



THE KING'S SCHOOL

The King's School

Mill Hill Lane

Pontefract

West Yorkshire

WF8 4JF

T: 01977 601701

W: kings.patrust.org.uk

E: admin@kings.patrust.org.uk

17 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write to you at the end of a hectic, but extremely rewarding and positive first term. As I said in my previous letter, it has been great to have some normality back to school life. Despite concerns regarding the new variant and 'Plan B', I hope that you are all looking forward to a restful Christmas break.

I would like to provide you with an update on the following:

Rugby Coach & Development Officer, and Staffing Changes

I am pleased to announce that we have recently appointed Mr Tony O'Brien to a new position at the school, a Rugby Coach & Development Officer. Mr O'Brien will join us in January. Now that we have been able to operate more normally, we are very much looking at re-establishing our proud tradition. We understand the importance of rugby for the school, particularly rugby union, and I am passionate about ensuring that we maintain our heritage in the future. Mr O'Brien brings with him a wealth of experience and is qualified to a Level 3 standard, has a Masters in Sports Performance Coaching and has coached at a professional level for a range of clubs. These include Connacht in Ireland for rugby union and also as a league coach, working with Castleford, Warrington, Widnes and Hull KR throughout his career. We welcome Mr O'Brien and are excited as to what he will bring on the training field for all year groups, for boys and girls, and also to see him implement his ideas around game analysis.

As at the end of most terms, we will also see some staffing changes and welcome a new Lead Practitioner of Maths, Mr Paul Thomas, who will add strength to the department, as well as a new Teacher of English, Miss Katie Hill.

Breakfast Provision

Continuing our work with our catering suppliers, we will be reintroducing our breakfast provision from Monday 10 January. This was not possible throughout Covid-19 restrictions and we have maintained our separate year group 'zones' upon arrival to school each morning. Breakfast will be available for all students from 8.30am.

Rewards

Our Achievement Points system that we introduced in September has been a great success. In the first term, the ratio of Achievement Points to 'Consequences' has been 10:1 and it is lovely to see our students being rewarded and recognised for their great work and behaviour. You may also find a postcard dropping through your door this week as departments have added to the Christmas post by sending congratulations to those who deserve it for their work this term. A big well done to all.

Co-Curricular Offer

Our offer has been fantastic this year and the attendance has matched. We have over 50 clubs running throughout the week and the engagement has been wonderful. We will communicate our term 3 & 4 enrichment offer in the first week back after the Christmas break, to start during the second week.

I would also like to draw your attention to the school's Twitter account to keep you up to date with what goes on at school. This is updated daily and is a great way to see what is happening - @KingsPontefract

Festive Celebrations

Finally, this week has seen a multitude of festive celebrations. We are extremely lucky to have such a wealth of talent at the school, demonstrated through 'Under the Kingsmas Tree' for the residents of De Lacy Gardens, a Christmas Carol Service at St. Giles, a Santa Dash, and many more. As always, a significant amount of work has been undertaken by the Music and Performing Arts Team. We took 230 students to Leeds City Varieties on Wednesday to see a pantomime. The students were impeccable and I would like to share with you the text of an email that we have received from a member of the public:

I believe a large group of your students attended Leeds City Varieties today for the afternoon performance of Beauty and the Beast. I had taken my elderly dad who has quite advanced dementia, and I will admit when I first saw all the pupils rolling in I was quite apprehensive. I am happy to say my feelings were quite unfounded. Several pupils sat near us were very helpful and courteous and overall the behaviour of such a large group of kids was fantastic. I just wanted to say the kids were a credit to the school and it was a pleasure to share the theatre this afternoon. People are often quick to criticise but slow to praise.

The above makes me extremely proud of our students and the wider King's community.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you and your families a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Pinto
Headteacher