

Year 7 with Transport

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Your ref:  
Our ref: LS/JF  
Date: 13<sup>th</sup> July 23  
Contact: Liz Sanger  
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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

As we bid a fond farewell to our mature year elevens we look forward to welcoming in our new cohort of year sevens and other pupils due to transfer to us in September. The year seven team have visited all the primary schools that our pupils are joining us from, to complete handovers. It was wonderful to host sixteen year sixes over the three common transfer days (where other secondary schools only ran the two). We were thrilled to see how our year tens supported them during lunchtime and welcomed potential new school players onto the MUGA for lunchtime football.

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.

As we break up for the summer and the staff team recharge their batteries, I know they are already looking forward to the next academic year and all the exciting opportunities, clubs, trips and visits that they shall plan for our brilliant pupils.

**To conclude, please note the following important updates ahead of our next exciting year together at Kingsmead School:**

**Uniform:** You should now have received exciting news about our school name and logo. This means changes to the school uniform – It is important that pupils feel a sense of belonging to our school community. All pupils will receive a free updated sweatshirt and polo-shirt with our new logo in the autumn term. In the meantime we ask the pupils continue to wear black trousers (we do permit the wearing of **black** joggers due to sensory needs) and black polo shirts/t-shirts. We have seen a range of 'interesting' clothes being worn of late, across the school but do ask that pupils dress in line with our uniform policy. This helps pupils worry less about fitting in by wearing *the right labels and latest trainers* and ultimately prepares them for expectations at college and the world of work.

Pupils are encouraged to wear comfortable trainers, preferably black and **not** sliders. We ask for parental and carer support in this matter.

**Transport:** With the ongoing changes within DCC, 'home to school' transport and the transportation of pupils during the school day remains a challenge. From September, pupils who had a taxi this academic year must be ready, as the taxi will arrive at **8.30 am**. To ensure your child is at school for 8.50. **If your child does not get in the taxi, it will your responsibility to get them into school.** The taxis have trackers on them so we can get confirmation what time they are outside your house. If they arrive too early please call 01332 477160 before 8.30 and another taxi will be arranged.

**Free school meals:** To try and improve the catering offer to our students we will be bringing the catering responsibility back in house from September. This means that we have more control over the quality of ingredients bought and also the menus.

Over the summer holidays there are extensive building works being carried out at our Bridge Street which could impact on the production kitchen, in the short term. This means that our offer at the start of term will be a **cold option only**.

This will allow us to restock the kitchen, test menus and portability and create an offer that is appealing to students and staff.

**Return to School: 5<sup>th</sup> September** is our admissions day where we ask every pupil to attend with a parent or carer to meet the team, their key worker, sign important paperwork and receive their timetable. KS4 pupils, parents and carers will also have an opportunity to meet with P16 providers who will be in attendance to meet with you and explain some of the processes that our year elevens in particular will go through, over the year.

This meeting sets an important and supportive tone for the rest of the academic year and allows us to work together supporting your child/children. If you haven't heard from your child's key worker to arrange a meeting, please contact the team on 4<sup>th</sup> September (INSET Day for staff) to promptly arrange this.

The first day of term is the 6<sup>th</sup> September. Please make sure you know how your child is travelling to and from school, from day one, so that their attendance is not impacted.

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 and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Kind Regards,

Elizabeth Sanger, Head of Kingsmead Special School