



**Kingsmead
School**

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Your ref:
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Dear Kingsmead Families and Carers

As we approach the final days and hours of this academic year, I wanted to share some key moments from this academic year and to prepare you for our next year together. This year, as a school community, we had our fair share of challenges: our biggest being the need for a partial closure due to unforeseen issues with our school's roof. The support of parents/carers has been so important and thus well received, as a key part of every individual pupil's success and experience, every year, during their time with us.

In June, we said a proud and sad goodbye to our brilliant year eleven cohort with a wonderful leavers' event for them all. The school team are so very proud of how our year elevens conducted themselves this year, despite the challenges we faced as a school. Pupils attended a residential/day's event in the Peak District before their mocks and this set the tone for their actual exams in May and June.

Pupils' conduct throughout all their GCSE exams was impressive, despite understandable nerves. Sitting multiple exams for GCSE English Language, English Literature, Maths and Double Science, alongside securing outcomes in ASDAN and BTECs, in Food, Sports, Art, ICT, Duke of Edinburgh and Prince's Trust was an impressive culmination of their secondary education. Pupils then rounded off their time with us, with further sports activities, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, trips out and another week-long residential to the Lake District. We eagerly await results day in August to celebrate exam outcomes and achievements with them all.

Again, as we bid farewell to one cohort, we welcomed our future year seven pupils across three successful transition days at the start of July. The team have met pupils in their respective primary settings, and we have enjoyed meeting prospective parents/carers on



school tours. It was lovely to meet our (soon to be) new year sevens and to see how welcomed they were to our special community during their introductory sessions with us.

This year pupils across the school have experienced multiple opportunities linked to their personal development, careers experiences and academic outcomes. This academic year, in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks, pupils across both key stages have had opportunities to meet with and learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. This included visiting speakers from both the health industry and the public sector (army, fire services and police) and visits for pupils to East Midlands Airport and football teams across the county for work experience.

In addition, pupils in years ten and eleven have visited post-16 destinations such as Derby College, Juniper and Key College. These providers have also visited school alongside others for our mock interview experience for year 11s as well as small group discussions about post-16. Some of our year 11 pupils have secured destinations at mainstream provisions, training providers as well as valuable work experience through Juniper.

We look forward to further developing our careers provision at Kingsmead School and exciting developments starting in September. Further information about our careers programme can be found on our website: <https://respectschools.co.uk/our-services/careers-and-post-16/>

This year visits and trips have supported pupils' interests and curiosity, celebration of key events and understanding across an array of subjects. After their mocks, year eleven pupils attended revision sessions and 1:1 sessions to prepare for exams and complete outcomes. Meanwhile, across the year our pupils lower down the school visited different religious buildings and developed their understanding of different faiths. They also prepared and enjoyed foods from different cultures. This was complemented by their curiosity for different foods in their food technology lessons where they enjoyed exotic fruits and meats including zebra, kangaroo and ostrich. Remembrance Day celebrations saw our year elevens visit the local cemetery while our whole year seven cohort took a visit to the National Arboretum later in the year. Our year eight and ten pupils have also started developing their map reading skills together with recent visits to the Peak District, ahead of Prince's Trust work in September as preparation for further expeditions and residential experiences.

Pupils have also engaged with a rich array of extra-curricular clubs run at lunchtime and after school: Dance, Cooking, Art, Basketball, football just to name a few. Year seven were also supported in attending weekly swimming sessions for the second part of the year, to develop their skills and awareness of safety in the water. More exciting clubs are in the pipeline for next year and we continue to welcome pupils' ideas about what other clubs they would like us to facilitate.



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We have been pleased to strengthen our links with our Local Crime Prevention Officer this year: Toni. Toni and her colleagues have visited the school to develop awareness around knife crime and hate crime. The pupils involved really enjoyed using the VR headsets to access these engaging sessions. We look forward to doing further work with Toni and her team next year and of raising the importance of staying safe and knowing when to seek help from the police.

This year we have worked as a school to develop our RESPECT vision and values and how they underpin our rewarding and logging of positive behaviour points. Pupils are supported in discussions around their positive behaviour targets and have been able to work towards exciting rewards. Trips and rewards have included VR (virtual reality) experiences, roller blading, Oxygen, Drayton Manor and the ordering of tasting goodies from KFC and Costco. We are looking forward to developing further awards that pupils will be able to work towards next year.

Once again, pupils in year ten represented our Kingsmead pupils and their 'voice' as SEND Ambassadors at the local meetings which have run throughout the year. They have enjoyed going to the Museum of Making venue and exploring what opportunities and developments are on offer, in Derby for pupils with SEND. This is an integral piece of work we support and look forward to being a part of again next year with a new cohort of pupil council members. This year pupils engaged in important discussions around how their views are collected for annual reviews, how they would best like to be supported through key transitions in their school lives, transport and health.

At the time of writing we are thrilled to see pupils off for visits to Pride Park for tours of the local stadium; day trips to Drayton Manor to see who is the bravest pupil (and staff member) on the rides; our whole school trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park ahead of our end of year BBQ/picnic and ice-cream van visit to site. This is a fabulous fun time of year to round off achievements and progress for all our pupils and made possible by the dedicated Kingsmead staff team who organise such brilliant opportunities.

As we break up for the summer, I know that despite the staff team recharging their batteries they will also be planning further exciting events and opportunities for next academic year to support the individual educational and personal development of your children.



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

Uniform: It is important that pupils feel a sense of belonging to our school community. To that end we have a supportive uniform policy that supports pupils' sensory needs but facilitates them feeling smart and purposeful in the school environment

All new pupils will receive a free sweatshirt and polo-shirt with our school logo in the autumn term. In the meantime we ask that pupils continue to wear black trousers (we do permit the wearing of **black** joggers/shorts due to sensory needs) and black polo shirts/t-shirts.

We have seen a range of 'interesting' clothes being worn of late but do ask that pupils dress in line with our uniform policy. Crop tops/string vest tops or short skirts and shorts are not appropriate within the school environment.

Our approaches to school uniform also aim to have 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/crocs or wellington boots. We ask for parental and carer support in this matter as pupils won't be able to engage in sports, vocational learning off-site or trips given the risk to their safety.

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 by **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.

New students: All Derby City parents must apply for school transport by logging on to <https://www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/derbys-send-local-offer/home-to-school-travel/home-to-school-travel-assistance/#page-1>

All Derbyshire parents must apply for school transport by logging on to www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/travel/school-transport.aspx



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Free school meals: If you wish to apply for free school meals and are a new parent/carer, the necessary pack will have been in your induction pack. If you're an existing parent/carer, please ask your child to collect a form from reception **Return to School: 6th 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 opportunities to hear about P16 providers as we also explain some of the processes that our year elevens in particular will go through, over the year.

This meeting on the 6th September 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 5th September (INSET Day for staff) to promptly arrange this.

The first day of term is **Monday 9th 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.

Again, a sincere thank you to all the parents and carers who have worked closely with us this year, to ensure all children had a positive year of experiences, memories and made progress in all they do.

We hope you and your children have a restful and safe summer break and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Warmest regards,

Elizabeth Sanger

Liz Sanger, Headteacher



Key Dates	
22 nd August	G.C.S.E RESULTS DAY – YEAR ELEVEN PUPILS ONLY Your child will need collect their results from Kingsmead School between 9.30am and 11:30am . Students will have to sign to say they have collected their results. If they wish someone else to collect their results, they must provide that person with a signed letter to say they will be collecting their results, and that person must have photographic I.D to prove their identity.
6 th September	Admissions day: parents and carers to attend and meet key workers, collect timetables, sign paperwork.
9 th September	First day of autumn term