

3 September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope your son/daughter has had an enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday and is looking forward to their return to Kingsmead. I am very proud to be leading Kingsmead and am looking forward to working with yourselves, staff and governors to enable our students to be the very best that they can be. I am delighted to inform you that once again students at Kingsmead have achieved excellent results in 2018 (details are available on the website). I look forward to this continuing.

At Kingsmead, we believe in **“Achieving through Caring”**. Our educational philosophy is a simple one; that as a school we have a duty of care to look after the well-being and development of every child, whatever their ability or circumstance; to give all students the tools to access a fulfilling life, realise their potential and prepare them to play their part in society. A **triangle of partnership** is the linchpin formed between school, students and parents/carers to support students to make the best possible choices.

We believe that quality teaching is achieved with passion, energy, producing experiences that inspire, challenge, and provide opportunities for young people to take charge of their own learning. Learners need to be encouraged to ensure that they are making the most of every single opportunity. Ultimately, this can only be achieved if students feel safe and cared for. This value of **“Achieving through Caring”** will be an integral part of initiatives and strategies implemented for every student at Kingsmead School.

Kingsmead needs to prepare learners for the 21st Century workplace, for jobs which may, or may not, currently exist. Therefore, students need a curriculum that gives them breadth, depth and an appetite to become learners not just now, but for the rest of their lives. Students also need to develop the softer life skills needed to succeed, such as developing resilience and emotional intelligence.

In an increasingly turbulent world, students need to be critical thinkers who can make their own decisions, question and challenge information as it is presented, and develop the skills to clearly articulate their thoughts. Young people need to understand the role they are required to take in our democratic society and be encouraged to become active citizens. Students need the opportunity to broaden their horizons, communicating with others at home and around the world, equipping them with the skills needed for adult life in a multi-cultural, interconnected world.

I want students to develop attributes in line with the school values: **Care, Aspiration, Respect and Determination**, to give them the qualities to succeed.

CARE

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

DETERMINATION

Wiveliscombe, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 2NE

 contact@kingsmead-school.com

 01984 623483

www.kingsmead-school.com

At Kingsmead, we have very high expectations of behaviour. All students have the right to learn, and staff have the right to carry out their roles in a calm, purposeful and well-ordered environment. To achieve this, staff have a professional responsibility to plan and support learning that is enjoyable, engages students and helps them make progress. Equally, we expect students to approach learning with a positive attitude, showing care and respect for others.

It was pleasing to receive correspondences of support regarding our **“Changes to Use of Mobile Devices” sent out on 17 July**. As a rural school, students feel safer travelling to and from school with them. However, our new policy now outlines that students will keep phones/ devices turned off, in their bags at all times, unless requested by staff to use them in lessons. I would ask you to remind your son/daughter of the need to take this on board.

Furthermore, I would like your support with our uniform policy. The vast majority of students at Kingsmead adhere to this, however, there are some who wish to go against our policy and therefore waste unnecessary time. **Details of the School Uniform can be found on the school website.**

Most importantly, students have access to a world of opportunity. It is our responsibility to enable them to take advantage and fulfil their potential to be the best they can be whether that is in the classroom, on the sports field, on the stage or any platform of their choosing.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you wish to discover more about our school.

I look forward to meeting you and your family.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. R. Williams".

Mark Williams
Acting Head Teacher