



Our Ref: PSY/AJ/October2011

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Letter from Head of Year

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to all pupils, parents and staff and hope that you have all enjoyed a restful summer.

The beginning of the school year is always a time of great excitement and optimism and this year certainly offers that as we embark upon what will be the very last year of Kingstone School's existence, working towards the opening of the new Horizon Community College. It is unbelievable to think that over 12 months have passed since your children first walked through the gates of Kingstone School as excited, yet anxious, 11 year olds. Within that time, though, I'm sure you'd agree that they have settled well into their new learning environment and have embraced the range of opportunities available to them at Kingstone School, a trend I am hopeful will continue over the coming months.

Although it seems a distant memory, a highlight of Year 7 for me and a testimony to the progress and development of the year group as a whole was the *Assessment for Living* process that took place in July. It was very pleasing to see every member of the year group demonstrate the array of personal skills that they had developed over the year and to be granted the opportunity to share these with their family and peers. I'm sure you will agree that it was one of those events where you simply can't help but be overcome with pride and it really reinforced the values of Kingstone school in developing confident, independent learners. Along with a consultation evening, the Assessment for Living process will be repeated in Year 8, providing you with the opportunity to witness first hand your child's learning and in turn discuss their progress with relevant members of staff. Please consult with the school calendar available through the school website for these, as well as other key dates throughout the year.

The pastoral care of your child remains our utmost priority and we have been fortunate enough to keep together the vast majority of our tutor team to enable consistency and continuity, the only amendment being the addition of Mrs Parry as the Link Tutor. As was proven last year, one of the factors that continues to be at the centre of the progress we make as a school is the excellent relationships that have been forged between school and parents. As I'm sure you will appreciate, we value your support and I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that your child's form tutor, Mrs Parry and I are always willing to discuss any issues/concerns you may have regarding your child. We can be contacted during school hours on 01226 215757. However, if we are unable to take your call directly we will do all we can to try to return any messages within 24 hours. At this point may I draw your attention to the significant role the Pupil Planner plays in ensuring good communication between home and school.



YEAR 8 ARE SUPER!

Continuing from last year, the corporate theme for the year group will focus around our SUPER STANDARDS.



Show Respect



Uniform



Planners



Equipment



READY

These standards outline the basic expectations of all pupils in the year group and are celebrated termly with special commendation assemblies. You may recall from last year that the majority of the year group became eligible to attend the end of year reward trip to Pleasure Island for achieving the **GOLD AWARD** and it is the intention for this to be replicated this year with an even bigger and better reward in the summer, to celebrate the efforts of those pupils who maintain good standards throughout the year.

Although the SUPER Standards provide a guide for our year group, may I take this opportunity to remind you of our whole-school standards and expectations in terms of behaviour, uniform, equipment and attendance by directing you towards **the Joint Headteachers' letter that was distributed in September and is also available on-line through our school website – www.kingstoneschool.co.uk** The website also hosts all of the school's policies and important information related to the school regarding events and recent developments.

I would like to close by wishing you and all members of Year 8 a very happy and successful year. As the Horizon Community College site continues to develop across the road it is a reminder of the amazing opportunities that lie ahead for your child, both at Kingstone School and beyond. I continue to be extremely proud of the achievements of our year group and I am confident that, with the continued support they receive from you and their teachers, they will continue to achieve success and will make a seamless transition to the new school.

Yours sincerely,

P Storey

Mr P Storey

Head of Year 8

