

## **Parents' Information Booklet** Year 7 2023-24

## The Kingsley School's Academic Ethos

Since its founding in 1884, The Kingsley School has continually sought to deliver an excellent educational experience. Our aspiration for all our students is that they become the very best version of themselves. We are a special community with a love of life-long learning and genuine care for one another at the heart of it. We are proud to empower young people on their journey with us where we enable them to grow in confidence through a holistic 21<sup>st</sup> Century education.

We are committed to high quality teaching and learning at every stage of life. We will support pupils in class giving them individual attention and enabling them to make excellent progress. We expect pupils in return to invest time and effort in their own studies and homework, taking responsibility for their learning and growing in independence. We are proud that through our approach to teaching and learning our students are able to perform well in public examinations, typically achieving one whole grade higher at GCSE or A level compared to their baseline predictions.

The Kingsley School runs an elective Enrichment Programme which aims to extend and enhance the core curriculum. The inclusive programme takes place within the school day enabling all pupils to enjoy new experiences and develop essential skills. Combined with our broad co-curricular programme, this provides new horizons and enriching challenges for pupils to develop leadership skills, teamwork and resilience.

This Parents' Information Booklet is designed to guide you through the academic programme that your child will experience this year, as well as providing you with important details about resources and opportunities available. Should you have any questions or require further support please do contact the school, initially via your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year, and we will be happy to assist.

Mener Kelly

James Mercer-Kelly Headteacher

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## ART

Head of Department: Mr E Lax e.lax@kingsleyschool.co.uk

"In Year 7, the Art Department endeavours to nurture talent and promote self-directed learning by fostering creativity and imagination. Students are afforded opportunities to acquire foundational techniques, which will serve as a basis for further development throughout Key Stage 3. These foundational skills encompass tonal drawing in the first term, followed by an introduction to colour and colour theory during the spring term, culminating in a natural form project primarily employing colouring pencils and watercolors.

Furthermore, students will be assigned a series of observational drawing tasks as part of their homework, reinforcing the skills acquired during classroom instruction. Assessment of their coursework will occur upon the completion of each project, adhering to clearly defined evaluation criteria that are explained to students at the outset of the course.

Additionally, the art department organises an annual whole-school art competition, open to all students in Years 7-9, with allocated homework time for participation. The competition's theme is unveiled in October, and the submission deadline is set for January."

We are aware that our pupils enjoy creating their own art at home for fun, a practice we highly endorse. By motivating them to apply the skills they acquire in class to their home projects, they will witness rapid skill development.

Further information about the art department curriculum, homework and competitions can be found at <u>www.kingsleyart.uk</u>





## CLASSICS

Head of Department: Ms I Peace i.peace@kingsleyschool.co.uk

All pupils in Year 7 study Classics and the main focus is Greek mythology. They will study the Greek gods and goddesses, learning about their roles and symbols. Pupils will read Greek myths; they will have the opportunity for creative writing and creating cartoon scripts, whilst also practising literacy skills. The myths that they will study include Odysseus' Adventures with the Cyclops and Circe, the Judgement of Paris and the Wooden Horse. Pupils will also explore the story of Romulus founding Rome in preparation for starting Latin next year.

All pupils are given one homework of 30 minutes duration every two weeks.





## **DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY**

Head of Department: Mrs C Dempsey c.dempsey@kingsleyschool.co.uk

All pupils follow units of work in three specialist areas: Design and Technology, Food and Nutrition, and Textiles and Product Design. During Year 7, the projects are based around designing and making one-off products for themselves. Pupils investigate materials, components and equipment; generate initial design proposals; develop their designs; learn how to communicate their ideas clearly; plan the manufacture; learn new practical skills; learn how to evaluate their work. Pupils are provided with A4 folders to include both their classwork and homework. Resources sheets are given out as appropriate.

In the Food and Nutrition unit pupils will be taught:

- a range of basic cookery skills;
- to work independently and in an organised manner;
- to follow safe and hygienic practices;
- to research and evaluate recipes.

In Product Design pupils will:

- learn safe and correct use of basic hand tools for cutting and joining resistant materials;
- have an introduction to basic wood machining equipment such as the scroll saw;
- develop graphical communication skills;
- design and make a product from resistant materials.

In the Textiles unit pupils will:

- learn basic hand-sewing skills;
- complete a design and make project.

#### Assessment

This is done on a weekly basis; written feedback to help pupils progress and improve is given in folders. All stages of the design and make process are individually assessed throughout the year. An overall grade is given at the end of each unit. Marking follows the school criteria, e.g. A-D for effort and 1-4 for attainment.

#### Homework

This is given weekly. The nature of homework tasks vary (e.g. research on design themes, completing design ideas and evaluating products) depending on the nature of the classwork. Homework is usually completed on A4 paper in the work folder.





## DRAMA

Head of Department: Mrs E Smith e.smith@kingsleyschool.co.uk

The aims of the year are to introduce the concept of ensemble work and explore acting skills through a range of drama techniques and skills.

Pupils will complete an introduction to drama in September, in which they will explore a number of practical approaches and build essential skills in performance. In November, pupils will start their 'Kingsley Shakespeare Challenge Award'. This will include a trip to Shakespeare's Birthplace and to learn about Shakespeare's life and a backstage tour of the RSC. Lessons will focus on exploring the language and texts of Shakespeare. A rehearsal process will take part during lessons to showcase extracts from Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', with performances scheduled in February 2023.





## ENGLISH

Head of Department: Miss R Forde r.forde@kingsleyschool.co.uk

In Year 7 English is taught in mixed ability groups and we monitor pupils' classwork and homework progress closely. During Year 6, some pupils will have spent a lot of time preparing for entrance examinations, so the focus in Year 7 is on fun and creativity.

Our emphasis is on the enjoyment of language and we use a huge variety of resources and activities covering fiction and non-fiction. Speaking and listening are important too and pupils participate in role plays, conversations, formal talks, discussions, debates and oral presentations.

In reading and writing pupils study a variety of genres covering literature, including Shakespeare and many kinds of non-fiction.

We continue to develop pupils' technical accuracy with a range of activities, including fun starter games and competitions. Written work is carefully marked and corrected in line with the National Curriculum guidelines.

Pupils have regular library lessons and we encourage private reading, which is an essential part of the study of English.

#### Homework

Each week pupils are set one reading and one written homework. The emphasis for the written homework is on quality (not quantity) and pupils are expected to spend time preparing and drafting before producing completed written tasks.





## GEOGRAPHY

Head of Department: Mrs K Ahmed k.ahmed@kingsleyschool.co.uk

The following topics are studied in Geography in Year 7:

- Geographical skills including Ordnance Survey map-reading
- 'Our Restless Planet' Plate tectonics and the power of our planet
- 'The UK in the Global Village' Analysing social and economic influences and the effects of globalisation
- Visit to the Natural History Museum

Pupils are taught in their tutor groups. The focus is on developing a sound foundation of geographical skills and knowledge.

#### Resources

Pupils are supported by a variety of resources. These include 'Digimap', the online Ordnance Survey mapping tool, as well as 'Progress in Geography', a brand new range of textbooks designed to support the transition, acquisition of key skills and knowledge for the revised GCSE specification. All resources are kept up to date to reflect the changing world around us.

#### Homework

Homework of 20 minutes duration is set once a week.

### Assessment

Each unit of work will be assessed by formal test, self-review investigation or verbal presentation.





## HISTORY

Head of Department: Mrs C Partridge c.partridge@kingsleyschool.co.uk

All pupils study History until Year 10 when it is a GCSE option. Teaching in Year 7 is in tutor groups. At Kingsley, we generally follow the National Curriculum in Years 7 and 8. Year 7s study medieval history (the period 1066-1485).

We emphasise the importance of an enquiring attitude and pupils are encouraged to think and to question. Lessons are typically very interactive and the participation of all pupils in discussion is encouraged.

#### Homework

Homework is set regularly. Pupils work on file paper in folders and we expect these to be kept neat and orderly. Good presentation and English are important. Pupils are given information sheets about what is expected and the marking system used by the department.

#### Assessment

There are assessments in history every term (the third one is the summer exam). Each assessment is only on the work covered since the previous one. This applies also to the summer exam. The first assessment is on the Norman Conquest and takes place in October; the second is around February half-term and is on the Black Death and Medieval Peasants.

The history department is keen on taking pupils on visits outside school to enrich their learning. In the summer we may go to Bosworth battlefield. We firmly believe that learning about the past should be enjoyable as well as of intellectual value!





## ICT/COMPUTING

Head of Department: Mrs M Roberts m.roberts@kingsleyschool.co.uk

The emphasis in ICT lessons has moved towards a more creative computing based curriculum and pupils will be studying the following units during Year 7:

#### E safety

- Knowing how to stay safe online
- Understanding why we use strong passwords
- Recognising and knowing how to deal with cyber bullying
- Knowing the difference between personal and public information

#### Logo Making

- Understanding different logo designs
- Working with clients and a client brief
- Designing and creating logos for clients
- Evaluation of logo designs
- Responding to feedback and editing logo designs

#### Game Design - Kodu

- Creating landscapes within which to play a game
- Adding characters such as 1 player, 2 players and enemies
- Demonstrating the basic constructs of code with "if" and "when" instructions
- Familiarisation with repeating, selecting, iterating and procedures

#### Handling data using a spreadsheet

- Identifying the components that make up a spreadsheet
- Inputting and editing data
- Using simple formulae to model the results of a change in one or more variables
- Formatting a spreadsheet to aid the understanding of the user
- Generating column and pie charts from data sets

#### Making a movie

- Working with text and images
- Manipulating video footage
- Working with a timeline
- Adding music and special effects





## MATHEMATICS

Head of Department: Mr T Spillane t.spillane@kingsleyschool.co.uk

Mathematics in Year 7 is taught in form groups until October half-term. During this first stage, each child's work, progress and approach in lessons is closely monitored to help identify strengths and areas for improvement. With this information and result from a single lesson assessment, pupils are allocated into sets following the October half-term. Movement may happen between sets over the year but decisions on placement are principally made in the best interest of pupils.

Work divided up into topics of approximately two weeks long and mathematical recall skills are regularly reviewed to build a familiarity with facts and simple methods. There is a formal mid-year test and set of end of year examinations which are all used to review progress and groupings for through the year.

In lessons, there is an emphasis placed on problem solving, increasing confidence in general number work, as well as utilising scientific calculators.

Homework is set twice per week; each homework should take approximately 20 minutes.

Pupils are expected to bring mathematical equipment to lessons. They should have a pen, pencil, ruler, protractor, pair of compasses and calculator in every lesson. These mathematical items may be purchased through the department.

Assistance with revision of topics prior to an end of unit test would be a useful support from home. Knowledge of tables and the four operations are essential for success - any help at home to increase confidence and speed is always welcome. The department subscribes to the Maths Watch online platform.

Topics for this term include:

- Formal written method of calculations
- Algebra
- Properties of 2D shapes
- Rounding to decimal places
- Coordinates and graphs
- Dealing with negative numbers
- Changing between metric units
- Classifying and finding missing angle





## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Head of Department: Ms A Gomez-Garcia a.gomez-garcia@kingsleyschool.co.uk

In Year 7, all pupils take French and Spanish for three lessons a fortnight each, using the course Studio for French and Viva for Spanish. Pupils with a specific learning difficulty may be able to have extra English lessons instead of taking a second language. This decision would be taken in consultation with parents and girls. They continue to follow this course through Year 8 until they embark upon the AQA GCSE course.

From Year 9, Students have the option of studying one or both languages. In Years 10 and 11 (GCSE), the AQA course is followed.

The option of educational visits abroad may be offered to girls in Years 9, 10 and 11 when their linguistic skills and confidence in the foreign language enable them to communicate effectively and carry out a range of tasks whilst experiencing the culture of the country.

Pen friends can be found for pupils in both languages.





## MUSIC

Head of Department: Mr D Chambers d.chambers@kingsleyschool.co.uk

Pupils are taught music in their form groups for one lesson a week. During this time we look at the basic elements of music (Pace, Pitch, Dynamics, Duration, Texture, Timbre, Structure, Silence and Rhythm) and study how they all work together to make music. We also study basic notation, both traditional and graphic.

There is a strong emphasis on practical music making at Kingsley, and we strive to deliver the music curriculum in as interactive a way as possible. To this end we try to have a practical element to every lesson. Pupils also get the opportunity to use music technology to enhance their work.

In addition to the group compositional work undertaken by pupils we also study various types of music from around the world. In Year 7, pupils will be studying African drumming and Gamelan music from Indonesia.

Pupils are strongly encouraged to take part in one of the many extra-curricular musical activities which the school has to offer, as well as to take individual instrumental or vocal lessons. These take place once a week and are organised on a rota basis for pupils in Year 7.

Music should be an enjoyable subject and that is what we try to promote above all else. Regardless of ability, it is our aim that all pupils will be able to access the curriculum and will gain a lifelong love of music during their time here.





## PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND GAMES

Head of Department: Mrs A Warrillow a.warrillow@kingsleyschool.co.uk

All pupils have a single lesson of Physical Education and a double lesson of Games each week.

In Physical Education they follow a 6-7 week block of the following activities:

- Gymnastics focusing on increasingly complex sequence work on the floor and apparatus.
- Dance discovering dance styles and choreographing routines to music.
- Fitness improving their individual fitness levels and learning the importance of maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle.
- Badminton developing their hand eye co-ordination
- Tennis Improving their racket skills and understanding the rules of play.

In Games pupils will cover hockey, netball, rugby, football, athletics, and cricket.

#### **Enrichment activities**

The Physical Education Department offer a range of enrichment activities either as a lunchtime club or during enrichment.

All pupils, regardless of ability, are encouraged to attend enrichment activities particularly if they are keen to play in school sports teams

These take place at:

- St Nicholas Park Astroturf
- Kingsley Sports Fields

Parents should collect their daughters from the above venues by 5.15pm.

#### **School fixtures**

There are Year 7 sports teams in hockey, netball, swimming, cross-country, rounders/cricket, tennis and athletics. Matches run during the week, after school and on some Saturday mornings. A full fixture list is available on the school calendar.

For further physical education information please refer to the PE Handbook on the school website.





## PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND RELIGION

Head of Department: Miss R Bubb r.bubb@kingsleyschool.co.uk

The Philosophy Ethics and Religion (PER) Department prides itself on providing a lively and exciting course. All pupils in Year 7 have two lessons a fortnight, and look at a variety of moral and ethical issues, as well as studying the different beliefs and practices of the six major world religions.

Pupils are taught in their forms for PER, and lessons are designed to instil a deeper understanding and appreciation of the beliefs from their own and different cultural and religious backgrounds. From early in Year 7 the PER department emphasises the need for respect of others, and so throughout the schemes of learning, this is a prominent issue that is dealt with.

The KS3 PER programme taught in Year 7, 8 and 9 is based on the Warwickshire agreed syllabus. The emphasis is on both learning about religions and from religions. The intention is to begin to address the important philosophical and ethical questions in life. Pupils have the opportunity to voice their own opinions and discuss the beliefs of others in a respectful, enjoyable environment.

The Year 7 course is as follows:

#### What is truth?

Pupils begin by looking at an introduction to PER; they look at 'what is truth' which looks at the different views of truth and discusses which one - if any - is right.

#### Who am I?

Pupils firstly look at the topic 'who am I?' which explores their own background and beliefs as well as the beliefs of others. It incorporates the importance of British Values and how these can be upheld through our actions. Multiculturalism is a topic which is also explored through the topic of immigration, festivals and religious practices.

#### **Injustice and Influential People**

In this topic, pupils will consider 'what is justice'. They will investigate whether justice and fairness can ever happen. They will look at what social injustice is, how people have acted in the past to try to make a fair society and how people can help ensure justice happens.





## SCIENCE

Head of Department: Dr C Robertson c.robertson@kingsleyschool.co.uk

Each class has one or two science teachers who teach science in a rotation of Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics. Each pupil has been issued with an 'Exploring Science 7' textbook. We study a broad curriculum which takes note of, but is not limited to, the National Curriculum for Science. In Year 7 we aim both to prepare pupils for their studies higher up the school and to establish an interest in scientific ideas and a sense of wonder at the phenomena of the scientific world. Pupils undertake many practical activities in the laboratories, with a particular emphasis on safety. We aim to develop the skills of the pupils in carrying out investigations, following and building on their natural curiosity.

Homework is given once a week, and pupils' knowledge is assessed regularly with topic tests. Pupils also carry out and write up scientific investigations, which are marked for assessment.

The topics covered include:

- Cells, tissues, organs and systems
- Mixtures and separation
- Acids and alkalis
- Energy and electricity
- Sexual reproduction in animals
- The particle model
- Forces

## **ENRICHMENT**

Enrichment will take place between 3.20pm and 4.00pm (on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) and cover a range of activities. Year 7 pupils have access to approximately 20+ clubs. The provision is outlined in the Enrichment booklets which are distrubuted in advance of clubs starting. On Tuesdays we come together as a community to engage in House activities or singing. If you have any queries or comments about Enrichment, please contact Mrs K Ahmed (k.ahmed@kingsleyschool.co.uk).

## **LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE (LRC)**

Our LRC is light, modern and airy, yet retains wonderful period fireplaces and ceilings. It is a popular place for studying, meetings and relaxing in between classes. We have a progressively wide range of resources (just over 10,000 items at last count!) including fiction and non-fiction books and subject-related resources such as textbooks, reference material and magazines. As pupils move up through the school we encourage them to make increasing use of the resources on offer, both for projects and coursework and to broaden and extend their knowledge. Teachers may bring a whole class into the LRC to research a topic, or send individuals or small groups for independent study. The English department bring Year 7, 8 and 9 classes to the LRC once a fortnight for reading sessions.

Our main emphasis is to provide material to complement subject departments and a wide range of contemporary and classic fiction, which we review regularly. We actively encourage and promote reading for pleasure, and encourage a range of events to inspire reading, including around World Book day and National Poetry Day. We also participate every year in the Warwickshire Senior Book Awards and Warwickshire Teen Book Awards, which get pupils involved in discovering a range of contemporary literature, and give them the opportunity to vote for an award which is chosen by young readers across Warwickshire.

We also lend DVDs, audio books and CDs, which can be borrowed on a short loan basis of three school nights. Pupils are only allowed to borrow films appropriate to their age. We do not censor books but pupils are advised on the suitability of some novels, and themed collections are displayed for younger and older readers. Seven books at a time may be borrowed for up to two weeks, inclusive of one CD and one DVD. There is no charge to borrow any resources.

Naturally, we expect quiet and sensible behaviour in the LRC at all times. Food and drink are completely banned, but water bottles are acceptable. During lunchtimes and after school clubs, however, there is a more relaxed atmosphere and pupils may chat with friends, read newspapers and books, and use the computers. While the computers are intended primarily for research during lesson times, we do allow pupils to play games on them at lunchtime. Priority is given to anyone wanting to work, and silent study areas are provided during exam periods.

If you have any queries or comments about the LRC, please contact our LRC Assistant, Ms P Tudway (<u>p.tudway@kingsleyschool.co.uk</u>). We welcome suggestions for resources and ideas can be sent via email.

## **LEARNING SUPPORT**

The Learning Support Team at The Kingsley School consists of a SENDCo, Assistant SENDCo and teaching assistants. We work in partnership with pupils, parents, fellow teachers and other professionals to remove the barriers which make it harder for pupils with special educational needs to fulfil their academic potential. For example, a former head girl, who had received support for her dyslexia, was awarded a first class honours in Theology at the University of Durham and is now studying for a Ph.D.

We use a multi-sensory approach to support pupils who have a diverse range of learning needs, including: skills for life (literacy and numeracy), dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD, hearing and visual impairment, and ASD.

The support we provide includes:

- One-to-one support designed to ameliorate and manage difficulties experienced by children with specific learning needs.
- Collaborative work with subject teachers to support pupils within the classroom setting.
- Support for small groups of pupils who share similar needs within a specific area of the curriculum.
- Study skills advice to enable pupils to become confident and independent learners.
- Liaison with other professionals to design programmes of support.
- Access arrangements for examinations, as required, in accordance with JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) regulations.
- Suggestions to help parents support their children at home.

The Learning Support Team sees each pupil as a unique individual. We place the specific needs of each pupil at the heart of what we do so that they can go on to fulfil their academic potential.

If you have any queries concerning Learning Support please contact Mrs M Bruchez (<u>m.bruchez@kingsleyschool.co.uk</u>).

# PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION (PSHCE)

#### Aims

The PSHCE taught in the school is developmental and spiral in approach and mainly topic based. Topics are covered in increasing complexity through the five years and staff aim to develop personal and transferable skills as relevant and applied to real life. Programmes are not set in stone but reviewed and discussed throughout the course as well as annually. Throughout the course there are opportunities for pupils to review the topics covered and assess the work done. Outside speakers will be involved at various points and teachers can alter the course as and when an alternative topic seems appropriate. The course is fluid and will change each year to meet the needs of the individual groups, although we hope the central themes running through the course will remain the same.

#### Introduction to school:

- Getting to know each other, introducing ourselves. Developing listening skills, openness and learning to make new friends.
- School routines and group relationships. What makes us special? Finding their way around, group relationships and visit to the Pioneer Centre. Road safety to and from school. Stranger danger including Internet chat rooms.
- Groups/listening/homework, developing homework skills and further social skills. Tutors will discuss the use of the homework diary and the importance of good organisational skills. Rules and consequences. What should I do?
- Self-assessment. A review of the past few weeks, progress, achievements and difficulties. An introduction to the idea of study skills.

#### Personal relationships:

- School based social situations. Friendships, gossip, teasing, getting on with others and bullying. We will also include Human Rights and the treatment of others. This will be taught sensitively through the use of discussion and role play.
- Family and friends. We will consider what it means to be a member of the community and how we get a sense of belonging. This will be covered as and when appropriate to the group.

**Looking after ourselves**. This will include input from the school nurse and material from the British Heart Foundation and will cover the topics of:

- Puberty and personal hygiene (a DVD presentation from the Tampax company will be used).
- Personal health including healthy eating and personal hygiene.

#### Exams:

- This will include revision techniques, study skills and preparation for exams.
- Review of year socially, academically, personally.

At the start of the term pupils will do target setting and explore their personal targets. Targets are reviewed and new ones set to coincide with school reporting sessions. Other topics are often introduced when appropriate. This sometimes includes a balloon debate involving research into a wide range of individuals. Current affairs are also introduced when relevant.

If you have any queries concerning PSHEE, please contact Mrs K Hughes-O'Sullivan (k.hughesosullivan@kingsleyschool.co.uk).

## **REACH HIGHER**

At The Kingsley School, we recognise that all children have gifts and talents. Our aim is to help them discover those talents by presenting a wide range of opportunities and challenges, encouraging them to seize these opportunities and rise to the challenges. Our REACH Higher Programme offers opportunities to stretch and challenge our most able pupils, while remaining inclusive for all. Within the classroom this may be found through differentiation, accelerated learning, compacting or extension tasks. Outside of the normal curriculum students extend their learning through activities, including:

- Drama productions
- Instrumental and LAMDA lessons
- Concerts
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Art workshops, competitions and exhibitions
- Space Club
- Glass Fusing
- Maths Challenge
- Additional Maths FSMQ
- World Literature iGCSE
- Higher Project Qualification
- Essay Competitions
- Politics and Current Affairs
- Debating
- Various trips
- Round Square conferences and international exchanges
- Sports matches, tournaments and trips

Termly Key Stage 3 REACH Higher homework weeks extend pupil learning beyond the usual curriculum by asking students to pick just two or three subjects to focus on for homework for a week. These assignments allow pupils to study a topic in much more depth and to advance knowledge and skills outside of their normal work.

If you have any queries concerning our Reach Higher programme, please contact Mr E Lax (e.lax@kingsleyschool.co.uk).

## **REPORTING DATES**

AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
Parents' Information Evening Interim Progress Report for core subjects + Interim progress Report for all subjects	Parents' Evening	Full report End of Year Exam Result Parents' Evening

## YEAR 7 TEACHING STAFF

Head of Year	Miss R Bubb	r.bubb@kingsleyschool.co.uk
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\*Head of Department

