

July 2008 Newsletter

END OF TERM AND SEPTEMBER START...

Following discussion with the Chair of Governors, we intend to send pupils home early on the last day of term, Friday 18th July.

Pupils will undertake lessons as normal up until Period C and will be dismissed from school at 11.50 am. Those pupils entitled to a free school lunch can collect one from the canteen at break time.

Pupils are due back at school on Tuesday 2nd September.

Year 7 pupils should arrive at 8.25 am. They will spend the morning in their form bases.

The normal school bus service applies.

ALL OTHER PUPILS IN NEW YEARS 8 – 11 SHOULD NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 10.35 AM.

They should go to form bases for registration at 10.50 am. All pupils will have a Form Period lesson C.

KINGSTONE IS NAMED AS SCHOOL OF CREATIVITY



In May 2008 we were one of only 30 schools in the country to be recognized as a School of Creativity and were commended by the government for the bold way we engage our students' aspirations and embrace 'pupil voice' and 'peer learning'. We were selected from among hundreds of schools working with Creative Partnerships, the Government's flagship creative learning programme managed by Arts Council England. As a School of Creativity we are now involved in a three-year project to raise educational standards and develop in students the skills that employers say they need. We will use cutting edge teaching techniques in partnership with a range of professional artists, designers and creative professionals to develop students into confident communicators, effective problem solvers, and good team workers. We are delighted to have received such high praise and I am sure our pupils will benefit a great deal from this creative status.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

School photographs will take place the first week in school on **Thursday 4th September, 2008**. Individual and form class photos will be taken on this day. Pupils are to wear school uniform, wearing white shirts and ties, but without burgundy jumpers. Envelopes will be distributed to pupils at a later date with order and payment details.

AURIN CHOIR LETS KINGSTONE SHINE

We were thrilled to take part in an exciting project involving the world renowned Aurin Choir from Hungary as part of a festival celebrating the talents of young people.

Shine Week, organised by creative partnerships, encouraged young people to showcase their talents and skills and we were very fortunate to host the choir, who spent a week in Barnsley.

The choir, from Kodály School, Kecskemét, Hungary have worked with the very best choirs in the world and it was wonderful to see so many children access what is thought by some to be the very best vocal tuition in the world.

On Friday 4th July, the Aurin Choir, Kingstone Choir, the newly formed Barnsley Youth Choir and Community Choirs all took to the stage to put on a magnificent performance incorporating all of their talents.



NEW LEARNING RESOURCE FACILITY

Over the summer we intend to revamp the library in order to improve the service that we are able to offer to pupils. We will be creating a Connexions/Careers base in what is currently the library office, converting the library classroom into a mentoring suite and introducing more computers which will be suited in one area. Lovers of literature should not despair because we shall retain our comprehensive stock of fiction and enhance the quiet reading area. The issue desk will be moved next to the door and the whole area will be passively supervised by a number of adults working in and around the new Learning Resource Centre.

Our aim is to make Careers more high profile, offer a coherent programme for KS4 pupils who have rationalized their timetables and an appropriate support for pupils who are finding a full Level 2 programme hard to manage.

ENRICHMENT WEEK - WHAT A BUZZ!

Enrichment week takes place every year towards the end of the summer term. During the week, we suspend the timetable to make way for learning activities that our pupils would not usually take part in during normal curriculum lessons. Over 7th, 8th & 9th of July, students focussed on the topic of conservation with trips to Knowsley Safari Park, Wentworth Castle, Eden Camp, the Trans-Pennine Trail and Chester Zoo to name but a few!



A Visit to Chester Zoo



High School Musical



An Experience Under Canvas!

UNIFORM MATTERS

There are no changes to the requirements for school uniform for September, 2008. From September, replacement school ties available in the school shop will be new clip-on ties. All Year 7 children will be required to wear the new style.

If you are replacing clothing for next term, would you please ensure that items purchased conform to school requirements, therefore, avoiding expensive replacements? This is especially important in the purchasing of girls' skirts which ideally, should be knee length without splits on the side. Trousers should be plain medium grey and not cord or denim. If you are in any doubt, the full uniform specification is outlined in the pupil planner.

As you will be aware, the school has a shop from which you can buy good quality and competitively priced uniform, sports kit and other school essentials. All profits from the shop are used to support teaching and learning at Kingstone. The shop is open every day from 8.00 am to 8.35 am and 12.00 pm to 12.45 pm. It is also open on Monday 1st September from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm. Please support the school by buying uniform and kit from the school shop, which is situated at the rear of North Hall.

We have had a purge on school uniform in recent weeks. Many pupils seek to wear their tie loose and undo their top button. This is seen as sloppy and not appropriate for school. Some pupils will always try to push the boundaries in terms of standards of appearance with regard to uniform, hairstyles etc. The school reserves the right to decide whether a pupil is suitably attired for mainstream classes.

FOND FAREWELLS

We are saying goodbye to a number of valued colleagues at the end of this term:-

Ms Atkinson, our Strategic ICT Co-ordinator is leaving to work with software company 'Studywiz'; the school works closely with Studywiz and we will hopefully still see a lot of her around school. Miss Parnham has secured an enhanced post as an Advanced Skills Teacher in Maths in a school in Rotherham. Mr Whitaker has been promoted to Deputy Head at Springwell and for associated inclusion services. Mr Coyle has been promoted to an Assistant Headship position in Buxton, Derbyshire. We also say goodbye to Ms Harrison, Mr Conlin, Ms O Leary, Ms L Storey and Ms Armitage. Finally, Mrs Morris, one of our School Librarians, will be taking her well earned retirement, after 15 years loyal service to the school. I would like to wish all of them all the very best for the future.

HELLO TO...

In September, we welcome a number of new members of staff, who are joining the school:-

Miss Ackroyd is joining the Performing Arts team, Mr Towers is joining the Mathematics department, Miss Holling is joining the Science department, Mrs Booth will be covering Miss Guise-Smith's maternity leave on a 12 month contract in the Art Department and Mr MacDougall will be working across both the Mathematics and Science Departments. Finally, Ms. Ward will be joining the Pastoral team as a Link Tutor.

HOLIDAY DATES 2008/2009

Mon 27th Oct - Fri 31st Oct	Half Term
Mon 22nd Dec - Fri 2nd Jan	Christmas
Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb	Half Term
Mon 6th April - Fri 17th April	Easter
Mon 4th May	May Day
Mon 25th May - Fri 29th May	Spring Bank

ADVANCE HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2009/2010

Mon 26th Oct - Fri 30th Oct	Half Term
Mon 21st Dec - Fri 1st Jan	Christmas
Mon 15th Feb - Fri 19th Feb	Half Term
Fri 2nd April - Wed 14th April	Easter
Mon 3rd May	May Day
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June	Spring Bank

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH

We are committed to working in partnership with parents. However, due to timetabling commitments it is not possible for teachers to meet with parents without prior appointment. Appointments can be made by:

Ringling the school switch board

01226 215757

Faxing the school

01226 215758

Please ensure that your appointment is confirmed before you arrive and report to Reception in South Building.

If your child is going to be absent from school, then please use the dedicated absence line **01226 215759**

Thank you for your co-operation with these arrangements.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all members of the school community, including parents and governors, an enjoyable and relaxing summer break.

M. Milburn

Mr. M. Milburn
Headteacher