



12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and I do hope that you and your child(ren) had an enjoyable holiday. This term there are very few changes in staffing however, I do have a couple of key updates as follows:-

- **Mr Charlett** has been appointed as Deputy Headteacher (Students). From January 2024, he will be overseeing all aspects of the pastoral team and safeguarding and is now the school's DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead). We wish him all the very best in his new role.
- **Mrs Ledwidge** has been appointed as Associate Assistant Headteacher on a temporary basis and she will oversee the Sixth Form, Careers Information Advice and Guidance and will support our pupil premium strategy. Mrs Ledwidge will be supported by Mrs Neale who will be second in Sixth form, also on a temporary basis. Miss Lordon maintains her role as Pupil Premium Lead.

### Safeguarding

Our safeguarding leads in school are therefore:-

- Mr Charlett: Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- Mrs Bi: Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Ms Burke: Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

### Attendance

As you are all aware, attendance is a big drive both in school and nationally. The government have now launched a powerful campaign to raise the importance of attendance.

The strapline they are using is:



This campaign re-enforces the message that we have been sharing that **students who are in school make substantially better progress than those who are not, have more positive peer relationships and their mental health and wellbeing are also improved.**



We appreciate that there are times when there are medical needs that prevent attendance at school, but we need your support in preventing avoidable absence. **Your child should come into school even if they have cold symptoms: cough, runny nose, sore throat or don't feel quite right**, if they are too unwell to be in school during the school day, we will contact you. The only time you should keep your child at home is if they have a temperature of 38°C or above, a contagious disease or have been sick or have diarrhoea. The DFE have asked me to share this link with you which explains more about contagious diseases and conditions.  
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>.

The government have asked us to share these messages:-

**Attendance: the top facts to know & share** MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

**The link between attendance and attainment is clear:**

- In 2018/19, just **40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards**, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.
- And **36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs**, also compared with 84% of regular attenders.<sup>1</sup>

**And it's never too late to benefit from good attendance:**

- **More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs**, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.<sup>2</sup>

**But attendance is important for more than just attainment:**

- Regular school attendance can facilitate **positive peer relationships**, which is a **protective factor for mental health and wellbeing**.<sup>3</sup>

1: The link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4, Academic year 2018/19 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)  
2: Missing Children, Missing Grades | Children's Commissioner for England (childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)  
3: Mental Health and Attendance at School (Chapter 1) - Mental Health and Attendance at School (cambridge.org)

In September, I shared with you the statistics for KNGS as follows:-

### **GCSE results analysis**

Students with at least **96%** attendance achieved on average:-

- Nearly **one whole grade higher in every subject** than those who attended for **90%** of the time.
- **More than half a grade higher** in every subject than those who attended for **95%** of the time.

*This was irrespective of prior attainment or target grades.*

A report with 95% attendance at the end of the year might sound high, but it just is not, as 95% equates to 9 days of absence over the year. These 9 days are equivalent to 45 lessons a year and this learning is very hard to catch up on.

Over a 5 year school journey at 95% attendance, 225 lessons or 9 whole weeks of learning are lost! **Therefore, striving for 100% attendance is important to ensure good academic and personal progress.**



**Attendance: What do these attendance % mean in reality over a year?**

Attendance %	Number of lessons lost	Number of days and weeks of learning lost
98%	20	4 days
96%	25	7 days
95%	45	9 days
94%	55	11 days
90%	100	4 weeks (20 days)
85%	150	6 weeks (35 days)

Our website has more information about attendance <https://www.kngs.co.uk/school-life/attendance/>

Should you need support with your child's attendance please contact school straight away, initially via their form tutor. You can do so by emailing [enquiry@kngs.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@kngs.co.uk), please enter the subject header 'FAO [form tutor's name], child's name and form'.

Useful attendance reminders:-

- Students attend even if they have a cold or feel unwell.
- Report absence by 8.30am daily on 0121 675 1305.
- Holidays during term time cannot be approved.
- Written proof of medical and dental appointments MUST be provided.

If you need help supporting your child with attendance, please do ask your child's form tutor or HOY for support. We appreciate your support in this matter to ensure all our students have the opportunity to flourish.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Raggett  
Headteacher