



Serva Fidem

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

Wednesday 19 April 2023

Dear Parents

I offer you a warm welcome back to what promises to be another busy term.

Further to our ISI inspection in March, I have now reviewed the draft report and will soon be in a position to share details with you upon publication, which is imminent. Suffice to say, I am very proud of the outcomes for the school. You may have seen over the holiday that I was interviewed and quoted in the Telegraph, following on from our visit by the Independent Schools' Council, in respect of Labour's policy for independent schools. It was an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of Kingswood House and showcase that all private schools are not like Eton, Harrow and Winchester – some like ours have a very definite public benefit. On a related note, I am also looking forward to seeing our inaugural review in the Good Schools' Guide later in the term.

A special mention to our Year 11 students who will commence their GCSE examinations next month. The teaching and support staff are proud of your efforts, including coming in for a pre-term revision session on Monday, and we wish you well. Remember: exams do not define who you are. The point is that each student, and the value of their education, is much more than a piece of paper with the exam results on. So, although the results are important - it is not 'success' or 'failure' for life. It is your attitude and character that will ultimately determine your pathway in the future.

On a related note, the Kingswood House Way value for the summer is that of *Endeavour* and our subject enrichment focus is Languages in the first half of term followed by Citizenship in the second half of term. There will be lots of exciting initiatives in the weeks ahead.

In assembly today, I have challenged the boys and girls to raise their levels of endeavour by showing extra determination and perseverance across the challenges that will confront them in the weeks ahead. Teamwork is also an important aspect of endeavour; it remains fundamentally important for our school community to remain patient and tolerant of one another. Events in the news across the globe show just how important it is that we treat others with respect and understanding at all times.

Please note, there are so many events scheduled across the age range this term that it is not feasible to highlight them all in my letter. The universal ones are listed below for information.

#### Coronation Celebration - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May

We are looking forward to the Coronation and have earmarked Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May as an occasion in school where we will celebrate accordingly; my thanks to Lana Sumners and the Divisional Heads for arranging details for the day which will be shared with you forthwith.

### Sports Day - Lower Prep 8<sup>th</sup> June, Upper Prep 26<sup>th</sup> May & Seniors 30<sup>th</sup> June

Thank you to Barney Cowie and the Sports Department in advance for the preparation that running three separate Sports Days will entail. We hope that parents will join us on the relevant occasion for their son or daughter when we hope to see plenty of healthy competition and sportsmanship. Further details and timings will be sent out in due course.

### KHA Summer Party – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June

The KHA Summer Party will be held at The Queen's Stand, Epsom Racecourse, on the evening of Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June. It is a glittering event which always engenders a lot of fun across the school community and I very much hope to see you there in support of this prestigious occasion in our social calendar. Many thanks in advance to the KHA team for their hard work in preparation for the evening.

### Prize Giving – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

I draw your attention to this compulsory School event which will once again be held at Epsom College – it is the showpiece of our academic year. It should be a splendid occasion with recognition for our prize-winners in each year group and much more besides. I am pleased to confirm that Sir Anthony Seldon, Head of Epsom College and an eminent Historian, will be our guest of honour. You will receive further information about timings and logistics towards the end of term, but, in the meantime, please ensure the date is in your diary.

### Staffing

At half term, Ella Bray will start maternity leave (as will Gemma Lindley in September).

Equally, at the end of term, we will say goodbye to Zoe Smith who is moving on to a new position at Willington School, Amanda Black who is relocating to Liverpool, Roy Regeling who is relocating overseas and Victoria Bastable who is moving up to Edinburgh.

We will say more about their contributions at the end of term but they will all leave with our best wishes and huge gratitude.

I shall update you with the details of new appointments, which are already well underway, as well as any other staffing news, in due course.

### Trips

It is very exciting to have a plethora of trips arranged this term with opportunities for all pupils to take themselves out of their comfort zone with a short stay away from home. I extend my gratitude to the teaching staff who have worked tirelessly to book these trips as well as complete the reams of paperwork they entail! I sincerely hope that everyone has a wonderful time and that team skills rise to the fore as a part of our "learning for life" culture.

### Reporting

At the end of term, grade cards and full written reports will be sent out. Please take the time to reflect upon these carefully with your son or daughter - and open them together.

### Parking

Please act with consideration for other drivers, pedestrians and especially our neighbours at all times. It is important that we maintain good relations with the local community.

Finally, please do check the calendar as well as the newsletter or website for a full list of events, timings and updates in the weeks ahead. This is a supremely busy term and it has been a challenge to fit everything in – some changes are inevitable! You should shortly receive a letter from your child's form teacher with a brief outline of items that are relevant for each age group but as ever your flexibility and patience will be greatly appreciated.

In the meantime, I look forward to a productive term and trust that we can expect some conducive weather for the boys and girls to make the most of all that is on offer here at KHS.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DM', is written above a horizontal line that extends to the left and right.

Duncan Murphy  
Headmaster & CEO