

4 April 2025

Dear Families,

Many thanks for your support across what has been another very busy term. We ended this term with the very sad news of the passing of our colleague David Peterkin which has shaken our whole school community. I have been able to talk to his daughter in Jamaica and pass on our thoughts at this sad time. The ways our students have responded to this news has been truly heartwarming and I very much appreciate the support that they have shown to one another and to their teachers. We will be opening a book of condolences that we will send to his family next term that students and staff will have the opportunity to contribute to; if any parents would like to add a message, please email Mrs Clyne [jclyne@kgaprospect.uk](mailto:jclyne@kgaprospect.uk) and we will ensure that this is also added.

Since the start of term in January, we have seen many families at Parents Evenings, our students have visited Ufton Court, the University of Reading, Rushall Farm, had a pizza masterclass at Franco Manca, been searching for Bigfoot in Bristol, Year 9 have chosen their options for GCSE, celebrated our Harry Potter themed World Book Day, been Go-Karting, visited far away worlds in the Planetarium, attended the Climate Change Conference and Model United Nations at Reading Council, Year 7 and 8 enjoyed DJ Spooner on the decks at our Valentine's Disco, spent a weekend in Prague, watched Shakespeare performed by the Globe Players, heard the memories of a Holocaust survivor, hosted 30 French students from our partner school in Le Havre, played numerous football and netball matches and this evening, a coachload are setting off for the ski slopes in Italy. All in all a very successful term! We have ended the term with House Assemblies celebrating the achievements of our students this term; we are delighted to be able to reward so many for their hard work, positivity and commitment to our school community this term, with particular congratulations to Anaya, Keiron, Elisa, Emily, McKenzie, Cameron, Johstin, Mandy, Malaki, Jazmine and Gabriela who have achieved our KAP 5-Star student award and will be added to our student Hall of Fame.

Please make sure you follow us on Instagram, Threads, Facebook and Bluesky to see all our activities that take place at school @kaprospect

We are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Stent this term and wish her all the best for the future and thanks for her hard work and commitment to the students of King's Academy Prospect.

### **Uniform**

We have ended the term with some very spring-like weather which we hope will continue after the holidays. We would like to remind you of some key points regarding our uniform, which all students need to comply with:

- The blazer is a compulsory item of uniform; if students wish to wear the jumper it must be under the blazer. Similarly, a coat can only be worn over a blazer.
- Students must ensure that they have appropriate, black, polishable school shoes.
- Trainers are not acceptable and students who arrive at school wearing them will be expected to wear a pair of the spare school shoes that we keep a stock of.
- Socks should be plain black (not trainer socks), either knee length or ankle length.
- False eyelashes and false nails are not permitted
- Shirts must be tucked in and the waistband of skirts and trousers visible.
- Jewellery - only one pair of stud earrings and a watch are permitted.

### **Equipment**

All students are expected to have their own equipment for learning, we have created a list below:

- Pens – black/blue/green
- Writing pencils
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- Glue stick
- 30cm ruler
- Maths set (containing protractor, compass, set square)
- Scientific calculator
- Highlighters
- Pencil case (transparent)
- Reading Book

We recognise that some families may be experiencing financial hardship. If this is the case, or you are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, then please contact your child's Head of Progress.

### **Transport**

We have had complaints from a number of our local neighbours about the actions of parents when they are dropping their children off by car. Can we remind you that students should be dropped off at the Honey End Lane entrance only; we have a safe walking route for students into school from this point. Please do not drop students off anywhere along Cockney Hill - it is

extremely congested and is unsafe for pedestrians and the area surrounding actually has zig-zag yellow lines to indicate that stopping is illegal. It does not do students any harm to walk a couple of hundred metres into school.

Please also be careful when you are turning into the Honey End Lane entrance - we have had complaints from other pedestrians about lack of consideration from drivers when turning in.

### **Mobile Phones**

You may be aware of recent news stories regarding young people and the use of mobile phones. Bridget Philipson, Secretary of State for Education, said in a speech last week *"that phones are disruptive, distracting, bad for behaviour. They have no place in our schools. And the government's position is clear: schools have our full backing in ridding our classrooms of the disruption of phones."*

We very much agree with this statement. We do understand that there are genuine reasons why students may want to carry their phones with them to school, and this is absolutely acceptable, as long as students understand that once they cross the school gates, phones must be switched off (not just on silent, but switched off) and in their bags (not blazer or trouser pockets). Teachers will be routinely checking that this is adhered to, and when students are found to have their phones switched on or not in their bags, they will be confiscated. On the second occasion that this happens, as per our mobile phone policy, they will only be returned to a parent at the end of the week.

We understand that there are a small number of students who need their mobile phones specifically for medical purposes; if we do not already have the medical evidence for this, please contact Mrs Clyne [jclyne@kgaprospect.uk](mailto:jclyne@kgaprospect.uk) to ensure that we have an up to date Health Care Plan in place.

We hope that students will adhere to this policy and parents will support us with this, but we are also considering that if students do not, we may have to ban phones completely, or collect them from all students every morning. If parents need to contact their child(ren) during the day, this must be done via the school reception; we will not be able to deal with messages that come via your child's phone. We have attached the presentation that was shared with students this week so there is no ambiguity about how this policy will be enforced.

You may recently have watched 'Adolescence' on Netflix (if you have not, we highly recommend it) and we know that many parents are concerned about the risks that their children are exposed to through the use of social media. We would like to remind you of our guidance to parents; students in Year 7 and 8 should not have access to ANY social media apps, for example WhatsApp, SnapChat, TikTok etc, and we ask for your support in deleting these from your child's phone. For students in Years 9-11, social media should be used with extreme caution, and for all students, screen time should be limited. There is now significant evidence that suggests that screen time is actually damaging to the grey matter of the brain, especially for young people.

You may wish to share the NSPCC guidance with your child, so that they understand why we are taking this approach: [What is social media? | NSPCC](#) Our mobile phone policy can be found here: Mobile Phones Policy.

It is also helpful to know that students below the age of 13 should not have any social media apps on their phones, and under the age of 16 social media should only be used with caution. You may find this guidance helpful: [Is my child ready for social media?](#).

### **Public Examinations (Year 11 and 13)**

We are running revision sessions for both Year 11 and 13 students throughout the holiday period, with quiet study areas also available.

Public Examinations for Years 11 and 13 start on Thursday 8th May and continue until the middle of June. Students will continue to attend lessons until all the exams in that subject have been completed; we do not routinely put students on 'study leave' until the final exam on 16th June.

Details of our final celebrations including Prom and the Leavers Assembly have already been shared but further information will follow next term.

Year 10 and 12 mock exams start on 23rd April and continue until 1st May.

### **Attendance**

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of good attendance at school. It can be very difficult to work out if your child is well enough to come to school, therefore we recommend looking at this very helpful guidance from the NHS: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#) .

Please note that we may require medical evidence to authorise your child's absence, which should be provided as soon as possible. We do not authorise absence for term-time holidays, for which Reading Borough Council will issue fines (currently £120 per parent, per child). In line with the new guidance from the DfE which came into effect in August 2024, if a student has more than five days of unauthorised absence, this will be referred to the Education Welfare Team at Reading Borough Council, who may issue fines.

### **Start of Term**

Term starts for all students at 8.25am on **Tuesday 22nd April**.

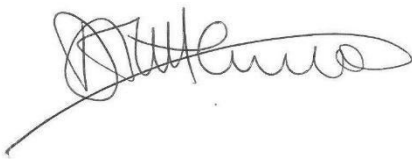
### **Key Dates (Summer Term)**

23rd April-1st May	Year 10 and 12 mock exams
29th April	HPV Immunisation (Year 8)
5th May	May Bank Holiday (school closed)
6th May	Year 8 Subject Consultation Evening
8th May	GCSE/A Level public examinations begin

10th-12th May	DofE Silver Practice Weekend
19th May	Year 10 Geography Fieldwork Week
26th-30th May	Half Term (school closed/Year 11 & 13 Revision classes)
16th June	GCSEs end
20th June	A levels end
24th June	Year 11 Prom at Ufton Court
24th-25th June	Year 6 Transition Days/Year 10 Coastal Fieldwork Trip
28th-30th June	DofE Silver Expedition
4th - 22nd July	Year 12 Nepal Expedition
6th - 8th July	History Trip to Berlin
11th July	Wellbeing Day
15th/17th July	End of Term Trips
24th July	End of Term (11.05am)

We hope you have a very enjoyable holiday; warm wishes especially to all members of our school community who will be celebrating Easter during the holidays.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Littlemore', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr D Littlemore  
Headteacher