

September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Cohort 2024, Events and Updates**

As I begin what I appreciate will feel a lengthy letter, I want to start by showing recognition and admiration of the ways in which our Year 11 students, or 'Cohort 2024', as we are referring to them as, have begun the year. They have returned from their summer breaks refreshed and totally embracing of the changes that we have begun to implement under Mrs Lindley, our new Headteacher. Whilst their overall reputation across the school has always been very strong, I have been overwhelmed by how well they are embracing the changes in our work on developing our school ethos, including our use of the Kingshill STEPs as a reference point for their overall character development, which in a year of beginning the transition to life beyond school, is never more important.

On a personal level, I have felt truly humbled and incredibly proud of the number of students in the cohort who have so willingly put themselves forward to take up roles associated with being **Student Leaders**. Their desire to make positive contributions and leave their legacy in their school is something which we should all feel proud of. **Mr Edwards**, as their Head of Year, is very experienced in his role and is equally embracing of the positive changes we are implementing. He is strongly involved in working alongside all of his colleagues and in working with his year group and their families to bring the very best experiences and outcomes for each and every student in the cohort. I want to reassure you that all of us have every intention of ensuring that for Cohort 2024, their final year at Kingshill is one which brings both academic success but also enjoyment, alongside opportunities to promote character development and overall approaches to supporting their wellbeing.

We are already well underway with developing our overall strategy for the cohort and I would like to extend a very warm invitation for a few key events that have been deliberately placed early in the year to support our students, but also yourselves in your roles as such pivotal supporters of them. Whilst I appreciate that each of these events may feel as though your calendar is filled with visits to Kingshill over a short period of time, each of them is scheduled to support the preparations for the future of your young people and to establish an early understanding of how we intend to work with you and to support our students in maximising their potential. These events will be launched with Cohort 2024 in our **assembly on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023**, alongside a specific focus on the references that we will be asked to write for our students to support their plans for post-16 education or training.

### **Post-16 Information Evening (booking needed)**

The first event is our Post-16 Information Evening at Kingshill School on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 from 6.30pm – 8.00pm** in the Dining Hall. This will begin with an introduction from Mrs Lindley, Headteacher, before a presentation from myself and Mrs Hicks, our Careers Advisor which is intended to help you, and our students, understand the range of pathways and options available beyond Kingshill School, including A-levels, BTECs, T-levels, Diplomas and Apprenticeships. There will also be an overview of the application process along with key information and guidance to support students' research, preparation and planning for their futures. I have attached the calendar of Open Evenings for all of our local post-16 providers for your reference. During our session, we will be giving an overview of useful research and questions to ask as you attend Open Evenings.

At this stage, it is only appropriate that I highlight the importance of Mrs Hicks. Unlike most other schools, Kingshill is very fortunate to have a full-time Careers Advisor, who beyond having a speciality in her role, is also brilliantly skilled in knowing our students and supporting them in ways that support future planning that is both realistic and ambitious. She is currently working through personal progression interviews with all of the students in the cohort to support their understanding of the wide range of choices that are available and we are very fortunate to have her expertise and knowledge in terms of being able to provide precise and impartial advice.

We were delighted that our Year 11 cohort have had the opportunities of work experience and college taster days last summer and were also very impressed by how positively they engaged in our Employability Day at this time too. The challenge now is to build on the learning of such events and to support them in establishing definitive and realistic plans for their future: your attendance at this event will hugely support this.

### **Careers Convention (no booking needed)**

The following week, on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023** between **6.00pm and 8.00pm** Kingshill is hosting the **Careers Convention**. This is an annual event which alternates each year between Kingshill and Deer Park and in our hosting of the event this year, we have increased the number of visiting sixth forms, colleges, universities, apprenticeship providers and employers to a record of over 70! This event always has a real buzz of activity and provides a superb opportunity for students and their families to engage with a huge range of visitors, all very much invested in looking to connect and recruit their next generation of students, trainees or employees. Most of the local Post 16 providers will be there. This is an excellent way to start the Post 16 process of finding more information under one roof. A full list of exhibitors will be sent home in the next week so you can plan your visit.

### **Study Skills (booking needed).**

Later in the same week, on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023**, we would also like to invite you and your young person to attend our Study Skills session **from 6.30pm – 8.00pm** in our Dining Hall. This event is scheduled in anticipation of the crucial mock examinations that begin from the end of November, and is planned to support our focus on approaches to revision and readiness for exams.

With increased status on the significance of exams, this session will include approaches to revision and to time management. There will be a focus on increasing our understanding of which revision style works best, for both the student and the content that needs to be learnt with the intention of ensuring that they are able to approach the mock exams in Term 2 with a real sense of them being a good indicator of what to expect next summer.

During all of this, and ideally with your young people alongside you, I also promise to publicly support you in your own endeavours to explain why they don't always need a mobile phone to help them revise!

As mentioned above, to support us in our venue set-up, we ask you to reply with your intention to attend either (and ideally both) the **Post-16 Information Evening (Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 from 6.30pm – 8.00pm)** and **Study Skills (Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 from 6.30pm – 8.00pm)**.

To make this as easy as possible, we ask that you email [replies@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:replies@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk) with a clear indication of how many seats you would like to reserve for these events. Please include the information below so that we can coordinate things as smoothly as possible. Alternatively, please complete and return the reply slip to the Finance Office by **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023**.

Finally, I would like to thank you in your role as parent or carer, and in respect of all of your support. It is always valued and never more so than now, at such a crucial stage in the overall upbringing and education. Through a combination of your support as families and the support and challenge that we will always endeavour to provide, I have every faith that we will work together to shape greater futures for our cohort 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Morland  
Senior Assistant Head/Head of Key Stage 4

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**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE FINANCE OFFICE BY FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group \_\_\_\_\_

**Post-16 Information Evening (Wednesday 4th October 2023)**

(Please delete as appropriate) We will be attending/We will not be attending the Post-16 Information Evening.

Please reserve us \_\_\_\_\_ seats (including student)

**Study Skills (Thursday 12th October 2023)**

(Please delete as appropriate) We will be attending/We will not be attending the Study Skills Evening.

Please reserve us \_\_\_\_\_ seats (including student)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Person with Parental Responsibility)