



KINGSWOOD SECONDARY ACADEMY

A very warm welcome to all our Year 7 students.

What a fantastic start Year 7 have made! Their behaviour, attitude and conduct around the Academy has been impeccable and that comes down to you and your preparations for your child at Kingswood, so thank you.

Lots on this week.

C.A.T. Testing – Cognitive Ability Test

At Kingswood Secondary Academy, like many secondary schools, we test our students early in Year 7 to ascertain their baseline ability and to help judge the expected progress they should make throughout their secondary education. These tests are particularly useful as they help to statistically predict a student's learning potential across a range of curriculum subjects.

What are C.A.Ts?

C.A.T's measures a student's ability to reason with and manipulate different types of symbols important in thinking processes. Students sit 3 Tests covering:

- Verbal Reasoning (VR) - thinking with words
- Quantitative Reasoning (QR) - thinking with numbers
- Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR) - thinking with shape and space

C.A.Ts can be used to indicate a student's potential and their possible performance in future examinations. We will use this information to help ensure that all students make the very best progress whilst at Kingswood. Students will conduct the tests on computers in our IT rooms on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday and Friday it is therefore essential that all students are present.

Class Charts

Your son/daughter should have come home with a Class Charts login for themselves and parent/carers. This invaluable programme is used for many aspects of Academy life in Kingswood, from seating plans to setting homework. Once you log in, you can see what *ipoints* your child has been given, how they have behaved throughout the day and what homework is due. It really does help keep you in the picture of what is going on in school, therefore please download the app and see how this will really help you to support your child.

Parent Pay

Thank you to all of you who have activated their Parent Pay account. The students seem to be enjoying using their swipe cards to 'buy' their lunches. As we move further into the year, the swipe cards will be an invaluable tool to help with logging on to photocopiers, the library and other digital requirements, so please reiterate to your son/daughter that they need to look after their card. If you still do not have a Parent Pay account please email KSA enquires and we will get that sorted.

Uniform:

My goodness don't our students look fantastic with their new ties. I do favour the red however, as it is my favourite colour! If you have ordered a tie and still waiting for it we can supply you with one if you bring in your order number. Also; if the suppliers are saying that they have ran out of stock, we do have a few spare ties which we can sell to you through Parent Pay. Similarly; if you are waiting for a blazer, you could purchase one from the local supermarket and order an Academy badge. I would like all our Year 7 students perfect in their uniform by the end of the week, as the following week on 15 September, the school photographer will be coming in to take Year 7 photos. Information on how you can purchase these photographs will be sent to you in due course. I want my Year 7 to be impeccable. If you are struggling to purchase the blazer, or if you need help, please just send me an email and I will see what support is available.

Admissions forms

If you have not handed in your admission form, we do need it in as a matter of urgency so please hand it in as soon as possible. We need the correct contact details and other important information to ensure our records are as accurate as possible. We never divulge this information with third parties.

Picking up/dropping off

Please help us to keep on good terms with our neighbours in the local community, in particular the new development (Oak Wood Drive, to the left of us as you face the building) by avoiding dropping off or picking up your child near the Academy, causing congestion and in some cases a health and safety risk to our students. If you have no other choice but to bring or collect your child by car then it would help hugely if you could park several hundred metres away from the vicinity of the Academy and have your child walk this last relatively short distance - the exercise will do them good!

Finally, I know it has been an extremely challenging time for us all, especially our young people who tragically missed out so much in their final months of primary school. However, with all the precautions and planning we have put into place in Kingswood, I really do hope and pray that we will get through this term unscathed from COVID. To hear noise and laughter coming from classrooms, energy and life in the Academy again has made all the anxiety and stress of planning our return all worthwhile. We will get through this, as long as we come together and work for the sake of our young people and the community of Corby.

I look forward to working with you and getting to know you all over the next year. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mrs A Bonner
Head of Year 7 – Senior Assistant Principal