

24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As we move into week 4 of term 2, I wanted to thank all parents and carers for the support of our attendance strategy. Our school target is 95% because we know that this is the important number that supports students making accelerated progress in their learning. It can be argued that throughout the pandemic the message was very clear that students could continue to make progress whilst learning at home, but this was because we had no other option. Students who are regularly missing school, either in extended periods of time or through ad hoc days, are not only missing out on the breadth and depth of learning required to accelerate progress, but most importantly they are not able to access the range of opportunities beyond the classroom; these opportunities could be in the form of a club, intervention or trip but equally the social skills acquired through working alongside peers, the resilience that is built in achieving what was perceived as a challenge, are paramount to shaping a greater future for our children. As the nights become darker and the days a little colder, we have to be more resilient than ever. Your voice at home that every day matters supports our messaging here in school. There will always be exceptional circumstances and we are here to support these, however, please, wherever possible, ensure your child is attending school.

### **EmPower**

EmPower is a major schools engagement event organised by CyberFirst schools (part of GCHQ), and we took 20 girls to the event, where they were given different cyber related challenges from industry experts to encourage them to think about careers in Cyber/Computing.

We were lucky to have the Director of GCHQ come and visit our girls whilst they were doing an activity, before making her speech and one of our girls, Eliza, was interviewed by BBC Radio Gloucestershire on the day about the event.

Mr S Karunaratne

### **Christmas Foodbank Collection**

As part of our outreach to the wider community, we shall again be collecting for the foodbank. We would be grateful if donated items could be dropped off at school between Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December and Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December. A list of most needed items will be sent out early next week.

Mrs D Christopher

### **Awards Evening**

It was a pleasure to welcome back our Year 11, 'class of 2023' and their families for our Awards Evening last night. During this event, Mr Morland and Mr Ryder shared their memories of the year group before student s were formally presented with their examination certificates, subject awards and some special prizes in recognition of outstanding academic achievement, personal success and pastoral contributions.

### **Year 11 Mock Exams**

We would like to wish our Year 11 students every success with their mock exams next week. They each received their 'support packs' in our briefing assembly last week and should feel well prepared and motivated for the

challenges ahead. The results of these exams will be published in the week before Christmas and should help inform students' preparation throughout the spring.

Mr J Morland

### **Stroud College**

A number of students from Year 10 visited Stroud College this week for a vocational taster day. Activities included forensic science, hairdressing, childcare and plumbing. The students thoroughly enjoyed the event and fed back that it really helped them with their thinking around future career pathways beyond Kingshill.

Mr S Pritchard

### **Gloucestershire County Council Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)**

The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme is funded by the Department of Education for those pupils in reception to year 11 who receive income-related free school meals.

HAF will be returning this winter holiday and the majority of HAF activities will take place between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024. However, please check the local district HAF webpages to see other activities that may be available at other times over the winter holidays.

Make sure your **Children's Activity Booking System account** is all up to date to be ready to book activities from the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023. This winter, to give families time to browse activities and help them decide in advance which sessions they would like to attend, all activities on offer in January will be available to view for one week from 12pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Keep up to date with HAF news by subscribing to GCC's **Holiday Activities and Food programme newsletter** to stay up to date on the latest information. You can also **follow your HAF district lead on social media** to keep up to date on your local HAF news and events.

### **Sporting update**

- We took 14 Year 7 students to Gloucester to take part in a Tenpin Bowling competition
- We hosted a Primary Sports Hall Athletics event for Year 5 and 6 pupils, led by our School Games Organiser and Kingshill Sports Leaders.
- Our Year 9 Rugby team played Severn Vale School in the EDF Cup and won 36-7, progressing to the next round – the team are now one win away from a final at Kingsholm Stadium, the home of premiership side Gloucester! Well done team!
- Our Year 7 Football team were beaten 3-1 by Sheldon in Round 4 of the ESFA competition, ending a very successful run of matches.
- The PE faculty hosted the Year 9 District Netball tournament. Our Year 9 Netball team showed great teamwork and resilience against 9 other schools.

**Upcoming Sporting Events:**

Week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> November:

House Cross Country is all week. Students are to come to PE lessons prepared for the predicted weather (clothing and footwear). Please bring a spare carrier bag for muddy footwear/wet clothes if necessary.

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November:**

Girls Football Tournament @ Rednock School

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November:**

Year 10 District Netball Tournament @ Stroud High School

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November:**

Year 8 District Netball Tournament @ Archway School

Year 7 District Rugby v TK (Home)

I would like to wish you and your family a happy and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Lindley  
Headteacher

**Upcoming events**

Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11 Mocks start
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Y9 Parents' Evening 4.30pm - 7.30pm (online)
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Sports Award Evening 7.00pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day (In support of Save The Children)
Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00pm - 7.00pm (In school)	