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Dear Families

Our sports day this year marked an important first step towards fostering a house system with individual house identities. Houses will be consulted upon with students and staff and launched with their involvement next year but our sports day this year brought students together in four teams, identifiable with simple colours, and this has already evoked a real sense of team spirit. Not all of our students signed up for an event and even our best athletes couldn't spend the whole day competing, but while they were waiting and watching the events students made up chants, painted their faces and cheered on their teammates from the stands. The atmosphere was electric and the noise was audible for some distance! A member of K2 staff commented on how wonderful it was to see the students cheering their team mates and friends on and that in itself highlights the essence of sports day - belonging to a team.

Many students love sports day, for those students they can be the highlight of the school calendar; many of them will have trained and prepared carefully for their events and the day represents their time to shine in front of their peers. However, like everything in our calendar, there are also students who don't enjoy this event. Perhaps they don't enjoy sports, or large scale, loud events. In organising a sports day there are always lots of different perspectives to take into account. Some schools choose the non-competitive route, incensing parents who feel that damages the idea of competition in PE. Some schools hold staggered events, without the large audience. The opportunity for our sportspeople to shine in front of their peers, to achieve their goals in front of packed stands and to really raise the profile of sports in our school, especially after the delays we have faced, and the patience students and staff have shown, was a huge factor in our decision to hold a whole school sports day at K2.

The logistics of an off site sports day are immense and, in making decisions about which way to go with this event we looked at all options. Of course, a whole school event was the only way to achieve our goal of publicly celebrating our budding athletes and sportspeople and starting to build a real team ethos.

We held our sports day off site for a number of reasons: because our field is not yet robust enough to cope with the whole school spending a whole day on its pitches; because there is very little shade on the field; because it is rare that a young person gets to experience participating in a sport to the cheers of a packed stand and because we wanted to use that professional setting to help build the profile of sports in our school.

Why were some groups late back to school? Our planned departure time for the first group would have seen us back before school finished and so, when our events ran slightly over, we had room to leave a little later. However, unexpectedly high traffic and fewer coaches than we had booked, meant the last groups were back

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in school later than we expected. We took the decision that cancelling the last events for which students had trained and prepared would have been very unfair on those students. When we knew there was a delay in the first coaches getting back to us, we reported that via classcharts. We're sorry for any inconvenience that delay caused to those last few groups and for not providing further updates.

Why didn't all students participate? To do this we would have had to put in additional events which would have meant extending the day, or splitting events over two days and neither of those options would have brought about the team spirit and sense of belonging that was palpable on the stands; students in all year groups chanting together and celebrating their teammates' wins was a brilliant first for us and a great foundation for the work we will do next year on a house system.

Ultimately, we provided all students with an opportunity to take part in at least one event on the day. Unlike Primary sports days, it is not possible to get a whole secondary school through multiple events, in the time we have, with the number of students we took. We did have an issue on the day with some students either opting out of events they had signed up to, a small number of students not listening to instructions about where they were supposed to be and a smaller still number of students moving from their stand to another one which meant they couldn't be reminded of where they should be.

Overall both students and staff have let us know today that they had a brilliant time and that the day was a success for so many reasons;

- The team morale and cheering on the day was a sight to see
- A number of school records were set on the day that will prove difficult to beat
- Students had the opportunity to try sports they had not done before (high jump and long jump)
- All students experienced a professional athletics stadium environment
- We took the whole school off site for a day of sporting celebration and all staff were able to see how amazing our students are outside of the classroom

I would like to share my thanks to the staff and students for their participation in this important event and my congratulations to the blue team for their brilliant and well-deserved win on the day.

Yours faithfully,



Ms G Ayling

Headteacher