

King's Park Secondary School Information for Families and Friends



www.kingspark-sec.glasgow.sch.uk

December 2011

Check out our website (News pages or Gallery pages) for stories and photos



Senior Social Committee hold
a Halloween Party for S1



Corey and Jordan visit
Auschwitz

Last Day of Term

The last day of term will be Thursday 22 December – a non-uniform day for ONE DAY ONLY, with donations to charity – Malawi Leaders of Learning.

We will hold assemblies for pupils led by our school chaplain Rev Neil Galbraith. As usual, if you do not wish your child to participate in this assembly, please contact the school and we will make alternative arrangements.

Parents of S1 pupils please see letter on back page of this newsletter

8.55 am – School starts
12 noon – Pupils wishing to have lunch in the Fuel Zone may do so at 12 o'clock. Other pupils remain in class.
1.15 pm – Extended lunch break for all pupils until 2.30 pm.
2.30 pm – School closes.

Most pupils leave school at 1.15 pm, but they are welcome to stay in school during the lunch break until 2.30 pm, when school closes.

School reopens on Monday 9 January 2012. We expect all pupils to return to school, very smartly dressed in full school uniform, ready to start the new term.

S4 prelims begin on Monday 9 January



Amy goes to Strasbourg



Children in Need



Christmas Concert

Dear All

This newsletter includes a reminder of the achievements of our pupils which are posted on our school website. As always, we are very proud of them, and it is a privilege to work with them, and with you as parents and carers.

Please also take some time to look at the other items in this newsletter. For senior pupils, we have a reminder about supported study, prelim examinations, and what to do if the school is closed again. From Mrs Logan, we also have an update on our school uniform, and a request for you to complete the Homework Questionnaire. One important item is a request that you support us with our mobile phone policy. Pupils must keep their phones switched off in class in order to prevent disruption to learning and teaching.

As the Christmas holiday approaches, we wish everyone
Season's Greetings and a happy and healthy 2012.

M Barr

Mrs Margaret Barr, Head Teacher, on behalf of the staff



RECENT SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Once again, we have faced challenges caused by the severe weather conditions. As you know, all Glasgow schools have had to close, to protect the safety of pupils and staff.

We will do our best to make up for lost study time, especially with senior pupils who are preparing for prelim examinations in January and February. We value your support in making sure that, if they are forced to be absent from school, pupils continue working at home on course work, and/or revise previous work.

Senior pupils should use the advice on the school website:

HOME PAGE – Staff & Subjects – Distance Learning – then click the name of the subject.



Welcome to King's Park Secondary School

Home | Our School | News | Staff & Subjects | Clubs & Groups | Our Community | Gallery |

WINTER WEATHER

Staff

Subjects

Pastoral Care for Pupils

Senior Management Team

Leadership and Management Team

Distance Learning

Glasgow's Winter Weather

at any school closures)



Welcome to King's Park Secondary School



Home | Our School | News | Staff & Subjects | Clubs & Groups | Our Community | Gallery | Events | Fundraising |

Distance Learning

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SENIOR PUPILS

We all hope that the weather will improve, and that the school will remain open for all pupils to continue with their learning.

However, IF SCHOOL SHOULD HAVE TO CLOSE AGAIN, then it is very important that senior pupils continue working hard to prepare for their prelims in January/February. Click your subject for information about what work you should be doing at home. Be aware that, as soon as you return to school, you could be asked to sit an internal assessment (NAB) if school was closed on its scheduled date.

Sub Sections

- Art and Design
- Business Education
- Computing
- English and ESOL
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Mathematics
- Modern Languages
- Modern Studies
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies (RMPS)
- Science
- Technical

School Uniform Update for Parents

A very big thank you to all parents for the excellent support you have given to the new uniform policy. The feedback from parents, members of the local community and the pupils themselves has been extremely positive. We are already working with M&S on next year's uniform and hope to have more information on this for you in the New Year.

In the meantime, can we ask for your continued support to keep standards of uniform high please? In particular:

- If you are buying your children new shoes, boots or wellington boots for the winter, can you please insist that they are black?
- Can you also make sure that they wear only black cardigans, jumpers or sweatshirts? It was agreed, after a lot of consultation with pupils last session, that all sweatshirts would be banned, apart from plain black ones for outdoor wear only, with a zip up the middle so that the tie could be seen. Multi-coloured sweatshirts and sports sweatshirts really do take away from the smart look of the uniform. Your help with this will make sure that our pupils look smart right through the school year.

HOMEWORK FOR PARENTS!

Please complete the Homework Questionnaire attached or pick up a copy from the school office or at a parents' evening. We will also text you when it has been added to the school website.

Is homework an issue in your house?

Does your child never seem to have any, or is it a source of stress because your son or daughter seems to struggle with it night after night?

There is no doubt that when homework is a challenging and positive experience for young people, it helps to set up good study habits which can help them learn better at school and improve their grades. As part of our school improvement priorities this year, we want to look for ways to support you as parents to ensure that all pupils complete regular homework tasks.

As our new school uniform policy has shown, when parents, staff and pupils work together it leads to a very successful outcome. Our first task is to find out how much homework our pupils actually do and just what the issues are. This is where we need your help please!

After consultation with the Parent Council, the school staff homework group, and feedback from parents at an Information Evening, a **questionnaire** for **parents** has been prepared. It can be completed on-line if that is more convenient for you, or you can pick up a copy from the school office, or at a Parents' Evening.

Please take time to look at the questionnaire. It can take seconds to complete, but there is also room for you to give more information if you would like to. Mrs Logan, one of the Depute Heads, also hopes that some parents will be able to come to the school for a daytime or evening meeting, to have a more in-depth chat about homework.

To complete the picture, there will also be consultation with staff and with pupils over the next few months. The information we gain will help us to work out how we as teachers and parents can work together to make sure that homework is a positive and motivating experience for all!



Calendar Dates

1. Proposed School Holidays and In-Service Days 2012-13

The details of the proposed school holidays and in-service days have been posted on the Glasgow City Council web site. Go to: <http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/GoingtoSchool/Holidays/holidaysfor2012to2013.htm>

2. Forthcoming (see school website for more)

DECEMBER 2011 continued

Monday, 12th – Curriculum For Excellence Information Evening for parents of P7, S1 and S2.

Tuesday, 13th - S1 Parents' Evening: 4.15 pm - 6.15 pm

Friday, 16th - S2 Interim Reports issued

Friday, 16th – Swimming Gala at Castlemilk Pool

Monday, 19th – S2 Christmas Ceilidh

Wednesday, 21st – S1 Christmas Ceilidh; Senior Ceilidh

Thursday 22nd - Last Day of School until the New Year.

JANUARY 2012

Monday, 9th – All staff and pupils return to school. First day of S4 Prelims

Tuesday, 10th – Parent Council meeting

Monday, 23rd – S3 Parents' Evening: 4.15 pm – 6.15 pm

Wednesday, 25th – S5/6 Prelims begin

FEBRUARY 2012

Thursday, 02nd – Intermediate UKMT Maths Challenge

Tuesday, 07th – Parent Council Meeting

Friday, 10th – S4 Full Reports issued

Monday, 13th – HOLIDAY – February Monday

Tuesday, 14th – HOLIDAY – February Tuesday

Wednesday, 15th – Inservice Day 4

Thursday, 16th – Course Planning Evening for parents of S4 and S5 pupils

Friday, 17th – Photographs – S5/6

Monday, 20th – Deadline for S4 Subject Choice forms



Important Examinations for S4, S5 and S6

S4 Prelim examinations begin on Monday 9 January (the first day back after the holiday).

S5/6 Prelim examinations begin on Wednesday 25 January.

These examinations are vitally important. The school provides significant additional support for pupils in the form of 'Open Doors' sessions and Supported Study.

All pupils in S4-6 have been given this information, and you can find another copy on the school website.

www.kingspark-sec.glasgow.sch.uk - Clubs and Groups – Supported Study



MOBILE PHONES

Parents – please support the enforcement of our mobile phone policy.

To prevent interruptions to teaching and learning, phones must be switched off in class (not on silent – actually switched off)

You can find the full policy on the school website – Home Page – Our School - Documents – Policy on Mobile Phones, MP3 Players and Other Electronic Devices. **OR** contact the school for a paper copy.

Sports News



Congratulations to our Badminton Team – winners of the Royal Bank Shield

Carol Nicoll represents Scotland at the International Badminton Championships

Sports Captain Carol Nicoll was given the opportunity to represent Scotland at the International Badminton Championships held in the Kelvin Hall last month. Carol took up this fantastic opportunity and played England's Fotanie Mica in the first round. This was a great experience for Carol.

Next year Carol is hoping to compete again. Meanwhile she'll continue to coach and encourage other pupils to play Badminton at King's Park.

Staff and pupils attended the event to support and encourage Carol. We are all very proud of her. Well done Carol!

Ashley Murphy, S6
Sports Captain



THANKS TO SPONSORS ANDERSON MAGUIRE

Our senior boys football team will be sporting new strips from now on.

Thank you very much to Anderson Maguire for sponsoring the school.

Rewards

In order to receive rewards, eg attendance at school dances and other privileges, pupils must meet the following criteria:

Minimum 90% attendance

Maximum of 5 latecomings

Good behaviour record - we will look at the number of Merits and Demerits

KING'S PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL

PARENT FORUM CONSULTATION ON HOMEWORK 2011-12



My name is Name of child

My child is in Year 1 2 3 4 5 6

Aim of Consultation

When parents and teachers work together, homework can play a vital role in ensuring that our young people make good progress with their learning. Feedback from parents will help us as a school to make sure that -

- a. Homework is a positive and motivating experience for our pupils, which helps them to become successful learners.
- b. All parents will feel that they have the support they need to ensure that their children complete their homework successfully.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS BY CIRCLING AN ANSWER

1. Does your child show you his / her homework planner after school each evening, with a note of homework to be completed for the next day?

- a. Never b. Sometimes c.. Most of the time d. Always

2. On average, how much homework does your son / daughter complete after school each day?

- a. None b. Less than 30 mins. c. 40 to 60 mins
d. Other (Please give details)

3. What are your views about the amount of homework your child is given?

- a. Not enough b. About right c. A bit too much d. Far too much

4. For Parents of S.1/2 Pupils Only. How does the amount of homework your child is given now in S.1 compare with Primary 7?

- a. Less b. About the same c.. A bit more d. Much more

5. Do you manage to find the time to help your son/daughter with written or learning homework when needed?

- a. Not at all b. Sometimes c. Most of the time d. Always

Please note here if there are any subjects which you do NOT feel comfortable helping your child with, and, if possible, your reasons for that.

6. Do you find that your son/daughter tends to play computer games or is on Facebook etc when he/she should be doing homework?

- a. No b. Yes c. sometimes d. Possibly – I don't know.

7. Do you feel that the school gives you enough advice about how to help with homework?

- a. No b. Not sure c. Yes

If you have any further comments or questions about the homework which your child is given, please note them here :

8. **For Parents of S.5/6 pupils only.** Please circle the statement (s) which best fit(s) your views about homework for your son/daughter.

- a. My son/daughter is old enough now to get on with homework on his/her own.
- b. There is nothing that I can do to help my son /daughter at this stage.
- c. I still like to keep an eye on the homework my son/daughter does each evening.
- d. I still get actively involved in helping my son/daughter with homework.

9. Please circle any of the following which you think would help you support your child better with homework.

- a. General information about how to create a supportive environment for your child to complete homework.
- b. Information on the school's website about the kind of homework each subject sets and how you can help.
- c. Some tuition on the website on how to support specific topics for subjects which may be taught in a different way from when you were at school, e.g. maths.
- d. Parents sign the homework planner each evening to confirm that the pupil has completed the homework set for the next day.

e. Other(Please give details)

10. Homework can be a positive experience for young people which challenges and motivates them and makes them feel confident about their learning. Would you say that this is the case for your son/daughter?

- a. Never b. Sometimes c.. Most of the time d. Always

If you want to give any further information about this, please note it below.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Would you be willing to meet with Mrs Logan, (Depute Head Teacher), to discuss your thoughts about homework in more detail?

- 1. Yes, sometime during the day.
- 2. Yes, but it would have to be in the evening.
- 3. Sorry, no, I can't manage that.

Can you please give an e-mail address and a phone number below if you are willing to be contacted about homework?

E-Mail :

Phone:



Fetlar Drive, Glasgow G44 5BL
Phone 0141 582 0150
Fax 0141 582 0151

School Website
www.kingspark-sec.glasgow.sch.uk

King's Park Secondary School

Head Teacher
Mrs Margaret Barr

Learning Community Website
www.scottishschools.info/KingsParkNLC

Depute Head Teachers
Mr Tom Feasby
Mrs Margaret Logan
Miss Lilian Marshall
Mrs Maura Thomson

Parents of S1 pupils please note – different from Primary School

Thursday 22 December 2011

The arrangements for the last day of term are:

8.55 am – School begins

12 noon – Pupils wishing to have lunch in the Fuel Zone may do so at 12 o'clock. Other pupils remain in class.

1.15 pm – Extended lunch break for all pupils until 2.30 pm. Pupils may leave school at 1.15 pm.

2.30 pm – School closes.

Some years ago, parents expressed concern that, on the last day of term, pupils might go home for lunch, then have to return to school for only an hour. They felt it would be safer if the morning were to be extended instead. We responded to their requests with the above arrangement.

So, the lunch break will be from 1.15 pm until 2.30 pm, when school will close. As well as giving you this information in the newsletter, we will explain the arrangements to pupils. They are very welcome to remain in school until 2.30 pm, because school does not close until then. Please let your child know whether they may leave school during the lunch break, or if you want them to remain in school until 2.30 pm.

Any pupil who wishes to have a school lunch will be released from class at 12 noon to have lunch, then will return to their class.