



Striving for Excellence

Cirencester Kingshill School

Head: Christine S. Oates

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2009

Dear Parent,

A warm welcome to new Year 7 parents and welcome back to parents of Years 8 to 11. I wish your son/daughter a happy and successful year ahead. I look forward to working with you as parents again this year to ensure that we offer your sons and daughters a first class education here at Kingshill.

The new year has started well and our pupils, as usual, have returned with a very positive attitude. Pupils are working hard in lessons and rising to the high standards that staff expect from them. Your support in ensuring that your son/daughter adheres to the high standards of behaviour and uniform is much appreciated.

Miss Christine Oates - Headteacher

GCSE Results, Summer 2009

This summer's GCSE grades were again very good with 67 per cent of our pupils obtaining 5 or more GCSE passes at grades A* to C. Out of all our entries 22 per cent were graded at A* or A. Once again, it was particularly pleasing to note that achievement was high at all levels of ability.

Key Stage Three Teacher Assessments

Congratulations to the Year 9 pupils who took their National Assessments in English, Mathematics and Science this summer. The levels achieved by the pupils were:

English	Level 5 or above, 84%
	Level 6 or above, 38%
	Level 7, 22%

Mathematics	Level 5 or above, 87%
	Level 6 or above, 70%
	Level 7 or above, 50%

Science	Level 5 or above, 80%
	Level 6 or above, 60%
	Level 7, 19%

The GCSE and SAT results represented a tremendous effort on the part of the pupils and their teachers and will ensure that Kingshill is once again near the top of the value-added tables for Gloucestershire.

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.



New Staff

I am delighted to introduce a number of new staff to Kingshill who will add to the strength of our team.

A warm welcome to the following staff:

Mr Andrew Coates - Head of English and whole school/literacy.

Mr Adrian Jelf - Head of Design and Technology.

Miss Eleanor Drayton - Teacher of Mathematics.

Mrs Lydia Lever - Head's Secretary.

Mrs Laura Rose - Finance Assistant.

Mr Dominic Thomas - Teaching Assistant

Mrs Louise Cross - Teaching Assistant

I would also like to congratulate Mrs Alex Bateman who has been promoted within Kingshill to Head of Year 7 and Ms Claire Minett who has been promoted to Business Manager.

Year 11 Geography Fieldtrip

Over the course of two mild September days sixty Year 11 pupils visited the Brecon Beacons to carry out their Geography fieldwork. The data gathered will be used for GCSE coursework to be completed over the coming month. It is also useful for students to see the landscapes and processes that they have learnt about in the classroom.



Science GCSE Exams - Autumn/Spring Term

All Year 10 pupils and a small number of Year 11 pupils will be doing Science Modular Examinations on Thursday 19th November 2009. It is essential that pupils are present in school for the exams and that they have thoroughly revised.

Please may parents of Year 11 pupils also be aware that they will have formal GCSE science examinations in the spring term. The paper they will sit depends on the topic they are currently studying.

Examination Dates:

Thursday 14th January 2010 - Biology

Monday 18th January 2010 - Chemistry

Wednesday 20th January 2010 - Physics

If you need any further information please contact either Mrs Pearson, Director of Science or your child's science teacher.

Early GCSE English Examination

You may like to make a note of these arrangements to assist your planning in November. Twenty-seven Year 11 pupils are taking GCSE English early. The examinations will be held in L3 and L4 during lesson 1 and 2 on Monday 9th November and Thursday 12th November 2009.

Year 11 GCSE revision/booster classes

I will be keeping all Year 11 pupils and their parents up-to-date on all extra GCSE classes that are put on after school by the various faculties throughout the year. So far there are:

Dance practical classes 3.15pm to 4.15pm in the Gym every Thursday during Terms 2, 3 & 4 (November to March)

French and **German** catch-up/improvement classes will run from 3.15pm to 4.15pm on the following dates; 6th November, 16th November, 20th November, 23rd November, 30th November, 4th December, 7th December, 11th December and the 14th December 2009.

ICT - throughout the year GCSE ICT pupils may arrange with Mr Whight to stay after school, on any night except Friday, in order to keep up with coursework.

Also during May and June they can stay to revise from past examination papers or electronic resources.

Science - Revision classes for Year 11 who are retaking examinations will be in the first two weeks of November. Pupils involved will be bringing a pack of work home with a letter for their parents just before the October break.

S. Little, Assistant Headteacher.

An important date for Year 11 pupils

There will be detailed information coming out to pupils and parents during Terms 3 and 4 but one important date is the 25th June 2010 as this is the last day of the GCSE examinations and the date of the Year 11 Leaver's Ball.

S. Little, Assistant Headteacher

Year 10 Key Dates 2009/2010

19th November 2009 - GCSE Science modules

20th November 2009 - Report to parents

8th February 2010 - Report to parents

25th February 2010 - Parent's Evening

3rd March 2010 - GCSE Science modules

14th May 2010 - Report to parents

24th May 2010 - Report to parents

21st June 2010 - Y10 Examination Week (provisional)

9th July 2010 - Pastoral report to parents

GCSE Catering Examination Dates

Year 11

3rd February 2010 - written planning for GCSE practical assessment

3rd March/9th March/10th 2010 March - all GCSE practical assessments

20th May 2010 - GCSE (theory) written examination

Year 10

20th May 2010 - written planning for GCSE practical assessment

7th June to 11th June 2010 (inclusive) practical GCSE assessments all week.

Year 7 and 8 launched into PLTS

During September, all pupils in Years 7 and 8 were taken off their normal timetable for two lessons to be introduced to the Personal Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS) framework. Working in groups, pupils competed in the trading of 'manufactured' paper shapes, employing a range of skills relevant to the world of work and adult life.

As part of the new Key Stage 3 curriculum, the PLTS framework supports pupils learning across the curriculum, developing the qualities and skills needed for success at school and in life. The framework comprises six groups of skills:

- Independent enquirers
- Creative thinkers
- Reflective learners
- Team workers
- Self-managers
- Effective participants

Throughout the year, pupils will be explicitly developing their Personal Learning and Thinking Skills in lessons and evaluating their progress in these areas during academic tutoring sessions. At Parents' Evenings too, parents will be given the opportunity of discussing pupils' strengths and areas for improvement not only with regard to subject-specific content but also in terms of the six areas of PLTS.

Parents' Forum - Newsletter

Thank you for the many responses from parents expressing preferences as to the kind of topics you'd like to see discussed at this year's Parents' Forum meetings. In addition to the recent Forum on Drugs Education, we intend to hold three more meetings this year on Internet Safety, Healthy Lifestyles (including Sex and Relationships Education) and Homework and Aspects of the Curriculum. Details of these meetings will be published in due course.

C.Patrick, Assistant Headteacher

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Students from across the school will be once again taking part in the shoe box scheme run by Operation Christmas Child.

We are asking students to donate goods to fill a shoebox that will be sent to children in countries such as Romania, Ukraine and Swaziland.

Students are encouraged to donate the following goods

✓ **TOYS** - something to love.
Bear, soft toy, tennis ball, finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo.

✓ **EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES** – something to do.
Pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, rubber, colouring book, notepad.

✓ **HYGIENE ITEMS** – something to use.
Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of wrapped soap, flannel.

✓ **OTHER ITEMS** – something to eat or wear.
Sweets, gloves, scarf.

Filled shoeboxes can be given to your child's tutor or Miss North any time between the 2nd and 13th November 2009. More details can be found at www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk

Buildings Update

I am sure your son/daughter will have told you about the new canopies that were erected over the summer holidays. These have provided a sheltered courtyard outside the Design and Technology classrooms with picnic benches for pupils to use as a social area.

We are also trying to upgrade the lockers for our pupils and we have set up a rolling programme for the upgrade each year, as the budget allows. Some new lockers were purchased this September. Please remind your son/daughter to take care of their locker. If your son/daughter does not have a locker we still have some available. They cost £3.50 for the key.

Car Parks

Could all parents please use the Council Car Park next to the school for dropping off and picking up their children and not drive into the main school entrance at the start and end of the day. The reason for this is for your child's own safety as it gets very busy with all of the buses near the school entrance at these times.

FRIENDS OF KINGSHILL SCHOOL

**WELCOME ALL PARENTS
TO OUR
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ON**

**TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2009 AT 7PM
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM**

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Advice from the L.A.

The school has received from the local authority the following information regarding swine flu:-

At present the number of Swine Flu cases in the County remain relatively low, however there is an expectation that the infection rate will increase again as we move into the Autumn. Advice remains the same in that the NHS are no longer trying to contain the virus as it is widespread and schools should concentrate on common sense measure to reduce infection such as promoting regular hand cleaning and the use of tissues to catch coughs and sneezes. Any staff or pupils that have symptoms of illness should remain at home until the symptoms cease however, there is no need to remain off school any longer than this.

HPV Vaccination

We have been advised of the dates for girls HPV vaccinations for Year 8, 10 and 11 girls. The dates are:-

8th December 2009 first injection

19th January 2010 second injection

11th May 2010 third injection

We will be sending home consent forms at the end of October. Please look out for these and return the completed form back to school by the deadline given.