



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Dear parents, carers and friends,

Schools are about growth...but much like the reflection in the mirror each morning, we often don't see ourselves as 'grown' from day to day. During our results assembly this week, I asked whether anyone who had seen a friend or family member for the first time in 18 months or so had heard the words "Haven't you grown?" Almost all hands went up. Physical growth is noticeable if the gaps between measuring are significant.

Growth as learners and as people is harder to see. There is no doubt that the last 18 months has made it hard to feel as well...and yet the growth of our students is clear to see in their diligence, their positivity and their kindness – as well as in the quality of their academic work. Confidence is growing, independence of thought and action increases week on week and events like the Bake Off have shown a sense of fun and joy returning.

Current guidance tells us that we will return in September without the need for bubbles. At Kings, we will continue to push on hygiene and ask students to sanitise hands as they arrive in school and in classrooms and canteens. Students and staff who feel more comfortable in masks may continue to wear them if they wish. Of course, one of the things that we've learned in the last few years is that guidance can change quite quickly. We will keep you posted as and when we are told anything different.

Recent communication from the Department of Education has informed us that we are expected to offer all students 2 lateral flow tests at the start of term. With that in mind, we plan to invite students in on the 2 INSET days for their first test, with the second one taking place during school hours in the first week back. We will send out more details with dates and times separately.

Student of the Year Awards

At the end of each year a special award and trophy is given to one student from each year to recognise their exceptional achievements over the year. The winners are decided based upon their attendance, attitude, behaviour, community involvement and academic progress. As ever, it has been an incredibly difficult decision, but we are pleased to announce that the following students have been awarded this accolade this year:

- Year 7 - Isla MacAskill
- Year 8 - Griffin Mitchell-Goodson
- Year 9 - Rosh Labre
- Year 10 - Joe Staniforth



Staffing changes

This time of year always sees one or two changes to staffing. In teaching staff, we bid a very fond farewell to Miss Garrad who heads into a London school to take on a new challenge. This is Miss Garrad's second stint at Kings, having left in 2014 before returning in 2017. Despite the role being a great opportunity and promotion for her, I know moving on has been a very difficult decision, as she has a real love for Kings. Ms Tarling is also stepping back from her role as Maths Teacher, but will continue to be an important part of our community in some of the work she will be doing supporting families. Mr Gill will change role here and will be focusing on supporting students with English as an Additional Language (EAL) as well as helping young people develop their literacy skills.

We also see some changes in our educational support team. Mr Newberry starts his training as an English Teacher in September and will be based at Woking High next year. Miss Donovan is off to undertake a role developing as an Educational Psychologist. Both will be hugely missed by students and staff alike, but we wish them every success in their new ventures.

In the wider team, Sarah Oliver is leaving her role at Eikon to take up a different sort of role in education. Sarah has been incredibly important for lots of students and families and her successor will have big shoes to fill (and gardens to continue to develop!).

We also say goodbye to Hannah Trott. Although formally employed by the University of Surrey, Hannah has been based at Kings for over 4 and a half years. Her role started as a job description tall in ambition but short in detail. It is a role she has made her own as she's sourced, developed and created opportunities for our students. She has been both incredible and humble, and her work has rightly been recognised in national awards presented in the Houses of Parliament. Many students have had their eyes opened to the potential opportunities they may choose in life, and there is no doubt that her impact will be felt by us all for years to come.

On behalf of all of the students, staff, and families in the Kings community, my thanks to all of them for everything they have brought to us.

Of course, as people move on, we welcome new faces to join the Kings family who bring their own passion, skills and experience.

In Science, we welcome Mr Warrington as Head of Science. Mr Warrington is joining us from our partner school, George Abbot. We're delighted with his appointment and the experience he will bring to the team. Another fresh face to the Science Department is Mr Joiner, whose specialism in Chemistry will develop the team further still.

In Maths, we welcome Mr Edis-Smith. He is both a talented mathematician and musician, and will bring new dimensions in both areas with his skills.

Miss Trott's successor is Emily Ridgley, who was appointed following an incredibly competitive application process. She has been working with Miss Trott in a different role for some time and will bring both continuity and fresh impetus to the role.

Finally, we see the return of Mr Le Brun. Our national award winning teacher returns as Head of History and Coordinator of Religious Studies. We're all looking forward to his return and I know that he is chomping at the bit to return to the school he loves so much.

Science Classroom update

As I write this newsletter, our builders are installing the furniture in our quarter of a million pound re-design of two of our Science classrooms. We are incredibly excited to be opening these in September and seeing students thriving in their new environment.

Other works over the summer

You may have seen on our website the consultation to build top of the range Padel Tennis facilities as part of the Kings Sports Hub. These will give our students an incredible facility to use, and also be available for hire by families and the local community. Subject to the consultation and Department for Education approval, we hope to have the building work start in the coming months.

Elsewhere around the school will see some cosmetic changes, with new carpet, fresh paint and one or two surprises as students return in September. There is significant investment ongoing in our facilities as we endeavour to provide the very best for our students.

Student Council

The Summer term has been excitingly busy for the Student Council. The four sub-committees have met every week and have been hard at work planning and delivering projects to develop the College and support the local community. This has included organising the first Kings Bake Off, ensuring Pride Week was celebrated through a special assembly, surveying and then purchasing new equipment for students to use at breaks and lunches, working with the RHS to redesign the local community centre garden, ensuring the school has sufficient bins and recycling bins in the school, securing funding to purchase water butts and composting bins to support the gardening projects, surveying the school to understand the diversity of the school and organise a display ready for September. We are immensely proud of their hard work and we look forward to next year where we are delighted that after a recent flurry of applications, we welcome an increased number from all year groups to the college council.



Kings Bake Off

This week saw twelve pairs of students from Kings College Guildford go head-to-head in a cupcake baking contest on Monday 12th of July in the final round of The Great Kings Bake Off. The winning pair were Abby Lesar and Grace McConkey from Year 8 who baked raspberry flavoured cupcakes. In second place were Gabriella Caesar and Isla MacAskill, and in third place were Jess Young and Cyenna Wainhouse.

The Community Group from the Student Council proposed, planned and prepared the Great Kings Bake Off as they wanted to provide an opportunity for students to come together and have some fun after a somewhat tricky year. The Community Group is composed of Year 8, 9 and 10 students who volunteer time to make Kings College and the wider environment a better place for everyone. The idea was led by Lali in Year 9. Just over 90 students from across the year groups signed up and they took part in rounds of baking the week before, one of which saw all the students bake chocolate chip cookies. Students worked in pairs and practised at home bringing in 'secret' ingredients to help get the judges' attention. Bakes included chocolate orange, caramel, raspberry and white chocolate, sprinkles and even popping candy. The judging panel was made up of Mr McKenzie, Miss Wallis, Lali from the Student Council, and members of the Park Barn Community Team who have been working in partnership with the College Council on a number of projects. It was a lovely opportunity to bring the students together and see their baking skills.

The Community Fridge Volunteers

The Community Fridge located just behind the Kings site at the Community Centre has welcomed student volunteers over the summer term. Students predominantly from the Student Council have been volunteering for a lunch time a week to support the running of the Fridge Project by restocking items to talking to members of the public about the initiative. The Fridge is an exciting project which

sees the local community centre support local businesses to reduce food waste by stocking items with short shelf lives for anyone in the local community to use. Ben Carter from the Community Centre had this to say, “Tracy and I have been so pleased to work with students from Kings College this term. We have been very impressed by the students’ commitment, friendliness and hard work supporting their local community by working at The Guildford Community Fridge in their free time. The students displayed an outstanding maturity and awareness of community issues. They are a credit to the College and our local community, and we look forward to working with them again in September.” We are very proud of the selfless efforts of our students in supporting this project and look forward to continuing to support the work next academic year.

Year 9 Painting Project

Year 9 Art students have been lucky to take part in a painting enrichment organised by the Community Group and supported by local artist Paul Cook who recorded painting videos to help inspire and develop students’ experience of landscape painting. For the last six weeks they have attended every week after school to follow a short video and been supported by Willow and Grace from the Community Centre to take on the challenge of creating a Bob Ross inspired Landscape. The students were then lucky to be visited by Paul for the final session and chat to him to gain further support for their work. These were a few quotes from the students about their new found confidence with painting:



- “Believe in yourself, I’m going to take mine to show my uncle who is an artist” – Maddie, the mad artist.
- “Take a leap of faith, I’m making this as a gift for my mum but you could do it as a gift for yourself” – Stan, the worried artist.
- “Mistakes are how we learn!” – Jess
- “I find art and these sessions really relaxing” – Evie
- “At the start I wasn’t too keen, but if you don’t succeed, try and try again, never stop” – Billy
- “The sessions were great” – Kyle



We are really proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing them develop their skills further as they start their GCSE Art courses in September.

University update

This term has seen us slowly begin to pilot physical visits and activities with the University of Surrey again and we look forward to being able to do more of our programme, trips and activities with universities next year.

Year 8 Exploring Higher Education Week

Some of our Year 8 students participated in a programme with the University of Surrey that allowed them to explore Higher Education both on campus and in school. Students enjoyed the chance to learn more about university, try degree subjects and society tasters and understand more about what opportunities are available to them.

Year 10 Alternative Work Experience

Our Year 10 students spent the week of 5th-9th July participating in an alternative work experience programme which saw them understand more about finding employment, develop their own CVs and interview skills and understand the world of work and the appropriate behaviours of the workplace. Students also opted for their preferred work-stream and spent 100 minutes completing a to-do list independently. Students were immersed in the world of work and had to prioritise their workload as well as completing tasks such as taking customer phone calls, replying and writing emails and much more. All students who successfully attended and completed three or more sessions have received a completion certificate for their efforts.

Uniform

Students at Kings wear their uniform with pride. It is an important unifying symbol and there is quite a lot of research around the positive impact of dressing smartly to help focus. A reminder that we return to full winter uniform in September. Students should refresh the contents of their pencil cases so they are fully equipped for learning on their return. As ever, should anyone arrive without the correct equipment, they are expected to borrow from the stock we keep at school.

Whilst we are aware that lots of young people use the summer break to try different styles and accessories, a reminder that school policy is for natural hair colouring and no visible piercings.

Attendance

School attendance is now more important than ever, and outcomes from the summer examination series showed a very clear correlation between high attendance and excellent academic achievement.

Please could I remind parents that students with minor illnesses (headaches, period pains, etc) should still be sent into school. Next term we would like every student to have a minimum of 95% attendance (no more than 2 days absence) in order to best ensure students don't miss out on learning and that your child can continue reconnecting and rebuilding relationships with their friends.

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority, they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court.

Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.

Key dates for return in September

We return to two INSET days in September, with Year 7 **only** joining at 8.25 on Friday 3rd September. These students have not been able to have the traditional induction days with us, so we feel it is vital that we spend a day really focusing on helping them feel settled before the rest of the school returns to lessons on Monday 6th September.

Final thought

Whilst this summer may not see a full return to normality, I do hope that you all have a chance to enjoy some sunshine and some time together. We look forward to seeing Year 7 on Friday 3rd September and all other students on Monday 6th September.



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