

# Kingstone

A COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
with performing arts status

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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 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 is oversubscribed and is forecast to remain so. Whilst the school buildings are not as good as we would like, they have been enhanced. We have recently opened a performing arts block and Kingpins Nursery for which staff have priority. A £2 million sports hall also 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 2011.

Exam results have improved significantly over the last few years. In 2007, 57% of Year 11 achieved GCSE A\*-C and our target for 2008 is 64%. 41% of pupils gained 5A\* - C including English and Maths. Everyone at Kingstone is committed to working with pupils to improve teaching and learning.

The key strength of the school is the staff. There are nearly 100 teachers at the school and almost as many support staff, be they in the excellent admin 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](http://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 1460 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 six 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, 2007 were:

Year 7-285	Year 8-300	Year 9-285	Year 10-294	Year 11-296
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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 – Performing Arts

The school has been designated 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 we are very proud of the high quality productions that we stage, however, it should be stressed that we are not a fame academy! We use our status to strengthen what we offer, 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 ICT rooms and a variety of specialist Technology rooms. The accommodation also includes two assembly halls, two gymnasias, a wide range of specialist rooms and a brand new sports centre. The Library and Resources 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 will open in 2009.

### 5. Staffing and Management Structure

There are currently approximately 100 full time teachers, 40 in the administrative team and over 50 in the Learning Support team that includes teaching assistants, school meals supervisors, medical, technical and caretaking staff. We foresee further support staff being employed to reduce teacher workload on administrative tasks.

The teaching staff are grouped into curricular areas: principally English, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Modern Foreign 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, who co-ordinates the work of five Heads of Year and Link Tutors. Staff Development has featured prominently at all management 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, who is also responsible for ITT and NQTs.

The Senior Leadership Group is made up of The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher – Teaching, Deputy Headteacher – Learning, Assistant Headteacher – Staff Development, Assistant Headteacher – Assessment and Reporting and Director of Performing Arts and Extended Services. The Senior Management Team is made up of all of the above along with the, Strategic Co-ordinator for ICT, Business and Finance Director (Non-teacher) and Facilities Manager (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, pupils' areas of experience include IT, and Dance. The school operates a five, one hour lesson, day on a fortnightly cycle. In Year 7 Geography, RE, Drama, PHSE, History and IT are taught through Cultural Studies, and using a child centred, active pedagogical approach. This continues into Year 8 with a course called Curriculum for Confidence which sees the teaching of PHSE, Drama and RE 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 must study English, Mathematics and Science as well as Religion and Society. This course builds on the humanising ethos that we are so proud of at Kingstone. It covers the NC requirements for RE and Citizenship and is taught in such a way as to nurture high level ICT skills.

Pupils are presented with a series of options and the vast majority go on to opt for a Humanities subject, a Technology subject and a Creative Arts subject. They also have a free choice, which enables pupils to take for example Drama and Music or Graphics and Resistant Materials. A small number of pupils undertake NVQ courses and Applied GCSE's are also available in subjects such as Leisure and Tourism. More able students have the opportunity to study ICT at Advanced Supplementary Level and we are keen to develop the range of Level 3 courses that we offer.

One group do not take standard options but instead follow an Alternative Curriculum that sees them, for example, undertaking City and Guild workshop based qualifications.

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

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

PHSE is taught through the arts by a specialist team in Key Stage 3.

The last full Ofsted inspection was in June, 2007 and described as 'a good school with significant strengths.' English was inspected in May of 2006 and described as 'Outstanding.'

## 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 Year Heads 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:-

▪ 2003	42.5%	5+ A* - C	94%	1+ A* - G
▪ 2004	48.5%	5+ A* - C	94.1%	1+ A* - G
▪ 2005	47%	5+ A* - C	96.3%	1+ A* - G
▪ 2006	50%	5+ A* - C	97%	1+ A* - G
▪ 2007	57%	5+ A* - C	99%	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 on a term time only basis, which means a substantial saving for those with children aged 0 to 5.

## 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 secure. 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 September 2007 headsletterschoolcontext.doc

**The Kingstone School : Key stage 3 to 4 transition - Student preferences 2008/09**

Entitlement Specialist Arts	Entitlement Humanities	Entitlement Technology	Entitlement Personalisation
Art	History	Hospitality**	IT
Expressive Arts	Geography	Resistant Mats	Science 3***
Media Studies	Business	Electronics	French
Dance	PE	Graphics	History
Drama	Health SC**	Food	Geography
Music	Performing Arts**	Product design	Art
Performing Arts**	Environment	Textiles	Leisure
Ceramics		IT Diploma	Health SC**
		Skills for work	Science 2
		Workshop skills	Hospitality**
			PE
			IT Diploma
			French NVQ
			Spanish NVQ*
			Lifeskills
			Business
			Drama
			Numeracy/Literacy
1 Choice	1 Choice	1 Choice	2 Choices
			Reserve

Extended Community
Music
Drama
Dance
Music technology
Foreign language
Tots r loud
Kids r loud
Teens r loud
Majors n minors
Band
Choir
Performance
<b>Twilight</b>
Sport

Key	Qualification	Level	GCSE equivalent
	AS	3	n/a
	GCSE	2, 1	1
	BTEC	2	2
	DIPLOMA / NCFE	2	2
	NVQ	2,1	1
	VRQ	1	1
	non exam	0	0

The majority of students will follow courses in English (Language and Literature), Mathematics, RE or Citizenship, Science and non exam PE

Students should state a preference of one subject in each of the Specialist Arts, Humanities and Technology

Students should state a preference of two personalised subjects with a reserve choice

\* This can only be chosen if French GCSE is also selected  
 \*\* This has to be selected in two choice columns  
 \*\*\* This can only be chosen if Science 2 is chosen also

Extended community activities may be scheduled in the evening, during holidays or at weekends

Other

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Form : \_\_\_\_\_ Staff : \_\_\_\_\_ Parent : \_\_\_\_\_