

12 July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Update

I hope this letter finds you well and looking forward to the weeks ahead and the summer holidays. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received as Headteacher here at The King's School. I feel immensely privileged and fortunate to be working within such a kind, generous and supportive community and have thoroughly enjoyed my first half term here.

Highlights

As we approach the end of the school term I would also like to reflect on the wonderful occasions and achievements that have taken place. These include our annual King's Fest event, which despite the downpour, proved to be as successful as ever. Similarly, our upcoming Sports Day promises to be a great occasion where team spirit and comradery will dominate the day as always.

Each year group has had cause to celebrate and enjoy new experiences throughout this half term. We said goodbye to Year 11 but not before they had successfully and resiliently completed their exams and enjoyed their Leavers' Assembly and Celebration on the school field. Thankfully, the sun shone for them! Their final celebration with the school was the Year 11 Prom which was a joy to behold and a wonderful privilege to be a part of. For Year 10 there has been a real sense of the year group moving forward to become the 'senior' students in the school. It has been wonderful to see their sense of maturity and resilience grow. Events like 'You're Hired' and the recent Work Experience have marked and supported this growth significantly and I am really excited by the prospect of working with our Year 11 Student Leadership Team next year. Year 9 enjoyed a fantastic Key Stage 3 Graduation event yesterday, complete with cap and gowns. Again, there is a real sense of this year group embracing the journey ahead as they prepare for their GCSEs and the beginning of Key Stage 4.

Our younger students have also given much cause to celebrate and should be proud of all they have achieved. Year 7 have settled in brilliantly and have clearly grown in confidence during their time with us. Almost half of the year group signed up to a residential trip this term where their teamwork and resilience was put to the test. I am assured by the staff who attended that a wonderful time was had by all and that those Year 7 students who attended were a real credit to our school. Whilst our Year 8 students have shown a continued commitment to fundraising at both national and local level, which included a Big Sleep Out event to support the plight of homelessness.

Arrangements for the End of Term

In our final week we still have a number of events taking place. I am very much looking forward to meeting our future Year 7 students once more with our final two transition days taking place on Monday 15 July and Tuesday 16 July. These days will culminate with a Transition Evening for parents and carers on Tuesday 16 July and with the opportunity to celebrate the contributions of our new Year 6 students.

Our annual Sports Day will take place Wednesday 17 July, weather permitting, with lots of fantastic opportunities for all students to take part in the event.

As previously communicated, Friday 19 July will be a non-uniform day. This is to assist with the collection of any good condition pre-owned uniform which can be donated to school on this day. Further information can be found here: https://kings.patrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2024_07_02-Non-uniform-day-Letter.pdf

The school will close for the summer break Friday 19 July at 2.35pm. During the holidays, the school reception will also be closed from this date and will re-open on Monday 2 September at 8.00am. Phone calls will not be answered during this time and the admin email inbox will be checked once a week.

Arrangements for the Start of Term – September 2024

The start of the academic year is a very exciting time and a very important one. We want a strong start for our students and a positive one for our school community. All students will return to school on **Wednesday 4 September** at the normal time of **8.25am**. Due to changes to our access points at school, as communicated earlier this week, students will no longer be able to access the Ackworth Road gate after **8.15am**. Please ensure that journey times are planned accordingly to avoid being late to school.

When students arrive at school on the first day please could I ask that they initially go to the following line up points on arrival:

Year Group	Designated Area
Year 7	The Main Hall
Year 8	Tennis Courts
Year 9	DT Quad
Year 10	DT Quad
Year 11	PE Quad

This is for the first day only and students will receive further instructions once they are in Form. We would like to ensure that the first day and week goes smoothly and that students are quickly settled and learning. The table below shows some key events happening in the first week:

Date	Description
Monday 2 September	INSET - Staff only.
Tuesday 3 September	INSET - Staff only.
Wednesday 4 September	First day of school for students. School open to all year groups. The start time is 08.25am The end time is 2.35pm (Access via Ackworth Road closes at 8.15am)

School Uniform

As you know, our students are extremely smart and we place the highest regard on their personal presentation and how they wear their uniform. We want our students to look their absolute best. Please can I take this opportunity to remind you of our uniform policy before you prepare to buy new items over the summer break.

You can read our uniform policy here: <https://www.pontefractacademiestrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Uniform-Policy-Secondary-Phase-v1.0.pdf>

In particular, please ensure skirts are knee length. It may be that your child has grown over the year and the skirt length which met expectations last year may now be too short.

Equipment

When arriving back in September, all students will be expected to have a **school bag** and the following basic equipment: two black ballpoint pens, pencil, ruler, purple pen and a rubber. They will be provided with a school planner which they must have with them at all times and present in lessons on arrival.

Please note, our Year 7 students will be provided with a 'Welcome to King's School' pack on their first day which will contain a pencil case and equipment. In addition, all students will be expected to have a calculator. Equipment checks will take place on a daily basis.

A Final Thank You

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the incredible students here at The King's School. I have been so impressed by their manners, kindness and friendliness and by their approach to embracing school life fully and by their positive work ethos. Day after day, I see our students go above and beyond, helping to make our community truly unique.

I would also like to thank you as parents and carers, for the support of our school and your constant encouragement. I greatly value our partnership and hope that this continues to go from strength to strength in the coming year. Thank you for working with us to ensure that each young person is able to thrive and flourish.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff for their exceptional hard work and commitment. I have seen first-hand a community of teaching and support colleagues who work tirelessly to help our young people and who stop at nothing to ensure that our students are able to fulfil their true potential and experience happiness and success.

If you have any queries regarding the information above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Yours faithfully



Ms M Evans
Headteacher