



Kingshill Newsletter



28 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, an enormous thank you to the **298** parents who completed our survey, this was even higher than last year! A further thank you for your support in our students attending school as often as they possibly can. We have set ourselves the goal of **93%** attendance this year, in line with '**green**' on our Unlocking Potential strategy and the school has been hovering at **91.9%** for the last few weeks – it would be amazing to click over to 92% as this would put us a whole percentage point over the regional average and over the current national average of 91.7%. Our Y7 boys have to be commended – they are inspirational in their attendance figures of 96.2% ! To mark our strong attendance, today, we officially introduced FastTrack Friday, our Y7 students were awarded a 10 minute queue jump into an early lunch as they are our highest attending year group! Next week, it will be awarded to the year group with the best behaviours score for that week... who might it be?

We promised a quieter week but that certainly has not been the case for our Y11 students today. The noise of the heels clicking down the corridors as they arrived in business attire in readiness for their Mock Interviews, and then the whooping as they had their final whole year group photograph taken after lunch resonated around the school. More from Mr Morland shortly, but oh my, did they do themselves and us proud today – such aspirational role models for the lower year groups – we are all secretly in denial that they will be leaving us very soon; such a terrific year group.

Assemblies

Following the International Day for Happiness on 21st March, our assembly focus this week has been happiness. Finland was identified by the United Nations as the happiest country for the eighth consecutive year with other Nordic countries following closely behind. We have explored why their populations are so positive about their lifestyles, recognising the key contributing factors being community, at one with nature, positive work life balance and enjoying simple pleasures. Students also had the opportunity to contribute what makes them happy? Responses included sport, being with friends, family and food! No mobile phones or play stations were mentioned! The assembly concluded with a quote from Mother Theresa who said: "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." Students were challenged to do likewise.

Mrs Debbie Christopher - Deputy Head, Culture and Ethos

Reminder: Year 11 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 9 April

Appointments can be made from 7am on Monday 31 March for the upcoming Y11 parents' evening. Letters have been sent home to parents and appointments can be made through Edulink.

Mock Interviews

In what is an annual rite of passage for our Year 11 students, today was the day of their mock interviews and they made a superb impression! Immaculately dressed in their business attire, they hugely impressed our team of over 30 local employers, as they responded to questions about their CVs, personal characteristics and experiences. There were even offers of employment and training for a few students who particularly impressed their interviewers!

It is also worth adding that it was a real joy to welcome back some of our previous students to be involved in the interviews and to discuss their employment pathways since leaving Kingshill. We are always keen to

shaping greater futures

maintain contact and involvement with our alumni and we hope that some of the students involved today will one day return to sit on the other side of the table!

As ever, I am hugely grateful to Mrs Hicks, our Careers Advisor and her assistant, Mrs Dyer, for all of their work in coordinating this event. Kingshill students are lucky to be so well supported in the range of experiences that are provided to help them understand the wider world and progression in their lives beyond school, and we are very fortunate to have such expertise and willingness in running such events.

Mr Jeremy Morland
Assistant Headteacher, Character Development



Our future Head Students

One of the highlights of my weeks was speaking to our Y10 students in their assembly on Wednesday to introduce the application process for our recruitment of them as Head Students from Term 6 and into the next academic year. As Mrs Lindley has already mentioned, there is still some sense of denial that our superb Y11 students are approaching their end of their time with us: as role-models and leaders, they have been instrumental in helping to support and develop the culture of our school, but it is fair to say that I have equally high hopes for our current Y10 students to establish their own legacy. I have been impressed by the number of students who have already collected application forms and from hearing the buzz of excitement in their conversations as they share ideas about the role. I have written separately to parents and carers of Year 10 students and published the application forms with supporting information on students' Edulink accounts and am looking forward to seeing who is ready to step up into these exciting roles!

Whilst the application process and tasks that will await them are designed to challenge them, I am sure that it will be even more challenging for us to make our final selections next term, but I am confident that we will soon have a brilliant new team of Head Students, supported by an equally strong group of Student Leaders in place to help drive our school further forward in the year ahead!

Mr J Morland
Assistant Headteacher, Character Development

Cheltenham Festivals FameLab Academy Finals

A group of Year 9 students attended the Gloucestershire Finals of FameLab Academy last Thursday at The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury to watch our Cirencester Kingshill School winner, Josie, compete against 11 other schools. They listened to talks as diverse as 'Is it possible to touch a star?' to 'The brainless world of jellyfish' finding out lots of interesting facts along the way. Josie impressed us all again with an even better performance of her talk on 'Phobias' which she had polished and perfected after taking part in a Science Communication Masterclass with writer and broadcaster Jules Howard. We all agreed that Josie certainly demonstrated the Kingshill STEPs of **AMBITION**, **PRIDE** and **RESILIENCE**!

Mrs Winsor, 2i/c Science Faculty



How we support progress

In lessons we are constantly checking that students have understood the learning and have locked it into their long-term memories. We check this in a number of ways including questioning, short quizzes, sharing work under the visualiser and in assessments. This information is collated and reported in the Active Minds and Progress reports we send home.

In the first week of Term 5, another Active Minds report will be sent home detailing your son/daughter's engagement in learning. Year 11 will be receiving a separate report on their recent mock performance and there is an opportunity to discuss this at parents' evening.

There will be one more Progress report sent home in Term 6 and look out for our Y8 and Y10 parents' evenings in early May.

Mr Lee

Deputy Headteacher: Excellent Teaching & Learning

Connecting with Charity

On Tuesday morning, we welcomed Suzanne Steel, Operations Manager for the National Foundation for Retired Service Animals into school. She met with the charity branch of our School Council to hear about what they have done this year to raise money for charity and to provide an overview of her role in the charity sector. This was a really informative session that helped to develop our thinking about the role of charity in

the wider community and also helped to generate some practical ideas about how to develop our own fundraising initiatives here in school.

It came as no surprise that our students engaged so positively in discussion with Suzanne, asking a series of great questions and showing a willingness to support her charity, as well as reflecting on how her previous job as an Army Officer equipped her with transferable skills to support her current role.

Whilst we do all we can here in school to develop students' understanding of employability skills and of how they can make positive contributions to wider society, I am always humble enough to know that some of the best learning comes from them hearing different voices to those they hear every day in school. As such, please do get in contact if you would be interested in sharing your own experiences of the workplace or of the importance of your career!

Mr J Morland
Assistant Headteacher, Character Development

Mother's Day Crafts

The Kindness Club was selling handmade Mother's Day crafts to celebrate the influential women in our students' lives, including mothers, grandmothers, aunts, carers, etc. Each item has been thoughtfully created by students and staff, with proceeds supporting future Kindness Club initiatives, a wonderful opportunity to purchase a heartfelt gift while spreading kindness.



Indoor Cricket Team

The U13 (Year 7/8) Indoor Cricket Team won their preliminary county cup round of matches against two strong teams, Leckhampton High and Churchdown School, on Wednesday 26th March.

In the first game against Churchdown, Kingshill scored a very impressive 76/1 and then fielded with high quality bowling, the opposition out for 20. In the final game, Kingshill faced super bowling from a very confident and competent Leckhampton team, who bowled Kingshill out for a below par 45 runs. Despite the challenge of defending a reasonably low score, our Kingshill players performed amazingly well with fantastic fielding and brilliant bowling, reducing a talented Leckhampton team to 35 all out.

It was an absolute pleasure to witness the **ambition, pride** and quality on show, supported by their team spirit, of this group of players. Dan P, captained the team, expertly and truly led by example. He was supported by the whole team who all had significant and positive performances.

The quote of the day came from Dan and put into words the feelings within the team, “we are now really cooking !!”.

The team will now qualify for the County Finals in a few weeks' time.

The U15s are playing their preliminary round of games on Monday, we wish them well and hope they can join the younger students in the Finals, to repeat the success of last year.

U13 Team: Alfie H, Sid J, Harry J, Sion J, Dan P, Ethan H, Riley S, Ernie N

Mr Paul Hamblin



National Urban Cheer Champions

A team of talented young athletes, including Kingshill students Maddie and Poppy, have secured an incredible national victory at the UKCA Urban Cheer Championships on Sunday. Competing in the Junior B Level, the team showcased their outstanding skills and determination to take home the top title.

This fantastic achievement places the team among the best in the country, and now they eagerly await the exciting news of whether they have qualified for the European Championships in Germany. The students' hard work, dedication, and passion for cheerleading have clearly paid off, and the Kingshill community couldn't be prouder.

Kingshill's Got Talent

Just a quick reminder to get your tickets while you still can!

Date: Wednesday 8th May

Time: 7pm

Tickets: [Kingshill School event tickets from TicketSource](#)

See you there!

Information for Gloucestershire County Council - Free School Meal support during the Easter Holidays 2025

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (income-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. GCC is unable to consider college and sixth form students as well as children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children in reception to year 2); they are not eligible for this scheme.

Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for the Easter Holidays 2025 vouchers - they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact GCC with any changes to their circumstances. To ensure GCC reach all those who are eligible, they are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

If you have any updates to an existing application, please submit an update existing details request [HERE](#) so that GCC can update your details, as this is not an automatic process.

Applications for Holiday Free School Meal vouchers for the Easter Holidays are open from midday 18 March until midday 1 April. Voucher emails will be sent out week commencing 7 April. Please remember to check your junk/spam email folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If you have not received your vouchers by the 14 April, please submit a query [HERE](#)

Please note GCC check eligibility for the scheme by cross-referencing with the term-time free school meal register, so please make sure you are registered beforehand. You can register by clicking [HERE](#).

For more information and to sign up, please visit their website - [Holiday School Meal vouchers](#).

Closing Remarks

A reminder that students have the option to wear their Summer uniform from **Tuesday 1st April**. On chillier days, they must wear their jumper and/or blazer before adding the layer of a coat otherwise, coats will be asked to be removed.

The House Geoguesser finals are to take place next Thursday, good luck to all participating – I wonder which House will be lifting the trophy?

And finally, our thoughts were with our Y11 Photography students starting their GCSEs this week and will be with the Y11 Fine Art students who have their GCSE exams on Wednesday and Thursday next week. The Y11s will be able to enjoy one final moment of in-school down time next Friday as they have their own Sports Day (afternoon) to look forward to!

Happy Weekend

Mrs Jo Lindley
Headteacher

Returning Week: Week A

Click [here](#) for Community Events

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 19th March	INSET DAY – no school for students
Thursday 20th March	Y9 Options Evening 4.30 - 7pm (2 sessions by tutor groups)
Friday 21st March	Parent Forum 9-10.30am
Friday 28 th March	Y11 Mock Interviews
	Y11 Photographs
	Lunchtime concert – Music Room 1.20pm
Monday 31 st March	Y8-Y11 Careers Talk – Agent Casting & Production, Library 8.40am
Thursday 3 rd April	Y9 Woodchester Mansions 9am
Monday 7th April	Parents Information Evening – Munich, Dining Hall, 5.30pm
Tuesday 8th April	Y10 Lea Wood 9am
	Parents Information Evening – Iceland Trip, Dining Hall, 5.30pm
Wednesday 9th April	Y11 Targeted Parents' Evening
Monday 14th April - Friday 25th April	Easter Half Term – 2 weeks!
Tuesday 29 th April	Y9 Girls STEM, P1-P2
Wednesday 30 th April	Y11 Textiles GCSE Practical
	Y9 Imperial War Museum, 7.30am
Thursday 1 st May	Y11 3D Design GCSE Practical
Friday 2 nd May	Y10 DofE Training Day in school, 1pm
Monday 5th May	BANK HOLIDAY

**Please note that for TRIPS, the time listed is the leave time. Please ensure your child is at school at least 15 minutes prior to the leave time.*