



Kingswinford Academy

A part of Windsor Academy Trust

13th-17th September 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

At long last we have been able to return to our more normal method of operation and it is so fantastic to see our lessons and students returning to normal: I am so pleased that this term has got off to a great start for our students and thank you all for your continued support in making that happen.

We have had a couple of teething troubles as we remind both our students and ourselves how to return to full operation - but nothing we can't resolve rapidly and please rest assured that my team are on the case and tweaking our arrangements to ensure we get back to smooth running as rapidly as possible. Please see the main articles below for more information on one or two of these.

It has been wonderful to finally meet all of our Year 7 cohort as well - they have been truly wonderful so far this week and we look forward to 5 years of extraordinary performance from them all! Well done on a fantastic start to the year!

Tom Macdonald
Headteacher

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Home Testing Kits

T Macdonald



All students have been given the opportunity to take Covid test kits home on the 10th September. Students who are participating in the testing twice weekly at home should take their first test on either Sunday night (12th) or Monday morning (13th). The second test that week should happen on either Wednesday night (15th) or Thursday morning (16th). This pattern should then continue throughout September. Please register the results to the [Test Register](#) link.

Home testing is voluntary however we encourage students to take these tests in order to support the school's efforts to prevent any possible spread within our school. Students who have tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days should not take a test.

Catering Service

We have had some operational challenges with our catering service at the start of this term - we are working closely with our catering providers - Mellors - to resolve these as rapidly as possible. As you will know there have been national challenges in providing and transporting food and goods and sadly school providers are also affected by these challenges. We are working hard to resume a full catering service as quickly as possible.

Water Street

T Macdonald



Please can I continue to encourage parents to avoid driving or parking on Water Street at the end of the school day. For the first time every last Wednesday we had a 'Gridlock' outside the school with cars unable to drive in either direction as a result of high traffic and, sadly, cars being parked on pavements and in areas marked with zig zag yellow lines or white lines indicating driveway entrances.

We will always seek to ensure the safety of our students and community and have many staff on duty at the end of the day to try and keep our students safe and, from experience, we know it is both safer and faster for our students if parents seek to collect their children from the side streets surrounding the school, rather than directly in front of the school gates.

Do please support our school in keeping our community safe and please do not take offence if one of my staff asks you to move your car should you be stopped on the marked areas - we are only seeking to keep our children safe from harm on a very busy residential street.

Music Lessons

N Abel



September is an ideal time to start learning a musical instrument with Dudley Performing Arts who we are working in partnership with to offer lessons on a variety of instruments.

Weekly instrumental lessons will be delivered by experienced staff and will take place in school and you can choose between group and individual lessons. After you have enrolled the teachers will get in touch with you to organise lessons to start in September.

Lesson costs are only £6.50 this year for a group lesson or £10 for a 20 minute individual lesson and some instruments can be provided. The deadline for enrolment is Friday 17th September. For more details and to get signed up click on this link

<https://www.dudley.gov.uk/things-to-do/dudley-performing-arts/information-for-parents-and-young-people/music-lessons-in-schools/>

Learning an instrument is a great thing to do and we look forward to hearing students making music, playing in assemblies, joining bands and taking part in concerts again.

The instruments available to learn in our school are:

Trumpet, Euphonium, Baritone, Tenor Horn, Tuba, Trombone, Drums, Guitar, Keyboard, Piano, Violin, Vocal, Flute, Clarinet

Number 17/17A Bus Route

T Macdonald



Thank you to all of those parents who have alerted us to the late changes to the Number 17/17A bus timetable that is affecting our students. I know that many of you have been working, as we have, with National Express West Midlands, Network West Midlands and Dudley Council to seek adjustments to support our students.

From 12 September the morning bus service has been adjusted so that it will arrive at 8.35am at Kingswinford Cross in the expectation students will be able to arrive by 8.45am for school. Sadly they have not yet adjusted the evening bus service which departs shortly after 3.50pm.

We continue to seek adjustments to this and will monitor the punctuality of the morning bus, but in the meantime we will happily host students after school until they need to catch the bus in our Library or after school clubs.

To try and find out the scale of the impact on parents and seek alternative methods of supporting those affected, I would invite any parent of children who catch this bus service in the mornings or evenings to join me on either Wednesday afternoon at 3.30pm or Thursday evening at 5.15pm to discuss the problems you are each facing and seek solutions. This will be an informal meeting focussed solely on this issue, but I would welcome your support in seeking a solution to the challenges you are facing. I look forward to seeing you next week!

Ipads for Learning

G Fendek

We are so excited about the launch of the iPads for learning scheme to years 7 and 9 who will be joining the year 8 students in using theirs. We will be busily working through the holidays to upgrade the network to make sure we get the best experience possible. I just wanted to let you know some key arrangements for over the summer holidays and for September:

Holiday Mode - All current year 7 iPads will be placed into holiday mode for the summer (a separate letter has been sent giving further instructions on this).

Delivery date of new iPads - the iPads will be available early September. The first parent payment will then be scheduled for the end of September. This payment will either be the first monthly payment or the one off payment depending which payment option you took.

Portal reopening - some parents have expressed an interest in signing up despite missing the deadline. We will reopen the portal but not until September. If you could let the school know if you intend to opt for an iPad when the portal re-opens it would be much appreciated. You can email Mr G Fendek at any time to let him know. His email is gfendek@kingswinford.windsoracademytrust.org.uk.

Bring your own device (BYOD) - further instructions will follow in September for students who have chosen to bring their own device.

Art Equipment

S Bianco



Year 7 -9 sketchbooks are available to purchase on parentmail at a cost of 1.50 each.

All Year 7 students will require a sketchbook which will last them the whole year.

Year 8-9 students may have finished their sketchbooks and will require a new one.

We have managed to purchase Year 10 ART packs for a brilliant price of £18. It contains everything your child will need to complete the Art, Graphics and Textiles courses. again please purchase from parentmail.

Class Charts Parent Log on Reminder

J Airey



Open www.classcharts.com/parent/login

2. Enter your email address
3. Choose 'I don't have an account yet'
4. Enter your parent access code and name
5. Choose a password
6. Click Log-in!

If you need your access code please email your child's Head of House requesting this. It will allow you to see what has happened during their school day as well as their homework.

dcotterill@kingswinford.windsoracademytrust.org.uk
Helium House

awall@kingswinford.windsoracademytrust.org.uk
Krypton House

pjones@kingswinford.windsoracademytrust.org.uk
Argon House

hharrold@kingswinford.windsoracademytrust.org.uk
Neon House

Job Opportunity - Lunchtime Supervisor

P Robinson



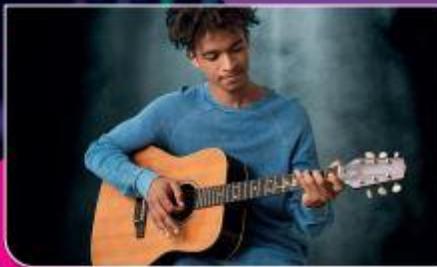
Would you like to help us at Kingswinford? We are looking for enthusiastic Lunchtime Supervisors to join a very successful, hardworking team.

They are responsible for the safety and welfare of the pupils during lunchtime, both inside and outside in the playground and refectory

You will need good interpersonal skills and must be trustworthy, reliable, punctual and enthusiastic about working with children.

If you are interested in this role, or know anyone who might be, please visit [our website](#) to find out more!

Learn to play play



with with

dpa
dudley performing arts

Young people can now enrol for discounted music lessons with Dudley Performing Arts.

If you live or study in the Dudley borough you can learn to play for just £6.50 for a group lesson.

Lessons take place in school delivered by the biggest provider of music tuition in our area.

Scan the QR code to find out more, including how to enrol.

Alternatively, visit www.dudley.gov.uk and search 'lessons in schools' or phone 01384 813865.



Dudley

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Calendar

Week Beginning 13th September

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Monday 13th | |
| Tuesday 14th | |
| Wednesday 15th | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Parent Forum - No. 17 Bus, 3.30pm Main Hall |
| Thursday 16th | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Parent Forum - No. 17 Bus, 5.15pm Main Hall |
| Friday 17th | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Student & Staff Photographs |

Week Beginning 20th September

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Monday 20th | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Tour & Talks 9:00 am -11:00am |
| Tuesday 21st | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Tour & Talks 9:00 am -11:00am |
| Wednesday 22nd | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Tour & Talks 9:00 am -11:00am |
| Thursday 23rd | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Open Evening 5:00pm - 8:00pm (Early finish for students - school closes 12.50pm) |
| Friday 24th | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● INSET DAY - Closed to students |
| Advance notice | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Careers Evening 7:00pm - 9:00pm - Sports Hall● LAB Meeting 1 - 20th October |