

Elizabeth Sanger
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Your ref:
Our ref: LS/JF
Date: 15th January 2025
Contact: Liz Sanger
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Dear Kingsmead Families and Carers

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring Term. What a cold start to the year it has been!

We are taking the opportunity that the new year provides to revisit school expectations. This is a busy time of year for all our pupils and in particular our year elevens who will be sitting their second set of mocks before February half-term. With our largest cohort of year elevens ever, the running of the mocks is a logistical challenge. We support pupils with access arrangements and this support means the running of our exams is not like a mainstream school – the needs of individual pupils are met every step of the way, sometimes in individual spaces across the school. To this end it is key that pupils in other year groups are following their timetables – including attendance at their AP provision, using the support available to them across school and staying in class so that school is quiet and conducive to the mock experience being as positive as possible for all.

Most of our pupils respect and adhere to our school expectations around the handing in of phones. Pupils should not have access to vapes given the legal age required to have them - it is illegal to sell nicotine vaping products to anyone under 18 or for adults to buy them on behalf of under-18s. Unfortunately a small minority of pupils have got access to them and are bringing them in to school.

All contraband (phones and vapes) must be handed in to keep everyone in our school community safe. Parental and carer support around these issues is sought and we are grateful to those parents and carers who understand the severity of pupils having access to both items and the impact on learning, safeguarding and parity of expectations for *all* pupils.

Attending school is critical for pupils to thrive during their time with us. Without regular attendance, pupils will not make progress academically or personally and risk not fulfilling their individual potentials. We are highly ambitious for all our pupils to live as successfully, healthily and independently as possible when they leave us; good attendance to school is key to this being realised. The competition for P16 places is highly competitive and pupils who don't routinely attend school, risk finishing in year eleven and struggling to engage in education or the world of apprenticeships/work in the future, limiting their future chances.



**Kingsmead
School**

Further dates for your diaries this half-term*:

INSET Day: 27th January Pupils are not in school today

Year Eleven Mocks: 3rd – 14th February

Year Nine Parent Event: 4th February 14:45 – 15:30

Year Eleven Parent Event (post mocks): 4th March 14:45 – 15:30

Year Eleven Mock Interviews: Dates to be confirmed

*Class teachers and key workers will be in touch with individual group trips and experiences planned

Please continue to visit our school website for updates and information we share. As ever, every child's key worker is available should you need to make contact, as are the pastoral and leadership teams should you need us. We welcome a positive working relationship with all our parents and carers to support every child who attends our school thriving during their time with us.

Kind regards

Elizabeth Sanger

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