

April 2022

Dear parents and carers,

As well as our usual end of term newsletter, I am writing to inform you of some changes to the leadership of Kings from September 2022.

Since September 2016 I have led the school through a period of significant and positive change. During this time we have seen our numbers rise year on year, our students achieve ever greater outcomes and our staff become both stable and high performing. We have also brought significant investment into the site, with the 3G, new Science laboratories, and new toilet facilities. We are about to announce more growth to our Sports Hub with a 220 square metre fitness gym, a baseball diamond, a community garden and, with a little luck, a padel tennis facility.

We have progressed from a school relying upon the support of colleagues within the Multi Academy Trust, to one which supports others. We have established relationships with the University of Surrey, the Royal Grammar School and Guildford Shakespeare Company. The school is in a great place and our students have access to a fantastic education both within and outside of the classroom.

Our Multi Academy Trust, Learning Partners, has grown and is now made up of 4 secondary schools and 7 primaries. With this growth comes greater opportunity for collaboration to enhance the experiences of everyone.

As a result, I am pleased to announce that I will be taking on additional responsibility as Executive Principal of both Kings and our partner school, Fullbrook. This means that I will continue to be the substantive head at Kings and on site for around 50% of the week.

This is an exciting opportunity, and one which I believe can help continue our drive to provide the best opportunities for your children and our community.

Of course, this change will mean additional leadership capacity at Kings, and some opportunities for some of our team to take on new roles and responsibilities. They are ready for this.

My commitment to Kings, to our staff, to our students and to our parents remains unaltered. We continue to seek and retain the very best teachers and support staff and to provide the best education we can here.

I will write to you again in the coming months once positional changes are confirmed. This change is the next step in our continued journey forward together.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A. McKenzie  
Principal

## Newsletter Easter 2022

### COVID update

Like all schools, we continue to operate alongside COVID. Students have been fantastic at adapting to the changes that have been happening. We will continue to adapt to our local situation in the months ahead.

I would like to express my personal thanks to the staff team here this term. We have had some challenging weeks with staff absence, and the team has flexed to ensure that the education of our students has been broadly unaffected by this. We have an exceptional record of staff attendance, with a 98.3% attendance outside of COVID based scenarios. This is something to be applauded and testament to the commitment and determination of the team here.

The guidance from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care changes from 1<sup>st</sup> April. It is now:

- Adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.
- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
- Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.

This means that it is important that students who are feeling unwell and have a temperature do not come into school for three days. I am sorry to say that we no longer receive free tests to give to families.

### Supporting students with wellbeing

We know that post-pandemic, there are an increasing number of young people who are having some difficulties with their wellbeing. The link below is a very useful resource for lots of support which is available to young people and their families. I would urge you to take a look.

[https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/251596/Health-and-Wellbeing-Guide-for-Parents-Jan-2021-FINAL.pdf](https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/251596/Health-and-Wellbeing-Guide-for-Parents-Jan-2021-FINAL.pdf)

There are further video guides for young people for 'Wellbeing workshops for Adolescents':

[Click](#) here for videos for students

And also guides for parents about how to support your children in this important area:

[Click](#) here for videos for parents

## Finding Our Futures – University of Surrey

### Realise Your Potential – Year 10 Saturday Programme

4 of our Year 10 students have been participating in the Realise Your Potential Programme with the University of Surrey this term. They have spent their Saturdays learning about different degree subjects and completing a research project with their University Student Mentors. At the end of March, Thomas and Jessica graduated from the programme by giving a final group presentation and were awarded their certificates.



### Family Futures

5 of our Year 9 students with their supporters have been participating in Family Futures, a sustained family outreach programme with the University of Surrey exploring future pathways. They have worked together to set goals and gain in confidence. It was great to see some of our students and their families on campus for the Celebration Event at the end of March.

### Year 8 Exploring Higher Education

In February, Year 8s were invited on campus to learn about university and higher education. They took part in subject tasters and learnt about how to make choices. We are looking forward to our next visit after Easter where students will learn more about student life at university.



### Brilliant Club

We have 21 Year 7s and 9s taking part in the Brilliant Club Scholars Programme this term. Students have been working hard with their PhD tutor to learn about a topic beyond the school curriculum in either English Literature (Y9) or Code Breaking (Y7) and have been developing their essay writing skills for their final assignment. We're looking forward to visiting a nearby university for the Graduation event next term.

### News from the PE Department

This half-term saw the re-introduction of the inter-form competitions being held for Key stage 3. We have already held the football competitions, where the forms were asked to field both a boys' and a girls' team to compete. Most forms managed to put out players to create a set of teams. It was fantastic to get pupils out and enjoying competing against each other, having some friendly competition between forms and starting to generate more interest in sports and being active.

The end of the first round of sports saw 7BAI hold the lead with 9 points. In Year 8, 8CUS and 8GIM are tied on 3 points each, and 9FON has 6 points. It promises to be tight a competition until we have completed all the competitions by the end of the summer term. The more teams a class puts out, the more points they can receive, and winners at the end will be awarded the Inter-Form Trophy.

The inter-form basketball has just started and the groups will have played this week in mixed teams and will be again played after the Easter break. It has been great to see more pupils coming out in the

afternoons to play in these competitions. As the enthusiasm grows so will the growth of the sports teams within the school.

### **Basketball**

A group of enthusiastic and hardworking Year 9 boys have been training up at the Surrey Sports Park with the Surrey Scorchers. This is all thanks to the Eikon initiative, where the 12-14 boys have been driven up there to have an intense hour training session, improving their fitness, skills and overall game play. We look forward to some competitive fixtures against local schools and to see what these young men have been taught.

### **Netball**



The Year 7 netball girls have been a delight to coach and have had an enjoyable and super start to their training at Kings, developing their skills and establishing their teamwork. They had their first netball match against Barrows Hill narrowly losing 16-14 which was a very impressive start to their netball matches.



The Year 9 netball girls have shown super dedication and development, training twice a week both Mondays and Thursdays resulting in a super performance against Bishop David Brown winning 25-12.



We have had a tremendous and enjoyable time with our Year 11 netball team. They have kept their training and enjoyment of netball going since Year 7 resulting in a very impressive talented mixed team in Year 11 narrowly missing out to the teachers in their two matches.

Two of our netball girls, Jess in Year 9 and Isla in Year 8, will be attending Surrey County trials in May. This is a fantastic achievement for the girls and we know they will do extremely well and represent Kings with pride. Good luck to Jess and Isla!

### **Rugby and Athletics**

Rugby club has also made a return to the enrichment afternoons, and after the Easter break the athletics track will be laid out and athletics clubs will start to take place on different afternoons. This will allow pupils to get a jump start on training before Sports Day and PE lessons. Hopefully as the weather starts to turn warmer and the light is around longer, we will have more pupils enjoying outdoor sports and friendships that come with participating in sports.

### **Eikon update**

We are delighted that Kate has joined us as our Youth Support worker, offering a range of support for students. There is something for everyone and a lot of students have enjoyed getting to know Kate this term.

*Eikon Monday lunchtime* - drop in club, lots of board games, card games, art, get your homework done, bring friends, meet new friends, eat lunch, come and say hello - everyone is welcome.

*Monday after school* - Young Carers - Guildford Shakespeare drama club - please see Kate in Eikon for further information (free club for Young Carers)

*Eikon Wednesday lunchtime* - LGBTQ+ - A safe space to come and meet new people, get support - everyone welcome

*Eikon Thursday lunchtime* - drop in club, lots of board games, card games, art, get your homework done, bring friends, meet new friends, eat lunch, come and say hello - everyone is welcome.

#### **PTFA**



In the lead up to Mother's Day, our PTFA ran a pop up stall, which featured hand crafted gifts for students to select for their special carers. There has been lovely feedback from those who received a gift, and the PTFA are pleased with the good sum of money raised.

#### **Attendance**

Good attendance remains absolutely essential in ensuring students are successful in their time at school.

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority, they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court.

Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.

#### **Summer Uniform**

During the summer term, students may wear house polo shirts rather than shirts and ties should they wish. Please note that all other uniform remains unaltered and blazers must be worn unless students are directed otherwise.

#### **Learning Partners**

The first parent newsletter for the Learning Partners Academy Trust has been published. Please click [here](#) to read about all the schools in the trust.

#### **Final note**

We return to school on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April (Week 1) for what promises to be an excellent term. We look forward to everyone returning rested and ready for the term ahead.

Have a wonderful Easter break.