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Your ref:
Our ref: LS/ES
Date: 1st April 2025
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Dear Kingsmead families and carers,

At the time of writing, we are finally approaching the final days of the Spring Term and the daffodils and bluebells have started springing up across school. It has felt like a long, cold winter let alone Spring Term and so as we break up for Easter, it is wonderful to see the sun finally shining and pupils and staff enjoying the school grounds together.

The past six weeks have been busy for our school community. There have been many school trips and visits organised and engaged with. At the time of writing, I can see many more exciting experiences booked in our school calendar before we break up and across the Summer Term. Year Eleven have been heading to a local gym in support of their Sports Qualification and because of the important benefits for their well-being. Last week a group of pupils from across school (Year 8 to 11) visited the University of Nottingham to explore what further education can look and feel like, while visiting the Lakeside Arts Centre to see the current exhibition: Cosmic Titans: Art, Science and the Quantum Universe. Pupils had a fascinating morning out experiencing the exhibition that 'unites art and science in a captivating exploration of the quantum universe, celebrating the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology'.

One of the highlights of the past six weeks was the first residential of the academic year to the Lake District, that took place in February. Seven pupils from Years 9 to 11 and four members of staff stayed away from Tuesday to Friday. Over four hours of traveling to cover the 200 mile journey to YHA Honister Hause, saw the groups arrive at the Highest point of Honister Pass, situated between Keswick and Lakes Crummock and Buttermere. All the experiences planned for the week were designed to push everyone (safely and positively) outside of their comfort zones; giving them new and memorable experiences while providing opportunities to lead and support each other. The pupils and staff returned to school exhausted but still smiling and so very proud of all they achieved together. Look out for more details and photographs soon to land on our school website.

This residential opportunity, afforded via our Personal Development offer and the King's Trust qualification, is something that we are very proud to offer pupils as part of a rich array of school experiences available. Again, I must say a huge thank you to the staff who stayed away from their own families and routines to make such a worthwhile experience possible and to the staff who kept the school routines running back at base. It takes a huge team effort to run and support such

experiences taking place. This year we have run over 200 trips and visits to support learning both in and beyond the classroom – This is due to the dedication and planning of the staff team working with your children!

This term, Year 11 have been working very hard towards the completion of their Functional Skills qualifications from Entry Level to Level 1 and 2 in their Maths, English and Science. They have also sat their second set of mock exams in preparation for the real exams that will commence before May half-term. Mocks interviews were a real success with pupils meeting with career and post-16 providers. The feedback they individually received helped them reflect on the importance of preparing for interviews, how to conduct themselves and the importance of asking good questions to establish what future pathways are best for them – as individuals!

The KS4 and Leadership team are on hand to support Year 11 pupils and their families/carers with their academic preparation and social and emotional health during the summer term so they are as ready as possible for the summer exam season and beyond. We wish all our pupils the absolute best of luck for their GCSE exams which will start on the 12th May and run until the 16th June.

As we break up for the Easter break can I remind you about some key things:

Website: Our school Website is a hive of activity that contains updates regarding pupil experiences in school and shares what they are learning about across different subjects. Be sure to check us out and see what we are up to in school: <https://kingsmeadschoolderby.co.uk>

Attendance: We take your child's attendance at school very seriously. With the sun finally beginning to shine, we hope to see an end to coughs and colds. As shared last year, if you're unsure about whether your child should attend, due to feeling poorly, check NHS guidance to support you in deciding: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Please speak to your child's keyworkers with regards to their current attendance figures and request further support if required.

Uniform: Our school uniform expectations are flexible to support pupil needs in engaging with our policy. Uniform is available to buy from school otherwise we encourage pupils to wear black. The wearing of any other colour is not permitted – please can you support your child(ren) in complying with our expectations. As the weather gets warmer, it is important that pupils cover up in clothing that is suitable. To that end, crop tops, 'short' shorts, sleeveless tops and torn/frayed clothing, are not suitable to wear in school. The temptation to wear inappropriate footwear can be all too tempting but remember the risk of accidents, slips, and falls is significantly higher when unsuitable footwear is worn.

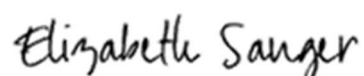
The following are not allowed:

- Slippers
- Sliders/flip-flops
- Crocs
- Wellington boots

In the event of extreme weather (heat) as we have experienced in the last few years, we shall update you with more relaxed approaches to uniform while remaining appropriate for our setting.

Have a safe and restful Easter break – don't eat too much chocolate! We shall see you on Wednesday 23rd April for the start of the Summer Term!

Kind Regards



Elizabeth Sanger
Headteacher