

1st December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Today saw the start of the Kingshill Countdown to Christmas. The trees are decorated and so now the festivities can truly begin. We have launched our Attendance Advent Challenge whereby all tutor groups are vying for the special tutor Christmas present and individuals will be awarded and rewarded for 100% attendance over the advent period – we now just need as many students to attend each and every day to ensure there is a great competition. In addition to this, there will be Christmas lunch in the last week of term, [Christmas Lunch 2023](#), Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 7th December, our Christmas Concert held at St John's Church on Monday 11th December at 7pm and tutor and year festivities on Friday 22nd December, the last day of term, where we will be closing at 12.20pm. All bus companies are aware and further details are to follow.

Kingshill students have demonstrated outstanding resilience this week as they have all participated in the House Cross Country competitions. It was an absolute joy to watch as they gave their all in completing the event. More news on this in the sporting update below.

A special mention must go to our Y11 students who have been exceptional in their approach to the mock exams. A reminder that there will be a special assembly for them on Monday 18th December where they will receive an envelope complete with their grades and progress made. A face-to-face Parents' Evening follows from 4pm the same evening.

Expressives Update

Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert will be held at St John's Church, Cirencester at 7pm. Tickets will be available on the door for £4 - [Christmas Concert Letter 2023](#)

Olaf!

For those students and families who ventured into Cirencester to watch the switching on of the Christmas lights, you will not have failed to notice the exuberant performances of Olaf. Olaf, was in fact, 4 of our brilliant students who were representatives for the Macmillan Charity organisation and they were so fantastic, they have been selected to play Elsa, Ana and Olaf at the Bingham Hall this Saturday. A huge thank you to our fabulous Kingshill Ambassadors: James S, Izzy G, Rowen E and Xavier N.

Ms Emily Stones, Head of Expressive Arts & Mr Alasdair Ashby, Head of Music

New Chapters for Years 7 and 8

We are delighted to announce the launch of our exciting New Chapters reading programme during tutor time next week for students in Years 7 and 8. For 20 minutes, twice a week, students will be read to by their tutors from a brand-new range of exciting, award-winning novels. The books include work by renowned contemporary young-adult writers, including Phil Earle, Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Jonathan Stroud and Candy Gourlay.

We know that the more students have access to fluent, pacy, well-written language, the better they achieve in their exams and throughout life. This strategy highlights our school's commitment to fostering a lifelong love of reading and the importance of reading regularly to enhance our students' well-being and academic success.

Mr Phil Smith, Head of English

Stroud College Taster Day

Each year Stroud College offer the opportunity to attend a 'taster day' to students from schools who may consider the college as an option post 16. Cirencester Kingshill take Year 10's as part of our aspirations activities. It is our ambition to inspire Year 10 students earlier in their GCSE journey in order that they can understand the choices available to them and the grades they need to achieve in order to secure their futures. The Taster Day provides the opportunity for students to find out more about Stroud College as an option, but also to experience college life in general, and several courses that they may be considering post 16 (whether at Stroud College or not). This year, 16 students from Cirencester Kingshill attended the Taster Day and completed taster lessons in subjects ranging from art (various), plumbing, construction, games design, forensics and criminology, hairdressing, makeup, childcare, animal care, sustainable futures, business and more!

Our students said:

'It was really beneficial for younger people to think about their career'

'It was great to experience how the teachers spoke to you and to understand' (teachers are addressed by their first names at college)

'It was good to find out that there are extra clubs for the curriculum at college so you still get support and help that you need'.

Everyone felt they were more likely to follow a route to college post 16 after the experience, and 15 out of the 16 students would specifically be considering Stroud College. Everyone felt it was a positive experience that inspired them to start considering their future plans.

The Kingshill students represented our school extremely well especially since they were mixing with students a year older than themselves. They took responsibility for themselves and were respectful at all times. Well done to all – we are proud of you.

Mr Stephen Pritchard, Deputy Head

FSM Vouchers – Christmas Holidays

For the Christmas school holiday period, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to their offer, with 1 week of vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays which will complement the Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF) taking place over the Christmas Holidays. The vouchers are funded through grant funding we have received and is separate to that of term time free school meals. 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.

Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for December 2023 holiday vouchers - they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact us with any changes to their circumstances. To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we 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 email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk so that they can update your details, as this is not an automatic process.

Applications for Holiday Free School Meal vouchers for the Christmas holiday are open from midday 28th November until midday 12th December. Voucher emails will be sent out week commencing 18th December. Please remember to check their junk/spam email folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If you have not received their vouchers by 20th December, please email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

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 our website - [Holiday School Meal vouchers](#).

Sports Update

On Monday we took nine Year 8 girls to Rednock to compete in an EFL football tournament hosted by Forest Green Rovers. The girls played exceptionally, and their confidence and enthusiasm clearly grew through the tournament, and this showed in their results each match. Goals were scored by Poppy G and Isabelle S, and Eliza B made some excellent saves in goal.

Tuesday our Year 10 netballers attended the District Netball tournament at Stroud High. The girls beat Deer Park and Rednock, drew with Thomas Keble and gained valuable bonus points against SWR and Maidenhill. They played very competitively given the icy conditions.

Wednesday our Year 8 netballers attended the District Netball tournament at Archway. Again, the girls showed great resilience and team spirit in cold and icy conditions. It was lovely to see them supporting each other both on and off the court

Our Year 7 Rugby teams played Thomas Keble, 7A winning 5 tries to 3 and 7B losing by 4 tries.

Year groups 7-10 have all been demonstrating Kingshill STEPs in abundance this week by participating in House Cross Country whilst the Sports Hall has been used for mock exams. Students have taken RESPONSIBILITY for bringing appropriate kit and shown RESILIENCE given the cold, wet and icy conditions, they have taken PRIDE in their personal efforts and shown AMBITION to earn points for their house team. They have demonstrated KINDNESS by supporting each other around the course and celebrated everyone as they finished and finally have shown RESPECT towards the Year 11 students by arriving and leaving PE quietly whilst exams were taking place.

Finally, good luck to the six athletes who are competing in the County Cross Country event on Sunday in Newent: Isabella S, Robbie S, Joe S, Harry B, Joey B and Oliver E

Mr Paul Hamblin, Head of PE

Finally, It is with sadness that, today, we say farewell to my wonderful PA Becky Bryant. Becky is moving on to a promotion working for a large Multi Academy Trust. We wish her every success in her new venture. We, therefore, have a position available. If you or anyone you know might be interested in joining our team and in particular, wish to support me as Headteacher, do look out for the advert. [Cirencester Kingshill School jobs - Eteach](#)

In the meantime, should you need to contact me, please use the head@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk address and we will get in touch.

I wish you all a lovely weekend with your friends and family.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Jo Lindley
Headteacher

Upcoming events

Friday 1 st December	Foodbank Appeal Opens
Tuesday 5 th December	Sports Award Evening at 7.00pm
	Y9 and Y10 – Alan Bissett (author) visiting school
Wednesday 6 th December	Y8 theatre trip to see Treasure Island at the Barn Theatre
	Y9 trip to Rugrats and Half Pints
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
	Y8 Parents' Evening (In school) 4.00pm - 7.00pm
Friday 8 th December	Extend Autumn Programme ends
Monday 11 th December	Christmas Concert at St John's Church, Cirencester at 7.00pm
	Y7 – 11 Nasal Flu Programme (until Wednesday 13 th)
	Foodbank Appeal Closes
Monday 18 th December	Y11 Parents' Evening (in school) 4.00pm -7.00pm
Tuesday 19 th December	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 20 th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 21 st December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 22 nd December 12.20pm	School Ends for Christmas Break