

It has been lovely to welcome our students back after the summer break. The start of term has been busy but positive, and it is encouraging to see everyone settling quickly into new routines.



Our Open Evening and Open Mornings have been the highlight of the term so far. We were thrilled with the turnout and, as always, our students played a central role in ensuring the events ran smoothly. More than 300 KLB students volunteered, welcoming visitors, showing them around, and sharing their experiences. Their support made a real difference and speaks volumes about the pride they feel for the school. When I say that our students are our best ambassadors, this is no exaggeration.

One of our year 10 tour guides said, *I really enjoyed showing people around and talking about what I do in lessons—it made me proud of KLB.*

Visitors were also full of praise: *I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for opening your doors to prospective year 7 students last night. The enthusiasm from the staff and pupils shone through and I left truly feeling all of the happiness and inclusivity Miss Khan and the pupils spoke about in their presentation. I wanted to especially mention our tour guide, taking on the challenge of talking to unfamiliar adults must feel daunting but she did it with such confidence and enthusiasm and is such a credit to the school.*

We are delighted to welcome our new staff members this term. They are already contributing to the life of the school across teaching, pastoral support, and extra-curricular activities. It's always exciting to see new colleagues bring fresh ideas and energy to our community, and I am looking forward to the positive impact they will have on our students. Welcome to:

Emily Brown	Teacher of Languages
Grace Cameron	Cover Supervisor
Guan Clarkson	Head of Chinese
Toby Dakin	Teaching Assistant
Megan Gibbins	Teacher of Science
Jihee Han	Science Technician
Chloe Howe	Teaching Assistant
Nick Hunt	SENDCO
Sandy Revie	Teacher of Japanese
Isabella Robinson	Teacher of Science
Kieran Walsh	Teacher of Technology

The school rebuild continues to make good progress and the project remains on track for completion by the end of December 2025. It is exciting to see the development taking shape and to know that the new facilities will provide an even better learning environment for our students in the year ahead. Once the building is completed, we plan to hold a series of open evenings for visitors to look around what we are calling 'Our New Home'.

A group of art and textiles students recently visited the Cotswold Sculpture Park to explore the work on display and produce creative responses. This setting was full of fresh ideas to help inspire and energise the students' own work. We have also launched our new house competition, which is already helping to give students a sense of identity and community. Many clubs and activities are up and running, giving students opportunities to explore interests outside lessons. Congratulations go to Fraser Clark, whose winning entry in a recent student history writing competition is featured in this newsletter. The piece reflects on a family connection to the Iolaire and is a moving reminder of how history can shape our own stories.

Finally, please take some time to read about KLBespoke, an exciting initiative that we have launched this year. We are very excited about the opportunities this will offer students at KLB.

Hannah Khan, Headteacher

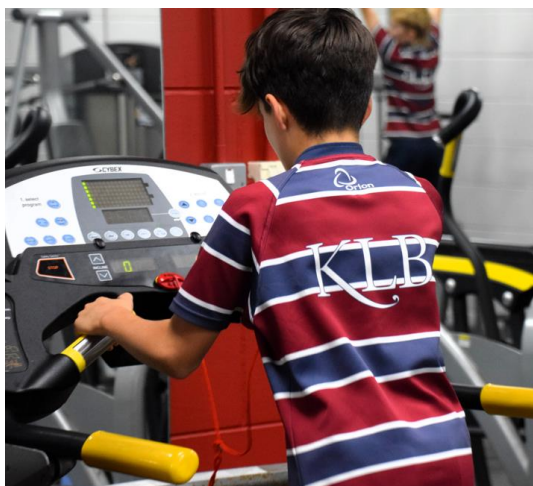
Year 6 Open Evening

We were delighted to welcome so many visitors to our Open Evening last week. The school site truly came alive, with a fantastic atmosphere created by the energy of our students and staff. It was wonderful to see so many of our students volunteering their time to represent the school, proudly sharing their passion for their subjects and supporting families on tours.

Highlights included hands-on experiments in science, live music performances and drama workshops, interactive puzzles in maths, creative artwork and screen-printing in art, delicious food demonstrations in DT, and sporting activities in our brand-new Cotswold Pavilion. Visitors also had the chance to explore geography's pop-up volcano, test their language skills in the Berkeley Building, and even step back into the 1920s with history.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to our incredible students for helping to showcase all that makes KLB such a special place.

J Dudbridge





Celebrating Success: Updates to KLB's Rewards Policy

The KLB School vision *is a living statement that shapes our strategic planning; it is underpinned by KLB's values. These words are important to us: they live in our corridors and classrooms, they live in the ways in which members of our community treat one another, they permeate through our messages to our families and to prospective colleagues, and they guide our aspirations for the future of our school*

We believe that these values shape how we learn, behave and contribute to our community.

This year, following our review of the Rewards Policy, we are keen to recognise and celebrate when students demonstrate our eight core values. In addition, we will continue to reward attainment, effort and success across all areas of school life — from academic achievement to creativity, sport and community contributions.

How are we recognising our values?

We have added Class Charts codes linked to KLB values. Any staff member can award these via Class Charts when they see students demonstrating our values in action.

Making a positive difference to the KLB community

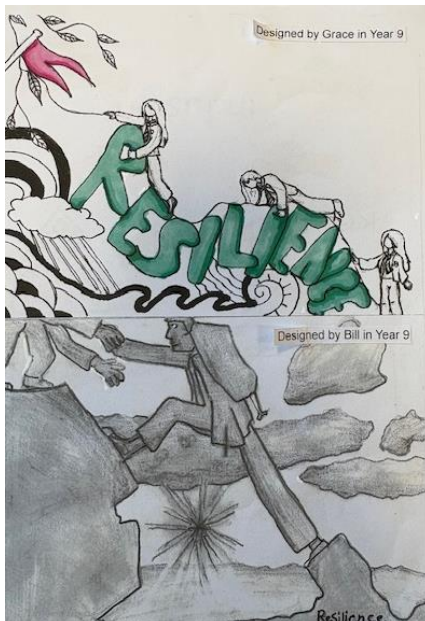


We have shared with staff and students, non-exhaustive lists of ways in which students might demonstrate the KLB values, so everyone knows what they look like in practice. Here's an example:

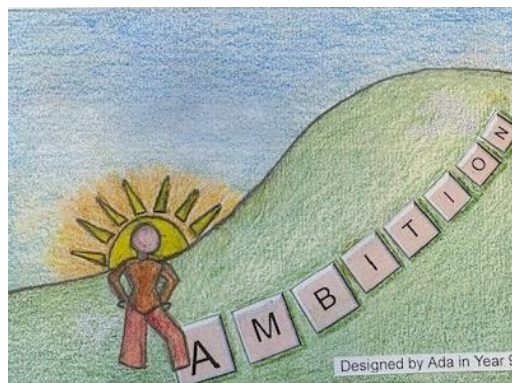
Humility

- Feedback is accepted and acted upon
- Help is offered without expecting recognition
- Support from others is acknowledged and appreciated
- Praise is accepted graciously without boasting
- Others in a team are given credit
- Students ask for help when needed
- Students accept when someone else's idea is better
- Others' successes are celebrated or congratulated

In the first month of this school year, staff have logged **3900** occasions when KLB students have demonstrated our values!



The art department ran a competition to produce Values postcards. Staff will send these home to recognise stand-out moments. Similarly, staff will make phone calls home to celebrate students who go above and beyond, whether by demonstrating our KLB Values or achieving something special, so families can share in their successes.



What else has changed?

Following the consultation with students, staff and parents, we have made the following changes:

- The Class Charts wheel resets every week, so all students can aim to have an entirely green wheel in any one week.
- Daily teacher awards will no longer simply be labelled "excellent." Instead, students can be recognised for: *Good effort, good homework, promising work, steady progress, thoughtful work, good presentation, good assessment, thorough revision resources.*
- Members of the Senior Leadership Team will be looking to recognise notable contributions to lessons when we are out and about round school and visiting lessons.

What's next?

The staff and student working groups will continue to meet this year. We will review the rewards data at the end of this term and decide whether this will feed into termly and annual **Proud to Be Awards**, ensuring recognition of exceptional effort, character, and contribution throughout the year. We will update the policy and report back in the December newsletter.

If parents have any comments, please feel free to contact hkhan@klbschool.org.uk

Hannah Khan, Headteacher

Introducing KLBespoke

I am thrilled to share details of KLBespoke, our new programme of alternative and enriched learning at KLB School. KLBespoke is designed to widen the experiences available to our students, providing them with additional opportunities to explore their passions and develop new skills beyond the traditional timetable.

What is KLBespoke?

KLBespoke is all about flexibility, choice, and personalised learning. Some students thrive in a more tailored curriculum, and this initiative allows them to flourish in areas that excite and motivate them.

In our pilot year, we are offering opportunities to year 9 and 10 students. Year 9 students will be able to take part in a series of short courses designed to extend learning and provide a taste of future pathways. Year 10 students will access certificated courses, which lead to qualifications and recognised experiences.

In its pilot year, KLBespoke has three strands:

- **Animals and Countryside** – Short accredited courses in small animal care, farm animal care, and countryside skills.
- **Creative and Performing Arts** – Courses in music, drama, and art, leading to Bronze and Silver Arts Awards.
- **Beauty and Skincare** – Practical learning delivered by a local professional, with sessions at a nearby salon and additional hours at KLB's new on-site training salon.

Sarah Hind, Assistant Headteacher, is leading the rollout of this pilot year.

Having launched KLBespoke at our recent information evenings and in assemblies, we are delighted at the response from both students and parents and look forward to launching the first courses.

KLBespoke is an exciting opportunity to broaden horizons, sustain motivation, and provide pathways towards future qualifications and careers. I look forward to sharing updates about what we hope will be a trailblazing initiative at KLB School.

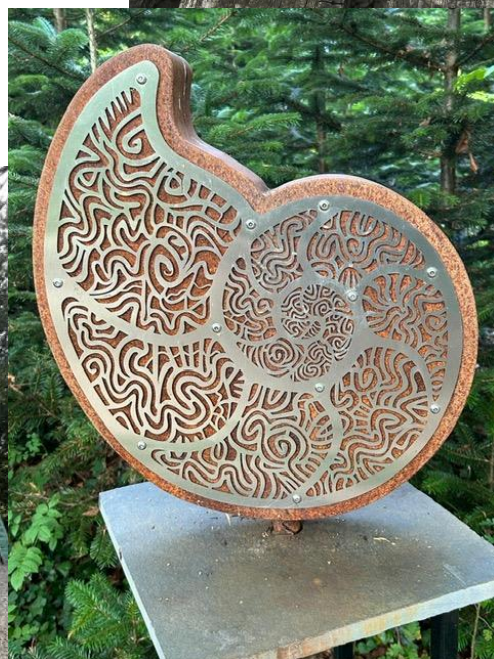
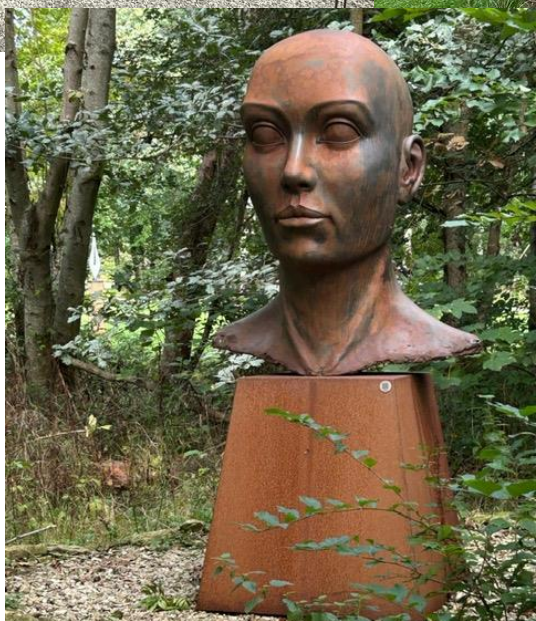
Hannah Khan, Headteacher



Year 12 Art and Textiles Trip to Cotswold Sculpture Park

We were blessed with fantastic weather during our recent visit to the sculpture park. The venue is a fantastic source of inspiration and students had a busy time sketching and photographing an amazing variety of sculptures in readiness for the fulfilment of the Assessment Objectives of their art A level courses.

T Chilman, Art Teacher



House System Update

There are four Houses at KLB: Berkeley, Durand, Logan and Wellicome.

The end of September saw the first Houses Week of the year. Students took part in Tutor Quizzes, Creative Drawing and Creative Writing tasks. We also launched our first two-week challenge to find out which houses teachers are in.

And what a first week to the House Competition we had!



Berkeley

120



Durand

270



Logan

160



Wellicome

60

Tuesday saw Durand smash the Tutor Quiz challenge with Durand wins for every year group!

Wednesday's Creative Creatures brought joy to the judging.

Thursday's creative writing challenge demonstrated both community and collaboration with a mix of heart-warming and gory short stories!

The overall winners for the week were Durand, laying down the gauntlet for future challenges. Watch this space!

K Wyndow



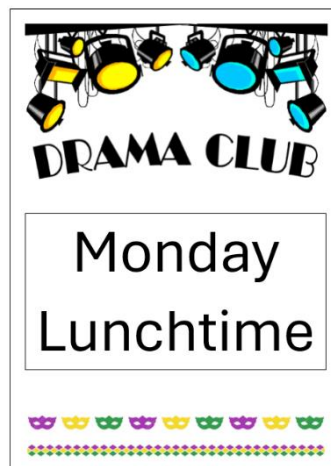
Drama News

Years 7 and 8 Drama Club has had a great start to the year! Over 30 students have been meeting in the Drama Studio at lunchtime on Mondays to share their passion for everything acting. Many of the students also demonstrated their talents as part of the open evening workshops.

The next project is going to be working together to act out fun poems. These will be showcased at the year 7 Welcome Concert!

Theatre Trip to Bristol Old Vic

GCSE and A level drama students were invited to a performance of the modern musical Starter For Ten at The Bristol Old Vic.



The story follows the character of Brian who goes off to university with the ambition of winning University Challenge. It was a play full of love, laughter and musical songs!

Students took notes on a variety of aspects of the play to use in the form of an evaluation in the written examination at the end of their GCSE and A levels. Following the trip, we have had great discussions and debates in lessons about the show. The students were superbly behaved on the day and represented themselves and the school well.

K Wyndow, Drama Teacher

Instrumental Lessons

We have a fantastic team of expert instrumental teachers at KLB. If you are interested in booking lessons for your child, please get in touch with the teachers directly using the contact information below.

Teacher	Instrument	Contact details
Mr Tony Marchetti	Electric & bass guitar	amarchetti@sky.com
Mr Chris Finch	Acoustic guitar, ukulele	chrisfinchguitar@gmail.com
Mrs Vicky Jones	Violin and & viola	vicky.anne.1@googlemail.com
Mrs Juliet Curnow	Voice	juliet.curnow@gmail.com
Mr Tom Gilkes	Drum kit	tomgilkes@ymail.com
Mr Graham Bull	Piano & cello	grahamjbull@outlook.com
Mr Alan Swain	Brass (trumpet, trombone, etc.)	alanswain@hotmail.com
Mrs Sharyn Wilson	Flute & clarinet	ryn.jo@me.com
Mrs Alison Boles	Saxophone	abmusicteacher@gmail.com

Year 7 Welcome Showcase

October will bring the first event in the music department calendar this school year: the much-anticipated Year 7 Welcome Showcase. This is a wonderful opportunity for students new to KLB to perform in front of a warm and friendly audience of fellow year 7s and their parents. This year we will be particularly pleased to have support from the Junior Choir and Drama Club, who will help to raise our youngest members to new musical heights.

The concert will take place in the Berkeley Theatre on **Wednesday 22 October at 6pm.**

M Smith, Head of Music

Welcoming our New Year 12 Students

It has been fantastic to see so many of our former students as well as a significant number of new students joining the sixth form this year. With new level 3 courses in Health and Social Care and Art Textiles, we are delighted that more students can enjoy a seven year journey with us. On induction day, students in their new tutor groups were engaged in silly challenges designed to help them get to know one another and have some fun and in the admirable spirit of our students, they threw themselves into it.

I look forward to the next couple of years with them as they embark on this exciting time in their lives.

J Campion, Head of Sixth Form



Mental Health First Aid training



We were delighted to welcome back Sarah Frazer to train our year 12 students in mental health awareness. Twenty-five students completed this short course as well as a further eight undertaking the two-day Mental Health First Aid course accredited by Mental Health England.

These are the first steps in preparing our next cohort of Talking in Confidence (TIC) Buddies who will also be trained in safeguarding and active listening skills as the year progresses.

The TIC buddies are one intervention on the graduated pathway for younger students and just one of the ways in which the sixth form students support the wider school community.

J Campion, Head of Sixth Form

Art Foundation Course Talk

We were delighted to welcome Lydia Wooldridge, Course Director of the Art Foundation course at Bristol School of Art to talk to our sixth form students about the course. As well as getting the students to experiment with drawing the inside of their mouths with their eyes closed, Lydia talked to the students about careers in the Creative Industries more broadly – highlighting the £128 billion it brings in to the UK every year – and the transferrable skills that a foundation course affords.

Students applying directly from sixth form can still access an art foundation course without incurring tuition fees. Applications for Bristol and Stroud courses are now open.

J Campion, Head of Sixth Form



Careers Information

Careers website for parents/carers

Careerpilot is a website for parents/carers which covers information on a range of areas, including choices at 14, 16 and 18 as well as apprenticeships and colleges. The following link takes you to the key page on the website.
<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/parent-zone>



GCC What's Next Booklet and Bristol Post-16 Directory provide a wealth of information about the various post-16 pathways and list sixth forms, colleges and training providers in their areas:

https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/jp0pr1jn/gcc_4255-whats-next-booklet-2024_dev1.pdf

<https://www.bristolesl.com/bristolpost16/>



Amazing Apprenticeships has all the information you will need if you and your child would like to find out more about apprenticeship routes and levels following GCSEs or A levels including a step-by-step guide to applying for an apprenticeship.
<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/>

College and Sixth Form Open Days – Autumn Term

Year 11 students and their parents may be interested in the following open events at local colleges. Please note that, in most cases, you will need to book via the college website.

Tues 6 October	Bristol City Robins Foundation	6.30pm
Thurs 8 October	Bath College (City Centre Campus)	4pm – 7pm
Sat 11 October	SGS College (Filton, Stroud, Wise, QR)	10am – 1pm
Sat 11 October	Berkeley Green UTC	9am – 1pm
Tues 14 October	City of Bristol A level event	5pm – 7pm
Sat 18 October	Access Creative College	11am – 2pm
Sat 18 October	Cirencester College	9.30am – 3.30pm
21-23 October	Boomsatsuma	
5 November	Bath College (Somer Valley Campus)	4pm – 7pm
Wed 18 November	Bristol City Robins Foundation	6.30pm
Thurs 21 November	City of Bristol	5.30pm – 7.30pm
Sat 22 November	SGS College (Filton, Stroud, Wise, QR)	10am – 1pm
Sat 22 November	Berkeley Green UTC	9am – 1pm
Sat 22 November	Bath College	10am – 1pm
Tues 25 November	On Site Bristol	5pm – 7.00pm

Please note that Hartpury College events for the autumn term are fully booked but they will open further dates for the spring term. Please keep an eye on the Hartpury website if you are interested.

In addition, please put the date of the **KLB Sixth Form Open Evening** in your diary:

Thursday 20 November 6.00 – 8.00pm



Unifrog Careers Platform



The school has subscribed to the Unifrog careers platform and all students now have access to this superb resource. Unifrog is an invaluable source of careers advice and guidance across all key stages. It will help students to identify and record their strengths and skills, to find out more about the career paths and options available to them and to access a range of support including guidance on next steps and applying for courses. By engaging with Unifrog on a regular basis, students will build a personal profile evidencing their achievements, strengths and skills that they can carry with them for some years beyond their KLB education.

FutureSmart Careers Independent Careers Advice

From September, we are using the services of FutureSmart Careers to provide independent and impartial careers guidance to KLB students.



FutureSmartCareers

All students in year 11 will have access to a discussion with Alex from FutureSmart during the current school year to support them in making decisions about their post-16 education or training. Students in other years are also able to request a discussion (via their tutor or Head of Year) if they feel they need advice about their next steps.

Year 10 Work Experience

We have now launched work experience to year 10 students and handed packs to the students to share with their parents. Some companies have already opened their application window for work experience next July and we urge students to be proactive in making early bird applications where they can.

Students who feel they may struggle with the process of finding a suitable placement should seek help as soon as possible rather than later. If you have any questions regarding the work experience programme, please email hisaacs@klbschool.org.uk

Guest speakers

We are always on the lookout for adults to share their experiences of the world of work so that we can broaden our students' awareness of the potential careers related opportunities out in the 'real world'.

If you would be interested in sharing information about your career path, the skill set needed for your particular field of work, your working environment or any other relevant details please let me know. There is no doubt that hearing ideas from people in the wider working community can be a powerful and enriching experience for our students.

Helen Isaacs, Work-related Learning Lead

Chris Bufton, Careers Curriculum Lead



**KATHARINE LADY BERKELEY'S
SCHOOL**

In September we launched DofE at Bronze level to year 9 students, at Silver level to year 10 and at Gold level to year 12 students.

We recommend that students who are keen to participate should get started on suitable activities if they wish to do so, as the start date for the award can be backdated to the beginning of term for all those who are enrolled during half term or before.

If you have any questions about the award programme, please email hisaacs@klbschool.org.uk

Helen Isaacs, DofE Coordinator

Attendance Top Tips!

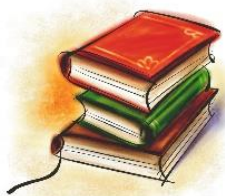
- ✓ Let your child know that you think attending school daily is important
- ✓ Show your child you are interested in school activities and that you want them to do well in school
- ✓ Discuss the importance of punctuality and how this relates to the world of work in the future
- ✓ Check homework from time to time and show interest
- ✓ Read the school newsletters and put any important dates on the fridge/calendar to highlight events or important information
- ✓ Encourage your child to attend school unless they are genuinely too unwell to do so. It's often good to use your work as an example – when would you take time off and use the same rules for school.
- ✓ Set good examples and enforce rules. Speak well of the school and support the staff.
- ✓ Give yourself and your child/children enough time to get ready in the morning. Consider no TV and restrict access to mobile phones as needed (especially first and last thing)
- ✓ Use an alarm clock instead of a phone where possible – this means devices could be removed overnight to promote good sleep hygiene. Use of parental controls can be brilliant, especially if you have a child who loves gaming! (This could be used as an incentive to earn more time outside of the school week if followed etc...)
- ✓ If your child often runs late, try and see if there is another child they could walk with that is always on time.
- ✓ Plan ahead the night before and encourage your child to organise their uniform, bag and homework etc...plan for breakfast and lunch as needed
- ✓ Please ensure your child has a water bottle/snacks/lunch and encourage this (of course please contact us if you need further support)
- ✓ Encourage regular study times and a space at home to work (don't forget homework club at school if this helps! 😊)
- ✓ Encourage relaxation just before bedtime (no screen time for an hour if at all possible! This will help their body produce melatonin in order to prepare for sleep) Maybe start with taking it 15 minutes before sleep, then 30 the next week etc...it may take some adjustments but has huge benefits to overall wellbeing.
- ✓ Did you know the time your child is most likely to speak to you is 10 minutes before they go to bed. Check in on them then if possible.
- ✓ Set a regular bedtime schedule that is predictable (most of the time!)
- ✓ In an ideal world, 8-10 hours of sleep is desirable where possible
- ✓ Use incentives to reward good attendance, behaviour and routines at home (these do not have to cost anything – more of what they enjoy etc...)
- ✓ Attend parent/carers evenings regularly and any other school events – this really can encourage your child to attend when we as parents and carers, show interest.
- ✓ Encourage your child to join an extra-curricular club if possible. This can develop new interests, skills and can be hugely beneficial from a social perspective.
- ✓ If your child does a lot of extra-curricular activities, let us know so we can support if needed (and we love to know as well 😊)



Please get in touch if you have any worries or concerns about issues that may be affecting your child's attendance at school.

Elaine Emms, Attendance Lead

Library News



September is always a busy month in school and the library is no exception. It has been lovely to personally welcome year 7 students by visiting them all during their English lessons and explaining how they can use the library space and borrow from the huge variety of books we have on the shelves.

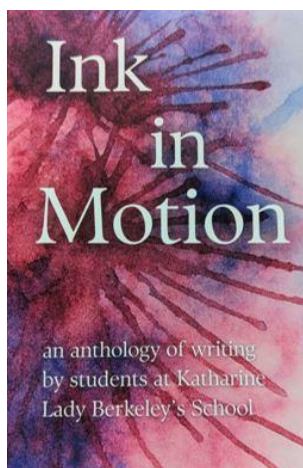
A Welcome Gift from the Library

Keen to encourage reading, the library offers each year 7 student a brand new book of their choice to keep! Through the BookTrust Bookbuzz scheme, a reading programme that aims to inspire a love of reading in 11 to 13 year olds, students can choose one of 16 titles, carefully selected to ensure quality and suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure.

There are some fantastic titles on offer this year including a graphic novel and a non-fiction option so there should be something to inspire every type of reader. Students should receive a copy of their chosen book later in the term, handed out during their English lessons.



Creative Writing Club



Hoping to build on last year's success and create another wonderful anthology of student's work, Mrs Watson and I have launched the KLB Creative Writing Club for 2025/26.

The club now meets on Monday lunchtimes in the library and the interest has been so great that it's already at full capacity! The first session was a great success, with students producing some fantastic work and earning pace points.

For any other keen writers hoping to join in, please look out for details of future availability via your tutors.

Mrs Hill, Librarian

Year 10 Student Wins History Prize

Congratulations to Fraser Clark in year 10 who has won the Secondary School category for the Richard Slessor Memorial Prize for History of the Gloucestershire Branch of the Historical Association. Fraser wrote an essay about the sinking of the *Iolaire* of 1918 which really impressed the judges. They commented that it was engaging, covered the tragedy clearly connecting its history with his family. They also were impressed that that Fraser's work was so informative and engaging. He will shortly be receiving £50 prize money!

Fraser got involved with this competition through his work with the history club. The club is open to students in year 8 and upwards and meets every Thursday lunchtime in W2.

K Medcroft, Head of HHistory



An latha a ghlaodh eilean – The day an island wept

On 9th of November 1918, Kaiser Wilhelm of the 2nd German Reich abdicated, leaving in his wake three days of revolution and bloodshed. On 11th of November, an armistice was declared. Six weeks later, Peter Macdonald (Pàdraig MacDhòmhnaill), my great grandfather, set out from Cornwall. He had been stationed there in the Merchant Navy but now he was returning home, to the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides.

Meanwhile, the HMY *Iolaire* was preparing for its voyage from the Kyle of Lochalsh to the port of Stornoway (Steòrnabhagh) on the Isle of Lewis. Originally a private steam yacht, the *Iolaire*¹ had changed hands many times but her first owner was a man named Thomas J Waller who had registered the boat in London. Afterwards she would be registered in New York and then London again and lastly entering service in 1915. Now she had been commissioned by the Admiralty to transport the war-weary troops home to Lewis.

Back in the south, Peter had left his cottage in St Ives and was bound for the first of multiple changes for connecting trains. The journey to Bristol was smoother than he had expected: the route through the heart of Devon and Somerset took a mere half day and, at the end, he was rewarded by the sight of Brunel's masterpiece - Bristol Temple Meads railway station with its Tudor-revival style architecture.

Now, the *Iolaire* was sailing around the highland coast to Kyle of Lochalsh where her impatient passengers were waiting. The sails billowed in the northern gales as the boat navigated the infamous waves of the Minch². The weather was turning bleak.

Having boarded a sleeper train to Glasgow, Peter could finally rest. As he drifted into fitful sleep, he thought of the losses of war and the changes that might have befallen his home village of Cradhlastadh³, how the sheep were faring and the state of the fank⁴. On arrival in Glasgow my great-grandfather heaved through hordes of people to the, where his train sat eager to depart for Kyle of Lochalsh. There would be no sleep as the train was full of troops. Standing room only.

In total there were only twenty-seven crew members aboard the *Iolaire*. Many of the crew had been granted Christmas leave and had not yet returned. Several of the crew were inexperienced and wary of the imminent crossing, especially in the fickle Minch. To travel from the highlands to the islands at that time was not for the faint of heart nor the faint of stomach.

It was a short walk for Peter from the Kyle train station to the harbour of the same name, however hundreds of well-wishers, servicemen and ex-service men had lined the streets of the village to cheer and welcome the soldiers alighting from the train.

On arrival at the harbour, Peter made his way to where the *Iolaire* was berthed. He began to take notice of the number of men boarding the yacht. He knew that it could only fit two hundred at full capacity but he calculated that he had seen around a hundred more than that. The crew, overwhelmed by the masses of troops and swayed by the desperation of the men to return home, allowed the ship to be overcrowded to the number of two hundred and eighty-four men.

The *Iolaire* eased out of Lochalsh harbour. It was immediately apparent to the crew that the wind was rising and the waves were rising. The yacht pitched and rolled, sitting low in the water with the extra weight. The sky was

inky black and the captain was not familiar with the route. The only lights seen for miles had been that of lighthouses, marking out the rocky coastline. But then, in the distance, the lights of Stornoway came into view. They were almost home.

The Arnish Point lighthouse on the headland by the village of Holm was blazing its signal to the *Iolaire* and yet the ship's wheel did not turn. The ship remained on course – not for the harbour, but steaming straight for a cluster of treacherous rocks known as the Beasts of Holm, just south of Stornoway.

At 01.50, *Iolaire* hit the rocks. The force of the collision hurled fifty or sixty men into the sea. Mountainous waves pummelled the vessel and within minutes she had listed and was going down. Men were flung back at a ninety-degree angle as the boat capsized. A man from the port of Ness in the north of Lewis named John Finlay Macleod (Iain Fionnlagh MacLeòid) swam to the shore with a lightweight rope. With the rope anchored on the shore, thirty-nine out of the eighty-three survivors were able to pull themselves to safety on his rope. Macleod's heroism will never be forgotten in the Isle.



Pàdraig MacDòmhnallach was not a survivor of the *Iolaire*. Nor was he a fatality.

He was not on the *Iolaire*, though he should have been. Perhaps he was turned away when boarding. Perhaps his train was delayed. But for circumstances unknown to his own daughter, (my grandmother) and his own son, (my great uncle), my great-grandfather missed that fateful journey and took another later crossing on a different boat, a ferry called the *Sheila*. She departed, as had the *Iolaire* from the Kyle of Lochalsh but she reached Stornoway safely. As the ferry passed the site of the wreck, the passengers would have seen the two masts of the *Iolaire* protruding from the sea, and wept.

In total 201 men died. They had survived the 'war to end all wars' but lost their lives within sight of the lights of Stornoway, in sight of their families waiting on the shore, in sight of their home.

The loss of the *Iolaire* remains one of the worst peacetime disasters in the UK and its effect on Lewis and the Islands of the Outer Hebrides is still felt today. I think that this is important for me personally because the disaster impacted my family and where they live. The disaster seemed to coincide in the decline of the islands and a mass migration of islanders to the mainland and beyond to Canada. The islands today and their communities are a fraction of their former selves, with Gaelic speakers on the decline. So the memory of this disaster is fading and I want to highlight this in this essay.

By Fraser Clark

Number	Word	Definition
1	Iolaire	Gaelic for eagle-Name of a boat
2	Minch	The stretch of water between
3	Cradhlastadh	Gaelic for Crowlista-Small village where my family is from
4	Fank	Community sheep pen

Extra-curricular clubs - Term 1 and 2 2025

Day	Club	Venue	Time	Staff	Year groups
Monday	Creative writing club	Library	13:10	Mrs Watson and Mrs Hill	Years 7 - 9
	Creative writing club	Library	13:10	Mrs Watson and Mrs Hill	All years
	String Orchestra	S2	13:10	Mrs Dudbridge	String players in all years
	Brass Band	S1	13:10	Mr Swain	Brass players in all years
	Drama club	Drama Studio	13:10	Miss Wyndow	Years 7 and 8
	Cross country	Outside Sports hall	13:10	Mr Dakin	Years 7 - 9
	Street Dance	Cotswold Pavillion	14:50 - 16:00	LA Dance - External coach	Years 7 - 9 (sign up required via Mrs Prosser)
Tuesday	Homework club	Library	14:50 - 16:00	Various staff	All years
	Book club	R12	13:10	Mrs Watson and Mrs Wootton	Years 7 - 9
	Boccia - invite only	Cotswold Pavillion	13:10	Miss Penfold and Mr Morris	All - but invite only
	Rubix Cube	Library	13:10	Mr Wadworth	All years
	Junior Choir	S2	13:10	Mrs Dudbridge	Years 7 and 8
	Year 11 Boys Rugby	School field	14:50	Mr Capaldi	Year 11
	Textiles catch up	B6	14:50 - 15:40	Mrs Dawe	GCSE and A level
	GCSE DT NEA drop in	B6	14:50 - 16:00	Mr Hanney, Mr Thomson and Ms Aland	Year 11
	Boys rugby	Field	14:50 - 16:00	Mr Dudbridge and Mr Capaldi	Years 10 and 11
	Girls Football	4G / Field	14:50 - 16:00	Mrs Prosser and Miss Cameron	Years 7 and 8
	Senior Choir	S1	14:50	Mr Wiltamuth	Years 9 - 13
	English and Film drop in	R13	14:50 - 15:50	Mrs McAllister	Sixth form
Wednesday	Homework club	Library	14:50 - 16:00	Various staff	All years
	Book club	R12	13:10	Mrs Watson and Mrs Wootton	Years 7 - 9
	Badminton	Sports Hall	13:10	Miss Cameron	All years
	Table Tennis	Cotswold Pavillion	13:10	Pe Staff	Years 9 - 11
	Senior Choir	S1	13:10	Mr Wiltamuth	Years 9 - 13
	Programming club	R5	13:10	Miss Ferris	Years 10 and 11
	Poetry club	R16	13:10	Mrs Cornish	Years 7 - 9
	Famelab Academy	J7	15:00	Mr Dexter	Year 9
	Science club	J9	14:55 - 15:55	Miss Billington	Year 7
	Textiles catch up	B6	14:50 - 15:40	Mrs Dawe	GCSE and A level
	Maths KS5 drop in	K1	14:50 - 15:50	Mrs Beltrami	Years 12 and 13
	Art and Photography	F12	15:00 - 16:00	Mr Chilman	Years 7 - 9
	Girls hockey	Astro	14:50 - 16:00	Miss Johnstone and Mrs Wills	Years 9 - 11
	Year 7 boys rugby	Field	14:50 - 16:00	Mr Morris	Year 7
	1st XV Rugby	Field	14:50 - 16:00	Mr Daniel	1st XV
	Orchestra	S1	14:50	Mr Smith	Instrumentalists in all years
	Fitness Suite	School gym	15:00 - 16:00	Mrs Dudbridge and Miss R Jones	KS5 girls
	English GCSE clinic years	library	14:50 - 15:50	English Teachers	Years 10 and 11
	GCSE DT NEA drop in sessions	B6	14:50 - 16:00	Mr Hanney, Mr Thomson and Ms Aland	Year 11
	Homework club	Library	14:50 - 16:00	Various staff	All years
Thursday	KLB's Eco club	T11	14:50	Mrs Husher	All years
	Table Tennis	Cotswold Pavillion	13:10	Pe Staff	Years 7 and 8
	History Mysteries Detective club	W2	13:10	Mrs Medcroft	Years 8 - 13
	Film club	R11	13:10	Mr Morgan and Mrs Richard	Years 7 - 10
	Ukulele club	S2	13:10	Mr Smith	All years
	Warhammer club	T3	13:10	Mr Jones	All years
	Warhammer club	T3	14:45 - 15:45	Mr Jones	All years
	Maths KS4 drop in	K2	14:50 - 15:50	Mr McPherson	Years 10 and 11
	Badminton	Sports Hall	14:50 - 15:45	Miss Bell	Years 9 - 11
	Girls Hockey	Astro	14:50 - 16:00	Mrs Prosser and Mrs Rolleston	Year 7 and 8
	Girls Football	4G - bring boots	14:50 - 16:00	Miss Johnstone and Mrs Wills	Years 9 - 11
	Boys rugby	Field	14:50 - 16:00	Mr Daniel and Mr Grenfell-Williams	Years 8 and 9
Friday	GCSE DT NEA Drop in sessions	B6	14:50 - 16:00	Mr Hanney, Mr Thomson and Ms Aland	Year 11
	Homework club	Library	14:50 - 16:00	Various staff	All years
	Dance	Cotswold Pavillion	13:10	Pe Staff	All years
	Girls Fitness	Fitness Suite	13:10	Mrs Prosser	Years 9 - 11
	Dungeons & Dragons	R16	13:10	Miss Ferris	All years
	Jazz Band	S1	13:10	Mr Smith	Instrumentalists in all years
	Bop-it (percussion)	S2	13:10	Miss Wyndow	All years
	Debating club	Berkeley studio	13:10	Miss Rawlinson (6th form students)	Years 11 - 13
	Dungeons & Dragons afterschool	R16	14:50	Miss Ferris	All years
	Table Tennis club		14:50 - 16:00	External coach	All years

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

Health Care at KLB

First Aid

The school has a number of trained First Aiders who can offer first aid and support in the management of medical conditions. Please note that First Aiders are not trained to diagnose medical conditions. If your child suffers an illness or injury at home, please ensure the illness/injury is treated before they come to school and that medical advice is sought if necessary.

If your child becomes ill or suffers an injury at school and the condition is more serious than can be treated by the First Aid team, we will contact parents/carers. It is therefore important that the school has up to date daytime contact details for parents/carers at all times.

Medication

Any student who needs to take medication in school must take it to the medical room with a completed KLB Medicine Consent Form explaining the purpose of the medication, the dose and frequency, signed by the parent or carer. Only medicines that remain in their original container with clear instructions regarding dosage can be accepted.

For health and safety reasons it is important that students do not carry medication with them at any time. It could present a risk to the student themselves as well as to others. The exception is reliever inhalers and auto injectors/epipens: students for whom these are prescribed must carry them at all times and they must be clearly marked with the student's name and tutor group.

First Aid Team

School Ties

We are aware of a manufacturing fault with some tie clips in a batch of new ties issued to year 7 students. We have been in touch with Monkhouse to raise this problem and they have assured us that they will investigate the issue.

In the meantime, if any Year 7 student believes their tie clip has broken or is defective, we will be happy to swap it for a replacement tie from a different batch. Students can exchange their tie at the Finance Office as long as they return their old tie at the same time, as we will need to send it back to Monkhouse.

R Jackman, Finance Officer

Spotlight on Trips

We know that parents like to have as much notice as possible of upcoming trips and visits so they can make a note of dates and the costs involved.

You may recall the letter sent in July that summarises the trips for the current academic year. If you would like to refresh your memory, please see the letter on the link below:

<https://klbschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/PDFs/Letters/Message-re-KLB-School-Trips-2025-26.pdf>

KLB's Eco Club



This is a club for you if:

- ❖ **You love wildlife and are passionate about the natural world**
- ❖ **Want to do your best to protect it**
- ❖ **Want to make a difference**

When: Every Tuesday lunchtime

Where: T11

Everyone welcome

Lost Property

We now have more lost property than we are able to store at school. Among the items waiting to be 'found' are water bottles, lunch boxes, shoes, coats and PE kits.

If your child has lost an item at school since the beginning of term, please encourage them to check lost property at reception. We do not have space at school to store lost property indefinitely and will need to dispose of uncollected items during the October break.

Teckels Charity Shop, Stroud



Teckels now have a charity shop in Stroud and are welcoming donations of children's toys and clothes.

If you are having a pre-Christmas clear out, please consider bagging/boxing your items and taking them to the shop when you next visit Stroud.

Teckels also need towels, especially large ones! If you have any old towels you no longer use these will be gratefully received at Teckels Animal Sanctuaries, Bristol Rd, Whitminster

Thank you.





KLB Friends

Welcome back folks!

Wow what a start to the year! KLB Friends have been busy fundraising at many events already this term. We provided refreshments at the year 7 rugby and hockey taster day where we met many new parents and students who have just joined our community. We provided refreshments at the **Wotton Lions 10,000M Under the Edge event** on Sunday 14 September which was a huge success and raised over £300. We have also been busy providing lots of hot cups of tea and posh coffee to the thirsty parents at many of the events over the last month. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who have helped.

It has been lovely to see so many people at the information evenings. Thank you to all those who have signed up to our **80:20 Raffle**. There's still time to win a £25 M&S voucher if you enter before we break up for half term on 24 October: [80:20 Club — KLB Friends](#)

We have also been busy in the background planning many events for you to join in and support in the next couple of months. We would cordially like to invite you all to our **AGM on Tuesday 14 October at 6.30** in the Library @KLB School. KLB Friends welcomes everyone - not just Mums, but Dads, Carers, Grandparents, Aunties and Uncles! Come along to see what we have planned for the year and chat with us over a glass of wine and some cheese!

Wotton & District Roundtable Firework Display on Saturday 8 November is a fantastic event and the best in the Southwest. If you purchase your tickets via this link, the Roundtable will make a donation to the KLB Friends Charity based on our ticket sales:

<https://ti.to/wotton-firework-display/2025?source=KLB>

We will also have a stall at the event so if you would like to come along and help for an hour then sign up here: <https://volunteersignup.org/EYDYC>

Tickets are now on sale now for our exciting **Christmas Wreath Workshop** on Friday 28 November. Come along and treat yourself to a beautiful handmade wreath designed and created by yourself with the help of experienced elves, while sipping prosecco and nibbling on mince pies. The perfect way to get into the festive spirit. Tickets are on sale now for £35 limited to 25 places: <https://buytickets.at/klbfriends/1882980>



Our exciting **new website has arrived**. Created by our very own, very talented, Ben Cundy (IT Officer and Dad of students at KLB). You will find all our upcoming events, links to how you can support KLB Friends and much more. <https://www.klbfriends.co.uk/>

These are just some the ways you can help:

- Join us for a drink and see what we do. We meet approximately every 4-6 weeks at The Swan Hotel in Wotton.
- Make one-off or monthly donations through Scopay
- Sign up and help at events
- Sign up and join the **80:20 Club**

Get in touch. Get involved!

KLB Friends Committee
klbfriends@klbschool.org.uk



WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE'S

SECRET POSTCARD AUCTION

RAISING FUNDS FOR CHARLIE & SETH'S
VOLUNTEERING WITH THE CHARITY PROJECT TRUST



Scan the code to see
the artwork and start
bidding!

Bid online on original postcard-sized
artworks at an accessible price

www.32auctions.com/wuesecretpostcards

1st - 19th October 2025

Why secret?

Postcards are signed on the back & the
artists' identities will not be revealed until
the auction ends

Seth & Charlie are 6th form students at KLB school. We have been selected for 12-month
volunteering placements with educational charity Project Trust.

Seth will be going to Ghana to teach STEM subjects in a rural school, while Charlie will be working in a
secondary school near Santiago, Chile. To take up these exciting opportunities we each need to raise
£7,450. All funds from the auction will go directly to Project Trust (registered charity SCO2566).



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



<https://www.32auctions.com/wuesecretpostcards>

What's on in OCTOBER?

The Keepers is a community hub supporting the residents of Wotton and surrounding areas. It is here for everyone. Either come along to one of the organised groups below, or just pop in for a chat and a cuppa - whenever we are open. Come as you are, bring what you can and take what you need.

Monday

Parent Support Group - a support group by parents for parents. 9:15am - 10:45am

Citizens Advice - to book an appointment call 0800 800 0510/0511 or just drop in. 13th and 27th October 10am - 2pm

Age UK - a social group for those who are 50+. 11am - 12:30pm

Digital Drop-in - any help on anything digital. 6th and 20th October 11:30am - 1:30pm

Keepers Kidz - board games, craft and toast available. Children to come with an accompanying adult. Also runs through the holidays. 3:15pm - 4:30pm

Menopause Support Group - a peer support group for those affected by menopause. 6th October 7pm - 8:30pm

Chair Yoga - join in with some gentle, supportive yoga. Open to all. No booking is needed. Pay As You Feel. Followed by refreshments (optional). 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Thursday

Lloyds Bank - drop in for basic transactions. No cash services are available. 9:30am - 3pm

Wotton Area Neurodivergent Support group (WANDS) - a group run by, and for, ND adults and parents/carers of ND children. 9th October 9:30am - 11:00am.

Wotton Area Breast Cancer Support Group - anyone touched by breast cancer is invited to drop in and meet others who know just how it feels. 16th October. 10am - 11am

NHS social prescriber's Drop In - help to connect and grow in confidence. Just come in, no appointment needed. 11am-1pm

Rethink - mental health drop-in. Every Thursday. 1pm - 3pm

Spanish For Beginners/The Terrified - informal Spanish conversation group. Just drop in. 7pm - 8:30pm

Age UK Help Session - drop in for assistance for those who are 50+. 23rd October 9am-11am.

Alzheimer's Society Advice Drop In - Practical advice for anyone suffering from Dementia (or their carers) Thursday 9th October 1pm-4pm

Warm and Well - a drop in session to ask any questions you have about your energy tariff, how to make your house more energy efficient, energy saving tips and more! Thursday 30th October 2:15pm-3:45pm

Tuesday

The Keepers' Garden - the garden is open - come along to plant, dig, weed, sit or just chat with our gardener. Refreshments provided. 10am - 12pm

Sing 2 Remember - sing together, share memories and make friends. Come and join this supported, dementia-friendly singing session. Just turn up. 7th and 21st October. 10:45am - 11:45am

Tuesday Lunches - come and join us for a meal and chat. Open to all and Pay As You Feel (PAYF). Spaces are limited, so to book a place please call 07585 466418 or pop in to find out what's on the menu! 12:30pm - 2pm

The Keepers' Car Club is also running on Tuesdays to provide transport from your home to the hot lunches. Places are limited. To book, please call 07585 466418 or pop in.

Cancer Support Group - the third meeting of the new Cancer Support Group. Anyone who has been affected by cancer themselves or through a loved one is welcome. 21st October 7pm-8pm

Friday

The Keepers Tots - a session for babies, toddlers and their responsible adult. 9:15am - 10:30am

The Keepers' Garden - the garden is open. Come along to plant, dig, weed, sit or chat with our gardener. Refreshments provided. 10am - 12pm

Drop In Café (incl. Craft and Chat) - all welcome on a Pay As You Feel basis. This cafe is quieter than a Wednesday - a chance to do some crafting! 11:30am - 12:30pm

Gloucestershire Real Nappy Project will be visiting, a great chance to find out about washable nappies. 3rd October 9:15am - 10:30am

Wednesday

Drop In Café - all welcome on a Pay As You Feel basis. 10am - 12pm

The Keepers' Car Club is also running on Wednesdays to provide transport from your home to The Keepers. Places are limited. To book please call 07585 466418 or pop in.

P3 Drop In - help with a range of issues e.g. housing, debt and benefit support. No booking needed. 10am - 1pm

Health Visitor Drop In - bring your baby in to get advice from a Health Visitor 1st October 10am-12pm

Stroud Foodbank - offering emergency food and essentials along with support and advice. 10am - 11:30am

Men's Shed - talk about the projects they're working on and discuss yours. 8th October 10am - 12pm

Talk Club - a talking and listening club for men to help keep mentally fit. 1st and 15th October 7pm - 8:30pm

Wotton Area Neurodivergent Support group (WANDS) - a group run by, and for, ND adults and parents/carers of ND children including Autism, ADHD, PDA, Dyslexia etc. 29th October 7pm-9pm.

Stroud District Council Housing Officer Drop In - pop in and talk to Becky. 1st & 15th October 10:30am - 11:30am and 22nd October 9:30am-10:30am

CALENDAR EVENTS

PCSO Drop in - a chance to ask your questions or share concerns. 15th October 10am-12pm, 21st September 10:30-2pm, 27th October 9am - 11am.

Community Autism Support and Advice (CASA from GRCC) - book a one hour advice and support session for autistic adults, and friends and family of autistic adults. Thursday 23rd October 11:30am-3:30pm
To book go to: cal.com/casasize or email them at infocasa@grcc.org.uk

OPENING TIMES

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday:
9.00am - 4.00pm

Wednesday and Friday:
9.00am - 1.00pm
CLOSED ON BANK HOLIDAYS

For more details please go to our website:
www.thekeepers.org.uk
Call: 07585 466418 or Email:
thekeeperscommunityhub@gmail.com
or pop in

It's important to us that everyone is included, the Hub is accessible to all and we work in collaboration with other local organisations.
www.thekeepers.org.uk Reg Charity No. 1192121