



Serva Fidem

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

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents

I trust you enjoyed a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday - welcome to the start of the autumn term at Kingswood House.

#### Jury Service

For information, please note that I have been called up to Jury Service for the first two weeks of the term! I shall be contactable via the school office if the need arises, but, in the meantime, the school will be in safe hands because Ian Mitchell and the Senior Leadership Team will run operational matters on a day to day basis and keep me fully informed.

#### GCSEs

It is with great pride that I congratulate our fourth cohort of Year 11 leavers who secured a brilliant set of GCSE results with 90% of grades 9-4 (A\*\*- C) and 54% of grades 9-6 (A\*\*- B) and 35% grades 9-7 (A\*\* - A). Importantly, and in keeping with our reputation as a holistic school, we have delivered excellent after-care during the holiday and all students have moved on to sixth forms of choice for the next phase of their educational career. They truly personified our KHS values during a most exacting time and it was rewarding to see them achieve their potential when it mattered most. Well done!

#### Co-Education

We shall continue to embed co-education during the course of this academic year; with 26 girls on roll, and more in the pipeline, we are aiming to build upon a very busy Open Morning later this month and maintain a strong momentum throughout the term. The feedback from parents and pupils in July was indicative of a successful inaugural year; moving forward, we shall retain one "Tea & Talk" per term for the girls but generally oversee a gender-inclusive programme of events for all students.

#### SHORTLISTED - Independent School of the Year Award 2022

I am delighted to share the news with you that at the end of last term we were shortlisted (again) for a prestigious Independent School of the Year Award, this time for our contribution to social mobility. The finalists will be announced next week - so fingers crossed!



### Summer Works

A lot of enhancements have been conducted across the West Hill site over recent weeks in preparation for the return to school for children and staff alike. I should like to thank Sally Witts, as well as Paul and Ron from the estates team, for their time and effort in this respect. Amongst many other things, the most visible development is the new playground court which now boasts netball markings as well as many other facets. However, the main project has been the extension of the kitchen. This is very close to completion but I ask for your patience during the first few days of the term as Jane Chandler and her team get everything in order. More information may be sent out regarding the implications of this, as required.

### The Kingswood House Way

It is my expectation that the boys and girls revisit the importance of listening carefully, trying their hardest in all aspects of school life and treating others as they would wish to be treated. In addition to the Kingswood House Way, I believe that these values are the platform for a convivial, purposeful and supportive environment where each child can achieve their potential and grow in self-esteem. I should be grateful if you were to reinforce these precepts at home in order for there to be a consistency of approach, which will be a significant benefit to us all, not least the pupils. The core value of the Kingswood House Way for this term is *RESPECT* and it will be explored and reinforced during Form Time, PSHE and Assemblies by the Divisional Heads and myself. Subject Enrichment will be English in the first half of term followed by mathematics in the second half of term, the exciting details of which will be circulated shortly.

### Future Schools

I continue to network with a wide range of prestigious independent schools and maintained sixth forms; you can be assured that pupils are well-prepared to meet the demands of admissions, as appropriate. With the highly successful evolution of our own Senior Years, as evidenced by our outstanding GCSE results, you are able to consider the next step carefully – secure in the knowledge that we offer an excellent pathway through to GCSE and beyond.

We are always prepared to meet with KHS families to listen, give advice and act accordingly in their child's best interests. As such, I invite parents in Year 8 who are yet to commit to our Senior Years to meet with Liam Clarke, Assistant Head (Upper Prep) this term or next. If you have already paid your child's deposit for the Senior Years (Year 9 upwards) and are committed to him or her staying at KHS then this is not necessary but if you have yet to make up your mind, please note that there is considerable pressure on numbers in September 2023 – places are not retained automatically. Please speak with Zoe Ashton, Head of Admissions, if you are unsure about any aspect of this process.

### Pupil Appointments

I extend a warm welcome to the new pupils who are starting at Kingswood House; I feel very sure, given the friendly nature of the school, that they will all settle in quickly. Additionally, I should like to congratulate the boys and girls who have secured positions of responsibility for this academic year.

### Senior Head Prefect

Jack Bunyer-Ames

### Senior Deputy Head Prefect

Ted Reece

### Senior Prefects

Enan Abdul, Ali Al-Rubaie, Tyrwhitt Burn, Jess Dunn, Tommy Collins, William Hamilton, Barnaby Hill, Nicholas Hill, William Moffatt, Joseph Seager

Upper Prep Head Prefect  
Kieran Schmitt

Upper Prep Deputy Head Prefects  
Pippa Taylor, Derin Ucer

### Prefects

Lauti Yasnikouski, Dylan Newman, Jack Guiney, Tristan Bush, Alyssa Chung, Alex Haworth, James Dowling, Joshua Seemampillai, Henry Ruscoe

They will, I am certain, be fine ambassadors for Kingswood House. There will be plenty of other positions of responsibility in due course for other boys and girls to aspire to, including School Council, and I trust that they will put themselves forward for consideration accordingly.

### Staff News

Yesterday was the first school INSET day at Kingswood House for a number of new staff and I am delighted with the depth and strength of our talented team; amongst many topics, we concentrated on transgender awareness, ISI inspection training and a new cross-curricular vocabulary enrichment initiative.

I offer a warm welcome to: Roy Regeling (Head of MFL, GTi Co-ordinator & Year 9 Form Teacher), Simon Jackson (ICLT Teacher, Year 8 Form Teacher), Victoria Bastable (Head of Art, Values Co-ordinator, Year 6 Form Teacher), Joe Brown (GAP) & Hannah Luff (GAP).

Some existing staff now have a slightly different or enhanced role: Gemma Hylands (Cover Supervisor), Pippa Webb (Exams Officer & Head of ICLT), Emma Darbshire (School Nurse), Kelly Bishop (Study Centre Secretary - from half term), Tessa Curnin (EHCP Administrative Assistant), Claire McGill (Lower Prep Assistant), Katey Timothy (Full Time ELSA), Emma Ibbitson (Head of Lower Prep & SENCo), Zoe Smith (Assistant Head of Lower Prep), Lana Sumners (Year 3 Form Teacher), Chantel Martins (Year 1), Liam Clarke and Sachin Sukhdeo (Assistant Heads).

In the Study Centre, we also welcome: Nicola Adam (LSA), Amelia Rahaman (LSA), Michelle Tomlinson (LSA), Alice Kiddie (LSA), Priyesh Mistry (LSA) & Christine Newman

At the end of the autumn term, Robbie Hendry, Mark Farmer and Kim Foster will be moving on to pastures new. They have all been excellent advocates for the school and we will be sorry to see them leave us.

Consequently, I have appointed Barney Cowie, whom some of you may remember from his previous stint at the school, to become the new Director of Sport in January – he will be ably supported by Jacqui Jennings who will also join the Sports Department at that time. Barney joins from The Harrodian School where he has taught PE & Sport up to A-Level and Jacqui joins from Twickenham Prep where she has been Head of Girls' Games. Additionally, I have also appointed Rose Livsey-Barnes to become our new Director of Music; she has a first class honours degree and is currently working at St John Bosco College in London. All three are delighted at the prospect of becoming a part of the KHS team in January!

I am sure you will join me in thanking our outgoing colleagues and wishing our new teaching and support staff a long and successful association with Kingswood House.

### Communication

I am grateful to Ian Mitchell and the Senior Leadership Team for their work on the timetable and many other aspects of school life which have required many hours of preparation over the summer. It is once again shaping up to be a stellar term with bountiful opportunities for wonderful teaching and learning both in and out of the classroom!

By way of a refresher, in terms of channels of communication, please kindly note the following: Mr Ian Mitchell, as Deputy Head, has whole school responsibility for all operational matters and will be in charge on a day to day basis as and when I am away on school business. Likewise, Mr James March, as Director of Studies, has whole school responsibility for all aspects of academic management and pupils' progress. The Divisional Heads are Mrs Emma Ibbitson (Lower Prep Y1-Y4), Mr Liam Clarke (Upper Prep Y5-8) and Mr Sachin Sukhdeo (Seniors Y9-11). Please note that your first port of call should very much remain your child's form teacher on a day to day basis but you are invited to raise any query with the appropriate Divisional Head, as needed.

All teaching staff are contactable via their school email addresses but please note that we believe pastoral matters are better addressed in a meeting rather than in writing; the following standards are a basic premise:

- i. Email contact with staff should be on a 'needs must' professional basis and is expected to be polite and respectful in tone at all times in keeping with our values.
- ii. Teachers spend most of their time in direct contact with the boys and girls – as such, please do not expect an immediate reply - but staff have been asked to check emails daily and you can anticipate a timely response.
- iii. Urgent emails should always be sent to the school office with the form teacher copied in.
- iv. In the event of a query, email should be used as a precursor to a telephone conversation or a meeting – not as a replacement.

There will always be plenty of informal opportunities to speak with staff throughout the term, online or in person, and a proud 'open door' culture exists at Kingswood House. Consequently, you are welcome to meet with any member of staff at mutual convenience to discuss your son or daughter throughout the year - it is not necessary to wait for a parents' evening.

#### Drop off, Pick up & Parking

Please request a KHS car sticker from the front office if you do not have one already. These should be displayed clearly in your windscreen to assist with safety at pick up times. If you would prefer your child to bring one home, please liaise with their form teacher. At the start of term especially, there will be some pressure on parking in and around the school. Do use the drop-off points responsibly and with consideration for other drivers as well as our neighbours.

A member of staff will be on duty in the playground from 8.00am. A reminder, please, that your child should arrive for the start of the school day in good time for registration - but no boy or girl should be in school before this time unless they are booked in to Breakfast Club, which commences at 7.30am. A reminder that these places are limited and must be secured in advance via the school office – the same applies to After School Club, which runs until 6.00pm.

Any pupil coming in to school after 8.30am will be marked as 'late' on the register. The provision of effective registration is a statutory requirement and I would appreciate your support in making it as easy and accurate a procedure for us to apply as possible.

Equally, the light is already fading in the evenings and it will not be long before autumn draws in and summer becomes a distant memory. For the safety of the pupils, please ensure you arrive promptly at the end of the school day and that you are visible to the member of staff on duty at pick up. This is especially important after the clocks change because it will be dark at the end of the school day.

### Calendar Events

It is my strong recommendation that all parents attend the Divisional Information Meetings at the start of the academic year, which will be held in person at school and streamed via MS Teams. It is a great opportunity to hear from key staff, glean useful information and ask any questions you may have. Invitations and access details will be sent out by the Divisional Heads in due course. Please note that priority will be given to new families to attend in person.

Lower Prep (Y1 - Y4):	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> September
Upper Prep (Y5 - 8):	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> September
Seniors (Y9 - 11):	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September

### Christmas Events

It seems a long way off, but... our Carol Service will take place in the evening of Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December at Christ Church, Epsom. This is a compulsory school event for all pupils in the Upper Prep and Senior Divisions and pupils who are selected to perform, read or sing will also be required to attend from the Lower Prep. The Junior Christmas Show will feature pupils in Years 1-6 on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. As usual, there will be a Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch on the penultimate day of the term.

### Open Morning

Our first Open Morning will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September. This is already fully-booked with well in excess of 60 families visiting the school by appointment in small groups. **N.B. All Senior and Upper Prep Prefects will be required to assist with tours on this morning and parents should confirm attendance with their Divisional Head and report to them at 8.45am in uniform on the day, please.**

### The Kingswood House Association

The Kingswood House Association (KHA) is a source of valuable information and I know that any parents who are keen to get involved would be most welcome; if you would like to assist, please let Lisa Reece (Chair) or Sally Witts (Bursar) know and attend the AGM on the evening of Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September. We are looking forward to seeing a number of new faces this term – as well as the current incumbents, of course! The main KHA events are Fireworks and Race Night; they will no doubt prove to be very popular social events so please do book your tickets early!

As ever, our key words will be kindness and patience as we seek to help the boys and girls settle back in to life at school after a long holiday. Your ongoing support and understanding will be invaluable as we embark on another exciting year for Kingswood House.

Yours sincerely



Duncan A I Murphy  
Headmaster & CEO