



KINGSTONE

SCHOOL OF CREATIVITY
WITH ARTS FOR ALL

What follows is a snapshot that I hope will give you a genuine insight into Kingstone School. What tends to strike visitors to the school is that it is a calm and human place, where relationships between adults and children are courteous and invariably positive. In other words, it is a school in which teachers and pupils can learn, grow and develop together. The pastoral system provides an unambiguous framework within which pupils and teachers can be creative and rich learning can take place.

Kingstone is a genuine comprehensive; pupils join us from a wide variety of backgrounds. The school has been oversubscribed and we hope it will to remain so. Whilst the school buildings are not as good as we would like, they have been enhanced. In recent years we have opened a performing arts block and Kingpins Nursery for which staff have priority. A £2 million sports hall opened to pupils and the community in Autumn 2006. The Local Authority has had plans approved for Building Schools for the Future which will see all the secondary schools replaced with Advanced Learning Centres between 2009 and 2012.

Exam results have improved significantly over the last few years. In 2010, 75% of Year 11 achieved GCSE 5+A*-C and our target for 2011 is 80%. 52% of pupils gained 5A*-C including English and Maths up from 43% in 2009. Everyone at Kingstone is committed to working with pupils to improve teaching and learning and in turn outcomes.

The key strength of the school is the staff. There are nearly 100 teachers at the school and over 100 support staff, be they in the excellent administrative team, curriculum support assistants or site staff. There are some outstanding teachers at the school and there is an excellent blend of youth and experience. There is a rare sense of unity amongst colleagues, who show tremendous generosity of spirit and absolute commitment to children and their learning.

I do hope that you feel that you want to apply to join the strong and supportive team at Kingstone. To do so, please complete the application form, which is available from the school office or the website (www.kingstoneschool.co.uk). You should also write a letter in support of your application, in which you outline the skills and experience that you would bring to the post and give a sense of how you would seek to take the role forwards.

I look forward to hearing from you.

MATTHEW MILBURN
HEADTEACHER

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STAFF

1. Location and History

The Kingstone School is the largest 11-16 mixed Comprehensive School in a relatively small Local Authority that comprises twelve 11-16 and two 11-18 Secondary Schools of which one is an Academy. Greenacre, the Authority's only Special School, shares a perimeter with Kingstone. There are currently 1412 pupils and nearly 100 members of teaching staff at Kingstone.

Situated on the western edge of Barnsley, overlooking open countryside and approximately one mile from the town centre, the school is well served by local buses and lies within half a mile of Junction 37 of the M1. Rail services run regularly from Barnsley to Leeds, Sheffield, Huddersfield and Wakefield.

Opened in 1987, Kingstone was formed by the merger of two adjacent Secondary Schools. These schools were built on the same campus and Kingstone fully occupies both buildings, to which there have been substantial alterations and adaptations.

The school has expanded rapidly and for the past eight years has been consistently oversubscribed, substantially beyond the planned admission limit of 280 pupils per year group. The school draws from a wide variety of primary schools, predominantly in western and central Barnsley. The numbers on roll in September, 2010 were:

Year 7-275	Year 8-282	Year 9-280	Year 10-280	Year 11-295
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2. Aims

- ◆ To enable all learners to have high expectations and realise their goals and aspirations.
- ◆ To nurture relationships that develop self esteem, self knowledge and respect for others.
- ◆ To empower every learner with the confidence, skills and knowledge to embrace the opportunities our changing world offers.

3. Specialist School Status – A School of Creativity

The school has been designated as A School of Creativity and has Specialist Status in Performing Arts. We see this status as an opportunity to nurture creativity across the curriculum. We want all lessons to actively engage pupils and make them think creatively, and where possible socially about solving problems. Performing Arts at the school is a strength in its own right. The Kingstone School Band has played all over Europe and many of our pupils are in the Barnsley Youth Choir which rehearses at Kingstone and is led by Mat Wright (AST Music). It should be stressed that we use our status to strengthen learning, right across the curriculum.

4. Accommodation and Resources

Most subject areas are suited and we make the most of the accommodation that we have. In the last few years interactive whiteboards have been fitted in all relevant teaching bases and new IT suites have been added to upgrade facilities, however, it would be fair to say that accommodation at the school is an issue. There are now eleven science laboratories, seven IT rooms and a variety of specialist Technology rooms. The accommodation also includes two assembly halls, two gymnasia, a wide range of specialist rooms and a brand new sports centre. The Library Resource Centre includes a wide variety of audio-visual and computer facilities, as well as an impressive book stock.

Barnsley has been successful with a bid for 'Building Schools for the Future' monies and is to be included in wave three of the scheme. This ambitious bid centres on the development of a number of new build Advanced Learning Centres, the first of which opened in 2009.

5. Staffing and Management Structure

There are currently approximately 100 full time teachers, 40 in the administrative team and over 70 in the Learning Support Team that includes teaching assistants, school meals supervisors, medical, technical and caretaking staff.

The teaching staff are grouped into curricular areas: principally English, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Languages, the Humanities and Creative Arts. The work of Subject Team Leaders is currently co-ordinated by Deputy Head – Teaching.

Pastoral Care is based on a year system led by Deputy Head – Learning and Reporting, who co-ordinates the work of five Heads of Year and five Link Tutors. Staff Development has featured prominently at all levels in recent years and we have in place a significant programme of staff development aimed at both teaching and non-teaching staff. This work is co-ordinated by the Assistant Headteacher – Staff Development and Wellbeing, who is also responsible for ITT and NQTs.

The Senior Leadership Group is made up of the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher – Teaching and Achievement, Deputy Headteacher – Learning and Reporting, Assistant Headteacher – Staff Development and Wellbeing, and Assistant Headteacher – Extended and Community Provision. The Senior Management Team is made up of all of the above, along with two AST's and the Business and Finance Director (Non-teacher).

6. Curriculum

Like all state schools, Kingstone offers programmes of study in National Curriculum Key Stage 3 subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Technology, French, Art, Music and PE. In addition, and in keeping with our specialist status, all students study dance. The school operates a five, one hour lesson, day on a fortnightly cycle. In Year 7 Geography, RE, Drama, PHSCE, History and ICT are taught through Cultural Studies, and using a child centred, active pedagogical approach. This continues into Year 8 which sees the teaching of PHSCE, Drama, RE and ICT through a similar approach.

The Key Stage 4 programme is complex and has been significantly revised in recent years. An options sheet has been appended to these notes, which provides the clearest explanation of what we offer at KS4.

A wide range of courses are offered within an entitlement framework. This framework ensures that all pupils gain a broad and balanced curriculum, but also ensures that they have the opportunity to specialise. All pupils follow a programme that meets statutory curriculum requirements as well as Religion and Society or Citizenship. This course builds on the humanising ethos that we are so proud of at Kingstone. All children also work towards Level 2 qualifications in PE and ICT.

Pupils are presented with a series of options and many go on to opt for a Humanities subject, a Technology subject and a Creative Arts subject. However, choices are becoming increasingly diverse and allow for personalised programmes. Some students undertake courses which are accredited other than by GCSE. Applied GCSE courses operate in Leisure and Tourism and Health and Social Care. Increasingly, the school offers a range of BTEC courses in Business, PE, Hospitality and Catering and the Performing Arts. Additional qualifications accredited by NCFE and CGLI are available in Music Technology, Radio Production, Horticulture and Graphic Design. A number of students, including those undertaking Diplomas take advantage of further provision delivered off site by our partners within the borough.

All pupils in Year 10 undertake Work Experience and Development (non-timetable) days that are used to explore Careers, Health Education and Financial Capability.

Pupils with learning difficulties are catered for by Special Needs provision, particularly in English and Mathematics, but a learning support group of pupils with severe learning problems is withdrawn, as needed, from other lessons.

The last full Ofsted inspection was in September, 2010 and described Kingstone as 'a good school with distinctive strengths.' Three out of seven outcomes were judged to be Outstanding, as was Care, Guidance and Support.

7. Pupil Care

The school is organised for pastoral purposes into Year Groups. On entry in Year 7, pupils are allocated to a mixed-ability form. The Heads of Year work alongside Link Tutors (non teachers) and with a Form Tutor Team, which in turn is responsible for the general welfare of each pupil. This tutor team is at the heart of our pastoral system. In Year 7, apart from Mathematics, Science and Technology, lessons are taught in Forms and these remain as cohesive groups for pastoral purposes throughout the school. From Year 8, a progressive increase in subject setting takes place. The work of Form Tutors and Heads of Year is supported by senior staff, who liaise closely with relevant external support agencies where necessary.

8. Pupil Achievement

Baseline testing clearly indicates we could do more to add value to achievement through Key Stage 3. This has become a key priority for us. We are confident that we do add significant value in KS4.

Most recent results are as follows:-

◆	2006	35.4%	5+A*-C incl. En & Ma	50%	5+ A* - C	97%	1+ A* - G
◆	2007	40.9%	5+A*-C incl. En & Ma	57%	5+ A* - C	99%	1+ A* - G
◆	2008	37.6%	5+A*-C incl. En & Ma	62%	5+ A* - C	99%	1+ A* - G
◆	2009	43%	5+A*-C incl. En & Ma	65%	5+ A* - C	100%	1+ A* - G
◆	2010	52%	5+A*-C incl. En & Ma	75%	5+ A* - C	100%	1+ A* - G

We have a well-established commendation system, where pupils are encouraged to achieve higher standards by increased effort in academic work. This commendation system also rewards contribution to school life. We have a 'Celebration of Achievement Day' to maintain the profile of success. Progress is monitored regularly by internal assessments and reported to parents at key times for each year group. Parents are welcomed, not only at specific consultation evenings, but also on an individual basis if they have matters of immediate concern. Progress Review Days where pupils and their parents have meetings with Form Tutors, take place in Years 7, 8, 10 and 11. In Year 9, we have an Options Day, where pupils and parents discuss their Year 10 courses.

9. Extra Curricular Activities and School Achievements

The school has an excellent reputation for sporting achievements and our teams regularly win local cup competitions and top local leagues. There are numerous after-school activities and clubs, and we have many visits that go both locally and abroad. We have established a particularly strong tradition in Music and Performing Arts, with major productions and concerts, a regular feature in our events' calendar.

10. Community Links and the Parents' Association

The school has strong links with the local community through a wide variety of activities. These include charity and fund raising events. The Parents' Association is an important feature of school life for both fund-raising and broadening contact with parents generally. We also run music lessons for the wider community on a Saturday morning via 'Majors and Minors.'

In September, 2004 we opened Kingpins Nursery, a forty-two place nursery which as well as providing a service to the local community, is also aimed at those who teach and work at Kingstone. Places at the nursery are available to staff at the school with an attractive fees package.

11. A personal message from the Head

The ethos of the school is based firmly on the principle that people work best where they feel confident, secure and in their element. Consequently, we work purposefully to maintain a caring, yet disciplined atmosphere. Within this framework, young people are encouraged to mature as individuals and to take greater responsibility for the part they play as members of our school community. Our overriding aim is to encourage a positive learning experience through the active co-operation of staff, parents and young people.

I hope this brief outline of the school gives you some insight into a school of which we are justifiably proud. Kingstone is a wonderful place to work. We look forward to hearing from you.

M. K. MILBURN

revised October, 2010 interview booklet.doc