



Serva Fidem

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

Monday 9th January 2023

Dear Parents

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

It is a great pleasure to see the boys and girls back in school this morning at the start of what promises to be a busy and exhilarating spring term.

First and foremost, I offer my congratulations to Mr Laudy and Miss Smith who have announced their engagement. I am very excited about the prospect of a KHS wedding!

Additionally, a warm welcome to our new teaching and support staff this term: **Mr Cowie** rejoins the school as Director of Sport and a Year 8 form teacher; **Mrs Jennings** starts with us as Teacher of PE and a Year 8 form teacher; **Miss Livsey-Barnes**, after a handover in the last half of term, commences as Director of Music and a joint Year 7 form teacher with Mr Westcott; **Mr Mohamed** takes on a role as Teacher of Maths - and I am very grateful to **Mrs Pola** who becomes our Teacher of Computer Science at very short notice after our original appointment withdrew for personal reasons only last week. In the Study Centre, Mrs Brown joins the team as an LSA. Other new starters include: Shirin Yasin, Catering Assistant; Jemma Love, Singing & Composition Peripatetic Teacher; Bernie White, Minibus Driver & Phoebe Long, Volunteer.

I wish them all a long and prosperous association with the school.

In my Headmaster's Assembly this morning, as is customary in January, I highlighted the significance of New Year as an apposite time for reflection and ambition. I challenged the children to make up their own **New Year 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. Equally, in keeping with our character value of *Integrity* for this term, it is perfectly acceptable not to feel that one has to 'change' fundamentally but instead 'enhance' one's own unique personality to become a better version of oneself. You are encouraged to share any of your own examples, backed up by evidence, which will then likely find their way into the weekly "Mentions in Dispatches"!

In the near future, there are some natural opportunities for new, good habits to be put into practice. Our Year 11 cohort has important mock GCSE examinations over the next week and

Kingswood House School

56 West Hill, Epsom,
Surrey, KT19 8LG

T: 01372 723590

E: office@kingswoodhouse.org www.kingswoodhouse.org

Kingswood House School Trust Limited
Registered in England as a Company
Limited by Guarantee No. 770891
Charity Registration No. 312044



Serva Fidem

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

there will also be school examinations for Year 8 after half term, which will help determine their GCSE options, as well as Year 10 for a check on their progress ahead of making applications to sixth forms in the new academic year. All of the teaching and support staff wish our students 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 pupils, are loyalty, trust and empathy. We have fantastic 'character' badges which are handed out each term and I hope to award a number of these sought-after badges 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 Mrs Black. After the half term, the focus moves onto Creative and Performing Arts. We will also hold a mufti day, with the theme of 'Favourite Characters', for **World Book Day** on Thursday 2nd March – so get your thinking hats on for some interesting costumes!

Parking

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, 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 Meetings

Mr Clarke will meet with Year 5 parents during the course of the spring term for a general chat. This is not obligatory but offers an opportunity for a personal catch-up about your child's progress and to discuss intentions and suitability for staying at KHS in Year 7 and beyond. You are invited to make an appointment with Mrs Harding by emailing: office@kingswoodhouse.org

Theatre Production

Mrs Horley and her team have been working extremely hard on the school production of "**Joseph**". Please do support the boys and girls by bringing along family or friends to one of

Kingswood House School

56 West Hill, Epsom,
Surrey, KT19 8LG

T:01372 723590

E:office@kingswoodhouse.org www.kingswoodhouse.org

Kingswood House School Trust Limited
Registered in England as a Company
Limited by Guarantee No. 770891
Charity Registration No. 312044



Serva Fidem

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

the evening performances on *Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd February* at the Adrian Mann theatre, NESCOL. I wish all of the cast well and look forward to seeing the fruits of their labours on stage.

Well-Being Week & Visiting Speakers

At KHS, we believe that a focus on well-being is an ongoing concern. Nonetheless, our annual Well-Being Week is a significant opportunity to hone in on topical matters as a school community. We have arranged for some excellent visiting speakers this term, with the opportunity for you to join designated parent seminars for a selected number of the items below:

- 6th February: Will Bayley, GB Paralympic Gold Medallist
- 7th February: David Blake, Online Etiquette
- 9th February: Jeremy Indika, Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- 7th March: Alicia Drummond, Talking Tough Stuff with Young People
- 15th March: Alan Mackenzie, E-Safety

Please do take the initiative and attend these talks so that you can reinforce key messages at home. Further details will be sent out how to join nearer the time for each guest speaker.

Respiratory Illness

There are a lot of bugs going around, not least some bad strains of flu as well as Covid, which means that we must remain diligent about protecting our own health and that of others. If your child exhibits symptoms of a fever, or are genuinely unwell, they should not attend school. Sanitisation, including hand-washing, is strongly encouraged in order to mitigate pupil and staff absence.

Other Key Dates

Regrettably, the **Jersey Tour** has been cancelled this term by the host school for reasons beyond their control. I am pleased, as some degree of recompense for this news, that we will run our first **KHS Sporting Dinner** (Tuesday 28th March) since the pandemic at the end of term – if we get enough take up! Please look out for details of how to sign up for what I hope will prove a popular event for boys, girls and parents alike at Tyrells Wood Golf Club.

Kingswood House School

56 West Hill, Epsom,
Surrey, KT19 8LG

T:01372 723590

E:office@kingswoodhouse.org www.kingswoodhouse.org

Kingswood House School Trust Limited
Registered in England as a Company
Limited by Guarantee No. 770891
Charity Registration No. 312044



Serva Fidem

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

There is also the hotly-anticipated **KHA Quiz Night** to look forward to shortly after half term (Friday 24th February) - when the staff team will be fighting hard to regain the trophy. Do please support this event by arranging teams and tables for your year group at your earliest convenience.

Our inaugural **'Tea & Talk'** events for girls and their families have been a great success. However, this term, we are trialling a programme of **"Snack & Chat"** break-time opportunities for boys and girls by year group in order to blend inclusivity. We will review this at the end of term.

This term's **Open Morning** is scheduled on Friday 24th February. It is a great way for our pupils to learn important life skills when touring visitors around the site. Details for the **Year 7 and Year 9 KHS Scholarship Morning** (Saturday 4th February) are available on the school website or you are welcome to speak to James March, Deputy Head Academic, about any aspect of the process. Please note that the deadline for applications is approaching imminently.

We are planning to host a **Sixth Form Open Evening** in person at the school next term and our **Senior Lecture** (Monday 6th February) is for all Senior pupils and parents - as well as Year 8 for the latter event. Furthermore, there is a **GCSE Options Evening** (Monday 20th March) for Year 8 families.

Please note that these are compulsory events.

In the meantime, there are various parents' evenings or drop in opportunities for every year group, 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, with the form teacher or divisional head in the first instance.

I look forward to a productive term ahead and offer my thanks for your ongoing support of the school.

Yours sincerely

Duncan A I Murphy Headmaster & CEO

Kingswood House School

56 West Hill, Epsom,
Surrey, KT19 8LG

T: 01372 723590

E: office@kingswoodhouse.org www.kingswoodhouse.org

Kingswood House School Trust Limited
Registered in England as a Company
Limited by Guarantee No. 770891
Charity Registration No. 312044