



Kesteven & Grantham Girls' School

Weekly Bulletin

for Parents and Students

Term 1 Friday 25th September 2026



Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

There are many factors that contribute to students excelling at school, and **high attendance has a strong correlation with student performance and achievement at KGGS**. This is why we continue to place such importance on attendance and encourage every student to attend school regularly.

Over the coming weeks, students who achieved **100% attendance during the 2025/26 academic year** will receive their attendance badges. This is a fantastic achievement, and we hope it will encourage all students to strive for excellent attendance during 2026/27.

We completely acknowledge that there will be occasions when a student is genuinely unwell and needs to remain at home to rest and recuperate. However, it is equally important to recognise the relationship between high attendance and achievement. Every day in school provides valuable opportunities for learning, progress and participation in school life.

Your support in helping students maintain high levels of attendance is extremely important and forms a key part of the partnership between school and home. Thank you, as always, for working with us to give every student the best possible opportunity to succeed.

Year 7 Safety Day

On Wednesday, our Year 7 students were off timetable for the day to take part in our **Year 7 Safety Day**. Throughout the day, students participated in a range of workshops covering important topics including **online safety and positive communication, healthy relationships, road safety, alcohol and drug awareness, and gang recruitment**.

The students engaged extremely well with the sessions, and the feedback we received from the presenters was very positive. These are important subjects for our young people to understand, and days such as this provide an invaluable opportunity for students to develop the knowledge and confidence they need to make safe and informed choices.

Well done, Year 7!

Emotional Regulation Assemblies

Mrs Richards has this week completed the final **emotional regulation assemblies** with students in Years 10, 11 and 13.

These assemblies have provided students with practical strategies to help them recognise, understand and manage their emotions. I would encourage parents and carers of students in these year groups to speak to them about the assemblies and, in particular, the strategies they have been introduced to and how they might use these moving forward.

Having conversations at home about these strategies can help reinforce the work taking place in school.

Sponsored Walk – £8,592 Raised So Far!

Sponsorship money from our sponsored walk continues to arrive in school, with donations also being made online through **WisePay and our JustGiving page**.

Continued



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I am delighted to share that the total raised so far stands at an impressive **£8,592**. Donations can still be made, and all funds raised will go directly towards providing **air conditioning in classrooms**, helping us to improve the learning environment for our students.

A huge thank you to everyone who has already brought sponsorship money into school or donated online. Your generosity and support are very much appreciated.

Blackout App – Parent Webinar

On Wednesday evening, we held our first parental webinar focusing on the **Blackout app**. Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to join us. For anyone who was unable to attend, we will be repeating the webinar on **Thursday 1 October at 5.00pm via Microsoft Teams**. The link to join the meeting can be found later in this bulletin and in the letter sent home last week. We hope as many parents and carers as possible will be able to join us.

Year 13 Parent Consultation Evening

On Thursday, we held our first parent consultation evening of the academic year for our **Year 13 students and their parents and carers**. There were many informative and constructive discussions throughout the evening. It was particularly pleasing to see the support, help and guidance being provided to our students by both their teachers and their families as they progress through this important stage of their education.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to our staff for their continued commitment to supporting Year 13.

Free School Meals

Eligibility for **Free School Meals** has changed this year in line with government policy. Further information about the changes and eligibility can be found later in this week's bulletin. Please do take a few moments to read this information if you are currently eligible or believe that your child may now qualify.

Duke of Edinburgh – Good Luck, Year 10!

Good luck to all our **Year 10 students completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions this weekend**. At the moment, the weather is looking favourable – and, importantly, there is currently no rain forecast!

We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable expedition and look forward to hearing all about it next week.

Year 7 Welcome Evening – Wednesday

Finally, a reminder to all **Year 7 parents and carers** about our Welcome Evening taking place on Wednesday. Between **4.30pm and 5.30pm**, you will have the opportunity to explore KGGS with your daughter and gain a greater insight into her school experience. This will be followed by a talk from myself, **Mrs Walker, Head of Year 7**, and **Mr Mayfield, Head of the Enterprise Faculty**, focusing particularly on how parents and carers can support their children in remaining safe online.

We look forward to welcoming you to KGGS.

News from the Head

After some exceptionally busy opening weeks of the academic year, I am looking forward to some much-needed **R&R this weekend – along with catching up on a little television!**

Thank you to our students, staff, parents and carers for all your support during these first few weeks of term.

Have a great weekend, everyone.

James Fuller

Inspire, Challenge, Achieve



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Calendar of Events for w/c 28th September 2026 (Week A)

Mon 28 th	- Years 7 and 8 Assemblies (Head Girls)
Tue 29 th	- Years 9 and 10 Assemblies (Head Girls)
Wed 30 th	- Year 12 University and Apprenticeship event, Leicester; Year 7 Welcome Tour 4.30pm; Year 7 Progress and e-safety evening 5.30pm
Thu 1 st Oct	- KS5 Assembly (Head Girls)
Fri 2 nd	- Year 11 Assembly (Head Girls); P1 Key Stage School Council Meetings; P1 Y13 Discussion Group (Library)

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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Messages to Parents/Guardians and Students

Blackout Webinar

A number of parents attended the first Blackout Webinar on Wednesday evening. A second Webinar has been arranged for Thursday 1st October from 5pm to 6pm. Please use the following link to access this:

Thursday 1st October – 5 to 6pm

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/365884363733076?p=PFwyc5nMSzNSKDGRDy>

Meeting ID: 365 884 363 733 076

Passcode: WG93eP2W

Parking

We continue to receive complaints from local residents about parents parking and waiting for students at Egglestone House on Sandon Road.

Please be reminded that Egglestone House is private property and parking is reserved solely for residents. We ask that parents do not park or wait there when dropping off or collecting students.

Please remember that you can park for **1 hour FREE** at the SKDC car park on Welham Street. You will need to obtain a ticket from the machine.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us maintain good relationships with local residents.

Lost Property

If your daughter has misplaced property in school, it will be placed in reprographics which is open from 8am to 12.30pm each day. If items are named, they are placed in individual form boxes.

KGGS Core Values

Our ethos is described through the vision of “**Inspire, Challenge, Achieve.**”, and our core values are:

Compassion — caring about and supporting others.

Teamwork — cooperating with others and contributing positively to a team.

Respect — treating other people, their views and differences with consideration.

Integrity — being honest, responsible and doing the right thing.

Resilience — persevering through difficulties, learning from challenges and continuing to develop.

These values are intended to help students become **happy, healthy, confident and well-rounded young adults**, alongside being appropriately challenged academically.

Inspire, Challenge, Achieve



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School Vacancies

We currently have vacancies available in school:

Administrative Assistant

(20-25 hours per week, 38 weeks per year (term time only))

Teacher of Business

(maternity cover 0.7fte, part-time role)

If you are interested in applying for either of these roles, please visit our website:

www.kggs.org > Key Information > Staff > Vacancies.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Exam Dates 2026/27

Exam	Date
Summer Exam Retakes	3-6 and 9 November
Year 11 Mocks	16 to 27 November
Year 11 Speaking	11 to 22 January
Year 13 Mocks	25 January to 5 February
Year 13 Mocks	25 January to 5 February
Year 10 Mocks	13 to 21 April
Year 11 Speaking	13 to 21 April
Year 12 Mocks	22 to 30 April
Summer Exams	10 May to 25 June
Year 7 and Year 8 end of year exams	8 to 12 June
Year 9 end of year exams	21 to 25 June
Year 10 Speaking	23 to 30 June



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Extra funding available for your child's education

Make sure your child's school is not missing out on an extra £2690 each year to support their education.

If you're caring for a child under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO), Adoption Order or Child Arrangements Order, additional funding is available to ensure they are given extra support at school.



Called Pupil Premium Plus (PP+), this funding of up to £2690 per pupil is available for pupils in Reception to Year 11 who were looked after and left care under an adoption*, special guardianship or child arrangements order (formerly residence order).

If your child has recently moved schools and you haven't informed the school of their status, you will need to contact the school as overleaf.

The school may not know of your child's situation, and it is up to you as their parent/guardian to ensure they know your child meets the criteria, so that they can apply for funding.

*Includes children adopted from state care or equivalent from outside of England and Wales



Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future



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Changes to Free School Meal Eligibility (FSM)

We wanted to make you aware of the following changes to FSM eligibility following the expansion of FSM.

What is changing?

Expanded entitlement for families on Universal Credit

From this September, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of earnings.

Going forward, there will be two types of eligibility:

- **Targeted FSM:** for households in receipt of Universal Credit earning £7,400 or less (includes free meals and additional support such as pupil premium).
- **Expanded FSM:** for households in receipt of Universal Credit earning above £7,400 (free meals only).

End of transitional protections

Since 2018, some children have continued to receive free school meals, even if their family circumstances changed during the rollout of Universal Credit. This is referred to as transitional protections.

Now that entitlement is being expanded to all families on Universal Credit, these protections stopped at the end of the 2025 to 2026 academic year.

This means:

- Some children may no longer be eligible for free school meals from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year if their family does not receive Universal Credit or another qualifying benefit.
- Eligibility will now be based on current benefit status.

What you need to do:

Based on new government guidelines, parents and carers will now need to re-verify eligibility annually (Before 2nd November for this academic year)

Outcomes will be:

- **Eligible – targeted**
- **Eligible – expanded**
- **Not eligible**

This applies to **ALL families**.

Please use the following link to verify your eligibility status with Lincolnshire County Council if you have not already done so. <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-pupil-support/apply-free-school-meals>. For students in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, please contact your local authority for information.

If you have any questions, please contact staffcmccree@kggs.org

Charlotte McCree
Pupil Premium lead



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Wellbeing Quote



Wellbeing Activity

Take time to enjoy and really make the most of the present today





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Music Success

Year 9 student, *Annabelle Lane*, has passed her grade 4 drum kit exam with a Distinction.

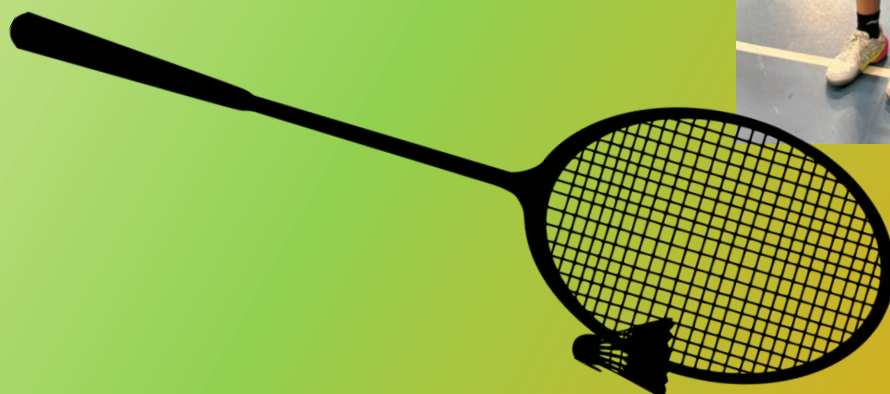
Terrific work, Annabelle!



Badminton

Year 8 student, *Shri Agarwal*, secured first place in all three categories (women's singles, women's double and mixed doubles) in the Nottinghamshire Junior U14 Restricted Badminton Championship organised by Badminton England, held at Nottingham earlier this month, achieving an overall gold medal.

Congratulations, Shri!



Year 10 student, *Hannah Valluvassery*, participated in the Nottinghamshire Restricted Championships held at Chilwell Olympia, Nottingham. She performed exceptionally well and won a Bronze/3rd Medal in the Under-16 Doubles competition.

Congratulations, Hannah!



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PRE Study Day at the University of Nottingham

On Thursday 17th September our Year 13 A Level Religious Studies students had the opportunity to attend an engaging and thought-provoking study day at the University of Nottingham. The day provided an excellent opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of key philosophical and ethical issues while also gaining an insight into studying Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE) at university. We were also joined by Mrs Cunningham and her Year 13 RS class from Kings.

The day began with a welcome talk, which introduced students to what it is like to study PRE at university, the experience of university life, and the wide range of opportunities and destinations that a degree in the subject can lead to. Students gained valuable advice and practical skills that will support them not only with their A Level studies, but also as they consider their next steps beyond Year 13. The session encouraged students to think about the transferable skills developed through the study of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics, including critical thinking, constructing arguments, evaluating different viewpoints, communication and independent thinking.

The academic talks covered a fascinating range of topics closely linked to the A Level RS course, including Christian Ethics and Artificial Intelligence, Utilitarianism, and Ancient Greek ideas about the soul. Students were encouraged to think critically, question assumptions and consider how religious and philosophical ideas can be applied to both contemporary and historical issues.

The session on Christian Ethics and AI was particularly relevant and engaging, exploring how traditional Christian ethical principles might be applied to rapidly developing technologies. It raised important questions about human responsibility, dignity and the role of artificial intelligence in society. The discussion of Utilitarianism gave students the opportunity to revisit and challenge key ideas surrounding consequences, happiness and moral decision-making, while the exploration of Ancient Souls provided valuable insight into historical philosophical perspectives and helped students make connections with ideas they encounter as part of their A Level studies.

A major strength of the day was the opportunity for students to experience university-level academic discussion and engage with ideas beyond the classroom. The talks challenged students to think more deeply, consider alternative perspectives and recognise that many of the central questions explored in Religious Studies do not have straightforward answers. The study day was both academically enriching and inspiring, combining subject knowledge with valuable guidance about university life, future opportunities and the skills that students can develop through studying PRE. It was a worthwhile experience that complemented their A Level studies while encouraging them to approach philosophical and ethical questions with greater confidence, curiosity and independence.

Miss Bird - Head of Religious Studies



**The University of
Nottingham**



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DEBATE AT KGGS

FOR MORE INFO SEE MISS DUGGAN IN EN6

INTER SCHOOL DEBATING WITH KINGS

NEXT DATE MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

AT **KGGS – ROBERTS HALL**

16:00 – 17:30

OPEN TO YEAR 11, 12 AND 13

SEE PDU OR HAN FOR INFO

LUNCHTIME

DEBATING CLUB

– EN6 @ 12:50

MONDAYS –
YEAR 9 AND
ABOVE

Y7 OR 8? PLEASE SEE
MISS DUGGAN TO
DISCUSS OPTIONS

COME ALONG AND DEVELOP YOUR COMPETITIVE DEBATING SKILLS IN AN
INFORMAL, RELAXED ENVIRONMENT!

- THERE IS NO EXPECTATION THAT YOU ATTEND LUNCHTIME CLUBS!
- THIS IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER DEVELOP PUBLIC SPEAKING SKILLS AND CAN BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL FOR THOSE WISHING TO APPLY TO OXBRIDGE UNIVERSITIES.



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STEM NEWS

Fancy Getting Paid to Be an Engineer?

Meet the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship

Calling all Year 11 D&T students with big engineering ambitions — there's a scholarship out there that could fund your journey through sixth form, and applications are open now.

What is it?

The Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is aimed at high-potential young people aged 16–18 who are preparing to move into engineering, computing, or technical design. It's run by the Smallpeice Trust and open to students applying in Year 11, typically aged 15–16. Around 400 scholarships are awarded each year, through a selection process running from September through to May.

Why apply?

- **Money for your projects.** Externally sponsored scholars receive a £250 grant in each of the two scholarship years, to spend on STEM materials, travel to events, or your own independent projects.
- **A real engineering mentor.** You're paired with an engineering mentor who gives advice on career paths, further study, and feedback on any projects you're working on.
- **Behind-the-scenes access.** Scholars get invited to exclusive in-person and virtual STEM events with partner companies and universities — including industry visits and expert panels.
- **Something that makes you stand out.** Universities and employers rate the scholarship highly, and it's a genuine talking point on any application or CV.

What does it take to win one?

Don't expect an easy ride — this is competitive. Recent winners describe a multi-stage process: an application detailing your passion for engineering and a project you've been working on, a two-hour aptitude exam testing problem-solving and engineering principles, and finally an interview. Schools report students meeting weekly to prepare — so if you're interested, start early.

How do I apply?

Applications for current Year 11's typically close around November/December, so don't sit on this.

If you're already working on a strong personal project — think of it as your ticket in.

Go to <https://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk/i-am-a-future-scholar/> for more information and application details.

Mr. Mears Sagoo
STEM Coordinator



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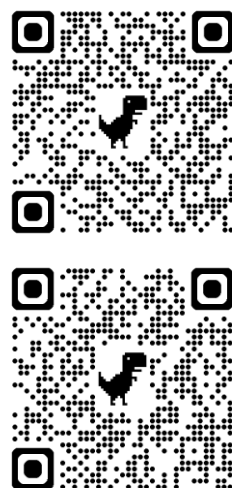
for Parents and Students

Theme of the Week



World Heart Day is a global awareness day held every year on 29 September to highlight the impact of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and promote heart-healthy living. It is organised by the World Heart Federation (WHF) and supported by the World Health Organization (WHO).

TRY:	https://world-heart-federation.org/ https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/heart-healthy-recipes
READ:	https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/heart/Pages/Heart-Disease.aspx
WATCH/ LISTEN:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWoRe0NFttc https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-M0fYEg2VQ





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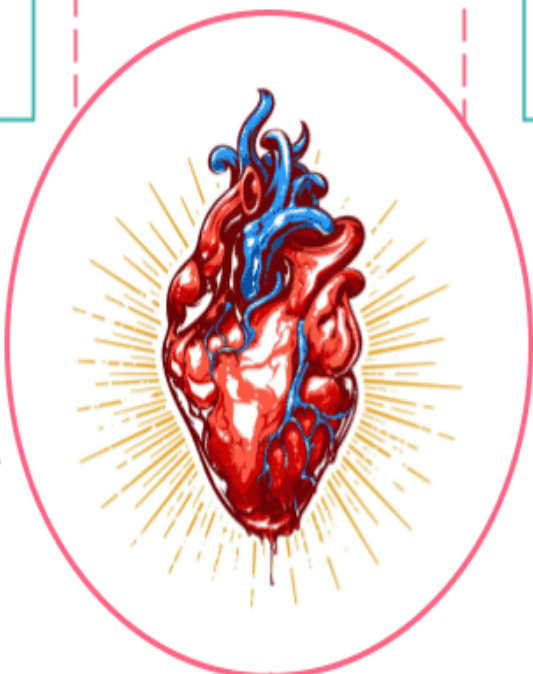
Theme of the Week

Name: _____

Why It Matters



The heart is a very important organ. Based on your understanding, why does the heart matter? Give five reasons and add a brief explanation for each.





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Theme of the Week





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School Trips



The poster features a scenic background of snow-capped mountains and a group of four girls in ski gear looking out over the landscape. On the right, a pair of skis is planted upright in the snow. The school's crest is in the top left corner.

Kesteven and Grantham Girls School

Ski Trip

Feb 2028

Launch meeting

- Monday 5th October
- Common Room
- 6pm

*New slopes
New friends
Same KGGS*

Sri Lanka Netball and Football Trip 2029

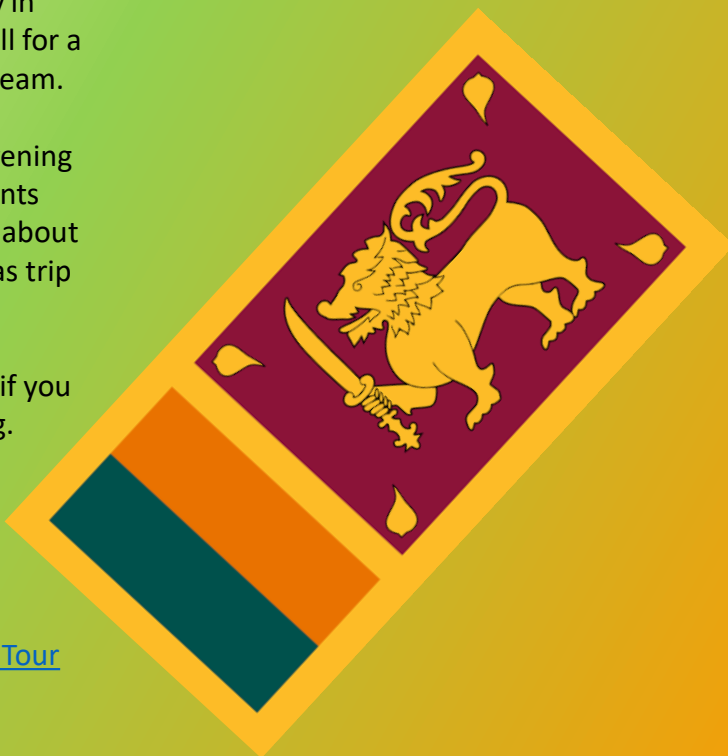
This trip is open to students currently in Year 7-11 who play Football or Netball for a club outside of school or the school team.

There will be a parent information evening on **21st October from 5-6pm** for parents and their daughters to find out more about the next Netball and Football overseas trip planned for 2029.

Please complete the Microsoft Form if you wish to attend so we can plan seating.

Kind regards
Mrs McCabe/Miss Bird
(Trip Leaders)

[Sri Lanka Netball and Football Sports Tour 2029 – Fill in form](#)





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Calling all Year 10 and 11 students!

Vietnam World Challenge 2028

We're launching an exciting World Challenge expedition to Vietnam in Summer 2028, available to Year 10 and 11 students.

This is an incredible opportunity to experience a new culture, take on a real challenge, and develop confidence, independence and teamwork skills along the way.

If you are interested, use the links from your email or the QR code below. This initial meeting is for anyone interested who would like more information - no commitment at this point!

Miss Garner



VIETNAM

SUMMER 2028

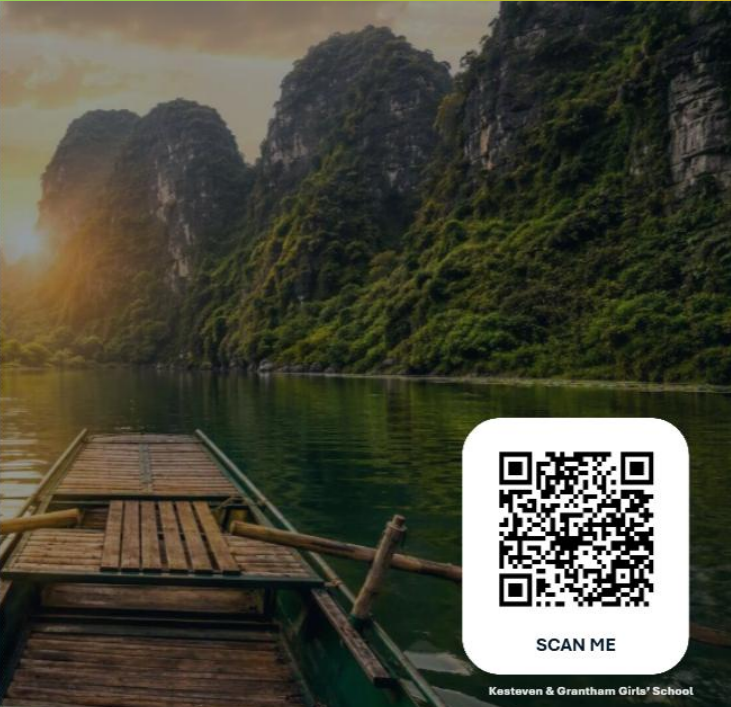
INFORMATION EVENING

Monday 28 September
6.30pm

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Friday 16 October

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE & APPLY





SCAN ME

Kesteven & Grantham Girls' School



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Sponsored Walk

A week ago, our students were enjoying the sunshine on their walk to Belton House and back.

Here are a few photos taken during the day



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KGGS

Christian Union

Monday lunchtimes 12.30-1
HU5

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am
among them."
Matthew 18:20





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Giant Laughs Are Coming to Newark This Christmas!

Get ready to climb the beanstalk with the Palace Theatre Newark's biggest family adventure of the festive season, Jack and the Beanstalk!

Running from 8 December 2026 to 3 January 2027, this year's spectacular pantomime is packed with giant laughs, dazzling special effects, magical music and plenty of audience participation.

Even better, some familiar favourites are returning to the Palace stage. Join Laura Pigott as Jack Trott, Steven Pinder as King Custard and Breanna Bradshaw as Princess Jill, alongside comedy chaos from Luke Adamson's Dame Trott, the lovable Silly Billy, the wicked Fleshcreep, and of course everyone's favourite four-legged friend, Clarabelle the Cow!

From magical beans and a towering beanstalk to a castle high in the clouds, this larger-than-life adventure promises an unforgettable Christmas treat for children, parents and grandparents alike.

Book your tickets now at www.palacenewark.com





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**MV
16**

Melton Vale
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



College Open Event

Saturday 3rd October

11am - 3pm

No booking required



01664 504750



mv16.org.uk



admissions@mv16.org.uk



[meltonvale](https://www.instagram.com/meltonvale)

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



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