



Dear Parents and Carers,

11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

We have enjoyed a very positive start to the new academic year over the first few weeks of term and students have settled into the rhythm of the school day. A particular ‘well done’ to our new Year 7 students who, to date, have earned an amazing 14,895 positive impact points, indicating that they have made a great start to their time at The Kimberley School. We very much enjoyed welcoming Year 7 parents and carers into school to meet Tutors earlier this week. As we approach the end of the first half term, I thought it would be helpful to update you on a few points.

**Parent Governor ballot results**

The ballot for two Parent Governor posts on the school’s governing body closed earlier this week. The results have all been verified and I am pleased to announce that Ruth Dodds and James Byron have been elected as Parent Governors. The Chair of Governors, Nicole Clarke, and I would like to thank all of the nominees for putting themselves forward and being prepared to volunteer their time and skills for the benefit of the school and all its stakeholders.

**Student Services**

This part of the school has been fully refurbished over the summer holiday and this half term, providing much improved facilities to meet the needs of students for all of our Year Performance Leaders and the student support team. We have also created a new reception area and first aid room that leads to a new entrance / exit gate, which can be accessed from the Sports Centre car park. **From Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November this new reception and gate access will be the only way Year 7 – 11 students will be able to access and exit the school between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 3.15 p.m.** Parents and carers will need to drop off or collect students from this access gate. There is an intercom system on the gate to communicate with the reception. Students arriving at school between 8.15 and 8.40 will continue to access the school through the main gates as they normally do and students who are late to school between 8.45 and 9.00 will continue to go to the late gate room; the entrance for this is on the access road to the Sports Centre. If parents/ carers are attending for a meeting during the school day, they should still use the reception at the front of school.

**Attendance**

School attendance rates have been in the news recently as they have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. I fully realise that parents and carers can only influence the attendance of their own children, but I thought it would be useful to share some information that is specific to The Kimberley School, as we too have not yet returned attendance rates to our pre-pandemic levels. Our whole school attendance rates for each year are shown below and show that, whilst rates have improved a bit between 2022 and the current academic year, they remain 3+ % below the overall attendance rates we regularly achieved pre-pandemic.

**Whole school historical attendance rates**

17-18	18-19	19-20	22-23	23-24
95.24%	95.25%	94.72%	91.40%	91.70%

**%age of students persistently absent (attendance below 90%)**

17-18	18-19	19-20	22-23	23-24
9.85%	10.72%	15.51%	21.8%	23.4%

Whilst our current attendance and persistent absence rates in 23-24 were better than the national averages, they are still not where we would like them to be. The key worry is that young people are missing out not only on important educational time, but also on social development. Therefore, we would ask all parents and carers to help us to try to

return our attendance rates back to the pre-pandemic level. If you do have concerns about your child's attendance please do contact our attendance officer [a.allen@kimberleyschool.co.uk](mailto:a.allen@kimberleyschool.co.uk)

### **DfE changes to fines for term time holidays**

There is no change to the school's policy that holidays should not be taken in term time. Parents and carers should be aware that the DfE have recently made changes to the system of fining parents and carers that do take holidays in term time and that repeat occasions of doing this now carry higher fines. You can find more details in this DfE blog [Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know – The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2024/09/12/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/)

### **DfE Curriculum Review**

Some of you may be aware that the new government is undertaking a curriculum and assessment review in education. They are seeking the views of all stakeholders in the education system including parents/carers and students and you have the opportunity to contribute your views via a 'call for evidence' survey that is currently open until November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024. If you wish to give your views you can access the survey via this link [Curriculum and Assessment Review - Department for Education - Citizen Space](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/curriculum-and-assessment-review)

### **School Instagram Account**

A new Instagram account has been created for The Kimberley School to provide parents/carers/students with some more regular updates on things of interest that have been happening at the school. A search of *Kimberley.school* on Instagram should give you access. We are also keen to celebrate the talents of our students in the activities they do beyond school and would encourage parents and carers to send in information and pictures if they would like us to celebrate a particular achievement of their child on the school Instagram account. Items you are happy could go on the school Instagram account can be sent to [communications@kimberleyschool.co.uk](mailto:communications@kimberleyschool.co.uk) . Please only use this email address for this specific purpose.

### **Some upcoming dates for your diary.**

- Year 11 Parents' Evening 1 is on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024. This will be online and Year 11 parents have already had notification of this.
- School closes for the half term holiday on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 3.30 p.m
- School reopens after the half term holiday on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 8.15 a.m.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Andy Park  
Head Teacher