

King's Park Secondary School Newsletter for Families and Friends



www.kingspark-sec.glasgow.sch.uk

18 August 2008

Week 1
or Week 2?



Week	Date
1	18/08/2008
2	25/08/2008
1	01/09/2008
2	08/09/2008
1	15/09/2008
2	22/09/2008
1	29/09/2008
2	06/10/2008
1	20/10/2008
2	27/10/2008
1	03/11/2008
2	10/11/2008
1	17/11/2008
2	24/11/2008
1	01/12/2008
2	08/12/2008
1	15/12/2008
2	05/01/2009
1	12/01/2009
2	19/01/2009
1	26/01/2009
2	02/02/2009
1	09/02/2009
2	16/02/2009
1	23/02/2009
2	02/03/2009
1	09/03/2009
2	16/03/2009
1	23/03/2009
2	30/03/2009
1	20/04/2009
2	27/04/2009
1	04/05/2009
2	11/05/2009
1	18/05/2009
2	25/05/2009
1	01/06/2009
2	08/06/2009
1	15/06/2009
2	22/06/2009

Welcome to Session 2008-09

Dear All

A very warm welcome back, to all pupils, parents, families and friends of our school. Once again we especially welcome our new S1 pupils and their parents.

Many congratulations to all pupils who achieved success in their SQA examinations this year. May you build on these achievements in the future.

This is the last session when we will use the 25 period week timetable. All Glasgow schools are moving to a timetable structure based on 33 periods per week, which can be configured in various ways. Pupils and staff completed the consultation about starting/stopping times etc at the end of June. The special meeting for parents will take place at the same time as the Annual General Meeting of the Parent Forum, and you are warmly invited to attend this meeting.

As always, we encourage parents to stay in close touch, and to contact us if you have any concerns. We rely heavily on your support and partnership in the promotion of high standards of work, dress, behaviour, attendance and timekeeping. Thank you for your very valuable support.

Kind Regards

Mrs Margaret Barr
Head Teacher

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

King's Park Secondary Parent Forum

AGM & Consultation Evening

Tuesday Sept. 2nd 7pm

The annual general meeting of the Parent Forum/Parent Council will also be an opportunity for parents to receive information and ask questions about changes to the school's timetable planned to begin in session 2009-10.

All parents and guardians are members of the Parent Forum and are welcome to this evening which will also feature Entertainment and Refreshments as well as a chance to meet staff and other parents.

King's Park Secondary Parent Council, working with the school to make King's Park the best it can be.

Bookmark www.kingspark-sec.glasgow.sch.uk in your Favourites today.

Please Sign and Return

All pupils have received a pack of information for themselves and for parents. Parents are asked to complete and sign these. Pupils should return the 4 forms to Register Teachers as soon as possible, but by Friday 25 August at the latest please.

1. Pupil Records (white)
2. Annual Data Check (cream). *Please indicate any changes of pupil details.*
3. Administration of Medicines (green)
4. Press Permission Form (yellow) *Please complete both sides*

The information pack also includes the following:

1. This newsletter
2. 'What We Expect of All Our Pupils' (pink)
3. 'Improving Action Against Bullying' (blue)

Thank you for your assistance.



School Uniform

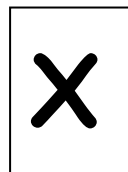
A reminder that school ties (£15) and zippers (£15) are on sale from the school office.

Thank you for your support in making sure that pupils come to school wearing the following:



- a **white** shirt or blouse (pale blue or school green still accepted, if the pupils still has those items)
- a **black** skirt or trousers (grey/navy still accepted) (smart black trousers cropped, eg **to the knee**, are accepted, but shorts are not accepted)
- **black** school zipped sweatshirt or v-neck jumper and the school tie. The tie must be easily visible at all times.

The following items are NOT acceptable:



- Tracksuits, clothing made of flammable material, such as track suits, football colours and clothing which is clearly unsuitable for a place of work, e.g. very short skirts, crop tops, leggings, shorts.
- Jewellery and accessories which are unsuitable or constitute a health and safety hazard eg long pendant chains, large hooped earrings, heavy rings, diamante earrings, sequined or gold/silver belts, chains and studs.
- Clothing promoting designer brands, drugs or alcohol.
- Pupils should remove all outdoor jackets in class, as well as anything not conforming to the guidelines for school uniform, eg bright colours.
- Heavy makeup and very bright or black nail varnish is also discouraged.

Equipment

It is essential that pupils come to school with the equipment which they need, eg pens, pencils, PE kit, etc. A small number of pupils are expecting these things to be provided for them and are taking no responsibility. This disrupts lessons and is unfair on everyone else. We are monitoring this regularly with Spot Checks in classrooms. This session we will take strong action, including detention, the removal of privileges, and parental interviews, with pupils who do not come to school properly equipped.

We seek parents' support in making sure pupils arrive at school with the necessary equipment. Thank you for your help.

Improvement Plan

Our School Improvement Plan includes the following targets:

- Raise staff and pupil engagement with Curriculum for Excellence
- Teaching for Effective Learning
- Quality Assurance and School Improvement
- Improve engagement/involvement of parents and carers
- Promote a positive learning climate
- Extend effective use of ICT
- Implement Glasgow's revised procedures for Additional Support for Learning Act
- Further develop our Health Promoting School
- Implement equalities policy
- Close monitoring of and support for children who are Looked After or Looked After and Accommodated
- Vision, values and aims
- Further develop citizenship
- Further develop or school as an Eco School
- Encourage pupils to be creative, enterprising and prepared for the world of work (including 'More Choices, More Chances' and 'Determined to Succeed' strategies)



The Parent Council have been given copies of the full School Improvement Plan. Any other member of the Parent Forum is welcome to have a copy. Please contact the school.

Curriculum for Excellence

You may know that over the next few years, the Scottish Curriculum is going to change. Some parents might remember the National Debate on Education in 2002. The outcome of that consultation was that there was a lot that was good in Scottish Education, but it needed some improvement, for example:

- a more coherent examination structure,
- learning which is more enjoyable and relevant,
- better recognition of children's achievements,
- and so on.

The review group for Curriculum for Excellence also asked – What is a Curriculum for? What is the Purpose? They stated that a curriculum should develop children and young people as:

- successful learners
- confident individuals
- effective contributors and
- responsible citizens.

So the new curriculum will be about more than changes to courses. It also encourages more enterprising approaches to learning, so that pupils see a relevance to their learning. In King's Park pupils take part in a huge range of experiences which are real, relevant and totally linked to learning. We are developing these all the time.

Currently there are national consultations about the curricular areas from early years to S3; and about a review of National Qualifications. For more information, please see www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence or contact Mrs Barr, head teacher.

Promoting a Positive Learning Climate: Praise

As part of our strategy to Promote a Positive Learning Climate, last session we introduced a new system of Merits. Pupils in S1, S2 and S3 could be awarded Merits from class teachers, and could gain certificates in Bronze, Silver and Gold. Certificate winners were also given rewards.

Merits will again be issued to S1, S2 and S3 pupils, starting on 1st September.

Before that, S1-3 Pupils will be given another copy of the leaflet which explains the merit system. Merits are achievable by all pupils, but it may take some time for them to accumulate.

The rewards for achieving bronze, silver and gold standards will be shared with pupils soon, and will be published in our next newsletter.

At that time, we will also share the criteria for permitting pupils to go on trips, attend school events and enjoy other privileges.

Please encourage your child to work towards being a merit winner.

Merits

Bronze

Silver

Gold

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Start of Session	In Service Day 1 In Service Day 2 Pupils return	Thu 14 Aug 08 Fri 15 Aug 08 Mon 18 Aug 08
September holiday	School closes <i>Holidays and In Service Day 3</i> School reopens	Thu 25 Sep 08 Wed 1 Oct 08
October holiday	School closes School reopens	Fri 10 Oct 08 Mon 20 Oct 08
Christmas and New Year holiday	School closes School reopens	Fri 19 Dec 08 Mon 5 Jan 09
February holiday	School closes <i>Holidays and In Service Day 4</i> School reopens	Fri 13 Feb 09 Thu 19 Feb 09
Spring Holiday	School closes School reopens	Fri 3 Apr 09 Mon 20 Apr 09
May Day	School closes <i>Holidays and In Service Day 5</i> School reopens	Fri 1 May 09 Wed 6 May 09
May week end	School closes School reopens	Thu 21 May 09 Tue 26 May 09
End of session	School closes	Fri 26 Jun 09

PARENT FORUM	Annual General Meeting of King's Park Secondary Parent Forum Including information about next session's timetable. Followed by Social Evening. Displays of pupils' work, music and refreshments.	Tue 2 Sep 08 at 7.00 pm ALL PARENTS WELCOME
PRIZEGIVING CEREMONIES	S1 and S2 S3-6	Thu 18 Jun 09 at 2 pm Thu 18 Jun 09 at 7.30 pm
SOCIAL EVENTS	Singing Concert Christmas Concert S3/4 Ceilidh S5/6 Ceilidh Summer Tea	Thu 9 Oct 08 Wed 10 Dec 08 Mon 15 Dec 08 Thu 18 Dec 08 Fri 12 Jun 09
PUPIL PHOTOGRAPHS	S1 and S4 S1, S2 and S3 Young Scot S5/6	Thu 11 Sep 08 Wed 1 Oct 08 Fri 20 Feb 09

ASSESS- MENTS	S4 Prelims S5/6 Prelims S2 Assessments S1 Assessments S3 Assessments	Tue 6 Jan to Fri 16 Jan 09 Mon 26 Jan to Fri 6 Feb 09 Mon 9 to Fri 20 Feb 09 Mon 20 to Fri 24 Apr 09 Wed 6 May – Fri 15 May 09
	SQA Examinations – S grade	Fri 1 May – Wed 3 Jun 09
	SQA examinations – Higher, Intermediate and Access	Tue 5 May; Thu 7 May; Fri 15 May to Tue 9 Jun
	S4/S5 (new S5/6) return to school	Mon 8 Jun 09

REPORTS ISSUED	S1 Interim Reports S4 Interim Reports S5/6 Interim Reports S3 Interim Reports S2 Interim Reports	Fri 10 Oct 08 Fri 31 Oct 08 Fri 14 Nov 08 Fri 28 Nov 08 Fri 12 Dec 08
	S4 Reports S5/6 Reports S2 Reports S1 Reports S3 Reports	Wed 11 Feb 09 Tue 3 Mar 09 Wed 18 Mar 09 Tue 28 May 09 Wed 10 Jun 09

PARENTS' MEETINGS	Open Evening	Thu 13 Nov 08 at 7 pm
	S5/6 Parents' Meeting S1 Parents' Meeting S4 Parents' Meeting S2 Parents' Meetings S3 Parents' Meeting	Thu 20 Nov 08, 4–6 pm Tue 2 Dec 08, 4-6 pm Wed 24 Feb 09, 4-6 pm Wed 25 Mar + Tue 31 Mar, 4-6 pm Thu 22 Jan, 4-6 pm
	UCAS Parents' Evening	Thu 18 Sep 08
	Course Planning Evenings - S2 going into S3 - S4/5 going into S5/6	Thu 19 March 09 Thu 12 Feb 09

Work Experience Week for S4	Week beginning 10 Nov 08
Induction Days for new S1 (P7 pupils) Parents' Evening for parents of P7 pupils	Thu 28 and Fri 29 May 09 Thu 28 May 09 at 7 pm

Mobile Phones

Recently we conducted a consultation exercise on the use in school of mobile phones, MP3 players and other electronic devices.

We already had clear rules about the use of mobile phones. Some of these were:

- It is an offence to photograph, video or record any other person without their permission.
- It is absolutely forbidden to take a mobile phone (even if switched off with the battery removed) into an examination room. This is an SQA rule.

However, we thought it would be helpful to bring everything together into a policy and procedures document.

A draft policy was discussed by parent volunteers from the Parent Council; Staff; Focus groups of pupils. There was a wide range of views, but the attached policy reflects the majority view, and we ask for your support in implementing the policy.

The policy is attached to this newsletter. If you have any comments, please contact the head teacher Mrs Barr.



King's Park Secondary School

Mobile Phones and other Electronic Devices

Policy and Practice

August 2008

Policy

1 RATIONALE

Mobile phones, camera/video phones, MP3 players/headphones and other electronic devices have become an essential part of everyday life for most children and young people and many adults. Mobile phones are a vital form of communication. It would be unreasonable to ban pupils from taking them to school. However, schools need clear guidelines to address the issues raised:

- They are valuable items that may be stolen
- Their use can cause pupils and staff to be subject to bullying
- Even when in silent mode, texts can undermine classroom discipline, distracting not only the person with the phone, but also other people around.
- Mobile phones with integrated cameras could lead to child protection and data protection issues, regarding the inappropriate taking and sending of images.

However, a number of features of these devices could be used to support learning and teaching:

- Recording facilities
- Integrated digital cameras and video facilities
- Electronic calendars

School policy must take account of the benefits to be gained by appropriate use in school, under the direction of the teacher.

2 AIMS

The aims of this policy are to:

- Ensure personal safety
- Ensure security.
- Acknowledge and support parents' rights to provide their children with a mobile phone and for the child to carry it to and from school.
- Recognise and endorse the right of all staff and pupils to teach and learn in an environment free from disruption.
- Enhance learning and teaching

Policy into Practice

3 IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

- 3.1 VALUABLE EQUIPMENT.** It is strongly recommended that valuable items of equipment are not brought to school. The school will not accept responsibility or liability for loss of, or damage to, valuable items which are brought to school.

However, the school recognises that pupils with the approval of their parents may wish to bring a mobile phone, MP3 player/headphones or other electronic device, to school. The following rules apply:

- 3.2 WHEN AND WHERE CAN THEY BE USED?** Mobile phones, MP3 players/headphones and other pupil items of electronic equipment may be used at the following times:

- Before the bell for registration in the playground and pupil social areas, not the corridors, stairs or classrooms.
- During the interval in the playground and pupil social areas, not the corridors, stairs or classrooms.
- During lunch time in the playground and pupil social areas, not the corridors, stairs or classrooms.
- After school in the playground and pupil social areas, not the corridors, stairs or classrooms.
- In class, strictly with the clear permission of the teacher, planned by the teacher as a means of teaching part of the curriculum.
- In school in an emergency, with the clear approval of a member of staff.

At all other times, these items must be in school bags, SWITCHED OFF (not on 'silent') and out of sight.

3.3 WHAT ARE THE RULES?

- 1. There must be no illegal photographing, videoing or recording.**
 - The photographing, videoing or recording of a member of staff, other pupil or other person, without their permission, is unacceptable, illegal and therefore prohibited.
 - It is also an offence to distribute the image or recording, to any other person by any means, eg mobile phone, email, media representative, social networking site etc.
 - Inappropriate material should not be accessed at any time. Inappropriate material which has been accessed out of school should not be brought into school or shared with others. Any pupil found to have done so will be subject to strong disciplinary action, including exclusion.
 - Readmission of pupils will be considered only after a risk assessment has been drawn up. This will include a statement of the consequences of reoffending.
- 2. Emergency contact to and from parents and carers should be made through the school, not by mobile phone.**
 - Pupils who feel unwell should contact home via the staff in the medical room, and not use their mobile phone. This allows the office staff to monitor the pupil while they wait to be collected. It also avoids pupils leaving school without permission.
 - In general, parents should not contact pupils by mobile phone during the school day, but if it is necessary to do so, this should be only during the lunch break or in an emergency. The pupil's phone should be switched off and a message can be left.
- 3. Discipline procedures will apply**
 - Pupils using mobile phones or similar devices at a prohibited time, or in a prohibited place, will be asked to put them away.

- Failure to do so will be dealt with as with any other incident where a pupil refuses to follow a reasonable instruction given to them by a member of staff.
- The general rule is that mobile phones will not be confiscated by staff.
- However, in very unusual circumstances (eg suspicion that inappropriate material has been accessed) it may be necessary for a member of the SMT to confiscate a mobile phone or other item. The item will be held securely until the child's parent comes to the school office to collect it. As part of an investigation, and with the parent's permission, it may be necessary to examine the contents of the phone. Where appropriate, the police will be involved.
- If the offence is repeated, it may be necessary to prohibit the pupil from having the device in school at any time.

4. Regulations for SQA Examinations and Prelims must be followed.

- It is strictly forbidden to take mobile phones or any digital audio device into the examination room.
- If pupils do so, SQA will consider this to be an attempt to cheat and the examination entry for that subject may be cancelled.
- Switching a phone off or taking a battery out will not be enough to avoid this sanction.
- Examination entry for other subjects may also be affected if the phone makes a noise and disrupts an exam.
- Pupils must make their own arrangements to have their phones looked after before they go into the exam room. Pupils must not assume that members of staff will be able to look after their phones for them.
- Parents who wish to contact pupils during exams should contact the school and speak to the SQA Coordinator.

5. Bullying by mobile phone or social networking site will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Anti-Bullying policy.

- The matter may also be reported to the police. The school's Personal and Social Education programme will address the issue of cyber-bullying and internet safety.

6. Staff use of mobile phones and other electronic devices.

- Staff are allowed the appropriate use of mobile phones and other electronic devices. Eg in line with the pupil guidelines in this document and at other appropriate times, but not when teaching a class.

4 COMMUNICATION

The policy and procedures have been formulated in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. It will be published in a school newsletter, the School Handbook, the school website and the Staff Handbook.

5 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The policy and procedures will be reviewed as required by the working group.