

Headteacher: Mr D. Whales | Chair of Governors: Mr T. French

30th August 2023

Dear parents/carers,

I wanted to write to you to welcome you back to the 2023/24 new school year.

The information below will hopefully enable the start of term to run as smoothly as possible. I have included details on some of the changes for this academic year, along with further clarity on the return dates/timings for next week.

We have slightly altered the school day (the timings of lessons/break times), but not the start and end times of the day. We still expect all students to be on the school site by 8.40am with the day ending at 3.15pm as normal.

Getting the start of the day right is so important to enable students to learn as effectively as possible. As a result, we have introduced processes that will ensure every student who walks through the school gate is supported to be 'ready to learn'.

This means each day now begins with a major focus on pastoral care and checking students' readiness for school. The principles of this are: *we expect all students to be at school on time, in the correct uniform, with the correct equipment, and ready to make the most of that day.*

Each morning all students will enter school through the main gate. From there they will all go into either: Roll Call or Tutor Time Reading (this alternates each day).

Roll Call is basically a 10-minute standing assembly, students will have uniforms and equipment checked, and key messages will be shared. Lesson 1 then begins at 9.00am. Any student who is not in school and 'in Roll Call' or 'in Tutor Reading' when the bell rings at 8.45am will be classed as late and sanctioned accordingly.

I would like to stress the importance of your support. I have included links to our [policies page](#) where you will find the: equipment list, school day, behaviour policy and our uniform policy. Sometimes things that are sold in the 'school section' aren't always suitable. For example, the Lycra skirts are not appropriate and will not be allowed in school. If in doubt, please check the policy or contact the school for guidance.

At the start of the day, we want all our staff to be available to welcome students and create a supportive and positive start. This should also enable any issues around their readiness to be dealt with as soon as possible. Should there be any issues we will aim to contact you as soon as possible. We do want to make it clear that students will only attend lessons if they are ready to learn. Once the concern (uniform/equipment/behaviour) has been rectified students will then enter lessons.

To enable us to contact you, please ensure we have your correct details.

If these have changed, please contact us via the website <https://www.kscs.org.uk/contact-us>

Alongside the start of the day, there are additional changes to the break times. During the first break all year groups are out together. During the second break, there is a split with half the year groups in

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tutor time and the other half on lunch (and then they swap). At all break times, there are designated year-group areas and quiet spaces available.

Another key driver locally and nationally is attendance. Please could you ensure, when and where possible, that your children are in school. If there are difficulties, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can support you.

The Start of Term:

Friday 1st September and Monday 4th September are staff training days.

Tuesday 5th September – open to some students (Y7, Y11 & P16 only)

- Year 7 - transition day (half day) – 8.40am – 12.30pm (main gate opens at 8.30am)
- Year 11 and P16 Full day: 8.40am to 3.15pm (main gate opens at 8.30am)
- **Closed to Years 8, 9 and 10.**

Wednesday 6th September

- School opens to all year groups (8.40am to 3.15pm)
- All year groups through the main gate from 8.30am.
- Students should be in school by 8.40am.

Additional Dates:

- Wednesday 13th September – **Year 10 virtual parents evening**, 'looking ahead'.
- Wednesday 20th September – **Year 11 face-to-face parental guidance meeting**, 'preparations for the year ahead'.
- **October Half term:** last school day is 20th October and opens again Monday 30th October.
- There is also an **additional staff training day** on Friday 24th November.
- **End of term:** last school day is Wednesday 20th December, finishing at 12.15pm. School opens again Wednesday 3rd January.

Throughout the year we will be in regular contact with you, including more details about the various individual events. If you don't already, could I suggest you follow us on social media for ongoing communications.

If there are any further queries, please feel free to contact the school.

Yours sincerely



Damien Whales

Headteacher