



Dear Parent

Happy New Year and I hope you and your family had a wonderful Christmas break together. As we move into 2023, I wanted to give you an update to ensure you are aware of various projects and events taking place this half term. The normal school newsletter will follow next week. If you are not following us on Twitter I would highly recommend it, it highlights our culture but also promotes opportunities and events at the school. [https://twitter.com/KL\\_School\\_UK](https://twitter.com/KL_School_UK)

## Free School Meals

We are aware that lots of families are struggling with rising costs. If your circumstances have changed, your child may now qualify for Free School Meals and additional funding in school. You can visit this [website](#) to check your eligibility. If you would like support with this please get in touch with Mrs A Sharp - [sharpa@kls.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sharpa@kls.herts.sch.uk).

We also have a large stock of second hand uniform items which are available at school events. You are also welcome to get in touch with the Friends of Kings Langley directly who can arrange a collection of second hand uniform from reception. This is open to all families and good for the environment as well as the bank.

## School Infrastructure Projects:

I am determined as Headteacher of Kings Langley School to ensure our young people have outstanding facilities. I am delighted to report that two major infrastructure projects are now progressing at pace. The 6th Form Centre development has gained momentum with the piling works and foundation structure being installed over the festive period. This week we have seen the final stages of this process being completed as the concrete was poured, we will now rapidly see the building emerging above ground over the coming weeks.

I am also delighted to report that the 3G football pitch planning application was submitted to Dacorum Borough Council before Christmas, reaching a project milestone. We are now finalising our Football Foundation application and would ask our community to get behind our fundraising efforts. As part of our grant application to the Football Foundation we must demonstrate our local community's support and raise some funds towards the project. Please click this link <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/KingsLangleySchool3GFootballPitch> on our 'Just Giving' fundraising page. Donations no matter the size soon add up and we would be very grateful of your contribution.

## Staffing

It is always sad to see colleagues leave at the end of a term and last term we said goodbye to Mrs Headley who moved to a school closer to home following her new house move. We wish her the best of luck in her role at Monks Walk School. We also wished Mrs Walker the best of luck as she leaves us for her maternity leave. We are delighted to report that we were able to replace both with very experienced teachers welcoming back from Croxley Danes, Ms Weston as Teacher of Chemistry and joining us with a wealth of experience as Head of Science from Parmiter's and Croxley Danes Ms Williamson who joins us as of Key Stage 5 lead for Science. We also said farewell to Mrs Amao who finished her short term contract with us and we welcome Miss Falconer who starts her teaching career with us in food technology.

Recruitment of staff in almost all subjects remains a real challenge for schools and as such we are pleased to have recruited well during a difficult period.

### **Student Surveys/Feedback/Parent Support:**

Every term we survey our students on various elements of their lives on how we can support them better. Before Christmas we sent out a GOVOX wellbeing survey.

Two major themes that have been identified from the GOVOX student wellbeing survey; Sleep, and Self-Esteem/worries about appearance. We are in discussions with our Mental Health Support Team about how we can best address these concerns on a wider scale with our students, and are looking at putting together some workshops and group work with students in school to support with this. Along with this we are adding talks in school and reviewing elements of our PSHE and Tutor time curriculum to support our young people to talk through these worries.

As part of our support for parents and families, on this matter we hold regular Parent Information evenings on a range of different topics. **Our next parent event is being held on Wednesday 1st February at Kings Langley School on the theme of Supporting Young People's Confidence, Self Esteem and Supporting Positive Mental Health to address the points young people raised in the survey.**

As a school we are conscious that many of our children can be affected by low self-esteem and levels of anxiety and the challenge we all face is how to support this to avoid it escalating from pretty harmless tendencies ('a bit on the anxious side') into behaviour that is concerning.

This informal evening will give parents and carers the opportunity learn some useful tips and techniques that will help you support your child in further developing their confidence so they can succeed in and out of school. In particular, during the evening we will cover the following:

- What is self-esteem and why do so many young people lack it;
- Understanding anxiety and stress in Children;
- The important role of Parents and Carers during the teenage years;
- The power of positive language and communication;
- Developing confidence through empathy and assertiveness;
- Teenagers and the importance of sleep;

If you would like to reserve a place on this evening, please email [familyservices@kls.herts.sch.uk](mailto:familyservices@kls.herts.sch.uk).

Sleep - was the second element of our young people's worries and in short, not getting enough and not being able to go to sleep with racing minds! On our school website we have created a number of useful help guides for parents on a variety of matters and I would highly recommend reading the one about sleep and how to support your child. Please can I ask that all parents talk with their child about sleep and their concerns and then use this advice and guidance to support good healthy routines for this vital element of their well-being. [Parent Support Services - Kings Langley \(kls.herts.sch.uk\)](https://www.kingslangley.herts.sch.uk/parent-support-services)

### **Parent Feedback from Parent Consultation Events:**

As you will be aware we send surveys to parents following every parent consultation event and I personally read everyone to review how we continue to improve the school. Three areas have come up through these I would like to address.

- Curriculum – what is taught? 5% of parents surveyed felt we did not promote anywhere what we teach. I would like to promote with this group of parents our school website link and our

curriculum pages and various documents: [Curriculum Coverage - Kings Langley \(kls.herts.sch.uk\)](https://kls.herts.sch.uk)

there are summary documents for parents who just want a glance and also detailed curriculum pages and tracker documents for parents who want a bit more. We also hold parent events in school on our curriculum, last term we held a parent forum on what is taught in PSHE which was attended by a number of parents and Governors. Please can I ask if you want to find out more about our curriculum you contact our curriculum lead Mrs Jennings - [Jenningsr@kls.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Jenningsr@kls.herts.sch.uk)

- TikTok Surging events – 6% of Parents wanted an update on incidents involving crowds and surging last term. Parents might be aware of a Tik Tok and social media trend, which resulted in a serious incident at a local school which was reported in the press - [Bedlam at Future Academies Watford as police detain pupil | Watford Observer](#). We saw this trend in November at Kings Langley School along with other local schools, we took a strong stance on this matter, clearly communicating our expectations through assemblies, and ensuring meetings were held with key students and parents and then if necessary key sanctions and processes, but also recognising those who support our aims and ethos to ensure this trend stopped. Reviewing our data for December and into January we have not seen any further issues of this nature at the school.
- Clubs and opportunities – This is the one that upset me a little as I know we offer so many different clubs and opportunities to our young people. 7% of parents felt we did not offer a wide range of clubs. The opportunities booklet that we send out at the start of every term promotes over 26 pages of clubs and opportunities and we survey our students if there are clubs they want that we don't offer. This year following our survey it was clear Rubik's Cube, a 1970's trend was back especially in year 7 so we now have a club for it. We also now have a Formula 1 club which are designing and building a kit car. If parents or students would like any club please contact Mrs Jennings and we will see if we can put this on either in the school day or after school. We have recently surveyed our students and currently have 290 responses on the clubs and activities they already do and again if they would like us to do anything more in school to support or develop their passions. Please if your child has not completed this survey please do so on TEAMS from Mrs Jennings. [Extra-Curricular - Kings Langley \(kls.herts.sch.uk\)](https://kls.herts.sch.uk)

If any parent would like an update on something please contact the office and my team will support you in getting any answers you might have. We really want to work closely with our parent to ensure your young people unlock their potential.

#### **SIMS Parent App update from Mr Searle:**

Over 500 parents use the SIMS application at our school and we are hopeful more will do so this term. At the launch of the SIMS parent application there were a number of issues that we had to report to the provider. However, Mr Searle and Mrs Hughes have worked hard on ensuring that everything is much smoother and also Mrs Hughes has become a SIMS application administrator allowing us more control over the application. We have tried this out with a number of parent governors and they were pleased with the progress now with this application.

If you haven't already done so, please do download the SIMS Parent App:

This will allow you to see in live time the recognition points issued to your child, as well as any behaviour points, their timetable and more. This information will enable meaningful and supportive conversations with your child to support them at school.



A letter and an information guide will be sent out to all parents over the next few weeks, explaining how to set up an account and log-in.

### **Update on Teams & SharePoint from Mrs Harris:**

Thank you for those parents/carers who attended our parent training back in September for MS Teams and SharePoint. We've had a great take up with our students and we are continuing with our journey of streamlining our systems. One area we will be working on this term is communication; training our students on how to use their emails (Outlook) to communicate with staff and for our staff to communicate with students more efficiently. Please remember communication to staff from students on email can only take place on your child's Outlook school account.

Every student at Kings Langley School already has their own Microsoft 365 account unique to them. This will now include growing access to Microsoft's app suite including Outlook Email, Word, PowerPoint, SharePoint, Excel and OneDrive. You may wish to download the full app suite. We recommend that you download the Teams app at home on any devices students may use for homework, however you do not have to do this as you can also use Teams through the browser on a desktop or laptop computer.

For Apple IOS products:

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/microsoft-teams/id1113153706>

For Android products:

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.microsoft.teams&hl=en\\_GB&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.microsoft.teams&hl=en_GB&gl=US)

Please discuss with your child the use of this platform and support with the guides attached and also please ensure they log onto their emails as we are going to use these more with students over the coming months.

### **Punctuality Equipment and Expectations from Mr Shaw:**

Last term, we wrote to parents/carers of students who had zero tardiness minutes for the whole term. We received some wonderful feedback showing an appreciation for the work we do in improving student punctuality as a key character trait. We also we had a number of parents highlighting their improved understanding of students not missing the first five minutes of the lesson where they all complete the quick start as that activity is crucial in revising their learning and removing any misconceptions. Thank you for all your support in encouraging all our young people to be punctual and not miss valuable learning time.

We now see almost 100% support for our equipment policy and I would like to thank you for your support on this matter. As I have explained in the past the list of equipment needed by each student comes from looking at what students need for terminal GCSE and A Level exams and also consultation with key subject on what students need in their lessons to be successful. Please can I ask that all parents review their child's equipment to ensure as what is my new favourite, term from students "decoy glue sticks" or decoy objects are in their pencil case and that your child is setting good habits this term by being school ready.

With the new term underway we would appreciate it if you could remind your child of 10 key points in order to help us ensure a smooth term. If students follow these ten points they will avoid sanctions and receive recognition points which will lead to positive school experiences for staff and students which is clearly what everyone wants. Tutors will talk about these points and they will also be displayed but it will help us to work together if you could remind your child about these ten key points:

1. Arrive to school and lessons on time.
2. Always have the correct equipment and uniform.
3. Keep your phone switched off and always out of sight and mind.
4. Do as you are told by staff first time.
5. Try your hardest.

6. Be respectful, polite and kind to everyone.
7. Act safely.
8. Do not disturb teaching and learning.
9. Complete your work to the best of your ability.
10. Bring a positive attitude to learning to ensure you unlock your potential.

#### **Equalities update – Mrs Lark:**

As part of our commitment to effectively promote equality, diversity and inclusion, we have been working hard to provide evidence for the Silver Equalities Kite Mark Award. With the guidance from Equaliteach we have rewritten our Equality scheme <https://www.kls.herts.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/Kings-Langley-School-Equality-scheme-2022-2028.pdf> which has measurable goals and ensures all stake holders understand their responsibility in this area. Parents, carers and students responsibilities can be found on page 8. The uniform and PE kit policy has been reformed to ensure it is inclusive of all genders and ethnicities. In addition to this we have been looking more closely at how the school deals with issues of discrimination and prejudice. We have delivered staff training and student assemblies to encourage the reporting of these incidents and are currently developing a restorative process to ensure education takes place and correct support is available for the victims. If you would like to learn more about the Equalities Awards and Equaliteach you can do so on their website - <https://www.equalitiesaward.co.uk/the-award>.

A huge thank you to the parents and students for taking time to complete the equality questionnaires. Your opinions are extremely important to us, and we look forward to sharing the outcomes and actions later in the term. We are interested in starting and **Parent Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Forum**. If this is something you would like to be involved in, please email Mrs Lark (larkp@kls.herts.sch.uk) to express your interest.

Kings Langley School is proud to announce our participation in The Great Representation Programme. The programme run by Herts for Learning, and aims to address race inequity in schools. As part of the programme there are seminars lead but field experts helping us understand systemic racism, white fragility and key actions we can take to ensure race equity at Kings Langley. If you would like to learn more about the programme you can read the 2021-2022 cohort case studies here <https://thegrid.org.uk/assets/great-representation-vol-1.pdf>

#### **Homework**

We value homework and its benefits greatly; research shows it can add 5 months' worth of progress for students. We appreciate that you may feel unsure of how to help, or unconfident with the content being studied. Please be reassured that by being interested and following the below guidance you will be supporting greatly. You are also very welcome to email subject teachers directly and/or look at the information pages on the website for guidance. Remember that the Sims Parent App is a great way of being made aware if homework is not being completed.

#### **Five ways you can support your child in completing homework**

1. Ask them to show you their **Teams** where homework is posted.
2. Encourage them to join **homework club**. This takes place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 1-1.30pm in Learning Support. Some may find it helpful to complete homework in school, allowing home to be a place to relax.

3. Create routines and a quiet space. For example, homework completed before relaxing. It's harder to motivate yourself to work when you're already in relax mode.
4. Remind your child to complete a **minimum of 20 Bedrock Vocabulary points each week** as part of their mandatory homework. Having a strong vocabulary and knowing the meanings of words helps students, not only in their learning but also their confidence. This is not posted on Teams, but accessed directly via the [Bedrock website](#).
5. **Ask questions** – ask your child about their homework. What is going well, is there anything tricky, can they teach you about what they're doing?

## **Recognition**

We would like to reiterate our intent for recognition and praise at KLS: 'At Kings Langley School, we believe that students should be recognised for the things they do, their contributions to the school community, and the conscientious effort they make in their learning, both academically and as an individual. Rewards can be short-lived but recognition empowers students to build self-esteem as well as recognising the impact that they have on their own progress and development.' The value of recognition coming from both school and home means that students recognise the impact of their positive actions and develop positive habits that reinforce positive character virtues that contribute to their academic success and reinforce the school's motto of 'unlocking potential for life. We are looking to increase our recognition and positive reinforcement so that parents/carers are continuously informed of opportunities to reward their children as they see fit at home. Students are encouraged to continue working towards their recognition milestone certificates as detailed on our school website: [Rewards and Consequences - Kings Langley \(kls.herts.sch.uk\)](https://kls.herts.sch.uk)

## **Kings Langley School Colour Awards**

Now a full term has been completed of the academic year, it is the perfect opportunity to reflect on the achievements, contributions and completion of clubs, events, and opportunities across the school and wider community. Has your son/daughter met the criteria to achieve either bronze, silver, gold, platinum or even diamond level for any of the KLS Colour Awards? Please check the school website or your school planner to find out if you have met the criteria. Once completed the students should take their completed evidence and criteria to Mr Tubb to be signed off.

## **House Events**

Thank you to all students who have participated in one of the many house events taking place every month across the school. We look forward to seeing students across the school participating in future events taking place which are advertised in the school newsletter.#

## **Student Leadership**

We are really pleased that so many students have joined our student leadership community and embrace the opportunities to both develop and exercise their leadership skills and potentials. We have over 125 student leaders already in post and this continues to grow on a weekly basis. Please look out for further opportunities including our next Student Leadership Conference on January 24<sup>th</sup> where students will explore leadership autonomy and how to identify opportunities for leadership.

### **Literacy update from Mrs Butt:**

The new year is a great opportunity to continue speaking to your young people about what they are reading and how their literacy levels will open doors of opportunity for them in the future. In school, they will be further encouraged to read, through the tutor time process, the highly successful Bedrock programme and increased intervention and opportunities by all staff based on students' reading ages as determined through in school testing. We have also been highlighted as one of the most successful Bedrock schools in our area and that is testament to the hard work of the teachers, the engagement and tenacity of our young people and excellent support and feedback from our parents and carers.

### **Lunch time activities and after school clubs for Spring Term 2023**

The new clubs for this term are being sent out to parents for students to sign up to. Please note there is a new system which means all students must sign up to the club even if it is a free club. You will find how to do this on the school website, extra-curricular page <https://www.kls.herts.sch.uk/personal-development/extra-curricular/>

### **Year 8 Practical Revision Evening**

Prior to year 8 examination fortnight WB 20<sup>th</sup> February, we are hosting a practical revision strategies evening on 2<sup>nd</sup> February in the school hall from 6.30 – 7.30pm for parents and students together. This evening will develop from previously revision strategies discussed, if they attended the year 7 equivalent training session last year, but also be useful to students who missed it. An email will be coming out nearer the time with a signup link.

### **Year 9 Options**

Following the year 9 assembly and year 9 parents' options presentation evening, we are adding the options booklet and the pathway letters to our website. You will find this under curriculum <https://www.kls.herts.sch.uk/learning/>, and the title of the page will be Year 9 options.

Please can we suggest that the options booklet is carefully read, especially the subject information of the subjects your child may wish to opt for. The students also have log on information Unifrog, a careers platform which they will find useful for further guidance and information. We are looking to putting information about this platform onto the year 9 options page within the next week.

If your child would like further support or guidance, please can they sign up for an appointment. The sign-up sheet can be found on Mrs Jennings' office door. As parents, if you would like any further guidance please can I ask that you email Mrs Jennings as a first point of contact as hopefully she will be able to deal with most queries more quickly and effectively this way.

### **Activities week for Key Stage 3 students**

There is still some limited availability on some trips for activities week in the summer term. If you would like to sign your child up to any of these before our closing date, then please can you log on to Scopay to do this. We will be sending updates and further information out next half term.

Please can I also remind Key stage 3 students, that they should be trying to arrange their day of work shadowing as per the activities week letter. <https://www.kls.herts.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/KS3-Activities-Week-2023.pdf>

## **Work Experience Parent and Student Information Evening for year 10 and 12**

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February we are holding a work experience evening in the school hall for both parents and students.

- Year 12 from 6:30 – 7pm
- Year 10 from 7 – 7:30pm

We will be going through the process of finding placements and how we can support students if they are struggling with the process. We will be showing year 10 how to use Link2 if they need it, and both year 10 and 12 how to log the details of their placements onto Unifrog to ensure that they can be checked as part of our H&S/ safeguarding checks.

### **Key Events this half term**

*Year 10 and 13 trial examinations start Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and continue until Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023*

*Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 18.30 – Year 9 Options Evening*

*Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 16.15 onwards – Year 9 Parents Evening*

*Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023, - Year 7 – 9 Flu vaccinations*

*Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023, - Year 12 trial examinations begin and continue Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023.*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Student Leadership Conference 15.15 - 16.30*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 16.00 – 17.30 – Hertfordshire Youth Forum Event*

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Year 9 Holocaust Memorial Day*

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 16.15 – Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening*

*Year 12 trial exams start Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and continue to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023*

*Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, 18.30 main hall – Parent Event Teen Self Esteem and managing positive mental health.*

*Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, 18.30 – Year 8 Parent Event Practical Revision Strategies*

*Year 11 core trial exams start Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023*

*Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Year 9 Brilliant Club event*

*Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 18.30 – Year 12 Work Experience Parent Event*

*Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 19.00 – Year 10 Work Experience Parent Event*

*Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 15.15 Half Term Holidays begin.*



As with every area of your child's life the more you can enrich it with your conversations about school, the future and their passions the more successful they will be. I hope this has been a useful update and I look forward to seeing you at the many events this half term.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Fisher', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Mr D Fisher  
Headteacher