



8 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to begin by wishing you all a very Happy New Year! As we start another term, it gives me an opportunity to reflect on all of the fabulous opportunities, experiences and triumphs that happened last term.

It has been fantastic to see sports teams continuing to compete at both a local and regional level. Some of these notable successes were: our U15 (Year 10) Rugby team beating Whitecross to win the County Plate final, , our U16 (Year 11) Rugby team went one step further, beating Weobley in the County Cup Final. Our U15 Football team have also seen success in the National Football Cup, winning key matches against teams in both Gloucestershire and Shropshire. We have also had several groups of students taking part in county organised inclusion games, ensuring that high level sporting experiences are accessible to all students.

At the end of last term, it was a privilege to see so many of our students involved in the school Christmas concert, whether it being part of the music and drama on the evening or producing the fantastic artwork that was on display in the dining room. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to showcase our students' expressive arts talents to a wider audience.

Students also had the opportunity to attend several different trip experiences from ice skating in the Cardiff Winter Wonderland, to watching theatre shows in London and Stratford upon Avon, to visiting Worcester University as part of our careers' experience. As we look forward to this term and the rest of the year, cultural experiences will again be high in students' thoughts as we look forward to the skiing trip in Italy at the start of the Easter holidays.

Staff changes

Mr Mike Martin's contract with the school finished at the end of the term and so he now goes on to pastures new. We would like to wish him the very best for the future. Mr Matthew Hince will be returning to the expressive arts department to teach drama. Mr Hince is a past pupil at Kingstone and so it is fantastic to see the circle connected and having Mr Hince here to inspire the next generation of students as he once was. We will also be welcoming Mrs Wood back to school at the end of January following her maternity leave.

Uniform

Uniform standards have not been at the required standard for some time, especially with regards to girls' skirt length. Throughout this term and the rest of the year, Heads of Year, supported by Form Tutors, will be focusing on uniform standards. Any item of uniform not meeting the expectation set out in the uniform policy will be expected to be rectified as a matter of priority.

We have been working with the uniform shop in Hereford to reduce the costing of our uniform to make it more affordable for families. I am pleased to say that we have been successful in this

and would like to thank those parents who volunteered their time as part of the uniform working party. Once finalised, these new prices will be shared with you.

Teaching and Learning

As a school, we want you to be involved in your child's educational experience as much as possible, especially when it comes to what they have been studying and what progress they have been making. One initiative to support this that we will be trialling this term is a termly take your books home. This will give you the opportunity to see what your child has been learning for that term, how it fits into the big picture and how staff are supporting your child to be successful. Any feedback would be greatly received after the first trial at the end of this term.

Finally, your input into the school is extremely valuable. As a result, we will be setting up a suggestions email for you to access which will give you the opportunity to share any ways that you feel we may offer a better education experience for your child and yourselves as well as any positive feedback that you may want to share.

Yours faithfully



Mr Lee Butler
Headteacher

Upcoming Dates for your Dairy

The Year 11 Mock exam period will run from 9th to 22nd January

Thursday 11th January - Year 7 Tutor Evening
Thursday 25th January - Careers Fair
Wednesday 7th February – Year 11 Mock Interviews
Thursday 8th February – Year 11 Parents' Evening
Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February - Half Term
Tuesday 20th February– Year 8 Parents' Evening
Thursday 22nd February - Year 8 Parents' Evening
Thursday 21st March - Year 9 Options Evening
Friday 22nd March - Options deadline
Friday 22 March 2024 - Term ends
Monday 8th April - Summer term starts
Thursday 25th April 2024 – Year 10 Parents' Evening
Thursday 9th May 2024 - Year 7 Parents' Evening

Sports fixtures are listed on the Sports Portal on our website under NEWS & EVENTS / KHS Sports Portal or by bookmarking the following page <https://sport.kingstone-high.hereford.sch.uk/>

