



Dear Parents / Carers,

1st September 2023

We are looking forward to welcoming students into school from the middle of next week (exact timings for each year group below). As always at the start of a new year there are some key points to remind parents/carers and students about and some changes that all need to be made aware of. I would be grateful if you would share these with your child.

I would also like to reassure parents that The Kimberley School is not one of the schools that has been affected by closures of buildings because of the Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) issue that has been in the recent news. We do have some ongoing maintenance work on the science block roof but this was pre planned and relates to waterproofing and drainage. The block is fully operational and movement in and around the building will be carefully managed whilst that work continues.

Gates – Morning Opening Times

In order to increase safeguarding measures and ensure the school site is more secure we are moving to specific times when the school gates, at both the front and rear of school, are open and accessible to all students.

The school site will open at 8:15am at both the front of school (Newdigate Street) the rear of school (Sports Centre Car Park). **Students will not be able to access the school site before this time.** Both gates will then be closed and locked at 8:40am with any students arriving after this time needing to head to the 'Late Gate' by the side of Student Support (accessed through the Sports Centre Car Park).

Mobile Phones

The school will be moving to a 'mobile phone free site'. This means that when a student enters the school site they are not permitted to use their mobile phone. If a student is seen on their phone / with their phone out whilst on the school site it will be confiscated by a member of staff.

If a student's mobile phone is confiscated, they will be able to collect it at the end of the school day from Student Support. The student will also be issued with a 'Mobile Phone' Behaviour Point, which will mean they have a 30 minute Centralised Detention the next day afterschool. If a student has their phone confiscated three or more times in a half term, the phone will not be returned to them and parents will need to come into school and collect the device.

To clarify, mobile phones are not banned on the school site but their use is not permitted. Students choosing to bring their phone in to school are fully responsible for the device and ensuring it is out of sight whilst on the school premises.

Uniform

The school's uniform guidance and expectations can be found [here](#) ([Kimberley School Uniform](#)). As always, our expectation is for all students to wear the uniform with pride and ensure they are meeting the guidance outlined.

Student's uniform will be checked daily, as they enter the school site, and those not meeting the basic expectations will be provided the correct uniform by Student Support for them to borrow for the day. This will allow everyone to maintain high standards and remove any potential issues around students not wearing full, correct uniform.

Any specific issues around uniform should be discussed with the relevant Year Team who will obviously support accordingly, where necessary.

Behaviour

At The Kimberley School, we truly believe that all students should be able to attend school feeling safe, enjoying learning, and making good progress, and we understand this can only happen if behaviour management is successful.



It is beneficial if parents familiarise themselves with [The Kimberley School Behaviour Policy](#) taking note of the expectations we have for young people to and the sanctions that would be issued if these standards are not met. If a student is issued a Behaviour Point, parents will receive the following message through the School Gateway System:

'Child's name' has received a behaviour point today. They have been issued a sanction in-line with the school policy. Details can be found on the gateway app.

Guidance in setting up your School Gateway App, which will allow you to view the behaviour point issued and details of the incident, can be found [here \(School Gateway – Parent Support\)](#). If Notifications are turned off, you may not receive these updates, therefore please can you ensure these are turned on, so you are aware of any sanctions issued to your child and can support them accordingly to attend and amend their future behaviour.

The Gateway App will allow parents to have an oversight of their child's time at The Kimberley School; from attendance and IMPACT Points to Behaviour Points and details of the point issued.

Rewards

As with the previous academic year, every half term there will be a prize draw for individuals who have demonstrated The Kimberley Way, with previous prizes being iPads, entertainment bundles, shopping vouchers and even a bike. All students need to do to be in with a chance of winning is demonstrate The Kimberley Way, ensuring they are respectful, proud and successful, earning Kimberley Tokens from staff members acknowledging their approach to school and their studies.

As always, over the course of the year there will be a number of school trips and events, including the end of year rewards trips. Pastoral Teams and Departments will be monitoring individual's attendance, punctuality and general conduct in school e.g. Behaviour Points, to determine which individuals will be invited to attend.

At The Kimberley School we aim to provide a number of rewards and opportunities, it is up to the students to ensure they do all they can to participate and benefit from these.

Return to school

A reminder that there is a phased return to school next week:

- Year 7** **Wednesday 6th September** arrive by 8.40 a.m. and go to the main school Hall
- Year 12** **Wednesday 6th September** arrive by 1.00 p.m. and go to the Sixth Form centre
- Years 8,9,10,11 and 13** **Thursday 7th September** arrive by 8.40 a.m. and go directly to tutor rooms

We are looking forward to another enjoyable and successful year at The Kimberley School.

Yours faithfully,

Andy Park
Head Teacher

