Kingstone High School

Kingstone
ACADEMY TRUST

November 17, 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Re: School Attendance and the release of new computer games

I am writing to share a concern regarding school attendance and the release of popular computer games, and to ask for your support in ensuring that students continue to prioritise their education.

On Friday 25th September, after EA Sports FC 27 had been released at midnight, we recorded a significant increase in the number of students absent from school, with illness being the reason provided. Interestingly, for some of these students, this was their only absence from school. Whilst we fully appreciate that genuine illness can occur at any time, this unusual pattern raised concerns.

Looking ahead to Thursday 19th November, we have a similar concern. The highly anticipated Grand Theft Auto VI (GTA 6) is scheduled for release at midnight on this date. We are already hearing conversations amongst students suggesting that some intend to stay home from school to play the game or stay awake through the night playing it and subsequently miss school. Whilst some of these comments may be made in jest, we feel it is important to make parents aware.

This is particularly concerning as students will be in the midst of their Key Assessments during this period. These assessments are an important opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and progress. Missing school, even for a single day, could mean missing an important assessment or valuable preparation time.

We would therefore ask parents and carers to be particularly vigilant around this date by ensuring that students attend school as normal, maintain sensible bedtimes and understand that gaming should never take priority over their education. We also feel it is important to highlight that GTA VI is an 18-rated game. As a secondary school educating children aged 11 to 16, we recognise that this game is not intended for our students' age group. However, given the number of conversations we are hearing, we believe we have a duty of care to ensure that parents are aware of its release and can make informed decisions about their children's access to age-restricted content.

We recognise that gaming is an enjoyable hobby for many young people. However, it should never come at the expense of their education, wellbeing or sleep.

Thank you, as always, for your understanding and continued support in helping us ensure that every student makes the most of their time at Kingstone High School.

Best wishes,

Mr M Morris
Head of School

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