



## Kirkburton Middle School

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### Enjoying, Achieving, Succeeding Together

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19 July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we near the end of another year here at KMS (I'm told summer is just around the corner?) I would like to provide you with one last school update as well as reminding you about the arrangements for the start of our new academic year in September.

#### Goodbye Year 8 and Hello Year 5

There are always mixed emotions at the end of the year when we say goodbye to one year group and welcome in another. Our Year 8 class leave KMS having achieved so much and each and every pupil should be very proud of their time in school. I would like to personally thank them for all they gave to the school and for being such superb role models to our younger year groups. Early reports from Shelley College suggest they have adapted very well to their new surroundings. As one year group leaves, another one joins and it has been an absolute pleasure to welcome our Year 6 class of 2024 into school this week. We recognise what a big step this is for pupils (and parents!) and everybody have been very impressed with the enthusiasm to learn and excellent levels of behaviour exhibited from our newest pupils. Well done everybody and keep it up!

#### Staff changes

This summer we say goodbye to several staff as they leave KMS for pastures new, including two members of staff who between them have accumulated over 50 years of service to the school! After 32 incredible years, Miss Kaye, a true KMS legend (and I don't use those words lightly), will be retiring at the end of term. During her many years in post, and with her infectious passion and enthusiasm for her subject, Miss Kaye has inspired a love of music in literally thousands of young people. She will very much be missed. We also say goodbye to Miss Abbas who, after 22 at KMS, leaves to work in a role supporting pupils with SEND. Miss Schofield, our extremely popular Head of Moxon house, is leaving to return to secondary education and Mr Stack is leaving to join an alternative provision school. We also say goodbye to Mrs Quinn, one of our ETAs who will be leaving to work in a SEND provision and to Miss Smith, our Pastoral Manager who leaves us to work in a secondary school to work as an assistant SENDCO. Finally, we wish Miss Dobson all the best as she starts her maternity leave. I'm sure everybody would like to join me in thanking all our departing colleagues for their wonderful work and wishing them all the very best for the future.

In September we will be delighted to welcome the following new colleagues to our school; Mr Williams – Deputy Headteacher, Mrs George – Teacher of Science, and Mrs Simmons – Teacher of Music. Mr Wiles will be joining the school from Scissett Middle School as teacher of PE, and maths; he will also be the new Head of Moxon house. Finally, Mrs Merrick will be moving in to the role of cover supervisor. I'm sure all members of our community will give them a very warm KMS welcome.

## House System

Our first year of the new house system has been a great success and there have been many highlights along the way. Last week we had our end of year House celebration assemblies which were wonderful events. We are now eagerly anticipating who will be the inaugural winners of the KMS house cup.

## Start of the Autumn Term

A reminder we will once again be running a staggered start to our autumn term as follows –

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** – Teacher training day

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** – Year 6 pupils only

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September** – Year 7 and 8 return.

**We ask that pupils arrive on site no later than 8.50am each day so they can be sat in their seats ready for the start of the school day at 8.55am. Pupils who arrive after 8.55am will receive a late mark.**

## Buses

At the time of writing this letter we are not aware of any changes to our school buses from September. To find the most up to date information about our school buses, including full timetables, please visit the [KMS page on the Metro website](#). For pupils living in Shelley, we ask they get the closest bus to their house, either the KM1 or 411, in order to avoid overcrowding.

## Uniform

A reminder that full details of our school expectations can be found on the [school website](#). Please contact school if you have any questions whatsoever around uniform or if you require support with providing uniform for your child. [Free uniform can be accessed from the Huddersfield Uniform Exchange](#). We also hope to open our own uniform exchange service / school shop in the autumn term – any donations of good quality, clean uniform will be gratefully received.

Where there are persistent breaches of our uniform policy, pupils may be removed from mainstream lessons until they can comply with our expectations. We will check uniform as part of our daily form tutor programme and ask for your support in upholding our high expectations.

## Equipment

Please ensure your child arrives properly equipped for school each day. This ensures lessons run smoothly and no learning time is lost for any child. Full details of our equipment expectations can be found [here on the school website](#). Again, please contact school if you need any support with equipping your child.

## Home – school relations

A reminder that we ask all interactions with the school are respectful, balanced and conducted in an appropriate manner. We all want the best for the pupils in our school and this is achieved by parents and staff working together. Parents are reminded that the following actions are deemed inappropriate and where these occur, staff have been instructed to end any dialogue:

- raised voices, threatening language or an aggressive tone during telephone conversations or in meetings
- unpleasant, aggressive or overly long emails
- parents who refuse to consider the school's point of view or respect school policies

We ask parents trust that when we make decisions we always aim to act in the best interests of all members of our school community. We fully support every parent's right to ask questions but we expect that this is done in a respectful and balanced way. We want to have good relationships with everyone connected to our school and we would hope that you feel the same way.

### **And finally**

It has been another fantastic year at KMS and every single member of our school community has played their part in making our school such a special place to learn and work. Our pupils have continued to excel in all aspects of school life and we have had notable successes once again both inside and out of the classroom. If you find yourself with time on your hands, I highly recommend spending some time scrolling back through the school Facebook feed – it really is very impressive what our pupils achieve. We have also seen the first full year of our new leadership structure across the two middle schools. I would like to congratulate Mrs Kerr on her first full year as Head of School and also thank the wider leadership team for their support as I've moved into the Executive Headteacher position. Having seen all that the two schools have achieved this year and our plans for next year, I firmly believe we are very much 'stronger together'.

All this success doesn't happen by accident. Firstly, we have some amazing colleagues at KMS who regularly go the extra mile to provide your children with the rich education they deserve. We also have some of the best pupils you could ever hope for in a school – they make our work so enjoyable. Finally, we are extremely lucky to have such a supportive parent group and wider community. Thank you as always for all your ongoing support.

I hope you have a lovely summer and that the sun eventually shows an appearance. I look forward to seeing what the new academic year will bring as we continue '*enjoying, achieving, succeeding together*'.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Taylor  
Executive Headteacher

