

Kings Langley Sixth Form

Head of Sixth Form Fortnightly Bulletin: Week 21 - 2023/24

This bulletin, written by the Head of Sixth Form, provides a brief summary of updates, upcoming events, and useful information for students and their home. Further information can be found on our website www.kls.herts.sch.uk and clarification of policy can be found in the sixth form handbook.



Introduction

Over the last few weeks the Sixth Form has been focussing on ensuring that our standards remain high and that our culture continues to grow so that we really embed belonging into our Sixth Form. Whilst our dedicated building provides something tangible and a physical asset to provide a base, it is the students actions, our staff actions, and our community's participation that cements the foundation of what we do.

January is quite often a difficult time due to the dark days, cold weather, the festive period 'hangover', however, it has been great to see the days beginning to become slightly longer and some brighter mornings and afternoons. We hope that the brighter days and improving weather will give students a renewed feeling of positivity and we will look to harness this in future events and initiatives that are currently being planned.

I would like to take this opportunity to promote an upcoming event we have planned in the Sixth Form where we challenge as many students and staff, to contribute to cycling non-stop from Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February, 8.30am-3.30pm daily) in an effort to cycle a combined 300miles. This event is to mark Valentine's Day but in an alternative manner. We want to get hearts racing and promote the value of team work, healthy challenge, physical activity, and working together for a joint purpose. Fancy participating? Students can sign up for a cycle slot (must be taken outside of timetabled lessons), by adding their name to the sheet outside the Sixth Form office.

Head Student Applications

A reminder that all applications for Head Student close on **Monday 12th February 12pm.**

Applications are made via submitting a one-sided letter to Mr Tubb indicating what you stand for and what impact you would have on the Sixth Form and wider school community, by being Head Student. The letter should be submitted in an envelope addressed to Mr Tubb and should be submitted no later than the deadline advertised.

Shortlisting will take place in the afternoon of Monday 12th February with applicants finding out if they continue to the next round which is campaign week (**Monday 4th March—Friday 8th March**). Campaign week is your opportunity to market and advertise yourself to the school community (students and staff) as well as an interview with Mr Tubb, before the votes go to a ballot (Sixth Formers, Yr7 and Staff) 11on **Monday 11th March**. The results of the ballot will be combined with the complete application process and a decision is then announced on **Tuesday 12th March**.

Sixth Form Team Research and Reading

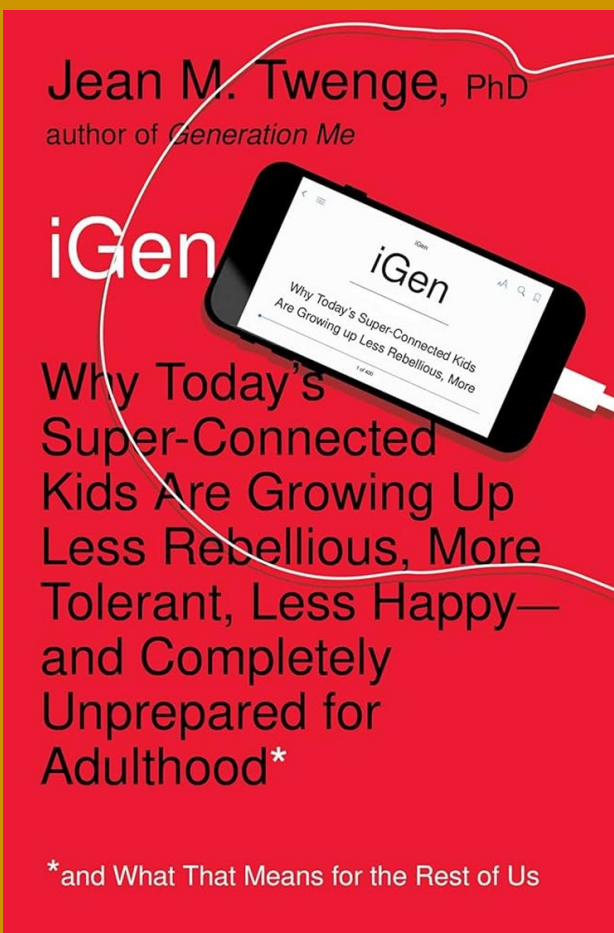
The Sixth Form Team are committed to ensuring that our Sixth Form provision and practice is constantly being informed by contemporary research and explorations into innovation within teaching and learning. As the educational landscape changes, as society presents new challenges or alters from the norm, as new policy or regulations are introduced, we recognise that we need to understand these changes and ensure that our provision meets the needs of our students and adapts to make sure we are proactive as much as possible.

Recently I have been reading a book titled 'iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less-Happy—and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood' by Jean M. Twenge, PhD.

This interesting and thought-provoking book explores the contemporary differences that adults and young adults, who have grown up in substantially different circumstances, and where generational differences are more contrasting than before, are experiencing.

What we think are technology-induced 'demons' of the modern day, are in fact embraced by younger generations as positive steps to coping with the present day. How we see young people can be dramatically different to what they perceive themselves. This fascinating book provides a sensational insight into how we can better understand the generational differences with regards to relationships with technology.

The following quote is taken from Amazon which provides an insight into the important topics explored within this book:



Born in the mid-1990s up to the mid-2000s, iGen is the first generation to spend their entire adolescence in the age of the smartphone. With social media and texting replacing other activities, iGen spends less time with their friends in person—perhaps contributing to their unprecedented levels of anxiety, depression, and loneliness.

But technology is not the only thing that makes iGen distinct from every generation before them; they are also different in how they spend their time, how they behave, and in their attitudes toward religion, sexuality, and politics. They socialize in completely new ways, reject once sacred social taboos, and want different things from their lives and careers. More than previous generations, they are obsessed with safety, focused on tolerance, and have no patience for inequality.

A summary of some interesting points this book raises is provided on the following pages. I myself would urge parents and people at home are encouraged to read this book or listen to it as an audiobook. We need to understand the impact of technology on our younger generations and work with them to understand how we can support them.

The Sixth Form plans to explore technology and how to support young people in an upcoming Parent & Home Engagement Forum.

Book Summary: 'iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less-Happy—and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood' by Jean M. Twenge, PhD.

▪ **Gen Z delay growing up** Many live longer with their parents, leave high school having never had a paid job, managed own finances or driven a car by themselves. *“Across a range of behaviours – drinking, dating, spending time unsupervised –18-year-olds now act more like 15-year-olds used to, and 15-year-olds more like 13-year-olds.”*

▪ **The notion of “safety” is critical for Gen-Z.** This entails “safe” from handling conflicting situations by themselves. iGen’ers are frightened of confrontation and flinch at the idea of talking to their peers about difficult issues. They would rather resort to the “authorities”/3rd parties to resolve situations than handle those directly. Many teens also appear deeply emotional when someone disagrees with them.

▪ Spending much screen time, and communicating mostly via texting, has resulted in many Gen Z-ers having **awkward communication skills** (building rapport, eye contact, formulating clear thoughts, reading body language and emotions).

▪ Gen Z are physically safer than Millennials. Instead of getting into car accidents and experimenting with alcohol at parties, teens are spending more of their free time at home and on their smartphones.

▪ **Gen Z spend less time socializing with their peers face to face** and spend much longer interacting virtually with their peers. Today’s adolescents date less and hold off on having sex. Consequently, the teen birth rate declined to an all-time low in 2016. Meanwhile, the number of teens regularly spending time with their friends declined by more than 40% between 2000 and 2015.

▪ Growing evidence suggests that greater use of **social media is having a detrimental effect on teenager’s mental health.** The number of teens reporting frequent feelings of loneliness and “feeling left out” has increased sharply since 2013. Findings reveal a strong correlation between time spent on a screen and levels of happiness.

▪ Data shows a **strong correlation between heavy smartphone use and feelings of depression.** According to one survey, eighth-graders who are “heavy users” of social media are 27% more likely to develop depression than their counterparts who spend more of their free time offline. Heavy usage is considered anything over 2 hours. Many Gen Z-ers use smart phones 4-6 hours a day, which includes texting, using social media and watching video clips.

▪ Gen Z are **more willing to work hard and less likely to question** their grades (contrary to the sense of entitlement and narcissism that Millennials displayed).

▪ **Gen Z join colleges having read less books or long magazine articles.** To bridge the gap, publishers are turning to e-textbooks with videos, interactive figures and built in quizzes.

What will the Sixth Form do in response?

- Promote greater literacy and research development skills required in the modern workplace—this includes ensuring that young people have a greater understanding and ability to confirm and clarify facts and details.
- Develop greater opportunities for young people to develop inter-personal skills that remove the need for digital devices whilst promoting the value of digital-cleansing routines.
- Increase social opportunities that enhance a sense of community and belonging.
- Explore how motivation and coaching can be used to engage young people in positive reflection and career planning.
- Provide students with pre-employment skills that relate to interpersonal, communication, and conflict resolution.
- Explore how adults can provide our young people with increased confidence in themselves through role modelling and informing them of changing behaviours in society and within workplaces and places of study.
- Recognise the digital world and promote the utilisation of digital competencies as a tool that supports teaching and learning whilst not eliminating traditional methods.

VALENTINES DAY 2024

Get hearts racing this Valentines Day by contributing to our week-long, non-stop cycle in an effort to cycle 300miles



Mon 12th Feb. - Fri 16th Feb.

8.30am - 3.15pm, everyday

Indoor bike in the Sixth Form building

Target of 300 miles

Sixth Form students & KS5 Staff

**Sign-up
sheet in 6F
Office**

Extended Project Qualifications

Students in Yr13 who have been busy working away on their EPQ projects, presented their explorations through a series of passionate and thought-provoking presentations to their supervisors and to the senior leadership team.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of these students for the time and effort that they clearly put into both the research and the formation of their presentations. Everyone who observed the presentations commented on how professional each of the students presented themselves but most of all, the degree of passion and insight into an area of personal interest was amazing.

I have written to each of the students who presented but would like to take this opportunity to recognise and praise the students for the level of commitment and dedication into completing an additional qualification, on top of their A-Levels qualifications.

I have already purchased several books as a result of listening to the presentations.

I also take this opportunity to thank Miss Hill, Mr Scott, and all the EPQ supervisors involved in this years' EPQ.

Student Recognition

We thank all Yr13 students for their mature and responsible approach taken to their trial exams which have recently been completed.

The Sixth Form team will be reviewing the progress and attainment of students in these assessments and will be recognising these achievements once all subject data has been received.

Whilst we await the results of the Yr13 trial exams, I would personally like to congratulate all our students who undertook these assessments. Students are reminded that whilst their performance in these assessments contribute to predicted grades, UCAS applications, apprenticeship applications, etc., they also serve as an important way of both student and Sixth Form identification of intervention and/or support methods that may be required to help with further progress.

Eton College Partnership Development

On Tuesday 30th January, Mr Tubb accompanied Mr Fisher on an invitation to Eton College to further explore how partnerships with this world-renowned education institute could be formed.

Mr Tubb met with and spoke to several representatives of Eton College on areas specifically of interest to the Sixth Form including summer schools for Oxbridge applications, student societies, leadership training opportunities, utilising Eton resources such as EtonX, as well as exploring innovative approaches to developing KS5 teaching and learning pedagogies in a mutually beneficial way.

Mr Tubb reported back to other senior leaders of Kings Langley School that he felt the partnership discussions held with Eton College felt like the most authentic partnership discussions held with another institution and he is excited to be developing these over the next month.

Further announcements and details of our partnership will be promoted soon.



ETON
COLLEGE

Upcoming events and diary dates:

6th February—Yr12 Work Experience Parent Information Evening, 7-8pm

9th February—Yr13 reports sent home

12th-16th February—Valentines Week 300mile Cycle Challenge

15th February—Post-18 Parent & Student Information Evening, 6-7pm

19th Feb—23rd Feb—HALF TERM

1st March—Yr12 University & Apprenticeship Fair (London), all day

13th March—Parent & Home Engagement Forum, 5-6pm



We want to ensure that we provide the best student experience possible at Kings Langley Sixth Form. We would love to hear from you about what events, activities and experiences we can organise and put on for our students. Please speak to a member of the Sixth Form with your ideas.

Educational Excellence

Educational excellence is our first and foremost commitment and priority outlined in our five-year strategy (link: [Sixth Form Information - Kings Langley Secondary School - Unlocking Potential for Life \(kls.herts.sch.uk\)](https://www.kls.herts.sch.uk/sixth-form-information)), and we take a multifaceted approach to achieving this.

I am currently writing the Sixth Form's strategy for Educational Excellence which forms the bedrock of all that we do as a Sixth Form to provide young people with the highest standard of education. Working with Mr Scott and senior leaders from across the school, my aim is to put in place a strategy which ensures that Kings Langley Sixth Form has considered all aspects of its provision whereby we genuinely unlock every young person's potential and whereby we do this where we are student-centred with authenticity.

Regular reviews of the curriculum and its delivery ensure alignment with student needs and expectations, while dynamic adjustments respond to evolving trends in Post-16 education, higher education, and in the workplace. Kings Langley Sixth Form is dedicated to overcoming educational disparities by implementing strategies for students with specific needs, fostering equity and valuable support.

So that we achieve educational excellence we will continue to work with our students and home to ensure that our strategy is written in the context of our students and the landscape that they both experience and will experience. If you are interested in contributing to this strategy, please contact me on tubbj@kls.herts.sch.uk.



Parent & Carers Engagement Forum

Kings Langley Sixth Form

Wednesday 24th January highlights:

The outcomes and agreed areas for exploration by the Sixth Form following this forum meeting are detailed below :

- Have a parent section on the Sixth Form website as a 'one-stop shop' for all things required by parents/home to support students in the Sixth Form i.e., calendar, what Apps to download, etc.—We will be introducing this shortly.
- Explore how we can communicate academic performance with home more.—We are reviewing our reporting policy and procedures and will update by the next meeting.
- Increased guidance on post-18 destination pathways.—Post-18 Destinations Information Evening on Tuesday 15th February, 6-7pm
- Explore supporting parents of students who join the Sixth Form from other schools.—We are introducing a parent page on our website which will contain increased information and we will continue to explore this idea further.
- Centralise email communication into a regular, single point of the week to ensure information is not lost amongst the emails that we all receive in our inboxes.—The HoSF Bulletin now contains a communication page to collate all communications from across KS5 so you don't miss any important information or emails.

The purpose of this forum is to increase the opportunity for parents and carers to be part of the consultation and development of sixth form policies, as well as identify how parents and carers may want to contribute to the sixth form provision. It will also offer an additional form of communication between the sixth form team and home.

These informal forum meetings are chaired by Mr Tubb, Head of Sixth Form, and parents and carers are invited to attend as frequently as they wish; membership is not required, and contributions are entirely discretionary. Each forum has a focus and enables the sixth form to inform parents about our approach and rationale behind policies and procedures. Parents and carers can also identify areas that they wish the sixth form to consider or explore.

The next meeting will be held on:

Wednesday 13th March, 5-6pm, in the Sixth Form building

Next meeting agenda—Post-18 preparation, achieving educational excellence + any areas identified by parents/home

For more information or to express an interest in attending or for agenda items, please contact Mr Tubb directly on tubbj@kls.herts.sch.uk

Action on Bullying & Anti-Social Behaviours

We have an outstanding community of staff and sixth formers at Kings Langley Sixth Form where everyone can expect to study, work, and enjoy an environment where they are safe, happy and respect one another. Bullying and peer-on-peer abuse is never ok, and Kings Langley Sixth Form does not tolerate it.



Need support with your wellbeing?

At Kings Langley Sixth Form we believe strongly that positive emotional wellbeing and mental wellness are not only crucial in enabling students to feel happy and fulfilled within themselves as individuals, but also in enabling them to thrive and flourish during their time with us here at school. Students who enjoy positive mental health and wellbeing are better able to cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively and fruitfully, fulfil their own potential and make a contribution to their wider community.



Safeguarding

If you or someone you know is at risk of harm (emotionally, physically, mentally or sexually) to themselves or to others, please ensure that you report this to a member of staff immediately. If outside of sixth form or school, you can report concerns to the police by dialling 999.

FRANK
0800 77 66 00 talktofrank.com
Friendly, confidential drugs advice

Switchboard
LGBT+ helpline
0800 0119 100

Gamblers Anonymous
Phone: 0330 094 0322

Feeling low?
Anxious?
Struggling to cope?

Text SHOUT
to **85258**
for free, confidential support, 24/7

The Sandbox
Online mental health support for Children and Young People

fearless
part of Crimestoppers
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.

Reporting Crimes inc.
County Lines

Sixth Form Communication/Message from Staff:

Message from Mr Ellis, FAO: Home

30th January 2024

Unifrog – The Complete Destinations Platform

Dear Parent / Carer,

In keeping with our commitment to provide students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next steps during and after school, we will be continuing to use Unifrog; an award-winning, online destinations platform. All students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 now have access to this website.

Unifrog is the universal destinations platform and is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each student has their own account where they can explore all the career and next step options available to them and find information on everything from managing their workload to writing a winning CV. Students have access to a wide variety of video and written content, and interactive quizzes and tests, including:

Section of the plat-	Examples of what students can do	Suitable age
Quizzes	Finding their interests, personality type, preferred work environment, and skillset.	Years 7-13
Exploring pathways	Explore careers, career sectors, subjects, sign up to free webinars, explore courses, and find wider reading materials.	Years 7-13
Recording what you've done	Record their in-class and extracurricular activities, record examples of their skills, and see the record of CEIAG events the school has added to their accounts.	Years 7-13
Searching for opportunities	Find scholarships, activities, and bursaries to support their HE journey. Find and compare degrees in the UK and overseas, live apprenticeships, and FE courses.	Years 10-13
Application materials / Making applications	Write their CV, cover letter, Personal Statement, and more. Track their applications and record their Post 16 / 18 intentions.	Years 11-13

Students sign in to Unifrog using their **school email address** and password and they can do so from any computer, tablet, or smartphone. We would encourage you to use the platform with your child so you can support them through the process of deciding their next step. If they have forgotten their password, they can click the 'reset password' link on the logon page: www.unifrog.org/sign-in They will then be sent a 'reset password' link to their school email address (note: Log in will not work on any personal email addresses for students)

You, as a parent or carer, can also have your own Unifrog account! You'll be able to research careers, attend webinars delivered by employers and universities to learn more about their opportunities, and compare pathways so you can support your child in making an informed decision about their next steps. The sign-up code you need is: **KILSpaents** and you can sign up at: www.unifrog.org/code. You can also sign up to Unifrog's parent / carer newsletter when you first sign in to get expert advice and guidance on supporting your child with their next steps.

For more information, go to www.unifrog.org or contact Mr Ellis at Kings Langley School.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Ellis

Sixth Form Communication/Message from Staff:

Message from Mrs Battaglia FAO: Home

5 February 2024

Dear Parent/ Carers,

Post-18 Information Eve

In the Sixth Form, we aim to provide a comprehensive programme of information, advice and guidance to help students in making choices about what they will do once they complete their A-Level studies. Over the next few weeks, we will start to deliver this in PSE lessons and form time.

Most of our students will be considering moving on to either higher or further education, an apprenticeship or employment at the end of Year 13 and our programme aims to support them in whichever of these options they choose.

Further information regarding the different Post-18 pathways will be presented at the '**Post-19 information evening**' being held on **Thursday 15th February at 6.00pm**. All parents/ carers and students are welcome to attend.

I look forward to seeing you on the evening and working with every student in Y12 to make a successful application in whatever area they choose.

Regards,



Mrs Vicki Battaglia
Head of Sixth Form Pastoral