

29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I cannot believe that we are now officially halfway through term 1, for me, it feels like I have always been here; I am thoroughly enjoying each and every day, working alongside our brilliant students and staff team. I am unapologetic about the length of our newsletter this week, there is so much positive news to share!

This week saw the official launch of our Extend curriculum – I have been utterly delighted by the high number of students participating in clubs and activities at lunch and after school. I was able to capture all of the sporting activities on Tuesday evening and witnessed a sports hall packed with badminton played, gymnasts warming up in the gym, Y10 netballers completing their drills on the tennis courts and our sports leaders leading the inter-primary cross-country event. In advance of the afternoon's events, I also had the chance to wish our Year 11 netballers well as they went to Cheltenham Ladies College to compete in a county tournament. It was a real joy to see so many actively engaged students and this was only the Tuesday offer!

As promised, I have made a short voice-recorded PowerPoint video of our first strategic priority: Excellent Teaching and Learning. The link can be found [here](#) and I thank you in advance for taking the time to listen and I hope you enjoy hearing about the direction of travel for the school. Next week, I shall share all about our Intentional Character Development.

### **My Mad Mum**

On Wednesday, I sat with our Year 8 students as they were treated to a fantastic performance of 'Our Mad Mum'. The students sat enthralled as we watched Andy and Harper navigate being a young person in a modern world. Everyone knows Andy and everyone knows his mum, or at least they think they do...People are always calling her names and whispering about her behind his back. When the new girl, Harper, arrives at Andy's school, they strike up a special friendship. But is Harper hiding something, and how long will it be before their home lives collide? My Mad Mum was a free play for anyone aged 11+. Set to a soundtrack of modern music, it explores what it means to be a young person with a parent with a mental illness and how to support others in the same situation.

I was sad to have to leave although I'm not sure many of our students noticed I was there as they were so captivated by the engaging theatre company.

### **Open Mornings**

Thursday and Friday morning were a further opportunity to showcase our vibrant school as we welcomed many families to Open Morning. A huge thank you to our magnificent Year 11 leaders who spoke confidently and with great warmth and affection about their favourite STEPs and the impact these have made to the culture and ethos of our school. In addition, the Year 10 buddies were exemplary role models and ambassadors as they led the parent tours.

### **KS3 Curriculum Booklets**

The KS3 Curriculum booklets for 2023-2024 are now on our website, the link to which can be found [here](#). We hope that you find this a beneficial guide to the topics that are covered in each part of KS3, but should you have any queries, please do get in touch.

Mr Steve Pritchard  
Deputy Head

### **ZeroAvia**

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 15 students from Years 10 and 11 are going to the launch of an exciting 6 months research project at Zero Avia. Students will be exploring ways in which hydrogen can make a greener, more sustainable future for the aviation industry.

Mrs Sharron Pearson  
Head of Science

### **School Beat Officer**

We are very fortunate to have PC Leah Davies come into school and work with our students. PC Davies will cover the key areas of safeguarding with all Key Stage 3 students.

The topics that are being discussed this term are as follows:

- Year 7 – Grooming
- Year 8 – Sexting
- Year 9 – Domestic Abuse

We hope that students find PC Davies talks informative.

Mrs Debbie Christopher  
Senior Assistant Head

### **Everyone's Talking About Jamie**

A reminder that tickets are now on sale for the School Production of 'Everyone's Talking about Jamie' and can be bought [here](#). Further information can be found here on our website. It is advised that the content of the play is more suitable for children over the age of 12 due to the themes and some of the language presented.

### **ESSA SW Relays 2023**

We were delighted to have the following students represent us at the Southwest Team Relay Regional School Swimming Championships on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023:

Abi C (Year 10)  
Emilia C (Year 10)  
Elsa S (Year 9)  
Mia P (Year 9)

The best and most competitive schools from our region competed in this event. The girls did amazingly well in both the Freestyle and Medley relays, achieving very impressive and competitive times within their races. We await confirmation of their final positions. This is the first time in a while that Kingshill has entered such a prestigious swimming competition. We are all very proud of this team, they are a real credit to themselves and our school. Thank you to all the parents who supported this opportunity, it is very much appreciated.

Mr Paul Hamblin  
Head of PE

### **Sports Update**

- Our Year 9 Football team beat Henley Bank High School 5-1 in Round 1 of the ESFA Cup competition
- Ryan B (Year 11) has been selected for the U16 District Football squad and will play County fixtures this season
- Fraser L and Olly S (Year 9) have been selected for the County Football squad
- Our Year 11 netball team competed in the U16 Schools Tournament at Cheltenham College on Tuesday. They showed great resilience against tough competition in torrential rain. Mrs Hussey and Mrs Jones are very proud of how they conducted themselves.
- All our netball teams competed in their first District fixture against Thomas Keble, celebrating wins for our Year 7s and Year 9s. Congratulations to the following girls who were nominated Player of the Match by the opposing teams: Judith C (Year 7), Poppy G (Year 8), Kayley B (Year 9), Daisy G (Year 10)

Sports fixtures for next week:

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

- Years 7 and 8 Netball v Farmors (Away), Years 9/10/11 netball v Farmors (Home)
- Years 10 and 11 Rugby v Farmors (Home)

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023

- Year 7 and 8 Cross Country Relays @ Thomas Keble
- Y7 / 8 / 9 Rugby v Farmors (Away)

I hope you and your family have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing all students on Monday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jo Lindley  
Headteacher

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Post 16 Information Evening	6.30pm - 8.00pm
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	15 x Year 10 & 11 students to ZeroArtia	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 8 Chelsea's Choice (in school)	9.00am - 10.00am
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 8 – Year 11 Careers Convention	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 7 Parents Evening (in school)	4.00pm - 6.30pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 11 Study Skills	6.30pm - 8.30pm