



Cirencester Kingshill School

December 2020 Newsletter



And just like that, we find ourselves at the end of term two. Despite what has been a very challenging start to the year, school has remained a bright and positive place for our pupils, with staff having worked exceptionally hard to deliver a clear routine, but also an engaging calendar of learning for all year groups. I am always grateful for the support that we receive from parents and carers here in school, however this year more than ever, I want to say thank you to you, for your support so far this year. I would also like to thank the staff for their efforts in the classroom. Just like the pupils, staff have had to adapt to a very different way of working this year, and they have done that whilst still ensuring that your children receive the high standard of teaching that is expected of Kingshill School.

I feel that this year has been a real team effort between pupils, staff and all of our families, and once again, I thank all of those people for their support.

This term we have said goodbye to Mrs Taylor, Science Technician, and Mr Bonner, Science Teacher. I would like to thank them both personally and on behalf of Kingshill School for their time and commitment to the school, and we wish them good luck in their new posts. I am delighted to say that in January we will be welcoming Mrs Natalie Brady as our new Science Teacher and Mrs Nicola Florence and Mrs Ensieh Isogai both as new Teaching Assistants. Dr Joanne Oldridge has started this week as our new Science Technician.

I wish you and your families a safe, happy and healthy Christmas, and I look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school in January 2021.

Miss Christine S. Oates,
Headteacher



News from the Chair of Governors

The Full Governing Body held its first meeting of the academic year on 8th October 2020. The main item of business was the Head's Report which provided a wide-ranging summary of the life of the school. It included a detailed analysis of the GCSE results and also the arrangements the school has made as a consequence of the pandemic. The report summarised the arrangements during the first lockdown and the current arrangements for teaching year groups in separate tutorials ("bubbles"). The meeting also adopted the School Development Plan and agreed which Governors would be linked to the Faculties, the Pastoral System and Careers.

The second meeting of the Governing Body, held on the 25th November 2020, received the Auditor's report and annual Accounts and adopted the Annual Report.

The major part of the Governing Body's work is done by 5 Committees: -

- Curriculum and Pastoral
- Finance, Audit and Risk
- Buildings and Health & Safety
- Staffing
- Chairs of the above committees (coordinates the work of the committees)

The Curriculum and Pastoral Committee met virtually on the 10th November 2020. A number of policies were reviewed including:

Accessibility Plan,

- Anti-bullying
- Child Protection
- Curriculum
- Feedback to pupils on their work,
- Homework,
- Looked after children,
- Sex and Relationship Education,
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural including a statement on British Values.

Link governor meetings with Heads of Faculty, Heads of Pastoral and Head of Careers are held this term, conducted either virtually or in the school after 3:15pm.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee met on 15th October 2020. As well as being responsible for the school's financial policies, agreeing the budget and monitoring spending, this Committee also reviews and approves contracts with external suppliers such as catering, cleaning and ground maintenance.

The Chairs Committee met on 1st October 2020, Staffing on the 4th November 2020 and Buildings and Health & Safety on the 18th November 2020.

Mr A Johnson, Chair of Governors

NEW STAFF

Welcome to our new members of staff. We wish you a long and happy time at Kingshill



Name: **Cory Baker**

Role: **Mathematics Teacher**

Last Book Read: **One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest**

Best Film: **The Green Mile**

Three Words To Describe You: **Dedicated, Optimistic, Patient**

Claim to Fame: **Has played rugby with Mike Tindall**



Name: **Bethan Hooper**

Role: **Teaching Assistant**

Last Book Read: **Noughts and Crosses by Mallory**

Blackman (so I know what is going on in Year 8 English lessons).

Best Film: **The Goonies and The Life of Brian.**

Three Words To Describe You: **Resourceful, Resilient, Empathetic**

Claim to fame: **I went to university with Mr Burton off of 'Educating Yorkshire'**



Name: **Alice Fisher**

Role: **Teaching Assistant**

Last Book Read: **The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini**

Best Film: **Eat, Pray, Love .**

Three Words To Describe You: **Friendly, Enthusiastic, Fair**

Claim to fame: **Footballer Fran Kirby, No. 10 for the England Lionesses, is my cousin!**

NEW STAFF

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Name: **Andrew Banner**

Role: **DT Technician**

Last Book Read: **Noddy Goes To Toyland**

Best Film: **North By Northwest**

Three Words To Describe You: **Reserved, Quiet, Caring**

Claim to Fame: **Played football for Telford United**



Name: **Kristina Dimond**

Role: **Assistant to Inclusion Manager**

Last Book Read: **Girl, Woman, Other by Bernadine Evarisot**

Best Film: **Pretty Woman and anything by Tom Hanks**

Three Words To Describe You: **Friendly, Kind, Loyal**

Claim to Fame: **My brother is in the latest series of The Crown!**



Name: **Beth Sworn**

Role: **Teaching Assistant**

Last Book Read: **Out of Love, by Hazel Hayes**

Best Film: **About Time**

Three Words To Describe You: **Friendly, Patient (and sometimes) Silly**

Claim to Fame: **Ranked 4th in Line Throw and Line Throw relay at British University Lifesaving Championships 2020.**

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Name: **Amy Garry**

Role: **Head of Music**

Last Book Read: **Quiet by Susan Cain**

Best Film: **Moana!**

Three Words To Describe You: **Enthusiastic, Optimistic, Realist**

Claim to Fame: **I auditioned for “S Club Juniors” when I was 9 and it was on CBBC**



Name: **Helen Keates**

Role: **Learning Support**

Last Book Read: **The Girl on the Dancing House by Charlotte Dujardin**

Best Film: **Sliding Doors**

Three Words To Describe You: **Happy, Kind, Loyal**



Name: **Becky Bryant**

Role: **Assistant to Head's PA / Reception**

Last Book Read: **Grown Ups by Marian Keyes**

Best Film: **any of the Star Wars films—except 1-3**

Three Words To Describe You: **Kind, Thoughtful, Generous**

Claim to Fame: **I know Theo Walcott's dad!**



MUSIC NEWS

Music has been powering through at Kingshill in the face of the challenges that 2020 has brought us! We are currently rehearsing and recording in preparation for our Virtual Christmas Concert – which you can keep an eye out for on the last week of term!

Year 7: Year 7 pupils have been learning about the Elements of Music and preparing their performance of 'True Colours' which they have been learning to sing and sign. As the new restrictions means we must be outdoors to sing, this has involved some chilly rehearsals outside the library, and Year 7 have been fantastic at tackling this with a can-do attitude!

Year 8 and 9: Year 8 and 9 pupils have been working hard planning their own festivals and events, learning about the different skills required to work in the music industry. They have also been honing their musical analysis skills through listening to a wide range of genres including funk, classical, gospel, dance and many more!

Year 8 and 9 pupils have also been doing 'body percussion' in lessons and have been reading notated music from the board while clapping, stamping and clicking to many different tunes!

Year 10: Year 10 pupils have been working on ensemble performances for the Christmas Concert, which will also be used for their GCSE Music coursework. They have been composing too and working on their musical analysis skills. Miss Garry has been very impressed with how they have all begun their GCSE course and has enjoyed making music with them this term!

Year 11: Year 11 pupils are working hard on their performing and composing coursework, as well as their music theory. They have also been providing vocals and instrumental parts for the carols in the Christmas Concert...watch this space to hear their talents!!!

Virtual lessons have been taking place in the practice rooms and we look forward to the return of (virtual) drum, brass & woodwind lessons in January 2021.

See you at the Virtual Christmas Concert!

Miss A Garry, Head of Music



Get on your bike.....

In the New Year, the Local Authority will be running an Advanced Cycling course for Year 7 pupils.

Mr Stillman will be in touch with more information.

Watch this space!



WELCOME YEAR 7 !

I wanted to publicly congratulate you on your first full term at Kingshill School. Whenever I see you in lessons you are listening, visibly enjoying yourselves and your standards of behaviour are excellent. I am also incredibly proud of your work ethic, this was highlighted by your “Behaviour, Effort and Accountability” poster that was submitted to me, the standard was very high!

A particular highlight of mine this term has been watching you all learn “True Colours” in your Music lessons. Learning a new song can be difficult in itself, but to also learn the sign language that accompanies it is a superb achievement. You should all be very proud of yourselves.

I am looking forward to you all having the opportunity to attend extra-curricular clubs in term 3. As a school we provide you with so many different clubs, I hope you will all find at least one that you want to attend.

I hope you enjoy the festive period and I look forward to seeing you all refreshed and ready to learn again in 2021!

Mr S Thomas
Head Of Year 7

GET INVOLVED WITH FKS

Remember you are already automatically a member of the Friends of Kingshill Parent/Teacher Association. Get involved, make a difference and have fun!

If you have any ideas for fundraising or can assist with any upcoming events, feel free to contact us via our e-mail [fks@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto: fks@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk)

FOODBANK APPEAL

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of parents and carers in their support for the Cirencester Food Bank Appeal this term. Pupils have been bringing donations from home, and we have collected a huge amount of produce that will be passed on to the Cirencester Food Bank. The Food Bank will use it to support local people who are in crisis, by providing three days of nutritionally balanced, emergency food. More details about the organisation can be found on their web site: <https://cirencester.foodbank.org.uk/>

Thank you to all of you who have donated so generously.



THE CHURN PROJECT

After what has been a very tough year, staff at Cirencester Kingshill have been working hard to show kindness and appreciation towards each other. When we heard about The Churn Project's Christmas Present appeal, we decided to turn that kindness out into our community too.

The appeal asked for help supporting some families where the past year has resulted in serious financial hardship, making buying Christmas presents for children a really big, and difficult decision.

Staff collected together money and gifts over a period of just one week, raising approximately £200 as well as a huge pile of presents. As a staff, we gave gifts to over 30 children through The Churn Project's appeal, and we wish them all a Happy Christmas.



SPORTS STAR !

Many congratulations to Ollie Keates from Year 10, who won Silver in the British Open in September and Gold in the Under 21's South West Inter Counties in shooting.

Not only did Ollie win the individual competition but his team won the gold event too.

Well done Ollie!



HIGH ACHIEVERS FROM KINGSHILL!

We were delighted to learn of former Kingshill pupils excelling in their A-Level results this year.

William Heberd achieved 5 A* grades and is Oxford bound.

Annabel Frape gained 2 A* and 2 A grades, Harry Janssen 2 A*' and 2 B grades and Robert Rowley 1A and 3B grades.

We are very proud of their achievements and of all our former pupils, in what has been a particularly tough year for them to complete their A-Levels.

We love to hear from past pupils and what they are doing now. If you know of any, or are one yourself, please get in touch at [office@ cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:office@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk)

ECO CLUB NEWS

Despite the challenges the Covid 19 situation has posed for Eco Club's various projects, those aimed at improving the biodiversity of the school grounds have fared very well. Wildlife surveys were conducted before and after establishing the meadow and pond areas and sightings of butterflies, bees, beetles and dragonflies were recorded for the first time in those areas. The projects involved a great deal of physical graft so it was very rewarding to all to see such an improvement in the biodiversity after just one season. This term the club members were awarded Eco School's Gold awards for their highly commended projects.

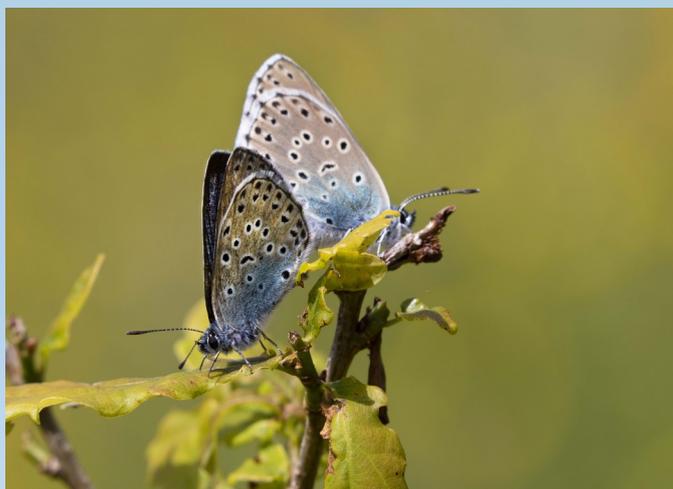
Two of the club's members, Jack and Alasdair, presented a 30 minute talk at a Zoom Butterfly Conservation meeting in July 2020. Butterfly Conservation have generously sponsored the Kingshill 'Re-wilding' project and the members were really interested to hear about how the Eco club's members planned and executed the creation of pond and meadow environments. Both pupils also talked about their passion for the natural environment and intelligently answered questions from the audience about a young person's perspective on the state of the natural world and conservation. Jack and Alasdair can be very proud of their presentation and were a credit to the school. The presentation and Q & A session can be viewed on Butterfly Conservation Gloucestershire's facebook page dated July 2020.

We were very grateful for a visit earlier this term by Anna Field from The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Cotswolds, Meadow project. Anna kindly helped us scarify an area alongside a hedgerow and donated Cotswold wildflower seeds that the pupils then sowed. All the project areas have been readied for winter and we look forward to the emergence of our first bulb flowers in early 2021.

The club received an exciting piece of news this month as Alasdair learned that he was one of two runners up for the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's photographic competition (Junior category) with his stunning photo of mating Large Blue Butterflies at the Daneway Banks Reserve. A great end to a very promising year for wildlife on the Kingshill School site.

Dr H. Taylor

Eco Club Co-ordinator



GCSE FOOD MOCKS

Our Year 11's have been busy undertaking their food mocks over the last couple of weeks. Below are some examples for the quality food that has been produced. The children enjoyed making them as much as the staff enjoyed eating them!



Snowman biscuit recipe

Ingredients

125g butter, softened
125g golden caster sugar
1 egg, beaten
1 tsp vanilla extract
250g plain flour, plus extra for dusting

For the decoration:

400g white fondant icing
Icing sugar, for dusting
100g pack mixed red, yellow, black and blue ready-to-roll icing
Tube white icing, for sticking
Tube black icing

Prep: 1 hour

Cook: 14 mins

Plus chilling and setting

Makes 20



Method

1. Heat oven to 190C / 170 fan / gas 5.
2. Cream the butter and sugar until pale and fluffy, then beat in the egg and vanilla. Stir in the flour and mix to a fairly soft dough. Tip onto a lightly floured surface and knead gently. Put the dough on a plate, cover and chill for at least 2 hours.
3. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough to a thickness of around 0.5cm. Use a cookie cutter or water glass to stamp out 7cm rounds. Re-roll the trimmings and repeat.
4. Transfer the biscuits to two lined baking trays and bake for 8-14 minutes until the edges turn lightly golden in colour. Leave to cool.
5. To decorate, roll out the white fondant icing onto a surface lightly dusted with icing sugar. Stamp out 7cm circles using the same cookie cutter or glass as before, then use a dab of the white tube icing to stick a fondant round on each biscuit.
6. Knead together some of the yellow and blue icing to make green icing, then do the same with the red and yellow icing to make orange (alternatively, buy separate packs of each colour). Roll out one icing colour at a time. Stamp out 7cm circle of icing, cut in half and stick on for a hat. Cut a strip of another colour and make some markings to make it look like the elasticated band of a hat, then trim to fit and stick on. Repeat with all the biscuits, mixing and matching colours.
7. Decorate the hats with icing spots and stripes, if you like. Roll out balls of coloured icing, poke holes all over with a cocktail stick and stick on as pom poms. Mould lumpy balls of the orange icing for noses and roll out balls of the black icing for eyes. Press down to flatten, then stick on with white icing. Use the tube of black icing to pipe rows of dots for the smiles. Leave to set.

Will keep for up to five days in an airtight container.

Recipe from BBC Good Food website

SCHOOL CALENDAR—TERMS 3 & 4 2021

JANUARY

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Monday 4th | Return to school (online for Years 7—10) |
| Friday 8th | Year 7 First reports to parents |
| Monday 11th | EXTEND Spring programme starts (TBC) |
| Tuesday 12th | Friends of KHS Meeting (TBC) |
| Wednesday 20th | Year 7 Parents' Evening, 4:00—6:00pm, 1st Session |
| Thursday 21st | Year 7 Parents' Evening, 4:00—6:00pm, 2nd Session |
| Monday 25th | Year 7 Cycling Proficiency |
| Thursday 28th | Year 11 Study Skills |

FEBRUARY

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Monday 1st—Tuesday 9th | Year 11 Mock Examinations (TBC) |
| Monday 1st | Year 7 Cycling Proficiency |
| Friday 5th | Year 9 Second reports to parents |
| Wednesday 10th | Year 9 Careers / Option Day |
| Friday 12th | Year 10 Second reports to parents |

FEBRUARY BREAK Monday 15th—Friday 19th

MONDAY 22ND INSET DAY

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Wednesday 24th | Year 9 Parents' Evening (2) 4:00—6:00pm |
| Thursday 25th | Year 9 Parents' Evening (2) 4.00—6.00 pm |

MARCH

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Wednesday 10th | Year 9 Virtual Options Evening (2) for Parents & Pupils |
| Thursday 11th | Year 11 Final reports to parents |
| Wednesday 18th | Year 11 Parents' Evening (2) 4:00-6:00pm |
| Thursday 19th | Year 11 Parents' Evening (2) 4:00-6:00pm |
| Friday 19th | Year 9 Options form deadline |
| Wednesday 24th | Year 8 Parents' Evening (2), 4:00—6:00 pm |
| Thursday 25th | Year 8 Parents' Evening (2), 4:00—6:00pm |

APRIL

FRIDAY 2ND GOOD FRIDAY

