



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 126



Dear Parents / Guardians

It's been another summer of success at Kingsthorpe College with our GCSE and A level students celebrating some wonderful achievements this summer. This positivity has continued throughout the first week, and we have really enjoyed welcoming back all of our students as we start the Autumn Term. We are looking forward to continuing to inspire all of our young people to achieve athletic, artistic, and academic excellence throughout the year.

Here at Kingsthorpe College, we are proud of the high expectations we have of our students. 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.

I would like to take this opportunity at the start of the new academic year to remind you of some of our expectations, as well as share some important information with you. We continue to have the very highest expectations for all our young people, and we are encouraging them to play their part in our journey by taking responsibility for their own behaviour and learning.

Honours Roll 2017-18

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.

This year we are launching our KC Honours Roll. We are excited that our new system will ensure that our students are rewarded for all their hard work and effort. Students will receive achievement points for many different reasons such as completing excellent pieces of classwork or homework, making positive contributions to school life, and taking part in extra-curricular activities. These points will then unlock different honours for the students from Copper through to Platinum. Rewards such as free queue jump passes for the dining hall, movie afternoons, and lunch with the Headteacher will be available. We very much look forward to congratulating your child as they work towards collecting their achievement points this year.

Behaviour Expectations

Every student at Kingsthorpe College 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.

Kingsthorpe College students should:

- **Attend school at all times:** The College's expectation in relation to attendance is that all students have an attendance figure of at least 96%. If attendance falls below this figure, the impact on a student's learning and achievement is significant. We would ask that any medical appointments are made outside of the school day. Further details about how to report an absence, and our expectations in relation to requests for a child to be absent from College, can be found in the leaflet enclosed with this letter.
- **Be on time to school:** The school day starts at 8.30am for all students and we expect students to be in their first lesson by 8.40am. In order to keep our students safe, and make sure that they can be welcomed each day by senior staff, the College gate opens at 8:15am for a formal entry into the College. We know we have students who use our LRC and breakfast facilities before this time, but so that we are aware from a health and safety perspective who is on site at any given point, we will be asking all students to let us know if they intend to be on site before 8:15am. These students will be issued with a pass and will access the College building through reception.
- **Be on time to lessons:** Students who arrive at lessons after the majority of the class will be registered as late to lesson.
- **Be in uniform:** Please make sure your child is kitted out with full school uniform. Bags must be able to fit an A4 file. 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 students. If students arrive without the full uniform, including blazers and shoes, unless they accept the numerous spares that we have on offer, they will have their free time at break and lunch taken away until the uniform issue has been corrected.

- **Be equipped:** Please make sure your child is fully equipped with a well-stocked pencil case including 2 pens, pencil, ruler and rubber. Your child will also need a scientific calculator and a geometry set for their mathematics lessons.
- **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 College 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.
- **Use mobile phones responsibly:** Mobile phones and tablets are to be used responsibly during breaks and lunches.

Partnership Working

The partnership between College and parents is absolutely crucial in making sure our high expectations enable all students to learn and exceed their potential. I would like to reiterate our desire for the very best

communication between the College and home, and our openness and determination to engage with everyone within KC's community.

It is always our intention that decisions taken in relation to a student's conduct are fair, appropriate, and applied consistently. As Headteacher, my duty is to make sure that every young person and all of our staff members are able to learn and teach to the very best of their ability. Decisions in relation to conduct are always made with both the individual student in mind, but also the needs of the whole community. I would ask that you trust us with the decisions that we make, and trust that these have been taken to ensure the very best for all our students.

It is really important to us that we make communication as easy as possible, and we would always encourage you to get in touch with the College if you have any concerns. Attached to this letter is a list of key contacts to help make sure you can get the right help from the right person in a timely manner.

There are lots of opportunities throughout the year to keep up to date with how your son or daughter is progressing. Following feedback from parents last year, we have introduced a Meet the Tutor Evening for all students early on this term so that you can establish a relationship with your child's tutor at the start of the year, and hear how they have settled in. Further details are attached to this letter, including details of the system we use to book parents' evenings.

Keeping Informed

We have many ways that you can keep in touch with what is going on in the College, and we would encourage you to explore and use these.

- **Website** – our website contains a wealth of useful information and we ensure that all key dates and documents are available for you to view at www.kingsthorpecollege.org.uk.
- **Newsletter** – each week the College publishes a newsletter which shares and celebrates what has been going on each week, including a message from myself. You can find the newsletter on our

website, and you can also sign up so that it is automatically emailed to you.

- **Twitter** – the College regularly shares information via our Twitter feed which can be found at [@KingsthorpeC](https://twitter.com/KingsthorpeC)

Getting Involved

We are looking to further develop our links with the community and local and national businesses this year, as well as continuing to strengthen our links with parents and benefitting from the experience and feedback you can give us. If you would like to be involved with helping us on our journey to excellence, please contact Mrs Julie Ricketts, Director of Operations.

I look forward to working closely with you and your son or daughter this academic year. Please do get in touch with me if I can be of any assistance.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Giovanelli
Headteacher

Key Contacts

Year7team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Butlin, Mrs Read & Ms Taylor

Year8team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Hill, Mrs VanGeijlswijk & Mr Baines

Year9team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Smith, Mr Baron & Mr Wade

Year10team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mrs Watts, Mrs Patel & Mr Hancock

Year11team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Miss Old, Mr Heffernan & Mr Hartnett

sixthformteam@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Pomerantz, Ms Wainwright, Mr Campbell & Mr Sim

attendance@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mrs Williams & Mr Hancock

English

Learning Director: Mrs Kinsella

– laura.kinsella@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mr Baines

– ben.baines@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Maths

Learning Director: Miss Bailey – louise.bailey@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mrs Gant

– rhiannon.gant@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Science

Learning Director: Mr Cox – joseph.cox@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mr Hartnett

– james.hartnett@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Humanities

Learning Director: Mrs Paice – gail.paice@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mr Sim – daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Modern Foreign Languages

Leadership Team Link: Ms Taylor

– alison.taylor@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

ICT and Business

Learning Director: Mr Anawka – eric.anawka@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mr Wade

– scott.wade@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Vocational

Learning Director: Mr Ingram

– david.ingram@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: – daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Visual Arts and Technology

Learning Director: Mr Jones – nigel.jones@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mr Wade

– scott.wade@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

PE and Performing Arts

Learning Director: Ms Newell

– victoria.newell@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mr Hancock

– paul.hancock@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Special Educational Needs

Learning Director: Mr O’Leary

– david.o’leary@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mrs Gant

– rhiannon.gant@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Meet the Tutor Evening

Dear Parents/Guardians

We hope your son/daughter has settled well into the new horizontal tutor system. As a reminder, the College moved away from the vertical system as a result of feedback from students and parents, and we are extremely pleased with how the students have adapted to the new system. Early feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from students, parents and teaching staff.

To help support your son/daughter, and again as a result of parental

feedback last year, we are introducing a "Meet the Tutor Evening" on Thursday 21st September from 3.30pm - 6.00pm. This evening will give you the opportunity to meet with your son/daughter's form tutor to discuss any issues or in many cases celebrate success. It might be that you want to take the opportunity to share information with their form tutor, or discuss a subject based matter with them which they can share with subject staff.

Each year group will also have a subject specific parents' evening later in the year where you will be able to discuss academic progress in each subject.

All meetings will take place in your son/daughter's form room and their attendance is strongly encouraged so they can take part in the three-way conversation.

The college uses an easy online appointment booking system. This allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments.

Appointments can be made from Wednesday 13th September 2017 and the booking system will close on Wednesday 20th September 2017. Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact the school office.

Please visit <https://kingsthorpecollege.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/> or go to the college website to access the online booking system to book your appointments. Login with the following information:

Student's First Name:	«Forename»
Student's Surname:	«Surname»
DOB:	«DOB»

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the school office who will be happy to help you.

Yours Sincerely

Mr S Wade

Deputy Headteacher

All requests for authorised absence should be made in writing to the Headteacher and will be responded to in writing. Requests will only be authorised in the most extreme circumstances. If permission is not granted, but the pupil is still absent, the absence is classed as unauthorised and parents/carers may be issued with a penalty notice.

Arriving late to school

Period 1 begins at **8.40 am** and all pupils are expected to be in their classroom at this time. Pupils arriving after this time will be marked as present but arriving late (L).

On arrival after this time, pupils must immediately report to the school main reception to sign in to ensure that we can be responsible for their health and safety whilst they are in school.

Absence will only be authorised if a satisfactory explanation for the late arrival can be provided, for example, evidence of attendance at a medical appointment. The absence will be recorded as unauthorised if the pupil has arrived late without justifiable cause, for example, if they wake up late.

Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning:

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.
- Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 13 days a year!

Some strategies to improve punctuality

Bedtime routines

- Encourage your child to pack their school bag before going to bed, ready for the next day.
- Getting to bed earlier.
- Setting a time for a television, iPad, computer, mobile phone and other devices to be turned off.

Morning routines

- Setting the alarm for a time that allows all morning routines to be carried out without making them late for school.
- Having breakfast before leaving home, so there is no need to call in at the shop on the way to school.
- Encourage your child to leave home at least five minutes earlier than they think they need to.
- Meeting a reliable friend to walk to the College with.
- Coming to school for breakfast which is served from 8am.

How can parents/carers help their child have good attendance and punctuality?

As part of our whole-school approach to maintaining high attendance, we request that parents/carers:

- Notify the school by telephone on the first day that your child is unavailable to attend school.
- Confirm this in writing when your child returns to school.
- Avoid making medical/dental appointments during the school day.
- Do not take your child on holiday in term time and in the case of exceptional circumstances, permission must be granted by the Headteacher.
- Promote the value of excellent attendance at home and follow the procedures set by the College.
- Advise the College of any difficulties your child may be having so that the College can support as appropriate.
- Are aware that Section 444 of the Education Act states, "If a pupil of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil fails to attend school regularly, his/her parent is guilty of an offence."

For further information

Please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance. If having spoken with them, you continue to have questions or concerns, then please contact their Head of Year.



Attendance and Punctuality

The Role of Parents/Carers



Pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.

*Taken from School Attendance guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and non-authorised (Department for Education, 16th 2016)

Kingsthorpe College believes that excellent attendance and punctuality is central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential.

Why is good attendance and punctuality important?

Education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Regular and punctual attendance at school is key to both academic and social development, which in turn will improve the life chances of children and young people.

What is good attendance?

Attendance	Description	Approx. days lost per year	Approx. days lost per year
95-100%	Excellent	0-4	less than 1
90-95%	Good	5-9	1-2
85-90%	Satisfactory	10-13	2-3
80-85%	Unsatisfactory	14-18	3-6
Below 80%	Persistent Absence	20	6

So what does 90% attendance actually mean?
90% attendance over a school year = 1% school day missed every week!

It's your responsibility

Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure that their children attend school regularly and punctually in order to optimise their learning, achieve the best they can, and get the most out of their school experience. Failure to do so is an offence under section 444 (1) of the Education Act 1996.

If a child is registered at a school they must by law attend that school regularly and punctually. Children should only miss school if they are ill or unable to attend for some other unavoidable reason.

Kingsthorpe College believe attendance is a shared responsibility, involving the whole school community and local community. We will work with families to identify the reasons for poor attendance and try to resolve any difficulties.

Reporting an absence

When a child is absent from the College without your permission, parents/carers should inform the College by calling on the first day of absence and every day thereafter to give the reason for absence.

To report an absence parents/carers should call the school on **01504 716506** and then choose **option 1**.

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to authorise any child's absence from the College.

Parents/carers cannot authorise absences and should be aware that either calling the College or providing a note for an absence does not automatically mean it will be authorised.

Therefore, absences will be treated as unauthorised unless a satisfactory explanation is given to the school.

What is an authorised absence?

There may be some circumstances where the school will authorise absences such as:

- Illness - high temperatures/vomiting and diarrhoea, emergency medical/dental appointments which unavoidably falls in school time.
- Religious observances.
- Family bereavement.
- Visits to prospective new schools, external exams or educational assessments.
- Exclusion from school.

Illness

Most cases of absence due to illness are short term, but parents/carers will need to make a phone call to alert the College on each day of absence. In some cases, the College will require medical evidence such as a note from the child's doctor, an appointment card or a prescription paper.

Medical or dental appointments

Parents/carers should make every effort to ensure these appointments are made outside of school hours. Where it cannot be avoided, pupils should attend College as much

of that day as possible. Parents/carers should show the appointment card to a member of staff at College.

Religious observance

Kingsthorpe College acknowledges the multi-faith nature of British society and recognises that on some occasions, religious festivals may fall outside school holiday periods or weekends and this necessitates a consideration of authorised absence or special leave for religious observance.

It is reasonable for a parent/carer to request their child not to attend school on any day of religious observance if recognised by the parent/carer's religious body. Parents/carers are requested to give advance notice to the College if they intend their child to be absent.

What is an unauthorised absence?

These are absences which the College does not consider reasonable and for which "leave" of absence has not been given. Some examples of this type of absence include:

- Parents/carers keeping their child away from school unnecessarily - this can be due to child care arrangements, to look after siblings or relatives, or because parents are unwell. In this case, alternative arrangements should be in place to ensure the child attends school.
- Shopping trips.
- Birthdays.
- Day trips and holidays in term time.

Family holidays and term time leave

Parents/carers should ensure that family holidays and any term time leave are arranged outside of school term time. Parents/carers should not remove their child from school during term time without having first requested a leave of absence in writing from the Headteacher.

[Follow on Twitter](#) | [Forward to Friend](#)

Copyright © 2017 Kingsthorpe College, All rights reserved.

MailChimp

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)