



Kingshill Newsletter



7th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

There was an enormous sense of pride across the school this week as we launched our promotional school video to the staff and students. Do take the time to watch, by [clicking here](#). I think that you will agree that it truly showcases and captures the experiences of our students both within and beyond the classroom and most importantly the warm relationships that are forged here.

Assemblies – Staying Safe Online

This week's SLT assembly focused on Safer Internet Day 2025, an annual initiative aimed at raising awareness about how we can all stay safe online and protect others whilst online. Each year, the campaign follows a specific theme, and this year's—"Too Good to Be True"—highlighted the importance of recognising and avoiding online scams.



The battle between scammers and authorities can be an ongoing game of cat and mouse. With the rapid evolution of technology, scammers are often the first to exploit new tools, leaving everyday users unaware of emerging risks and more vulnerable to deception.

This was demonstrated in an unexpected way this week when some unsuspecting students took a chance on a mysterious QR code that had been posted around the school. Unfortunately, it wasn't what they had hoped—it was a carefully planned experiment by Mr Patching to test who would trust a random poster and scan an unidentified QR code. While there were no real

consequences, the incident served as a powerful reminder of how easily we can all fall victim to scams with just a momentary lapse in concentration or judgement.

Assemblies – 'Now We're Talking...Nordic Walking'

In their Head of Year Assemblies this week, we were delighted to welcome Gary Owen, the Director of Inspire First Training (www.inspirefirsttraining.co.uk). Having served in the RAF and subsequently investing himself in designing programmes to support the training of both physical and mental first aid, alongside diverse experience of leading expeditions in the Algonquin National Park, traversing volcanoes in Tongariro National Park, and mountain biking the Slickrock trail in Moab, Gary brilliantly supported our focus on Mental Health Awareness week. He spoke with wonderful enthusiasm and energy about the beautiful simplicity of 'walking-and-talking' in introducing us to the benefits that this can bring to both our physical and mental health. Through his demonstration of Nordic-walking (and the all- important walking poles!), we learnt about how we can all walk with increased purpose, in ways that will simultaneously develop our core bodily muscles and our emotional wellbeing. With Gary's support and expertise, we are keen to establish a Nordic-walking club through our lunchtime *Extend* programme and students are very much encouraged to be part of this unique offer!



Mr J Morland, Assistant Headteacher, Character Development

Lunchtime Concert

A huge thank you to John R. (piano), Matthew C. (piano), Anabelle N. (piano), Rowen E. (vocals), Junior A. (guitar), and Oliver K. (drums) for their phenomenal performances at this week's Lunchtime Concert. The event has become so anticipated that we've outgrown the music room, with attendees listening from outside and watching through windows. Many particularly enjoyed "Smells Like Teen Spirit" by Oliver, Junior, and Rowen. I'm incredibly proud of the *ambition* of all our performers, and students are already asking when the next concert is! It's on 28th March, by the way, which will be the last one our amazing Year 11s can participate in before their exams begin.

Mr. Ashby, Head of Music

Y9 Harry Potter Studios

When I booked to go on this trip, in my head I was thinking it would be fun but a little bit boring as I had already gone when I was younger. When I got there, I forgot how magical and amazing it really is. From the moment you step in, it feels so surreal and incredible. All the staff and teachers with us were amazing and the butter beer was great too! I would 100% recommend this trip as it completely takes you into a new magical world where the extraordinary Harry Potter series were created and born.

Lucy M, Year 9



Careers Talk – Agent Casting & Production Pheasant Food Prep



Year 8-11 students enjoyed an inspiring talk from a Casting Agent about career opportunities in theatre, film, and commercial production. She shared insights on transferable skills, the variety of industry roles, and different pathways into the field. The session highlighted the many ways students can pursue a creative and dynamic career in production.

Year 11 Debate

On Tuesday, Year 11 students from classes 11C and 11F engaged in a spirited debate on whether social media should be banned for individuals under 18. Both teams presented compelling arguments, showcasing persuasive skills. The entire Year 11 cohort exemplified STAR values, posing insightful and pertinent questions throughout the session. Congratulations to 11F for advancing to the next round. This event not only highlighted our students' dedication but also underscored the importance of debate in fostering critical thinking, effective communication, and confidence.



Student Creativity in Action



Our students have been showcasing their creativity through sewing and patchwork projects, crafting beautiful pillows that highlight their growing skills. In addition, drama practice and model design projects have been thriving, reflecting their dedication and passion. These hands-on experiences foster patience, attention to detail, and technical ability. We are always proud of the **ambition** and effort our students put into their daily work.

Kingshill in the News!

Kingshill School has been featured in the *Wilts and Gloucs Standard!* Thursday's edition highlighted the incredible experience our Year 10 & 11 students had on their recent trip to the House of Lords.

The visit provided a unique opportunity for our students to witness democracy in action and engage in insightful discussions with esteemed members of the House. A particular highlight was their interaction with Lord McFall, who warmly welcomed the group and shared his thoughts on the visit in the article: *“As a former teacher, it was a privilege for myself, and fellow members, to engage with such a lively and curious group of young people.”*

A reminder of the impact we can make as a school and to others around us. [Click here](#) for the full article.

Y9 - “Medea”

Year 9 students are diving into the Greek tragedy of love and revenge, *Medea*, while others are preparing love hearts to carry secret messages around the school next week. Don't forget to bring £1 for a message and love heart delivery service!



Fancy Dress Donations



In preparation for World Book Day on 6th March, we're inviting parents to donate any outgrown or unused book-themed fancy dress costumes to our library. These contributions will be made available for students to choose from ahead of the event. This not only promotes sustainability but also ensures more students have the opportunity to dress up as their favourite literary characters. If you're able to contribute, please have your child drop off costumes at the school library by Tuesday, 4th March. We thank you for your generosity and support in making World Book Day a memorable experience for our students.

Pre Loved Uniform Items

The Friends of Kingshill School are collecting pre-loved uniform items with the school logo, including blazers, ties, jumpers, and PE kits, for an upcoming sale. Please ensure donations are washed before dropping them off at Reception. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Closing Remarks

With one final week to go of term 3 and our attendance currently above the regional and national average, thank you for encouraging full attendance in our final week before the break. And do, go watch the video – who wouldn't want to be here!

Mrs Jo Lindley
Headteacher

Returning Week: Week A

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 12 th February	Y9 Options Careers Day
Thursday 13 th February	Y9 Parents' Evening 3.45-6.45pm
Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February	Half Term
Tuesday 25 th February	Evening of Dance 6pm
Wednesday 26 th February	Japanese School Visit
Monday 3 rd March	Y7 District Football tournament @ H 2-5pm
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day – Fancy dress
Tuesday 11 th March	Y8 Football vs Farmors (H) 3-5pm
	Y9 Football vs Farmors @ Farmors 3-5.30pm
Thursday 13 th March	Y10 Football vs Farmors @ Farmors 3-5.30pm
	Y11 Football vs Farmors (H) 3-5pm
Wednesday 19th March	INSET DAY – no school for students
Thursday 20 th March	Y9 Options Evening 4pm
Friday 28 th March	Y11 Mock Interviews
	Y11 Photographs
	Lunchtime concert – Music Room 1.20pm
Friday 4 th April	Y10 Duke of Edinburgh
Saturday 5 th April	Duke of Edinburgh Practice, Cirencester Park 9am
Monday 7th April	Parents' Information Evening – Munich Global Trip, dining hall, 5.30pm
Tuesday 8 th April	Y10 Duke of Edinburgh
	Y10 Lea Wood
Wednesday 9th April	Y11 Targeted Parents' Evening 3.45pm
Monday 14th April – Friday 25th April	EASTER HALF TERM

**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.*