



King's Academy **Easthampstead Park**

It takes a whole community to raise a child.

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20 December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 7 - End of Autumn Term 2024

It has been a pleasure working with our new cohort of Year 7s. We set high academic expectations, and everybody has met these consistently. I continue to remind students that relationships should be based on kindness to others and that they should ensure their interactions with others are positive. Tutors have been supporting some children with this aspect, and I will remind parents that Apps have age limits for a reason. If you decide your child is mature enough to use them, you must monitor their usage.

We have shared some impressive successes this term, with our first Criss-Cross Day and some fantastic days out at Oakwood, which Wellington College supported. I thank the tutor team for helping their tutees these days, which are so important for building confidence and cohesive relationships. Well done to the many students who have participated in House events, the extracurricular programme, and sporting opportunities such as the recent basketball and football tournaments.

We recently held our rewards assembly, and I was pleased to recognise the efforts of many students in the year group. It is a lovely note to end on.

Parental Support

Our school rules are in place to create a safe and orderly environment, foster a culture of mutual respect and responsibility, and ensure a positive learning environment for all. Your partnership and support with this are essential.

When parents/carers do not support the school, they undermine our high expectations of our students and the school community. This sends a conflicting message to students, which causes division.

We continue to instil high standards of behaviour and attitudes and are unapologetic about this. There have been a few challenges to the school's Behaviour Policy from parents this term. The school's Behaviour Policy will not change or be adapted to fit parental interpretation. When parents and the school work together to reinforce these values, it creates a consistent and unified approach that positively impacts our students' growth and development. We are committed to being equitable and make reasonable adjustments where needed, and the child's learning profile supports it.

A reminder that detentions can only be moved in extenuating circumstances.

Attendance

We continue to encourage your child to maximise their attendance at school as we believe it supports:

Academic Achievement: Regular attendance ensures students attend all important lessons and academic content. Consistent learning helps build a strong foundation in key subjects, essential for academic success and future educational opportunities.

Social Skills Development: School is a great environment where children develop their social skills. Regular attendance allows students to interact with their peers, work in teams, and develop communication skills. These interactions are crucial for building friendships and learning how to navigate social situations.



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Headteacher: Mrs Liz Cook MA, BA(Hons) FCCT

Routine and Discipline: Attending school regularly helps children establish a routine and understand the importance of discipline. This routine benefits their current education and prepares them for future responsibilities in higher education and the workforce. Children who attend regularly know the structure and rhythm of the school day and are up to date with their learning. Broken attendance patterns may mean they miss out on this continuity and feel they don't know what is expected. This can lead to them experiencing some anxiety, which we are keen to avoid.

Long-term Success: Studies have shown that regular school attendance is linked to higher graduation rates and better job prospects. Consistent attendance helps instil a sense of responsibility and work ethic, which are valuable traits for future success in any career path.

We continue to work with WPA Education Welfare Services to promote positive attendance. Please contact the school before 8:00 am if your child cannot attend for any reason.

You can reach our student absence line 01344 304567 (option 1) or 01344 390824 (direct line), and via email at attendance@kgaeasthampstead.uk. If your child does not arrive and we have not been informed, you will receive a call or text from the school. Please respond so we can keep accurate records. We are currently investigating an application to assist parents in reporting absence, more details of this will be available to parents in the new term but it remains a parental responsibility to provide daily updates and clear reasons for absence.

Communications

Please inform the school via email at info@kgaeasthampstead.uk of any changes to your named contacts (two are required for legal reasons) or any other details such as your email, mobile phone number, or address. This ensures you receive all communications.

Detentions

This is a reminder that Years 7-10 detentions are held on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings after school. Year 11 detentions take place on Friday after school until 4:00 pm. Only in exceptional circumstances can detentions be moved. Detentions are communicated via ClassCharts, so please ensure that you check the App on a regular basis. We ask that parents support the school if any sanctions are set by staff. Requesting additional meetings to discuss Level 1 or 2 detentions when a reason has already been provided is not a good use of the teacher's time which is limited. We want our teachers to plan and assess to support children's progress.

Expectations

Extreme hairstyles and unnatural hair colours are not permitted. Students are only permitted to wear one set of gold or silver stud earrings. Any diamante piercings put in over the holiday must be replaced with gold or silver studs by January's return to school. **No other jewellery is allowed in the school.**

Makeup

False eyelashes and acrylic or similar nail products are not allowed. If these are applied over the holidays, they must be removed before the start of the term in January.

Equipment

Students have been working very hard this term, lots of pens have started to run out and some vital equipment has been lost. Please can you ensure your child's pencil case is fully restocked for the new term in January. Stationery is available to purchase via ParentPay.

School Shoes

All students must wear black footwear. School shoes or black trainers should be capable of being polished and must be plain black leather or leather-like material, with no other colours, details, soles, logos, or patterns. Woven-style trainers, boots, or canvas shoes are not permitted.

Welfare

Please update the school via email at welfare@kgaeasthampstead.uk with any changes in your child's medical history that may affect our duty of care or compliance with school rules. Our Welfare Team is available to discuss any updates regarding ongoing conditions or medications; please ensure any expired medicines are replaced if necessary. EpiPens and Asthma inhalers should be checked regularly.

Extreme Weather

In the event of closure due to extreme weather, eg. one-off snow days, other local schools and nursery provisions would likely be closed, resulting in childcare issues for some staff. Therefore, work would be set on Google Classroom following the regular lesson timetable and we would be unable to prioritise live lessons.

Term starts for all students at 8:40 am on Tuesday 7th January 2025 (Week B).

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Year 7 students a fantastic Christmas break. I look forward to seeing you all safe and well in 2025!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal tail.

Mr C Smith
Head of Year 7