



Dear Kings College Guildford Community,

As I write this, the sun is shining and it really does feel like we're out of the cold weather. As the late, great Robin Williams said, "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'". Whilst we're not quite at that stage, it is energising to see the blossom on the trees around the school and to see students playing on the field at lunchtime.

The Spring term often feels something of a contrast – it's relatively short in timeframes, but a real powerhouse in terms of academic activity. Our students continue to embrace their studies in and outside of the classroom. We ensure we explain why we're doing what we're doing in Mr Le Brun's assemblies about Teaching and Learning. As a result of the hard work of staff and students, our Year 11s are rapidly approach full 'match fitness' in preparation for our examinations. Their revision programme continues over the Easter holidays and I'm extremely appreciative of the staff who will be in to support this.

We were pleased to welcome Year 8, 9 and 10 families in for parents evenings in late February and March. Those conversations about progress and effort really are invaluable for all parties and I am appreciative to the parents who have fed back their kind words to us subsequently.

It's been a busy term of trips and visits: deepening our Historical knowledge at the Imperial War Museum; being inspired at performances at Italia Conti; looking ahead to our futures with visits to the University; Geography field trips and over 40 students visiting Barcelona for a feast of Spanish and Art.

In the back ground, work has started moving with pace on the planning aspect of our new sports hall. This is a significant project and we've been visiting other schools to review other new builds in order to ensure the sports hall at Kings really is something very special. We cannot wait to get going here and I hope to be able to share plans and a timeline before our next newsletter.

Spring is a time of growth and possibility, and we are eager to continue nurturing an environment where our students can flourish academically and personally. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our school's mission.

We return on Tuesday 22nd April for a term which promises to be both busy and rewarding for all.

Yours sincerely,

Mr McKenzie



Attendance

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 94% of parents already use the app, but please download it if you are yet to do so.

<https://www.what0-18.nhs.uk/parents/carers/worried-your-child-unwell/child-unwell-ok-go-nurseryschool>



Changes to Statutory Guidance for School Attendance

You will be aware that improving school attendance is a national priority as research shows that excellent attendance ensures that children are successful not only in their education but have good wellbeing and life chances. To support this, the government has published statutory guidance that all schools must adopt from 19th August 2024 and Surrey Local Authority requests that all schools share the following information with parents. There are new regulations coming into effect from 19th August 2024 which impact on penalty notices issued for an unauthorised leave of absence. Penalty notices can and should be issued for 10 sessions (a session is a half day) of unauthorised absence. Please note schools are not able to authorise absences except in exceptional circumstances.

1. If a parent/carer has not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against the parent/carer in the Magistrates Court.
2. If a parent/carer has incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court.
3. If a parent/carer has incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then the parent/carer will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Celebrating Attendance

Since the start of this year, we have been looking for new and fun ways to highlight and celebrate attendance and we are pleased to share that our children have really engaged and impressed us.

Excellent Attendance Badges

Each half term we are looking at everyone's attendance and awarding star badges for attendance over 98% (for only that half term). This means everyone can have a fresh start and the opportunity to achieve recognition.

This half term we are looking at over 247 of our students being awarded a badge which is excellent to see that so many children have managed to maintain excellent attendance.



Monday 1% Club

This term Mrs Hamilton-Marshall has launched the 1% Club quiz for tutor times every week. Student Voice shared that they enjoyed opportunities to work together and like a fun start to the week.

Based on the popular TV show, we run a tutor group version with the winning students collecting a small prize from Mrs Robberts. The idea being that you have to be in it to win it!

Friday Raffle

Like many schools and work places we noticed a slight decrease can happen towards the end of the week but since introducing our Friday Raffle this has noticeably changed.

When everyone comes into school they see enter their names into a draw and take a small piece of cake. The winner of the draw then is rewarded.



Interesting research about attendance

As you know good school attendance support children to feel confident and happy about school and learning.

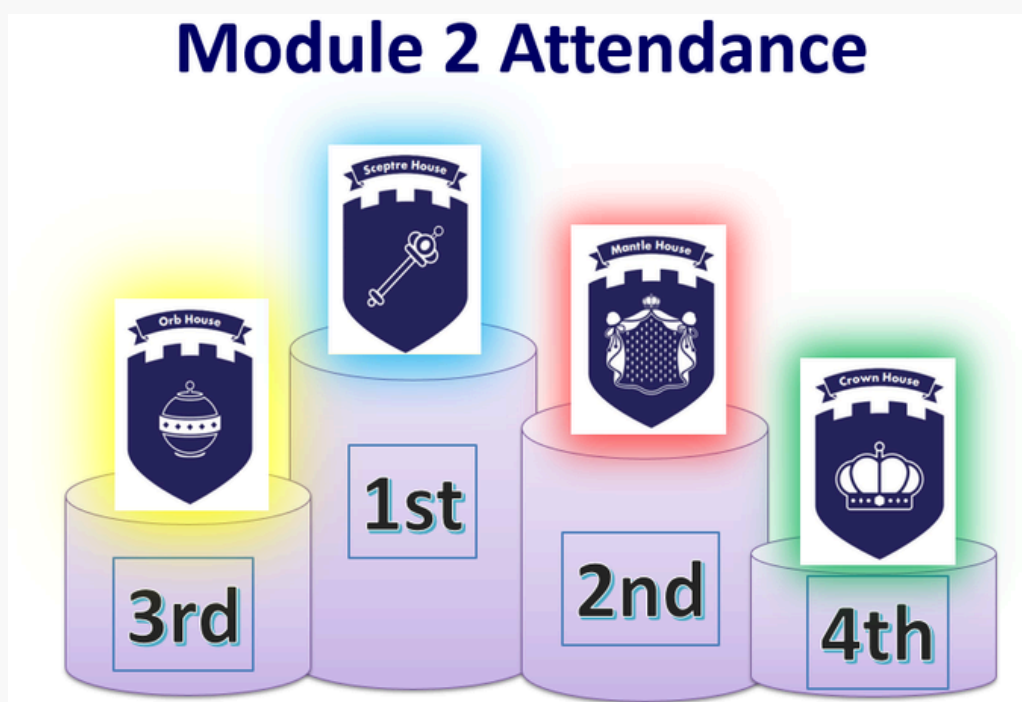
We know that school attendance directly relates to how children achieve in their GCSEs and the Government have published 'The Impact of School Absence on Lifetime Earnings Research Report' which highlights the impact on earnings. [The impact of school absence on lifetime earnings](#).

We continue to be committed to support every child and their family to achieve excellent attendance to ensure they are set for the best outcomes beyond school, so please ensure that you speak to your child's Pastoral Leader if you would like to access any additional support. This could be accessing our Wellbeing and Mental Health offer, Mentoring, Club and Enrichments or support with learning from our SEND team.

Attendance Policy

As you will be aware from previous letters legislation and Surrey Inclusion have changed significantly over the last year, please do view our policy if you want further information please find the link [here](#).

As we approach the final term, we will be looking to update our attendance policy, it's important for us to gather your comments regarding our policy, including any ideas you have to improve school attendance. Please use this [link](#) to give us your feedback.



Barcelona Residential

40 students in Years 9 to 11 explored the sights and sounds of Barcelona from 27-31 March on this year's international residential to Spain.

Students experienced Catalonian culture, including the Boqueira Food Market, Barcelona FC's Nou Camp Stadium immersive tour, the Dali and Picasso Museums and Gaudi's famous La Sagrada Familia and Park Guell.

Students braved 4am coach journeys, navigated one of the busiest streets in Europe (Las Ramblas), tasted a plethora of new foods, practiced their Spanish and gained invaluable life experience as they travelled internationally with their peers.



Pallant House

10 students in Year 11 were selected to visit Pallant House Gallery in Chichester to attend an event on careers in the creative industry.

Students were able to ask questions of leading contributors from a range of creative industries, including architects, art preservers and coordinators, as well as tutors from a range of local universities and colleges.

Students found the trip useful in determining future pathways into the creative industry.

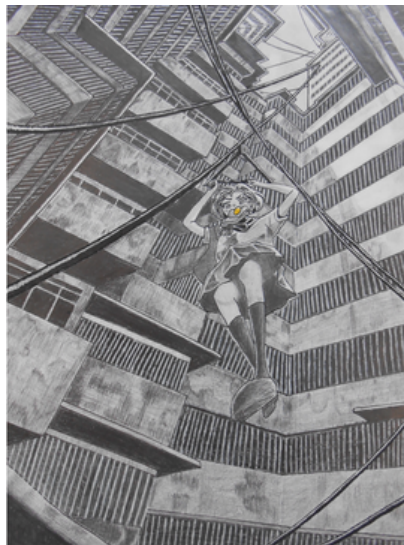
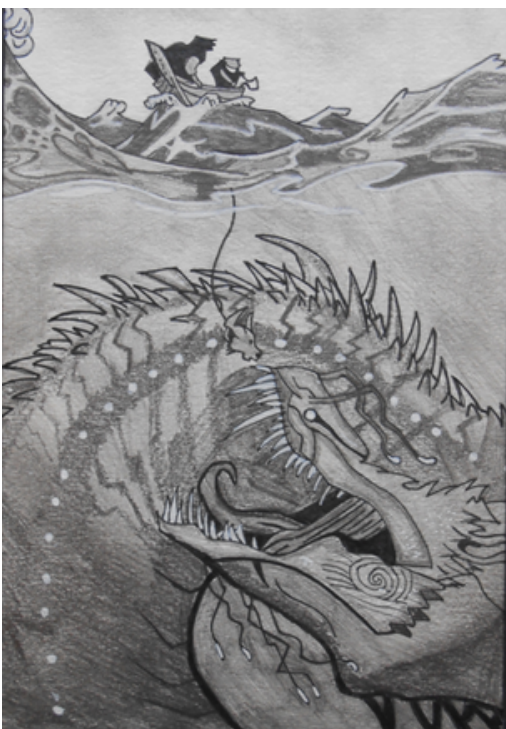
Year 10/11 Portrait gallery trip

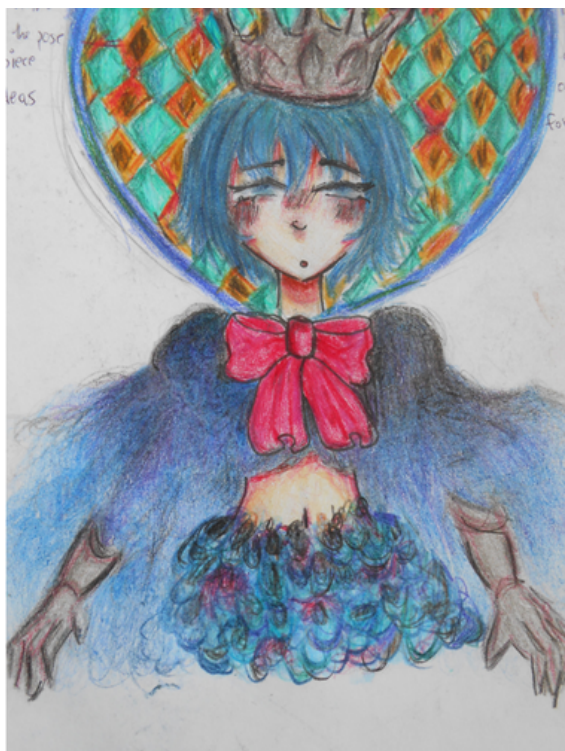
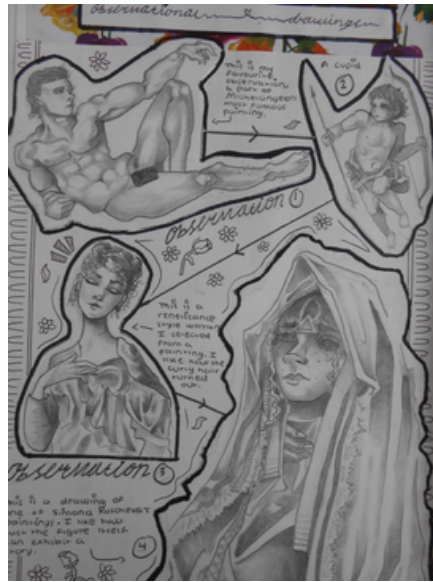
Students in Years 10 and 11 visited the National Gallery to observe and sketch pieces from their collection.

Year 11 students used the trip to help inform their artist research based on their theme chosen from a set of 7 starting points set by the exam board.

Year 10 students were able to observe artists for their current project on identity. Year 11 students are working hard on their exam project with their final 10 hour exam on the 29th and 30th of April.

Year 11 GCSE Artwork





Performing Arts Events

Creative Careers Trip

On Monday 10th February the Year 10 Performing Arts students travelled to the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre for a morning of hands on careers workshops.

We were treated to a display of pyrotechnics, learning about the different types of “fireworks”, smoke effects and lighting are used in live theatre performances to enhance the scenes. Students were able to set these off, showing the controlled conditions and careful planning and timing used to do so safely.

Next up students took to the stage for a series of warm up games and character building games used when in the initial stages of putting together a performance. These made the students relax into their environment, get them used to the space on stage as well as start thinking about how movement and body language can help create a character.

The final session was learning the role of a director. The Yvonne Arnaud’s in house director, Joanna, demonstrated how she gives direction in the initial stages of rehearsing a play. Students then had to employ the strategies she had shown them to direct each other.

The morning was fun and very insightful with plenty of learning taken on board to support the Year 10 class as they move forwards with their Performing Arts course



Theatre trip to see ‘Our House’

On Friday 21st March a mix of Year 9 and 10 Performing Arts students attended the matinee performance of “Our House” performed by the Italia Conti students at Rhoda McGaw Theatre, Woking.

The storyline tells of a 16-year-old boy, Joe, who is navigating life growing up in London. The way the story is told cleverly shows two different versions of his life - “Good Joe” and “Bad Joe”. It depicts the two different routes life can take when making the right choices vs the wrong choices. This story is set to the well-known tracks of music by the famous band ‘Madness’.

The students enjoyed seeing the story brought to life in front of their eyes through the talented cast singing, acting and dancing with such skill and precision. This will hopefully inspire them to use this same level of energy and commitment to character development as they have witnessed on the stage.

Oliver the Musical

Following the success of last year's performance of Matilda the cast of this year's "Kings College Musical" are busy rehearsing for the performance of Oliver. The performance will take place over two nights, Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th June – Save the date!



Year 7 and 8 highlights

Y7 Mentoring Program

Over the past 14 weeks, selected Year 7 students have taken part in a brilliant mentoring programme with our dedicated Year 10 and 11 prefects. Meeting weekly, the pairs have explored everything from building self-confidence and setting personal goals to discussing future careers and aspirations.

What began as structured sessions quickly grew into genuine connections, with students forming friendships that reached beyond the classroom. The programme has not only supported our younger students in finding their voice but also given our older students the chance to lead, inspire, and reflect.

This initiative is a shining example of the strong sense of community we are so proud of at Kings where every student is encouraged to lift others as they grow.

Y7 Music Lessons

This term, a group of talented Year 7 students have been taking part in instrumental music lessons in partnership with Surrey Arts. Twenty students have been learning the violin and ten the trumpet, developing not only their musical ability but also their confidence and creativity.

The impact has been inspiring. Many students have discovered a new passion and chosen to continue with their instrument beyond the programme. This experience has been a wonderful reminder of the importance of broadening our learning and the truly transformative power of the arts in education.

We are proud to support opportunities that allow students to explore new skills, express themselves and grow in confidence.

Year 9 Highlights

Year 9 have made a terrific start to 2025.

As we move ever closer to their all important GCSE years, the increase in focus and maturity towards their studies has been great to see.

Many of the year group have been fortunate to take part in trips this term. The University of Surrey has hosted several “Life at University” sessions, STEM trips to the University, the Barcelona trip, Mr Hill’s fantastic Dragon’s Den experience and the start of their DofE expeditions. I am sure that these have been experiences that our students will remember and value.

Our students also went through the process of choosing their GCSE Options, which is ultimately the next key stage in unlocking their future. With this in mind, I wish you and all our students a restful break and we look forward to continuing our work together next term.

Year 10 Highlights

It has been another busy and successful term for Year 10.

A big welcome back, to the Year 10's who have recently returned from Barcelona, I am looking forward to hearing about all your adventures and seeing the pictures; school has been quiet without you!

As well as Barcelona, we have had Year 10's who have been fortunate enough to be involved in art trips to the National Gallery and a group of Performing art students who went to watch a professional performance at Italia Conti .

It was wonderful to hear about all the Year 10's who were part of the University's, ‘Realise your Potential’, course. This was a big commitment that involved giving up numerous Saturdays, but the feedback has been incredible from the staff running the course, and it was lovely how many families got to proudly share in the graduation ceremony.

Thank you to everyone who took time out of their day to join us for parents evening, I hope it felt helpful and purposeful as we look forward to next steps. If anyone couldn't make the evening, please do contact tutors or subject teachers for an update.

Finally, just a reminder of some of the events coming up in the next term. We have some students supporting Year 9 on their Bronze DofE and a large group also taking part in the Silver. Most importantly work experience is approaching, please make sure all forms have been returned. Work Experience is a real highlight of Year 10 and I hope everyone makes the most of this opportunity.

Enjoy the Easter Break and I look forward to seeing you for the Summer Term.

Year 11 Highlights

The Year 11s have been busy collecting fieldwork data ready for their upcoming GCSE exam.

Year 11 have two components to this exam - the first is an Urban Study. This involved a walking trip from Kings to Guildford Town centre, stopping to look at different environmental conditions in each area and collecting data on housing types and traffic Counts. The Second Trip involved a trip to Shere to study the flood risk and management of the River Tillingbourne.

Well done to the Year 11s who behaved perfectly and collected the data efficiently and effectively, they made both trips thoroughly enjoyable.



Our Year 11 students also enjoyed a fantastic trip to London's West End to watch the award-winning musical Hamilton – a well-deserved celebration of their hard work and dedication this year.

The day offered not only a chance to experience the incredible talent of a world-class cast, but also an opportunity to build cultural capital and grow in independence. From exploring the city together to sharing food and laughter, students made lasting memories with their friends.

It was a wonderful reminder of how learning extends beyond the classroom – and how powerful shared experiences can be.

House Update

Working Hard Cards



Be Kind Cards



Community Rewards



Excellence Rewards



House point competition - current standings



Imperial War Museum - Monday 17th and 24th March.



A total of 70 students from Year 9 attended a History trip in March to the Imperial War Museum.

Students spent the morning attending a workshop and brand-new exhibit on the Holocaust, followed by time after lunch to visit the various galleries and artefacts on World War One and Two across four floors.

The latter was in support of the current History module of study on World War Two. The Holocaust exhibition provided an invaluable introduction to the module of study that all our Year 9 students will begin after Easter.

The staff at the Museum were very complimentary about the general behaviour around the museum and particularly the respect shown by our students in handling such a sensitive subject as the Holocaust.



Young Carers trips

It has been a busy term for our young carers at Kings with some fun trips to provide some respite and time out.

We were very lucky to receive 10 spaces for an overnight residential in February for ten year 7 and 8 students at Henley Fort in Guildford. It was an active couple of days involving climbing, orienteering, night walks, campfire skills and den building and no doubt some midnight feasts in their cosy yurts!

It was great fun and something that we hope to be able to do again next year.

We celebrated Young Carers Action day at Farnham Maltings with year 7 young carers, centred around the theme of 'Give us a break', enjoying workshops in photography, felting and some brainstorming to ensure that the voices of our young carers are heard and help to shape how support is provided.

Earlier this week, we had an exciting trip to Goodwood education trust in West Sussex, with year 8 and 9 students, focusing on connecting young people and nature. It was an interesting day involving woodland walks, understanding the importance of sustainable agriculture and how the farm runs. We also experimented with making butter using the milk from the farm and we were up close and personal with the huge cows, pigs, sheep and much more.

It was a pleasure to take all of the students on the trips, all behaving impeccably and a credit to their parents and carers and of course our school.

If you are the parent or carer of a young carer, please do get in touch with Kate or Holly here at Kings and find out how your child can get involved. We run after school clubs on Monday and Wednesdays and would love to see some new faces.





Latin

Kings College provides Latin for Y7 and Y8 groups through our collaboration with The Royal Grammar School, Guildford.

The Y8s have been getting to grips with their Latin plurals, which change according to what declension the nouns come from, Latin vocabulary ('gladius' means 'sword' and is where we get the word 'gladiator' from) and learning about the Roman Gods, aided by Vicky Paterson & Bart Callaghan, whilst the Y7s have been given a wonderful introduction to Pompeii, aqueducts and Mount Vesuvius, with a few English derivatives from Latin thrown in, ('agricola' (farmer) gives us 'agriculture') aided by Ed Bush & Dr. Fanti-Byrne. The attached photos are from last year's Y7 cohort.

Current Y8 Latinists were awarded a certificate in recognition of their completion of a year's Latin.



Random Acts of Kindness

As The School Community Group, we all wanted to do something special to celebrate Random Acts of Kindness and thank the hard-working people in the community around us for what they do.

We came up with the idea to gather goodies by holding a house competition to see who could collect the most. We collected chocolate, biscuits and other goodies and made treat boxes for our chosen local heroes – The Foodbank, St Clare’s Church, The Hive, The A&E Department (Royal Surrey), The Children’s Ward (Royal Surrey), Guildford Fire Station, Guildford Police Station and The Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice shop. We delivered the boxes in person, along with cards to say thank you. We hope it made our local heroes very happy.

The Community Group are: *Mia H, Bella F, Abigail T, Loki C, Chloe S, Ella D, Karina W, Aeen D, Allegra R, Nora-Rose A, Katie A, Sophie S, Jessica G and Bettie Joan J*

Mrs Robberts and Holly (HSLW)





Design & Make Woodwork Club

This club started in September. Everyone has been busy making wooden robot gadgets. They love creating original ideas and mixing traditional and modern techniques.

If your child has any questions or want to join the club, they can find it after school on Monday in Room 003, Design Technology.



SURREY
ARTS



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**KINGS
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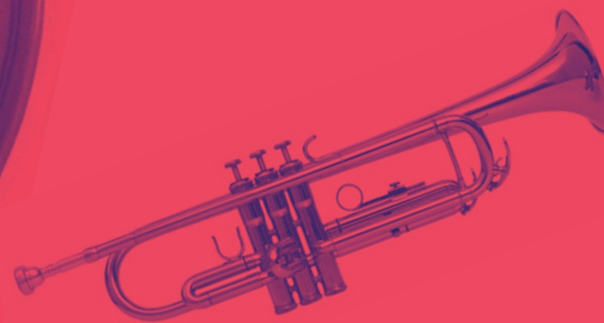
T: 01483 519303

E: surreyartsmusic@surreycc.gov.uk



Apply online:

surreycc.gov.uk/music





The Matrix Trust

The Matrix Trust's Youth Cafe is open to young people aged 11- 18 years on Wednesday 9th April and Wednesday 16th April 2025 from 3:30pm - 5:30pm at the Hideaway Cafe in Allen House Gardens (near G Live).

As always the Youth Cafe is free to attend and they will have an array of activities on offer, including crafts, gaming, board games, music and a pool table or they can simply relax with friends or chat to a Youth Worker. They'll be discounted food and drink on offer including milkshakes and smoothies.

Full details are included in their April newsletter listed [here](#).

Our website also includes further information <https://matrixtrust.com/YouthCafe>

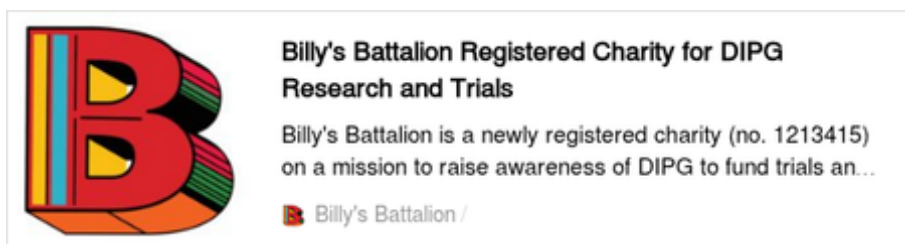
A message from George's mum:

George Walter joined Kings in September and is in year 7 in Mr Hubbard's class.

In March last year, we lost George's cousin Billy who was 4 years old to DIPG. We are trying to raise as much money as we can for research into DIPG as currently there is no cure.

We are currently in the process of setting up an official charity in Billy's name but the admin is lengthy so at the moment we are raising money in Billy's name for Abbie's Army, which is a charity also raising funds for DIPG research.

Here is the website: Home - Billy's Battalion



This April we are hosting Billy's Bash on 26th April, a fun-filled family event to raise money for DIPG research and treatments in support of UK DIPG research charity Abbie's Army.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/billysbash/>