

VOL. 1 | 9 SEPTEMBER 2022

NEWSLETTER



KINGS'
SCHOOL · WINCHESTER

UPDATES FOR THE PARENTS OF KINGS'



WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I would like to offer a very warm welcome back to all our pupils, and an especially warm welcome to our new Year 7, their parents and their families, for what I know will be an exciting year ahead. The Autumn Term will be busy, with friendships developing; new opportunities being explored through our clubs and activities; and successful academic and pastoral habits and routines being formed.

We have seen considerable change over the past year (COVID; cost of living) as well as change within Kings'. As Headteacher, it has been a pleasure to complete my first full academic year and see my second group of Year 11 pupils finish their time at Kings' as mature, successful young people, leaving with examination results they should be proud of that enables them to take their next steps into further education and work. I am delighted with the success we have seen and continue to strive to do the best for your children.

Our mission and school values are clear: we want every pupil to be successful and to be fully prepared to embrace the challenges and opportunities they experience and most importantly to thrive in doing so. Whilst the last year has seen notable positive change within school, we continue to make further improvements in our pursuit of success for each individual.





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BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN EVERY PUPIL

You may be aware that we have invested in our pastoral care and the personal development of our pupils for this academic year. We have a longer tutor time at the start of the day, providing greater time to build a strong pupil-tutor relationship and ensure a solid sense of belonging. This will enable every pupil to have a 'great start' to the school day, either in assembly, in tutor time or involved in House activities.

In addition, we have created a new role in our pastoral system. We are currently appointing 'Year Officers' who will be based in the Year offices, supporting the Head of Year and Deputy Head of Year with pastoral care in each Year group. The 'Year Officer' is a non-teaching member of staff who will provide support with attendance and pupil welfare. We are aware of the increased demand for our Welfare Team and this role will provide more immediate support for pupils, whilst our Welfare Team addresses some of our pupils' more significant challenges. We are in the process of appointing these staff and look forward to sharing our details of the new team soon.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Last year we reviewed our curriculum – the knowledge and skills that we want pupils to learn – both in an academic sense, but also more holistically through our personal development curriculum as well as our broad, rich co-curricular programme of trips, visits, clubs, and activities.

To aid pupils in their learning, our staff have been very busy producing our 'Knowledge base' and 'Knowledge builders', which collectively we are calling our Knowledge Organisers. These will be shared with pupils this week and provide the core knowledge we want pupils to know and understand. These will also help you to have clarity regarding the knowledge that we want your children to know, how to support them learning this, and how to extend their learning. We will be running a number of parent information evenings to share more about how to support your children in their learning, including how the Knowledge Organisers will be used for homework and in lessons.

As we reflect on the successes of the last academic year, I am confident that we can build on our excellent practices. Our work on Teaching and Learning, through our continued focus on our: classroom practice, Period 6 revision sessions, Easter revision sessions and our 'Growing Great Learners' portal all contributed, along with our supportive pastoral system together with your input, to the fantastic results for our pupils.





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ACADEMIC SUCCESS

I would like to congratulate our former Year 11 pupils who showed remarkable resilience in the face of recent challenges. We are delighted with the results in this summer's examinations which were strongly counter to the decrease seen nationally. Pupils averaged a grade 6; with a third of all grades achieved by pupils being grades 7-9. 100% of pupils have gone on to further Education, Employment and Training. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces up at school on Results Day - well done to each and every one of our Class of 2022!

A GREAT ENVIRONMENT

Our site team have been very busy over the Summer with a huge amount of cosmetic work, with large parts of the main public areas of the school feeling refreshed and revitalised. A huge thank you to them, for all the work they continue to do.

LOOKING FORWARD

The challenges of last year were significant with the effects of COVID on pupils and staff. We face additional challenges this year including: significant cost increases with inflation; having to fund the support staff and teaching staff pay awards from within our existing budget; and the need for further classroom space. In addition, we are anticipating an Ofsted inspection in the very near future. The school was last inspected in 2014. We believe that Ofsted will recognise our strong pastoral care and support, the breadth and range of opportunity available through our House and co-curricular programme as well as the strong performance of our pupils in their examinations; as well all the other things that make Kings' a great school for all our pupils!

HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR SCHOOL

In response to your feedback, we have looked at a wide range of our communication methods between home and school starting with improving our mechanisms for parental contact with school, both through phone and email – more to follow on this shortly.

We have updated the menu to our website to improve access to some of the key information and we have increased the frequency of our Instagram posts, and how these link to further information on the website.

We know that working in partnership with our parents and families, we can achieve great things for our young people. One thing we want to do is hear more from you. We will be holding regular parent information evenings and forums for parents to contribute to key themes about Kings' and how we can improve our school. We would really value you attending and sharing your thoughts. More details about these can be found in these pages.

Welcome to Kings' and the 2022-23 academic year!

Dr James Adams
Headteacher



GCSE RESULTS DAY



We are delighted with the GCSE results achieved by our Year 11 pupils. They represent the culmination of their hard work and resilience, supported by their parents / carers and the staff of the school.

The pupils in this year group have faced significant disruption to their education but have remained steadfast and have now secured grades that will open many doors to them as they move beyond Kings' School.

We are especially pleased that the grades awarded to our pupils this year appear to be as good as those obtained by our pupils in the past two years when formal GCSE exams did not take place. The average grade obtained across the year group was a 6, with a third of pupils' grades awarded being in the top 7 to 9 bracket. It is the case though, that nearly all groups of pupils have achieved as well as, if not better than, in the previous two years.

Sharing the success of Year 11 pupils on results day is a genuine highlight of my headship at Kings' to date. I wish them all the very best and hope they have wonderful futures.





FRESHERS' FAYRE



On Friday last week the Year 7s were able to meet and sample some of the amazing extra-curricular clubs on offer via our annual Year 7 'Freshers' Fayre'. Over 30 stalls showcased activities and clubs that run during both lunch time and after school. Pupils were given the chance to take part in all manner of activities including archery, science experiments, gardening club, language club and various sporting activities. Pupils were also able to meet our amazing House team, getting to know their Head of House and hear of the incredible House events coming up this term. Pupils went away excited about the prospect of being involved in our extra-curricular provision. This week pupils will get to see the time table for this term and we hope all pupils are able to find an event that excites them – if not, we want to know what we are missing!



QUALITY IN CAREERS
STANDARD

We continue to demonstrate our commitment to developing and delivering quality careers education, advice and guidance provision to all pupils through our recent re-accreditation of the Quality In Careers Standard - 'making good progress towards'. This is an excellent achievement and recognises the quality and breadth of the school's careers provision, including fully incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks and CDI Career Development Framework.





KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

This week we took a really exciting delivery: our first Kings' School Knowledge Organisers. Teachers and Tutors have been busy introducing them to pupils in Tutor Time and in lessons.

We know that it is important that all pupils have a clear understanding of what they need to know and learn in order to be successful. The Knowledge Organisers bring together the core knowledge needed in each scheme of work at Key Stage 3 (Years 7 – 9) into a booklet for each pupil to learn. Pupils are really excited about their potential to help them study. Comments from Year 8 include:

- 'Miss, it's so cool - you're giving us the answers!'
- 'This will be so useful for revision'
- 'If I need to check something, I have forgotten, it will be here for me.'
- 'If I have to miss a day off school (not that we want to encourage this!) it will be easier to catch up.'

And my personal favourite from one of our pupils with Special Educational Needs:

- 'I have already been able to start getting ahead - I know what I am studying in my lessons and I can read about it before I study it. It helps me to know what I am going to be learning about.'

The Knowledge Organisers do not contain the whole curriculum, your children will be taught much more than this in the course of a term at school. However, it does give them the core knowledge that they need to know to be successful. There are also Knowledge Builder pages that are there to extend learning; interesting video clips, podcasts, books and articles that can deepen and extend all our learners.

As a parent, you can help your child by talking to them about what they are learning and testing them. They do not have to get every word correct and in the right order, it is more important that they can explain what the word means.

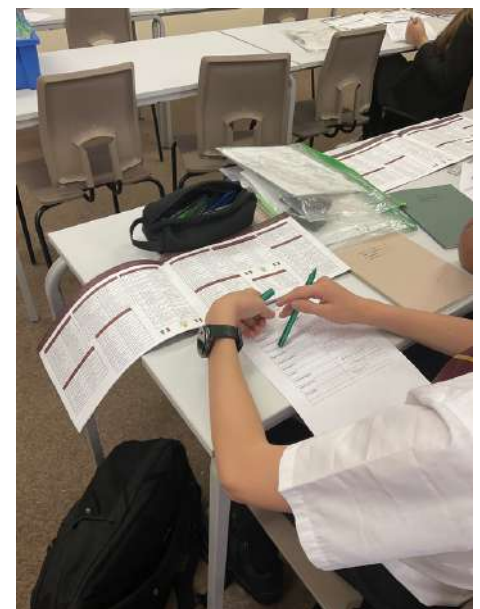
For a brief introduction, please see the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVQsQ5ChBzo>

This is our first Knowledge Organiser and we know that they will change over time, as our curriculum develops and as we gather feedback from staff, pupils and parents. Please come along to the Parents' Information Evening to find out more about them and how you can help your child with their learning and homework.

Year 7 Parents' Information Evening Sign Up

Year 8 Parents' Information Evening Sign Up

Year 9 Parents' Information Evening Sign Up





Fostering

We wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that there is a legal duty to notify Hampshire Local Authority / Children's Services if you are involved in Private Fostering arrangements.

Information about Private Fostering and relevant contact details are provided via the attached link:

<https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Spotlight-On...-Hampshire-Private-Fostering-updated-logo-Mar-20.pdf>

Cost of Living Crisis

We are aware that many families are struggling at the moment with the huge increases in energy bills and inflation running at almost 10%. In an effort to help out, we have taken the decision to freeze the price of all items sold by Kings' Catering until January 2023.

In addition, if you feel that your child(ren) may be eligible for free school meals, please complete this **form**.

We also have a selection of second-hand uniform items available to purchase from the School Shop.

INSPIRING FUTURES



EXCEPTIONAL CHARACTER



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 21st Sept - Careers & Employability Fayre
- 22nd Sept - Yr7 Information Evening
- 27th Sept - Open Morning
- 28th Sept - Open Morning
- 28th Sept - Open Evening
- 29th Sept - INSET DAY
- 30th September - Open Morning



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WE ARE RECRUITING;

- Finance Assistant/Purchase Ledger, p/t
- Dining Room Assistant, p/t
- Lifeguard
- Community Supervisor

PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS