

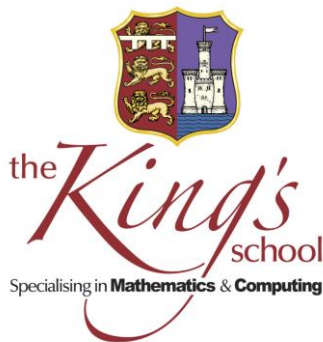
The King's School

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6 December 2016

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

As the Festive Season fast approaches, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the past term and to wish you and your families all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

We hope you will be able to join us at our Christmas Concert 'King's On Ice' which takes place on Monday 12 December at 7.30 pm, tickets are available from Reception (£3.00 for adults and £2.00 for children). Another festive evening with Christmas Carols, Readings and Performances will be held at St. Giles Church on Tuesday 13 December at 7.00 pm. We would love to see you there.

END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

As you know, the school closes for students on Friday 16 December. As usual there will be slight changes to the timing of lessons and lunch on the final day. Students will be dismissed at 2pm to enable us to hold a full staff meeting. The school service buses to Ackworth, Knottingley and Castleford will not operate. Students can use their passes on public services but Ackworth students should be aware that the service along Mill Hill Lane is a minibus with limited capacity. If students cannot make their way home at that time could parents please let Form Tutors know through the planner or separate letter - Those children remaining in school will be supervised in the Learning Resource Centre until 3.15pm. Students who owe detentions will serve them on Thursday afternoon rather than Friday.

On the final day we are holding a non-uniform day with a Christmas theme when students can wear a Christmas jumper (or other reasonable non uniform clothing) for a small donation of £1. 50% of the proceeds will go to Text Santa and the other 50% to Pontefract Food Bank.

The King's School will open again on Tuesday 3 January at 8.00am for breakfast service or 8.40am for all other students.

EXAMINATIONS (Please see the School website for details)

In some subjects, particularly those with a practical element, Year 11 students are currently engaged in Trial examinations. These are very important as they inform staff and students of strengths and weaknesses prior to taking GCSEs. Revision for these examinations is paramount. **Students who under-perform through lack of effort will have enforced revision and will have to resit the examination.**

Year 8 also have examinations week commencing 9 January. These are an important aid to preparing for KS4 courses and making Option choices in the Spring Term. Some Year 10 & 11 students will have important public examinations week commencing 9 January and week commencing 16 January in Health & Social Care, Music (BTec), Sport & Leisure and Travel & Tourism.

PARENTS EVENINGS - A REMINDER

Parents Evenings to meet with subject teachers rather than the Form Tutor, will take place as follows:

Central to the values of The King's School is a commitment to the safeguarding and protection of young people.



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|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| • Year 11 | Tuesday 17 January | 4.00pm until 7.00pm |
| • Year 10 | Wednesday 1 February | 4.00pm until 7.00pm |
| • Year 7 | Tuesday 7 February | 4.00pm until 7.00pm |
| • Year 9 | Thursday 2 March | 4.00pm until 7.00pm |
| • Year 8 KS4 Information Evening | Wednesday 8 March | 6.30pm until 9.00pm |

UNIFORM

Often the holidays are when students obtain new school clothing and try out new hairstyles etc. Although the vast majority of our students arrive in school on time and looking smart, unfortunately over the term, we have had several issues with a small number of students not complying with the School Uniform Policy. In particular, short/tight skirts and tight trousers. We are working hard with students to address this matter and would like to thank you for your support. If there are any concerns regarding uniform please refer to the full uniform list in the student planner and our website.

In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the list below. Please pay particular attention to the items in bold which have on occasion been 'problem' areas for us:

- Trousers and skirts **should not be material which is of the stretchy/lycra type.**
- Skirts should be no more than 3cm above the knee.
- Trousers should not be skinny leg style or denim material.
- The only body piercing which is allowed is one stud earring in the ear lobe area only (no nose, eyebrow, upper ear or any other part of the body).
- Hairstyles - No shaved areas or shaved lines are allowed as these are considered to be extreme fashion styles.

ATTENDANCE

We are pleased that attendance is running at 95.4% across the whole school, a slight improvement from this time last year when we were at 94.84% despite a lot of unpleasant bugs and viruses circulating in the area. Thank you to parents and students for achieving this and we hope that this will rise to our target level of 96% in 2016 - there is a clear link between good attendance and higher levels of achievement and higher grades. Let's keep it up.

Just in case.....ADVERSE WEATHER

Should this affect our ability to function as normal over the coming months, it would be helpful if the Emergency Details page is completed in your child's planner and that we have the most up to date mobile telephone number for text messaging. This is helpful in order to communicate any emergency closures. Detailed information for Parents will be posted on our website and basic information will also be sent to the local Radio stations - BBC Radio Leeds and Ridings FM. Please be assured that the decision to fully or partially close the school is never taken lightly or in haste and is always based on a detailed risk assessment of the situation we are faced with. Should it be judged necessary, it will be communicated as early as possible. We will also communicate using the new school app as well as text messaging.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter in the Student Planner.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM GOVERNORS, STAFF AND STUDENTS.

Yours sincerely



Barbara Tibbetts
Headteacher