

Our Ref: CWN/AJ/OctoberHOY10letter

October 2011

Welcome to all Parents and Carers of Year 10

I could not start this letter any other way than by congratulating Year 10 on the tremendous start they have made to Key Stage 4!

We have had a few changes to our year team since the end of Key Stage 3.

Link Tutor: Mr S Janusz

CSA Team Leader: Mrs M Pawson

Tutor Team:

10K Mr C Ellis	10L Mrs A Buckley	10M Mrs C Malson	10N Miss N Kerr	10O Mr P Robson
10P Miss R Ackroyd	10Q Mr A Chambers	10R Mr R Fieldhouse	10S Mrs L'Oconnell	10T Miss R Holling

Tutor Support Team: Mr D Thomlinson, Mrs K Franklin, Miss L O'Rourke, Ms D Crawford, Mr P Willerton and Mrs M Williams

SPORT

As ever, we encourage all members of Year 10 to achieve their best. In order to support and guide them in this we continue with our SPORT theme.

Each pupil is encouraged to achieve recognition in the 5 areas of SPORT

- **S**tandards of uniform
- **P**unctuality and attendance
- **O**rganisation (Equipment)
- **R**espect
- **T**eam



All pupils are fully aware that as we progress through Year 10 towards prefect selection, SPORT criteria and success are part of eligibility for the prefect badge and the privileges that come with it.

Options

Many thanks to all parents and carers who attended the Options Fair and took part in interviews with staff and their child throughout the options process. Thanks to the efforts, considerations and discussions of all concerned, most pupils are very happy with their Key Stage 4 timetable. The outlook is very positive!

Uniform and Equipment

I would like to extend a big thank you to all parents and carers who have gone to lengths to ensure that their child is properly equipped for school. If you are unsure about what your child needs on each day, consult their planner with them. We ask that you check your child's planner once a week and sign the appropriate page – this is a quick and efficient way of seeing straight away how their week has been, furthermore, this is often the best method of getting a message to your child's Form Tutor or Subject Teachers. Our basic uniform expectations are also published in pupil planners. I refer you to the Joint Heads' letter in September in asking you to ensure that your child is suitably dressed for school. Under current guidance to all schools, the school may, having contacted parents, legitimately send pupils home if they are incorrectly dressed for school. Their return would be subject to them conforming fully to the school's dress code. Whilst I am sure that this won't be necessary for our year group, some element of seclusion from mainstream classes may also be used for pupils who persist in pushing the boundaries. Please be aware that all pupils will be required to wear a **clip on** Kingstone tie.

Valuable Items in School

Please remember that we ask that pupils do not bring mobile phones, MP3 players, i-Pods or large amounts of money to school and that any valuables should not be left unattended. In lessons where pupils are required to change clothing, it is expected that pupils will hand valuables in to the member of staff responsible for the lesson.

Attendance and Punctuality

Every hour in school counts! We cannot emphasise enough how important it is that your child is in lessons for their full 5 hour educational entitlement every day. In line with this we do ask that you try to arrange any appointments after the school day. Similarly, we do not authorise holidays taken during term time; such absences are usually met with a fixed penalty notice from the Education Authority.

The school should be informed of all absences by a telephone call to the dedicated Absence Line (215759) and a note in the pupil planner. As part of our drive to combat truancy, we alert parents on the first day of a child's absence from school where we have not received information from parents as to why pupils are absent. All pupils should arrive on time to school. This is extremely important, particularly on Tuesdays, which is our assembly day, as important notices are given out. Attendance is monitored electronically in school, allowing quick and easy access to information. This can also be viewed via the parental gateway system. Mr Janusz keeps a very close eye on attendance and punctuality throughout the school day. If there is something awry, rest assured we will be in touch.

Dates for your Diary

Thank you to the great number of you who attended our How to Help Your Child Succeed Evening on September 22nd. It was a hugely successful event at which parents gained a further insight into the courses and qualifications Year 10 are studying.

4 th November	-	Interim Grades home
7 th -14 th November	-	Modular Exams (Maths and Science)
11 th November	-	Development Day and Remembrance Service
24 th November	-	Y10 Consultation Evening
25 th -27 th November	-	Boulogne Trip
16 th December	-	Christmas Service
30 th January	-	Work Experience fortnight begins
23 rd March	-	Interim grades (2) go home
1 st June	-	Y10 Annual Reports go home
2 nd July	-	Progress Review Day

Online Information

May I remind you that much of the information requested from school on a daily basis - term dates, contact details and other such information can be easily accessed through our school website: www.kingstoneschool.com We look forward to extending our online information to parents as the year progresses.

We appear to have made a very smooth transition into Key Stage 4 and the final two years of your child's education. Thank you for your support over the past three years; I feel confident that we can make the next two the most impressive and successful yet!

Yours sincerely

C Wilson

Mrs C Wilson
Head of Year 10



Messages from the Year Team

10K – It is great to see that 10K appear to have settled into their GCSE studies well and they seem very happy with the choices they have made. I was impressed with their maturity in their decision making last year, when they decided upon their options, and this has been supported with the ease they have begun Year 10. We have already had some success this year with some pupils doing very well in their Maths GCSE, especially Emma who achieved an A grade. Well done! Also it is great to see someone like Shauna, who has developed her confidence since Year 7 and is now a Sports Leader! Once again it is a privilege to be their form tutor and I look forward to another successful year.

10L - What a wonderful group of students! They have all made a great start to this academic year. As a form we were so pleased to have 100% attendance for the first 2 weeks. All students have settled in well to their exam classes. I'm so pleased they have been super organised in arranging their work experience placements and making the most of the great opportunities on offer at Kingstone School. Lots of 10L have joined the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, Sports, Cooking and Performing Arts Clubs. It is most pleasing to see that in the last year at Kingstone School several students are part of the Year Committee, and are already thinking of excellent ideas to celebrate this unique year. Good luck to you all! Work hard and keep smiling!

10M have made a fantastic start - what more would I expect? They look smart, are organised and have settled straight into Y10 without a hitch. We didn't manage to win the attendance league last year but they did make it another fantastic sports year and plenty of awards in the Celebration of Achievement event. So, as always I have high expectations for this year, and I know they won't let me or themselves down. I'm pleased to see Jack, Harriet and Chantelle have joined the year group committee (and it's not too late for others to get involved), several of the form have been selected to be School Ambassadors and lots of them popped over to Ponds Forge to find out more about future careers. They've done a fantastic job sorting out their work experience placements; an experience I hope they make the most of in the new year. I wish all of them good luck in Year 10; it's going to be busy and possibly stressful at times, but they'll continue to support each other and it will be as successful as the years that have already flown by. I can't wait! Now .. watch out for them on X Factor!

10N once again have made a great start, greeting me with smiley, happy faces every morning. The form are still a wonderful group of talented, enthusiastic, hard working individuals who are great company and fun to be with. Everyone's planners are still looking very neat and tidy and everyone has received at least one positive comment, which is great! I am really looking forward to watching 10N continue to grow, to develop both academically and personally and ultimately strive for their dreams. A massive well done so far; keep it up!

10O have made a great start to this year and I feel they are settling well within their chosen curriculum. It does not seem like two minutes since they were all fresh faced Y7's. It has been a busy start with exam results in maths and organising work experience. Many are taking the opportunity to attend careers fairs either in or out of school. With such busy schedules it is also good to see that the majority are continuing extra curricular activities; even skiing in one of the warmest Octobers on record! Some have managed to get some early Christmas shopping in too with a visit to the Lille Christmas market. It will be an unusual journey over the next two years, starting their GCSE's in one school and finishing them in another. I hope the move doesn't cause too much anxiety and that they are as positive of working in such an excellent facility as I am. I wish you all the very best for the rest of 2011 and beyond. Remember to work hard and have fun.

10P have made a cracking start to the term. They chose their GCSE options with maturity towards the end of Y9 and due to this they have begun this very important year with enthusiasm and passion for the subjects that they are studying. It is great to see that our form have so far managed to maintain the exceptional standards of uniform that is expected at Kingstone and come ready with their planners and necessary equipment each day. We do need to improve our attendance, however, as this will ensure that we all achieve the very best possible. The form continue to be involved in a variety of activities across the school; from gymnastics to Majors and Minors, individual music lessons to representing the school's very successful boys' football team. The form is full of cheeky characters who always manage to make the rest of the form and me laugh. It is an absolute pleasure to be your form tutor and I wish you all the best for the forthcoming year; a year which promises to be extremely positive. Continue to work hard 10P and achieve what you all deserve.

10Q The first half-term of Year 10 has been a very memorable one. 10Q have demonstrated that they are a fantastic form and it is clear that Mr Towers created a brilliant sense of community amongst the group and long may that continue. I look forward to continuing to get to know every member of 10Q properly over the remainder of the year and I am sure that the very positive start that the students have made to their GCSEs will be maintained going forwards.

10R have made a good start to their GCSEs and the majority are working very hard to reach their potential. The form is looking very smart but attendance has been disappointing as we are currently in 5th place. The form is involved in many activities after school which involve music and sport. Many of the form are receiving very positive comments about how they have started and adapted to their chosen GCSE subjects. Good luck for the rest of Year 10 and keep up the hard work, as it will be a tough few years.

10S Welcome to KS4! There are exciting times ahead and lots of new challenges to face. The next two years will form the basis of your future and need to be taken seriously. On the whole, I have seen a certain amount of maturity already and a keen sense to make the most of time at school. It would be great to see everyone adopting that same approach. Try to get involved in the activities on offer and make the most of your time at Kingstone before moving on to new surroundings. Remember taking SPORT standards seriously will give you the opportunity to get a Prefect badge at the end of the year. Good luck during this year.

10T have made an excellent start to Year 10; they have returned with a positive attitude and a mature approach to their studies. For the first time in 3 years we achieved 100% in the weekly attendance league and we were top in the league for a few weeks after that – so well done 10T. All students are enjoying following their individualised timetables and mixing with students from other forms. It's nice to open the form room door each morning and be greeted by smiling faces that are eager to learn. This year we welcome Nikola to the form – she joins us from Poland and is settling in well. Some members of the form are already involved in exciting things; like trips to Berlin and Lille or visits to Careers Fairs in Harrogate and Sheffield. I'm sure there will be plenty more to look forward to over the next year!