

Dear Parent / Guardian:

As we rapidly approach the end of the summer term, please find details below of some practical arrangements.

End of Term Arrangements

The College will break up for the summer holidays on **Friday 21st July 2017** and, as usual, we will reward students with an early finish allowing them to leave at 12.30pm if they have met our expectations. Some students will be expected to stay on site until the normal finish time, and we will contact you directly if this applies to your child. Food will be available between 11am and 11.20am as usual. If your child is entitled to a free school meal, they will be able to collect a packed lunch at this time.

Preparation for 2017-18

I would also like to take the opportunity now, in readiness for the start of the new academic year, to remind you of some of our expectations as well as outline a few refinements we have made. Over the past four weeks, the College has revisited our Back to Basics expectations, and staff and students have worked hard to make sure that everyone is clear in relation to our high expectations with regards to attendance, punctuality, uniform, and behaviour. We do not apologise for these expectations and we look forward to continuing to receive your support in maintaining these throughout the next academic year, as we work together to secure the very best outcomes that we can for our young people.

Uniform

Please take a moment to remind yourself of our uniform expectations – in particular the parts relating to extreme hair-cuts, jewellery, and shoes. These can be found on the College website. We expect all our students to wear the correct and full uniform at all times throughout the school day. It is important to us that our students understand the importance that first impressions make, and wearing our uniform correctly, and with pride, says much about our young people.

Behaviour Expectations

We firmly believe that behaviour is a choice, and we see it as part of our duty to make sure that our students understand this, and that we help them understand the consequences of their actions.

We very much believe in celebrating and rewarding students where they demonstrate the qualities which we value highly, and we have many ways of doing this within the College. Every student at Kingsthorpe College also deserves the right to be able to learn productively in a supportive, yet challenging environment. With this in mind, we take any disruption to the learning environment extremely seriously – both inside and outside of lessons. We have a very clear consequences system in place which guarantees that all students are treated fairly and consistently, and which means disruption to the learning of others is minimal. Students are given the opportunity to prevent escalation to the formal consequence system by a verbal warning – if students choose to ignore this, the consequences of their actions will result in a variety of sanctions. Details of these can be found in students' planners.

Entry to Kingsthorpe College

In order to keep our students safe, and make sure that they can be welcomed each day by senior staff, a reminder that the College gate opens at 8:15am for a formal entry into the College. I know that some of our students use our LRC and breakfast facilities before this time, and we would ask that if your son or daughter would like to make use of these facilities before 8:15am, that we are made aware of this

so that we know from a health and safety perspective who is on site at any given point. These students will be issued with a pass and will access the school building through reception.

Planners and Equipment for Learning

Planners are a vital tool for learning at Kingsthorpe College. Not only are they used to record and manage homework, but they are also an instant communication tool between school and home. Teachers and tutors will use the planner to record students' successes, as well as letting you know where students have not met our expectations. It is therefore a non-negotiable that all students bring their planner to school, and students will be expected to show that they have this when they enter the College in the morning. The College provides all students with a planner at the start of the year and it is the student's responsibility to look after this. If a student loses their planner, they will be expected to purchase another one at a small cost. A student must replace their planner immediately so that they are able to gain entry to the College at the start of the day. Students will only be given a temporary planner for 24 hours.

Students are expected to have other essential tools for learning including pens and PE kit. These are also non-negotiable and there are consequences in place for students who fail to bring these to school.

First Day Back September 2017

I have also attached specific details relating to the arrangements for the first day back on Tuesday 5th September 2017. This will involve different year groups arriving on site at different times so please do read this carefully. We will ensure that students are informed of these arrangements prior to breaking up this term, but we would be grateful if you could also inform your son or daughter of the specified times that they are expected to be in College on the first day back.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your considerable support throughout this academic year. As much as we make certain that our students gain the qualifications that they need for the next stage of their life, we are equally focused on making certain that our students have the character that we know they also need to succeed. Hard work, determination, resilience, and creativity are qualities we value highly, alongside good manners, respect, and the ability to empathise with others. It is these uncompromising expectations which allow all our students to achieve beyond their potential, and which mean that Kingsthorpe College is an oversubscribed school within Northampton Town. Whilst it has been a year characterised by much success, we are never complacent, and we know there is still much to do. We are really excited about continuing to inspire all of our young people to achieve artistic, athletic, and academic excellence throughout the next academic year.

We always welcome and encourage feedback from all those who are connected to the College, and I would urge you to get in touch should you have any concerns or questions in relation to your child - we will do our very best to help.

Wishing you and your family both a happy and safe summer.

Mrs J Giovanelli
Headteacher