

23rd February 2024



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Dear Parent/Carer,

Only at Kingshill do we start a new term with so many exciting opportunities for our students. Our Y11s were inspired and motivated by guest speaker, the adventurer, James Ketchell during their assembly and the first lesson on Monday morning – a brilliant start to the term. Wednesday was incredibly busy: Y10 and Y11 were treated to a further seminar led by James Shone from the 'I Can & I Am' charity – here they were encouraged to think about their mindset and how we are all in charge of the attitudes we own. Y8s met assistance dog ACE from the Dogs for Good charity in their morning assembly. Mrs Hicks led a careers day for our Y9s where they heard about post 16 opportunities and how best to select their option choices. We then came to Thursday afternoon, where I, alongside Mrs Christopher and Head Student Lily, was privileged to be a judge for the Y9 FameLab Academy and was totally blown away by the confident, knowledge rich performances of our students. Amongst this incredibly busy week, I want to thank the Y10 parents and carers, the students and the teaching team who held supportive and ambitious conversations during parents' evening about the progress made so far. I wonder what next week will bring...?

STEP Time – Kindness & Resilience

This week we welcomed back to Cirencester Kingshill the charity 'I Can & I Am', a charity with a passion to inspire confidence in young people and to help them to maintain good mental health. The founder, James Shone, gave presentations to both Year 10 and Year 11 students. Below is a wonderful write up written by Lily and Oli, our Head Students, on their reflections after the presentation.

Ms Libbie Herbert & Ms Stones
Mathematics & Head of Expressive Arts

'I Can & I Am' KS4 Presentation

On Wednesday of this week, along with the rest of the Year 11 cohort, we heard the story of James Shone from the 'I Can & I Am' charity, which focuses on supporting the wellbeing of young people.

The timing of this presentation, as we approach our GCSEs and last set of mocks was very useful and helped all of us realise the importance of self-belief alongside **ambition**.

James has an emotional and incredible story. He spoke of the devastating news of being diagnosed with a brain tumour, aged just 40, and just after landing his dream job as a Headteacher. After a hugely intensive surgery, James lost virtually all of his sight and needed to re-learn how to walk. His experience and the way he described it was hard-hitting and inspirational in equal measure. We were encouraged to take a step back and realise that at any moment a life changing event could hit any of us.

I can confidently say that all of us in that assembly were touched and inspired by James's story and we were all absorbed and mesmerised by the heroic man who stood before us. He went on to explain the wonderful things he had achieved since losing his vision and his ability to walk. In spite of his setbacks, James had 're-inflated his balloon of self-belief' and managed to row the Bristol Channel, the length of the River Thames and even cycle from Bath to Big Ben in London.



What has stuck with us the most is that James never once showed any signs of upset or annoyance to the horrendous situation that had engulfed his freedom. This inspired us hugely. The overriding message of self-belief and **ambition** was made extremely clear by using a balloon. This analogy sat perfectly with me and the other students as it clearly represented how rapidly emotions and moods can change. We all began to realise that our emotions and feelings vary and that is completely valid, so long as we can understand how to regulate them.

As Year 11 students we do have challenging and important goals we are all striving for. This assembly with James was extremely beneficial to the whole of Year 11 and has really inspired us to believe in ourselves. The work of 'I Can & I Am' is so important in teaching young people that everyone's path through life is different and that challenges can be overcome. Our strengths and weaknesses are what define us as individuals and that needs to be widely recognised and appreciated.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to have that experience and for the teachers that help to organise these events to help us and improve us.

Lily and Oli
Head Students

Mobile Phones

You will have seen that the government sent out further guidance to schools on Monday morning regarding the use of mobile phones in schools. We are not changing our current approach that was set out in term 2 as this was sensible and proportionate at the time and is still in line with the guidance. Students know that mobile phones are in bags and switched off during the day – not seen, not heard – students who choose not to show responsibility in this area will have their mobile phones confiscated.

Student Leaders

Our Y11 peer educators have begun their weekly sessions of academic support with Y8 students, supporting them with homework and approaches to learning.

Mr Jeremy Morland
Senior Assistant Headteacher

Famelab Academy

What a fantastic Famelab School Final!

On Thursday afternoon our science class winners took part in our school Famelab Academy final. Our 7 finalists secured their places with amazing 3 minute talks on a topic linked to Science Technology,

Engineering or Mathematics. The talks included spaghettiification, dementia and its impact, the science of pain, what a psychopath is, the science of stage fright and why Japan is so technologically advanced. The overall winner was Max who gave a fascinating speech on Nutrition and Molly and William were close runners up. He will now go forward and represent Kingshill at the Cheltenham Festivals Final on the 21st March in Tewkesbury.

All the finalists were amazing, and we are exceptionally proud of them. Good luck to Max!



Mrs Pearson
Head of Science

Closing Remarks

I hope we are heading for a drier weekend for us all to enjoy. I want to apologise for the soggy, muddy shoes that would have returned home on Thursday following our impromptu fire evacuation. Needless to say, in spite of the boggy field, the students were exceptional, showing terrific responsibility and respect – they were simply fabulous. You will be pleased to hear that we are now reviewing our winter evacuation procedures in search of a drier location!

Kindest regards,

Mrs Jo Lindley
Headteacher

Upcoming events

Tuesday 27 th February	Evening of Dance 5:30 – 6:30pm
Tuesday 27 th February	Y7/8/9 Gymnastics coaching session
Wednesday 28 th February	Y7 OOA teambuilding activity
Thursday 29 th February	Y7 Octavia's Bookshop visit
Thursday 29 th February	Y7 OOA teambuilding activity
Thursday 29 th February	Y9 Blood Brothers, Mayflower Theatre
Tuesday 5 th March	Y9 Parent's evening: 4:00 – 7:00pm (in school)
Tuesday 5 th March	Y7/8/9 Gymnastics coaching session
Wednesday 6th March	INSET DAY – NO SCHOOL
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day (£1 non-uniform)
Thursday 7 th March	Y7 OOA teambuilding activity
Friday 8 th March	Y7 World Book Day Disco (£3.00)
June	Cotswold Charity Walk