

20 July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Getting Ready for September 2022

We would like to thank you for your support of Kingsmead School throughout this academic year. It has continued to be a testing year in many ways, but we are immensely proud of how the Kingsmead family has worked together to provide the best educational experience for each young person.

We would like to take this opportunity to share some key information looking ahead to the start of the new academic year and the move to our new facilities.

To enable a successful start to the term, students will return in their year groups on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 6 September – Years 7 & 11 only. *All other students to remain at home.***
- **Wednesday 7 September – Years 8, 9 & 10 only. *Year 7 & 11 to remain at home.***
- **Thursday 8 September – *ALL* students return to school**

The New Build

In September 2022, students will return to a substantially different site and school buildings. The entirety of the existing main block will be fenced off and new pedestrian access routes across our site will be in place. Our new block consists of over 20 state-of-the-art rooms including our Dining Hall and Main Hall. Further to this, our new Music Centre will also open during September. Given these changes, we will stagger the return of students across the first two days to ensure a safe and orderly resumption of education at Kingsmead.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

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.

CARE

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

DETERMINATION

Wiveliscombe, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 2NE

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As we move to our new facilities, we will continue to work with students and parents/carers in our Triangle of Partnership to provide a safe and engaging environment for all. Our Positive Behaviour for Learning Policy provides clarity and consistency regarding our core expectations and consequences of both positive and negative behaviours of our students.

We are proud of the multiple students that have hit their milestones of Bronze awards through Class Charts and we look forward to sharing the account details for all parents/carers in September. We will roll out the second phase of our Class Charts plan incorporating monitoring of student behaviour and home learning for Years 9 - 11. Year 7 and 8 students will be issued with their Knowledge Organiser at the start of term and further information will be shared with parents/carers.

Uniform

Firstly, thank you to parents/carers who continue to support us by ensuring their child has the correct uniform. We appreciate the support in achieving and maintaining our uniform expectations. Last year saw a growing trend amongst some students to fold their skirts up to make them shorter. **This is not acceptable, and students will be asked to rectify this before the start to the school day.** All staff will address these concerns directly or by passing on to Tutors or Heads of Year, however, if all parents/carers could support us in encouraging the same it would help to stem the trend and avoid unnecessary conversations. If the skirt cannot be worn correctly, we will ask that it be changed for a longer one.

Please be aware that there are changes from previous years. In particular, we would like to specifically highlight:

- Plain black V-neck jumper with logo (not a sweatshirt)
- Plain blue shirt
- School tie (according to Year Group)
 - Year 7 – Green
 - Year 8 – Purple
 - Year 9 – Red
 - Year 10 – Yellow
- Year 7 plain dark grey, drop waisted, box pleat skirt
- Years 8 -11 (a dark grey A-line skirt is acceptable for this academic year only)
Both versions of the skirt must reach the knee.
- Plain dark grey tailored trousers or shorts
- Shoes must be plain black, have no more than a half inch heel and be of a polishable material
- Black socks/tights of at least 30 denier
- **The new uniform changes from September 2022 are optional for Year 8 to Year 10 students.**
- There will be no change to uniform for Year 11 (2022-23) – polo t-shirts remain.

Jewellery, Make-up and Hairstyles:

- Jewellery is not permitted, except for one small stud earring in each lower ear lobe
- **No facial piercings of any kind**
- No extreme hair styles of any kind
- Hair must be of a natural colour
- No false eye lashes, nail varnish or false nails are permitted
- If make-up is to be worn it must be discreet and natural in appearance.

If your child arrives at school in the incorrect uniform, they will not be permitted to go to class. We will call you and ask for the uniform to be corrected; if you are unable to do this your child will be expected to borrow an appropriate alternative from our school supplies.

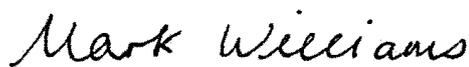
We acknowledge that there are some changes to this policy compared to the last academic year and we are asking parents/carers to go through these expectations with their child to ensure that they are clear and can take any necessary actions required for a positive start to the new academic year. Thank you for your co-operation in meeting these requirements and for sending your children to school in uniform that is appropriate for a school environment. This will mean that we can avoid any unnecessary conversations at the start of a busy new term.

Attendance Matters @ Kingsmead – Positive Attendance for Learning reminder

In this new academic year, we will continue to focus on the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality. As we have previously outlined, and after the disruption of the pandemic, excellent attendance and punctuality at school has never been more important. At Kingsmead, we place a high focus on attendance and, as such, have an expectation that all students will strive to attend school every day. Our Positive Attendance for Learning policy, which can be found on our website, reflects this essential element of school life.

I hope you and your family have a restful summer break and I look forward to welcoming all students back to our new facilities in September.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Williams". The script is cursive and fluid.

Mark Williams
Head Teacher