



*Striving for Excellence*

# Cirencester Kingshill School

Head: Christine S. Oates

## NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2010

Dear Parent,

2010 has proved to be a difficult start to the year with the interruptions to the school that the snow has caused. Please accept my apologies for the school being closed for the three days.

Thank you for your help and support during this time, I know that bus schedules being interrupted and the adjacent car park being closed where you drop off your son/daughter added to the inconvenience. I really hope that there will be no more problems with snow this winter.

I would like to congratulate the Year 11 pupils who still managed to get to school for their Science examination in spite of the weather.

After school clubs continue to be popular and a large number of pupils are attending them. If your son/daughter has still not joined an after school club it is not too late.

Thank you again for your patience through January, I hope that you enjoy the February break. School starts back on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010.

Miss Christine Oates - Headteacher

### Science Examinations for Year 10

The next external science examinations for Year 10 pupils are on **Wednesday 3rd March 2010**. Pupils will be examined on the two topics they have been studying between December and March. They contribute 25% towards their GCSE final grades. Please encourage your son/daughter to use their textbook and notes, along with the revision materials we have provided to make the most of these examinations.

The "BBC GCSE Bitesize" website is an excellent resource tool for revision in many subjects. For science revision they need to ensure they are in the CORE SCIENCE "AQA" section and then they have to select the topics they are studying.

The AQA examination board also have past papers and mark schemes on their website at

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/>. Once there, if you click on the "Student and Parents" tab, you can click through to past question papers. Click on current GCSEs, then find "Science A: objective tests".

Again they will need to choose the correct ones for their topic. If you have any queries please contact either myself or their individual teacher for more information.

Mrs Pearson - Director of Science

### Year 10 Parents' Survey

In a change to our previous methods of gathering parents' views about the work of the school, we are surveying each Year Group once per year, sending the form with one of the progress reports. We hope that this will be convenient for parents and also provide us with a good level of response. Year 10 parents have already had an opportunity to express their views and these are some of the highlights:

- 97% of parents agree that their child feels safe in school;
- 93% feel that a high standard of behaviour is expected at Kingshill;
- 92% feel that their child enjoys coming to school;
- 91% are pleased with the progress their child has made so far in Year 10.

### Emergency Contact Details

Please ensure you let us know of any changes to telephone/mobile numbers, addresses, place of work etc. It is vital that we can call you in case of illness or emergency.



### **Rotary Club Young Chef of the Year Competition**

Congratulations to Katie Hobbs 11SP who got through to the next round (district final) of the Rotary Young Chef of the Year. Katie did well against competitors from Bristol, Tewkesbury and Wiltshire and we wish her every success on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Friends of Kingshill School**

Save money and raise money at the same time. Charity begins at school! As we approach the middle of the school year we remind ourselves of how quickly time flies and just how many hours our children spend in school. Heads of Departments really appreciate our contributions. We had some lovely letters thanking us for support. Every penny can help our children enjoy the school day.

With the Easter raffle on the horizon you could win a cash prize. Being a friend of Kingshill encourages our community spirit and can be incredibly rewarding. But if you really haven't got time to come along to a meeting or offer to volunteer at one of the many parent or social evenings you can still be friendly sitting in front of the computer.

If you key in Cirencester Kingshill School you will be taken to the Friend's web site and you can buy on line. This can save time and money because you can compare prices, focus on buying what you really need, save on petrol and help the school as well. If spending is not high on your list at the moment then check out the web site because now you can invest on line too with offers from some of the leading financial providers.

Whatever you decide to do please be a Friend of Kingshill School, because our school needs us!

### **Year 8 Residential Visits**

Pupils are eagerly awaiting the departure for the visit to Le Château de Chantereine in France. We look forward to hearing all about their adventures (and seeing the photos) in the next Newsletter. Watch this space....!!!

### **Parent Reminder**

Please note that the school will be closed on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010 for Staff Inset.

### **Use of Pupil Planners**

The school's pupil planner provides a number of important functions:

- It enables pupils to record and organise their homework and for parents to be more able to maintain an overview of it.
- As a means of subject staff communicating praise or concerns to parents.
- It allows tutors to monitor patterns of homework and to share information with parents.

With this last function in mind, tutors are asked to regularly check and sign pupils' planners. Could we please also politely remind parents of the request to sign planners on a weekly basis to indicate that you are monitoring the completion and quality of homework. Of course, if you should have any concerns in this regard, do please contact your child's tutor or the subject teacher direct.

### **An Evening of Dance 2010**

The 'Dance Evening' will be on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March starting at 7pm. Tickets will be on sale after the February break, available from the PE office. Dress rehearsal Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

