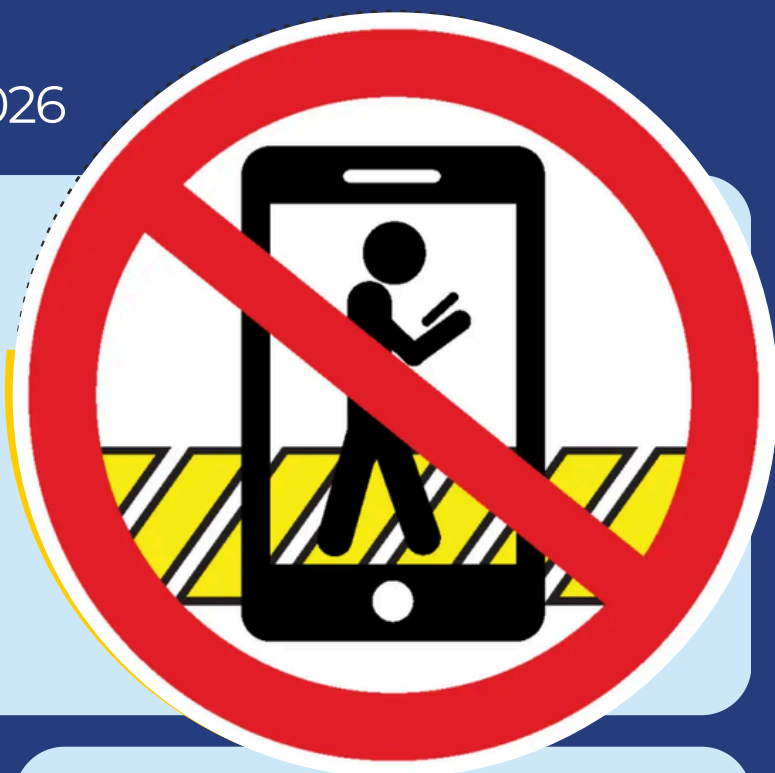


Road Safety Assembly

On Tuesday we held an assembly for Year 7 on road safety. The Year 7 really took on board all of the messaging and the importance of crossing the road safely.

The Tutors will continue to support this really important topic with your child during Tutor time this week.



Enrichment Activities

We currently have 13 lunchtime and 14 afterschool clubs running weekly from 10 different sports to language clubs, 3 music clubs, drama, debate clubs, art and chess.

Please talk to your child about what they are involved in and encourage them to give them a go if they are yet to give a club a go. If clubs are not currently running they want to attend they can always raise in school council or email the student voice email.

Year 9 Options

Thank you for your attendance at both the options information evening and parents evening, it was wonderful to see the hall full and buzzing on both occasions.

Just a reminder that your child will be making their choices in their PD lesson during the week beginning 26th January.

Please do discuss with your child in advance of this week and reach out to Heads of Department, Mrs Strett or Mr Handy if you have any questions.

Art Trip

On Wednesday 42 Year 9, 10 and 11 students spent an inspiring day at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The visit offered a brilliant opportunity for the students to see art up close and to explore over 5,000 years of human creativity. All students recorded their experience through photography and sketches. A wonderful day for both students and staff.



Teaching & Learning Spotlight - The power of Visualisers

This week, our teaching staff are taking part in some exciting training focused on a piece of technology that is transforming our classrooms: The Visualiser.

A visualiser is essentially a high-tech document camera that allows teachers to project live work onto the board for the whole class to see. While it might look simple, it is one of the most powerful tools we have to support your child's learning.

Why are we focusing on this?

1. Reducing "Cognitive Load" Learning new things can be tiring for the brain. When a teacher verbally explains a complex math problem or a writing technique, students have to hold all that information in their heads while trying to apply it. By using a visualiser to show the work live, we reduce that mental strain (cognitive load). Students don't just hear the explanation; they see it happening in real-time.

2. Enhancing "Modelling" (The 'M' in TEMPO) You will know that our teaching framework, TEMPO, is central to how we teach. This training specifically strengthens the Modelling phase. Instead of showing a "here's one I made earlier" example, a visualiser allows the teacher to act as an expert guide. They can write an essay, solve an equation, or dissect a diagram live in front of the class. This allows students to see the thinking process, not just the final answer, making it much easier for them to replicate that success in their own work.

We look forward to seeing the positive impact this will have in lessons immediately!

Student Leadership

This week we opened applications for student leadership positions in years 9 and 10. Students in year 9 can apply to be prefects and senior students where they can lead the year councils or become House captains.

Year 10 students can apply for those roles as well as Head and Deputy Head student roles.

It is always wonderful to see our students step up into these roles and push themselves, please do encourage your child to apply for these roles.

Year 7 Girls Football Trip

We are delighted to share that the Year 7 girls' football team has won the Swindon Schools Football Association tournament, finishing top out of all the schools in Swindon.

Over the last term, the girls have competed in four tournaments, earning points to secure a place in the top four teams – an achievement in itself. They then went on to win the final tournament in impressive fashion.

In the final stage, the girls won their first match 1-0, lost their second 1-0, and went into their final game needing a win by at least two goals. They rose to the challenge with a fantastic 2-0 victory, with goals from Niah and Emilie.

The team should be incredibly proud of themselves for their commitment, teamwork, and determination – they were absolutely buzzing with this achievement.



Future events and important dates

21.01.26 - Y8 & Y9 HPV & Td-IPV Injections

22.01.26 - Old Vic Trip

01.02.26 - Basketball Trip

02.02.26 - Y11 Art Mock

03.02.26 - Y11 Photography Mock

04.02.26 - GCSE Clay Day

04.02.26 - Y11 French Speaking

05.02.26 - Y11 French Speaking

05.02.25 - Y7 Parents' Evening 3.30 - 6.30pm

09.02.25 - Science Live Year 11



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**