

As we reach the end of the longest term of this academic year, the atmosphere around school remains purposeful and positive, and it has been lovely to see so many students involving themselves in all aspects of school life. This newsletter provides a wonderful insight into how much takes place both at school and beyond the classroom.

You will recall the exciting curriculum development I described in the last newsletter: **KLBespoke** is officially underway, and we are delighted with early feedback from the students who have embarked on the small animal course, the first strand to launch. The students have thoroughly enjoyed their time at The Hive, working with and learning about the goats, horses, guinea pigs and sheep. Spending time outdoors, enjoying the fresh air, and working with their peers provides an enriching learning experience. The second two strands — Arts and Beauty — will start in term two.

Once again, year 11 **Rotary mock interviews** offered an invaluable experience. Over two days, students had the chance to practise articulating their aspirations and reflecting on their skills, guided by volunteers from the Cotswold Tyndale Rotary Club. The feedback from both students and interviewers was overwhelmingly positive, with students gaining not just practical advice but confidence in how they present themselves. As always, we are extremely grateful to the Rotarians for giving their time so generously to support our students.

The annual **Careers Convention** was another highlight, with nearly 80 organisations represented. The range of employers and higher education providers (many of whom commented on the maturity and curiosity of KLB students) reflects the strong partnerships we have built with the local community and beyond. These encounters make a tangible difference to how students think about their futures, and it was encouraging to see so many engaging so thoughtfully with visitors. My thanks go to Helen Isaacs who has organised this event for a number of years. Every year seems to attract more visitors and more exhibitors. It is particularly touching to see how many KLB alumni attend, representing their organisations.



We have seen a great deal of activity outside the school setting too. Year 11 geographers carried out their fieldwork in **Bourton-on-the-Water**, year 13 English students visited **London's British Library and National Theatre**, and our music students enjoyed an inspiring trip to hear the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra**. Our students learnt so much from these experiences and represented themselves and the school so well. Following the year 11 geography trip, I was delighted to receive an email from a member of the public saying, "I wanted to let you know that we had the pleasure of encountering some of your geography students in Bourton today when we visited. They were a delight - polite, friendly and engaging. They were confident in dealing with strangers and articulated their aims clearly. They seemed genuinely interested in their subject. They are a credit to the school." Closer to home, the **Hello Yellow** day, organised by our Sixth Form charity team, was an outstanding success, raising an impressive **£3,500** for Young Minds UK.

There have been many examples of students demonstrating courage — from the first **year 7 Welcome Showcase**, and the year 11 health and social care students presenting confidently to younger students, to the success of our **year 8 hockey team**, who won the county tournament with a last-minute goal. These moments, large and small, very much reflect the strong sense of community, which we talk about so often. The **new house structure** is already helping to strengthen relationships across year groups, with house challenges and events creating a healthy sense of competition and belonging.

As term 1 closes, I would like to thank students and staff for their energy, commitment and good humour, and parents and carers for their continued support.

Hannah Khan, Headteacher

English Department – A level Film Studies

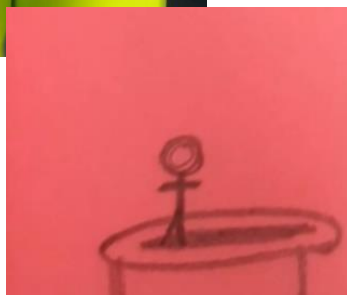
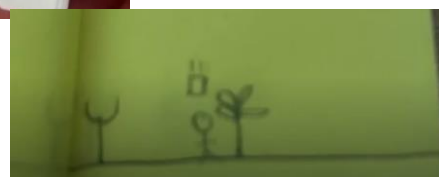
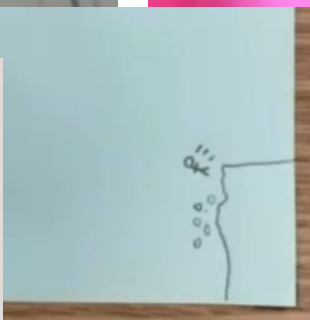
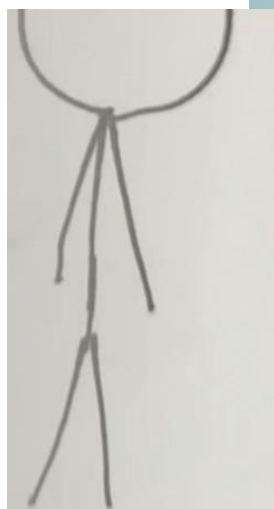


Year 12 A level Film Studies students have been studying the history of film. Whilst doing this they have been experimenting with early innovation in filmmaking, following in the footsteps of the greats – The Lumiere Brothers and Thomas Edison (pictured).



Here are stills from their flip book and paper animations...

K McAllister, Head of English



Rotary Interviews

The Cotswold Tyndale Rotary club continued their programme of mock interviews with year 11 students this month. Over two days, 80 students discussed the content of their application forms and their hopes and dreams for the future with their 'interviewer'.



Despite some apprehension prior to their interviews, the students came away with fresh confidence as well as tips for future improvements:

My interviewer gave me time to think about my answers and was very patient.

I gained information about what I should include on future applications

I feel I presented myself well but next time would ask more questions

It was interesting to do an actual interview and get a sense of what it's like

I'm not usually a good talker but I felt the conversation went well

I was told I had good communication skills – eye contact, talking and listening

It's comforting to know that the process is not too scary

I felt I sold myself in a positive way and gained knowledge of how an interview goes

I need to put more detail on my application form and I learnt what constitutes skills

It helped me to talk about what I enjoy doing and what I can do in the future with my interests

Really good experience - confidence boosting



The students have since carried out some reflective work during tutor time to consider what they gained from the process and how they might approach an application and interview differently next time around.

The Rotarians thoroughly enjoyed meeting our students and many fed back what an enjoyable morning they had.



This is such a worthwhile experience for our students and our thanks go to all members of the Rotary club who give so generously of their time and experience to support this element of our students' careers education

Helen Isaacs, Work-related Learning Lead

Careers Convention 2025



We welcomed representatives of just shy of 80 organisations to this year's careers convention including some significant local employers who were attending for the first time and several ex-KLB students.

As always, the main aim of the event is to offer as broad a range as possible of career and further/higher education opportunities for students to explore. Students and their parents also have the chance to talk directly to employers about the skills and qualifications that are valued in their workplace as well as openings for onward training and progression.



Employer attendance very much reflects the labour market in our area and the sectors that are proactive and actively recruiting. We were delighted with the number of large engineering companies that came along but also pleased to see construction, catering and hospitality, utilities and large public sector employers such as the NHS, MoD, Armed forces and teaching represented.

We would like to extend our warmest thanks to all the delegates who joined us on the evening for sharing their knowledge of and enthusiasm for their employment sector with our students and parents.

Thank you to our site team for preparing the school prior to the event and managing parking during one of the busiest evenings of the school year. And finally, thanks to the wonderful KLB ambassadors who welcomed our visitors as they arrived or who helped with food and refreshments.



Here are just a few of the comments made by visitors from participating organisations:

Great event, lots of space to show resources and had some very meaningful conversations with students and parents. Thank you for inviting us.

Excellent - great students, great questions

The students were very engaged and asked amazing questions alongside their parents. Everyone was so polite and welcoming and it has been one of the best school sessions we've ever attended.

Very well organised event. The students were particularly welcoming and helpful.

Fantastic event. Really engaged students and parents.

The event has been great for us. The event was well organised and the students were well prepared and asked great questions throughout.

Thoughtful and intelligent questions, very polite students. Good table space and set up time. Lovely to have pupils show you where to go.

A wonderfully put together event - far more organised than most I have been to! The students were great and it was nice to see so much enthusiasm and interest.

Great engagement with students asking valuable questions

An amazing evening. Such enthusiasm from the students was truly inspiring. I am totally shattered but also enthused.



We are always on the lookout for sectors that may be under-represented at our events. If you work for an employer/training provider who would like to come along to a future careers event at school, please do not hesitate to get in touch: hisaacs@klbschool.org.uk

Helen Isaacs, Work-related Learning Lead

IRIS Connect: Supporting Our Teachers' Development

We want to let you know that KLB is using **IRIS Connect cameras** in school. These cameras are a tool to help teachers reflect on their teaching and work together to improve practice.

How it works:

- Teachers can record a lesson to reflect on their own practice.
- They then decide if they want to share a video for coaching or teamwork.
- Everyone in the classroom will always know when the camera is recording.
- Recordings are kept completely private and secure, with strong data protection. The platform has built-in security features to make sure recordings stay safe.
- Videos are used for professional learning only — never for monitoring or surveillance.

By using IRIS Connect, we are helping our teachers to continue to grow and develop. This helps us to implement our School Development Plan, which ultimately benefits every child in the school.

K van den Broek, Assistant Headteacher

Year 11 Geography GCSE Trip – Bourton-on-the-Water

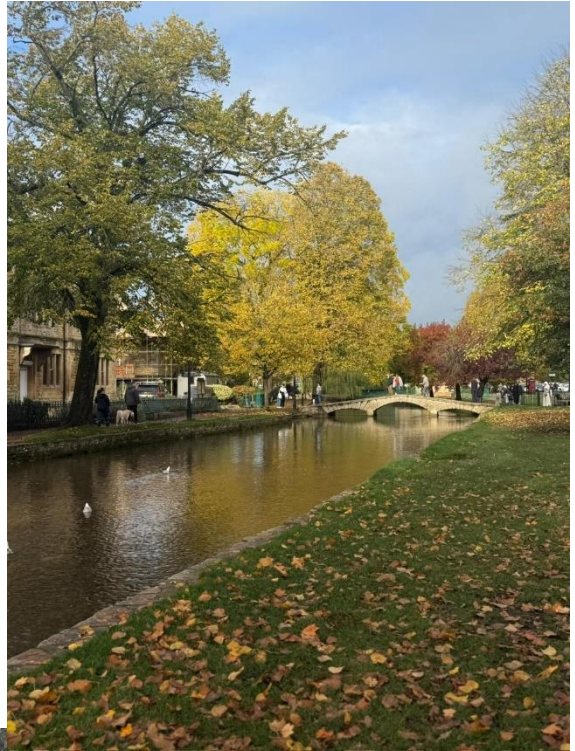
Year 11 Geographers swapped the classroom for the Cotswolds recently, heading out on two gloriously sunny autumnal days to the beautiful village of Bourton-on-the-Water. The aim to investigate rural change and the impact of tourism – and maybe to spot a tea room or two along the way.

Armed with clipboards, local shop sweets and enthusiasm, students threw themselves into fieldwork including questionnaires, pedestrian and traffic counts, and land use surveys. All of this helped build a detailed picture of how tourism shapes village life – and gave everyone a great excuse to explore the charming high street of the village.

Highlights included Mr Slade valiantly attempting to shush a very opinionated seagull during a group explanation, and a group of students trying to become extras in a music video being filmed by the river.

Overall, it was a brilliant couple of days – full of learning, laughter, and a lot chips eaten. Well done to all involved!

K Probyn, Head of Geography



Hello Yellow: What a Day!



Friday 10 October started like any other day. Students and faculty filing onto campus, being dropped off in the car park, and catching up with friends before the start of the school day. The smell of canteen hot chocolate wafted through the air along with... wait. What's that smell? Is that cake?

Yes! October 10th is world mental health day, and KLB School teamed up with the charity Young Minds UK to celebrate Hello Yellow day. On this day, the Sixth Form charity team worked diligently to set up tutor activities, which would transform the Berkley Theatre into a celebration of mental health support.

Along with volunteers from Sixth Form to year 7 students, the charity team set up a bake sale, hair braiding, and face painting and decorated the theatre with crafts from each year group. Thanks to their hard work, the day was a roaring success, with over £3,500 being raised from our wonderful KLB community.

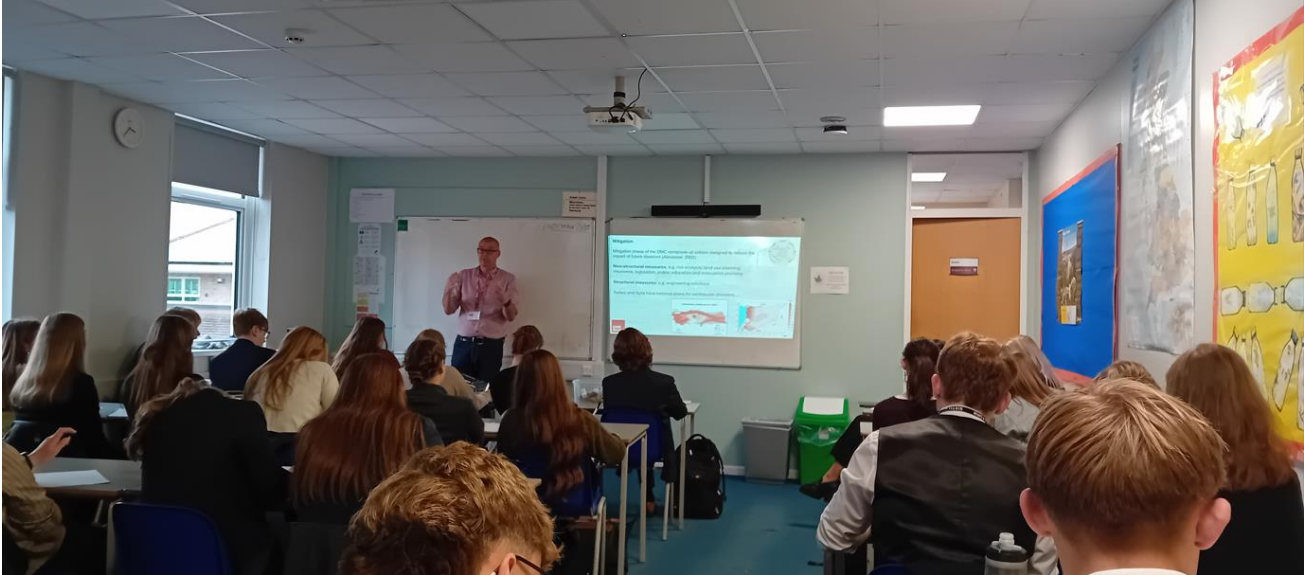
Zoe Shepherd on behalf of the Sixth Form Charity Team



UWE Lecture on Earthquake Impacts and Mitigation

The geography department was delighted to welcome, once again, Dr Chris Spencer from the University of the West of England to present to Year 12 and 13 students.

Dr Spencer delivered a fascinating and thought-provoking lecture on the impacts and mitigation of the Turkish and Syrian earthquakes. The session not only deepened students' understanding of these devastating events but also encouraged them to think critically at a university level.



The session was a valuable opportunity for students to experience the style of teaching they may encounter in higher education and to appreciate the wider importance of geography in understanding and responding to global challenges.

We look forward to two further lectures in January and March next year, through which we continue to enrich our students' academic experience.

J Myers, Geography Teacher

Health and Social Care Talk

Mr Hunt (school SENCO) spoke with the year 12 Health and Social Care class about living with his physical impairment and how it has impacted his life. He spoke about his experiences and how adjustments can be made to facilitate his lifestyle and career.



The talk was an engaging preparation for the group's NEA on Person Centred care and we are grateful to Mr Hunt for his time.

We would welcome contact from any parents happy to share their experiences of living with a physical impairment, particularly if they have significant vision impairment.

Laura Bell, Head of Health and Social Care

Year 11 Health and Social Care Presentations

On 17 October, the Year 11 Health and Social Care class presented their Smoking Cessation or Flu/Virus health campaigns to a group of year 7 students.

The presentations are a significant part of the H&SC students' NEA coursework. They did a fantastic job of rising to the challenge of presenting individually for 10-15 minutes each. Following this, the students evaluate their presentation with regards to their planning, communication skills and how they engaged their audience. Many had prepared a number of resources including visual aids, videos, handouts and quizzes. We are grateful to the year 7 students who gave useful feedback.



After the presentations, the year 11s showed the current year 10 H&SC students their work in anticipation for next year's projects. It was wonderful to see all the effort that went into the day.

Laura Bell, Head of Health and Social Care



KATHARINE LADY BERKELEY'S
SCHOOL

Once again this year, an impressive number of students are looking to challenge themselves by participating in a DofE award programme. Currently over 120 year 9 students have signed up for Bronze, 50 at Silver and more than 30 at Gold level. We are delighted that so many students are looking to take part, especially as the ethos of the award aligns with many of the school's values.

Next term we will run registration sessions at school for all Bronze participants and for those who are direct entrants at Silver or Gold.

It's not too late to sign up. Students or parents who wish to find out more about the DofE award or who have any questions about the award programme, can contact me at: hisaacs@klbschool.org.uk

Helen Isaacs, DofE Coordinator

Music Trip to Symphony Hall

The annual tradition of taking our GCSE and A level music students to a live orchestral concert continued this year with a trip to see the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra play in Symphony Hall, Birmingham. As usual, the trip was a fantastic afternoon out of normal classroom lessons, with a great sense of comradery and amicable atmosphere.



The orchestra played the powerful and moving *Symphony No.5* by Shostakovich, Sibelius' *Violin Concerto*, and Grazyna Bacewicz's *Overture*. The grandeur and political significance of the symphony was palpable in the concert hall, leading to much discussion of the history of the piece in following lessons. Students were genuinely blown away by the virtuosity in the violin concerto (played by Christian Tetzlaff).

The conductor of the concert, Gemma New, provided an animated and authoritative female role model in an otherwise male-dominated profession, and our seats behind the orchestra allowed students to see clearly Gemma's facial expressions and interactions with the orchestra.

M Smith, Head of Musica

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

Students in years 7 – 11 have been offered nasal flu vaccinations at school during week commencing 17 November and we remind parents to complete the vaccinations team's consent form as soon as possible, whether they are giving or declining consent. Thank you

Year 7 Welcome Showcase

The first event in the performing arts calendar kicked off the year with a vibrant display of the incoming musical and drama talent to KLB. Around 50 students got involved, including 20 solo performances, Junior Voices, and Drama Club. Although a near full house audience could seem intimidating, the warm and friendly atmosphere had a tremendously positive impact on the confidence of the performers.

Junior Voices sang *Wonderwall* and *Viva La Vida* with live accompaniment, with great energy and spirit. Drama club performed two scenes based on poems about teachers, providing comic relief to the evening. Some of the solos included *A Whole New World* from *Aladdin*, played on the cornet, *Naughty* from *Matilda*, and *Tarantella* on the clarinet – a really diverse and entertaining programme!



A special thanks to the year 8 students in Junior Voices for supporting their new year 7 members in the concert. Thank you also to Ross O'Donnell, year 12, who accompanied the choir on guitar, an excellent demonstration of how our older students so frequently support the younger years. Thank you to the KLB Friends for providing refreshments.

M Smith, Head of Music

New Model UN Club

At the model UN club, students will find out about the history, purpose and current challenges of the United Nations. They will learn about the UNs international role, its success stories and some of the key issues facing the organisation today.

Students will carry out research, present their findings to the group, and get involved in mock UN debates.

Students in years 8 - 10 should come along to W1 on Monday lunchtimes if they would like to find out more and get involved.

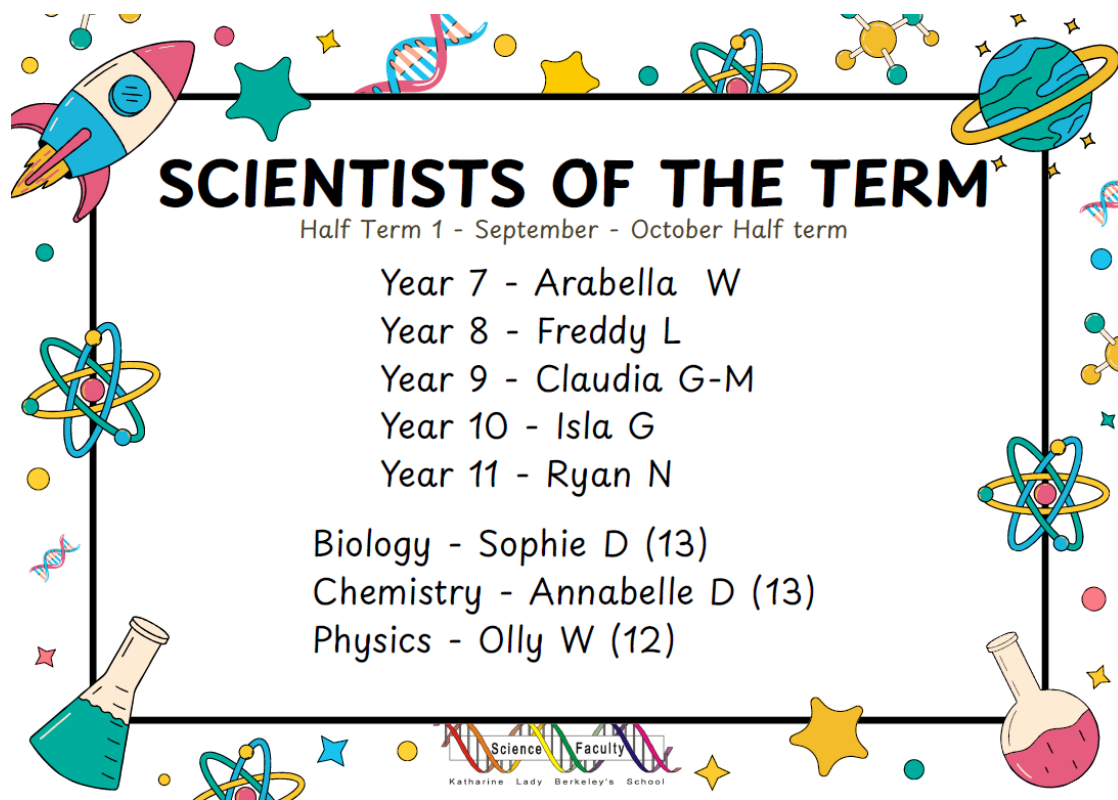


N Kelly-Davies

Scientists of the Term

Well done to our Term 1 star scientists, nominated by science teachers for demonstrating the KLB values including contributions in lessons, curiosity, engagement and outstanding work produced.

A Cousins, Science



Art Foundation Talk

We were delighted to welcome Lydia Wooldridge, course director from the Bristol School of Art, to talk to our sixth form students interested in pursuing the creative arts.

With approximately £124 billion contributed to the UK economy, the creative industries have been identified as one of eight "growth-driving" sectors in a recent government paper. Art Foundation courses are a gateway into a range of further education courses and appeal to students interested in fine art, media, architecture and design courses.

sgs

2026 Applicants
Open Day
22nd Nov 2025 - 10.00AM to 1.00PM

2026 Applicants
Open Day
24th Jan 2026 - 10.00AM to 1.00PM

2026 Applicants
Open Evening
30th Apr 2026 - 5.30PM to 8.00PM

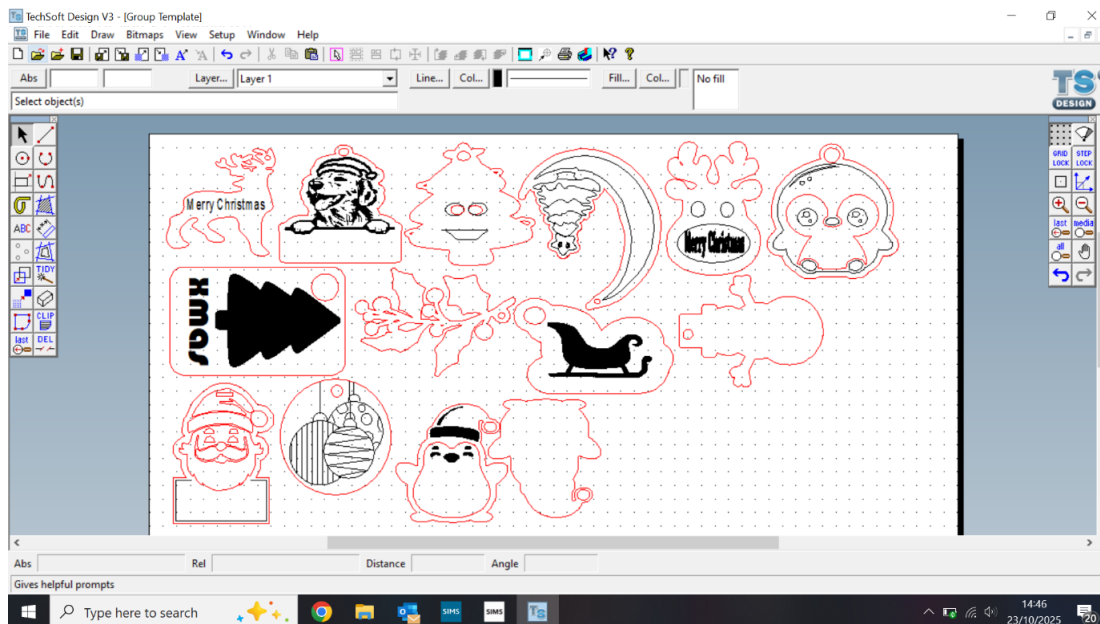
If students go direct from their A level studies, tuition remains free and so represent a great opportunity for students to further develop their skills. We were also pleased to have on hand to answer questions two of our student mentors who are currently enrolled at Bristol and Stroud Schools of Art.

J Campion, Head of Sixth Form

DT Club

We have had a successful start to the school year in DT club with a record number of students attending from year 7. All students are embracing computer-aided design (CAD) using TechSoft to design their own Christmas Decorations to be cut out in the laser cutter and then painted in acrylics.

The students are keen to batch produce their favourite designs for the Christmas Market. These DT clubbers are not only developing valuable technology skills, they are also making new friends and enjoying a safe, positive space to spend a Wednesday lunchtime being creative!



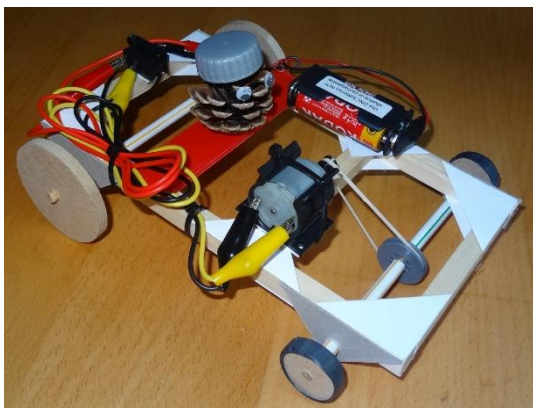
Here some of the designs so far... getting ready for the laser cutter!

N Pain, DT Teacher

Year 7 Technology Club

The design and technology department will be offering Year 7 students a STEAM technology club this term organised by an outside organisation. The sessions will take place on 6 and 13 November from 2.50 – 4.30pm after school. At the first session, students will make a brush monster and at the second an electric car.

If your child would like to participate in either workshop, please ask them to sign up on the list outside the DT office. Spaces are limited to 20 at each session but they are completely **FREE!**



If students have any questions, they should speak to Mr Hanney in the design and technology office.

P Hanney, Head of DT

English Trip to British Library and National Theatre

As part of our year 13 A-Level English Literature course, we were able to take a trip to London, the place where Shakespeare himself became famous for his plays. Here we were able to go to The British Library and take part in a session exploring Black British Literature through the years. We went through a timeline and discussed the importance of black literature; some even influenced the abolition of slavery! This activity has strengthened our understanding of the immigrant experience which we are studying in lessons as well as encouraging us all to read more black literature. There were many artifacts and beautiful books that we were able to admire in the library which enhanced our knowledge on many levels. We were informed that there were nearly 200 million objects in the collection; it would take over 87,000 years to look through them all!

Following this, we watched a production of Hamlet at the National Theatre. Having this experience will be especially helpful when engaging with different interpretations of the play in our essays – a key requirement in the exam. For the most part though, this was just a lovely thing for the English department to do with us. Seeing the play modernised and interpreted differently from perhaps what was expected shows the many ways a text can be represented. Despite Hamlet being a well-known tragedy, the comedy throughout the production drew genuine laughter from the audience. It was a very positive day, full of insightful information and enjoyment.

The performance was excellent and one that we'll never forget. Thank you, Miss Campion and Mr Hopkins, for taking us to experience this.

Ruby Walker-Saunders, A level English Literature student



Sixth Form Halloween Film Night



Kicking off this year's social calendar, the sixth form leadership team organised a Halloween film night for both year groups that proved more popular than ever. With sweet treats and hot chocolate, in pyjamas and onesies, nestling in blankets and pillows, more than a hundred students settled in to the Berkeley Theatre for a frightening film. It was great to have so many year 12s and year 13s together.



Planning is already underway for our Christmas events - the annual inter-year-group rugby and Christmas film night.

J Campion, Head of Sixth Form

House Update

As we end Term 1, the competition and participation points have been tallied and the results are:



Berkeley

246



Durand

356



Logan

255



Wellicome

159

Well done to Durand who are currently leading the way!

Looking ahead to Term 2, we have launched our next two-week challenge which involves using nature as art. I cannot wait to see what creativity this brings. We will also countdown to the KLB Christmas No.1, see the launch of year 7 and year 8 House Pantos and continue the tutor time house quizzes, so lots more points up for grabs! Let's see if anyone can catch up to Durand...

K Wyndow



Library News

Creative Writing Club

This term, students have been working on entries to submit to the 2025/26 Rotary Young Writer competition.



The theme this year is *Happiness in Nature* and we have been using visual prompts, and relaxing nature sounds for inspiration, as well as a biscuit or two! Entries to the competition can be prose or poetry, fiction or non-fiction and the theme can be interpreted in any way the writer chooses. There have been some beautiful pieces of work produced, one of which could well be a winning entry! Winners will be announced in the new year.

If any student would like to join the club after the half term break, please come and see us in the library as there will be a few spaces available on a first come, first served basis.

Stroud Book Festival

The 10th annual Stroud Book Festival is taking place from 5-9 November 2025. Visit the [Festival website](#) to find out more about the programme of events on offer.



Overdue Books

We currently have a large amount of books overdue. Please can we ask students to return their library books promptly so that they are available for others to borrow? Our reservation list is getting bigger each day with students waiting for overdue books which is very frustrating. Please have a good look at home for any library books which may have fallen under the bed or slipped under the desk and return them as soon as possible. Thank you.

L Hill and N Dix, Librarians

Inter-faith Week: November 9 -16 2025

During November, students at KLB will be involved in various activities to promote Inter-faith week. This week is an opportunity to celebrate diversity, tolerance and respect for different religions, faith groups and communities across the UK and encourage discussion and dialogue between them.

Please look out for news of our events to support this in our November newsletter.

K Williams, RE Teacher



Celebrating our diversity

UK Interfaith Week offers a vital opportunity to celebrate the rich diversity of our nation, deepen understanding between different traditions, and strengthen the bonds of friendship and trust that unite us.

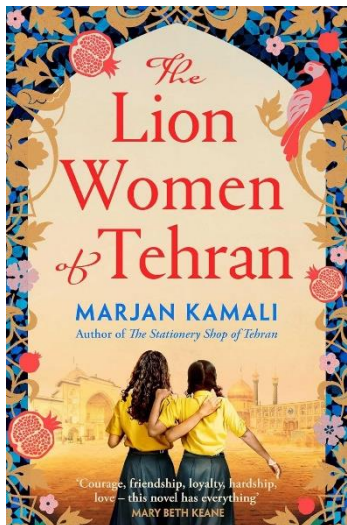
At a time when divisions too often dominate the headlines, we believe it is more important than ever to highlight the values we share of respect, kindness, justice, and a commitment to the common good.

UK Interfaith Week reminds us of our responsibility to build bridges of understanding and stand together for the common good.

— Ms Inderpal Kaur Singh, Faith & Community Engagement Officer, British Sikh Consultative Forum

October Diversity Books

Each month we are sharing two books recommended by students in our recent diversity book project in RE.



***The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali**

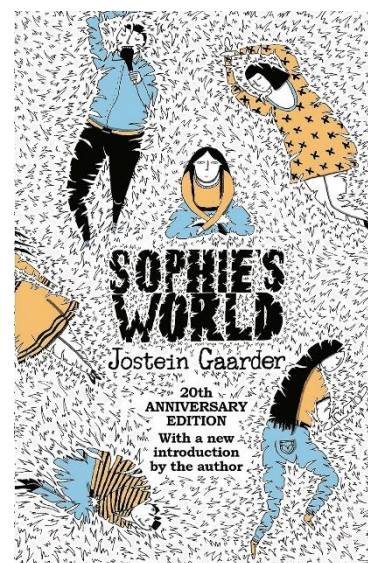
In 1950s Tehran, seven-year-old Ellie lives in grand comfort until the untimely death of her father, forcing Ellie and her mother to move to a tiny home downtown. Ellie dreams for a friend to alleviate her isolation and luckily, on the first day of school, she meets Homa, a kind girl with a brave and irrepressible spirit. Together, the two girls play games, learn to cook and share their ambitions of becoming "lion women."

Their happiness is disrupted when Ellie and her mother are afforded the opportunity to return to their previous bourgeois life. Now a popular student at the best girls' high school in Iran, Ellie's memories of Homa begin to fade. Years later, however, her sudden reappearance in Ellie's privileged world alters the course of both of their lives. Together, the two young women come of age and pursue their own goals for meaningful futures. But as the political turmoil in Iran builds to a breaking point, one earth-shattering betrayal will have enormous consequences.

***Sophie's World* by Jostein Gaarder**

One day fourteen-year-old Sophie Amundsen comes home from school to find in her mailbox two notes, with one question on each: "Who are you?" and "Where does the world come from?" From that irresistible beginning, Sophie becomes obsessed with questions that take her far beyond what she knows of her Norwegian village. Through those letters, she enrolls in a kind of correspondence course, covering Socrates to Sartre, with a mysterious philosopher, while receiving letters addressed to another girl. Who is Hilde? And why does her mail keep turning up? To unravel this riddle, Sophie must use the philosophy she is learning — but the truth turns out to be far more complicated than she could have imagined.

K Williams, RE Teacher



Year 8 Hockey Success

The year 8 Hockey team won the county tournament last Friday at Dean Close! Their improvement from last year has been incredible. They won the final 1-0 with a last play of the game short corner goal against a team we actually 3-0 to in the group stage!

S Prosser



'Proud to Be here'

KLB School Attendance

Seasonal top tips for health and wellbeing



Stay hydrated

Exercise and move often – get as much natural light as possible

Eat a balanced, healthy diet



Stay connected – ideally in person 😊

Keep warm – time to find that coat!

Support your mental wellbeing – prioritise relaxation/take social media breaks/Reach out for support if you need it

Plan ahead for busier times – be organised (this will help reduce stress and anxiety)

As always, if you need any support, guidance or advice, please contact us via eeemms@klbschool.org.uk

Thank you

Mrs Emms

Preparation for Adulthood Events

November 2025

Supporting Young People and Their Families on the Journey to Adulthood

Are you a young person thinking about your future? Or a parent or carer supporting someone on their journey to adulthood? Join us at events across Gloucestershire this November to explore the support available as you plan for what's next.

Who will Attend?

- Young people aged 14–25
- Parents and carers
- Professionals supporting transitions to adulthood

What to Expect

- Meet professionals from education, health, and community services
- Access resources and guidance tailored to support your journey
- Connect with local organisations and services

Event Dates & Locations

Forest of Dean

Date: 5th November

Time: 5:00–7:00pm

Venue: Gloucestershire College,
Cinderford Campus

Cheltenham

Date: 13th November

Time: 4:00–6:00pm

Venue: Gloucestershire College,
Cheltenham Campus

Stroud

Date: 19th November

Time: 5:30–7:30pm

Venue: Brimscombe Mill, GL5
2QN, Stroud

Cirencester

Date: 27th November

Time: 5:30–7:30pm

Venue: The Old Department
Store, GL7 2NX, Cirencester

No need to book – just come along!

For more info, contact: Preparationforadulthood@gloucestershire.gov.uk

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BEYOND 16

Saturday October 25th
SGS Stroud Campus
Stratford Road, Stroud, GL5 4AH
10am to 1pm

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An opportunity for families of young people with SEND in Year 7 and above to meet with the county's providers and support services to start planning for next steps after Year 11

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Free parking on site and refreshments available



HARTPURY



Register your interest now:

