



Issue

6

Diary Dates

Monday 11 — Friday 15 January

Year 11 Trial Exams

Thursday 14 January

Year 7 and Sixth Form Parents' Evening

Tuesday 19 January

Year 10 vaccinations

Wednesday 20 January

Year 7 and Sixth Form Parents' Evening



Monday 11 January 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.

Dear Parents/Guardians

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year. As I hope you are aware I am the new permanent Principal of Kingswood, a position which I am proud and delighted to be taking up. The peculiarities of teaching meant that even though I was appointed early in June I was not able to take up the position until this January. I have come from a very large (2,200 students) secondary school near Milton Keynes where I have been a Deputy Headteacher for nearly 10 years. It is a school on the cusp of being rated as 'Outstanding' and I bring many of the skills and lessons learned there with me to Kingswood.



There is much work to do in order to build on the improving successes of Kingswood and enable it to become the good and outstanding academy we all deserve, and it will take a little time to get there. My mantra is that of 'simplicity' and 'consistency'. With the senior team I shall be revising the Teaching and Learning policy as a first priority in order to ensure that the quality of lessons delivered is consistently good. We shall also be looking to develop the pastoral behavioural systems so that students and staff are equally aware of the standards expected and the rewards and sanctions that follow.

A little like a football team in the January transfer window, we are also actively looking to recruit high quality staff to replace those we know who are moving on to pastures new.

Most importantly I want the students to thrive at Kingswood, not only to leave with the best set of exam qualifications possible, but also to develop the skills and experiences necessary to go out into the world as well rounded and productive young men and women.

I look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks and months and at the Parent Forum meeting on 2 February at 5.30 pm, details will be coming to you shortly. In partnership with you we can lead Kingswood on to a bright and successful future.

Regards

Lots of kids will get a new smartphone with a built-in camera this Christmas



Yes, but 70% of usage is unmonitored & *Sexting* may fill this void



Up to 1-in-5 kids is now *Sexting* or has seen a *Sext*



The consequences for those whose trust is broken can be devastating



Shared images are a terrible form of bullying & can ruin reputations



They can also criminalise the young people who forward such images

What should we do?



Teach our kids to **STOP-&-THINK!**



SelfieCop is a new app that can teach kids safer camera behaviour. SelfieCop allows parents to check photos & videos taken by their child's smartphone. www.selfiecop.com

SPORTING ACTIVITIES

We are pleased to announce the following sporting success:

Kingswood Secondary Academy has won the Satellite Club of the year award at the Northamptonshire Sports Awards for the extracurricular Table Tennis club, run at the Academy by Henry Arthur. George Toseland, of Year 8, accepted the award on behalf of the Academy on the evening in front of a crowd of 600 people.



Mr Hope and the Y7 Futsal team came 4th in a tournament which was held at Lodge Park Academy last week. The Y7 seven-a-side football team also came 3rd in the district finals which were held at Kettering Buccleuch Academy.

Mr Gamble and the U16 girls' football team won 10-0 in the last 16 of the county cup and are now through to the quarter finals.



Mr Gamble and the U17 boys are also through to the quarter finals of the county cup after a 4-3 victory in the last 16.

Miss Copson and the Y10 girls' basketball team came 5th in a tournament of 9 teams held at Brooke Weston.

Christmas Fair and Show—update

On the evening of Thursday 10 December 2015, we once again held our annual Christmas fair and show. Having battled against a wilfully un-Christmassy atrium, Dave Robertson and his team of willing (!) helpers managed to inject some semblance of yuletide cheer into the space, with twinkling lights and a stand of Christmas trees. Lining the atrium were a variety of stalls run by both students and staff, peddling everything from mugs to crocheted Christmas decorations. With a steady flow of customers, all the stalls managed to turn a decent profit, even if more than a few teachers felt a little as though they had been politely mugged! Even our new Principal, Andy Burton, left a few quid lighter and a few gifts heavier.

Following the fair was our Christmas show of music, dance and drama with the theme this year loosely being classic and kitsch Christmas stylings. We were treated to a wide variety of acts, some regular performers and some brave new faces. The Year 12 BTEC National group joined everything together with an excellent and very funny recreation of scenes from The Wizard of Oz. Lucas's cowardly lion costume managed to gain fans all on its own for some reason! Dance students from almost every year group proved their class once again, with three strong pieces, one of which was self-choreographed to a high level. The musical offerings matched the class of the dances with very polished performances from the jazz group and the orchestra. There were many brave singers who took to the stage with little (very little!) practice, which is no small feat when playing with a live band. Special mention must go to Aiden Bremner and Linda Reeds who pulled off a fantastic rendition of White Christmas which they had arranged themselves.

Thanks again go to the Expressive and Performing Arts team for pulling it off at a time when teachers traditionally just want to hide in a darkened room. This year, the Dance team was joined by Natasha Campanaro, who will be sorely missed when she moves on at Christmas to her next school placement. Good luck and we hope we've not put you off! Well done to all involved. Keep your eyes on the horizon for our next performance.

A REMINDER TO PARENTS AND PUPILS

There has been an increase in the following items being brought onto or worn on the Academy premises, therefore as a reminder of the rules :

- Fizzy and energy drinks are not permitted and if seen they will be confiscated. Only water or juice is allowed.
- Hoodies are not permitted on the Academy premises. To clarify, this means upon entering the Academy gate, pupils must have already placed any hoodie into their school bag by this point.
- Make-up, extreme hair colour, artificial nails and nail varnish and make-up are not permitted in school.
- Outdoor wear/coats are to be removed before entering the Academy building.

NON UNIFORM DAY

The last day of term 2 was a non-uniform day when pupils were allowed to wear a Christmas jumper, or something 'festive', for a donation of £1. We are pleased to announce that almost £735 was raised. The newly elected Student Council will now decide where the money is to be donated.

ACADEMY CLOSURE

DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER

In the event of severe weather, every effort will be made to keep the school open as normal. There are, however, circumstances when a school has no other reasonable option but to close. If this is the case it will be announced on our website

www.kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org

by 7.15 am on the day of closure.

We encourage parents to use our website as the first port of call. However we will also make any announcement of closure at

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures.



PARENTAL PAYMENTS

We are launching an online payment service through Groupcall to enable parents/carers to pay for trips, uniform etc. Initially we will be writing to parents of Year 9 pupils as a trial to ensure that the service operates smoothly, before inviting other year groups to join.

Letters containing full details will be posted shortly.

A HELPING HAND TO THE VILLAGERS OF PENYEM, THE GAMBIA



Two former students of the Kingswood Secondary Academy decided to take a huge adventure – to live and work in Penyem for a month. Eleanor Springham and Chelsea MacFarlane were no strangers to the Gambia having visited as ‘tourists’ on a couple of occasions previously. Living in the village was something else! Here is their story.....

‘On 17 November 2015 we flew out to the Gambia and stayed in a little village called Penyem for 3 weeks. Living here meant that we had to adapt to their lifestyle, eating rice every day, fetching water from a local well, showering from buckets of cold water and using a hole in the ground as a toilet! It was not easy but it was the best experience we have ever had.

Whilst there, a lot of time was spent helping transform an old derelict building into a new classroom. It took a lot of hard work but it was definitely worth it! It meant so much to the villagers and they even

named the classroom after us — the Chelsea MacFarlane and Eleanor Springham classroom. We also spent some time teaching in the local primary school. Although their classrooms are basic, they really make the most of what they have got. All the children love going to school to learn — something that children here often take for granted. It is so important that children are sponsored — so that they can attend school and receive an education.

We spent a lot of time with our own sponsored children and their families — something that they really appreciated. It was great to be included in their day-to-day life and learn about their culture. The villagers have now told us that we are proper Gambian citizens — we can even speak some of their language.

All of the villagers thoroughly enjoyed having us there and it was extremely emotional for everyone when we had to leave. We will definitely be visiting again soon!



Chelsea MacFarlane and Eleanor Springham

Lost Property

There is a large number of unclaimed garments and items, in our lost property. If any pupil has lost an item please ask them to check with Student Services as it may have been handed in.

We have quite a few pairs of prescription glasses, a large variety of jackets, school jumpers etc, therefore it is definitely worth checking whether a lost item has been handed in. Please ensure that the name of your child is added to any clothing item to assist in the return of any lost items.