



27th May 2021

Dear Parents

This is my final letter to you, as Headteacher at Kingdown School – the day to day operational leadership of the school will now pass to Toby Holman and Helen Carpenter, as Heads of School, from the start of Term 6.

Whenever a change takes place in life it is natural to reflect on what has come before. I look back on my time in Headship with absolute pride; Kingdown has been an exceptional school to work in and lead, never better exemplified than by the response of all members of the school community to the coronavirus pandemic. As I have shared with you on numerous occasions over the past few months our students, staff and parents have come together through this time like never before in support of the young people we serve to ensure that – despite the day to day challenges of lockdowns and school closures – our students have remained able to access an outstanding standard of education. I would like to say a personal thank you to all of my colleagues who have given their all in support of our students; collectively our belief that ‘education has the power to transform lives’ has never had a truer meaning for our students than right now. I would also like to pass on my thanks to those parents who have taken the time and trouble to pass on a note of thanks to one or more of their child’s teachers; such actions have given our staff a huge morale boost through some genuinely challenging times.

Looking forward I know that the school is in very safe hands, and I very much look forward to seeing the next stage in the evolution of the school. I will remain involved in the work of the school via my new role within the Acorn Education Trust (plus I will continue to teach the subject I am passionate about - Physics - here at Kingdown). I am sure you will join me in wishing Helen and Toby every success for the future.

And finally a note of thanks to our students, the lifeblood of the school. Your energy, drive and enthusiasm for learning and for life are infectious. You make every day a joy (despite occasionally being ‘typical teenagers’!); thank you for helping to make this school what it is. Believe, Aspire and Achieve.

With very best wishes

Dave Locke

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Coronavirus Information – May Half Term

Like me, I am sure you have been keeping an eye on media reports regarding the number of new cases of Covid-19 and the emergence of new variants. It is brilliant that so many of our staff have now been vaccinated, but of course we are yet to hear what will happen in terms of the vaccination of children and young people within the UK. We really want all of our staff and families to be able to relax and enjoy the May half term holiday. However, as we know the virus will take no rest over the holiday – so it is vital that we all continue to adhere to the most recent government guidelines - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> - as well as practicing good hand hygiene, social distancing and the wearing of face coverings in public spaces.

It is really important for you to contact us if the situations outlined below arise over the holiday period (Saturday 29th May to Sunday 6th June inclusive).

- If anyone in your household or support bubble develops coronavirus symptoms you must all self-isolate and book a test: <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>, or by calling 119. Please inform us of your situation via our Covid email address: covidresults@kingdown.wilts.sch.uk.
- If your child tests positive for coronavirus please inform the school immediately at covidresults@kingdown.wilts.sch.uk. Please confirm if the positive test was an NHS PCR test, or a lateral flow device (LFD). A member of staff will be in contact to advise you on the next steps. Please do note that it is vital that we receive this information as soon as possible, as we may need to track and trace your child's contacts in school during their infectious period.


I would also like to remind you that students must continue to test themselves twice a week using Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. These tests should take place on a Sunday and Wednesday evening; results should continue to be reported to NHS: [NHS Test Result Link](#) and the school: [School Test Result Link](#).

School will be open at the usual time on **Monday 7th June**. However, should your son or daughter have any of the following symptoms, please **do not** send them into school during this first week and please contact us on the school absence line - (01985) 224224:

- High Temperature
- A new and continuous cough
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell
- Cold-like symptoms
- Headache
- Generally feeling under the weather

We look forward to the weeks ahead when we hope we can start to resume many of the activities within school that we have just been unable to do over this last year. However, it remains Acorn Education Trust's utmost priority to ensure that all of their schools are safe environments where students can continue their learning. Thank you for your ongoing support and I really do hope you can have a good half term holiday and that we see some much overdue sunshine. Please look after yourselves and stay safe.

With very best wishes



Dave Locke
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