



Serva Fidem

Wednesday 8th January 2020

Dear Parents

I trust you enjoyed a relaxing Christmas holiday with your families.

It is a great pleasure to see the boys back in school this morning at the start of a busy and exhilarating Spring Term. I also offer a warm welcome back to Julie Marskell who returns as the form teacher in Year 3. In my first assembly, as is customary in January, I highlighted the significance of New Year as an apposite time for reflection and ambition. I challenged the boys to make up their own resolutions and set themselves some attainable targets for the months ahead. Please do take the time to discuss this with them together with the advice that evidence suggests an effective resolution typically helps others, not just themselves, in some way.

In the near future, there are some natural opportunities for this to be put into practice. Our Year 11 boys have important mock GCSE examinations in the next two weeks whilst some Year 6 pupils have impending 11+ pre-tests. There will also be school examinations for Year 9 after half term, which will help determine their GCSE options. All of the teaching and support staff wish the boys the very best of luck in these endeavours.

The Kingswood House Way character value for this term is INTEGRITY. Some of the key aspects of this quality, which we shall be exploring in more depth with the boys, are loyalty, trust and empathy. These precepts were personified by the tragic heroism of Captain Lawrence 'Titus' Oates on Scott's expedition to the South Pole in 1912 and I explored with the boys this morning the symbolism behind his historic words: "I am just going outside and may be some time." We now have a fantastic 'character' badge, designed by Ruari Fitzpatrick, which you may have seen in the newsletter. I hope to award a number of these sought-after badges each term to deserving candidates.

The subject enrichment focus for this half of term is Science. You will receive more information about some exciting opportunities in this subject from Miss Black. After the half term, the focus moves onto ICT and Sports. We will also hold a mufti day, with the theme of 'Bedtime Stories', for World Book Day on Thursday 5th March – so get your thinking hats on for some interesting costumes!

Parking

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There continues to be some pressure in respect of parking in and around the School, especially at pick up time. Please act with consideration for other drivers, pedestrians and especially our neighbours. Naturally, it would be helpful if all parents were punctual, especially whilst the end of the school day is still dark, and you should not arrange to collect your child unsupervised from the car park. Please do collect a KHS car sticker for your vehicle from the school office if you do not already have one on display. I am due to meet again with the traffic councillor, and host local residents later this term, in order to work in partnership with them so any evidence I can show about how the school is addressing their comments will be invaluable.

Year 5 Progress Meetings

I should like to meet with Year 5 parents during the course of the Spring Term and review their son's all-round progress. Please kindly make an appointment at your earliest convenience with Mrs Harding, Headmaster's PA, by emailing office@kingswoodhouse.org or telephoning 01372 723590.

Important Dates

Mrs Watkins and her team have been working extremely hard on the school production of *Treasure Island*. Please do support the boys by bringing along family or friends to one of the evening performances on Thursday 6 and Friday 7 February at the Adrian Mann theatre, NEScot. I wish all of the cast well and look forward to seeing the fruits of their labours on stage in the not too distant future!

The Ski Trip (Friday 14 February) and Jersey Tour (Tuesday 10 March) are both popular and exciting events for many of our boys whilst a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition (Friday 20 March) offers great team-building opportunities for our Year 9 cohort. There is the hotly-anticipated KHA Quiz Night shortly after half term (Thursday 27 February) - where the staff team will be fighting hard to regain the trophy - as well as the KHA Sporting Dinner at the end of term (Thursday 26 March). I am pleased to announce Chris Sheasby, father of KHS pupil, Luca, and a former Harlequins and England rugby international as our special guest for this legendary evening.

Open Mornings will take place on Friday 31st January, and again in the last week of February, including the morning of Saturday 29th, and please be aware that boys in Year 7-11 are expected to attend and help with tours for visitors. Please make a note of this date for your reference.

Details for the Year 7 and Year 9 KHS Scholarship Morning (Saturday 8th February) are available on the school website or you are welcome to speak to James March, Director of Studies, about any aspect of the process. Please note that the deadline for applications is the end of January.

We are also hosting a Sixth Form Open Evening (Thursday 23rd January) and a Senior Lecture (Thursday 5th March) for all Senior boys and parents - as well as Year 8 for the latter event. Alex Hibbert, a renowned polar explorer, will deliver the lecture and it promises to be a really exciting and interesting talk. Furthermore, there is a GCSE Options Evening (Monday 16th

March) for Year 9 boys and parents. Please note that these are compulsory events for the Senior boys.

In the meantime, there are various parents' evenings and drop in opportunities for most year groups, all of which are in the calendar, but in keeping with our 'open door' policy you are always welcome to email, ring or arrange a meeting with a member of staff via the school office if you have a query. A reminder that pastoral concerns should be discussed in a meeting, or a telephone conversation at the very least, rather than an email trail, please, with the form teacher in the first instance.

I look forward to a productive term ahead.

Yours sincerely

Duncan A I Murphy
Headmaster

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DAM', written over a horizontal line.

Duncan Murphy

Duncan Murphy | Headmaster BA (Hons), MEd, FRSA, Member of IAPS & SoH