

Newsletter

July 2023

We finish this year with a bumper edition of the school newsletter. I never fail to be impressed by the incredible range of opportunity and activity that takes place beyond the KLB classroom. As you will read, this year has been no exception. Thank you to our staff for their commitment and creativity and well done to our students for making the most of these opportunities, which help them to develop them as individuals and strengthen their sense of community.

Carnival fever brought the year to a close with another KLB first, now destined to become an annual event. The students chose a carnival as the final, landmark event of a year in which celebrating differences has been a key priority for the school. Thanks go to the team of students who organised the event. The carnival started with a procession, led by the school's Samba band, of the floats designed and built by members of the diversity team. Then, from sponge the teacher, battle of the bands, inflatable disco, animal balloon making, glitter tattoos, football shootout, to the ice cream van, students from all years had so much fun, as did the staff! We look forward to holding an even bigger and better version of this event



on a Saturday next year and welcoming the local community to the school.

Whilst we know how excited most of our students feel about the summer holiday, we appreciate that this is not always the easiest of times for some of our families. In the last few weeks of term, we spent some time talking to students about staying safe during their time away from school and we have issued all students with a Holiday Support card signposting a range of a support accessible throughout the holidays.

As the school year ended, we said fond farewells to the staff leaving KLB, thanked them for their contributions to the school community and wished them well for the future. In particular, we recognised the considerable years of service given by Liz Caldwell, languages teacher, and Caroline Wells, Head of Mathematics. Alastair Farwell steps away from his role as Site and Facilities Manager but remains our school link for the rebuild, having led the programme from its evolution. Debbie Sansum, the Canteen Manager, leaves too, having given 25 years of care and support to the school. I know our departing staff would like me to extend their thanks to the staff, students and parents who have worked alongside them in their time at the school.



May I take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Sixth Form Leadership Team. Throughout their term of office, they have given generously of their time and shown themselves to be wonderful ambassadors for the school, whether it be at open evenings, rebuild ground-breaking events or Remembrance service. It has been a pleasure to work with such an impressive group of young people who were so instrumental in the school's vision and values consultation earlier in the year.

This has been a positive year for the school. Our physical landscape is changing as the rebuild takes shape, heralding exciting changes for our students. We are delighted that the Ofsted report

recognised the many strengths of KLB. Representatives from all groups of stakeholders contributed to our new vision and set of core values, which determine the direction in which the school is heading and guide how we work together as a community. The phrase 'Proud to Be' is now heard often when we celebrate the many successes of our students, both in and out of the classroom. I am grateful for the tremendous support offered to the school by our parent body and feel optimistic about the exciting year that lies ahead for the KLB community.

Hannah Khan, Headteacher

KLB School Carnival

In celebration of the year's Proud to Be events, the school's Diversity and Sixth Form Charity committees, along with a dedicated group of helpers and supporters, made sure we ended the term in style with the first ever KLB Carnival.





The day started with a procession of floats through the school, accompanied by the samba band. The field was the hub for stalls, games and activities, including inflatables, splash the teacher, tin can alley, face painting, tombola, headdress workshops and trailer rides to name but a few. These were all low or no cost so that everyone could take part.

Some enterprising students set up their own stalls selling items they had made and others performed on the music stage. A few brave teachers volunteered to get soaked in the stocks.

Fortunately, the sun shone throughout the day, and students from all year groups had the chance to take part in the fun and the fantastic atmosphere.



Any profits made on the day will go towards supporting local charities and in-school diversity events.

We hope to make the KLB Carnival an annual event and there are plans to make next year's carnival even better, brighter and fabulous.











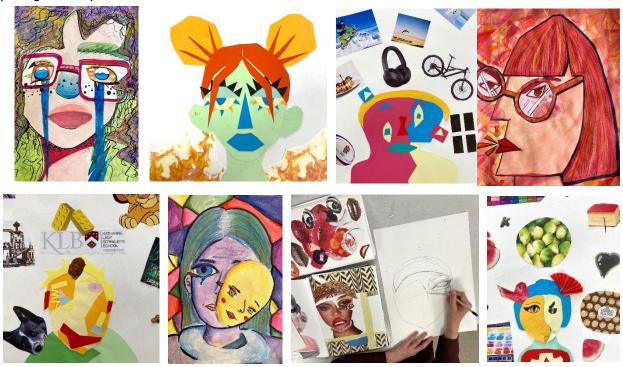


Art department KS3 End of Year Showcase

We are pleased to share a selection of highly creative and imaginative artwork by KS3 students from their activities in Term 6.

Year 7 - How to Express Myself

The students have responded to Picasso's *Weeping Woman* and Hannah Hoch's collages to create portraits exploring a variety of emotions.



Year 8 - How to tell a Story, character design in clay

The students started the project enhancing their figure drawing skills while learning about proportion. The detailed clay figures are based on a character and style of a person with the students' design ideas drawn out in their sketchbooks.



Year 9 - How to Transform the World, Utopia Public Art boards

Four groups of year 9 students have been busy finishing off their Utopia public art boards. It has been great to see how successfully the students have collaborated to combine their designs and then working together on the painting. There has been a real buzz in the art department as the students have been painting away during lunchtimes and staying after school too! In September, the boards will be displayed around the school site for all to see and enjoy.









P Taylor Art Teacher

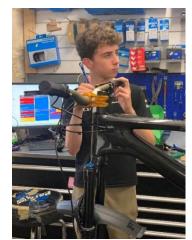
Save the Date: KLB School Careers Convention Thursday 21 September 6.30 – 8.30pm

Preparations are underway for our annual Careers Convention. Each year, we aim to have as wide a range of career sectors as possible represented as well as further and higher education, and apprenticeship opportunities. We welcome organisations large and small, local or a little further afield, whether or not you have current vacancies; your advice and guidance is invaluable either way.

If you or your employer would like to have a stand on the evening and help to inform and inspire the workforce of the future, please email Helen Isaacs at hisaacs@klbschool.org.uk

Year 10 Work Experience

Towards the end of the final term, year 10 students leave lessons behind for a week and venture out into the world of work. The majority of students arrange their placements early in the year and many go through an application process that replicates applying for a job.



Primary education was, once again, the most popular option this year probably due to accessibility of placements. Students are, however, enlightened at how different the education setting is when seen from the teacher's perspective. Engineering too is always a popular choice reflecting the wealth of opportunities in our area. Other popular employment sectors were Administration, Catering and Hospitality, Finance and Business, Retail, Sport and Leisure, and Veterinary and Animal Care.

We hold a huge debt of gratitude to employers both local and further afield that provide our students with such fabulous opportunities. Many support the school's work experience programme year-on-year and we are truly grateful that they continue to play their part in inspiring the workforce of the future.

From feedback received, it was clear that KLB students embraced the opportunity to develop workplace skills, to learn about the working environment

and generally to make a good impression on their employer. This is reflected in the very many positive comments

we received from both students and their employers:

Comments from students:



I learnt how to communicate by actively listening and asking questions.

It's interesting to see it from this perspective; I can see the transferable skills.

It was a lot more varied than I thought it would be and I gained more of an insight than I thought I would. I got involved in lots of things and got to meet lots of people. It helped increase my confidence.

I had to develop my communication with others which is something I feel I have improved. I saw lots of different parts of the job and it opened my eyes to new ideas of future careers.

I've been thrown in, like I would be in the real job — there's been loads of advice. It's fun not knowing what to expect each day and facing real-life scenarios and problem solving. I also got to have interview practice in front of a camera.



It's been fun and I'm learning lots. It feels like a real experience, whereas school can feel a bit sheltered from the real world. I've been offered a job here!

Work experience has helped me to get better at communicating and using teamwork skills. Especially with engineering, you learn how to adapt to things not going to plan.



Comments from Employers



She has been quick to pick up on group dynamics and demonstrated excellently both speaking and listening skills throughout her time with us. She has a positive attitude and has been a good team player.

His strong work ethic and enthusiasm makes him a perfect fit for the team. His accuracy to detail and listening skills are exceptional.

Very enthusiastic and punctual and asked relevant questions throughout. He showed an aptitude in dealing with new tasks and was engaging with staff and clients.



Thank you for being attentive, engaged and bringing you skill set to the tasks at hand.

Has an excellent can-do attitude. She will try to work things out but is not frightened to ask for help. Friendly and helpful – excellent.



She is polite, conscientious and keen to learn. She has picked things up very quickly and been extremely helpful.

She really took on any task given and, as the week went on, grew in confidence and worked as a team with multiple departments.

Friendly, willing to learn, picked things up quickly and was able to complete tasks set independently.

She approached every task with

enthusiasm and a smile. She worked in a mature and competent manner.

He was polite, curious and took everything in his stride. He excelled at the task we set him and worked well within the team. I was impressed by his level of focus. He was professional and we could even include him in client meetings due to the level of maturity he showed.

He mucked in and was a great team player; he turned his hand to every task we set and never complained. He took instruction well and also came up with some good problem solving solutions. He showed great interest in our business and was great company. He showed initiative but also was not afraid to ask to make sure he was on the right track.





Doing an amazing job and learning so much. Very impressive — we're encouraging her to do an apprenticeship.

She's a delight, she's brilliant — quick to learn, takes it on board, enthusiastic. We're keeping her — you can't have her back!

The students will now be in a position to approach their important GCSE year with a greater understanding of how both their academic achievements and the 'soft' skills they develop through social and extra-curricular activities will support their applications to further education and the workplace.

Helen Isaacs, Work Experience Coordinator

Simon Pegg, Head of Careers

Year 10 Rotary Interviews



This year, with the co-operation of the Rotary Club of Cotswold Tyndale, we moved the practice interviews from year 11 back into the block of time immediately preceding work experience. This enabled year 10 students to finish the year with a more rounded awareness of employability skills. Over the course of four days in late June and early July, about 80% of the year group benefitted from an interview carried out by a 'real' business person. The remainder should have their interview in September.

The half-hour interviews took many of our students outside their comfort zones as Rotary members quizzed them about their interests, aspirations and their strengths and weaknesses. Despite the understandable nerves the students may have felt as

they sat awaiting their interview, the vast majority emerged with smiles on their faces and a feeling of self-evident pride. Many spoke afterwards about how beneficial the experience had been and how glad they were they had faced up to doing the interview with an adult they had never met before.

The oral feedback from the interviewers was consistently excellent with those I spoke to commenting on the students' good eye contact, positive body language and the ability to listen carefully and answer questions with consideration. Furthermore, the students impressed the interviewers with their range of

interests and skills.
As one interviewer

said, "they really are a credit to KLB!". The students will be receiving constructive written feedback, which should help them to recognise their strengths as well as areas for improvement in interview situations.



Our thanks go once again to Ken Eales for his planning, organisation and flexibility in adjusting schedules to meet our needs amidst all the clashes with other year 10 events during the period, as well as his team of interviewers for providing our students with such a valuable experience.

Careers Activities at School

Since half term, most of the tutor groups in year 8 have started to explore careers further using various quizzes on Careerpilot (see link below). For some this has really opened their eyes to a vast range of jobs they were previously unaware of. This is something we will be exploring further during year 9.

In the meantime, year 10 students have been using the Morrisby Careers website to begin to gain a better appreciation of the wealth of Labour Market Information (LMI) that is available so that they can improve their understanding of jobs in the local area, understand the skills needed for certain roles and the demand for future employment.

Finally, a recommendation for parents and carers looking for a simple source of information regarding careers in its widest sense.

https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/parent-zone

This provides general guidance on options from choices at 14, to choices at 16 and 18 including further education colleges and apprenticeships.

Simon Pegg Head of Careers

Year 8 trip to Burnham on Sea

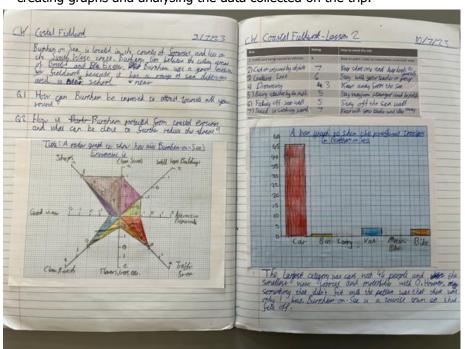


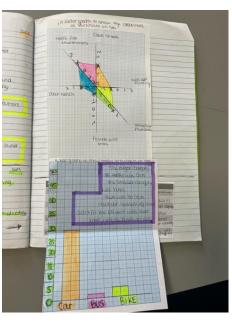
Towards the end of June, year 8 students went on a geography field trip to the coastal town of Burnham on Sea. The aim of the fieldwork was to investigate what coastal defences were in place and how the promenade caters to tourism.

Students worked on a rotation of activities including: conducting field sketches of the impressive recurved sea wall; taking a walk along the beach to spot some rock armour that was placed to protect housing; counting traffic and pedestrians; completing an environmental quality assessment and land-use survey.

After a morning of work, many students enjoyed the lunchtime opportunity to visit the local fish and chip shops or ice-cream vendors for a well-deserved break.

Since returning, our year 8 geography lessons have focused on learning more about fieldwork techniques, creating graphs and analysing the data collected on the trip.





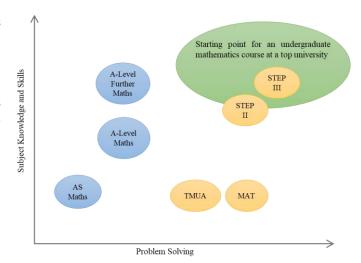


Thank you to the students for their excellent work and behaviour on the trip, and to the staff who accompanied the department. We look forward to returning again next summer!

K Probyn, Head of Geography

Year 12 Further Mathematics Trip to Bath University

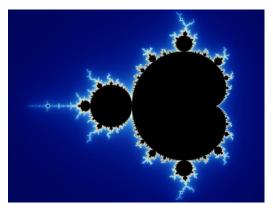
On Tuesday 4 July, year 12 further mathematicians attended a workshop at Bath University, run by the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme. The focus of the day was developing problem solving in the context of university admissions tests. Mathematics and related higher education courses have some of the most demanding admissions processes of any subject including written assessments such as TMUA, MAT and STEP. The subject knowledge for these is covered within the mathematics and further mathematics A level courses, but the problem-solving demands go much further and aim to bridge the gap to undergraduate level mathematics.



The day started with some warm-up questions such

as those included below. These were followed by an introductory session outlining the key points about the different mathematics admissions tests. Students then had a chance to collaborate with students from other schools and colleges, focusing on communicating and ultimately presenting their ideas to the rest of the group on problems such as 'prove that n^3-13n is divisible by 6 for all integers n.' There then followed a session of more independent study on some past TMUA, MAT and STEP questions.

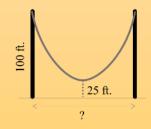
After lunch, students took part in a team challenge with much discussion focusing on the question of the population density of the UK.



Finally, Ben Sparks gave a lecture on the history and development of number systems, starting with the counting numbers (positive integers or natural numbers) through negatives, rational (fractions), irrational (e.g. $\pi,\sqrt{2}$) and then onto complex numbers and the curious Mandelbrot set (the set of complex numbers, c, for which the iterative formula $z_{n+1}=z_n^2+c$ is non-divergent for $z_0=0$) which has remarkable and unexpected properties of self-similarity. This account of the history of number was used to frame the question: were numbers created or discovered?

Problems to have a go at:

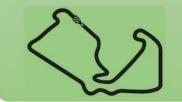
A 150-foot chain is suspended between two 100-foot poles such that the lowest point on the chain is 25 foot from the ground. What is the horizontal distance between the poles?



Mathematics Teacher

R McPherson

A racing driver aims to drive 10 miles at an average speed of 60 mph. They complete the first 5 miles at an average speed of 30 mph. What average speed must they achieve over the remaining 5 miles to hit their target?



Change one dot to make this equation correct!

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Assessed Expeditions

Our Bronze and Silver DofE teams completed their assessed expeditions this month, navigating their way independently and self-sufficiently across open countryside.







This year, over 45 students are participating at Silver level and over 125 at Bronze. Ocean Rock, who run the expedition element of the DofE award programme, have fed back that the Bronze students were amazing: "They completed a long and challenging route while maintaining good timing. They also demonstrated thorough camp craft skills and were a pleasure to take out."



The Silver participants had an exemplary expedition: "Excellent navigation, map reading, time management and communication was played out in highly successful teams. We were impressed with the strength and resilience they showed over long distances – 23 km on each of the first two days alone. The students were an absolute credit to themselves."

Well done to all the students involved in the award programme this year. We look forward to making your awards once you have completed all sections of your programme.





Chinese artists perform



In early July, the Chinese department had the privilege of inviting a group of Chinese teenagers from Bristol to KLB school. Luken (16), Edwina (15), Iona (15) and Briony (9) performed a one-hour set of traditional Chinese activities under the watchful supervision of Mr and Mrs Wong, former leaders of Bristol University's Lion Dancing Troupe.

Students who have chosen to study Chinese at KLB were dazzled by Luken's variety of controlled martial arts performances. Edwina amazed us with a



beautiful rendition of *Butterfly* on her violin and a self-choreographed dance. Iona's skill at playing the Guzheng, sometimes referred to as a Chinese harp, received loud applause. Briony talked about Chinese New Year and the origin of the lion dance.

We are very grateful to Mrs Wong for bringing the students to the school and giving our students the opportunity to observe such talent at close quarters. The performances became a topic of conversation in the following Chinese lessons, especially Iona's incredible skill playing the Guzheng.

M Tate, Chinese department

liú lǎo shī! xiè xiè, zài jiàn! (刘老师! 谢谢,再见!) – Goodbye message from Miss Liu

The languages department would like to thank Miss Mengyang Liu for assisting with the teaching of Chinese and Chinese studies since January 2022. Miss Liu is a volunteer teacher from Hangzhou, China. She has worked tirelessly with students of all ages to bring China to life for them. Miss Liu will return to China at the end of this week. We wish her a safe return.



A few words from Miss Liu:

I am very happy to spend such good times in KLB. During this year and a half, with the encouragement and support of Mrs Tate and Mrs Trefalt, I have done many Chinese cultural activities with students across all years: Teaching Chinese songs, introducing traditional Chinese festivals, paper-cutting, calligraphy, traditional and modern Chinese music, Chinese movies, what young Chinese people like, Chinese displays, (Beijing Olympics, environmental pollution, popular Chinese vocabulary etc.). I have also had the opportunity to teach independently in different local primary schools.

Although the year 7 students are learning Chinese in their first year, they can speak Chinese beyond the textbook. What impressed me was that when I taught Chinese poetry through song for the first time, it just took the year 7 students less than half an hour to sing it proficiently, and they still remember it half a year later.

The students studying Chinese in years 12 and 13 are very smart and hardworking. In addition to introducing the latest Chinese news and traditional culture to them, I have had individual conversations with them and I could feel their progress. The content of Chinese learning in the upper grades is difficult, but they did not give up, learning more advanced Chinese vocabulary and writing fluently, which surprised me. I believe they will be able to achieve good results in the future, because they deserve it!

M Tate, Chinese department

Gloucestershire Constabulary Schoolbeat Sessions

It has been a pleasure to welcome PC Hannah Coll to KLB after her appointment to the Gloucestershire Schoolbeat team in April 2023. PC Hannah has visited many of our KS3 PSHE classes during terms 5 and 6. She has delivered sessions to year 7 students about grooming, year 8 on the subject of sexting and year 9 on issues around domestic abuse. These sessions have been highly informative, discussing both the social and legal side of these topics. Student feedback on these sessions has been excellent and we hope PC Hannah will join us again during the next academic year.

For more information about the Schoolbeat team please visit https://tinyurl.com/yc5mp47u

Mrs Leona Watts



Horticulture Activities



Year 7 horticulture students collected cherries, rhubarb, and raspberries all harvested from the allotment. They cooked the fruits down to make a lovely compote that tasted delicious with vanilla ice cream.





The students also collected elderflowers from the allotment, carefully removing the flowers and cooking them with sugar and lemon juice. They then left the mixture to concentrate for 24 hours before decanting into individual bottles. They have now made some refreshing homemade elderflower cordial.







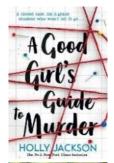
Emma Taylor-Roach, Horticulture Teacher

Library News

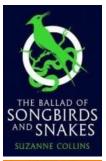


Summer Reading Suggestions

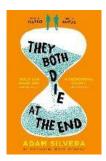
If you are thinking about your summer holiday reading list, have a look at these brilliant books, which have been nominated for or won awards or have been popular choices from the library.







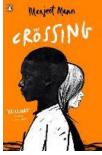


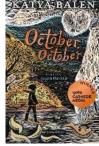


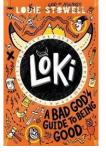




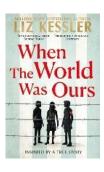


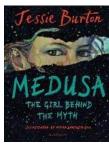




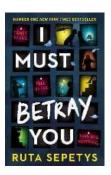




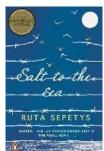












We have all these books in the school library, but you will also find these titles in your local library or as e-books.

E-books for Summer Reading

We have a subscription to an e-book platform. This means that the whole school has access to over 1,000 e-books including some graphic novels and popular latest titles. All students are able to log



in and borrow from the range of books on offer. The best course of action is to download the app (available from the App store or Google play) and then search for the school library - Katharine Lady Berkeley's school.

Login details are: Username: full school email address Password: library

Local Libraries



If you are a member of the Gloucestershire public libraries, you can access a wide range of books, DVDs, audiobooks, magazines which you can borrow free of charge. If you are not a member, just pop in or complete the online form to sign up for a membership to take advantage of these fantastic



services. Members can download the apps for e-books and e-audiobooks for

Android, Kindle Fire and iOS. To borrow e-books or e-Magazines, use the Gloucestershire Libraries website with your library card or visit the Libby App by Overdrive page to find out how to download the app.

Esra Koroglu-Ward, Librarian

One Million Minutes Challenge



During June, Key Stage 3 took part in the Read for Good 1 million minutes competition. This saw schools from across Gloucestershire tallying together their minutes read.

KLB pledged an initial target of 100,000 minutes of reading. We are proud to say the students at KLB read for a total of 146,510 minutes during June, smashing our target. Read for Good have released their official results and we are delighted to announce that KLB has logged the highest number of minutes of any school in the country! KLB students will now have the privilege of nominating a local charity of their choosing to receive a book donation. We will also receive a bundle of brand new books for the school library to inspire students to continue reading for pleasure.

This is a fantastic effort by all the students involved, particularly for our first time joining this programme. The English department is rewarding those who have been particularly enthusiastic and avid readers this year. Taking both the Track My Read and Accelerated Reader scores from over the year, we are inviting the top 15 students on a day trip to the Cheltenham Literature Festival in October, where they will be attending a talk by Carnegie Medal-winning author Tanya Landman.



A Morgan, English Teacher

The Reading Club

Next year sees the continuation of the lunchtime club called The Reading Club for children who wish to experience the pleasure of listening to stories being read aloud by an adult. We strongly believe, as a result, their enjoyment and understanding of the written and spoken word will be strengthened. This will lay the foundation for reading skills that will have great value, not only in education, but also in the wider world. The Club also has the additional benefit of giving students the chance to relax and take some time out of a busy school day in a quiet space.



Attendance at the club is voluntary and is open to all students in years 7, 8 and 9. During our reading sessions a story, usually a novel, will be read aloud by an adult whilst the students eat their lunch. They are also free to draw, write or follow the story with a copy of the book.

Come and join us, next academic year, in The Reading Club every Monday lunchtime in A4.

K John, SENCO

Year 10 Bake-off

Students produced some fabulous and professional-looking cakes during the bake-off this term. Well done all.

















S Dring, Food and Nutrition Teacher

Year 13 Prom 2023

In spite of the rather unsettled weather, we enjoyed a glorious prom at Grittleton House to celebrate the end of year 13 students' time with us. The venue, the food, the sophistication was everything we could have wished for.



English and Film Department News

As the academic year ends, the English and Film department has a few things to celebrate...



The Poetry Society had its final meeting of the year with Poems by Alys Young, Mr Ford, Flori Claydon, Carol Ann Duffy, Owen Sheers, Max Porter, Kae Tempest and more...

We meet every Thursday lunchtime in the teaching and learning room.

Our **Poetry by Heart Finalists** (Alys Young, Max Wharton, Matt Brooks, Julia Lloyd, Flori Claydon, Imogen James, Jocelyn Reynard, Ellie Morrison, Poppy Gardiner and Jack Mason) had breakfast with Miss Khan. They received their certificates and personalised letters from the Poetry by Heart director Julie Blake.



The **A level Film Studies class** create Stop Frame Animation films using Duplo. The next Oscar winning film may be right here at KLB!











RE Spirited Arts Competition

Spirited arts is an international cross-curricular competition for which school aged children create a piece of art based on one of six given themes:

- We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us.
- Green faith, green future? ('God's good earth')
- Where is God today?
- Faith in action, Values in action
- Sacred Space and Holy Buildings
- All God's Creatures? (a new category for 2023)

The school is able to submit up to ten pieces for judging and below are a few of the KLB students' entries chosen by the RE department this year.



Left: Green Faith, Green Future by Florence Cheeseman

A lot of religions thank god for nature but sadly a the climate crisis and global warming takes over we can't help but wonder, are we spoiling God's good earth? I chose an elephant as it shows the beauty and simplicity of our earth.

Right: Four Religions, One Mind by Lucy Clarkson

All four girls in the picture have different religions but they all still face difficulties for their beliefs and what they look like. I wanted to convey the message that we are all the same and should be treated with equality and respect.

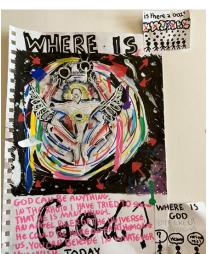


Left: We have far more in common than that which divides us by Kyra Turksen

I have used different pictures of people to show that the world isn't populated by people who look exactly the same. I have highlighted the quote with gold to show that words do have an impact on people.



IRITED N



Thank you to all students who participated this year. We were impressed with the range of your creativity and interpretation of the themes.

A Jones, Head of RE

Above: Where is God today?
by Brooke Hartley

NSEA National Eventers Challenge Championships, Hickstead Equestrian Centre



Flo Hall Smith, Morgan Harris, Tensie Littlewood and Winnie Read travelled up to the famous Hickstead Showground during May half-term to compete in the 80/85cm Eventers Challenge Championships.

KLB was the second team to compete in a large field of 48 teams. This meant an early start to get the horses plaited and riders' boots polished for the occasion. Clear rounds eluded the team this year; nevertheless, the girls rode beautifully and did the school proud in every respect.

NSEA Show Jumping, Rectory Farm Equestrian Arena, Cirencester

On 11 June, KLB students and their horses entered the Dean Close show jumping competition at Rectory Farm. The higher the poles, the greater the success on the day: Ella Woolls went clear, placing tenth in the one metre class and Sophia O'Hara jumped well in the 80 and 90cm classes with only one pole down in each. Overall a good day for KLB.

Following this success, on 25 June the KLB team returned to compete at Rectory Farm Equestrian centre where Bella Blackburn riding Ozzie

represented our school for the first time. She went well but was unlucky to have a pole down. Lizzie German, riding Peter, went clear in the 70cm class. Lizzie, and Mirabelle Shields riding Piggy, competed in the 80cm. Mirabelle went clear and Ella Woolls, riding Davinci continued her good form in the 90cm class, going clear.

Well done to all riders.

Sharron Bates, SSCO

Individual Student Successes



We would like to celebrate some successes recently achieved by both past and current students.

Roo Young won the Secondary Ambassador of the season from Forest Green Rovers for her work as KLB Ambassador. Roo helped on match days, promoted the club in the community and helped with primary school girls football training every week throughout the last season.



Evie Tadman (left) has just represented Gloucestershire County, doing the guard of honour at the women's ashes match. She played Australia in their own mini ashes with her under 13 performance squad too.

Last month, past student George Rousseau (right) attended the Gold DofE award presentation ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

We would like to extend our congratulations to all.



Year 7 Review

I feel privileged to be Head of Year 7 and to work with so many brilliant students and families as they begin their secondary education journey. It is genuinely lovely to be able to reflect on the year with immense pride. Our Year 7 students are now fully integrated into the school community and have excelled throughout school life.

My personal highlights of the year begin in the autumn term. The enthusiasm and help demonstrated by many year 7 students during the Open Evening was impressive and showed that they had settled quickly into school life. They were clearly proud to show parents and primary pupils the skills and knowledge they had achieved so far. The pride and



confidence shown by some students was further evident in our recent summer transition events where they needed no encouragement when asked to help show year 6 students around school. The kindness and empathy shown to the year 6 students who came for additional visits was lovely to see and highlighted what good ambassadors for KLB our year 7 students have already become.

Throughout the year, we have enjoyed a number of rewards events to celebrate the tope PACE point scorers for each term. Celebrations included a Halloween film afternoon, an ice-skating trip, a silent disco, an Easter egg hunt, crazy golf and, this summer term, the reward winner received a queue jump pass for the KLB carnival.



Students have been involved in a number of extra-curricular achievements: our recent Fun Run led by Mr Blake raised funds for Chapter 2, a charity that seeks to provide positive male mentors for young boys and teens growing up with no father figure in their lives. I was impressed by both the students completing the race in



impressive fancy dress, and those offering morale-raising and sponsorship support. Other extracurricular activities include house events, musical performances throughout the year and attendance at a variety of clubs. Of the many sports achievements throughout the year, we have enjoyed celebrating success from rugby, football, tennis and athletics to name but a few.

Throughout the year, students have shown great teamwork and interpersonal skills. I was particularly impressed with the collaboration evident on our year 7 Number Day which helped us to raise money for the NSPCC. Further highlights from this term include seeing the students enjoying Sports Day. I was pleased to see students winning medals, spectators cheering their house on and students competing in sports that are new to them. I was proud of all of those who participated and tried their best, something that takes real courage to do.

Last week, the year 7 students had a great day with Miss Chinnick, Miss Hind and the Year 7 tutor team. Feedback from staff was that they all had a fantastic time at Longleat. Staff were impressed at how well students behaved both on the coach and around the Longleat site. From the photos, it certainly looks like there was plenty of fun enjoyed by all.

I hope that all year 7 students are able to finish this academic year with a sense of pride in terms of new friendships, achievements and skills. It has been a genuine pleasure to be Head of Year for this cohort and I sincerely look forward to seeing them make further progress in year 8 and beyond.

C Landeg, Head of Year 7

A Chinnick, Key Stage 3 Pastoral Assistant



Year 8 Review

Throughout this year, as Head of Year 8 I have witnessed students going from strength to strength and building their confidence in a variety of aspects of school life. Students have had opportunities to extend themselves both within the school curriculum and in extra-curricular activities and they have displayed huge potential for a positive impact on KLB in the coming years.



In October we took part in the public awareness campaign known as Restart a Heart Day. Students developed an awareness of cardiac arrests and learnt how to perform lifesaving CPR. It was a fantastic event, which the whole year group engaged in really positively, showing curiosity and practice in lots of first aid skills such as the recovery position and using defibrillators. We hope that, if the event ever arose, year 8 students now feel more empowered to give someone the best chance of surviving.

During the BOOST Programme, year 12 led the year 8s through a series of tasks that challenged their resilience and confidence alongside their

ability to recognise and control different emotional states. A favourite activity was definitely exploding bottles of fizzy pop that had been shaken up. This activity was designed to replicate young people's anger building as things went wrong (shaking the pop), then the emotional explosion as it was thrown to the ground to pop. The younger students very much enjoyed the opportunity to work with the sixth formers and to hear about their journeys through KLB.





Across the year, students have continually put themselves 'out there' and taken risks, whether that be on the sports field or the stage. Participation in extra-curricular activities throughout the year has been exceptionally high and I hope they continue to show this level of drive and commitment to the opportunities available to them in Year 9. Many students performed in the Summer Concert, displaying their musical talents. Olivia Sheldon, Grace German and Dottie Read spoke eloquently at the regional round of Youth Speaks to finish a close second.

One of the largest year group trips was the field trip to explore Burnhamon Sea organised by the geography department. On the trip, students studied various geographical features and water defences such as the large sea wall and eroding groynes. They also investigated human activities within the town looking at the building use and pedestrian counts. It was a taster for the field trips to come and a great way to experience learning beyond the school environment.

At the end of each half term, we have celebrated our top Pace Point winners by offering a range of fun activities, from silent discos to crazy golf. Students earn Pace Points for effort, participation and positive contributions to school life. We have loved celebrating their achievements with the winners. Our top PacePoint winner this year is Olivia Dulake who achieved a whopping 379 points.

These are but a few of the many highlights of the year; this newsletter would be a novel if we were to talk about them all! In year 9 we will continue to provide experiences for students to develop skills and confidence by contributing both within and beyond the school community. On the horizon is the GCSE options process, an exciting step which gives students their first taste of autonomy in their education. I know there must be a mix of excitement and anticipation about next year but I am sure the Year group will rise to the challenges.

We wish you all a relaxing holiday.

L Johnstone, Head of Year 9

Year 9 Review



The end of the summer term is an opportunity for all students to reflect on the closing academic year. For students in year 9, the month of July marks a particularly significant time: it is the final month of their key stage 3 studies. From September, they



embark on their GCSE courses and work towards the official qualifications that will help them achieve their goals in the future.

As we draw to the end of this academic year, I wanted to take the time to reflect on what has been a really successful period. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each and every child in the year group and I am lucky to have shared celebrating all the successes achieved by so many in year 9.



I have been inundated with emails about the sporting successes of numerous children in the year group. The boy's hockey team became the T2 West Regional Champions 2023 and went on to represent The West at the National Finals in

Nottingham. Lily Wharin, Bella Wharin and Jocelyn Reynard also took a trip to Nottingham as they qualified for the Cross Country National Championships. Tyell Foluke made a name for himself with his boxing outside of school and Shay Bloodworth was the talk of the local area for his exceptional goal scoring skills whilst playing for Wotton Rovers. Playing for the same team, Oliver Waite, Albie Shaw, Zac Budd, Freddie Romero-Brown and Joseph Palmer-Smith also went on to win a local 5-a-side tournament while Millie Caldecote proudly represented not only

KLB year 9, but the country, riding in a dressage competition for England.



Many students have shown outstanding talents within performing arts. Only a couple of weeks ago, Bethany Archer, Aidan Barratt and Tommy Johnson, to name just a few,

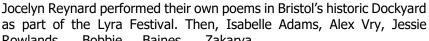
showcased their performance ability and auditioned for next year's school musical *West Side Story*. Budding actor Joshua Davis performed in an amateur production of *Matilda*, and Bobby Baines, Emily Days,

Imogen James, Sophia Jones, Ella Matthews, Ross O'Donnell, Alice Scott, Chloe Smith and Bethany Wickham brought to life their own

original devised performance to guests in the drama studio. I was so impressed with Katrin Ananieva, who joined KLB from the Ukraine, for battling through nerves to sing a Ukrainian Folk Song to the entire year group in a rewards assembly.



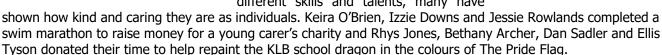
Other students participated in the *Poetry By Heart* and *Fame Lab* competitions. On 29 April, Imogen James and



Rowlands, Bobbie Baines, Zakarya Hamcherif and Isabel Downs represented the school in *Fame Lab*. As young engineers and scientists, they had to prepare a speech to perform to judges that educated people on their chosen research topic. Well done to them all.



Not only have the year group excelled in different skills and talents, many have





This year, the children had the opportunity to embark on the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. I was so proud of how many students signed up, with 18 teams going out on the expedition. The feedback from the staff who ran the training and led the expedition evidenced how fantastic many of the children in year 9 are and I look forward to hearing about their recent second expedition.



Finally, I want to take this opportunity to praise the entire year group on their engaged and mature approach to making their choices for their education pathways for the next two years. As much as I am sad to pass the year group on to a new head of year, I am grateful to have been part of their education at key stage 3. I have enjoyed every moment of working with the year group and I look forward to hearing about their achievements to come.

S Hind, Head of Year 9

Year 10 Review

It is hard to know where to start when talking about **Year 10**, and the year they have had. As their Head of Year, I am incredibly proud of them and everything they have achieved this year, and the fantastic young people they are.



This year group experienced disruption to their KS3 experience due to COVID, including the postponement of their end of year trip in year 9. As it happened, going to West Midlands Safari Park in September was a lovely way to start the year (and much less queueing than the summer!) as students had a brief reprieve from the hard work they had been putting in to start their GCSE courses.

Adjusting to the expectations of the GCSE examinations can be quite a daunting prospect, but Year 10 worked hard to get to know new teachers, classes and courses. As part of this transition to KS4, students have had study skills sessions and assemblies to give them guidance on how to approach learning effectively. We will continue to build on this in Year 11.

Students also started to think about future plans, and what steps they may take after GCSEs; there was excellent attendance from Year 10 at the Careers Convention in September, a fantastic event which provides information and inspiration about possible future further education and career paths. Alongside this, many students have had careers interviews with Karen Goard, our independent Careers advisor.

We rounded off 2022 with a rewards trip for the top 25 PACE point winners to go ice-skating, and an entertaining Christmas assembly, feature student performances and a whole year group karaoke session; a cheerful note to finish the year, even if I did completely lose my voice.

Throughout the year, we have been using tutor sessions to address a range of topics and events, with a particular focus on mental health, looking at different ways we can take more control of our well-being, and support those around us. We continue to reiterate the message to students that they are never alone, and to ask for help if they need it.

Through all weathers, students excelled in a whole range of extra-curricular activities, which you will have read about in previous newsletters. Whether sporting, musical or culinary, year 10 students have thrown themselves into all the opportunities available to them, with great success. They have also proven themselves excellent leaders in the community, supporting younger students as sports leaders. About 16 students also volunteered to take the mantle from year 11 as reading mentors, supporting younger students with their literacy.

The weather also played a part during the rather soggy geography trip to Lyme Regis. Year 10s showed great resilience, carrying out fieldwork in the rain and interviewing members of the public, who were very complimentary about their conduct.

Fortunately, the weather warmed, allowing us to hold another rewards event, this time mini-golf on the school field. As we moved towards the summer, the days got even busier for students; finding work experience placements and preparing for Year 10 exams to name just two responsibilities keeping them occupied. The exams went very well, with students getting their first taste of full year group exams in the sports hall. Despite their nerves, everyone got through it, and they will be able to start Year 11 with a clear idea of what to do to improve and achieve their goals.



It was a real pleasure to listen to the Summer Concert, in which a number of Year 10 students performed wonderfully. We were highly impressed by their effort and talent, and look forward to next year's school production.

All year 10 students also had a mock interview, courtesy of the Cotswold Tyndale Rotary Club, and their volunteers. A nerve-wracking session for some, it means that all students have had the experience of an interview, before applying for jobs or college places.

We are delighted to have chosen 55 prefects, from a very strong field of applications. It was an almost impossible task to decide, but the transition prefects have already been hard at work welcoming year 6 pupils into school over three days, and helping them find their way around. They are wonderful role models, and we know that they will all represent the school well in whatever they do.

As you can see, year 10 have had a very busy year, finishing with a silver DoE expedition and very successful work experience week. It has been a real pleasure getting to know the students and I look forward to continuing working with them again next year as Head of Year 11.

I would like to thank all the students, staff, families and our local community for the collaboration it takes to support our young people.

I hope you have an enjoyable and restful summer.

N De Silva Head of Year 10

Year 11 Review

As another academic year comes to a close, it is with great pleasure that we reflect upon the accomplishments and contributions of our remarkable Year 11 students. This group of young individuals have truly left an indelible mark on our school community, excelling both academically and through their involvement in various extracurricular activities.



Firstly, we would like to acknowledge the incredible impact of the first group of students to participate in our updated prefect system. These students have served as excellent ambassadors for the school, making invaluable contributions to our community. They have been instrumental in supporting clubs, driving positive change within the school council and diversity groups, and providing exceptional assistance during whole-school events. Among their many achievements, the reading prefects deserve special recognition for their dedicated efforts in improving reading comprehension, fluency, and confidence with our Year 7 students.



Despite the rigors of GCSEs, we actively encouraged Year 11 students to maintain a healthy balance between their academic pursuits and non-academic activities. We were thrilled that our students truly embraced this philosophy, seizing many opportunities available within our school community. From their enchanting performances in the Christmas carol concert, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Road*, to representing the school in national sporting competitions and showcasing their culinary skills in



the Junior Chef of the Year competition, our Year 11 students have given their all and made us immensely proud.

To mark the end of their time at KLB School, the year group came together for a fantastic celebration day. This tradition allowed them to sign each other's shirts and books, leaving behind heartfelt messages and memories that will undoubtedly serve as cherished keepsakes in the years to come. The day culminated in a memorable celebration assembly, where we bid our farewells and applauded the outstanding achievements. We were deeply moved by their exceptional talents and contributions, and it was with a mixture of pride and sadness that we said goodbye to this exceptional group.

Throughout the exam season, the Year 11 students exhibited commendable dedication and perseverance. They worked tirelessly, demonstrating exemplary conduct before, during, and after exams. The exam invigilators showered them with compliments, acknowledging their professionalism and mature demeanor. Their commitment to their studies was truly inspiring.



To celebrate the official end of Year 11 and the conclusion of the exam season, the students enjoyed a memorable Prom held at Eastwood Park. Students arrived in stunning dresses and

dashing suits and their entrances were nothing short of spectacular, with cars, motorbikes, a horse and carriage, and even a tractor making appearances. The evening was



filled with delicious food, sweet treats, and joyous dancing, creating lasting memories for all in attendance. As we bid farewell to our Year 11 students, we wish them all the best for their future endeavours. We are confident that they will continue to shine brightly and make positive contributions to society. Thank you for being an inspiration and for leaving an indelible mark on our school community: we will always be proud to call you KLB alumni.

Sixth form Review

Currently putting together slide number thirty-seven of my celebration assembly for year 12, I realise what a packed year it has been – full of impressive achievements, generous contributions and considerable dedication. Alongside what has no doubt been hard work, sixth form have continued the great tradition of KLB students and made me extremely proud to be their Head of Year.

Highs include the magnificent sporting achievements in hockey, including our very own U18 England player Jake Edwards recently in action at the U18 European Championships in Germany. Our CanSat team acquitted themselves superbly making it through to the national finals in York. Many of our year 12s made up the cast and crew for the sensational drama production of *Road* and we had no fewer than 31 medal winners in this year's UKMT senior maths challenge.

An impressive number of students have acted as ambassadors to those visiting the school on open evenings and transition days. I am always so impressed by and grateful for the response I get when I ask for help. Many have also gone out to our feeder primary schools, with a dedicated bunch going out to local primary schools doing science outreach with Mr Goode week after week. Others have volunteered at Bluecoat (Maddy Batchelor), Alexander Hosea (Emma Neville), and the British School, where Arthur Garrett and Teilo Coates have run the computing club every Friday afternoon. Another group have set about establishing stronger links with Kingswood Primary and will be getting their chess and STEM clubs up and running in the new school year.

Within our school community, Mrs Daniel has recruited and trained a new team of TIC (Talking-in-Confidence) volunteers. Some of our new recruits are already buddied up with students in the lower school who will undoubtedly benefit from the support they receive. Others have supported younger students in an academic capacity either one-to-one or through regular lesson help.

Sixth form teams have been active behind the scenes for so many of our fundraising activities as a school, organising and running the annual Christmas market for the second year in a row and over the last few weeks the Charity and Diversity groups have been helping to get our inaugural carnival off the ground.

We have two intrepid groups off to Borneo over the next couple of weeks and the Duke of Edinburgh Gold teams have all completed their expeditions and are working to finish the four other elements of the Gold Award. This year, it was really great to hear that members of the public approach the DofE organisers to comment and praise our students for their conduct.

(Left: photo from Gold DofE expedition)

In more domestic activities, a group of four year 12s accompanied the younger students to the Poetry by Heart finals at the Globe Theatre – including Alys Young who was awarded best in county - while there was an impressive turnout at the recent KLB Film Festival at the Wotton Electric Picture House with year 13 coursework on show as well as terrific (and hilarious) shorts from year 12.

The second year 12 cohort of the YPPG have been engaged in research all year about health provision for young people. The YPPG is a sub group of the Patient Participation Group at Chipping Surgery and this year they were invited to become full members of the group. Two representatives, Noah Sharman and Bethan Payne, have attended meetings and acquitted themselves with aplomb: 'This is the first time the surgery has ever invited young people onto this important committee. Noah and Bethan's contributions have been highly praised by the medical staff at the surgery and the PPG Committee members.' The research they have been engaged in has drawn the interest of NHS England, and the group will be presenting their findings to the whole medical team.

Students have completed sign language, first aid and TEFL courses as well as the whole year group getting stuck in with Boost, again acting as role models to the younger students and helping year 8s to understand their feelings and how to manage them. This term students have been looking at their options for next year with open day visits (Oxford visit pictured right). We have also welcomed some excellent visitors talking about their work and experiences including parents and past students who have come to do Q&A sessions. The 'News at Six' team have been developing their journalistic skills all year reporting some key moments and events in the life of the sixth form and you can read their latest issue alongside the main newsletter.









There has also been regular fun with impressive commitment to inter-tutor competition. The quiz in the early part of the year is a fixture of Friday mornings, and then in the latter months, Dr Pullin's fiendish challenges have provoked a healthy rivalry...among students and tutors alike. Enrichment this term has seen many students out in the sunshine (and drizzle) playing rounders and softball. Which this week culminated in silly sports and ice cream.

Last week, we had the final of the Bake off competition. Erin Cook and Phoebe Gardner were joint third with light as air chocolate cakes; Iona Morrison-Dawson, second, produced some delectable macarons and Harvey Skuse won with his magnificent coconut and salted caramel cake. Our very own Mary and Paul (aka Miss Khan and Mr Thomas) had the hard task of judging.











I am grateful for the efforts of the whole team around the sixth form – the subject teachers, the fabulous tutors, Dr Pullin for her tireless efforts from day one, the tremendous support from Mrs Price who keeps things running like clockwork (as well as teaching an ever-increasing number of students to knit), and Mr Pickles' skilful support of year 13 students with the application process.

It seems incredible looking back on it all how much we have packed in alongside some very committed studying. No wonder we're all a bit tired!

J Campion, Head of Sixth Form



What's on in AUGUST?

The Keepers is a community hub supporting the residents of Wotton and surrounding areas. It is here for everyone.

Either come along to one of the organised groups below, or just pop in for a chat and a cuppa - whenever we are open.

Come as you are, bring what you can and take what you need.

Monday

Parent Support Group - a support group by parents for parents, 915am - 10:45am

Citizens Advice - to book an appointment for 7th or 21st August call 0808 800510/511 or just drop in 100m - 2pm

Age UK Cloucestershire - a social group for those who are 50+, 11am - 12:30am

IT Course - Laptops for beginners (Adult Education). This course is full. Please call us about future courses. 1:30pm - 3:30pm

After School Drop in - reading, games and toast available. Children to come with an accompanying adult. Also runs through the holidays. 3pm - 4pm

We have meals in our community freezer - available to anyone, for any reason, on a 'Pay As You Feel' basis.

Pop in or check on https://www.thekeepers.org.uk/ to find out what is available.

Thursday

Wotton Area Breast Support Group - anyone touched by breast cancer is invited to drop in and meet others who know just how it feels. The next meeting is on 17th. 10am - 11am

Holiday art activity - children to come with an adult. For those on free school meals. Be creative - followed by lunch Booking is essential. Call, email or pop in to book. Choose one session on 3rd or 10th, 9.30cm - 22cm

Gloucestershire Deaf Association Hearing Aid Clinic - 3rd August. To book an appointment, call 01452 3772999. 10am - 12pm

Independence Trust and NHS social prescribers' Drop In - help to connect and grow in confidence. Just drop in, no appointment needed. Tam - Ipm

Welcome Space - run by the Independence Trust and CALMHS - a space to talk and be listened to, Call 01453 767999 to book. 130pm -330pm

OPENING TIMES

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 9.00am - 4.00pm

> Wednesday and Friday: 9.00am - 1.00pm

Tuesday

The Keepers' Garden - the garden is open come along to plant, dig, weed, sit or just chat with our gardener. Refreshments provided. 10am - 12pm

The Carers' Café - run by Frailty nurses from Culverhay and Chipping surgeries. Coffee, chat and advice if needed. Just drop in. Carers can come by themselves or bring the person they care for. 1st and 1sth August. 10:30om - 12:30pm

Dementia Connections - for anyone who would like to make connections, including those living with dementia, long term health conditions, and unpaid carers. Activities and conversation. 8th and 22nd August. 1030am - 1230pm

Sing 2 Remember - sing together, share memories and make friends. Come and join this supported, dementia-friendly singing session. Just turn up. 1st and 15th August. *Tarm*

Tuesday Lunches - come and join us for a warm meal, open to all and PAYF. Spaces are limited, so to book a space please call 07585 466418 or pop in to find out what's on the menu! 12:30pm - 130pm

The Keepers' minibus service is also running on Tuesdays to provide transport from your home to the hot lunches. Places are limited so to book please call 07585 466418 or pop in to The Keepers.

Health Checks (NHS) - come along for a blood pressure, pulse check or signposting to local services. 15th August. 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Ukulele group - open to beginners and those who already play. Come along and join in. 1st and 15th August. 2:15pm - 3.15pm

Friday

Small Circles - a supportive group for preschool and primary children and their parents. Activities based on rhythm, repetition, movement and music. 9.30am -Tram

The Keepers' Garden - the garden is open -Come along to plant, dig, weed, sit or just chat with our gardener. Refreshments provided. 10am - 12pm

Drop In Café - all welcome on a Pay As You Feel basis. This cafe is quieter than a Wednesday, the tables are spaced apart, board games available if wanted. #300m - 12:300m

Just a reminder - we are closed on Bank Holidays.

Wednesday

Drop In Café - all welcome on a Pay As You Feel basis. 10am - 12pm

B.Y.O Craft and Chat with tea and cake - held fortnightly on 2nd, 16th and 30th August... 10cm -12cm

P3 Drop In - help with a range of issues e.g. housing, debt and benefit support. No booking needed. 10am - 12pm

Job Club - help with CVs and employment support. Drop in, no booking required. Job Club restarts on 9th August. 10cm - 12cm

Health Visitor Drop In - available to weigh babies and answer any questions. Next drop in is on 2nd August. 10am - 12pm

Other visitors to the cafe - Real Nappy Project. 2nd and Men's Shed 9th.

Stroud District Council Housing Officer Drop in - pop in and talk to Rachel. 10:30am - 11:30am

Holiday cooking activity - children to come with an adult. For those on free school meals. Cook up something to eat. Booking is essential. Choose one session on 2nd or 9th. 1pm - 3pm

Wotton Area Neurodivergent Support group (WANDS) - a group run by, and for, ND adults and parents/carers of ND children including Autism, ADHD, PDA, Dyslexia etc. The next meeting is on 30th. 7pm - 9pm

Talk Club - a new talking and listening club for men to help keep mentally fit. 2nd and 16th. 7pn - 8.30pm



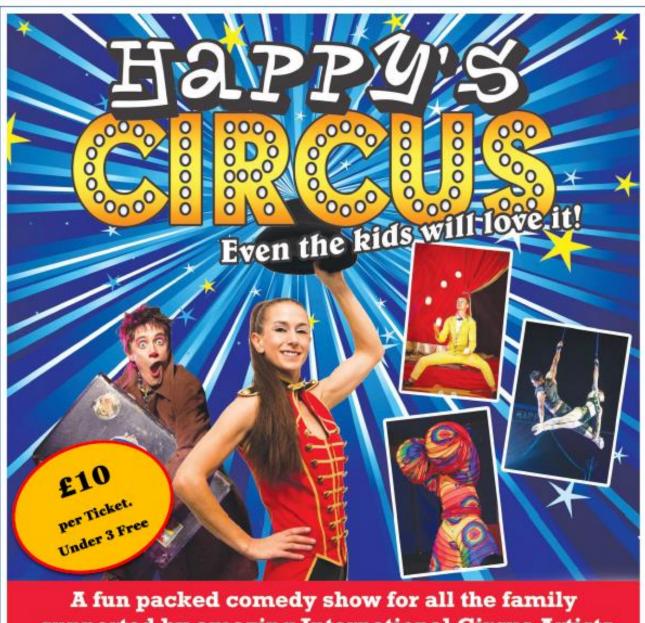
Do you receive our newsletter?

If not, contact us on 07585 466418,

thekeeperscommunityhub@gmail.com

or through Facebook TheKeepersCommunityHub

It's important to us that everyone is included, the Hub is accessible to all and we work in collaboration with other local organisations. www.thekeepers.org.uk Reg Charity No. 1192121



A fun packed comedy show for all the family supported by amazing International Circus Artists www.happyscircus.co.uk

Sunday 17th September 2023 Synwell Playing Field

Wotton-Under-Edge - Starts at 2pm

"Get there early for the BBQ from 12 noon"

www.pta-events.co.uk/synwellplayingfield



Scan the QR for booking details