



Issue

12

Friday 24 March 2017

Diary Dates

Friday 31 March 2017

Last day of Term
Non uniform day

Wednesday 19 April 2017

Academy re-opens to students
at the usual time



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).

6 WEEKS TO GO!

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

It's a bold and intriguing statement to make at the start of this newsletter, but there are now 6 teaching weeks left before the GCSE exams and A Levels really kick-off in earnest. 6 weeks normally equates to 30 teaching days, but with bank holidays and training days to be factored in, it's actually more like 27 teaching days. The need for thorough preparation, practice and revision is becoming ever more important, and whilst it is never too late to start revising it is essential that the huge amount of work to be looked at is broken down effectively by the pupils now, and utilise the time that is left before the exams start. As parents we know that you are encouraging and cajoling your sons and daughters to revise.



A Year 11 Parent Information Evening took place on Tuesday 21 March to support parents in preparation for the exams in order to maximise the chances of success in the summer. We were pleased to see many parents attend and to receive positive comments at the end of the evening. The following are some of the comments to the question 'Was the evening useful?':

- *Very helpful and extremely informative, I particularly liked the revision timetable guide.*
- *Yes I feel that the Academy is doing everything it can to support my child. I am happy that the Academy are also there to help me support my child. The information is incredibly useful. GCSEPOD is amazing. A fantastic resource. Mentoring from staff is very useful.*
- *Very informative evening with a good feeling, the school is doing everything for my daughter to enable her to get the best grades that she could. Thank you.*
- *Found it very helpful knowing if my daughter has any issues or concerns that she can seek advice. Well planned and organised.*
- *Good to know that you are advising re number of hours of study – thank you.*
- *I was not completely aware of all the resources available to the students. There is an abundance of resources. I consider this to be excellent.*
- *Very useful to have the information aimed at parents, as my son will not tell me anything that is going on at school.*

Mr A Burton
Principal

E-SAFETY LINKS FOR PARENTS

It can seem difficult to keep up-to-date with the technology that children use, Twitter has particular value in easily sharing useful links with parents. Other schools have developed specific areas of their website for safeguarding.

Other useful resources to share with parents are the guides from 'Think U Know' and the NSPCC:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/How-to-guides

www.net-aware.org.uk

Vodafone has been particularly supportive of parents with the 'Digital Parenting' magazine they have produced for five years now. The magazine is available as a downloadable pdf, on the following web address:

<http://www.vodafone.com/content/digital-parenting/learning-and-fun/digital-parenting-magazine.html>



WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

Inspirational women are a big discussion point here at Kingswood with pupils recently putting forward names of great and inspirational women. Voting will soon be finalised as to who is in the Top Ten. Names of inspirational women currently range from Rosa Parks and Anne Frank, to Beyonce and Anjelina Jolie. Here are a few drawings and comments from some of the pupils on the subject. It will be interesting to see who reaches this Top Ten!





LIVE LOUNGE

Live Lounge took place on Wednesday 22 March 2017 from 7.00pm—9.00pm. The evening was a sell out!

As usual the event was a great evening with many brilliant performances from the pupils. Well done to everyone involved!

Year 11 BTEC Music Group



DAVID HOCKNEY ART TRIP

The Year 10 Art pupils were given an excellent opportunity to visit and see the David Hockney exhibition at the Tate Britain on the London South Bank.

The very eager artists left Corby at 9am with Mrs Evans and Mrs Bonner, who were more excited than the pupils! The Tate holds some of the world's masterpieces from Turner to Rossetti, but the star of the show for pupils, was David Hockney - one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. The pupils

had a fantastic time and were a real credit to Kingswood. Indeed, the teachers were stopped by other visitors in the gallery who commented on how some of our pupils; particularly Megan, Daisy, Izzy and Ellie were very mature and extremely insightful with their observations about Hockney's art.

A really fantastic day although blighted with some drama when Rhys had to be rescued from the toilets!!

Inter Academy Football Festival

On Tuesday 14 March, we hosted the first Inter Academy Football Festival for eight secondary Academies sponsored by the Greenwood Academies Trust (GAT).

Over 160 pupils from the City of Peterborough Academy, the Nottingham Academy, the Nottingham Girls' Academy, the Skegness Academy, the Weston Favell Academy, the Stanground Academy, the Houghton Regis Academy and the Kingswood Secondary Academy took part in the Festival. Each Academy put forward a total of 20 Year 8 boys and girls.



The festival was supported by Kathryn Evans, a former competitive swimmer who represented Great Britain in the Olympic Games (2000 and 2004). Kathryn is currently overseeing the development of Girls' Football for the Youth Sport Trust and is already working alongside PE teams across the Trust to develop girls' character through football. In addition, two players from Leicester City Women's Football Club attended the festival. The two players took the time to talk to many of the pupils taking part and were a huge inspiration to the girls.

ENGLISH MASTERCLASS

On Monday, the English Department delivered a GCSE masterclass for Year 11, based on their mock exams. The focus was on how pupils could 'add value' to their responses and understand what they need to do to get to their target grade and beyond. Monday's session concentrated on English Language Paper 1, offering valuable insights into what examiners are looking for with each question and offering simple steps to take the fear out of the exam itself. This work will be continued with their class teachers and the pupils were all given handouts which they can use in class or as part of their revision at home.

The top tips to take away:

1. Time management.
2. Keep to the focus of the question.
3. Use evidence but remember to explain the effect.
4. Focus on the 'how?' and 'why?' not the 'what?'
5. Show you know there is a writer behind the text.
6. Be confident - express yourself; have an opinion.

We have excellent revision guides for English Language and English Literature at a reduced cost, therefore please contact Mrs Clifford (pclifford@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org) or by phone (01536 741857) if you would like more information.

SQUID - CASHLESS CATERING



Cashless catering - We have now fully installed our Squid system that allows parents to charge their child's cashless catering account from home. During the recent trial period we have seen many parents take up this option and most have stated how easy and straight forward it is to use.

We are now at the point (1 Apr 17) when we intend to reduce from three cash top up points to one, which means that it is far more efficient for parents to charge their child's account via the internet than it is for their child to queue up to charge the account with cash.

Every parent has been provided with the log on details and issued with a three digit PIN. If you have not received this information, please contact the academy and ask for Sue Johnson, Senior Administrator, who will be able to assist you, alternatively her email address is sjohnson@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org.

Our intention is to eventually have all catering paid for in this way. Please check this out and start using sQuid this month.

RENTAL OF THE ACADEMY FACILITIES

From April to July we have far more scope to allow casual use of our external facilities (fields and astro turf) as many of our block bookings cease to train during this period. If anyone is interested in utilising our facilities, please contact Sean Davison on sdavison@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org or on 01536 741857. Likewise, we have scope to accommodate internal lettings, main hall, sports hall, performance space for everything from small groups to large gatherings, church groups etc. KSA really does enjoy being part of the local community and looks forward to receiving applications from local groups.



CAN YOU PRODUCE A GOOD ONE?

**HARD BOILED
HUMANITIES**

EASTER EGG COMPETITION

Hand in your completed egg by Wednesday 29 March to the Humanities Department. Prizes awarded for the most 'eggscellent' effort, most cracking idea and 'eggstraordinary' historical figure for pupil and staff entries.



**KINGSWOOD
SECONDARY ACADEMY**

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