

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Summer Term is now in full swing and there are a number of exciting events taking place around school. Year 10 have just returned from work experience and I was thrilled to receive so many positive comments from Barnsley employers about our pupils' behaviour and attitudes to work. Year 11 pupils have just had their Prom, where I had the privilege to see our students looking confident and prepared for whatever the future holds. They have been an exceptional year group brilliantly supported by Ms. Machen and her team. Whilst there is much activity and a great buzz around Kingstone, unfortunately, it is also at this time of year when some pupils can allow their standards to slip in terms of uniform. Children are regularly reminded of our expectations with regards to standards of dress, particularly when they seek to replace standard uniform, with the fashion accessories of the day!

To ensure the appearance of pupils does not become too relaxed over the next few months, from Monday 1st June we will be making sure that all pupils adhere to the school rules and I will be asking staff to be extra vigilant in terms of spotting uniform irregularities. Please could I take this opportunity to reiterate the following aspects of Kingstone's Uniform Policy so that you can impress upon your child the importance of appropriate school wear:-

- Shoes should be black, trainers are not permitted.
- Pupils should only wear plain grey trousers. Striped or black trousers are not allowed.
- All jumpers or cardigans should be removed prior to entry to the classroom other than the Kingstone jumper.
- Whilst excessive make-up is not allowed, its subtle application is acceptable.
- Pupils with inappropriate hairstyles may be removed from mainstream classes.
- School shirts should have the top button done up and the school tie should be worn neatly. Pupils 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.

We pride ourselves on enabling young people to develop into well rounded individuals, aware of themselves and sensitive to others. Our approach is to provide an exciting curriculum that pupils respond to positively and can learn from. We want to create a friendly, respectful environment and, central to this, is an insistence on high standards of dress and appearance.

The full list of the school uniform is available via the pupil planner (pages 34 & 35) and the website (www.kingstoneschool.co.uk). In addition, Heads of Year and Link Tutors can provide further clarification over the telephone, if you would like to discuss matters with them. 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.

Following consultation with pupils we are introducing a new school jumper from September. The new sweater is grey and I'm told by those who understand these things, it is more contemporary! Pupils in Years 10 and 11 will still be allowed to wear the old school jumper if they wish to, however, the new one will be available from the school shop in the next few weeks.

One final point regarding social networking websites such as MySpace, Bebo and Facebook. These are all blocked by the Local Authority's central Internet filtering software. No user on our network can access these sites; this includes teachers, support staff and pupils. It has come to my attention that some pupils have been using these sites from home to post offensive and distressing images of other children and in at least one instance, staff. Needless to say, this is totally unacceptable and any children found doing so will not be permitted to use the schools network in future.

Many thanks, in advance, for your support. A consistent approach will enable us to maintain the standards that have helped so many pupils develop and grow to be wonderful young people, who reflect positively on the school, themselves and their families.

Best wishes,

Mr. M. Milburn
Headteacher