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Your ref:
Our ref: LS/ES
Date 14th July 2025
Contact: L Sanger
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Dear Kingsmead Families and Carers,

As we approach the final days of the academic year, I wanted to write my final letter to you as Headteacher of Kingsmead School.

This has been another jam-packed year where we have welcomed lots of new pupils (and their families and carers) to our community. Our school numbers are the highest we have ever seen.

This academic year, the support of parents/carers has once again been well received by the whole staff team, as we all work together to support our pupils engaging with school, accessing all the opportunities available to them and ultimately preparing for next steps: P16 and adulthood, as independently as possible.

On the 27th June, we said goodbye to our largest ever Year Eleven cohort. Yet again, the staff team observed the maturity and engagement of all the pupils sitting GCSE exams across May and June and completing final components of the array of qualifications we have on offer here for them (including but not limited to: for GCSE English Language, English Literature, Maths and Double Science, ASDAN and BTECs, in Food, Sports, ICT, Duke of Edinburgh and King's Trust). We are as excited as they are to see their results this August. The leaver's event was so very special – with pupils returning to sign shirts, say goodbye to staff who have supported them during their secondary education and enjoy some fabulous party food.

From the 1st – 3rd July, we welcomed our future Year Seven pupils during the city's Common Transfer Days. As ever, it was heart-warming to see how quickly and comfortably our new cohort of pupils settled into the new routines, supported by the KS3 team across these three days. It was lovely to meet parents and carers who we shall be supporting and working with over the next five years of their children's time with us.

As we start enjoying final trips and visits, plan for Sports Day and the annual visit of the ice cream van, I want to take the time to thank the staff team for all they have done and facilitated this year for your children. Given our smaller community school size, we can support each child as an individual and put the right support and educational/personal support in place that enables them to thrive and cope with the demands of secondary education – albeit in a specialist provision. The staff team remain unwaveringly ambitious, for all the pupils who attend our school, and are so proud of all they overcome and achieve.

I also want to thank the children themselves for being so amazing. Week after week and year after year, they have never ceased to amaze me with their resilience and stamina and support of one another. As with any school, there are challenges from time to time, but the pupils continue to push themselves and enjoy success and achievement, recognising how supported they are. Our awards event last Autumn was so wonderful to celebrate an array of pupil achievements, and I will be sad to miss next year's event.

This summer there will be a few staff moving on to different opportunities (far and wide) and I, and the wider staff team, wish everyone the very best of luck. I want to also take this opportunity to welcome the new Headteacher: Michelle Hall, who will be stepping into post for September. Michelle is already well known to many of our pupils and families given her support of KS2 pupils over the last few years. Michelle is very keen to get started here and I know the staff team and pupils are all very much looking forward to her leadership and the further growth of our special school.

To conclude, please note the following important updates ahead of your next 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. Jeans are not appropriate uniform.

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/P16 and the world of work. Pupils are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes or trainers, preferably black and **not** sliders/crocs/slippers 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: 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:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/travel/school-transport.aspx>

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: 5th 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 5th 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 8th 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.

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

Warmest regards,

Elizabeth Sanger

Liz Sanger,
Headteacher



| Key Dates | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 25 th July | Break up for summer – pupils leave at 12:30 |
| 21 st 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 . Pupils 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. |
| 5 th September | Admissions day: parents and carers to attend and meet key workers, collect timetables, sign paperwork. |
| 8 th September | First day of autumn term – all pupils to attend |