



Parental Bulletin

8th – 12th October

Dear Parent/Carer,

Even though this week has been a little quieter at The Kingswinford School, Tours and Talks for Year 6 pupils and parents have still been taking place with even more booked in for next week – seems like our popularity is growing! We have also had a number of sporting fixtures this week and at the end of last week, including football and rugby matches and our new and superb gymnasts entered the School Games Gymnastics competition where we came fourth overall (with some much higher placings in some of the events). Mr Gould, our new PE and gymnastics teacher, is a national expert and if we can achieve so much after just one month we should expect extraordinary performances as we get further into the year. Well done to everyone who competed.

We are also very pleased to be relaunching the PTA this week and do hope that you might come along. It would be helpful if you are able to call into reception to let us know if you are planning to attend, but not essential – do feel free to just turn up. Mrs Wilkinson, our new Deputy, will be coordinating and I know that our parents will make her feel very welcome.

This week you should (and perhaps already have) receive a letter regarding Active Learning Week letter. I know that we are conducting a huge number of trips each year and this can generate a financial burden for parents. What I want is for all students to have access to a wide variety of trips and I certainly would not expect any student to feel that the need to attend every available trip. That being said, if there are particular trips which you feel would be essential for your son or daughter but money is a barrier, please do get in touch as there are some (limited) ways that we might be able to support. I hope that across 5 years all of our students should be able to access a broad and exciting range of trips.

A final note from me concerns the actions of some young people in the evenings and weekends around the area. There have been a couple of incidents recently in the local area where youngsters have provided some challenge to our local community. I am saddened to hear this and, whilst there have been a few Kingswinford students present at some of these events, I am pleased that they have only ever been on the periphery. Whilst I don't want to curtail the freedom of our students in the evenings and weekends I would ask you to consider who your children are 'hanging out' with of an evening in the area: it would appear that there are a few unpleasant characters from other communities and I would hate for them to lead our students astray. Should our students ever be an active part of such activities you should be sure that we can, will and do take a firm stance in our response.

I will finish with a brief apology for the delay in this briefing sheet: I must confess that this is a new system and my absence from the school (on school business!) on Friday has delayed completion. Normal service will resume this week!

Yours faithfully

Tom Macdonald
Headteacher



Calendar for the week

Tuesday 9 th	
Wednesday 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PTA Meeting 5pm to 6pm – Refectory
Thursday 11 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Poetry Day Event at Kingswinford Library - morning only, 60 x Year 7 students.
Friday 12 th	
Assembly Topic	Homelessness

Following Week (subject to update)

Monday 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Advisory Board Meeting 6.00 pm
Tuesday 16 th	
Wednesday 17 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Careers Evening 5.00 pm-8.00 pm
Thursday 18 th	
Friday 19 th	
Advance Notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 7 Settling Evening 24th October• Enrichment Day 1 25th October• Half term 26th October – Non Uniform day



- **NEW CLUB FOR STUDENTS** – A new Embroidery Club has been set up for next week each Monday at Lunchtime
- **GREASE** – reminder that rehearsals are taking place at lunchtimes
- **SCHOOL ORCHESTRA** - Anyone that plays an instrument are welcome to join the school orchestra. You need to be grade 3 and above ideally. It is on Thursdays 3.10-4pm in the Music room. Just turn up with your instrument. It is fun and a great opportunity to progress in Music and make new friends.
- **DRUM LESSONS** - Anyone interested in Drum lessons please see Mr Cotterill ASAP. There is one Drum lesson slot available. This is taught by Dudley Performing Arts within school.
- **PARKING** – at the end of the day (and to a lesser extent, the start) parking and pick up can be extremely challenging on Water Street. Furthermore, some cars are waiting in front of resident driveway entrances and in areas marked for no parking or no stopping. This creates a challenge for the school in three ways: first, in regards to safety – the traffic jam created represents an increased risk to the 900 students leaving from this entrance at 3.10pm as parents mount curbs and make efforts to negotiate the busy road; our local community get increasingly frustrated as cars block their driveways; and all of our parents who must pick up students via car have significant delay in negotiating this street. I must ask, therefore, that parents do not park in restricted areas, on curbs or in front of driveways. Please do not be offended if a member of staff politely asks you to move should you find yourself in this situation. I would encourage parents to park/wait on neighbouring streets where possible to alleviate traffic and so reduce the risk to our students.
- **ABSENCE** - If your child is going to be absent from school, can you please contact the school before 9:30 am, where possible. There is a designated absence line for attendance, please call 01384 296596 and press option one, record message and press # to finish, then follow the prompts to save the message.
- **BIKES** – we are concerned that some of our students are travelling on bikes in ways which we consider are unsafe. Most are not wearing helmets, many cycle on the pavements, many do not have lights as the nights close in and some have bikes which are not roadworthy. We will be looking at how we can encourage safer approaches in the coming weeks and hope that you will work with us on ensuring our young people stay safe.