

Our Ref: CRN/AJ/October letter HOY9



Dear Parent/Carer,

May I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all pupils and parents in Year 9. After two very successful years at Kingstone School we embark together on our last year at Kingstone and all the opportunities and challenges the coming year presents to us.

This letter gives me the opportunity to bring a number of important issues to your attention:

The Team

I would like to introduce to you the following members of staff who make up the Year 9 Form Tutor team:

Link Tutor:

Mrs D Steadman

Senior Management Support:

Mr I Ellam & Mr M Wright

Special Educational Needs Team Leader:

Miss L Cooper

Form Tutors:

9K Mr D Buckley

9L Dr R Boid

9M Mr O Mann

9N Miss R Foy

9O Miss C Guise-Smith

9P Ms H Maxwell

9Q Ms J Froggett

9R Ms C Worman

9S Mrs C Fewlass

9T Mr R Calverley

Support Tutors:

Mr B Gilder, Mr A Paget, Miss L Taylor, Mrs R Gibb, and Mrs A Stanger.

Mrs Steadman, as our Link Tutor, will carry out a vital role of monitoring attendance, dealing with day to day issues and offering support and advice in a number of ways as well as helping the year group to make a smooth transition from Key Stage 3 to 4. Good attendance is very important at Kingstone and, as a school, we try to maintain and improve on a whole school target of 95%. We have various incentives and rewards for pupils who maintain high attendance records during the year. However, if your child is absent from school please inform the attendance line on 01226 215759 and state clearly and fully the reason for the absence, as it is important that all absences are authorised. No holidays will be authorised in term time and, unless evidence from employers is provided, holidays will be put forward for a local authority fixed penalty notice. Poor attendance is closely monitored and Mrs Steadman works closely with the Education Welfare Service to ensure that it is dealt with fairly but appropriately.

Punctuality is also crucial, particularly on Wednesday, which is our Assembly Day, as important notices are given out. Students already know that I need them all in South Hall by 8:25 am at the latest; please reinforce this at home.

The school places great emphasis on pupils being prepared for school by being punctual, smart in appearance and fully equipped for the day ahead. Whilst we always strive to acknowledge the many positive aspects of pupil behaviour, where pupils persist in being ill prepared for school, regrettably, sanctions will apply.

May I also take this opportunity to remind parents that should you have any concerns you wish to discuss, Mrs Steadman, the Year 9 Link Tutor, is available on a daily basis and can be contacted on the school number.

I have every confidence that this committed and dedicated team of staff, with a strong combination of wide experience and youthful enthusiasm, will work hard to nurture your child over the coming years, ensuring that each individual realises their potential and enjoys school life to the full.

The year group had a very successful year last year. One of the highlights being the Christmas Fayre where pupils were given the opportunity to 'make £10 grow'. It was a pleasure to see so many pupils involved in this enterprising challenge.

Thank you to all parents and pupils for making the Assessment for Living Programme at the end of Year 8 a success. We do acknowledge that some last minute adjustments that the school had to make led to a slight reshaping of the process. We are grateful to both parents and pupils for the way in which you responded to these changes.

Uniform

I have been impressed with the smart appearance of Year 9 pupils and trust that these high standards will continue. Please ensure that your child comes to school suitably dressed and note that trainers, black trousers, and sweatshirts are not school uniform and clip-on ties are required for all pupils in Year 9. I would particularly ask you to ensure that girls' skirts are of an appropriate length and that shirts are long enough to remain tucked into skirts or trousers. Please also ensure that black shoes are 'sensible'. Pupils should use bags for school which are large enough to accommodate all their belongings; a rucksack is ideal for this purpose. Small "handbag" styles are not suitable. Please note that injuries are not an acceptable reason for wearing trainers unless a medical note is received. In terms of jewellery, only one stud is permitted in the lobe of each ear. No other forms of jewellery or body piercing are permitted. Pupils will be asked to remove any inappropriate piercing. Please label all your child's clothing and property with their name and form. The school cannot accept responsibility for items that are lost or stolen.

Homework

At Kingstone, we consider homework to be a valuable and necessary extension of school work. Please encourage your child to organise his/her time sensibly and check that all homework tasks are completed. You can help your child by providing a suitably quiet environment in which to complete homework and by taking an active interest in what he/she is doing. In order to support your child's studies the Learning Resource Centre has extended its opening hours for an hour after school.

School Website

I would encourage all parents to visit the school website www.kingstoneschool.co.uk where a range of information is readily available including a recent letter from the joint Head teachers. I would urge you to contact the school without delay should you remain uncertain about any aspect of our provision, standards and expectations.

Extra Curricular Activities

At Kingstone, we offer a range of activities for all pupils to participate in and enjoy. A number of pupils have already represented the school in a variety of extra curricular activities and both the Football and Rugby Team have already enjoyed success. We have held both Year Council and School Council meetings and the pupils are very keen to represent their form, putting forward views of their peers and reporting back. Well done!

Communication between Home and School

Parents and carers will be aware that, in an attempt to improve the efficiency of communication between home and school, the school communicates electronically (using e-mail and occasionally text messages) to parents who have expressed this as their preference.

This allows the school to channel administration costs more directly into pupils' education and also ensure that parents no longer have to rely on their children to remember to 'deliver' letters to them.

For the parents who have not yet opted for e-mail, paper copies of any correspondence will continue to be sent home with pupils. In the meantime, if any parent has a change of circumstance during the school year and would like to receive e-mails or texts, they can notify the school either by letter or e-mail to kingstone@barnsley.org providing an e-mail address and mobile telephone number.

ABC Awards

These awards have been designed to encourage each pupil to achieve recognition in the 3 key areas:

- **A**ttendance
- **B**ehaviour
- **C**ommitment

The vast majority of pupils achieved awards throughout last year, with a significant number achieving the highest level, the 'Gold' certificate in the Summer Term. Pupils must work hard to maintain high standards in the areas of Attendance, Behaviour and Commitment in order to continue their progress in Year 9. The certificates which pupils receive, along with other achievements, will form part of their Key Stage 3 Achievement File.

Finally, Mrs Steadman and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of Year 9, pupils, staff and parents alike, a very happy and successful year. We look forward to guiding your child through the next twelve months and would like to thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

C Robinson

Mrs C Robinson
Head of Year 9

