



4th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had an excellent start to the term and have very much enjoyed welcoming our new and existing students to the new academic year and talking to them about their summer. Alongside our induction activities, our house events have begun with the introduction of new house names Kingfisher, Nightingale and Goldfinch and collaborative work around the creation of logos, mascots and mottos for each house; students participated very well and had fun in the process. Our fire drill practice was excellent, 1075 students exited and entered school efficiently and in absolute silence, a very impressive sight!

In this letter I will be updating you on:

- Staffing changes
- Examination results
- Attendance and punctuality
- Uniform
- Behaviour for Learning Policy
- Curriculum
- Site work
- Parking
- Key dates for the school year
- West Midlands Academy Trust

Staffing changes

We are delighted to welcome: -

- Mr Lawton – Subject Leader Geography
- Mr Kinsella – History and Politics
- Ms O'Neil – Modern Foreign Languages
- Ms Osman – English
- Ms Thomas – Learning Support Assistant / SEN Hub Supervisor
- Ms Mills – Learning Support Assistant
- Ms Landa – Science

We also have some changes of role with current staff members: -

- Mr Currie – Assistant Headteacher (data, assessment, timetabling, examinations)
- Ms Lordan – Subject Leader for History
- Mrs Thatcher – Remains as Faculty Leader for Humanities but is now the Subject Leader for Politics
- Mr Lockett – Maths Faculty Leader

Examinations results

Congratulations to all of our year 11 and year 13 students on their fantastic GCSE and A Level results. Their examination results at GCSE and A level were excellent and both considerably above national outcomes, both look likely to be very positive. We will get a better picture of our GCSE Progress 8 score later this term, and the A level Value added score will be known later this year however, I am pleased to share the following headlines: -



A level results

	Kings Norton 6 th Form	National
A*-A	36.2%	27.6%
A*-B	67.9%	53.6%
A*-C	89%	76%
A*-E	100%	97.1%
Average point score	40.05	35.39
Average grade	B	B -

GCSE results

% of grades	KNGS	National
4+	89%	67 %
5+	78%	52 %
7+	43%	22%

Once again, congratulations to all of our students and I would like to thank our dedicated teaching and support staff for ably supporting our students.

Attendance

Excellent attendance is so important because it ensures your child feels a sense of **belonging**. This helps them get the most out of school and fulfil their potential. Evidence clearly shows that students with high attendance are more likely to: -

- Form and maintain **strong friendships**;
- Develop **personally and socially**;
- **Flourish academically**, helping them achieve the best possible exam results and move onto their destination of choice.

We know that sometimes attending school requires some **courage**; maybe because a child feels unwell or they are finding certain aspects of school challenging. In relation to feeling unwell, **your child should attend even if they have cold symptoms**. 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 vomiting or have diarrhoea.

If your child is worried about attending for reasons other than feeling unwell, please encourage them to attend and speak to their Form Tutor or Head of Year at the earliest opportunity. **At KNGS we want to work with families to understand and address barriers to attendance so that students are able to flourish to achieve their full potential.**

Our exam analysis over the last couple of years clearly shows a **direct and significant link between attendance and attainment**; this was as much as a grade per subject difference, regardless of prior attainment or target grades. To put this into context, whilst 90% in an exam is a brilliant achievement, in attendance terms it is well short of what is required for students to flourish. As percentages can be misleading we will try to use days missed when speaking about attendance; even 95% attendance would result in 9 weeks of missed learning, equivalent to 225 lessons, over five years of school.



Days absent in a school year	Attendance rating	Percentages
0	Excellent: KNGS ambition	100%
1-7	Good: KNGS minimum target	96-99%
8-11	Needs improving	94-95%
12-18	Poor attendance	91-93%

Birmingham City Council has issued this information ([School attendance and absence advice for parents | Birmingham City Council](#)) to all parents and carers explaining the Fast Track process and new rules around penalty notices for missing school. This includes the increases in penalty rates and a reference to the rule that **Headteachers are not allowed to authorise any term time holiday**; you may have seen coverage of this in the news.

Attendance reminders

- ✓ Students should attend even if they have a cold or feel unwell.
- ✓ Report any unavoidable absence daily by 8.30am, using the absence line on 0121 675 1305.
- ✓ Holidays during term time cannot be approved.
- ✓ Written proof of medical and dental appointments **MUST** be provided (in person or by email).

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

Punctuality

Students should arrive at school before 8.25am, except on a Thursday when they should arrive before 8.45am. Punctuality is as important as attendance in ensuring students flourish. As with all other areas of school life, we will support students and families to find ways to prevent lateness re-occurring or escalating into late detentions, which will be issued on and after the third instance of lateness. All lateness to school will be recorded regardless of the reason. **Students arriving after registers have closed will have a 'U' code recorded which means their attendance is negatively impacted.** Registers close at 9am, except on a Thursday when they close at 9.20am.

Uniform

We are proud of the way our students wear their uniform, in Years 7 to 11, and business dress in sixth form. Below is an overview of the key points we reminded all students of in May of last year. The full letter can be found here: https://www.kngs.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Y7-10-behaviour-letter_uniform.pdf

- **Skirts:** Navy blue with back vent or navy blue with all round pleats. Tight fitted, short and/or lycra skirts are NOT allowed. Skirt should be no more than 5cm above the knee (we will be using the phrase 'near to the knee' with students)
- **Smart shoes:** Trainers (including Converse) are not allowed to be worn.
- **Jewellery:** Students may wear a flat signet ring, wrist watch and ONE small plain stud in each ear. One item of discreet devotional jewellery is also allowed but it must not be visible. Other piercings are NOT permitted. Bracelets and necklaces are not permitted.
- **Make-up:** Students are not allowed to wear make-up in years 7 to 9, and discreet foundation only from year 10. Nail varnish or any form of false nails/eye-lashes are not permitted.

Full guidance on our uniform can be found here: <https://www.kngs.co.uk/school-life/uniform/>



Behaviour for Learning

Our Behaviour for Learning Policy aims to support every student to flourish by creating an environment where everyone feels safe and treated with respect. Thank you for your support in talking to your child about our norms and routines, which can be found in their school planner. Almost all of our students follow these and understand their importance. We work hard to recognise and praise those who demonstrate our values; this includes daily verbal praise and praise points but also, last year saw us reintroduce reward experiences such as trips to Drayton Manor and end of term discos.

However, part of learning how to behave includes understanding that there are consequences attached to behaviour that a community agrees is not acceptable. The table below shows the consequences when students do not meet our high expectations. At each stage, support is in place to enable students to develop and we recognise that some students might require adjustments or additional help in following our norms and routines. The KNGS Behaviour for Learning Policy can be found on our website:

<https://www.kngs.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Behaviour-for-Learning-policy-JUNE-2023.pdf>

Level	Consequence
Level 1	Verbal warning and discussion with student. Confiscation of jewellery and mobile phone. Parent/carers will be asked to collect confiscated phones on second incident.
Level 2	Final warning – 5-10 minute detention with member of staff – Level 2 log – 0 Behaviour Points
Level 3	Behaviour log issued for 20 minute break detention the following day – 1 Behaviour Point
Level 4	One-hour after school detention and / or removal from lesson. Parent / carer contact made by teacher – 2 Behaviour Points
Level 5	Renewal room (internal suspension) and parental meeting – 3 Behaviour Points
Level 6	Suspension and parental meeting – 4 Behaviour Points
Level 7	Permanent exclusion and parental and related meeting (Headteacher).

Curriculum

We know that most students are confident in explaining the work they are doing in each subject and the topics they will cover during this year however, if you would like to know more about each curriculum area, details are available on the school website <https://www.kngs.co.uk/curriculum/overview/>

This includes curriculum maps (<https://www.kngs.co.uk/curriculum/overview/curriculum-maps/>) which show the overview of that subject across all years. We know that you may not be an expert in all subjects, but the more you can ask questions, the more it will help your child to consolidate their learning. Curriculum maps for each subject can be found on our website by following the link above.

Site work

Over the summer, plenty of work has taken place around school. The reception area has been reorganised and we have replaced our very old pastoral block with a new building. This exciting replacement is largely funded by our successful Condition Improvement Fund bid. The new building will be ready to use by the end of September and provides office space, meeting and intervention rooms for our pastoral team.

Student safety and parking

With 1078 students leaving school at the end of the day, it is even more important for all parents and carers to drive and park in line with legal requirements as we strive to keep the exit from school as safe as possible. Thank you to the majority of parents and carers who drive and park safely and courteously at the end of the day. For the few that do not, can I please remind you of the guidance from PC Tony Harris,



Bournville Lane Police Station: The Highway Code <https://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/parking.html> section 243 states, do not stop or park:-

- Near a school entrance
- Anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
- Opposite another parked vehicle
- Where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles
- In front of an entrance to a property

We kindly ask that you do not stop or park on the yellow lines, both zig zag and single lines, block our neighbours' driveways and carry out dangerous turning manoeuvres in the road. Please do not put our children at risk just because you wish to save a few seconds.

Key dates for the year

The following confirms important dates during the school year when the school will either start late, finish early or close due to staff training. Also, I have included other key dates for your diary. **Please note the early closure on Monday 26th September is to accommodate our main School Open Evening event.**

Early closure, late starts, training days and school closures				
	Day	Date	Event	Timing
2024	Thursday	26 th September	Main school and Sixth Form Open Evening (2025 entry)	6.00pm – 8.00 pm Students finish at 12.20pm
	Friday	29 th November	INSET Training day	Closed to students
2025	Wednesday	5 th February	INSET Training day	Closed to students
	Monday	5 th May	Bank holiday	Closed to staff and students
	Friday	18 th July	Last day for students	Students finish at 12.30pm
	Monday	21 st July	INSET Training Day	Closed to students
Other key dates for your diary – Please note all events marked ***				
	Day	Date	Event	Timing
2024	Monday	16 th September	Y12 Parents as Partners Evening (online event)	5.00pm – 5.45 pm
	Friday	27 th September	Open Morning (Year 7 & Sixth Form – 2025 entry) - Online booking required	*** 9.00am – 11.00am (online bookings only)
	Monday	30 th September	6 th form online applications live	
	Thursday	3 rd October	Open Morning (Year 7 & Sixth Form – 2023 entry) - Online booking required	*** 9.00 – 11.00 am (online bookings only)
	Monday	7 th October	Y7 Parents as Partners Evening Y9 Parents as partners Drop-in	TBC
	Monday	21 st	Y10 Parents as partners	TBC



		October		
	Thursday	14 th November	Y11 Parents Evening (online using School Cloud)	3.30 – 6.00pm
	Thursday	28 th November	Sixth Form Parents Evening (online using School Cloud)	3.30 – 6.00 pm
	Tuesday	17 th December	Christmas Concert	Time TBC
2025	Thursday	16 th January	Y7 Parents Evening (online using School Cloud)	3.30pm – 6.00pm
	Tuesday	28 th January	Y8 Parents as Partners Evening for identified students	Time TBC
	Thursday	30 th January	Y10 Parents Evening (online using School Cloud)	3.30pm – 6.00pm
	Thursday	6 th March	Y9 Parents Evening (online using School Cloud)	3.30pm – 6.00 pm
	Tuesday	11 th March	Y9 & Y11 Parents as Partners Evening	Time TBC
	Tuesday	25 th March	Y13 Parents as Partners Evening	Time TBC
	Thursday	3 rd April	Y8 Parents Evening (online using School Cloud)	3.30pm – 6.00 pm
	Monday	23 th June	Whole School Open Morning Y7 & Sixth Form - 2025 entry	*** 9.00am – 11.00 am
	Tuesday	24 th June	Whole School Open Morning Y7 & Sixth Form - 2025 entry	*** 9.00am – 11.00 am

***** Whole school open mornings do not affect timings of the school day, students should attend as normal**

Please note, timings may change, you will be informed if this is the case.

West Midlands Academy Trust

To update those parents and carers joining us with students in years 7 and 13, the Governing Bodies of Hall Green School, Kings Norton Girls' School, and Swanshurst School proposed in spring 2024 to jointly establish a new multi-academy trust (West Midlands Academy Trust, WMAT) and for all three schools to become academy schools within WMAT.

Hall Green, Kings Norton and Swanshurst are each high-performing, popular and successful. We share high aspirations for our students, high expectations of staff and students, and cultures of excellence. This proposal is about our shared commitment to future improvement. We are proposing to establish West Midlands Academy Trust (WMAT) because we believe that there are advantages for our students and staff. Public consultation was held during June 2024. The consultation document and a more detailed Question and Answer document were issued to stakeholders, and both are available on this webpage



KINGS NORTON GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

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Headteacher Mrs Nicola Raggett GLCM (Hons)

WMAT Academy Consultation – Kings Norton Girls' School (kngs.co.uk). A report detailing the consultation process, feedback received and responses to questions raised is available on this webpage alongside further information. The Governing Body of each school considered all of the consultation responses, and in July 2024 the Governing Body of each school made the decision to proceed with establishing WMAT. It is anticipated that the schools would transfer to WMAT in early 2025. The schools have confirmed that each school will retain its school name, its age-range, school uniform, admissions criteria, and existing staff. Term dates will continue to be set within the context of local schools.

Hall Green will continue to be co-educational, while Kings Norton and Swanshurst will continue to educate girls for Y7 to Y11 and have co-educational Sixth Forms. I will update you during this term as our work towards joining WMAT continues. The webpage above will also be updated.

We are excited about the year ahead and very proud of our students making such a positive start to the year in order to open a world of opportunities. Thank you for your continued support as it is vital that school and home work in partnership to ensure all children flourish.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Raggett
Headteacher