

Dear Parents

Having been part of a year group who delivered some excellent GCSE results your son is embarking on a particularly exciting and challenging time in his life. The Sixth Form at King's provides him with a secure and structured environment in which to develop the intellectual, interpersonal and social skills that will lead him towards full independence and success at university and/or in the workplace. We warmly welcome students from other schools this term - their predecessors achieved strong A-level results last summer and most are taking up their places at leading universities, so they have much to live up to.

The school has made every effort to accommodate the needs of individual students but where the subject blocks preclude this and our collaboration with KGS is unable to solve the problem students will have to either study their 'fifth choice' subject or embark on a three academic subject plus General Studies programme of study. I remind you that the return to linear examinations means that all A/S and A2 examinations will now take place at the end of the respective academic years. These examinations will demand that students have a secure knowledge and understanding of greater amounts of subject content than in previous years. Consequently more students will be guided to drop to a three academic subject plus General Studies programme of study than has been the case in recent years. This process will begin at the second reporting point for any students who are demonstrably struggling. Moreover, the school will be running rigorous Mock Examinations in early February and any student whose results confirm a lack of progress on a course is likely to have an enforced change to their programme of study. I must stress that these actions are being taken simply in an attempt to ensure that students are appropriately placed and hence secure the best possible results.

As parents you can contribute very significantly. Your son needs at least as much support and guidance now as he has ever done. Of course, as with us, the art is to provide him with that sense of support and guidance without denying him his sense of growing maturity and independence. Students find that the more responsible, committed and mature they are in the Sixth Form, the greater the freedoms they will enjoy. Similarly the more diligent, co-operative and academically proactive they are the more relaxed and enriching their relationships with teaching staff tend to become. In short their experiences and successes in the sixth form will be based on partnership.

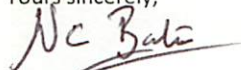
As a Sixth Form student your son acts as a role model for younger students. He will in many ways be more influential than parents and staff in shaping their behaviours and attitudes and that is why we value positive examples so highly. This is particularly true after a summer in which the school has continued to refurbish and improve its facilities to a standard that the whole community richly deserves but we must now work hard to preserve.

I hope that your son will be keen to contribute to the rich and diverse cultural, sporting and social life the school offers. However, as the demands of university admissions' tutors and employers become ever greater, and the costs of a degree significantly higher, work must be the focus of his life in the Sixth Form. Experience shows us that if his work is going well, so will your son's life be. It is essential that once the brief 'honeymoon period' is over he routinely gives each subject his full commitment both in lessons and independent study time. To facilitate this I am delighted to report that the Sixth Form Study Centre on the ground floor of the Newton Block continues to provide an excellent resource. In the absence of external January examinations it is critical that any student with elements of course work or other practical work is completed to the highest possible standard and in a timely fashion. Working ahead of deadlines enables students to receive the greatest allowable support and guidance from subject specialists and I urge parents to monitor these time lines to enable maximum time for the revision period just before and after Easter.

Many of the difficulties that do arise in the sixth form are directly attributable to poor communication for whatever reason. With this in mind I enclose a slightly adapted copy of 'Expectations of a Sixth Form Student' which students were talked through as part of their induction. It provides a reference point for what your son should be doing which might usefully be kept on a notice board and can be read in conjunction with the Sixth Form Handbook. I am sure that we can depend on your support in reinforcing and meeting these expectations particularly in relation to attendance, punctuality, appearance, independent study and understanding that ALL Y12 students must remain on site until lunchtime each day and must sign 'out' and 'in' in the Sixth Form Centre when leaving the premises. We look forward to working together to help your son meet his personal and academic targets.

Should you experience any difficulties at any time I hope that you will contact Mr Whales, your son's Head of Year, or me so that together we can find ways of resolving them.

Yours sincerely,



N C BARTON

Assistant Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form

Head Master: F. Hedley M.A.

Brook Street, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6RP

Tel: (01476) 563180 Fax: (01476) 590953 Email: admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk / finance@kings.lincs.sch.uk

www.kings.lincs.sch.uk

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Expectations of a Sixth form student 2014-2016

Attendance (absence notes) (appointments) (holidays)	Patchy attendance is a major contributor to poor performance. Your son should only take time off school if genuinely ill. In that eventuality he must produce a self certification note (available via the Sixth Form Centre) at his next registration explaining the circumstances of his absence. Medical, dental and driving appointments should, where possible, be arranged outside school time or in the lunch hour. Likewise, given the importance of external examinations, holidays of any sort are actively discouraged and requests for them addressed to the Head Master. If absence is unavoidable your son should as a matter of courtesy speak with the staff concerned and ensure that he can make good missed work as soon as possible.
Punctuality	To be an effective sixth form student your son is expected to be at school for all registrations (8.45am Form Period and 1.35pm Period 4) and lessons at the prescribed time. As those students who work part time know, punctuality is a minimum expectation of all employers too!
Deadlines	Deadlines, particularly for coursework MUST be met (taking time out of school ('sick') to catch up, seriously damages your son's prospects in his other subjects). As a Sixth Form student your son will have greater responsibility for organising his independent study and must ensure that he builds in sufficient time to manage work in ALL his subjects. As a general rule 'little and often' is more effective than the intermittent 'Blitz'! If he is struggling to keep up it is imperative that he or you inform his teachers so that they can provide early support.
'Homework'	A good student who works well in class should do the equivalent of <u>about 7-8hrs</u> homework Monday to Thursday and <u>about the same 7-8 hrs</u> over the weekend.
Appearance	Thankfully the majority of students share a pride in their appearance. They are expected to wear the appropriate school uniform smartly. We particularly welcome parental support in the following areas:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean, well groomed hair in accordance with the school rules (no extremes of length style or colour) If your son is in any doubt he should confirm the situation with NCB, NOW or his Form Tutor before experimenting 2. Blazer (NOT topcoat) to be worn in school 3. Appropriate school jumpers (NOT fleeces) to be worn in school 4. Top button done up, tie tied to cover top button and shirt tucked in. In short we expect students to present themselves as they would do in a professional, 'uniformed' organisation
Employment Extra-Curricular	Work experience paid or otherwise and sporting, cultural and social interests provide invaluable experience and transferable skills and augment a student's CV. A number of students arrange for extended placements/experience to take place on Wednesday afternoons. However, it is essential that your son finds the right balance. If there is a conflict of interests his academic work should be given priority.
Games	All Y12 students participate in their elected activity on a Wednesday afternoon and will be registered in their respective groups. Only the Head of PE will decide if a game is affected by bad weather. Games will be suspended during Mock and External examination periods.
Assemblies Tutor Period 6th form Notice board	A responsible Sixth Form student will always be fully aware of what is happening within the school. Essential information is disseminated daily in tutor periods and in assemblies which is why attendance at these is obligatory. Notice boards outside the Sixth Form Centre are also rich sources of information. Thus ignorance can never be used as a defence!
Independent Study	In the lower sixth ALL independent study time takes place at school either in the Sixth Form Centre or the Learning resource Centre. <u>No student can be legitimately working at home during the school day except during external examination periods.</u>
Signing 'In' and 'Out'	All Y12 students must remain on site until lunch after which time they may only leave the premises if parents/carers have completed and returned the appropriate permission slip. From 12.35pm they are required to sign 'In' and 'Out' in the log held in the Sixth Form Centre.
Timetable	It would be most helpful if you kept a copy of your son's timetable and any subsequent amendments if he changes course so that you are fully aware of his commitments.
Telephone	If ever you feel the need to discuss matters with us please contact your son's Form Tutor or myself via the School Office. You <u>should be</u> able to guarantee making contact 8.30 - 9.15am and 12.30 - 1.30pm.