

12 September, 2014

Dear Parent,

I hope that you and your family had a relaxing Summer break. This September marks the start of an unprecedented period of change in education which will have repercussions for many years to come. At the start of the Autumn term I would like to bring the following to your attention:

New staff

I am delighted to welcome eight new staff to King's:

Mr Downing	Subject Leader for Chemistry
Miss Jones	Subject Leader for Physics
Miss Hall	Teacher of Biology
Mrs Hansen	Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages
Mr Harrison	Teacher of Physical Education
Mrs Hibbett	Teacher of Business Studies and Economics
Mrs Oliver	Teacher of English
Mr Whiting	Teacher of Physics

We wish these colleagues every success.

Literacy

I should be grateful if you would continue to encourage you son to read widely. In school, all boys will be expected to carry a reading book (in addition to any fiction studied in class) in order to aid the acquisition of new vocabulary.

All boys in Years 7 – 9 should now have been issued with a copy of the CGP Study Guide, 'Key Stage 3 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar'. This is not to be viewed as a textbook for English lessons – it is a handbook to support good practice across all subjects. On the first page of the book there is a code to access an on-line edition and, if parents wish, workbooks can be purchased from CGP to assist progress. For many students it is essential that these basic skills are revisited frequently. To that end, each of the six terms of next academic year will have a separate focus. Term 1 will focus on section 4 – grammar basics. Changes to GCSE and 'A' level qualifications place greater emphasis on spelling, punctuation and grammar so any support that parents can give is much appreciated.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

A revised Special Educational Needs and Disability Code was introduced nationally from 1 September. The Code heralds significant changes in the way students with Special Educational Needs are assessed and supported. A revised Special Educational Needs and Disability policy should be available on the school website by the end of September. In line with statutory requirements, the school has published an annual report to parents about Special Educational Needs and Disability. The report can be found on the school website under 'Statutory Information'.

E-Safety

E-safety is a challenge facing all of us. May I remind parents that the school has an e-safety policy which is located in the 'Policies' area of the website. Yesterday there was an e-safety workshop for members of the School Council delivered by Alan Mackenzie (e-safety adviser). Boys involved in the workshop will deliver a series of assemblies to all year groups. Alan also delivered an e-safety talk for parents. Alan publishes a regular e-safety newsletter which can be accessed at www.esafety-adviser.com

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The School Website

Please use the school website as a point of reference. The homepage of the website will have regular updates on student achievement in the 'news' section and important messages will appear on the 'noticeboard'. The curriculum information for all subjects in each year group is currently being updated and will be completed by Friday 26 September.

PTFA

- **Exclusive Gold Card Club**

There is still time to join the Gold Card Club. All funds raised are passed onto the school for the benefit of the boys. There are ten monthly prizes of £60 and two (June and December) of £450. An annual payment of £10, preferably by standing order, entitles participants to be included in the monthly draw for prize money. Application forms can be obtained via the school website under 'PTFA'. I do hope you will be able to support the PTFA in this important fundraising activity.

- **Uniform**

If your son has grown out of any items of school uniform and they are in a fit state to serve someone else, the PTFA are always pleased to receive donations – especially items of PE kit. Just bag the items up and ask your son to hand them into the School Office.

- **Harvest Ball**

Tickets are still available for the annual Harvest Ball but payment and menu choices need to be submitted as soon as possible. The Ball will be held on Friday 3 October at Belton Park Golf Club. Tickets are £38.00 each and this includes a 3 course dinner and dancing to music by The King's School Soul Band. Further details may be accessed via the school website (under PTFA).

I am delighted to have the boys back in school and I look forward to working with you throughout, what promises to be, another busy academic year.

Yours sincerely,



F. Hedley
Head Master