

Our Ref: MMN/PGR/EW/refocuslett09/10

5 February 2010

Dear Parent /Carer

At this mid point in the academic year, it is timely to remind and reassure parents/carers regarding our expectations in and around school. We have made no secret of the standards that we believe to be vital in enabling Kingstone pupils to make the most of school. Occasionally, some children choose to push the boundaries in terms of behaviour, work ethic and standards of appearance; it is our joint responsibility at such times to remain resolute in maintaining the high standards that have contributed hugely to the success of the pupils who have progressed through Kingstone over the years.

This term has, undoubtedly, posed challenges for everyone in terms of the extreme weather conditions; a result of which was that we relaxed some elements of the school uniform as it made sense for pupils to wear boots, scarves, hats and gloves. Given the conditions, I was heartened by the efforts made by the vast majority of pupils to get to school, enabling productive learning to take place and would like to thank parents for their support.

Hopefully, we are over the worst conditions and, consequently, we should now see a return to full and smart uniform, including **traditional, sensible black shoes**. With effect from Tuesday 22nd February, there will be a refocus on standards, including standards of dress. Pupils will be addressed in assemblies prior to half term and staff will be advised to take a consistent approach in dealing with failure to fulfil expectations. With regard to appearance, the pupil planner contains important information which was reinforced in our September letter. The School Shop is open every day at lunchtime in North Hall and sells every aspect of the school uniform, with the exception of shoes. I attach an up to date description of the school uniform for information, a copy is also available on the School's Website.

If in doubt, please speak to your child's Link Tutor. As a reminder:

- Pupils should only wear plain grey trousers. Striped or black trousers are not allowed.
- Skirts should be plain medium grey and of a suitable length
- Only a Kingstone School jumper may be worn in classrooms.
- Whilst excessive make-up is not allowed, its subtle application is acceptable on older pupils.
- Pupils with inappropriate hairstyles will not be allowed into mainstream classes.
- School shirts should have the top button done up and the school tie should be worn neatly. Pupils in Year 9, 10 and 11 who persist in wearing their ties too loosely will be asked to wear a clip-on tie.
- Any jewellery, other than stud earrings and a watch, is not allowed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that mobile phones and portable music players (eg iPods) should not be brought in to school and, if seen, they will be confiscated. A parent will then have to collect the device from Reception, or after five school days, it may be returned to the pupil.

Punctuality and readiness for work, although essentially a strength of the school, do need occasional reinforcement. Pupils should be settled in class by 8:25 am prompt and should be equipped for the day. As a minimum, pupils should present a planner, a pen (pencil and ruler) and any specialist equipment for the day.

We pride ourselves on providing the best opportunities for the pupils in our care; central to this remains an insistence on high standards. We also pride ourselves on positive relationships with children and their parents. By applying a consistent approach with home and school working together, I sincerely believe that we strengthen this relationship.

I thank you for your continued support for the school and your child. Be assured that everything we do is with your child's best interests at heart.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Milburn
Headteacher