



Serva Fidem

Headmaster: Mr. Duncan Murphy BA (Hons), MEd, FRSA
Member of IAPS & Society of Heads

Tuesday 8th January 2019

Dear Parents

I trust you enjoyed a relaxing Christmas holiday with your families.

It is a great pleasure to welcome back the boys this morning at the start of a busy and exhilarating Spring Term. In my first assembly, as is customary at this time of year, I will highlight the significance of New Year as an apposite time for reflection and ambition. I shall challenge the boys to make up their own resolutions and set themselves some attainable targets for the months ahead.

In the near future, there are some natural opportunities for this to be put into practice. Our Year 11 boys have important mock GCSE examinations upon their return to school whilst some of the Year 6 pupils have impending 11+ pre-tests. There will also be school examinations for Year 9 after half term. All of the teaching and support staff wish the boys the very best of luck in these endeavours.

I offer a warm welcome to our new, as well as our returning, members of staff: Gemma Lindley is back from maternity leave as Head of Maths; Tom Laudy joins the Sports Department and will also teach general subjects; Bernice Forbes returns as a specialist English teacher and Gemma Hylands starts as a teaching assistant. I wish them all a long and successful association with the school.

The Kingswood House Way character value for this term is INTEGRITY. Some of the key aspects of this quality, which we shall be exploring in more depth with the boys, are loyalty, trust and kindness. On a related note, I congratulate Edward Bolton upon his appointment as a Y8 school prefect at the end of last term and hope to make further promotions dependent upon each individual's consistency of behaviour and application of these values.

The subject enrichment focus for this half of term is The Arts. You will receive more information about some exciting opportunities across Creative and Performing Arts, Design Technology and Music in due course, including an inaugural House Singing Competition! The subject enrichment focus in the second half of term will be Science. We will also hold a mufti day, with the theme of 'Journeys', for World Book Day on Thursday 7th March – so get your thinking hats on for some interesting costumes!

Reminders

There continues to be some pressure in respect of parking in and around the School, especially at pick up time. Please act with consideration for other drivers, pedestrians and especially our neighbours. When possible, parents should use the car park and drive around it clockwise at the start and end of the day. Naturally, it would be helpful if all parents were punctual, especially whilst the end of the school day is still dark. Please do collect a KHS car sticker for your vehicle from the school office if you do not already have one on display. I am due to meet again with the traffic councillor, and host local residents later this term, in order to work in partnership with them so any evidence I can show about how the school is addressing their comments will be invaluable.

I should like to meet with Year 5 parents during the course of the Spring Term and review their son's all-round progress. Please kindly make an appointment at your earliest convenience with Mrs Harding, Headmaster's PA, by emailing office@kingswoodhouse.org or telephoning 01372 723590.

Important Dates

Mrs Watkins and her team have been working extremely hard on the school production of *Pandemonium*. Please do support the boys by bringing along family or friends to one of the evening performances on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 February at the Adrian Mann theatre, NESCOL. I wish all of the cast well and look forward to seeing the fruits of their labours on stage in the not too distant future!

The Ski Trip (Friday 15 February) and Jersey Tour (Tuesday 12 March) are both popular and exciting events for many of our boys whilst a Duke of Edinburgh expedition (Friday 22 March) offers great team-building opportunities for our Year 9 cohort. There is the hotly-anticipated KHA Quiz Night shortly after half term (Thursday 28 February) as well as the KHA Sporting Dinner at the end of term (Thursday 28 March) with a mystery guest speaker to look forward to!

Open Mornings will take place in the last week of February, including the morning of Saturday 2nd March, and please be aware that boys in Year 7-11 are expected to attend and help with tours for visitors. Please make a note of this date for your reference.

Details for the Year 7 and Year 9 KHS Scholarship Morning (Saturday 9th February) are available on the school website or you are welcome to speak to James March, Director of Studies, about any aspect of the process.

We are also hosting a Sixth Form Open Evening (Thursday 24th January) and a Senior Lecture (Thursday 21st March) for all Senior boys and parents as well as a GCSE Options Evening (Thursday 7th March) for Year 9 boys and parents. Please note that these are compulsory events for the Senior boys.

In the meantime, there are various parents' evenings and drop in opportunities for most year groups, all of which are in the calendar, but in keeping with our 'open door' policy you are always welcome to email, ring or arrange a meeting with a member of staff via the school office if you have a query.

I look forward to a productive term ahead.

Yours sincerely



Duncan Murphy

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