, when I say that this day will be ever etched into my memories as one of the saddest days in my teaching career. 18<sup>th</sup> March will go down in history as the day that education held its breath! And although we were on the home straight heading towards exams, revision, study hub, prom, I will always look back have an air of 'what ifs'. Indeed, the only way I was able to reason with Year 11 and their early departure, was by telling them that they will go down in history as the year group that never sat GCSEs; not a bad feat! However, things didn't stop on that day, both myself and Mrs B have been in daily contact with the majority of Year 11 who will answer their emails or calls from their form tutors to provide support and guidance, whether it be coping with their well-being or college applications, to where they could walk their dogs!

Once we do have some clarity on group gatherings, I have promised Year 11 they WILL have a celebration evening and they WILL have a prom, all those dreams of wearing your favourite outfits Year 11 will not vanish; our day will come. 😊



# Year 6 Transition



Transition in any year is difficult; this year it will be a minor miracle!! Whilst Year 6 may have been stuck at home wondering what was going to happen, all the primary and secondary schools in the community have come together to ensure every child has the most supported transition we can provide, under the challenging circumstances. Although they have missed out on meetings and information evenings, we are trying our hardest to ensure that every child has a transition booklet and have access to the interschool Big Read project. Kingswood has also provided a fortnightly newsletter, to ensure parents are up-to-date with the latest information and our website has also been revamped, with further support and guidance on how to help parents support their youngsters with transition and lots of activities to hopefully reassure and allay any fears coming to secondary school. Similarly, once we do have clarity on social gatherings, hopefully Year 6 will have an invitation to come and visit before September.

## Transition Timetable

Week beginning	Action
15/06/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Newsletter for Year 6 – ABo sent to all parents/webpage</li><li>• All Year 6 on class spreadsheet with all their data</li><li>• SIMs all updated</li><li>• JS &amp; AM notes on DSP and weekly Teams meetings with primaries regarding DSP</li></ul>
22/06/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ABo/video ABO &amp; MN</li><li>• Additional transition booklets collaboration between Kingswood &amp; Lodge Park</li><li>• EC contacted primaries to arrange Teams meetings and personal notes on children</li><li>• DSP Team meeting</li></ul>
29/06/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter- form tutors introduction &amp; sorting out form groups</li><li>• First round of Teams meetings with students in primary schools</li><li>• DSP Team meeting</li></ul>
06/07/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Second round of teams meetings</li><li>• DSP Team meeting</li></ul>
13/07/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> Newsletter</li><li>• Final round of Teams meetings</li><li>• Letter to go home with the latest guidance and September proposals</li></ul>



# Home Learning Guidance

## PUPILS

1. Have a routine and stick to it.
2. Do your work and contact your teacher in normal school hours.
3. Take regular breaks away from your TV, computer and mobile phone.
4. Be safe online — don't share passwords or personal information with anybody ever.
5. Stay in touch with your teacher and ask questions via your school email address.
6. Submit work weekly via your school email address.
7. Complete a mindfulness activity every day e.g. writing in a diary, listing reasons to be positive, meditating, notice the changing seasons.
8. The Golden Rules still apply — think about how you speak to your teachers and parents.
9. Stay active. Complete the PE lesson every day at 9am with Joe Wicks.
10. If you are in danger then email [dscallan@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org](mailto:dscallan@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org)

## PARENTS

1. Take an interest — if you are enthusiastic then your child is more likely to be.
2. Establish a routine.
3. Monitor online activity and use safety controls and privacy restrictions.
4. Encourage your child to read and read with them — the news, a story, anything helps.
5. Keep learning devices in shared spaces in the home.
6. Encourage breaks away from a screen.
7. Ask questions, if you have any, via the email address for your child's head of year.
8. Expect your child to be completing work on a regular basis.
9. If your child does not have a device and internet access let school know by phone or using the home learning email address so that alternative arrangements can be put in place.
10. Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health as well as their learning.

### EMAIL ADDRESS

[firstinitialsurname@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org](mailto:firstinitialsurname@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org) e.g.

[smandziuk@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org](mailto:smandziuk@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org)

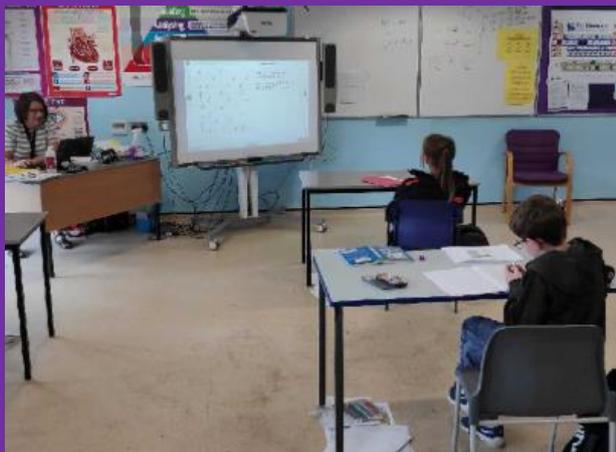


## Year 10 last week

It has been great to have been welcoming some of Y10 back earlier this week. Of those Y10 who we were expecting in the attendance has been excellent, their attitude been great and lots of work going on in Sports Studies, GCSE PE, Engineering, Food Tech as well as some students working well in a study group. It has been frustrating to have had to close down this week, but we look forward to reopening the Year 10 provision from next Monday (22nd June). To be clear any individual Year 10 student can only attend one agreed bubble on one occasion per week, it is not possible for students to attend different bubbles on different days.



## Key Worker Provision



Kingswood opened its own critical worker provision on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June. All places have been allocated, but we are hoping to expand beyond the 24 currently available before the summer break. Students arrive at 9am and have a varied timetable that over the week incorporates numeracy, literacy, PE, wellbeing, PHSE, humanities, science and art. We have even managed to do some gardening, and hopefully by time we return to the new 'normal' we will be growing some of the vegetables for the kitchen to use!

Students and staff have enjoyed being back at school, albeit in a carefully controlled, socially distanced way. Some of the students have welcomed the inclusion of wellbeing to the curriculum each day. On Mondays and Tuesdays, one of our Learning Support Assistants is taking the students through the breathe programme. Students identified that their behaviour at home has improved because they are able to have more structure to their day, and as one student said 'It has been good because before I would be waking up at 2pm but now I am up at 7am.'



## Key Information

Free school meal vouchers are coming through to families much quicker now and it seems that most of the initial teething problems have now been resolved. If you are still having any issues with them, please email [psanderson@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org](mailto:psanderson@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org).

We can also advise that the year 10 laptops have arrived this week and we hope to distribute them to families as soon as possible.



In the autumn term all years (with exception to year 11), will be expected to wear the school blazer. To improve safeguarding and our ability to identify students, we have introduced different coloured ties for each year group/ These will be provided for year 8, 9 and 10 as it is a change in uniform. The tie colour will stay with each year group until they leave the school so there is no need to purchase a new tie each year.



# Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains our number one priority for us at Kingswood during this unprecedented time. With students having been at home for months and having very little of their normal social interactions we are finding that many of our young people the level of social isolation to be hard and in many cases quite stressful whilst also spending more time online. To support your children, please find some links regarding mental health and wellbeing along with guidance on staying safe online.

The Academy Website has links to many organisations and support providers both Nationally and in the local community:

<https://www.kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org/page/?title=Mental-Health-and-Well-Being&pid=150>

We also provide regular updates, tips and support through our Twitter page:

<https://twitter.com/KingswoodAcad>

In addition, the websites and information pages linked below, provide fantastic resources and information on how to support your children.

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

<https://www.nhs.uk/uncyow/every-mind-matters/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

The Children's Society has a range of support materials for young people and parents in their mental and emotional health resource 'vault' including anxiety, depression and low mood, loneliness, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), phobias, self-care and Emotional and mental resilience. The resources can be found here: <http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/coronavirus-information-and-support>

Finally, a new App called 'Houseparty' has recently started to become very popular. Although in most cases the App provides a great source of face-to-face video chat (vital whilst we are self-isolating and protecting the most vulnerable members of society), there have been a number of concerns raised about this App and others being used inappropriately. A range of 'How To' guides for parents can be found here:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/partners/nspcc-n2-online-safety-partnership/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

<https://pxxp5rs168nsac2n3fnjyaa-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Internet-Matters-Secondary-School-Guide-A4.pdf>

<https://pxxp5rs168nsac2n3fnjyaa-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Internet-Matters-Guide-Online-safety.pdf>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

If you would like any further advice, guidance or support please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor, head of year or deputy head of year in the first instance and please stay safe during this challenging time.

