



Serva Fidem

Interim Headmaster: Mr Liam Clarke

Friday 12th January 2024

Dear Parents

It gives me great pleasure to write to you at the start of the new calendar year. I hope you had a nice break over Christmas and of course a Happy New Year to all. I enjoyed seeing many of you at the school gate this morning and look forward to seeing everyone else over the next few weeks. I feel I can speak for all staff when I say we are incredibly excited about the term ahead with so much to look forward to in the classroom, on the stage, on the sports field and on the ski slopes for many pupils and parents over half term.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you again about the strong position we now find ourselves in regarding our Long-Term Future in Epsom. After successful negotiations in 2023 with the landowners of our site in Epsom, we have secured a new 15-year lease. In addition, the landowners have granted the School an option to buy the freehold of the site, thereby securing our long-term future on West Hill, where we have been for over 100 years. It is worth noting that we have always had a fifteen year lease so we are in a stronger position now than we have ever been in.

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. We also welcome a number of new staff: Jacqueline Rudenko joins us as Head of Modern Foreign Languages – Jacqueline was appointed last year and we are delighted she is now able to join us. As you know Mike Bailey stepped down at the end of last term, we welcome Chris Belcher as Head of Design Technology. Chris has worked as part of a bigger department teaching GCSE Design Technology so comes with a wealth of experience and has made a great first impression. Deepa Williams is an exciting appointment to take over from Richard Annang, who left us at the end of last term. Deepa is very experienced and has taught GCSE English in a variety of settings; we are lucky to appoint someone so experienced at such short notice. Finally Carrie Miller joins us to teach Year 9 English and HPQ. Once again I am delighted with the impression made by all new staff and feel we are in excellent hands moving forward.

Matthew Bryan continues to be heavily involved with future planning and is hoping to spend more time in school this term to get to know staff and pupils before he joins us at the start of the summer term.



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The school calendar has now moved to SOCS. This is the same platform used by the sports department for fixtures so hopefully you have all managed to access this new platform. If you are having any difficulties then please do let Karen know and we will make sure we support you in any way we can.

During assembly Miss Patel and Miss Sumners gave an exciting presentation about Science Enrichment and how it links with our Gifted and Talented programme; this will be a focus for many throughout the first half of term. Staff are very keen to take a big step forward with the use of Chromebooks in class and for homework. We have identified that we needed a consistent approach regarding this and have now got the infrastructure right to start moving forward quickly and successfully. Please help us by making sure your son/ daughter comes to school with a fully charged device each day so they can access their learning effectively.

It is great to be back and I hope to see many of you over the course of this exciting term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Liam Clarke

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