



Issue

15

Friday 26 May 2017



ABSENCE REPORTING 01536 741857 — OPTION 1

Please report pupil absences as early as possible each day on the main Academy telephone number—01536 741857. Select option 1 (Please note — a call to the Academy is necessary on **EACH** day of absence). To report a Sixth Form pupil absence please call 01536 741857 and ask for extension 7243.

Message from Principal

Welcome to our new and revised Newsletter. You are hopefully aware that we are sending a briefing note home by email each week with important dates and a richer, fuller newsletter home once every half-term.

The exams are in full swing and I must pay credit to our Year 11 students in particular who have been exemplary in their attitude and conduct during what is a stressful time for them: and it's been hot too!

Year 12 and 13 have also been taking exams, and though there are fewer papers to sit, again they have been impeccable.

None of us know what the results will be, come the summer, but I genuinely believe that there is little more that between us we could have done to prepare our students any better.

The upcoming half-term provides the last period of time out of the Academy for the students to revise and I am sure you will encourage them to revise and take the opportunity to attend the

revision classes that are taking place over the week's holiday. A letter is coming home to parents about the arrangements for study leave after the half-term holiday.

It was with great sadness that we observed a minute's silence on Thursday 25 May for all those injured or killed in the terrorist attack in Manchester. I can not add any words or thoughts that have not already been expressed as to the horror and outrage I felt that such an act would deliberately attack concert goers and children.

I have great sympathy for the Headteachers and Principals of the schools and colleges in the North West who have had to tell their students that beloved pupils and classmates will not be returning to the school.

You will see in this newsletter that there is information regarding support for parents on how to talk to their sons and daughters about terrorism. Whilst the attack took place 150 miles away it is having an impact on our day to day working lives.

Regrettably, but understandably,

the threat level across the country has been increased to 'critical' by the government. As such we are postponing any trips and visits that are planned or scheduled to take place to what may be likely terrorist targets; predominantly this means urban/city settings.

As such our planned trip to Parliament for the Academy Ambassadors on 9 June is being postponed until further notice. I hope parents and students will be sympathetic to the reasons why we feel compelled to make this decision.

However, on a lighter note you will see lots of positive and good news stories as you read on. I hope you enjoy the read.

Regards

Andy Burton
Principal



Supporting children worried about terrorism

Our advice can help parents talk to their children worried about recent events.

If you're concerned about how a child is feeling following the tragic events in Manchester on Monday 22 May 2017, you can call the NSPCC helpline on 0800 800 5000 for advice 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Talking about terrorism: tips for parents

Children are exposed to news in many ways, and what they see can worry them. Our advice can help you have a conversation with your child:

- listen carefully to a child's fears and worries
- offer reassurance and comfort
- avoid complicated and worrying explanations that could be frightening and confusing
- help them find advice and support to understand distressing events and feelings
- children can always contact Childline free, on 0800 111, confidentially on the phone and online. It's also important to address bullying and abuse following the terrorist attacks.

Some children may feel targeted because of their faith or appearance

Look for signs of bullying, and make sure that they know they can talk with you about it. Of ten children might feel scared or embarrassed, so reassure them it's not their fault that this is happening, and that they can always talk to you or another adult they trust. Alert your child's school so that they can be aware of the issue.

Dealing with offensive or unkind comments about a child's faith or background

If you think this is happening, it's important to intervene. Calmly explain that comments like this are not acceptable. Your child should also understand that someone's beliefs do not make them a terrorist. Explain that most people are as scared and hurt by the attacks as your child is. You could ask them how they think the other child felt, or ask them how they felt when someone said something unkind to them. Explain what you will do next, such as telling your child's school, and what you expect them to do.

For more information please visit the website below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/supporting-children-worried-about-terrorism/>

FUTURE TRIPS

YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11 TRIP TO GERMANY

A fantastic trip to visit Munich has been organised by our History department from Tuesday 3 to Friday 6 April 2018. During the 4 day trip students will visit Dachau Concentration Camp, the Museum of Fascination and Terror, Nuremburg, Munich Documentation Centre, and the White Rose Monument.

If you have any questions regarding this trip please contact Miss Magee, at the Academy.

YEAR 7 LINCOLN CASTLE AND CATHEDRAL

Our Humanities Department is organising a day trip for Year 7 students to visit Lincoln Castle and Cathedral. The trip has



been designed to celebrate the work students have completed in Humanities this year, and to give them the opportunity to experience a Medieval Castle and Cathedral first hand. The trip will take place on Thursday 13 July 2017.

If you have any questions regarding this trip please contact Mrs Paul at the Academy.

SOMME BATTLEFIELDS CURRENT YEAR 8

Letters have been distributed to our current Year 8 students regarding a three day/two night visit to the Somme Battlefields in Northern France from Thursday 9 to Saturday 11 November 2017. The trip is designed to fit in with the Year 9 module on Twentieth century history.



If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Ms Magee at the Academy

GEOGRAPHY TRIP AND FIELDWORK—YEAR 10

For students studying GCSE Geography, it is compulsory that they conduct two sessions of fieldwork. These two sessions will consist of a day trip to Heacham and Hunstanton on the East Coast on Wednesday 14 June and a trip to Birmingham on Monday 17 July visiting regeneration areas eg. the new Grand Central station, Mail Box, Central Library and the Bullring Shopping Centre.

If you have any questions regarding this trip please contact Mrs Commons at the Academy.

YEAR 11 SKI TRIP 2018

Due to the success of previous ski trips we are planning to return to Prato Nevoso, Italy, leaving on 31 March until 7 April 2018. A very competitive price at Hotel Galassia has been secured, with a 6 day lift pass and an additional instructor. As the hotel only has 30 beds available, places will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Full details of the trip have been issued to parents, however if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Miss Copson of our PE department at the Academy.



PARENTS :

If you have not received a letter regarding any of these trips, please visit our Academy website, click the Parents link and your child's year to gain access.

YOUTH SPORT TRUST



The outstanding work the Academy has been doing with girls' football throughout the Greenwood Dale Trust (especially here at Kingswood Secondary Academy) has been recognised by the Youth Sport Trust. An article about Kingswood has been included in their summer edition 'Youth Sport Trust – Inspire'. The article includes quotes from Matt Gamble, Head of PE. The magazine is distributed nationally and subsequently has provided an excellent platform to showcase both Kingswood and the Trust.

The following is a section from the article:

The Football Association (FA), Youth Sport Trust (YST) and England Lionesses have joined forces to drive social change that sees girls' football in schools and communities as the norm.

One school joining in this girls' football social movement is Kingswood Academy, part of the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust:

"We have introduced girls' football to the curriculum so all girls now experience at least one term of football. We have U12s and U16s teams who have been very successful in the county and as a school we have celebrated their success, which has made them role models for other girls in the school."
Matt Gamble, Head of PE, Kingswood Secondary Academy.

As part of the campaign for social change the FA and YST are working on three different pilot programmes. The programmes have been designed to engage girls, who might not ordinarily engage in football, by providing different opportunities.

- 1. Within secondary school and further education (FE) curriculum time***
- 2. Extra-curriculum offers***
- 3. Wildcats community clubs***

The programmes have been specifically designed, not just to coach football skills but to develop character and confidence in the girls. The idea is that this will allow them to be creative in the way they use football to learn, achieve and support their personal wellbeing; and ultimately develop the girls into role models for their peers and ambassadors for women's and girls' football in the wider community.

The training and workshops for all the pilot programmes have taken place at the inspirational St George's Park National Football Centre; where some lucky teachers got to work alongside Premier League officials and the England team.

At the beginning of 2017, a selection of secondary schools and FE colleges started working with their female students on a 'Girls' Football Youth Sport Award' — an award scheme that encourages goal setting and logging of wellbeing, leadership and achievement targets. Over the next 18 months the students will have an opportunity to record and demonstrate their commitment to achieving goals, engaging in volunteering and completing extra-curricular courses. With a strong link between sport and volunteering and employment success, what better way

to help these girls 'standout from the crowd' as candidates for future higher education, professional development courses and employment or apprenticeship applications?

One girl from Kingswood Academy, has just started her award:

"The Girls Football Youth Sport Award has given me a place to log what I do and record what personal skills I have developed through football. I successfully passed the FA referee qualification and now referee in local leagues, which I hope will help me to get a job later in life."

Matt Gamble continues: "Our football club is now run by our older students who are taking leadership qualifications in the sixth form. They have become fantastic role models."

The third programme, 'Game of Our Own', launched in April, when over 100 girls and female PE teachers took part in a one day camp supporting girls to be football activators for their schools. Game of Our Own focuses on developing character traits such as resilience, integrity and self-management through football based learning. The girls and teachers were treated to a conversation with Emily Westwood, Captain of Birmingham City England Lioness, providing them inspiration and ideas for how to get their friends involved back at school. The scope of the FA and YST collaboration is broadening to include Lioness school visits and primary playground resources.

To find out more about the programmes, where your local Wildcat club is based and register your interest in taking part in any future programmes, please contact:

kathryn.evans@youthsporttrust.org

RECENT EVENTS

DUXFORD TRIP

On the 21 April, Year 9 students visited Duxford, the historic airfield and museum of aviation history. A great day was had by all and other visitors commented on how well behaved the pupils were. Below is a write up from one of the pupils, Mia Solomon;

“Duxford was an amazing experience and I recommend the Imperial War Museum to everyone who is interested. I was amazed by the history that was represented, one specific



moment I thought was nice is when we had a talk with a museum curator about his personal experiences during WWII and being evacuated to Cambridge as a child.

We first looked at land warfare and this was my favourite section as all of the tanks and trucks were put into different scenes. When we sat down for lunch we were able to witness a plane take off and do tricks such as loops and barrel rolls.



We were even able to walk into an operation room which was used during the war.

However it wasn't just about

WWII, they had a section of the Twin Towers and the Berlin Wall.

I came back with triple the knowledge I had on WWII.

Finally the trip wouldn't have been possible without Mrs Paul, Ms Magee, Mrs Adams and Mrs Hendry”.



MATHS FACULTY

Recently a Chief Examiner from AQA and the Trust's Maths Advisor visited the Academy in our effort to ensure our students are fully prepared for the summer exams.

Our students spent 3 hours and 20 minutes in total with the examiner and Trust Maths Advisor. It was a very encouraging and productive day.

So much is going on in the Mathematics faculty on a daily basis including targeted intervention, catch-up sessions, Masterclasses and much more. Revision sessions are held after school on Wednesdays, these are popular with students as we have seen an increase in the numbers attending.

Over the May holiday, revision sessions will be held on Wednesday 31 May (9.00am – 12.00 noon) for Year 11 students in order to support and prepare the students for the second and third Maths exams on 8 and 13 of June.

Please encourage your son or daughter to attend these revision sessions.

Mr M Mperi
Director of Mathematics

LIVE MY DIGITAL

The Girls' Day School Trust has created 'Live My Digital', a unique video series to help parents help their children to stay safe online. The series consists of six short films for parents and six matching films for children to empower families to use social media safely and responsibly.

The videos look at the ways in which the internet and digital technology can be used by young people as well as identifying the issues they may face. The most critical themes in online safety today are covered including:

- Cyberbullying
- The digital footprint
- Identity and self-esteem
- Relationships/grooming
- Security and privacy
- Sexting

We hope that the films, together with the downloadable safety factsheets, will help encourage and support open discussions in your family on how to enjoy the online environment and staying safe. You can access the videos here: www.gdst.net/livemydigital

PARENT FORUM

The Parent Forum met on Tuesday 16 May 2017. The meeting was an Open Forum and the members discussed previous issues and items for next year's agenda. The issues discussed included showcasing sports, our report system, uniform and parents' evenings. Minutes of this meeting are published on our website in the Parent section.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 4 July at 5.30pm when all parents are welcome.

PGL LIDDINGTON

The PE department recently returned from a fantastic trip to PGL Liddington. 32 year 8 and 9 students participated on the trip accompanied by Miss Copson (who led and organised the trip), Mr Hope and Mr Hempkin.



The weekend consisted of both a sports tour and outdoor and adventure activities.

The girls competed in a netball tournament, finishing in the top 10, whilst the boys had the opportunity to develop their footballing skills taking part in high quality coaching sessions led by EUFA coaches who work with the Reading FC Youth Academy.



When the pupils were not taking part in their chosen sports they participated in activities such as rock climbing,

the giant swing, the trapeze and even a disco on Saturday evening.

All of the students who attended the trip conducted themselves brilliantly and did the Academy proud!

CYBERFIRST COURSES

Did you know that The National Cyber Security Centre run non-residential courses designed to introduce 11-17 year olds to the world of cyber security? To find out more or how to apply for one of these courses visit :

www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/cyberfirst-courses

FOOTLOOSE!

On Thursday 4 May the year 11 Dance and Drama students completed their final unit to round off their BTEC course, and what a finish it was!

The students took part in planning, preparing and producing their final show 'Footloose'. Students took part in directing, choreographing, costume design, set making and performing, all working together to put on their show.

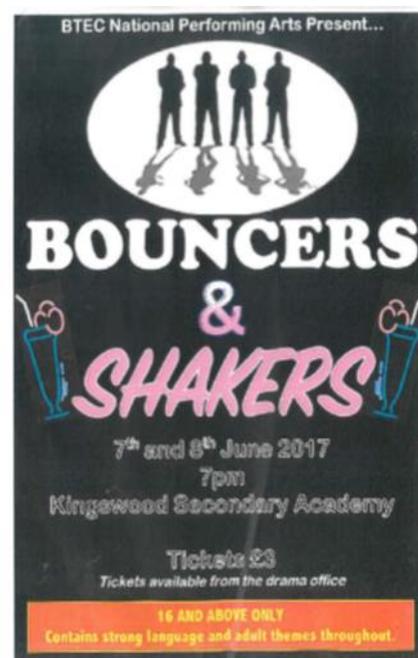
The show was a huge success with all performers giving an energetic and show stopping performance. The audience

loved the show and all the hard work the students put into it paid off! Well done to all the Year 11 students involved!

LAST CALL FOR BOUNCERS AND SHAKERS—YEAR 13

The Year 13 students will be taking to the stage at Kingswood for the very last time on Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 June. After seven years at the school they are leaving with a hilarious and highly memorable rendition of John Godber's Bouncers and Shakers.

Tickets are now on sale in the Drama office. Due to the show containing adult humour audience members must be 16 or over to purchase tickets.



**KINGSWOOD
SECONDARY ACADEMY**

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The Kingswood Secondary Academy is one of the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust Group of Academies