Kesteven & Grantham Girls' School

Weekly Bulletin
for Parents and Students
Term 2
Friday 20th November 2026



Headteacher's Welcome

As we come to the end of another busy week at KGGS, there is plenty to celebrate, from sporting achievements and new experiences to the hard work and determination being shown by our students as they prepare for the next stages of their education.

Good luck to our U15 Swimming Team!
Firstly, a huge good luck to our KGGS U15 swimming team, who will be competing this weekend in the Inter-Girls 50m Freestyle and Medley Relay events. We are incredibly proud of the girls for reaching this stage and wish them every success in the pool! Racing begins at **1.00pm**, with the girls competing in Race 5, and potentially Race 13 should they qualify from their heat. They will also compete in Race 22, with the possibility of progressing to Race 32.

For anyone wishing to follow the action and cheer the girls on from home, the races can be watched live using the link below:

Watch the ESSA Swimming Championships live

We will all be cheering you on. Good luck, girls!

A polite reminder about parking and student safety
With the darker evenings now upon us, we fully appreciate that more parents and carers may wish to collect their daughters from school, particularly as the weather becomes colder and less predictable.

However, could we please ask everyone to be mindful and considerate when parking around the school site? In particular, please avoid parking on the zig-zag lines near the pedestrian crossing or school entrances, ensure there is sufficient space for our school buses to manoeuvre safely, and refrain from parking at the Barracks or Egglestone House opposite KGGS.

The safety of our students, staff and wider school community is always our priority, and a little extra consideration at these busy times makes a real difference. Your cooperation and support with this are very much appreciated.

Year 11 – one week down, one to go!
A very big well done to all our Year 11 students, who have now completed the first week of their mock examinations. We know how much preparation, revision and effort goes into this important period, and it has been pleasing to see the mature and determined approach that so many of you have demonstrated.

Just one more week to go! Keep working hard, stay focused and remember that all the effort you are putting in now will be worth it in the end. Make sure you also find time to rest and recharge over the weekend, ready for the final week. You are nearly there!

Year 10 Work Experience – opportunities and support
It has also been encouraging to see our Year 10 students making progress in securing their work experience placements for later in the academic year. This is such a valuable opportunity for students to gain an insight into the world of work, develop their confidence and begin exploring possible future career pathways.

For those students who are still searching for a placement, please do keep going. These things can sometimes take a little perseverance, but the experience will certainly be worthwhile.

We would also love to hear from any parents or carers who own or work within local businesses and might be able to offer a **three-day work experience placement at the end of May** for one of our Year 10 students. If you think you could help, please get in touch with Mrs Smith or Mrs Nicklin. Your support could make a real difference to a young person's future aspirations.

Can you support our Oxbridge candidates?
Speaking of opportunities and the wonderful support of our school community, we also have a request for any parents, carers or relatives who may be able to help our students aspiring to apply to Oxford or Cambridge University.

We are always keen to draw upon the knowledge, experience and expertise within our wider KGGS community to help prepare students for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Further information about how you might be able to support our Oxbridge candidates, together with a link to register your interest, can be found later in this week's bulletin. If you are able to help in any way, we would be extremely grateful.

Year 10 GCSE PE – reaching new heights!
Our Year 10 GCSE PE students have been out and about this week, travelling to Newark to complete rock climbing as part of their GCSE PE Non-Examined Assessment (NEA).
The students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to put their climbing skills into practice, challenge themselves and demonstrate their abilities in a different sporting environment.

We received lovely feedback about their behaviour, with students representing KGGS impeccably throughout the visit. Well-done to everyone involved. It is always a pleasure to hear such positive comments about our students when they are out representing the school.

And finally... a little news from the Head!
After another busy week, I am very much looking forward to a slightly quieter weekend, although I suspect it will still involve a little excitement!

My weekend viewing is already planned, with the final two episodes of a well-known series featuring Pierce Brosnan waiting for me. I have deliberately saved Episode 9 so that I can watch the final two episodes together. No spoilers, please!

I am also planning a little festive baking practice, trying out some Christmas NYC-style cookies using a recipe from Jane's Patisserie. Whether they turn out quite as impressive as the photographs remains to be seen, but I am looking forward to giving them a go. I suspect there may need to be some quality control tasting along the way!

As always, thank you for your continued support of KGGS and for everything you do to help our students make the most of the opportunities available to them.



I hope you all have a lovely weekend, and a particular good luck once again to our swimmers competing this weekend.

Mr Fuller

Kesteven & Grantham Girls' School

Weekly Bulletin for Parents and Students



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Calendar of Events for w/c 23rd November 2026 (Week B)

This week:	- Year 11 Mock Examinations continue
Mon 23rd	- Year 7 Assembly
	Year 9 PE Assessment week (during PE lessons)
	Gold DofE Presentations (5pm in Common Room)
Tue 24th	- Year 10 Assembly
Wed 25th	- Year 8 Assembly
Thu 26th	- Year 12 Assembly (Senior Student launch)
Fri 27th	- Year 11 and Year 9 Assemblies
	Year 11 Mock Examinations end

Year 11's ……



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Important Message to Parents

As the weather becomes wetter and colder, we kindly ask that you ensure your child comes to school with a **suitable waterproof coat and/or an umbrella**.

It is important that students stay warm and dry throughout the school day. Remaining in wet clothing for extended periods can cause discomfort, make students feel cold and affect their concentration and ability to fully participate in lessons and activities.

We want all our students to feel comfortable, healthy and ready to learn. Your support in ensuring they have appropriate wet-weather clothing is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Parking

We are continuing to receive complaints from local residents and businesses regarding parents parking on private property.

We would therefore like to remind all parents and carers that parking is **not permitted** in the Barracks or at Egglestone House (located opposite KGGS).

Please respect our neighbours and use only appropriate public parking areas when dropping off or collecting students.

A convenient alternative is the car park on **Welham Street**, which is only a few minutes' walk from the school and offers **free parking for the first hour**.

Any further incidents of unauthorised parking in these locations may be reported to the police.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.



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

Former Students - Apprenticeships

If you know of any former students who have gone onto an apprenticeship and who wouldn't mind us mentioning this in our weekly bulletin so that we can celebrate their achievement, please send their information to Mrs Davis on staffedavis@kggs.org.

Former Students – University Graduates

If you know of any former students who have graduated and who wouldn't mind us mentioning this in our weekly bulletin so that we can celebrate their achievement, please send details to Mrs Davis on staffedavis@kggs.org.

Remember to add the name of their course, their grade and where they studied!

Year 10 Work Experience





A massive well done to all the year 10 students who are actively securing work experience placements!

Remember to log the placement on Career Thread as soon as possible!

Career Thread letter to employer – pupils can access here:
https://kggs.sharepoint.com/sites/PupilCareers





Can You Help Support the Next Generation of KGGS Oxbridge Applicants?

We are looking for former KGGS students, current Oxford or Cambridge students, parents, family members and friends of the school who have personal experience of the Oxford or Cambridge admissions process and would be willing to support our current applicants in any capacity, large or small.

Each year, a number of KGGS students apply to study at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. One of the most challenging aspects of the application process is preparing for the interview stage, and support from people who have experienced it themselves can make a huge difference.

We would love to hear from anyone who has:

- Studied at Oxford or Cambridge;
- Been through the Oxford or Cambridge interview process;
- Relevant experience that could help prepare students for this specific type of interview.

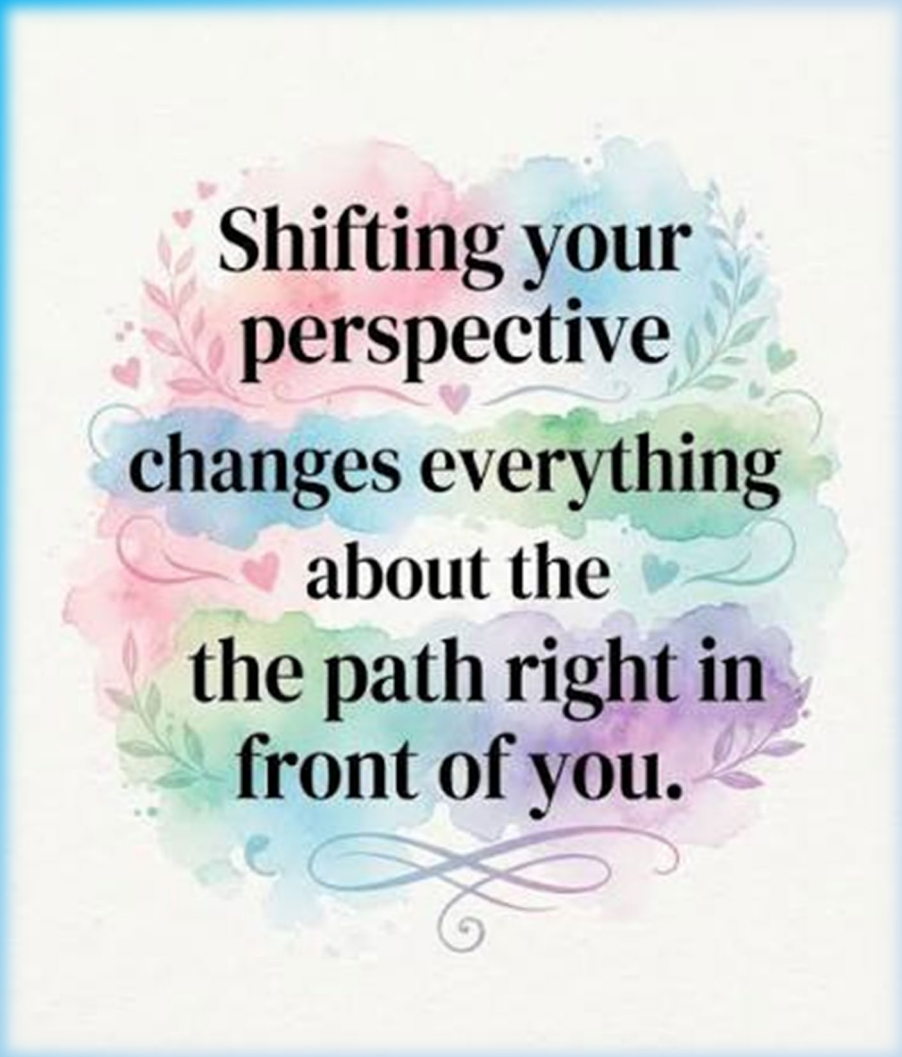
Support could take a variety of forms, including sharing advice, speaking with applicants or helping with mock interviews. If you may be able to help, please complete our Microsoft Form using the link below. We would be very grateful to expand our network of supporters and provide our students with the best possible guidance as they prepare their applications. Thank you in advance.

KGGS Oxbridge Network – Fill in form

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Wellbeing Quote



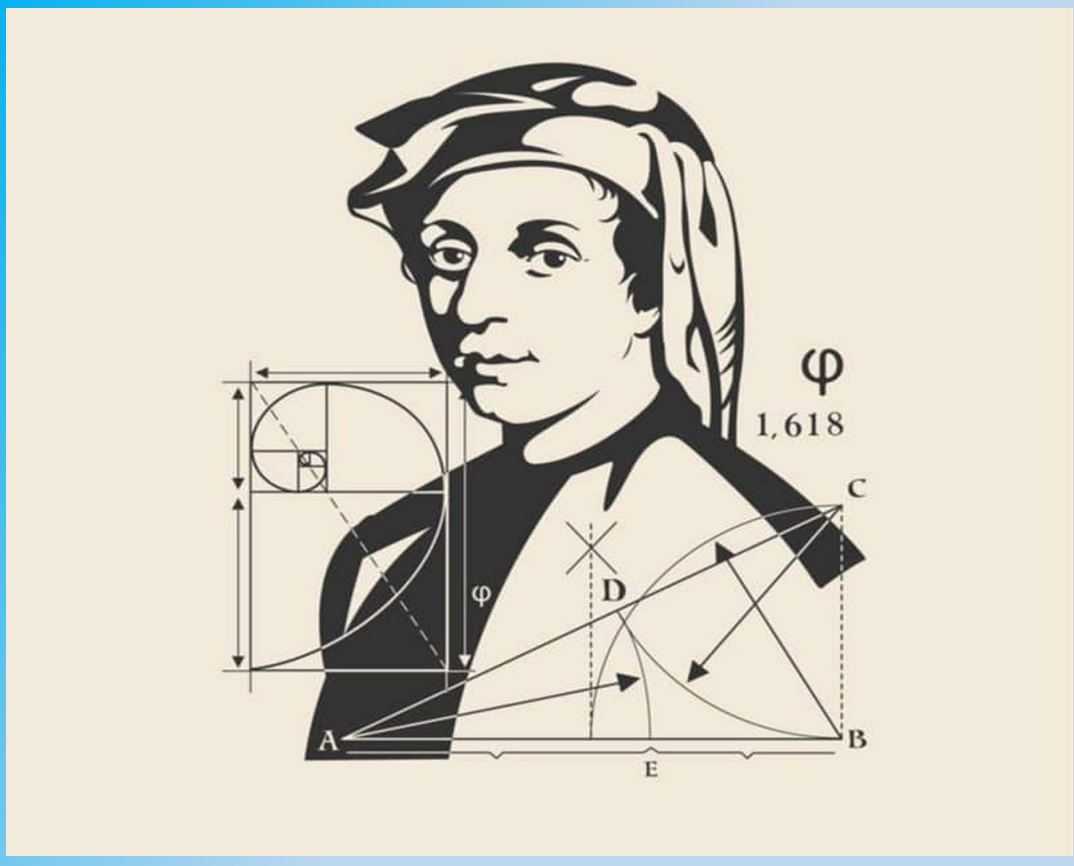
Wellbeing Activity

Think about a challenge from another person's point of view.



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Theme of the Week



Fibonacci Day is celebrated every year on 23 November, chosen because the U.S. date format 11/23 matches the opening digits of the Fibonacci sequence: 1, 1, 2, 3

It's a global celebration of mathematics, nature, art, and pattern-spotting, honouring the medieval Italian mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci, who introduced the sequence to Western Europe in Liber Abaci (1202)

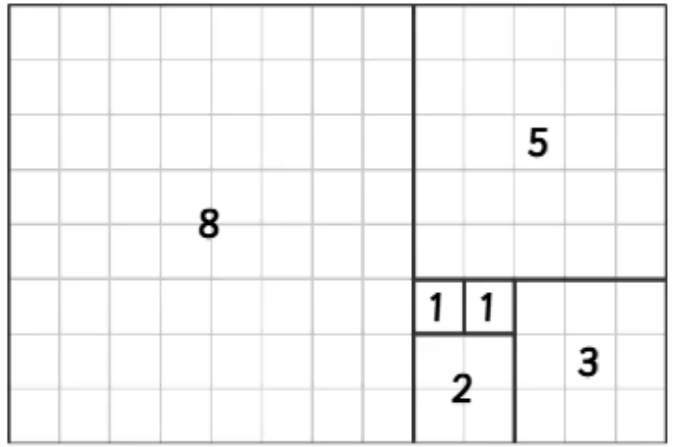
The sequence is considered a kind of "nature's code", showing up in biological structures, art, architecture, and even galaxy spirals. It's celebrated by mathematicians, artists, teachers, and anyone who enjoys uncovering hidden patterns in the world.

TRY:	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zfhfydm
READ:	https://masarat-sy.org/en/how-the-fibonacci-sequence-shapes-our-world/
WATCH:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihxJN6ZC9HE

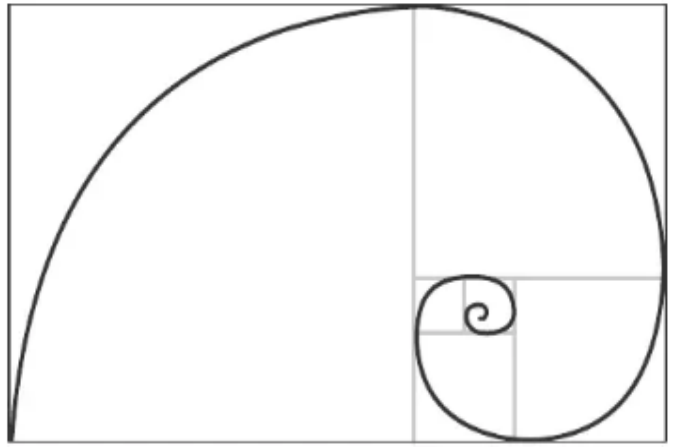
Theme of the Week

How to draw a Fibonacci Spiral

1. On cm squared paper, draw the pattern below. Notice how the number of squares in the pattern follow the Fibonacci sequence.



2. Use a pencil to draw curves through the squares.



MORE THAN JUST A SEQUENCE OF NUMBERS

FIBONACCI SEQUENCE

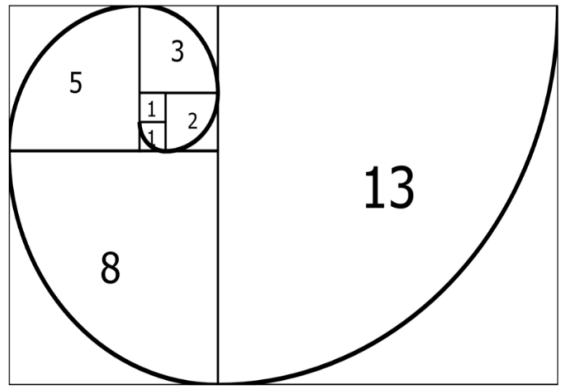
- $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$.
- **Each number is the sum of the two preceding ones, starting from 0 and 1.**
- **Is ubiquitous: the tree branches, cauliflower and the curves of the human brain, etc. It's a phenomenon surrounding us everywhere.**

WEBER'S LAW

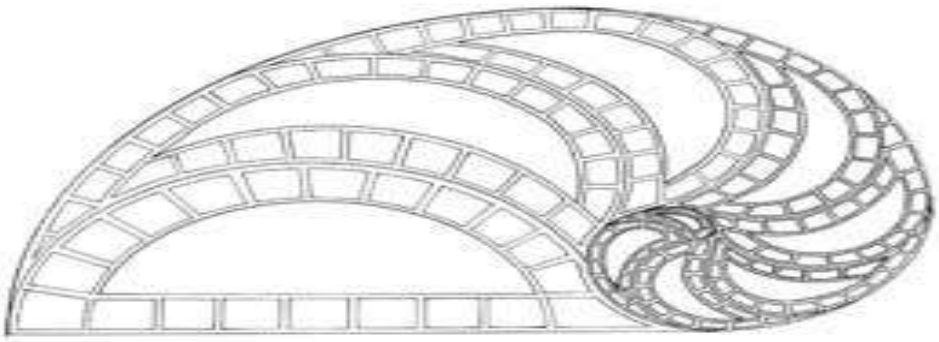
- The difference we can identify between objects is given by a percentage.
- For example, if 60% difference can be distinguished in an effort between two estimates, we can distinguish that same percentage difference between other estimates and that is corresponding with the Fibonacci Sequence.
- Fibonacci values work well because they increase by about the same portion each time.

GOLDEN RATIO

- Golden mean or golden section.
- Two quantities are in the golden ratio if their ratio is the same as the ratio of their sum to the larger of the two quantities.
- Any two successive Fibonacci Numbers, have ratio very close to the Golden Ratio "φ" which is approximately 1,618034…

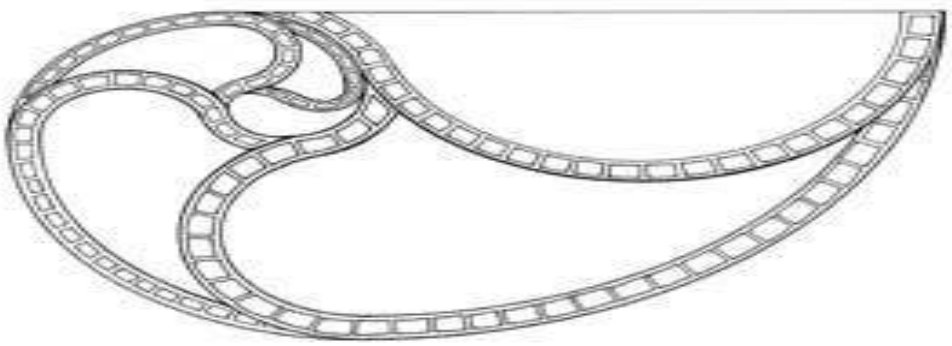


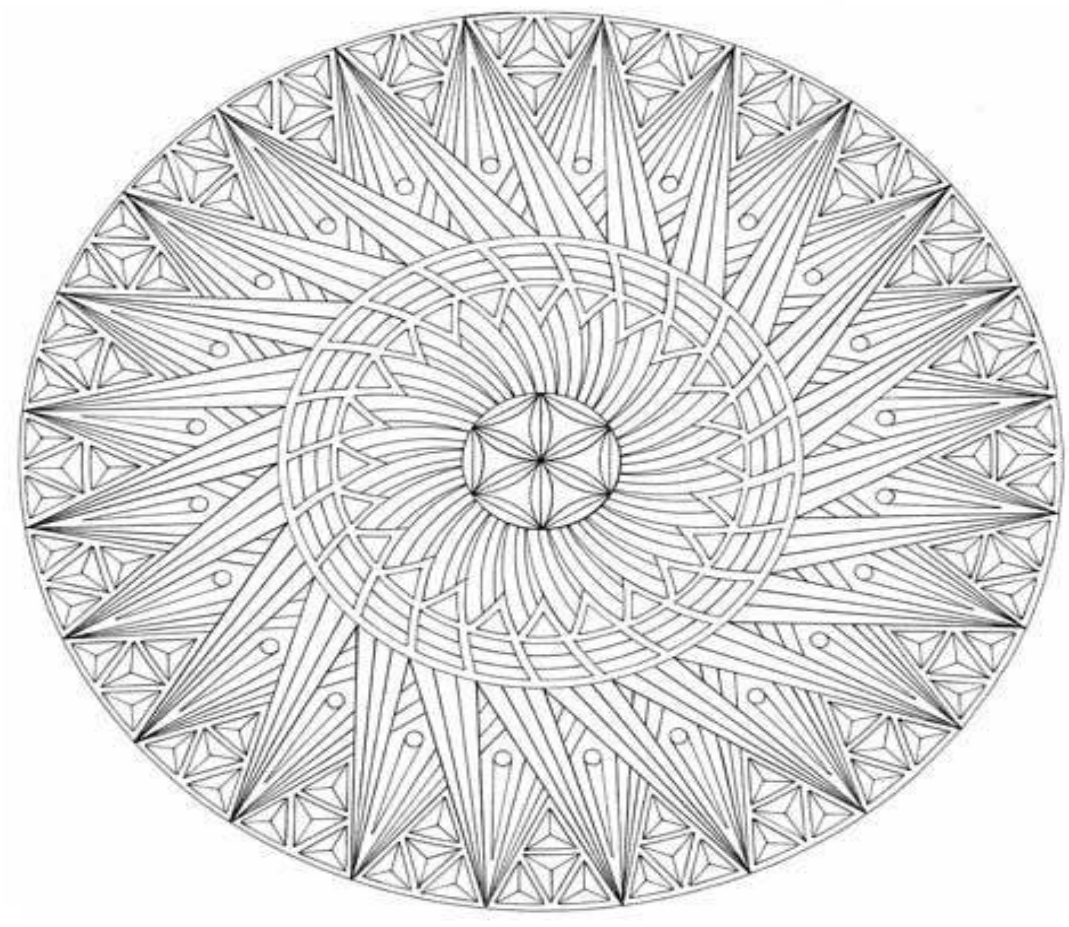
ACRONYM



SPIRA MIRABILIS

The mathematician Jacob Bernoulli described the logarithmic spiral, the self-similar curve which can be generated from the Fibonacci sequence, as Spira mirabilis ('the marvellous spiral'). Using the same basic principle, architects and designers have created a wide variety of curved patterns that mimic the patterns found in shells and flowers.





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House Dance

Another fantastic year of house dance, due to the high standard, the judging was very difficult.

Results are:

1st	Bronte
2nd	Eliot
3rd	Potter
4th	Browning
5th	Austen
6th	Rossetti

Well done to all students for taking part!

Mrs McGrath





Music Success
Clarinet

Year 7 student, *Martha Bruce,* has passed her Grade 2 clarinet exam with Merit.

Well done, Martha!





Christmas Dinner – Thursday 10th December

Important Information and Pre-Orders

Christmas dinner will be available to pre-order from **Monday 23rd November until Friday 4th December at 12.00 noon**.
(Unfortunately, we will be unable to accept any orders after this deadline. We need to submit our final food order by 1.00 pm, allowing us enough time to organise and carefully check all dietary and allergy requirements).

Dietary Requirements and Wristbands
You will see that we have catered for all dietary requirements on the menu.
Each person who has pre-ordered will receive **two wristbands**:
One for their main course.
One for their dessert.

The wristbands will be different colours to identify which meals have been ordered. It is extremely important that these are worn and shown to both the kitchen and dining room staff on the day. This will help us identify everyone's choices and, most importantly, ensure that anyone with allergies or specific dietary requirements receives the correct meal safely.

Dining Arrangements
Robert's Hall will be available exclusively for those who have pre-ordered Christmas dinner. For anyone who would prefer to bring a packed lunch, the **gym will be open**. We will also have Christmas music playing, and picnic blankets will be available to help create a festive atmosphere!

School Shop and Breaktime
The school shop will remain open as normal.

Please note that there will be **no hot food available at morning break**, however, Danish pastries and pain au chocolat will still be available.

Christmas Dinner Day – Further Information
Further details, including allocated time slots, will be sent out nearer the date.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

We look forward to making it a lovely and festive Christmas dinner day for everyone!

Mr Raynor and the Catering Team



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Christmas Dinner & Carols

Roberts Hall, Thursday 10th December 2026

Times – to be confirmed

Roast Turkey (locally sourced)

(Also available as gluten free and Dairy Free)

Butternut Kale & Apricot Roast

(Vegan, gluten, dairy Free)

Pigs in Blanket ·Sage & Onion Stuffing ball - Roasted Potatoes
Roast Parsnip - Carrots/Peas - Sprouts - Yorkshire Pudding -
Cranberry Sauce

Pigs in Blankets & Yorkshire Pudding not available for vegans
Yorkshire Pudding not available for dairy free

Christmas Lemon berry Dessert with raspberry coulis

(Vegan, gluten, dairy free, dairy free cream available)

Chocolate Sticky Toffee Brownie

Christmas Chocolate yule log with raspberry coulis

Served with Custard or Cream

Iced water, Iced orange or Blackcurrant Juice

Instead of providing Christmas Crackers, we will be making a donation to the Trussel Trust a hunger charity

£5.75 TICKETS ONLY

On sale Monday 23rd November ~ Friday 4th December
How to order and pay details available soon.
Roberts Hall only for pre - ordered Christmas dinner staff will be serving and looking after you on the day.
Alternatively, join the Christmas Picnic party in the gym.

Bring your crackers and festive goodies, we will supply the party music bring your own picnic blankets
The school shop will be open for sandwiches etc.

Can you help?

Community raises £18,000 for Grantham King's School teacher with incurable brain tumour

Friends, family and former pupils have raised more than £18,000 to support an influential teacher who has an incurable brain tumour.

Karl Downing, 44, head of chemistry at The King's School in Grantham, has a life-limiting tumour which was discovered by doctors following a suspected stroke. Karl is a prolific fundraiser who has done much to help others — and a campaign has now been set up so that people can show him the same level of generosity and support in return.

At Lincoln hospital, scans revealed a mass in his brain and further investigations led to a referral to Nottingham's Queen's Medical Centre. After another scan showed changes, Karl met the neurosurgery team and underwent surgery on October 21. He said surgeons believed they had removed around 90 per cent of the tumour.

The family are still awaiting the full results of tests. Karl said his oncologist was treating the tumour as grade four, although the final details remained outstanding.

Friends with scientific and pharmaceutical backgrounds are helping the couple explore clinical trials and possible treatments overseas, although options will depend on the full test results and eligibility.

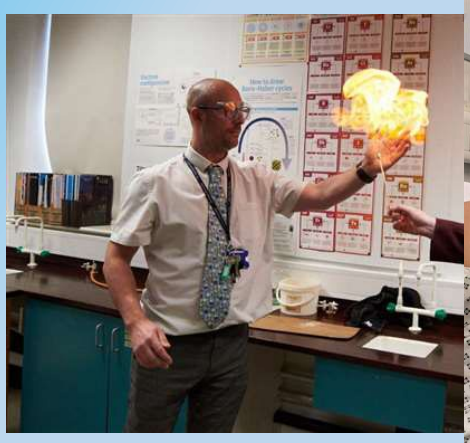
Friend of the family and Karl's wife's former colleague, Helen Sharpe, launched the

GoFundMe appeal

which has an initial £28,000 target.

The appeal will help with treatment options that may not be fully funded, travel, accommodation, everyday treatment costs and time together as a family.

If you are able to help Karl with ongoing treatment, please donate!







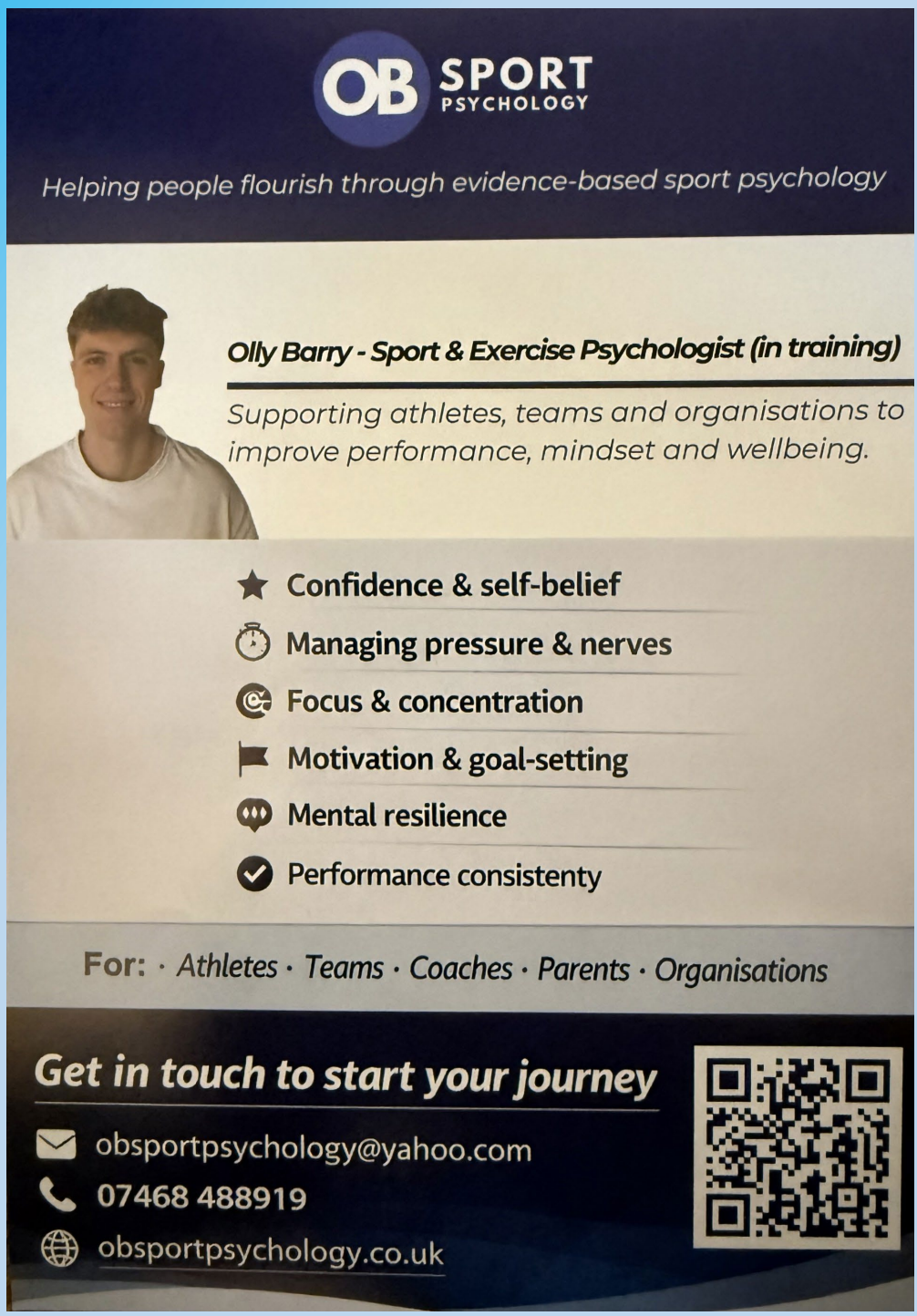
Sports Psychology Support at KGGS

We are delighted that Sports Psychologist **Olly Barry** has been working with our U19 Netball team, supporting players with the mental side of their performance and sporting development.

Olly is also available to all students at KGGS who may be interested in accessing **1:1 sports psychology sessions**.

These sessions provide an opportunity for students to develop areas such as confidence, motivation, focus, resilience and managing performance pressure.

If you feel this support could benefit you, please see Olly's contact details below for further information.



Year 10 GCSE PE – Indoor Climbing Trip

Earlier this week, our Year 10 GCSE PE students enjoyed an exciting two-day trip to **Nottingham Indoor Climbing Centre**, where they had the opportunity to develop a range of climbing skills and techniques.

Throughout the trip, students learned how to belay safely, tackle challenging bouldering routes and navigate the more demanding overhang walls. The two days culminated in a competitive speed-climbing challenge, giving students the chance to put their newly developed skills to the test!

As well as being a fantastic opportunity to experience a new sport, students were able to gather valuable practical evidence which can be used to support the assessment of their individual sport for their GCSE PE practical marks.

Well done to all the students involved for their enthusiasm, determination and willingness to challenge themselves. A fantastic couple of days!

Mrs McCabe/Miss Brady/Miss Zareba



PE

Lincs Cross Country Qualification

Congratulations to the following students who have qualified to represent the school at the **Lincolnshire Cross Country Championships on Tuesday 12th January 2027.**

Inter Girls
- I Clayton
- Z Edwards
- A Weatherhill
- A Glendinning



Junior Girls
- E Khama
- L Haggar
- J Kim
- E Maxwell
- L Chaumillion

Senior Girls
- E Hart

Overall the Junior and Inter Teams were placed 2nd.

This is a fantastic achievement, and we wish all the girls the very best of luck at the County Championships.

Well done!

Mrs McCabe



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Mr Mears-Sagoo visiting parliament…….

Underfunding in our education system is an urgent issue, and it affects every pupil and member of staff. On Monday, Mr. Mears Sagoo travelled to Westminster to speak up for our girls at KGGS, and for children in schools across the country.

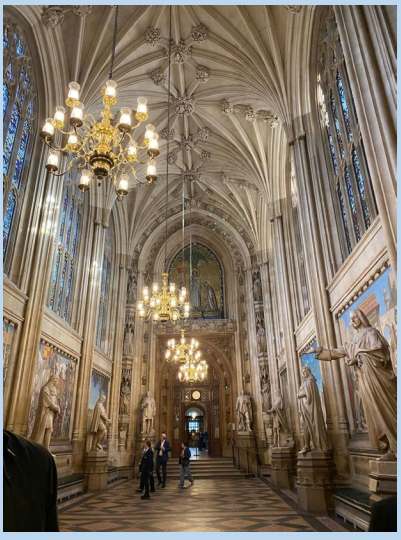
Joining teachers from across the region, he took part in the *Fix Our Future, Fund Education* campaign. Over a packed day, he visited the Houses of Parliament to learn more about how policy is made, met with MPs to explain how funding pressures are affecting our school, our pupils and our local community, and helped add to a national call for immediate and long-term improvements to school funding and teachers' working conditions.

Schools are under massive financial pressure. We enjoy taking part in events like sponsored walks to raise money for air conditioning, and we are grateful for everything our community does to support us. But proper funding would mean that essentials are covered, and that our girls and staff have a better chance of succeeding. Our girls deserve the resources, staffing and support they need to thrive, and we hope conversations like these play a small part in making that happen.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mr Mears Sagoo
School union rep/STEM Coordinator











Have Your Say: Lincolnshire Youth Strategy Consultation

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) is currently developing a new **Lincolnshire Youth Strategy** and wants to hear directly from young people and families about local youth services and provision.

To make sure the strategy reflects the real needs and views of our community, LCC is asking parents, carers, and young people to share their thoughts before the consultation closes in **January**.

How to get involved:

Scan the QR codes below and complete the survey.

We encourage all families to take a few minutes to get involved and share this with others in the community, so no one misses the chance to contribute.

Children & Young People's Survey:

Parents, Carers & Stakeholder Survey:

Lincolnshire COUNTY COUNCIL

School Brochure - Advertising

We are currently working with FSE (**Funding Solutions for Education**) to produce presentation folders for school.

The folders are given out at school open evenings, information evenings and any other occasions which may arise.

This is an exciting opportunity for Company's to advertise within the brochure.

Should you own a company and wish to be included, please get in touch.

Details of who to contact can be found on the attached flyer.

This is an excellent chance to not only promote your business but also help raise some extra funds for school!

Ms L Baxter-Rose
Finance Manager



fse
Funding Solutions for Education

British Language Champions: War of the Words French Debate Competition

What initially felt like a daunting prospect turned out to be much more fun and relaxed than I expected.

After a couple of weeks preparation, the big day came to head over to King's School and meet the other teams! There were 8 teams in total, including teams from Nottingham High School, Birkdale School (Sheffield) and The King's School Peterborough. The morning started with an icebreaker activity, followed by a talk on speaking skills from a Professor of Hispanic Studies from Warwick University.

We were then divided up for our first-round debates, which we had been able to pre-prepare. Topics included: abolition of prisons, whether patriotism benefits society, and whether having billionaires is immoral. The debates were judged on content, use of language, rebuttal of opposition arguments, presentation skills and teamwork.

Whilst it was daunting, we were all pleased with our first debate performance, and it was interesting to hear other people's arguments.

We then took part in an interactive session on public speaking skills, looking at how to use our voices effectively and thinking about how our body language can enhance or detract from our presentations.

After lunch we moved to the unprepared debates. With 20 minutes to prep, our two teams tackled whether learning a second language is more valuable than IT skills, and whether statues of problematic historical figures should be removed.

Happily, one of our teams reached the final (YIPPEE!), and in the preparation time, both KG team worked together on the planning. It was a chaotic, fun 10 minutes of calling out advice and supporting each other to put together arguments opposing the idea that reading is better than watching television. Whilst we didn't win the final, we were commended for our thought-provoking arguments on the topic as well as our use of language.

My favourite part of the day was getting to meet students from other schools, sharing opinions, and the camaraderie throughout the day, which made the whole experience more enjoyable.

Aurore Rousseau (y13)



