



Serva Fidem

## Interim Headmaster: Mr Liam Clarke

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents

It gives me great pleasure to write to you at the start of the new academic year. Those of you that know me, most likely appreciate how passionate I am about Kingswood House School. I hope it won't take our new parents long to realise the same. I have enjoyed seeing many of you at the school gate and at the induction afternoon. I am looking forward to seeing everyone else over the next few weeks. Everyone associated with KHS has every reason to be incredibly proud; in my opinion, we do what all schools should do and put the child first at every stage of our planning and thinking.

I extend a warm welcome to all 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. Some of them have already made a favourable impression, which is fabulous to see.

We are proud of all our GCSE students who showed great determination with their studies. We have some excellent results with many pupils exceeding their own high expectations. This year has seen a national pushback against grade inflation but their results have facilitated a deserved progression for each individual to the next stages of their education. Well done to you all and good luck for the future!

Additionally, I should like to congratulate Bogdan Podoprigora (Senior Head Prefect), Charlie Leonard (Senior Deputy Head Prefect), Archie Spick, Lukas Cressy, Patrick Gray, Owen Courtney, Tharani Vengadachalam, Ruari Fitzpatrick and Tobias van Heyningen (Senior Prefects), Indigo Dazely (Upper Prep Head Prefect), Isla Myers (Upper Prep Deputy Prefect) as well as Rhys Bishop, Aurelia Gladwell, Christopher King, George Prichard, Tom Ferris, Edward Bishop, Lily-Rose Milne, Peter Summers, Ben Coppin and Byron Miller (Upper Prep Prefects) upon their appointments. Well done also to Bailey Miller who is the Lower Prep Monitor for this term. They will, I am certain, be fine ambassadors for Kingswood House. There will be plenty of other positions of responsibility available in due course for other boys and girls to aspire to and I trust that they will put themselves forward for consideration accordingly.

We welcome a number of new staff to Kingswood House. I am delighted with the depth and strength of our talented team: Rachel Pengelly joins the Maths department, Akila Garrib joins the Science department, Melissa Evans is our new Science Technician and we welcome Kitty Jones to the Study Centre team as a Maths tutor. Rudi Anthony is now our Head of IT, Luke Allen has become Director of Music and John Fitzgerald is Head of Art. We also welcome back Madame Taylor for one term to cover French until Ms Rudenko joins us as Head of French in January. Mr Mohammed has accepted a post at another school over the summer, so we are also welcoming Geetha Sundaresh to the Maths department with good credentials and lots of experience.

All the new staff have already made a great first impression; I am very excited about the term ahead. I am sure you will join me in wishing all our new staff a long and successful association with KHS.



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I offer our congratulations to Barney Cowie who married over the summer and Ella Bray who gave birth to Nathaniel. We await imminent news from Gemma Lindley about the birth of her third child, in fact Gemma is due today!



It is with great sadness that I need to inform you about a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will be leaving us at half term. Ian Mitchell has been Deputy Headmaster here for over twenty years contributing to so much during a time of considerable change. He has been integral to facilitating the change through to GCSEs and then subsequently going Co-ed. As you all know the Making of Modern Britain trip, that Ian created from scratch won a national award and is something that he is very passionate about. As a school, the trip has given us great recognition and we will always be grateful to him for that. He has been planning for some time to start his own business running similar trips for schools, colleges and overseas visitors.

Although Ian will be going in October, we are already in discussions with him to book the annual Year 9 MOMB trip so our pupils don't miss out. Personally, I wish Ian all the best and would like to thank him for many good times over the last twenty years professionally and socially.

Mike Bailey has also regrettably given us notice to leave at the end of the term so he can look at different opportunities outside of teaching. Mike has a long and successful association with the school firstly as a parent and then as a teacher for ten years. I am already in talks with him about keeping that association going in some capacity in the future.



We are always sad to see staff leave, but of course teaching at Kingswood House is a cherished position and we already have secure staffing plans for the future. Please rest assured that your son and daughter's education and experience, nor yourselves, will be inconvenienced by any staff changes.

The weather looks good for the weekend ahead so please enjoy it. I look forward to seeing you on Monday. There has been a fabulous vibe within school this week which I am sure will continue next week and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Liam Clarke

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