



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are well. As we draw to the end of another half term I thought it would be helpful to update you on a number of matters:

1) Thank A Teacher Day – 26th May 2022

Teachers and support staff at Kimberley School have gone above and beyond for this community's children and young people, preparing the next generation to make the very best of their lives. You can say thank you to any of our staff by [sending a free, personalised card for Thank a Teacher Day](#). If you want to send a card and you do not know the email address of the individual then please send it to office@kimberleyschool.co.uk who will make sure it is forwarded to the member of staff.

I cannot tell you what a difference positive feedback from you makes to staff at school. If any of you are able to participate in the national Thank a Teacher campaign, I know it will be appreciated. Thank you!

2) Feedback on the proposals relating to extending the school day and online parents' evenings.

Thank you to those of you who took the time to give us your feedback. There were over 289 responses from parents which is among the largest I have seen in my time at the school.

The vast majority of parents and staff supported the proposals to extend the school day to 3:15pm and to continue with online parents' evenings from September 2022.

- Over 95% of staff and 89% of parents who responded were in support of the change to the school day.
- 92% of staff and 72% of parents supported the proposal to continue with online parents' evenings.

Therefore, as a result of this feedback we will make the changes set out in [my letter to you on the 10th May](#). You can read a [full analysis of the responses we received and the action we will take here](#). Although nearly three quarters of parents supported the proposal related to parents evenings, there are some polarised views on this among parents and you will see the actions that we will take to address some of the issues raised by parents who did want to revert to face to face parents' evenings. These actions include holding the first Year 7 parents' evening with tutors in school as well as another opportunity for parents to come into school in the Autumn Term.

3) The Kimberley Way

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges that schools across the country face at the moment is returning students to the good behaviour that we saw before the pandemic. It is clear that the

disruption has led to some students struggling to cope in school and socially. This, in turn, can present as uncooperative behaviour in some students.

At Kimberley we did anticipate this which is why we introduced the Behaviour Consequences system at the start of the year; and supported this with a centralised after school detention. These systems are supporting teachers across the school in managing behaviour and is helping students learn how to correct their behaviour. However, we believe that there is still more to do.

Prior to the pandemic we believe that we had in place a strong understanding of the expectations of all students' behaviour; and that these expectations were shared by staff, students and parents. Following the disruption in the last two years we want to spend more time talking to students about what good behaviour at Kimberley looks like.

To do this we will be launching with students and staff The Kimberley Way after half term. The Kimberley Way has been designed in consultation with the school's Student Council and staff. It is intended to explicitly set out to our students what we expect and to build a community ethos of high expectation of each other's behaviour.

Students in Years 7 to 10 will have an assembly on this on the first day after half term, the 6th June. Following this assembly we will also send home to parents information on what The Kimberley Way is and how it will work in school.

4) A Part-Time Opportunity

Governors are looking to recruit someone to attend governing body meetings and take accurate minutes. If you, or someone you know, are interested in this opportunity then you can access the [advert here](#).

4) Good Attendance Matters.

When I contacted you in February I set out that attendance at the school was averaging 90%. This means that on average each child is missing 10% of the school year which equates to missing 80 lessons. Prior to the pandemic attendance would normally be between 95% and 96%.

In the time since we launched our "Good Attendance Matters" strategy average attendance has risen to 93%. Although this is not at pre-pandemic levels it is pleasing to see it start to move in the right direction. I know that many families are working hard to help students get back into the routines that lead to good attendance. Thank you. Please do remember that there are pages for [parents](#) and [students](#) on the school website which set out our expectations and also the support you or your child can access if they need to improve their attendance.

5) Half Term

Please don't forget that school closes for May Half Term on Friday 27th May and reopens on Monday 6th June. Year 11 are expected to attend on the 6th June because teachers will use all of their lessons on this day to help prepare them for forthcoming exams. Study Leave for Year 11 starts on the 7th

June. Year 13 will continue to attend their lessons until they have finished their exams in that subject.

I do hope that you and your family are able to enjoy some time together over half term. If, like me, your children are in the middle of the exam season I hope that they find this time useful as they prepare for the remainder of their exams.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A George', written in a cursive style.

Andrew George
Hea Teacher