



19 July 2013

Dear Parents/Carers,

As another busy term and academic year draw to a close I would like inform parents of the following:

Parent Survey 2012 – 13

Two important issues emerged from the annual parent survey:

1. Communication with parents

In response to comments from parents the school will work to improve communication by:

- Re-designing our school website (this should be available in October).
- Re-designing the information provided about student progress. I will provide more information in the Autumn term.
- Provide clearer information about the format and arrangement of parents' evenings – especially for Year 7 parents.

2. Lunchtime arrangements

We have responded to the concerns of parents in a number of ways:

- Six portable goalposts, two outdoor table tennis tables, and two table football games have been donated by the PTFA. This should provide the boys with a wider range of lunchtime activities.
- A pressing concern was to make better provision for boys who eat packed lunches. From September, boys will be able to eat packed lunches in the Old School.

Thank you to all parents who participated in the annual parent survey, your comments do help us to improve the school.

Changes to the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006

Statutory amendments to the 2006 Education (Pupil Registration) regulations come into force from 1 September 2013. The changes remove all references to authorised absence being granted for family holidays as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are genuinely 'exceptional circumstances'. Given these changes parents must appreciate that if they insist on taking their son out of school for anything less than 'exceptional' reasons then the absence will be recorded as 'unauthorised'.

A revised leave of absence form is available on the school website or can be obtained from the school office. I ask that parents understand the changing statutory constraints under which the school has to operate and to do everything possible to assist the school in keeping the level of unauthorised absence to an absolute minimum.

PTFA – Exclusive Gold Card Club

The Gold Card club was started in 1994 as a way of raising funds for the PTFA. All funds raised are passed onto the school for the benefit of the boys. There are ten monthly prizes of £60 and two (June and December) of £450. An annual payment of £10, preferably by standing order, entitles participants to be included in the monthly draw for prize money. Application forms can be obtained via the school website under 'PTFA'. I do hope you will be able to support the PTFA in this important fund raising activity.

Literacy focus

As you know, nationally there is an increasing focus on improving standards of literacy, especially in external examinations. This week Mr Scott Mandelbrote, a lecturer at Cambridge University, visited the school to deliver the annual Newton Lecture. He placed great emphasis on boys reading widely as one of the best ways to prepare them for entry into leading universities. From September, our newly refurbished library will open in the CIS building and the Head Master's Garden will be available to Year 7 boys for quiet reading at lunchtime. During the summer holidays I would be grateful if you would continue to encourage you son to read widely.

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Achievements throughout the Summer term

CCF

Yet again the boys represented the school exceptionally well during the flag raising ceremony to commemorate Armed Forces Day. Fifty boys recently attended a one week army camp at Wathgill and thirteen at RAF Halton

Modern Foreign Languages

Recent overseas visits include:

- The German Department took forty boys to the Rhineland for a five day visit.
- The French Department recently returned from a trip to Rouen with seven boys.

On 22 July we say goodbye to Mrs Yuefen Ju who will return to China. Mrs Ju has worked in the school throughout the academic year and has had a considerable impact on the boys' ability to speak Mandarin and also on their understanding of Chinese culture.

History

The History Department visited the Battlefields of Northern France and Belgium with a party of thirty nine Year 9 boys.

Music

This term, two superb music concerts took place. On 25 June boys from the Music Department performed in the Londonthorpe Church concert, and on 3 July boys performed in the Summer Concert held in the Head Master's Garden. I am delighted with the range and quality of music performed.

Sport

Sadly, once again, the MCC cricket match had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. Sports Day took place on Monday 15 July with More House being the overall winners. At the time of writing, the Rugby tour to South Africa is under way with thirty six boys participating.

Geography

This has been another busy term for Geography fieldwork, with all of Year 7 visiting Stibbington in mid-June, Year 9 boys going to Rutland Water and Y10 to Lincoln in early July.

Staff changes

Several staff will depart from King's this summer. After thirty eight years of service to the school, Mr Graham Shorrocks (Subject Leader for History) takes with him our very best wishes as he heads off into retirement. Other leavers are: Mrs Newbould (Kitchen staff) who is retiring after seventeen years of loyal service to the school, Mrs Sippel (Subject Leader for Design Technology) who will take up a new post teaching Food Technology in Lincoln, and Mr Rose-Duncan (teacher of Business Studies and Economics) who moves to a school in Northamptonshire.

All of these colleagues leave with our best wishes for future success and happiness.

Autumn term dates 2013

Arrangements for the beginning of term in September are:

Wednesday 4 September	Years 7, 12 and 13 boys only
Thursday 5 September	All students return
Thursday 17 October	Last day of term before half-term break
Tuesday 29 October	Students return to school

School Holiday Activities

The Family Information Service has produced a 'What's On' Guide, 'Boredom Busters' booklet and details about childcare and holiday clubs. The information is available to download at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/fis or phone (0800 195 1635) from 8am until 6pm, Monday to Friday

Finally, I would like to thank all parents who have taken the time out of their own busy lives to support the school this academic year. I wish you all a relaxing Summer, hopefully in the sun, and look forward to seeing you during the coming Autumn term.

Yours sincerely,



F. Hedley
Head Master