

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

5 MARCH 2026

World Book Day

On Thursday 5th March, we are celebrating World Book Day. We are running competitions including a teachers vs students quiz, blackout poetry and book cover designs. Please see Mr Wise in the library for a £1 book token which can be redeemed in most book shops and supermarkets. We really encourage everyone to go all in and read anything that captures interest for 10 minutes each day!

Performing Arts Showcase

Just before half-term the Music and Drama Departments hosted our Performing Arts Showcase. This involved students from right across the school performing scenes and songs from six different musicals: Mamma Mia, Matilda, Frozen, Sweeney Todd, Everyone's Talking About Jamie and Hamilton.

The evening was an excellent celebration of the wonderful talent that can be found in the school and all of the students involved thrilled the large audience that came to support.



Ramadan

With Ramadan and Lent currently underway, the school is mindful that many students are observing religious fasts. We recognise that these commitments, along with changes in sleep and nutrition, may lead to increased fatigue.

To support our students during this time, Room C33 is available as a quiet space for contemplation and an alternative to the canteen during lunch hours.

Going for Gold - The KDS Champion Tracker

The Champion tracker was launched to students last term. This is a tracker that monitors achievement points, attitude to learning, attendance and behaviour points and gives students a 'colour'. We would love all of our students to 'Go for Gold' in all of the categories. This is a great way to celebrate just how wonderful our students are.

Reading Assessments in English

Please note students in years 7-10 will be taking their NGRT assessment next week. The purpose of these tests is to measure and track students' reading and comprehension skills.

The tests will be carried out during English lessons and can be any day (Mon-Fri) at the teachers discretion. To ensure the smooth running of these tests can you please ensure that all students have a fully charged Chromebook and if possible a pair of headphones every day next week.

Reward Trips

On Monday, students will be sent a Google form to complete during Tutor time. This is an expression of interest form for them to select the reward trip that they would like to attend in the Summer term. This is to support us with ensuring that we have secured enough tickets for each trip.

This is not a booking, nor does it secure their space on the trip. More booking information for eligible students will be out at the end of Term 5.

Specialist Basketball Coaching Sessions

We are excited to announce Coach T will be joining us again for another Term. Coach T has a wealth of experience coaching Basketball at local clubs and other Swindon schools.

The number of students attending these sessions has grown steadily through the academic year. We have seen the students' skills develop and then be applied in the school teams. It is a real treat to be able to offer basketball for such a long period of time and see students dedicate an hour every week to improving.

The sessions are for all students in all year groups, Mondays 3pm-4.15pm. If any more students would like to attend they just need to turn up to the sports centre on a Monday at 2.55pm.



New kids online safety website launched as part of government campaign

New DfE website to support families and encourage regular conversations about what they're seeing online, asking simple questions, like "who shared this" and "why?". Based on parents' main concerns and needs, it provides:

- tips for parents' conversations with their children
- actions to support each stage of their child's life
- parental controls information

DfE are also signposting to trusted resources from charities and third parties, where parents can access other forms of support (like speaking to an expert).

The website will continue to grow and be developed this year, supporting the wider government aims. www.gov.uk/government/collections/online-safety-act

www.kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk

UK Online
Safety Act

Explained



Future events and important dates

- 02.03.26 - Drop down morning Years 7 - 10
- 03.03.26 - DofE Training Session 2.45 - 3.45pm
- 04.03.26 - Cirencester College
Program of Excellence Info Evening
- 05.03.26 - World Book Day
- 05.03.25 - Year 8 Drop Down Day
- 05.03.26 - Last day of Year 11 Mocks
- 06.03.26 - Staff Development Day
(Students not in school)
- 09.03.26 - Geography Field Trip
- 10.03.26 - Geography Field Trip
- 10.03.26 - Y10 Exam Assembly
- 10.03.26 - DofE Training Session 2.45 - 3.45pm
- 11.03.26 - Recital Evening
- 11.03.26 - Y10 Art Mock

With our continued thanks. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need any further information. Please be reminded that we have a 5 day response time.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher



**KINGSDOWN
SCHOOL**

