

March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring is my favourite time of year. The return of lighter evenings, some warmer weather and the beginnings of daffodils and blossoms lift all of our spirits and focuses our minds on the next steps. L.M. Montgomery, best known for writing Anne of Green Gables, put it rather well: *“Nothing ever seems impossible in spring, you know.”*

At Kings, we’ve never believed in the concept of impossible. Over the last 5 Years we’ve shown that commitment, hard work and determination can lead to great things. We’ve managed to build amazing facilities for our students and community – be those refurbished Science labs, a magnificent 3G pitch, a Baseball Diamond or our new gym facility.

But even more than that, we’ve focused on and developed a tremendous curriculum and worked hard on ensuring we deliver it in the most effective way to your children. It is our students that have seized this mantle to push themselves within and outside of the classroom. Nothing is impossible.

The Easter term is a short one, but has been packed with activity, both in and outside of the classroom. This newsletter has a whole host of updates about what has been going on at Kings. We look forward to the summer term ahead.

Welcome from our Home School Link worker

My name is Holly; I am the new Home School Link Worker (HSLW) here at Kings. Having started the role in January, I am now coming to the end of my first term and it has been lovely getting to know many of the students, and also some of the families.



The aim of my role as HSLW is to support students and families through times of change and stress, predominantly working to ensure excellent attendance and to remove real, or perceived barriers to learning.

I look forward to meeting more of you in the near future!

Art

The Art Department would like to share some of the recent work completed by our incredible GCSE students. Their dedication and enthusiasm continue to produce exciting outcomes. We look forward to sharing more at the end of the summer term.



DT

Students have been working enthusiastically in Design Technology to improve their design and manufacturing skills. Students in all Years have developed their graphical communication through either freehand sketches, isometric drawings or the use of Computer Aided Design (CAD).

We have also seen significant development with students using a variety of manufacturing techniques to produce high quality outcomes. In the image here, starting at the front we can see some examples of Year 7 pewter pendants and just behind are the tea candle holders that Year 7 and some Year 10 students have made. Year 10 students have also hand crafted the wooden spoons and the kitchen work surface protectors. Some Year 8 mug trees are in the middle left with almost complete trinket boxes constructed by Year 9 students.



PE Department corner

PE Department - Core lessons

It's been a busy term in the department getting through the Netball, Gymnastics, Badminton, Football, Gym and Rugby lessons. When we return, we will be straight into our athletics program, focussing on development of technique, distances and times. We will also be introducing a number of new athletic events to the Year 7 groups, which they might not have done in primary school. So enjoy the time off and be prepared to re-engage fully when we return.

Competitive fixtures

Sport this half term has seen the finalising of the Year 7 and Year 8 football league fixtures. Both teams playing Glebelands home and away. Year 8 started well, scoring two good goals in the first half. The second half saw a much tighter game as Kings looked to shut up shop and secure their first win of the season. Sadly, that was not to be as Glebelands scored two quick fire goals and then in the dying minutes, scored the winner.

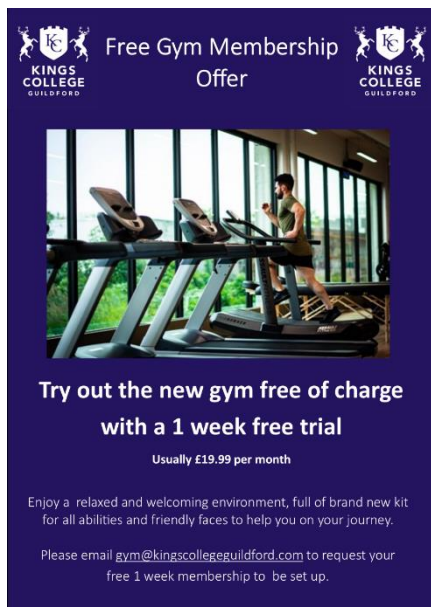
The Year 7 team travelled to Glebelands to be the first team to play on their new 3G surface. After 30 seconds of the first half, Kings were down and it looked like it might be a long afternoon, as the opposition dominated the ball and the play. They scored another simple goal. But we settled down into a rhythm and controlled more of the ball and field. After hitting the posts on four occasions, we finally scored in the second half and then scored another good goal shortly afterwards. Late in the second half Kings took the lead through a worldy strike from Zak Lowther, on the volley, from a corner cross. Unluckily for us, Glebelands scored with a minute to spare and drew the game.

Netball

We've had lots of netball fixtures this term across different year groups and have seen skill and fitness levels rise as students have trained hard and competed passionately. Thank you to Miss Reeves for running all of our training and matches.



The new Gym for community members



Free Gym Membership Offer

Try out the new gym free of charge with a 1 week free trial

Usually £19.99 per month

Enjoy a relaxed and welcoming environment, full of brand new kit for all abilities and friendly faces to help you on your journey.

Please email gym@kingscollegeguildford.com to request your free 1 week membership to be set up.

The Gym opened its doors to the general public on Monday 20th Feb and it is great to see so many familiar faces in there making use of the fantastic facilities.

The gym is designed as a friendly, community focussed facility to appeal to people of all shapes and sizes, so if you have never used a gym before and want to give it a try, or have a membership somewhere else, but would like to look for a cheaper, more local alternative, please get in contact to arrange a no obligation 1-week free trial and we guarantee you will not be disappointed.

All proceeds raised by the community use of the facilities is used to support the continual improvement of the school.

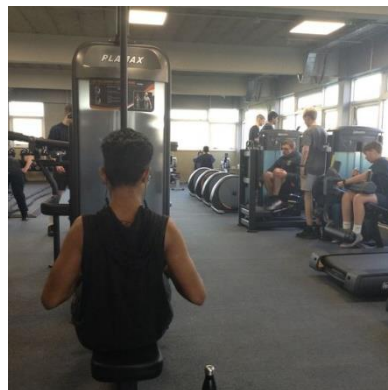
Click <https://kingscollegeguildford.clubright.co.uk/register> to join.

The gym for our students

With the introduction of the new school gym/fitness suite, we have seen the numbers of pupils looking to improve their overall fitness and mental wellness increase dramatically.

The gym club has been so popular that we have opened it up to the Year 9 - Year 11 groups, 5 days a week.

Numbers have been steady throughout these sessions with the Friday session being the most popular with over 40 pupils attending on a regular basis. Pupils are gaining not only an understanding of how use the equipment correctly, but also now have an understanding of how to plan their sessions, which body part they are working on and which exercises are best suited to develop those muscle groups.



Girl's gym club

Following the completion of the gym, Kings Girls' Gym Club was set up to encourage female students to try something new and experience the mental and physical benefits of exercise in a safe and supportive environment.

Studies have found a significant gap between secondary age male and female students when it comes to enjoying exercise, with girls stating lack of confidence and fear of being judged as the main causes. The Girls' Gym Club has created an environment where girls feel confident to try new things and so far, over 30 students in Years 9, 10 and 11 have attended and enjoyed using this excellent facility. All female students in Years 9, 10 and 11 are welcome to join the Girls' Gym every Thursday 3:15 - 4:15pm.

Kings Community Sports Hub - Far more than you would expect to see!!!

Our Kings Community Sports Hub has a growing reputation for having one of the best artificial football pitches in Surrey. This facility is used by over 3000 people per week and is fully booked over 90% of the time, providing an important source of income to help support student learning across the entire site.

What is less well known is the vast array of other activities and community groups that use the rest of the facilities throughout the Year making Kings community Sports Hub a truly diverse and inclusive facility which supports everybody to be active regardless of your ability of background. See below a snapshot of activities that take place at the Hub and if you know of a group that would like to use a space and join this incredible mix of activity providers, please email: gym@kingscollegeguildford.com for availability and further information.

Monday			
1700-1900	AsiaSteps	Dance Studio	Dance Class
2000-2100	Aerial Hoop	Gymnasium	Adult Circus Skills
2000-2130	Hapkido	Dance Studio	Martial Arts
2030-2130	Beginners Pole	Studio 1	Adult Fitness Class
Tuesday			
1700-1930	Sponta Sua	Gymnasium	Childrens Gymnastics
1800-1900	Beginners Hoop	Studio 3	Adult Fitness Class
2000-2100	Lacrosse	3G	Lacrosse Training
Wednesday			
1700-1800	Full Body Conditioning	Studio 2	Adult Fitness Class
1700-1900	AsiaSteps	Dance Studio	Dance Studio
1800-1900	Backbends	Studio 2	Adult Flexibility
2000-2100	Aerial Silk	Gymnasium	Adult Fitness Class
2000-2200	Savate	Sports Hall	French Kickboxing
Thursday			
1700-1930	Dodgeball	Sports Hall	Adult Sports
1930-2100	Archery	Sports Hall	Adult Sports
2000-2130	Hapkido	Dance Studio	Martial Arts
Friday			
1800-1900	Stretch and Flex Hybrid	Studio 1	Adult Fitness Class
1830-1930	Friday Night Football	3G	Youth Drop in Football
1930-2030	AMA Ladies Sports Night	Sports Hall	Adult Sports Sessions
2000-2200	ManVFat	3G/Sports Hub	Adult Weight Loss
Saturday			
0900-1200	Junior Baseball	Baseball Diamond	Adult Sports
0830-1100	Weightwatchers	Main School	Adult Weight loss group
0900-12.30	Stage Coach	School Hall	Youth Drama School
1000-1400	Arabic School	English Block	Arabic School
Sunday			
0900-1300	Adult Baseball	Baseball Diamond	Adult Sports
1000-1130	Pan Disability Football	3G	Youth Football
1030-1200	AMA Youth Sports	Sports Hall	Youth Sports

University of Surrey - Finding Our Futures

This term, students across multiple year groups have taken part in the University-run workshops – from discovering their different learning styles and personality types to exploring pathways and careers. In March, Year 9s heard about all the exciting careers available within the Hospitality and Tourism industries from visiting academic staff – from robotics to luxury hotels and everything in between!

In February, some Year 8s took part in a 3-day event at the University, learning about all the new and exciting subjects they can study at university and what clubs and societies are available. They even got to graduate from the programme at the end of the week – well done to everyone involved!



We've also been proud to have some of our Year 9s taking part in Family Futures, an online, extra-curricular programme run by the University across three months, where they have been exploring their future pathways and options with parents/carers at home. Well done also to the Year 10 students who have been taking part in Realise Your Potential, a Saturday programme where students visit the University campus to try subject tasters and take part in a research project across a number of weeks. You all did a brilliant job and it was great to see you graduate the programme at the end of term!

Stamp Out Stress

Our SOS days are a great opportunity for students to try new activities to support the 5 Ways to Wellbeing (Connect, Be Active, Keep Learning, Give and Take Notice) whilst also developing their skills and knowledge around careers and their future options.

In February, Year 11s took part in a variety of workshops to support their wellbeing – including yoga, art therapy and mindfulness. In March we were visited by the Army who worked with Year 10 developing their problem solving and teamwork skills. Then Year 7s had a taster of stunting and tumbling with the University of Surrey's Cheerleading Society.



Duke of Edinburgh

On Friday 10th March we celebrated the achievements of our Year 10, 11 and past Kings students who completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Awards. The presentation took place at Surrey University with students, parents and colleagues from Fullbrook School.



Year 9 Students are now looking ahead to working on their Bronze Awards and older students taking on the challenges of Silver and Gold.

Expeditions coming up...

Bronze Expedition	28 th -29 th April, Surrey Hills
Silver Practice Expedition	23 rd -25 th June, New Forest
Silver/Gold Expedition	16 th -20 th July, North Yorkshire Moors

Wellbeing team update

This Spring Term we have welcomed the Mental Health Support Team from Mindworks to Kings. We have been lucky to be joined by three practitioners 2-3 days a week who have started to support students using Cognitive Behaviour Therapy approaches. Children and families can self-refer by making contact with Vice Principal Mrs Robberts, who is our Mental Health Lead. The team have also provided sessions for our Year 11 students on Stamp Out Stress Days and whole school assemblies. Over the coming months they will work further to support wellbeing approaches at our school.

Careers

Year 10 students have been having 1-1 meetings with our Careers Advisor, Jacqui Rich. In these meetings students have been exploring their future pathways, including Apprenticeships and A-Levels, to help inform their application choices next Year. These conversations have also helped students thinking about where they might like to apply for their Work Experience placements taking place in the Summer Term.

Wisley – Gardens of imagination



A group of nine students have been working with Wisley to help develop an exhibition that will be on display next Year. The students have been discussing weeds and the social implications of being a weed.

Part of the project has been literacy based and our students have been writing letters and poems to weeds as well as this we have created 'zines', pressed flowers from our therapy garden to start Kings' very own herbarium, cyanotype printing and some hammering printing. The highlight of the project has been a trip to Wisley where we go to go behind the scenes and see parts of the gardens normally not accessible to the general public.

We are all very excited to see the finished project.

Gardening club

Despite the weather making things quite difficult at times, we have still continued to go outside. If we have been unable to withstand the rain, we have continued to be creative indoors. We have planted lots of snowdrop and daffodil bulbs, which are starting to appear in the new Wisley designed garden area, and also in the Quad.

Some of the gardeners spent their time raking up the plethora of acorns that the large oak tree had shed on to the playground, next to the new garden: very laborious, but a job well done, as there were considerably more this Year! Litter picking in the gardens has also taken place, by one or two very keen boys, which has helped supplement the excellent work from the premises team and keep the place looking good.

Our new wooden, eco-friendly composters are beginning to work well, as we now have one of the bins filled with useable mulch, which we have been turning over regularly.

We have begun tidying up an empty patio area by the new Gym, hopefully to be used by the Cafe customers. Sweeping up all the leaves, clearing the moss and acquiring pots to plant bulbs and flowers in. The Premises team have helped by tackling the adjacent overgrown tree, with the plan to create a nice place to sit and spectate the sports pitches.

Trip to Malaga

39 Languages students have traded in their waterproofs for sunglasses as they depart for Spain for a 4-day, 3-night residential to Spain. Highlights of the trip include the Picasso Museum, Rosalesa Stadium, Castillo Gibralfaro and, of course, churros! Students are looking forward to practicing their Spanish in a real-world context and exploring all of the cultural experiences that Malaga has to offer.

Attendance

Congratulations to the following groups for their brilliant attendance so far this Year;

- 7BRU for having the highest attendance out of all the tutor groups
- Year 9 for being the Year group with the highest attendance
- Sceptre House for the highest attending house

A small reminder to all parents and carers, that where possible, appointments should be made outside of school time to maximise learning. If this is not possible, please remember to advise us in advance, and provide evidence of any appointments.

If you need to report your child as absent from school or want to inform us about an appointment, where possible please use Studybugs (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>). Parents have reported that it is an easy system to use and has been useful as a means of communication. Like all schools, we share the anonymised information received to help the NHS understand local issues with bugs and illness, as well as where there are COVID-like symptoms.

A reminder to parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), 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 four penalty notices.

Parking in the rear car park

We continue to have concerns raised about the safety of students in the rear car park around pick up time. Whilst I recognise that the area can become congested, I would urge parents collecting their children at the end of the day to avoid parking or pausing on the access road. We have had a few situations where a lack of care has caused some near misses and we must all work responsibly to ensure the safety of our students.

Summer uniform update

Following our change to the house system this Year, we will no longer be moving to a summer uniform of polo shirts. Should the weather become particularly extreme in temperature, we would look to make adaptations for short periods of time.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Easter from all of the team at Kings. We look forward to seeing all students on our return on 17th April.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A. McKenzie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alastair McKenzie
Principal