



# Kingshill Newsletter



31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

In a week where, in our assemblies, our students have learned to be a true **STAR**, one of our Active Minds, we have been reinforcing with our learners the value of being actively attentive in all lessons. Our Y10 and Y11 students epitomised this during their visit to the House of Lords on Tuesday. On Thursday, our Y7-10 students experienced an extended registration to reflect on their most recent report whilst the Y11 students attentively took notes during their revision assembly and today, our Y9 students have been publicly recognised for their active engagement during their visit to the Harry Potter studios.

## **Assemblies**

All of our students are stars in their own way, but this week we asked them to think about how they communicate and interact with each other in the classroom. **STAR** stands for sitting up, tracking the speaker, appreciating our classmates' ideas and rephrasing what we have heard. **STAR** promotes active speaking and listening skills as it ensures students focus on what is being discussed or heard and encourages them to speak without fear of getting it wrong. – linking also to our Active Mind of Learning Hurdles and being comfortable making errors.

## **Progress Reports**

Students in years 7 to 10 received their first progress reports this week and were given time to reflect on these during an extended morning tutor session.

I was very impressed with the quality of their reflections, with the students setting excellent focused targets from their reports which they can review in a timely way and hopefully allow them to improve further before their next set of reports.

Further guidance on how to interpret the reports can be found on the school website in the Assessment & Reports section on the 'Pupil Care & Guidance' from the parents' tab or by [clicking here](#).

Mr D. Stillman, Assistant Headteacher

## **Y11 Exam Revision: Helping you start, keeping it going and making it stick**

We ran another session this week supporting Year 11 prepare for the three months they have left before the start of exams. Students learnt how to ensure revision becomes a regular habit and we gave them a reminder of the key revision techniques: chunking, teaching someone else and low stakes quizzing. Please ask them to explain the 'Blurting' active revision technique to you and how it will help them revise more effectively. We encourage any student to speak to their tutor or teacher if they are unsure about what topics they should be revising or have any concerns.

## **Year 9 Parents' Evening – Thursday 13 February**

Appointments can be made from 7am on Monday 3 February for the upcoming Y9 parents' evening. Letters have been sent home to parents and appointments can be made through Edulink.

## **Pick-up and Drop-off**

Only parents who have the appropriate pass may drop off and pick up at the front of school before and after school. Otherwise, please use the Watermoor Car Park for student drop-off and pick-up before and after

school. If you feel you should be in receipt of a pass and do not have one, contact the main office. A reminder that students who arrive on buses must not leave the site.

## House of Lords

It was a genuine privilege to accompany a group of our Year 10 and 11 students to the Houses of Parliament earlier this week, both in terms of the wonderful experience that this provided but also for the maturity and curiosity that was demonstrated by our students. The reflections of the day are best captured in the words of Ben and Rowen below.

Mr J Morland, Assistant Headteacher, Character Development



I found the trip very fascinating and an eye-opener into what life may entail for those as a Lord or Baroness and the general environment of the world of London in general. I particularly liked our interviews with the peers of the Lords, as I got to use their ideas, thoughts and opinions to formulate my own opinions on different issues relevant to us as a country. In particular, the assisted dying bill, as I wasn't sure of my own views on the matter and was glad to know that the many peers themselves didn't know how they would vote if the bill came through to their chamber, due to all the moral concerns and intricacies of how helping someone die would work. I also liked the fact that there was a diverse range of different types of Lords there, varying from those affiliated with the various political parties, a cross bencher (not affiliated), a hereditary peer and also the Lord Speaker.

The tour of the parliament also provided valuable historical context into how parliament - including the Commons and Lords - came about through the gradual dismantling of power the monarch held over our country. I learnt a lot about the Houses of Parliament, for instance the fact that the current building today is built mostly upon where the Thames used to run through and that the old Parliament was burnt down almost entirely in 1834, with only parts of it remaining to be seen to this day. Another thing I learnt about was the subtle differences that are in the Commons compared to the Lords, like the ability to speak in the Commons is granted by the Speaker, whereas it sounded far more open in the Lords.

Overall, I am glad I went on the trip; I thoroughly enjoyed it and would recommend it to anyone else who may be lucky enough to be asked to go. I hope the school runs it again so others can have the same experience I did! - Ben H, Y10

The Houses of Parliament are both a place of rich historical significance and intricate beauty. The architecture and design of the building holds much mystery and importance to the country's past. Being given the opportunity to learn about the UK government in the place where it all happens was a privilege few are given. I was able to engage in conversations with several Lords, Baronesses as well as with the Lord Speaker, who all shared valuable perspectives on the function and significance of the House of Lords within the parliamentary system. The trip was both educational and inspiring, it offered a chance to develop a deeper appreciation for the UK's political traditions and governance and is certainly an experience I would recommend to political enthusiasts. - Rowen E, Y11

### **UK Maths Challenge**

On Wednesday, 113 of our talented Year 9 and Year 10 students participated in the UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. This prestigious national competition is designed to stretch and challenge the most able mathematicians, encouraging them to apply their problem-solving skills to complex and thought-provoking questions.

Taking part in the UKMT Challenge is a fantastic opportunity for our students to test their mathematical reasoning and develop their confidence in tackling unfamiliar problems under timed conditions. Their participation reflects the dedication and enthusiasm they have for the subject, and we are incredibly *proud* of their efforts.

We eagerly await the results in the coming weeks and look forward to celebrating the achievements of our young mathematicians.



### **Peer Taught Line Dancing**



A big shoutout to Molly C in Year 11, who took the lead and taught her peers a fantastic line dancing session last week. As part of our aim to give students ownership of some lessons, Molly's courage, confidence, and charisma truly shone. We all had great fun joining in, learning new skills, and celebrating the talent within our school community.

### **New Staff Members**



Hi, I'm Mrs. Turfrey, and I'm delighted to have recently joined Kingshill as a Teaching Assistant. Before this, I worked in an SEN school supporting students aged 4–16. This is my first role in a mainstream secondary school, and I'm already finding it both exciting and rewarding.

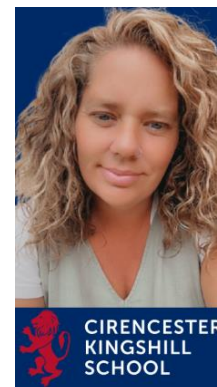
I hold a Level 3 qualification in Sports Coaching and Health and Social Care and am currently working towards my Level 3 Teaching Assistant certification.

Outside of school, I love spending time with my three energetic children, playing netball as a shooter, and looking after five cheeky ponies at the yard!

Hi, I'm Emily Brazier, one of the new TAs here at Kingshill. My main role is to support teachers and work directly with students in the classroom.

I have had a variety of jobs over the years, from being a nursery assistant to a care assistant, and I've also supported adults with learning difficulties—I even gave working in a coffee shop a go!

In my free time, I love spending time with my two boys. Whether I end up becoming a Fortnite pro or a carp angler in the future, who knows...time will tell! I'm excited to be part of the Kingshill community.



### **Freya Shines in Badminton Leadership**



Another fantastic achievement for Kingshill. Freya delivered a highly successful badminton lesson to her peers as part of her Badminton Junior Leaders Award. Her engaging teaching style and enthusiasm made for a fun and exciting session, with plenty of great learning moments.

### **Chinese New Year Celebrations**

On Wednesday the kitchen team embraced the Chinese New Year celebrations with some wonderful Chinese cuisine for our students and staff. This included Chicken in Black Bean Sauce with Egg Fried Rice, Vegetable Chow Mein, Chinese Chicken Wings, Prawn Crackers and Chinese 5 Spice and Apple Sponge.



### **School Games – Sports Leaders**



Thursday we were blessed with sunshine and blue skies and nearly 300 pupils who descended onto the field from our local primary schools. They were here for a team cross country event, running 1km or 1.5km depending on their age. This was led by our incredible Sports Leaders. These Y8s, Y9s and Y10s were outstanding, leading the races as hares,

marshalling students, signing schools in, organising groups but also being the loudest cheerleaders and being, well...just incredible!

## Closing Remarks

As we say a farewell to January, we are all optimistic for February and the exciting plans we have for our students. Enjoy the weekend, be curious about what your young people are learning, try asking them to articulate something they have learned this week or ask to see page 14 of their journals so that you are able to support them in achieving their identified targets. We fully appreciate that asking teenagers to discuss life at school can be a tough gig, but go and give it a go, ask them to use subject specific language and ask them to share what they now know as a result of them being a STAR in the classroom!

Mrs Jo Lindley  
Headteacher

## **Returning Week: Week B**

### Upcoming Events

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Lunchtime Concert - Music Room 1.20pm
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	U12 Girls Football tournament @ Rednock 3-5.30pm
	Y7 A&B Football vs Deer Park @ Deer Park 3-5:30pm
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Y10 Football vs Deer Park @ H 3-5pm
	Y11 Football vs Deer Park @ Deer Park 3-5.30pm
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Y8 Football vs Deer Park @ H 3-5:30pm
	Y9 Football vs Deer Park @ Deer Park 3-5.30pm
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Y8-Y11 Careers Talk – Agent Casting & Production 8.40am
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Y9 Options Careers Day</b>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Y9 Parents' Evening 3.45-6.45pm</b>
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Evening of Dance 6pm
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Japanese School Visit
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Y7 District Football tournament @ H 2-5pm
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Y8 Football vs Farmors (H) 3-5pm
	Y9 Football vs Farmors @ Farmors 3-5.30pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Y10 Football vs Farmors @ Farmors 3-5.30pm
	Y11 Football vs Farmors (H) 3-5pm
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>INSET DAY – no school for students</b>
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Y9 Options Evening 4pm</b>
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Y11 Mock Interviews
	Y11 Photographs
	Lunchtime concert – Music Room 1.20pm

***\*Please note that for TRIPS, the time listed is the leave time. Please ensure your child is at school at least 15 minutes prior to the leave time.***