



28th August 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to Kingstone High School next week for the start of the new academic year.

A great deal of work has taken place over the summer to prepare the school for the new term. This has included repainting, new flooring, extensive deep cleaning and a range of other improvements to our school environment. We want Kingstone to be a school that students, staff and families are proud of, and we know that the environment in which we learn and work plays an important part in developing that pride and sense of belonging.

This year also marks the introduction of our new school values of **Courage, Kindness and Aspiration**, which will underpin our continued commitment to **Achieving Success Together**. We are also launching our new House System, creating further opportunities for students to belong, contribute, compete and celebrate success across the school. We will share more information about the House System separately.

Returning to School

Year 7 and Year 11 students return on Thursday 3 September.

Years 8, 9 and 10 return on Friday 4 September.

We have deliberately created bespoke programmes for Year 7 and Year 11 on Thursday.

For **Year 7**, this provides a softer transition into secondary school before the whole school returns on Friday. Students will have time to become familiar with the site, routines, staff and one another through a range of transition activities, helping them to begin their time at Kingstone as positively and confidently as possible.

For **Year 11**, the day will focus on preparing students for their all-important examination year. Alongside dedicated preparation and information sessions, students will return immediately to learning through English, Mathematics and Science lessons before beginning their full timetable.

All students will receive a Student Planner, provided free of charge by the school. The planner contains important information for students and families and is also an additional communication tool between home and school. Parents and carers are

encouraged to use it to write notes or messages for their child's Form Tutor where appropriate. This does form part of our compulsory equipment list.

Attendance - Every Day Matters

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in helping students to achieve well. It supports academic progress, friendships, confidence, positive routines and a strong sense of belonging.

The first few days of the academic year are particularly important as students receive new timetables, meet teachers, establish routines and begin the learning upon which subsequent lessons will build.

Department for Education research has shown that Year 11 students with 95-100% attendance were almost twice as likely to achieve a Grade 5 or above in both English and Mathematics as students whose attendance was between 90-95%.

Small amounts of absence quickly add up. 90% attendance means approximately 19 days of school missed over one academic year, almost four weeks of education. Across five years of secondary school, this would equate to almost half a school year of lost learning.

Our expectation is therefore that students attend school every day unless there is a genuine reason why they are unable to do so. Where there are barriers affecting attendance, please contact us as early as possible. Working together gives us the best opportunity to provide support before absence becomes an established pattern. Please also note that it is our legal responsibility to safeguard students, and we do conduct home visits for students that we have not seen for 5 or more consecutive school days.

Expectations, Uniform and Equipment

Over the past year, we have reviewed how we communicate our expectations to students and families. Our updated Kingstone High School Expectations Guide brings together the key information students need to understand how we work, including attendance and punctuality, behaviour, uniform and equipment, mobile phones, rewards and sanctions.

Clear routines, boundaries and expectations help us to create a calm, safe and purposeful environment in which teachers can teach and students can learn. We therefore ask all parents and carers to read the Expectations Guide with their child before the start of term: [KHS Expectations Guide](#).

Students are expected to return in full and correct school uniform from their first day and to maintain these standards throughout the school day. Where students do not meet our uniform expectations, this will be addressed in line with our behaviour procedures.

We recognise that genuine short-term difficulties can occasionally arise. If this happens, parents and carers should contact the school as soon as possible. Where an

ongoing adjustment is requested for medical or other individual needs, appropriate supporting evidence may be required so that we can fully understand the student's needs and determine any reasonable adjustment.

We also recognise that families can experience financial or practical difficulties. If obtaining required uniform or equipment is causing difficulty, please contact us so that we can discuss what support may be available.

Full uniform and equipment information can be found here: [KHS Uniform and Equipment](#).

Mobile Phones and Yondr Pouches

As communicated before the summer holidays, we are introducing Yondr phone pouches from September in response to the new statutory requirements around mobile phone use in schools.

Every student who brings a mobile phone to school will be issued with a Yondr pouch free of charge, at a cost to the school of approximately £20 per student. The pouch will form part of our essential equipment expectations. If a pouch is lost or deliberately damaged, parents and carers will be charged for its replacement.

Students who do not bring a mobile phone to school will not be issued with a pouch. Instead, they will bring home a short declaration on their first day for both student and parent/carers to sign, confirming that they do not currently bring a phone to school and that they will inform us if this changes so that a pouch can be issued.

Parent Handbook

We have also produced our updated KHS Parent Handbook 2026-27, which we strongly encourage families to keep as a useful reference throughout the year.

The handbook brings together key information about school life, routines, communication, pastoral support, curriculum, attendance, uniform, expectations and other practical guidance. It also includes updated staff information and contact details, helping families to identify the most appropriate person to contact when support or information is needed. You can find this here: [KHS Parent Handbook 2026-27](#)

Allergy Safety and Our Nut-Free School

From September, schools have new statutory responsibilities under Benedict's Law relating to allergy safety. Staff will receive updated training during our INSET days, including refreshed training in the use of adrenaline auto-injectors such as EpiPens. We would therefore like to remind all families that **Kingstone High School is a nut-free school. There are no exceptions to this expectation.**

This is particularly important as we welcome a student with a severe nut allergy into our community this year. Even very small amounts of allergen can present a serious risk. It is therefore essential that students do not bring nuts or products containing nuts into school.

Keeping every child safe relies upon our entire community working together, and we are grateful for your support with this.

Celebrating Kingstone

This year we will also be revitalising our school social media presence.

While a number of departments regularly celebrate their work online, our central school pages have been much quieter in recent years. We want to use these platforms more effectively to celebrate student success, share the wider life of the school and continue to strengthen pride and belonging within both Kingstone and the wider community.

During the first week of term, we will contact families with an opportunity to review and update their photography, video and communication preferences. Please look out for this communication. Where preferences are not updated, we will continue to use those already recorded on our system.

Starting the Year Together

Our expectations at the beginning of the year are straightforward. We want every student to attend regularly, arrive on time, wear the correct uniform, be properly equipped and be ready to learn.

These expectations are not ends in themselves. They help us to create the conditions in which students feel safe and supported, lessons begin promptly, learning is prioritised and every student has the opportunity to succeed.

There is a great deal to look forward to this year. We are excited about the improvements already made, our new values and House System, and the next stage of Kingstone High School's journey.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We would particularly appreciate families taking some time before the start of term to read this letter, the Expectations Guide and the Parent Handbook with their child.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back and to another successful year at Kingstone High School as we continue Achieving Success Together through Courage, Kindness and Aspiration.

Yours faithfully,

The Leadership Team
Kingstone High School