



Serva Fidem

Headmaster: Mr. Duncan Murphy BA (Hons), MEd, FRSA
Member of IAPS & Society of Heads

07th January 2021

Dear Parents

I hope you enjoyed some quality family time with your loved ones over the Christmas period.

Naturally, I am aware that you have already received a lot of information about the start of this term so I shall keep this missive brief.

I am pleased to welcome back Gemma Lindley, Head of Maths and 6L Form Teacher, after her maternity leave and it is further good news that Ilse Roets will remain at school in a part-time capacity until the end of the summer term. I also offer a warm welcome to Mrs Ines Witts (yes, she is Sally's daughter-in-law!) who starts full-time today alongside Karen Harding. Finally, I wish our four new starters well for the term ahead – it is never easy to join a new school, especially online, but the boys and staff will look after you and I am sure you will settle in very quickly.

It is only to be expected that home learning will take a few days to settle down. The boys did incredibly well with their return to school in the autumn, after such a long period away, and managed with remarkable adaptability to unlearn the 'old normal' and replace it with the 'new normal'. Just as this was becoming embedded, schools have regrettably closed again and they are adapting once more to life online. Irrespective of their age, they will need patience, time and understanding.

In assembly, I talked about the need for the pupils to work hard and show a responsible attitude to their own learning whilst at home. Please support them, and their teachers, by ensuring that they get a sound night's sleep, keep to a good diet and take plenty of exercise. These are the key tenets for being healthy in body and in mind. I also recommend that you discuss a sensible limit to screen-time above and beyond the timetabled lessons each day that should only be accessed after work has been completed to a high standard and exercise undertaken. In the days ahead, you will see a wealth of suggested activities on offer as a part of our enrichment

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programme and I encourage you to discuss these with your child and embrace some of the opportunities on offer.

Our value for the term is that of “Integrity”; this will be explored with the pupils in the weeks ahead but fundamentally the expectation is that they will aim to “be their best selves”. A useful way for them to explore this concept is by making a New Year’s Resolution, ideally one that is achievable and realistic, and I will be glad to showcase photographic evidence in the newsletter each week – please email examples to Amanda Earl at marketing@kingswoodhouse.org together with a short description. Although the newsletter will start in earnest next week, as well as the popular “Mentions in Dispatches”, I shall post a short video blog tomorrow in order to outline some of the points above in greater context.

I believe that if we help the boys successfully negotiate the challenges of the term ahead, the summer should offer some much-needed light at the end of the tunnel.

Yours sincerely

Duncan Murphy

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