

2nd February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

It would be very easy for me to find a highlight to share from each and every day as Headteacher at Kingshill but in doing so, the newsletter would feel more like a novel than a weekly update. However, I have one particular moment to share that filled me, the Chair of Trustees, a trustee and the Head of Y10 with enormous pride on Tuesday morning.

I had invited the Y9 and Y10 County Cricket finalists for 'cakes with the Head'. After they had demolished a plateful of cupcakes, they each described their contribution to the semi-finals and then shared their favourite STEP. They spoke with great articulation, passion and pride for themselves, their sport and the school using the narrative of the STEPs to support. A clear example of how our culture and ethos is clearly being underpinned by great values that support our young people in developing their character and confidence in sharing experiences.

Active Minds – Learning Hurdles

Linking to our **Resilience** STEP, this week's Active Mind focus for students and staff is **Learning Hurdles**. We want students to be comfortable making mistakes in their learning and if necessary complete the task again or focus on specific areas for improvement. We often learn more from the mistakes we make than from always getting it right. It's simple, but we want our students to feel safe to make errors because ultimately it will improve the depth and quality of their understanding.

Mr Trevor Lee
Assistant Headteacher: Teaching & Learning

Good Luck...!

Next week, 2 of our Year 11 students, Chloe and Bella, are venturing out to the Ogwen Valley in Wales, where they will be taking part in an outward bound course kindly sponsored by the Gloucestershire Constabulary. They were nominated for this opportunity in recognition of their **resilience** in overcoming huge personal challenges and we are sure they will thrive in the adventures that await them! We wish them luck and look forward to hearing their stories when they return!

Mr Jeremy Morland
Senior Assistant Headteacher

Student Success

We would like to congratulate both of our Year 11 Deputy Head Students, Tom and Olivia, in their success in being accepted for a scholarship at Rendcomb College for the next steps of their learning beyond Kingshill. The selection process for such a prestigious opportunity is rigorous but their **ambition** shone through, and we are sure that they will each embrace the challenges that await!

Welsh Champion 2024

In an extraordinary feat, we extend hearty congratulations to Martha, a standout talent from Kingshill Y11, who secured the prestigious title of Overall Welsh Champion 2024 last week! Demonstrating remarkable mastery, Martha triumphed over competitors spanning the U14 to U21 age groups in the challenging Giant Slalom event. Notably, she clinched the U16 Championship, emerged as the First in

Wales, and ultimately earned the coveted title of Overall Champion. This exceptional accomplishment fills us with immense pride, underscoring Martha's exceptional skill and dedication on the slopes.



Student Leaders

Chloe, Olivia and Nate who are 3 of our Year 11 Student Leaders spoke to Year 8 students in their assembly this week about the importance of **responsibility** and **ambition** in developing effective homework routines and a positive approach to learning. To further support this focus, from the start of next term, a group of our Student Leaders will be working as Peer Educators to an identified group of Y8 students. This will take place during registration time each Thursday and will provide an opportunity for the younger students to be supported in their homework and any other academic challenges they are facing.

Mr Jeremy Morland
Senior Assistant Headteacher

Labelling PE Uniforms

Please ensure that all PE uniforms are properly labelled. We have an abundance of unlabelled uniforms in the PE office that we are unable to return due to fault of labelling.

Mrs Hussey

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6th February is Safer Internet Day which will be an assembly focus throughout next week. As you will know, young people engage with technology in many ways. Much as this can provide opportunity and fun, there are also clear risks and it is important that as staff and parents, we work together to ensure the safety of our children and promote their awareness of how to use technology in a way that is **responsible** and keeps them safe. In school, we have our own monitoring and filtering software which restricts access to content that is inappropriate or harmful and we would encourage you to apply similar restrictions at home and on your child's mobile phone. These links will help to inform your understanding of both the risks of technology and the ways in which you can apply parental controls to keep your child safe when they are online.

- [CLICK HERE](#) to learn how to set up filters on your home internet to help prevent age-inappropriate content being accessed.
- [CLICK HERE](#) for wider support and advice for parents and carers.

Mr Jeremy Morland
Senior Assistant Headteacher

Bus Schedules

We have been working closely with Gloucestershire County Council regarding bus timetables as some of their services have been arriving at school later than we would wish for. I am pleased to say that there will be amended timetables for the morning on a number of routes to ensure that these services get to school for 8.30am each morning. The County Council will have emailed those impacted with details of these changes which take from 19th February 2024.

Mr S Pritchard
Deputy Headteacher

Welcome New Digital Strategic Lead

I'm thrilled to introduce myself to you as Kingshill's newly appointed Strategic Digital Lead. My name is Aaron Patching and over the past 12 years, my journey in education has seen me doing various roles, including outdoor educator and teacher across PE, Business, and Design Technology. I have served as the Digital Lead for the past 3 years in my previous school, where I was able to advance them from quite a basic school, to one of the leading schools of best practice in the southwest. Alongside this role, I also currently hold the position of AI Lead for the River Learning Trust, actively contributing to the ethical and considerate integration of Artificial Intelligence across 11 secondary schools in Wiltshire and Oxfordshire.

Here at Kingshill, my vision is very much centred on the modernisation of the school by making it fit for purpose, engaging and future ready. In the fast-moving world of technology, it is our duty to ensure your child is prepared for that future and is provided with the knowledge, know-how and experiences they need to be successful. This entails not only introducing new devices and software but creating responsible digital citizens and innovative users of current and emerging technology. I am really excited by this opportunity and look forward to sharing more details of what this journey looks like in future.

Aaron Patching
Digital Strategic Lead

Valentine's Day Service

We are very excited that throughout next week, students will be invited to share some **kindness** towards one another to celebrate Valentine's Day by sending tokens of appreciation. These tokens of appreciation include a personalized card and sweetie love hearts and can be purchased during lunchtime on both Wednesday and Thursday in the Drama Studio. Deliveries will be made on Friday.

This is part of our wider fundraising initiative for The Brain Tumour Charity, which will culminate in a staff team taking on the Cotswold Way Ultra on 22nd-23rd June 2024. There will be further exciting activities to follow in the upcoming months!

Ms Herbert & Ms Jones

Term Dates for 2024/2025

Be sure to scroll to the end...our term dates, including inset dates, have been selected for the following school year and have been updated on the school website.

Kitchen News - Chinese New Year and Pancake Day

The kitchen team and delighted to share with you their next themed menu to celebrate:

- Chinese New Year: Thursday 8th February - Chinese New Year Menu
- Pancake Day: Friday 9th February - Pancakes will be available on the menu.



Mrs Dawson
Kitchen Manager

Closing Remarks

Thank you for continuing to share the newsletter with your young people at home and sharing the pride we have for our students. Enjoy a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Jo Lindley
Headteacher

Sports Update

We hosted a Primary Benchball festival for pupils from Cirencester Primary School and Ashton Keynes Primary School. Our Year 8 and 9 Sports Leaders managed, coached and umpired the afternoon's games ensuring that everyone who attended went away having had lots of fun and feeling more confident about playing Benchball.

Our football teams have been in action this week with fixtures against Thomas Keble. The Year 11s lost their match 3-1, the Year 10s won 3-2, the Year 9s won 3-2, the Year 8s won 2-1, Year 7As lost 1-0 and 7Bs drew 1-1.

Upcoming events

Tuesday 6 th February	Y9 Play - 'Calling it Out'
Tuesday 6 th February	Y7, 8, 9 – Gymnastics leaders/coaching session
Tuesday 6 th February	Meeting for Barcelona Trip students 6pm-7pm
7 th and 8 th February	Valentine's Day - Selling
Friday 9 th February	Valentine's Day - Deliveries
Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February	TERM BREAK
Tuesday 20 th February	Y7, 8, 9 – Gymnastics leaders/coaching session
Wednesday 21 st February	Y9 Options Career Day
Wednesday 21 st February	Y10 Parents Evening in school 4pm-7pm

2024-2025 Calendar Term Dates

CIRENCESTER KINGSHILL SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2024/2025																
SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER				NOVEMBER								
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	4	11	18	25	
Tues	3	10	17	24	Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues	5	12	19	26	
Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thur	5	12	19	26	Thur	3	10	17	24	31	Thur	7	14	21	28	
Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	1	8	15	22	29	
Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	5	12	19	26	Sat	2	9	16	23	30	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	6	13	20	27	Sun	3	10	17	24	
DECEMBER				JANUARY				FEBRUARY								
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24	
Tues	3	10	17	24	31	Tues	7	14	21	28	Tues	4	11	18	25	
Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thur	5	12	19	26	Thur	2	9	16	23	30	Thur	6	13	20	27	
Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	4	11	18	25	Sat	1	8	15	22		
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	5	12	19	26	Sun	2	9	16	23	
MARCH				APRIL				MAY								
Mon	3	10	17	24	31	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	5	12	19	26	
Tues	4	11	18	25	Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues	6	13	20	27	
Wed	5	12	19	26	Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	7	14	21	28	
Thur	6	13	20	27	Thur	3	10	17	24	Thur	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri	7	14	21	28	Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	Sat	5	12	19	26	Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	Sun	6	13	20	27	Sun	4	11	18	25	
JUNE				JULY				AUGUST								
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	4	11	18	25	
Tues	3	10	17	24	Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues	5	12	19	26	
Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thur	5	12	19	26	Thur	3	10	17	24	31	Thur	7	14	21	28	
Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	1	8	15	22	29	
Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	5	12	19	26	Sat	2	9	16	23	30	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	6	13	20	27	Sun	3	10	17	24	31

Key: Red shading - bank holidays Blue shading - school holidays Yellow shading - Inset days

TERM DATES FOR 2023-2024			
Term 1	Mon 2 nd September 2024	to	Fri 25 th October 2024
Term 2	Mon 4 th November 2023	to	Fri 20 th December 2024
Term 3	Mon 6 th January 2025	to	Fri 14 th February 2025
Term 4	Mon 24 th February 2025	to	Fri 11 th April 2025
Term 5	Mon 28 th April 2025	to	Fri 23 rd May 2025
Term 6	Mon 2 nd June 2025	to	Mon 21 st July 2025

IN-SERVICE DAYS 2024 - 2025	
	TBC

CHRISTMAS AND BANK HOLIDAYS 2023 - 2024	
Christmas Bank Holidays	25 th December 2024 and 26 th December 2024
New Year Bank Holiday	1 st January 2025
Good Friday	18 th April 2025
Easter Monday	21 st April 2025
Early May Bank Holiday	5 th May 2025
Spring Bank Holiday	26 th May 2025
Summer Bank Holiday	25 th August 2025