

Park Road, Peterborough PE1 2UE

Telephone (main): 01733 751541
Facsimile: 01733 751542
Email Head: headteacher@kings.peterborough.sch.uk
Email School: admin@kings.peterborough.sch.uk
Web address: www.kings.peterborough.sch.uk

Headteacher: Gary L. Longman, BSc, F Coll P

*The King's
(The Cathedral)
School*



8 October, 2012

Dear Year 12 Parents and Sixth Formers,

SIXTH FORM SOCIAL EVENTS

Following my few words on this subject at the recent Presentation Evening, I am writing to clarify the School's position, and to offer a personal perspective, on Sixth Form midweek social events.

From time to time the School organises Sixth Form social events, including the Sixth Form Ball and the Leavers' Dinner. These have become real highlights of Sixth Form life, they play an important role in creating a sense of cohesion and identity within the Sixth Form, and have often raised a lot of money for charity.

I know that many parents share mine and my colleagues' reservations about the organisation of 'party-type social events' on Monday to Thursday evenings, and that is the reason why School events are usually either early evening only, or on Friday or Saturday evenings.

Only very occasionally do we hire a venue on a weekday evening, indeed many venues can only be hired on Mondays to Wednesdays, as they are open for commercial business from Thursday to Sunday. We will always inform parents through Pupil Post, if this is going to be the case.

I believe that when the number of social events is restricted, special events that are tightly organised and arranged well in advance, sensible students (which most King's Sixth-formers are) can plan their school work and other commitments around them, and manage that whole package carefully and effectively. The very occasional school-organised midweek social does not seem to me to pose a significant problem, and can bring considerable enjoyment and benefit.

Of course, individual students or groups of friends do often want to organise their own parties, for 18th birthdays for example – these are private functions on Fridays and Saturdays, and the School is in no way involved. We strongly urge students and parents not to arrange these during the working week, but to keep them to the weekend. Too many midweek events, too many midweek late nights, can pose problems with attendance, punctuality, standard of work, concentration and just keeping awake in class the following morning!

It has been known for individuals or groups of students to organise midweek events, and 'pass them off' as school events, leaving parents to think that the School is making the responsible arrangements. Parents need to be aware of this. The School will always make you aware of school-organised social events, by letter on pupil post or through the Calendar.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and I trust that our Sixth Formers enjoy the broad range of academic, extra-curricular and social events that The King's School has to offer.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Elliott
Deputy Headteacher

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