



Issue

9

Diary Dates

Monday 7 to Friday 11 March
Sixth Form Assessment Week

Wednesday 9 March
Year 8x + y Chemistry Assessment

Thursday 10 March
Year 7x Chemistry Assessment

Friday 11 March
Year 7y Chemistry Assessment

Tuesday 15 March
Parent Forum
5.30 pm to 6.30 pm



Tuesday 8 March 2016

24 HOUR ABSENCE PHONE LINE

Years 7 — 11: 01536 747771

Sixth Form: 01536 424816

The above absence numbers are available 24 hours a day. Please keep these numbers handy and easy to access. Please do not telephone the normal school number as this may cause a delay in the absence being logged.

STUDENT COUNCIL

A meeting of the Student Council was held on 29 January 2016. The following are the notes from the meeting:

Atrium/Food: Current dining arrangements were discussed

Action : Mr Burton advised Sixth Form canteen to be enlarged and quotes obtained for folding tables, and consideration being given to change the school day with a view to moving away from the split lunch break.

Food Variety: Comments received indicate a better variety of food could be offered

Action : Mrs Robinson, our Chef Manager from the catering department will attend the next Student Council meeting to discuss.

Mezzanine: Better tables were requested on the mezzanine area

Action : Mr Lawson to discuss with site staff for round tables installed in the area and Mr Burton looking into having a second staircase installed.

Mufti money: Details of how the money is being used was raised

Action : Mr Lawson has, since the meeting, established that we had stated in the newsletter to parents that the money raised from the mufti day would go to charity—namely Clic Sargent (children's cancer charity) and Corby Lakelands Hospice.

Improving breaktimes: Requests for the tennis courts to be available for netball when the weather warms up was received.

Action : Mr Lawson to look to duty this when the weather improves

Breaktimes: Space for Year 10 to go to

Action : To be discussed at future meeting

ACTIONS FOR STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS :

- Developing outdoor facilities — what would students like or be happy for some mufti money to be used?
- Specific requests for Student Council to discuss with Mrs Robinson of our catering department.
- Development of outdoor facilities at breaktime
- Recycling facilities (Year 10)
- More drugs and alcohol awareness—PSHE (Year 10)
- After schools club IT/PE
- Counselling (Year 10)
- Tablets in Tech/IT
- Toilets — all seem to be locked
- Structure of the school day

STAYING SAFE ONLINE PARENTS INFORMATION EVENING

Following a request by our Parent Forum we organised a Staying Safe Online Parent Information evening on Tuesday 1 March 2016. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the evening and in particular PSCO Alex Franklin who made a very valuable contribution highlighting both how to stay safe and how the law works in this challenging area. Many parents went out of their way to thank the presenters and commented on how valuable they had found it.



Those who did not manage to attend really did miss out on some excellent information regarding keeping our children safe and to this end we will be drip feeding hints and tips about staying safe online via this newsletter. The following is a comment from one of the parents who attended the evening:

"I thought the session was excellent. A very valuable and informative evening that highlighted ways to help keep our children safer online., it's a shame that more parents didn't attend. I really appreciate the time taken by teachers to hold these sessions out of normal hours."

HOMework

Homework helps to build communication between home and the Academy. It is a means of ensuring pupils are ready for the next lesson; a way of developing new knowledge, embedding a skill or a way of preparing pupils for exams. Homework increases each pupil's involvement in applying skills and knowledge to demonstrate mastery of material independently. It builds pupil responsibility, perseverance, time management, self-confidence and feelings of accomplishment. Teachers are now following the new homework policy, which was introduced in February. Please see below for details.

TIME ALLOCATION

- The amount of homework that pupils receive will increase as they go through the Academy. In KS3 pupils can expect, on average, the following time allocations:

English	60 minutes	Tech/Art	30 minutes
Mathematics	60 minutes	R.S.	30 minutes
Science	60 minutes	Geography	30 minutes
MFL	60 minutes	History	30 minutes

- At KS3 non EBACC subjects may choose to set one project per small term.
- At KS4 approximate weekly subject allocations are as follows:

English	90 minutes	Science	90 minutes
Mathematics	90 minutes	Vocational	60 minutes
Options	60 minutes		

- These times are only averages. Pupils, of course, work at different speeds and so homework will take longer for some than for others.
- In years 12 and 13 pupils should expect to spend approximately 5 hours per week on each subject they are studying.

At the Kingswood Secondary Academy we use **'Show My Homework'** to track and monitor pupils' homework. At the start of each academic year all new pupils will be given a letter which has their password and parent's password. Once you have registered to the 'Show My Homework' site via the icon on the Academy web page, pupils will be able to see what homework their teachers are setting for them. Parents will be able to monitor this from their own computer or phone app. If you have mislaid or require a reminder of your login please contact Miss K Martindale, Assistant Principal, who will be more than happy to assist. Miss Martindale's email address is: kmartindale@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

If we need to contact parents/carers regarding their child, eg in the case of injury or illness, we occasionally find that emergency contact numbers are out-of-date, which causes difficulties for us.

It is essential we have up-to-date emergency contact details recorded for all pupils. If you, or your child's other contacts, have changed mobile or landline telephone numbers since September please let us know by contacting our Reception team on 01536 741857 who will be able to check and amend if necessary.

Many thanks for your assistance with this matter.

SUMMER EXAMS 2016

TIMETABLE FOR GCSE AND A LEVEL

The timetable for the above examinations will be placed on the Academy website by Friday 11 March. Individual exam timetables will be given to Year 11 pupils on Tuesday 8 March.

A final exam timetable copy, which will also show details of exam room and allocated seat numbers, will be given out prior to the start of the exam season.

Kerry Greenan
Exam Officer

YOUNG ENTERPRISE—KS CREATIONS

KS Creations attended a Young Enterprise Programme at RS Components on Wednesday 24 February when schools from Kettering and Corby were also in attendance. We are pleased to let you know that the group raised a grand total of £145 on the day, all strawberry bags were sold and most of the memory jars were bought. KS Creations won the 'Best Trade Stand' award and the day ended with a tour of RS with Business Advisors Jason Pickard and Nick Riley. A big thanks to RS Components for hosting the event! The final of the Young Enterprise Programme will be held on Tuesday 15 March 2016 at Rockingham Speedway. So watch this space!

HINTS AND TIPS TO HELP KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

ON THE INTERNET AND SOCIAL NETWORKS

Talking to your child is one of the best ways to keep them safe. You can also use parental controls on social networks, online games and browsers and on both hardware and software that can filter or monitor what your child can see.



Preventing your children from using the internet or mobile phones won't keep them safe in the long run, so it's important to have conversations that help your child understand how to stay safe and what to do if they ever feel scared or uncomfortable.

Have the conversation early and often - children and young people spend an average of 12 hours a week online and it becomes part of their routine early on in life. That's why it's important to start talking to your child about keeping safe online at an early age.

It's easier to have conversations about online safety little and often, rather than trying to cover everything at once and as your children get older, and technology changes, make sure you keep talking about what they're doing online and how to stay safe.

This newsletter will provide regular hints and tips - please look out for them!

SCIENCE REVISION PROGRAMME

A rolling revision programme of Chemistry, Physics and Biology has been organised for Year 11 pupils. Specialist staff from each area will run sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The first session commenced with Chemistry on Tuesday 1 March.

Each session will run for approximately one hour between 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm with all revision material being provided — pupils just need to bring a pen.

The programme is optional, but highly recommended that pupils attend. Snacks of crisps, doughnuts and soft drinks will be available to maintain high energy levels.

Posters will be appearing around the academy to promote this great benefit, however if any pupil would like more information they can ask their allocated Science teacher or Mrs K Sykes.



CHELSEA'S CHOICE

On Friday 29 January a professional group of four actors came into school to deliver the play called Chelsea's Choice to our pupils. This play has been delivered in many schools across the country to complement work covered in the wider curriculum.

The subject matter of the play was very hard hitting about the dangers of sexual exploitation through social media, but very relevant to pupils of this age group and above.



The actors were very skilled, and used very few props to deliver the play which is based upon a true story. The four actors took on multiple roles and it was very well put together and engaging.

Afterwards the actors held a question and answer session for the pupils about the play and its wider reaching contexts. Year 8 and their tutor team were thoroughly engaged in the session and responded very well to the question/answers at the end. They raised very valid questions for the actors.

This is the second outside group that have been into school for Year 8. The first being Human Utopia and as a year group they have responded very well on both occasions to all the issues that have been raised.

PARENT FORUM

The next Parent Forum, run by Assistant Principal Jon Lawson, is due to be held on 15 March at 5.30 pm.

The topic of this meeting is to be 'Bullying and Behaviour'.

Please note that we are always on the look out for new members, therefore if you are interested please feel free to join us, and for those who already attend, a very big thank you for your commitment.

THURSDAY 17 MARCH LIVE LOUNGE!

We would like to remind readers that our Live Lounge show takes place on Thursday 17 March at 7.00 pm.

Tickets cost only £2.50 each. These can be purchased from the Music office or at one of our break time sales.

We do hope to see a large audience in attendance as excellent entertainment is planned, so please come and watch!

BTec Music Group