



Kesteven & Grantham Girls' School

Weekly Bulletin

for Parents and Students

Term 1 Friday 4th September 2026



Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome Back to a New Academic Year

Welcome to the new academic year!

It has been fantastic to see students either joining KGGs for the first time or returning after the summer break this week. I hope that everyone has enjoyed their first few days and has made a positive start to the new academic year.

For parents/guardians who are new to KGGs, each Friday we provide a weekly bulletin to share what has been happening in school, provide updates from the school, and give you an insight into the wide range of opportunities available to your child alongside their academic studies.

Welcome to Our New Staff

Alongside welcoming our new Year 7 and Year 12 students, we are also delighted to welcome a number of new members of staff to KGGs:

- Mrs Chen-Rees – Mathematics
- Miss Zareba – PE
- Mrs Bishop – HR
- Mr Hausermann – Design Technology and Site
- Miss Willers – Science
- Mrs Lewis – History

I am sure that you will join me in making them feel very welcome as they become part of the KGGs community.

Following a period of illness, we are also sad to report that Mrs Knott, a member of the Senior Leadership Team and History teacher, has left the school after many years of service. We are extremely grateful for her contribution to KGGs during her time with us and wish her every happiness and success for the future.

Congratulations to Our Examination Students

A huge congratulations to our Year 11 GCSE and Year 13 A-level students, who performed incredibly well in their examinations.

At GCSE, 53% of all grades were between grades 7–9, with 90% of grades between grades 5–9. At A-level, 43% of grades were awarded at A or A*.

We are particularly delighted that 87% of our Year 13 students gained a place at their first-choice university, including eight students who secured places at the University of Cambridge and two at the University of Oxford.

These are exceptional achievements, and I would like to congratulate all of our students on their hard work, determination and commitment. We wish every one of them the very best of luck as they take their next steps.

Working Together – The KGGs Parent/Guardian Charter

Throughout every student's journey at KGGs, we place enormous value on the extremely important relationship between parents/guardians and the school.

We would always encourage parents/guardians to contact school if an issue arises. By working together, we can ensure that concerns are addressed promptly and, wherever possible, resolved positively.

To help ensure that this relationship remains effective, respectful and supportive, accompanying this week's bulletin is the **KGGs Parent/Guardian Charter**. This two-page document sets out the core principles that underpin clear communication between home and school and our shared commitment to supporting all KGGs students.

Please can I encourage all parents/guardians to take the time to read this important document.

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KGGS Sponsored Walk – Friday 18 September

On Friday 18 September, our annual KGGS Sponsored Walk to Belton House will take place. This is the second year that we have held this event, and all students will be encouraged to gain sponsorship for the 10 km walk. This year, all funds raised will go towards the installation of much-needed air conditioning in classrooms.

Further details about the sponsored walk, sponsorship arrangements and the route will be communicated to parents and carers on Monday next week.

We hope that this will once again be a fantastic whole-school event and a great opportunity for students and staff to come together while raising money for an important improvement to our school environment.

Mobile Phones and the Blackout App

All students have attended an assembly with me this week, welcoming them back to KGGS and outlining a number of key areas and expectations for the year ahead.

One of the areas I discussed was our expectations regarding the use of mobile phones.

All students are expected to have their mobile phones **switched off between 8.50am and 3.40pm**, ideally switching them off as they enter through the school gates.

Any student found using their phone during the school day, or who does not have their phone switched off, will receive a **one-hour after-school detention on a Monday**.

The exception to this is our Year 12 and Year 13 students, who are permitted to have their phones switched on when they are in the Common Room in Harrowby House. At all other times, their phones must be switched off and kept in their bags.

I also spoke to students about the Blackout app, which we have been able to secure funding for and which will be introduced over the coming weeks. Further information about the app will be included in a letter being sent home later today. This will include links to:

- Parental webinars
- A pre-recorded parental webinar
- An FAQ parent information sheet
- A Microsoft Form to gather parental views

Further information will be available via the school website.

Following the full roll-out of the Blackout app, a new mobile phone policy will come into effect from January 2027.

We recognise that any change to mobile phone arrangements requires clear communication and understanding, and we will provide further information to students and parents as we move towards implementation.

KGGS Students Making Us Proud

It has also been wonderful to see the achievements of former KGGS students over the summer. Amy Hunt achieved an incredible feat by winning four gold medals at the European Athletics Championships, while Freya Colbert won two gold medals at the European Swimming Championships, both in championship record times.

These are outstanding achievements, and it is fantastic to see former KGGS students continuing to excel at the highest level. We are incredibly proud of both Amy and Freya and congratulate them on their remarkable performances.

It has been a very positive and busy first week back at KGGS, and I would like to thank students, parents/guardians and staff for the excellent start to the new academic year.

I hope that everyone has a restful and relaxing weekend, and we look forward to welcoming all our students back to KGGS next week.

Mr Fuller

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Calendar of Events for w/c 7th September 2026 (Week B)

Mon 7 th	- Year 7 Assembly
Tue 8 th	- Year 10 Assembly; Lesson 3 – Fresher's Fayre
Wed 9 th	- Year 8 extended Assembly; Years 7, 9, 10 and 12 Individual and Sibling Photographs; Headteacher and Head Girls photographs
Thu 10 th	- Year 12 Assembly; Year 13 Assembly; Key Stage 5 Computing Trip
Fri 11 th	- Year 9 Assembly; Year 11 Assembly

Careers

Could You Help Our Students Understand More About The World Of Work?

To enhance our careers programme, we are always seeking employers to expand our network of companies and individuals who collaborate with us in school, can facilitate on-site visits, and could also offer work placements for students. This could involve speaking in an assembly for 10 minutes, speaking to small groups of students, running workshops or giving a virtual tour of your workplace.

We are interested in all careers, from engineering to the arts!

If you would like to support our careers programme and are prepared to donate your time and expertise or offer a work experience placement for a KGGS student, it would be great to hear from you.

Please complete this form to volunteer your expertise as part of the [KGGS Careers Hub](#)



KGGS
CAREERS
HUB





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Online Safety

On Thursday of this week Year 10 have had an essential talk from Mr Mayfield regarding the internet and social media highlighting the need to stay safe, responsible and respectful online.

Students were reminded to think carefully about **what they share online**, use strong privacy and security settings, and be mindful that posts, photos and messages can have a lasting digital footprint. The session also highlighted the importance of **recognising scams, protecting personal information, dealing with unwanted contact or cyberbullying, and knowing when and how to report concerns.**

We encourage parents and carers to continue these conversations at home. Please remind young people to **keep passwords private, avoid sharing personal or location information, check who they are communicating with, and speak to a trusted adult if something online makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.** Regularly reviewing privacy settings and having open, non-judgemental conversations about online experiences can make a real difference.

Transition from KS3 to KS4

Mrs Nicklin also delivered an important presentation on the transition from **KS3 to KS4**, focusing on the **study skills, organisation and learning habits** that students need to begin developing from today.

Students were reminded that GCSE study requires greater independence, consistency and commitment. Developing positive routines now will help them manage the increased demands of their courses and prepare effectively for assessments and examinations. One key message was that at GCSE, “having no homework” does not exist — regular independent study and completing work outside of lessons are an essential part of success.

Access to the powerpoint for parents will shortly be added to the school website.





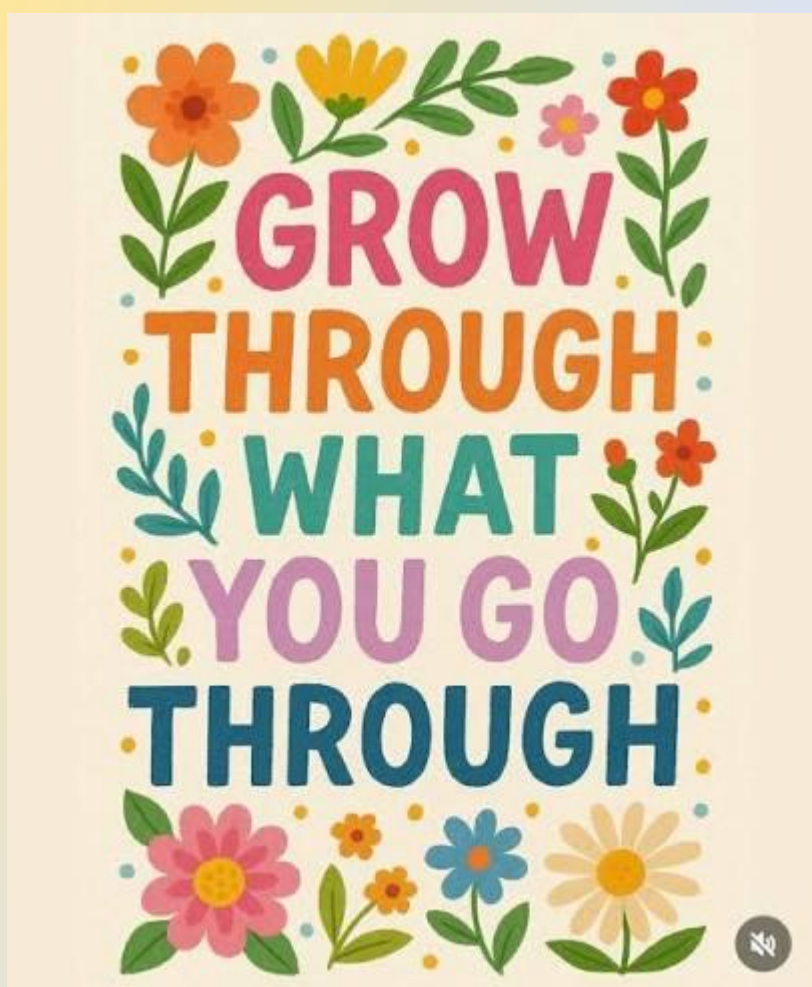
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Wellbeing Quote



Wellbeing Activity

Allow yourself time to re-adjust and make room for growth



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Violin Success

Year 9 student, *Nina Taylor*, passed her Trinity Grade 6 violin exam with Merit.

Well done, Nina!



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Regulating Emotions – Education in Emotional Literacy

Over the next month, all students will be working with Mrs Richards on how to improve their own mental wellbeing through looking at strategies of emotional regulation. They will also be taught about why their brain responds the way that it does.

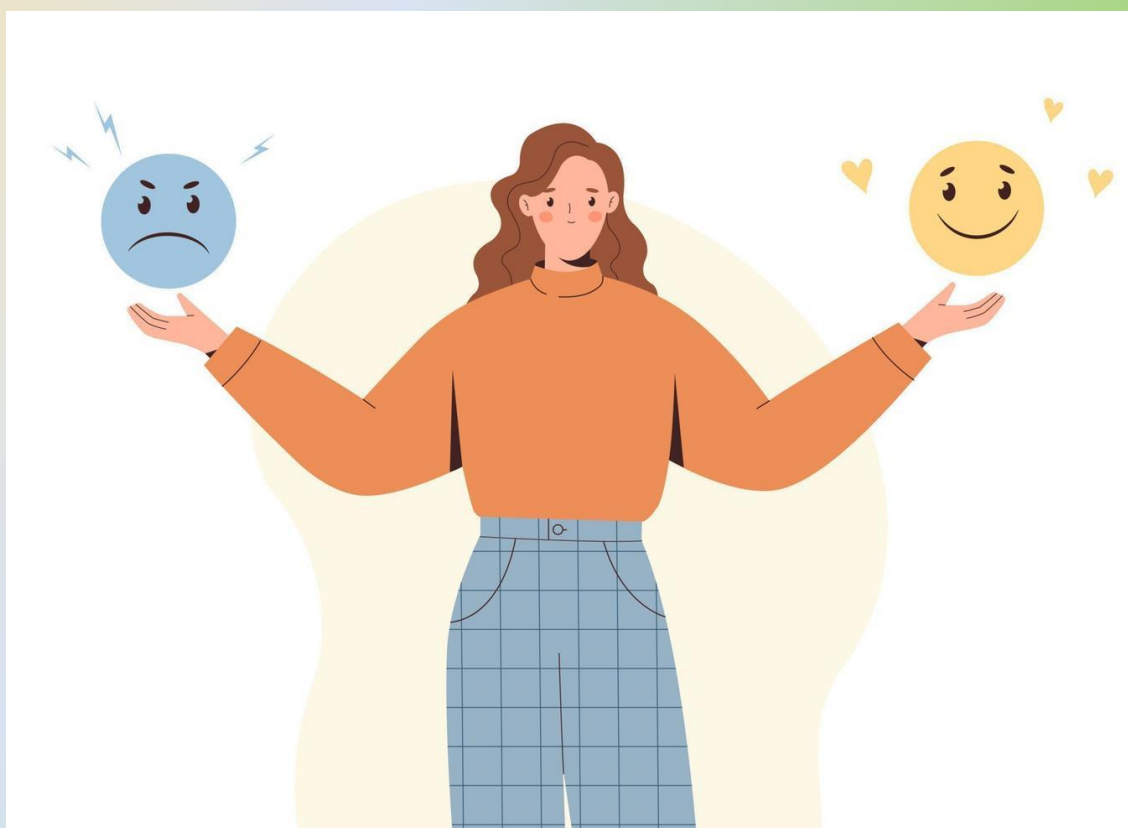
Emotional regulation is the ability to monitor, evaluate, and modify your emotional reactions. The ability to understand your own emotional response to external factors is important because it protects your mental health, improves your relationships with others, and helps you handle stress more effectively.

In the long-term, we hope that this education and understanding will help students improve their focus, and support their long-term academic goals, alongside improving their mental health. Emotional responses are very individual, and we hope that this course will provide students with the opportunity to do some personal reflection.

Once this has been completed with all students, materials will be shared with parents/carers so that you can see what has been discussed and therefore you can support at home and use it as a reference point if needed.

As a part of this, all students will get to choose a pocket support card which they can always keep on them and can refer to at times where they may need it.

We hope this will provide students with a further toolkit that can help support their mental and emotional wellbeing here at KGGS.





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Duke of Edinburgh

Sixteen GOLD Duke of Edinburgh year 12 students travelled to Normandy to cycle (12) and walk (4) the Normandy beaches. After an overnight ferry to Cherbourg and orientation day they started their journey eastwards over 4 full days, learning so much about the extremely bold and courageous surprise attack on the beaches that marked a turning point in World War II.

We look forward to seeing their presentations about their journey with a purpose – a key part of the qualifying expedition section of their award.

We look forward to welcoming our new 21 GOLD students and getting to know them in year 12.

Our next expeditions are with our 118 bronze students that are starting year 10, end of the month and middle of October.





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PE

Jewellery

Students are not permitted to wear any jewellery of any kind for PE lessons at KGGS, everything must be removed before leaving the changing rooms. This includes earrings. If students cannot remove jewellery, they will not be able to participate in the PE lesson as a performer which will affect their progress. Other roles such as an umpire will be given.

Fixtures

The PE department will organise around 100 fixtures over the year across all ages and sports, so it is really important that students (especially Yr7) get used to the systems we have regarding the communication of information across all parties which include the following:

Team sheets for all fixtures will be put up on the noticeboard in the Sports Hall by PE staff with as much notice as possible.

Students will need to check the noticeboard regularly if they have been attending that club and if their name is on the team sheet, they need to check the details, make a note of them in their planner and ask parents if they can take part.

Students then need to return to the board the next day and tick or cross if they can/cannot play.

On the day of the fixture please tick again either before school or by the latest at break time to say you are in school and you can still play. If this is not done, then staff may have to cancel the fixture due to lack of numbers.

If the fixture involves students missing a chunk of lessons- either an am or pm session or all day or at the weekend, then PE staff will email an MS form home to gain parental permission. Please note that PE staff will not do this for after school fixtures which only involve missing a Period 5 lesson, it is expected that the student has gained verbal permission from parents before they tick if they can play or not.

Subject teachers will be informed as well as the attendance officer by PE staff of any lessons which students will miss, and students are expected to catch up on work.

If parents wish to collect their child from the fixture rather than them returning on the transport provided, then please email the member of staff whose initials are on the team sheet to let them know.

Thank you in advance for your support with this.

PE department



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Pre-season Netball Training

Twenty-one Year 10-13 students came into school on one of the last days of their holiday to take part in a pre-season Netball training day led by Nottingham Forrest coach, Katie Rayner.

Students worked on attacking and defending skills and building these up again ready for the new season.

The U18 squad also took part in a workshop with a sports psychologist who will be working with them this season on topics such as resilience, confidence and team cohesion and how to deal with different Netball scenarios such as missing a shot or falling behind in a game.

Well done to all who took part.

Mrs McCabe





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Key Stage 5 Mentoring

A Message sent to our KS5 mentors!

I just wanted to say a really huge THANK YOU for everything you have done this year to support our younger readers. I am sending this message to 28 of you – and I owe you all an enormous debt of thanks as we could never support so many younger students with their reading if it wasn't for you. Between you, you have mentored 35 KS3 students – an amazing achievement for which I'm so grateful.

I am going to give you all positive points as a small thank you, but on Mrs Elliker's advice I'm going to do this in September rather than now.

I hope you all have a fabulous summer and once again – a huge thank you for your help with the reading mentoring programme.

Best wishes

Mrs Raeburn



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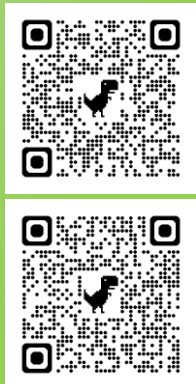
Theme of the Week



Emergency Services Day celebrates everyone who serves or has served in the UK's **Police, Fire & Rescue, Ambulance, NHS, Maritime (Coastguard & RNLi), and Search & Rescue** services. It is supported at the highest levels of government, including **HM The King, the Prime Minister,** and the First Ministers of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland

Almost **two million people** work or volunteer across the NHS and emergency services, including around **250,000 first responders**. 999 Day highlights their contribution and encourages the public to show appreciation.

TRY:	https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/lp/7-lifesaving-skills-everyone-should-know?
READ:	https://www.999day.org.uk/
WATCH/ LISTEN:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdzn8d6h_0





Theme of the Week

