



Kingshill Newsletter



14th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is hard to believe that we really are over half way through this academic year and have reached the end of term 3. Throughout the week, I have been touring potential candidates around our school and it has been an absolute pleasure to showcase our students doing what they do brilliantly; thinking and working hard in lessons and demonstrating mutual respect in their peer to peer and student to staff relationships during learning and social times. The level of trust this generates allows us to be more agile with our activities; allows us to embrace a change from the normal school day, knowing that our students will step up with responsibility, creating a vibrant and familial atmosphere for all.

On Wednesday our Y9 students were engaged in their Options Morning. Today the final of the House Spelling Bee competition was held in the Sports Hall. We were able to extend break time to allow for as many students as possible to participate in Break-a-oke whilst messages of kindness were gifted around the school from secret well-wishers. Lunchtime saw 30 students and staff participate in Nordic walking-and-talking on the field... there really is something for everyone here at Kingshill and we are always seeking to find an even wider range of activities for our students. Thank goodness it is half term so that we can all catch our breath in readiness for term 4!

Assemblies

This week the theme for my assembly was 'Love'. The students were asked to think about what and who they love and then challenged to think more deeply about what they previously didn't love but do now and to consider what had changed. We tend to love the things we feel successful in and the students were reminded that to be successful often takes a lot of effort and devotion. However, the more we put into something, the more we can get out of it. We also looked at how this model works with our relationships with our friends. Families tend to offer a form of unconditional love, but we can be much harsher on our friends. Taking the time to show kindness, respect, patience and above all, the courage to have important conversations, can grow deeper and more meaningful friendships. True love takes a whole heap of effort!

Mrs Jo Lindley
Headteacher

Class 7C Assembly to Y7



A big thank you to Ms Stones for organizing a fantastic assembly on love and Valentine's Day! From Shakespearean sonnets to the love of pets and life-long affection, students showcased their creativity through acting, artwork, and presentations.

Year 9 Options Launch

On Wednesday, Mrs Hicks and myself led the launch of the Y9 Options process during which they will select their choices of GCSE and BTEC course for studying from September. We were incredibly grateful for the 12 students from Years 10 and 11 who spoke with such clarity about the factors that influenced their own choices and offered their reflections on the skills and assessments that underpin each of their chosen

shaping greater futures

subjects. The Year 9 students learnt about the differences between GCSE and BTEC courses and of future progression beyond these including A-level, T-levels, Apprenticeships and Diplomas. They now have until 28th March to research the range of options available to them before completing the form to outline their preferred choices. In the meantime, on Monday 10th March they will have the opportunity to attend taster sessions in those courses that they would like to learn more about and this is followed by our Options Evening on Thursday 20th March, all of which should really support them in making informed decisions. Please do ask them to share their Options booklet with you and encourage them to discuss their thinking with you as much as possible!

Mr J Morland
Assistant Head, Character Development

House Spelling Bee Competition



Congratulations to Apollo as Ben H in Y10 emerged as the overall winner of our House Spelling Bee Competition! His hard work and dedication truly paid off, and we couldn't be prouder. We also want to celebrate each of our top 8 finalists who made it to the finale – they all showed incredible courage and spelling skills. Well done to everyone who took part and supported their Houses with such enthusiasm!



Looking ahead, get ready for our next House Competition in Term 4, where the spotlight will be on Geography. Start brushing up on your knowledge – we can't wait to see who will come out on top!

Mr Thomas,
Head of House System

Karaoke – or Break-aoke

Does a second successive end of term break-time karaoke competition mean that we are entering the territory of new traditions being established...? Well, we've re-labelled the event as '*Break-aoke*' so that must mean something and so too does the buzz of energy and excitement that flowed through our Dining Hall earlier today. Beyond the brilliant range of talented singers (and not including either myself or Mrs Hussey in this group!), who pulled on our heartstrings with their renditions of Valentine's Day themed love songs, the other obvious joy was seeing students across all year groups join together in offering their support and appreciation of each other – the Kingshill family at its very best! Congratulations to all who performed and special mention to Caitlin and Sarah, Ollie and Lottie who were all judged as 'highly commended' before our winning duet of Hugo and Blossom were announced as the winners of our Valentine's bear!



Popcorn Sale



Breaktime was a whole lot tastier thanks to the Friends of Kingshill! They were in full effect, serving up fresh popcorn to our students – the perfect snack to enjoy while listening to our lovely Break-aoke performances. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and to hear students singing their hearts out!

Would you like to get involved with the Friends of Kingshill School and support their fantastic contributions to our students? Every bit of help goes a long way and directly benefits our school community. If you're interested, please reach out at friends@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk.

Thank you to everyone involved for making breaktime a fun and memorable experience!

Kindness Club

Our Kindness Club has been busy spreading smiles and warmth around the school by distributing Valentine's Day treats! It was heartwarming to see students sharing thoughtful gestures and brightening each other's day. A big thank you to everyone involved for making our school community a little kinder and a lot more cheerful.



Nordic Walking

After his inspirational assemblies last week, we were delighted to welcome back Gary from Inspire First Training who led our first Nordic-walking-and-talking taster session at lunchtime today. Over 30 students and



staff joined us on the field where, after an intensive warm up, we learnt the importance of walking with good posture, strengthening our core muscles, and finally learning to become accustomed to using the poles to help support and drive us forward! The next session will be scheduled sometime early next term – more updates to follow!

Mr J Morland
Assistant Headteacher, Character Development

Uniform Focus Week

In September most students were looking very smart and wearing their uniforms with pride, unfortunately as the year has progressed some have let their standards drop. With this in mind, we plan to have a uniform focus week the first week back after the half term break. In order to make sure we hit the ground running please do have conversations with your young person over the half term break to check they have everything they need to be equipped ready for the school day. This includes essential items such as school blazers. Click [here](#) for our School Uniform Policy, including our rules and regulations.

During the first week back tutors will be completing daily checks to ensure all students are adhering to our school rules. There will also be a competition running throughout the week which will look to reward and recognise those who always take pride in their appearance and do not need constant reminders regarding their uniform.

We very much appreciate your support in helping your child meet our expectations. I am aware of teenage students often growing at an incredible rate and the cost implication of new uniform so you may find it helpful to come along to our next preloved uniform sale.

Mr Luke Ryder
Lead Practitioner: Our Behaviours Culture

Pre Loved Uniform Sale – Mark Your Calendars

The Friends of Kingshill School will be holding a Pre-Loved Uniform Sale on the first Thursday morning after half term This is a great opportunity to pick up quality uniform items at affordable prices while supporting our school community and the uniform focus going into term 4. Every purchase helps fund initiatives that benefit our students. Don't forget to mark your calendars and we'll see you after half term break!

Date: Thursday 27th February

Time: 8:15 – 8:45 am

Location: Room M3 – Across from Reception

Parent Form – Mark your Calendars

We're excited to invite you to our upcoming Parent Forum, where you'll have the opportunity to learn more in depth and share your thoughts and feedback on following topics:

- House System
- Reporting System

Your input is invaluable in helping us create the best possible environment for our students. Don't miss this chance to be an active participant in feedback for our school.

Click [here](#) to register – we look forward to seeing you there!

Date: Friday 21st March

Time: 9:00 – 10:30 am

Location: Sign in at Reception

Non Uniform Day

Looking further ahead, most students will be delighted to know that we have another non-uniform day coming up at the end of the first week of next term. This has been inspired by Lottie from Year 10 who has challenged herself to run 100km throughout February to raise awareness and money for Women's Aid who strive to support the victims of domestic violence. I will send additional details of Lottie's brilliant endeavours in a separate letter but in summary, the theme of this day will be '*wear it pink*' with the whole school community being asked to make a suggested donation of £1 and also being asked to join Lottie in running the final few steps of her challenge during lunchtime!

Mr J Morland

Assistant Headteacher, Character Development

Lost Property

Upon returning to school, lost property will be displayed on tables in the concourse. This is a great opportunity for students to check if any misplaced items belong to them. Please encourage your child to have a look through the lost property tables. Any unclaimed items will be donated after this period, so don't miss out on retrieving lost belongings!

Kingshill's Got Talent

If your young person/people would like to sign up for individual music lessons, then please [click here](#) and complete the form. We currently do not have a singing teacher, but if you express interest by filling out the form, once we have enough, we can then look at hiring one.

We have now completed sign-ups for our next show Kingshill's Got Talent, set to take place on the **8th of May at Bingham Hall from 7-9pm**. If any of your young people would still like to sign up, they have until the end of the first week back to express their interest on the sign-up sheet outside of music. Then we will have our in-school heats until we get to our finalists for the actual event.

Tickets will be announced once we have our performers.

The Kingshill Music Team

Term Dates 2025-2026

Although we still have one more inset date to confirm, we would like to share what we have thus far to help you plan for the new academic year.

The confirmed INSET days are as follows:

- 1st September 2025
- 3rd October 2025
- 28th November 2025
- 20th July 2026

The fifth inset date is likely to fall mid-week during the Year 11 mock exams. We hope this advance notice helps you plan accordingly. [Click here](#) to view the Term Date calendar on our website. We will update you when the last inset date is confirmed via the school newsletter and it will be updated on the website.

EduLink – Parent Access

Just a quick reminder that parents can access their own EduLink accounts to stay up to date and manage bookings easily. We've noticed that some parents aren't aware they can log in themselves rather than through their child's account – it definitely makes things simpler. If you need help resetting your link or getting logged in, just drop us an email and we'll be happy to help. Thanks for your continued support!

Archery Club

Target-Acquired is now running an exciting Archery Tag Club on Friday evenings at Kingshill. It's a great opportunity for both youth and adults to get involved in this fun, fast-paced activity. Freddie T. from 7B has been having a blast and improving each week – from sharpening his aim to speeding up his reloads. Why not see if you've got what it takes. If you're interested, [click here](#) to contact Target-Acquired and find out more. Don't miss the chance to join the adventure!

Closing Remarks

'The coldness of winter lingers but so does the warmth of Kingshill' - a quote from Mr Morland as we all left the main hall after today's heart-warming Break-a-oke. Our students and staff leave today, knowing that they belong to something incredibly special. We will all rest well this half term, yet equally, we will all be keen to return together in term 4.

Mrs Jo Lindley
Headteacher

Returning Week: Week B

Upcoming Events

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| Monday 24 th February | Y10 Theatre Workshop 10am |
| Tuesday 25 th February | Evening of Dance 6pm |
| Wednesday 26 th February | Y9 Famelab, 9am |
| | Japanese School Visit |
| | Dodgeball Event Y7 vs Y6 |
| Thursday 27 th February | Pre-Loved Uniform Sale 8.15-8.45am |
| Friday 28th February | Non-uniform Day, "Wear it Pink Day" |
| Monday 3 rd March | Y7 District Football tournament @ H 2-5pm |
| Tuesday 4 th March | Y7 Octavia's Bookshop 10am |
| Thursday 6th March | World Book Day – Fancy dress |
| | Y7 & Y8 Author Visit 10am |
| Friday 7 th March | Y9 Famelab Masterclass |
| 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 20th March | Y9 Options Evening 4pm |
| Friday 28 th March | Y11 Mock Interviews |
| | Y11 Photographs |
| | Lunchtime concert – Music Room 1.20pm |
| Thursday 3 rd April | Y9 Woodchester Mansions 9am |
| Friday 4 th April | Y10 Duke of Edinburgh |
| Saturday 5 th April | Duke of Edinburgh Practice 9am |
| Monday 7th April | Parents Information Evening – Munich, Dining Hall, 5.30pm |
| Tuesday 8 th April | Y10 Duke of Edinburgh |
| | Y10 Lea Wood 9am |
| Wednesday 9th April | Y11 Targeted Parents' Evening |

**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.*