

Newsletter

October 2023



Dear families,

As we step into the vibrant and transformative embrace of autumn, I am delighted to welcome you all to a new academic year of growth, learning, and endless possibilities at Kings.

"Autumn, the year's last, loveliest smile."

These words from the poet William Cullen Bryant perfectly capture the essence of the season. At Kings, we've seen our students smile a lot this term. Our Open Evening and Open mornings were a chance for our students to show off their school – and what a fantastic job they did with this. Thank you to all of them for giving up their time, and to you for making the adjustments you needed to in the family schedule to enable this.



Mr McKenzie's message

Our students have excelled in and outside of the classroom and we have already seen an impressive 12,158 reward points given out this year. This is no mean feat, and reflects the hard work and kindness that we're seeing from our students this year. It's a great start.

This newsletter includes some updates about what we're focusing on from a Teaching and Learning perspective, some changes to our assessment system and some of the things we've been up to so far this term. On top of this, there are a number of important updates that I am keen to share with you at this time.

Roofing project and RAAC

Following the replacement of all of our flat roofing a couple of years ago, this autumn marks the beginning of a 40-week program to replace the pitched roofs on our campus, an essential initiative to maintain a leak free and warm learning environment for our students. Whilst this will mean that students will have some lessons re-roomed for a week or so, it should have no significant impact on teaching and learning in the school.

I wrote to you earlier this year to keep you informed about RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) within the school. Prior to the summer, we identified this within the roofing of our two sports halls. We engaged a building surveyor who informed us that they could continue to be used. Following some issues in other establishments away from Surrey, we made the decision not to use them pending a visit from the Department for Education. We have had that visit and are in the process of making some adjustments to the fabric of the building to ensure the safety of our students and staff. In the interim, the PE team have adjusted the curriculum to utilise other spaces within the school. We have also managed to secure a large number of bookings at Surrey Sports Park to ensure the quality of provision is not impacted. Our hope is that we will be able to use our own facilities from Christmas. Whilst there are some logistical challenges we have had to overcome, I'm sure you will agree that we must prioritise safety in this instance.

Vehicles on site for drop off and collecting of students

After a number of near-misses in the front and rear car parks, it is essential to address a change that may affect your daily routines in order to improve the safety of our students. Starting from half term, parents will no longer be able to pick up or drop off students on school premises, unless for physical needs pre-agreed with the school. This is in both the front and rear car parks. This decision is made to ensure the safety and well-being of all our students. We understand that this change will be an adjustment for our school community, but we believe it is in the best interest of our students. It is worth noting that this brings us into line with all of the other secondary schools in Guildford.

Thank you for being a part of our fantastic learning community. Here's to a season filled with growth, wisdom, and countless achievements.

With warm regards,

Mr A McKenzie

Principal, Kings College Guildford

NEW CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

It is a pleasure to introduce myself as I join your community in the role of Chair of Governors at Kings College. My name is Jo Oliver and I live in the Guildford area where, alongside my husband, I have raised two daughters who have attended local Surrey schools.

My professional life has been predominantly in education both in London and in Surrey; until recently I had the role of Headteacher at Tillingbourne Junior School in Chilworth. Working with children for the past 40 years has enabled me to gain a good understanding of the opportunities and challenges that face the young people of our community. I hope to use my experience and my commitment to support the school to inspire and meet the needs of the students enabling them to be the best that they can be.



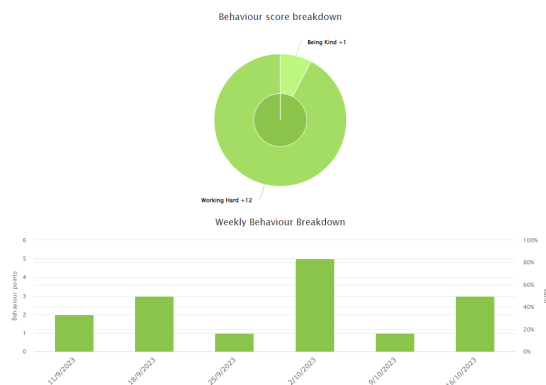
FROM THE OFFICE



Class Charts is behaviour management software used by teachers to record and track student achievement and behaviour. By downloading the App you are able to see your child's timetable, rewards and in time we look to share behaviour information. A Parent has

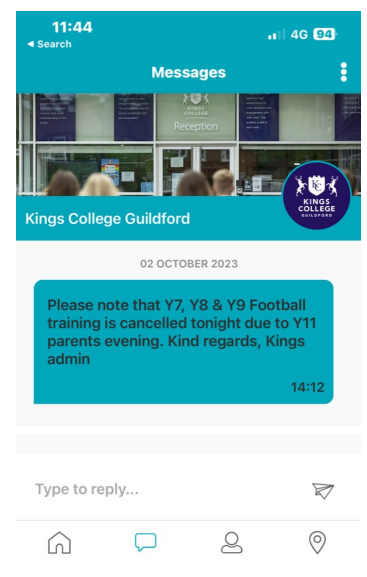
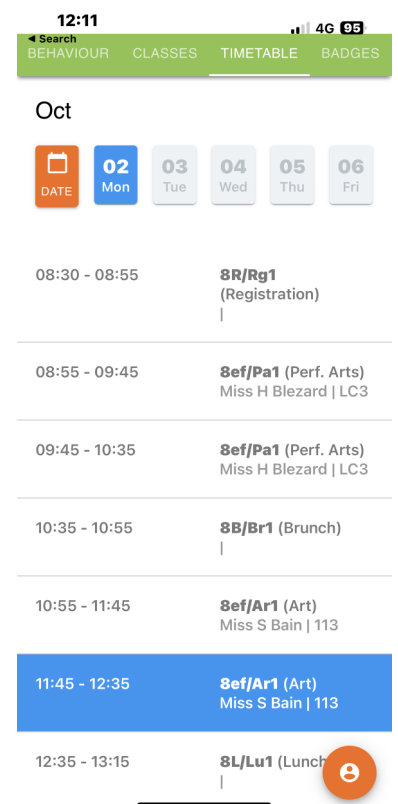
commented that, *"I particularly like using Class charts to check my daughter's timetable as it tells me day by day which lessons she has. I also really like to see what positive behaviour points she had been awarded as otherwise she doesn't always remember to tell me"*.

Custom - showing 31 days
Date: 17/09/2023 - 17/10/2023



Schoolgateway

School Gateway allows you to manage all your school interactions via the easy-to-use app. It will replace our email and text systems to combine one app that can be used by both families and school. A Parent has noted about Class Charts, "I really like being able to message the school via the app, instead of by email as I receive a faster response. It is also great for receiving last minute reminders/message from school about trips etc. The option to keep my contact details up to date is really useful."



REPORTS

Changes to Reports

Reporting to parents on the extent to which their child is successfully progressing through the curriculum in each subject is an essential part of each child's journey through school. The information contained in each report signposts to students and parents the subjects where a child is finding success, as well as subjects they may need to give more attention to. As such, it is important that this information is easy to understand so that appropriate actions can be taken by students and their families.

With this in mind, we have made some adaptations to the report that each family receives. It will now contain three pieces of information from each subject: (1) the level your child achieved on their exam, in the form of a percentage; (2) the average level achieved on that exam across the year-group, in the form of a percentage; and (3) an 'attitude to learning' score.

This system will indicate how a child is performing in each subject as compared to their peers. This will allow families to easily identify whether a child is achieving in line with their year-group or achieving above or below age-related expectations. Whilst we understand that every child has individual strengths, weaknesses and needs, we are confident that offering information on each child's attainment as it compares to the average attainment of the cohort will give students, parents and teachers the information they need to ensure each child is as successful as possible.

Should you have any questions after the first report is published pre-Christmas, please contact Mr Ferguson directly at d.ferguson@kingscollegeguildford.com

TEACHING AND LEARNING



Message from Mr Le Brun

In my new role as Head of Teaching and Learning one of my main aims is to help all of our students understand the specific requirements of the many different types of question they are asked across the curriculum. By doing this, it will give students the best opportunity to demonstrate their understanding and knowledge of each subject taught. As a result, the focus at the start of this year is developing the four key skills needed to answer any type of question. These are:

Remembering – having the ability to recall key information.

Stating – producing the basic answer to any question.

Describing – writing down how an answer was reached or the information used to reach an answer.

Explaining – writing down why an answer is correct.

Within lessons students have been given the opportunity to practise these skills on a regular basis and these will be tested explicitly in our November assessments. When speaking to your child about their school or homework it would help immensely if you ask them to describe how the method they used to reach a particular answer or the evidence they relied upon. Describing fully what they did in lessons is equally useful.

Getting your child to explain to you *why* they are correct is not the easiest of skills for them to demonstrate but a vital one for them to master. However, by practising this and all the other core skills on a regular basis, students at Kings will put in place everything they need to succeed at school and beyond.

Mr Le Brun

PSHE

PSHE Curriculum

As a part of your child's education at Kings College, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential. Over the next year your child's class will be taking part in lessons which will look at relationships and sex education (RSE). RSE lessons may include healthy relationships, including friendships and intimate relationships; families; growing and changing, including puberty; personal hygiene; changing feelings; becoming more independent; keeping safe and consent; developing self-esteem and confidence. Pupils will also have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern world.

PSHE education is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. Please visit the school's website at [PSHE Curriculum](#) for more details about our PSHE curriculum. All PSHE teaching takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

If you would like to find out more or discuss any concerns, please visit our [Relationship and Sex Education Policy](#) or email Miss Francis at r.francis@kingscollegeguildford.com.

REWARDS UPDATE

Students at Kings College have had an amazing start to the year with almost **12,158** rewards already given. Each award signifies a student who has worked hard, been kind, supported the community or displayed excellence. The cumulative efforts of all of our students have led to the following house winners for the term:

Working Hard Cards - **Orb**

Being Kind Cards - **Mantle**

Community Rewards - **Sceptre**

Excellent Rewards - **Orb**

Attendance - **Orb**

Punctuality - **Sceptre**



HOUSE UPDATE



At the start of this year we have focused on embedding the new house system by selecting our new house captains. We also have the screen by the main hall which is updated daily to let the whole school know what areas each house are doing well in.



During tutor time we are running competitions for pumpkin carving and we will be having a tutor classroom Christmas decorating competition.

We also have on display outside the hall six shiny new trophies for: Working Hard, Be Kind, Community Rewards, Excellence, Attendance and Punctuality.

The house that wins the most trophies will be invited to a cake party during school time.



ATTENDANCE

Attendance Reward

We were really pleased to have a whole attendance reward early this half term as we hit 95% whole school attendance for the week. Students came to school in mufti as a reward and the atmosphere around the school was really uplifting. We are going to continue the whole school competition this year and have launched with the students the following targets for whole school attendance each week.

Whole school 93% = One day in PE kit

Whole school 95% = One day in mufti

Whole school 97% = One week in mufti

At present our attendance is 92%. This is a 2% increase since this time last year. A 2% increase may not sound much but in real term with is approximately 300 days and 1500 hours more of education this half term, for the school that we had a year ago.

As we progress into the winter term please be reminded that children should be in school despite common colds and illness. We will always assess children during the day if and make contact. If you are concerned about your child please contact reception directly and avoid any direct contact with your child by phone as we are a phone free school and they can come directly to student reception for support. We are sending the guidance from the Department for Education Advice on Illness: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-school-leaders-on-mild-illness-and-school-attendance/letter-to-school-leaders-on-mild-illness-and-school-attendance#:~:text=It%20is%20usually%20appropriate%20for,38%C2%B0C%20or%20above>.

Regular attendance is so important for your child to reach their full potential. I have spoken to students this week about how being in school everyday helps not only ensures they do not miss learning but also ensures that they feel connected to their peers and staff which is vital for their wellbeing.

If you have noticed that your child is reluctant to attend school, please remember that we have extensively invested in our wellbeing and mental health offer to improve childrens access to support. We employ a Wellbeing Practitioner, Home School Link Worker, Youth worker and Art Therapist. We are then supported by a Mindworks Mental Health Support Team, Matrix and Eikon visiting Youth Workers. The support is best utilised at early signs of worry, low mood, difficulties with anger, feeling withdrawn or frightened, other thinking or difficulties with social situations or separations anxieties. Students can speak to their Pastoral Lead, SENCO or Senior Leadership Team if they would like to self-refer. Similarly, parents can refer by making contact with their child's Pastoral Lead.

Communication Lines

We believe that communication between home and school is important to ensure the best outcomes for your children. Please be advised of the following communication pathways and allow 48 hours for a response as often staff will respond before this but may be teaching and scheduled for meetings after or before school. Detailed information on the communication pathways can be found here <https://www.kingscollegeguildford.com/parent-hub/>

Attendance Housekeeping

Where possible, appointments should be made outside of the school day to maximise the time spent learning. If this is not possible, please ensure you advise us in advance and provide evidence, such as, an appointment card, text or letter confirmation. These should be emailed to office@kingscollegeguildford.com.

If you need to report your child as absent from school, please use the Studybugs app <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>. Over 93% of parents already use the app, but please download it if you are yet to do so.

A reminder to parents and carers that if you take your children out of school, without permission from the Principal, for five or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), you will be liable to receive a penalty notice.

Currently, the amount payable, under a penalty notice, is £60 per parent/carer, per child, if paid within 21 days. Thereafter, the amount increases to £120, 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.

TRIPS

Wisley Exhibition—What is a Weed?

A group of students from Years 9 and 10, have recently been involved in curating an exhibition at RHS Garden, Wisley. Students worked extremely hard with the help of poet Lindon McMahon to change minds about 'weeds'.

The 'What is a Weed?' exhibition opened on 24th September 2023 and will run until the 23rd January 2024. The exhibition uses a range of media including artworks and animation to challenge negative stereotypes about weeds and introduces new perspectives to engage with the issues and challenges in horticulture. The exhibition highlights artworks and exhibits exploring human-plant relationships, beauty, norms, and the place of humans within the ecosystem.

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It was a wonderful experience for everyone involved and we encourage everyone to visit if they can.

To book please visit: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/viewevent?EFID=3840&ESRC=CMS>

Year 11 trip to Watts Gallery

On October 10th students in year 11 taking art GCSE Attending a workshop at Watts gallery, Compton focused on art analysis and public speaking.

Students had a tour around the main gallery and studio spaces where the team at Watts spoke about the history of the artists and buildings. Students were able to view a range of different art and sculpture created by George and Mary Watts. They then attended a public speaking workshop with an external speaker from London where they explored the artwork further in smaller groups.

Each group was given one piece to research and discuss their opinions of. They were then asked to prepare a presentation for their given piece and presented it to the Watts team and the rest of the group in front of the art piece.

All students were engaged and enthusiastic throughout the trip and were able to present some really interesting opinions and points.



FIXTURES

Football

This year has seen the school field 3 full sides. The current year 9 and 8 teams have all played together for a year and have built up a great comradery with each other. The new year 7's are still to find their feet. Practices have been extended from Tuesday to Thursday to allow maximum participation and allow all teams to play against each other build on their strength.

The year 7's have started the season late, and have only played 1 match against Rodborough. A tight fixture which lead to the team winning right near the end and beating the opposition 4-3. This was a great result and we look forward to seeing what they can accomplish through the season.

Year 8's have played 3 fixtures. Away to Christ College which resulted in a 7-2 win, with Zak Lowther scoring 3 goals. A tight loss to Glebelands in the dying seconds of the game 3-4. And finally a loss to a very well drilled Rodborough team. Congratulations to Alfie Murrells who has been selected to play for the Fulham Academy this year. His hard work and dedication to his sport is exemplary and we wish him all the success.

The year 9's have also played 3 fixtures. A loss to Rodborough. A very wet win against a committed Christs college side 4-2 on an absolutely horrendous day of torrential rain and wind. And finally a very handy draw away to Glebelands 4-4, even though they went away and played with only 10 players due to some late injuries and pupil unavailability.

Currently we have a group of 13 year 10's who have committed to coming down and training every week to be ready for the b-league games which are scheduled to be played after the half term. Looking forward to see the results from them.

We have more fixtures after the half term and with practices we are hoping for a continued upward trend in the results across all teams. Well done for all the hard work that you have put in so far. Keep it up and the results will speak for themselves

Netball

Our fantastic year 11 netballers travelled to George Abbot on 4th October for their first fixture of the season. The girls played some fantastic netball, coming away with a super win. A great start to the netball season!



Year 11 netball team



Year 7 netball team

Well done to both our Year 7 and Year 8 netballers who travelled to Christ's College on the 12th October for their first fixture of the season. Year 7 came away with a win and a loss and our Year 8's won both their games. Both teams played some super netball and look forward to their next fixtures.

Key Term Dates

Return to school after half term—**Tues 31st Oct**

INSET DAY—**Friday 8th Dec**

End of term—12pm **Weds 20th Dec**

INSET DAY—**Weds 3rd Jan 2024**

Return to school for all years—**Thurs 4th Jan 2024**