

Year 11's

Mike Pride
Executive Headteacher
Kingsmead School & Newtons Walk
Brighton Road
Derby
DE24 8TE

Your ref:
Our ref: LS/JF
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Contact: Liz Sanger
Tel: 01332 477160

Dear Kingsmead Families and carers

It is hard to believe we are approaching the final days of this academic year as I reflect on different experiences our pupils have had and write to you with a couple of key bits of information.

This year has been one full of achievements and new experiences for our brilliant pupils. Our annual 'Reading Awards' ceremony was the biggest we have ever held and we look forward to hosting more award ceremonies next year. Pupils have attended the local SEND Council run at different schools across the city. They also met with disabled University Students as part of a research project University Of Derby students were conducting – representing the views of SEND pupils in the City of Derby and beyond. Attendance at lunchtime and after school clubs has been brilliant to see and we look forward to offering an even wider variety of clubs next academic year.

Pupils have enjoyed a range of new sporting activities, in school and the community (Padel at Pride Park and Cricket plus nutrition events at the local ground) and been involved in after school clubs currently on offer: Football, Cricket and Basketball. Pupils also enjoyed representing themselves and the school, playing football with Landau Forte and games of Cricket at the School for the Deaf, Derby. Both events saw our pupils act impeccably, attending new venues and working with different pupils and adults.

Year eleven pupils conducted themselves brilliantly during both their mocks and live GCSE exams. Year elevens have also represented themselves well at local P16 events and gained future placements at a range of providers across the city, following on from a range of preparatory events that prepared them for their college/P16 provider interviews. Those year elevens that attended their residential at the start of July made memories that will last them a lifetime: walking, caving, climbing, swimming and making the most of all the Peak District has to offer. We will welcome our Year Elevens back into school to collect all their results on **Thursday 24th August**, where pupils will need to collect their results from school between 9.00am and 11:30am. There will be Post 16 support on offer during this

morning and the team look forward to celebrating their results and achievements with them.

As our Year Tens prepare to become future mentors to the younger pupils and engage with what will be their most challenging academic year to date, it fills the school team with pride seeing them finish the year with such positivity. Year Ten pupils have been taking part in Peak District walks ahead of also planning their residential next year. They have engaged in their year ten exams very well despite their first taste of 'exam stress' and reported feeling very supported. While the school was closed to most pupils due to recent strikes, the Year Tens finished their exams and celebrated with a range of activities, more football and COSTCO pizza for all.

Pupils have engaged in a variety of trips, visits and learning experiences across the year. In the autumn term we came together as a school community in the grounds to acknowledge Remembrance Day with poetry, art work and a minute's silence. Moving to the summer term, we then celebrated the King's Coronation together with a range of activities and lots of tasty food – yet another special moment for the pupils to experience together. The trip to the Warner Brothers Studios in London was attended by pupils in every year group and they had a magical day out together. Pupils have been to the cinema, Bounce, The Space Centre in Leicester, Cadbury's World and well attended annual trips to Drayton Manor. Year Elevens organised trips to Laser Quest and Paintball as well as Ikea to furnish their year eleven space and library. Pupils have also visited local areas of interest linked to their learning including a trip to the local food bank to understand how the local community support one another.

Thank you again to all the parents/carers who have worked closely with us this year to ensure their children had a positive year of experiences, memories and made progress in all they do. We hope you have a good summer break.

Kind Regards

Liz Sanger