



Parents Newsletter, Autumn 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It gives me great pleasure to share with you our first newsletter of this academic year.

As your new Headteacher, it has been lovely to meet so many of you at our information evenings, on the touchlines or at the school gates since arriving in September. It has been a real privilege getting to know your children over the last few weeks.

The strong partnership we have, coupled with support and ambition makes me confident that each child will achieve more than they ever thought possible.

This has already been a busy start to the year and it feels like an exciting time for Thomas Keble.

I hope that our Newsletter gives you a flavour of what we see everyday in school.

As ever, please do let us know what we are doing well and where we could make things even better.

Best wishes,

Steve Shaw



1 - Mr. Shaw, Headteacher

In This Issue



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Welcome to our new staff

At the start of any academic year, it is always a great pleasure to welcome our new colleagues as they begin their journey at Thomas Keble. We are fortunate that our strong reputation allows us to attract excellent staff at a time of both teacher and support staff shortages nationally. This year we welcome:



2 - Mrs H Paynter (Religious Studies)



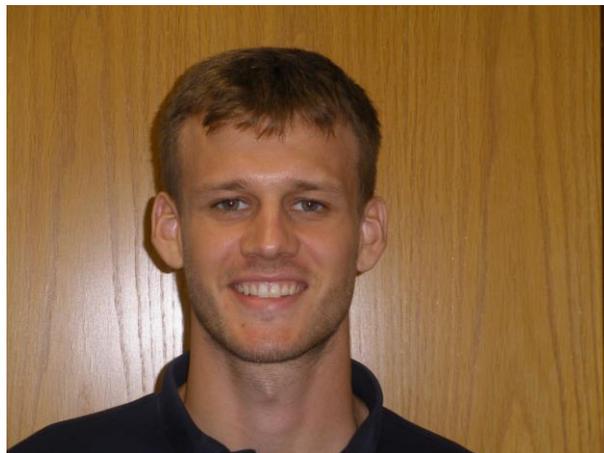
3 - Miss M Beggan (Music)



4 - Miss S Belinger (PE)



5 - Mrs S Chambers (Languages)



6 - Mr B Clutterbuck (Apprentice Teaching Assistant)



7 - Miss M Crombie (Design Technology)



8 - Miss A Evans (PE Technician)



9 - Ms. L Morris (Teaching Assistant)



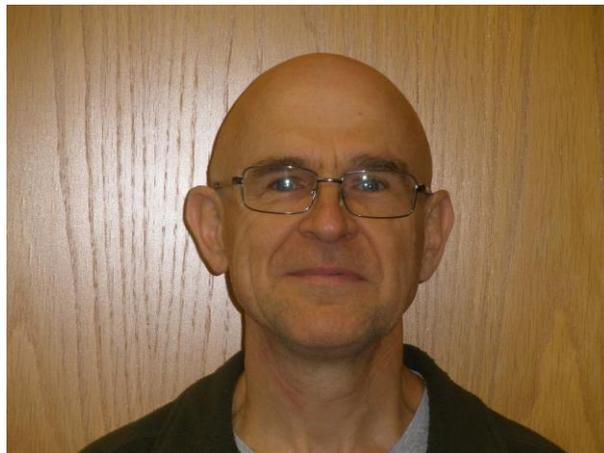
10 - Mrs D Nolan (Receptionist)



11 - Miss K Quinn (Librarian)



12 - Miss A Richings (Teaching Assistant)



13 - Dr C Russell (Design Technology Technician)



14 - Mr C Whitfield (Assistant Headteacher)

Duke of Edinburgh Award



We launched the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award for Y9 this week, which provides a fantastic opportunity for pupils to engage in the local community to help them complete their volunteering, physical and skill sections. We have already had a number of pupils show their excitement and interest in enrolling onto the award. Pupils will complete their sections over the next six months in their free time and then will be ready for the expedition element of the award which begins in Spring next year.

Year 11 have completed their Silver practice expedition and will carry out their expedition in the coming week. The Silver Award is more challenging again, with slightly longer sections and a 3-day Expedition (run by an outside company)

In the summer term 70 Year 9s completed the last section – their Expedition for their Bronze DofE Award. They walked for 2 days and camped in near Sheepscombe – experiencing the beauty of their local Cotswold Hills with a full backpack and being totally self-sufficient. Unsurprisingly they were

pretty exhausted when they finished! Our Year 11s participating in their Silver Award completed their expedition in the Black Mountains by the time you read this. The Silver Award is more challenging again, with slightly longer sections and a 3-day Expedition (run by an outside company).

We launch the Silver Award to the Year 10s on 4th October.

We look forward to them taking up the challenge!

[Duke of Edinburgh Award information](#)



"Although the expedition was tough, I really enjoyed the challenge. My volunteer work was really rewarding".

New Build



<https://sway.office.com/NrOKuale1rDmWUis#content=Duxm3RZOjhuGnO>

Our new building has received planning permission and some work will begin shortly around the site to prepare for the January build start date. The build is anticipated to take 14 months to complete, with a provisional completion date around February 2024. It will then take a further 9 months to demolish and landscape the existing building. As we move forwards with scheduling, I will share more information and post regular updates.

Goodrich Castle visit



As we stepped out, one September morning...

In the hills of Herefordshire, amongst trees and the fields lies a winding path that leads to Goodrich Castle. It is here amidst the ruined walls and crumbling towers that the Year 11 Historians put their classroom-found knowledge into a real context.

OCR Schools History Project GCSE requires the students to study a component entitled "History Around Us." Thomas Keble decided that Goodrich Castle, once every Year 7's dream visit during the Summer Term, should become our local study because it's history allows us to see multiple phases of development and destruction (not, I hasten to add, a result of our visits) whilst weaving its story in to a local and national tapestry. Goodrich Castle's history itself is more the 900 years old, forged in the aftermath of the Norman Conquest, destroyed by Parliament's desire to hold back future

Royalist uprisings, and re-born in a post-industrial world of free time and a desire to save and understand our past.

Year 11 were exceptional. Visitors to the site made efforts to seek out staff to say how wonderful they were: thoughtful; respectful; knowledgeable; and well-presented. And let there be no confusion: we were the only school there. After such a long time without these types of trips, to hear such comments and see the students work so well together beyond the classroom reminded us all of what kind of student Thomas Keble produces.

These trips cannot happen without the efforts of the staff who organise and accompany them. Mrs Buxton did a tremendous job either side of the Summer holiday chasing payments and forms, whilst Mrs Powell and Messrs Clutterbuck, South and Thomas facilitated Year 11's exploration of the castle and the unravelling of its mysteries.





Life after TK day



This term Year 11 have started to prepare for their next steps after school, and we have been welcoming a different post-16 provider in each week to present an assembly to the students.

On Tuesday 27th September we held our 'Life After TK' Day, which gives our Year 11s the chance to develop their employability skills and learn more about their future pathways through a range of workshops including apprenticeships, university myth-busting, gap years, covering letters, post-16 applications and CV writing. Each student also had a mock interview with a local employer. Students were encouraged to come in dressed as they would for an interview, and they really did dress to impress! We received some fantastic feedback about the students from all of the external visitors involved, such as "your students were very confident and really did themselves and the school proud", and the students said the day "showed in more detail that there's more to post-16 education than just choosing the subjects" and "gave me more information about pathways I hadn't considered".

Our full careers programme and more detailed post-16 information can be found on our online portal <https://www.sites.google.com/view/life-after-tk>





15 - Invited guests providing mock interviews to Year 11



16 - [Stroud Times article \(October 2022\)](#)

New website update

e4education

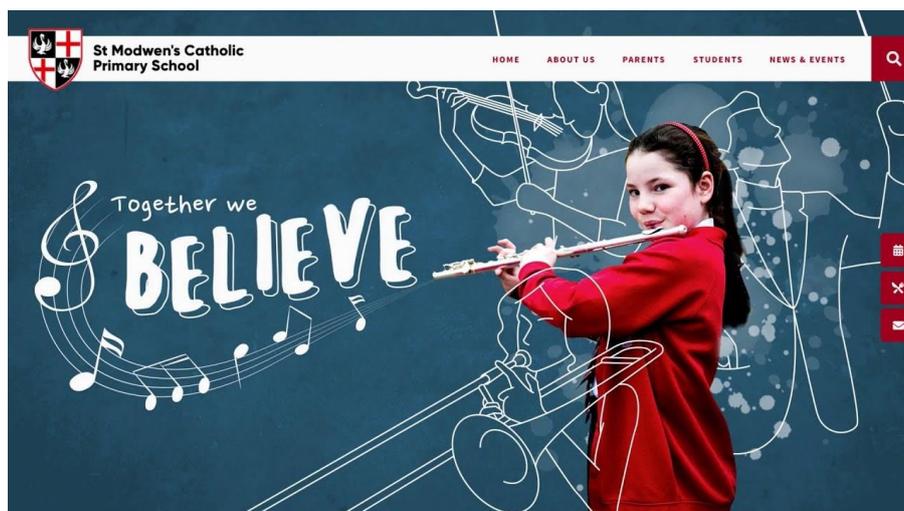
We will be re-developing our school website over the coming months, and will be working with 4Education for the project.

The lead time for completion is estimated at 14 weeks, so we are hoping for a January launch.

Examples of their work with other schools is shown in the reel below.

There are **3 ways** that you can get involved with this:

1. *If you have 5 - 10 minutes to spare, let us know your priorities as a parent [HERE](#) (closes 14th October).*
2. *If you have an hour to spare, please use [THIS](#) link to view and feedback on some sample sites.*
3. *If you would like to come into school and talk through some of the designs and to share your thoughts, please contact Amanda Oxberry using aoxberry@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk in the first instance.*



Billy Elliot production launch



We have been incredibly busy in the Performing Arts Department holding auditions for the School musical, Billy Elliot. A total of 58 students attended auditions held over 5 lunchtimes, with a panel of Drama Leaders providing a supportive audience. The students have been incredible!! We have all been impressed with the preparation work that has gone into learning the parts, and the inspiring level of confidence demonstrated to audition in front of a panel of peers and teachers.

Billy Elliot will take place on the 14th, 15th and 16th of March 2023 and, from what we've seen so far, promises to be an electric performance.

The cast will be announced on the 14th October 2022 with rehearsals starting immediately after Half Term. Keep your eyes peeled for ticket information and, for now, a massive well done/ thank you to everybody involved.

Year 10 Horticulture

Y10 Horticulture have started their course learning about health and safety in and around the garden and how to use tools safely. Under Mrs Chandler's guidance they are learning to take cuttings and grow them on. Plants will be looked after by the group and sold to raise funds in the Spring for Vocational courses. This enterprise part of the course is particularly rewarding for pupils involving staff and pupils for essential fundraising. They will soon have a trip and tour to Highfield garden centre, looking at the various plants for sale. Highfield will also talk about career paths in the Horticultural field. 10 Horticulture





Extra-Curricular Clubs (Term 1)

	Breaktime	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7 Netball (Sports hall) • Y7 Basketball (Sports hall) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model Club – All welcome (max 15) in H1 • Animal Club – All welcome (1.30pm – 2.00pm) • Y10 + 11 Homework Club (from 1.30pm) in the Science Garden • YR7, YR8, YR9 Homework Club in Learning Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Club in A1 – All years • Y9 Netball • Y7 Rugby • Y10 + 11 Rugby • Y8 Boys National Cup Football
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y8 Netball (Sports hall) • Y8 Basketball (Sports hall) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE RM Y11 Coursework Catch up – Y11 – T5 • Debating Club – All welcome – R2 • Minecraft Club – All welcome - MC2 • Animal Club – All welcome (1.30pm – 2.00pm) • Y10 + 11 Homework Club (from 1.30pm) in the Science Garden • YR7, YR8, YR9 Homework Club in Learning Support • Y7 Netball (Sports hall) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business & Entrepreneur Club – all years IT10 • GCSE RM Y11 Coursework Catch up- Y11 T5 • Maths Club – Y11 – SA room • Y7 Netball • Stroud table-tennis club (starting soon) • Y7 Basketball club
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y9 Netball (Sports hall) • Y9 Basketball (Sports hall) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance club. All years. Dance studio • Badminton club. All years (Sports hall) • Weights and fitness. Y10+11 • Minecraft Club – All welcome - MC2 • Animal Club – All welcome (1.30pm – 2.00pm) • Y10 + 11 Homework Club (from 1.30pm) in the Science Garden • YR7, YR8, YR9 Homework Club in Learning Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y8 Rugby • Y10 Boys National Cup Football • Y10+11 Netball • Science Club in S5 – 3.05pm – 3.50pm
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10 Netball (Sports hall) • Y10 Basketball (Sports hall) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y8+9 Netball (Sports Hall) • Year 10+11. Weights and fitness. • KS3 DT Club – KS3 – T5 (20 places only) • Fantasy Premier League Club – IT1 – 1.30pm – 2.05 • Choir – Music dept – 1.20pm-2.05 • Minecraft Club – All welcome - MC2 • Animal Club – All welcome (1.30pm – 2.00pm) • Y10 + 11 Homework Club (from 1.30pm) in the Science Garden • YR7, YR8, YR9 Homework Club in Learning Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y8 Netball • U15 (Y9-10) Girls national cup football • Fun Club – AP – Sports Hall – 3.05 - 4.15pm
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 Netball (Sports hall) • Y11 Basketball (Sports hall) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10+11 Basketball (Sports Hall) • Spanish Comic Book Club – 1.20pm – 2.05 – All welcome L3 • Minecraft Club – All welcome - MC2 • Animal Club – All welcome (1.30pm – 2.00pm) • Y10 + 11 Homework Club (from 1.30pm) in the Science Garden • YR7, YR8, YR9 Homework Club in Learning Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y9 Rugby • X-country club. All years





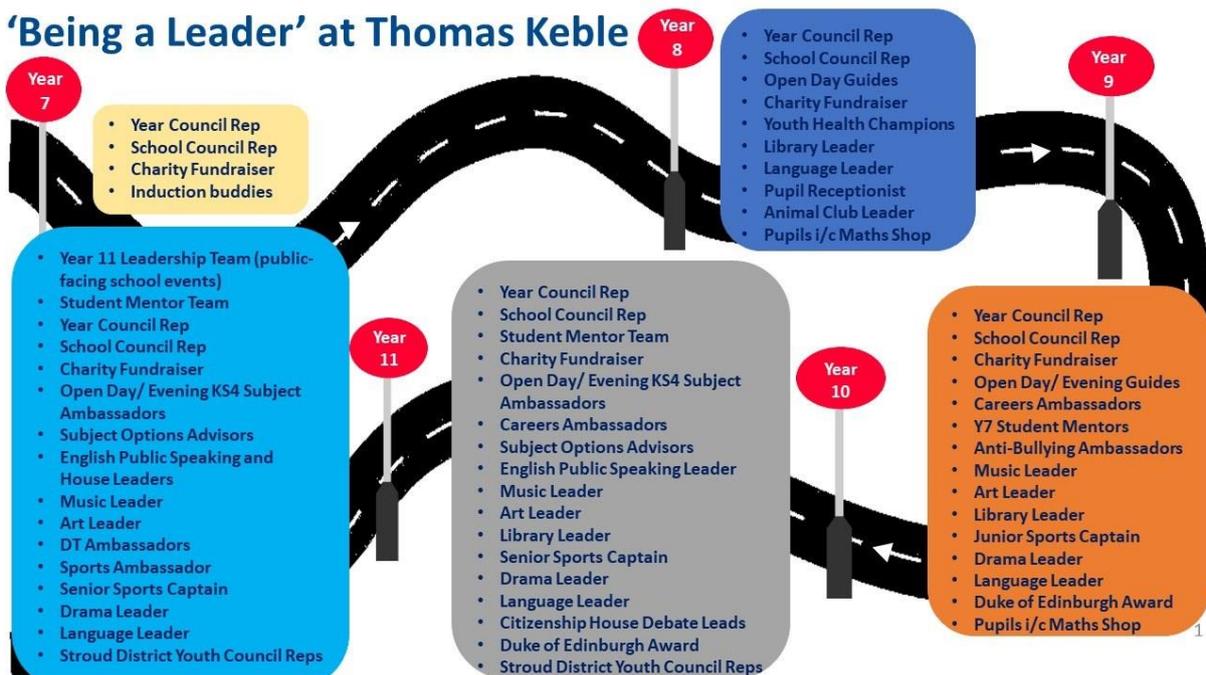






Student Leadership

'Being a Leader' at Thomas Keble



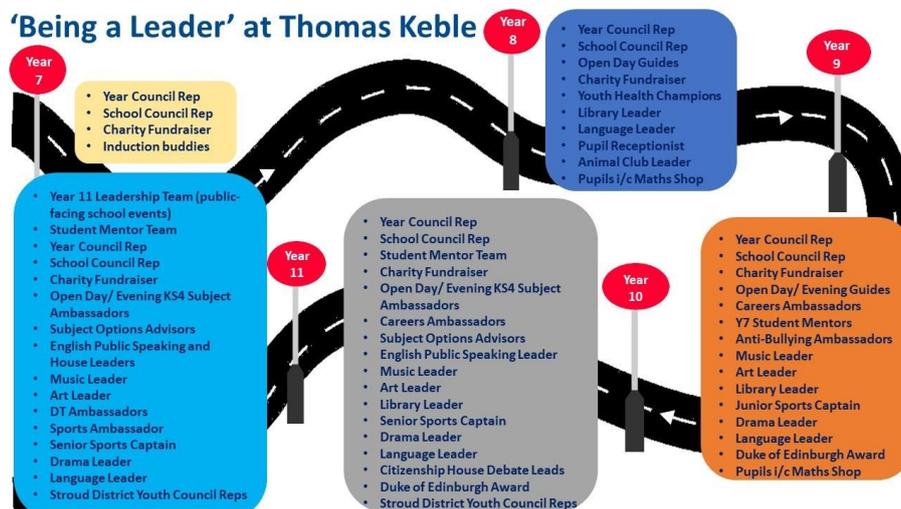
At Thomas Keble, we recognise the importance of **nurturing and developing leadership skills** and qualities in our students. Our provision reflects the belief that student leaders can shine in a wide range of areas of school life, and with differing leadership styles. Our 'Being a Leader Roadmap' showcases the diverse opportunities on offer as our students move through the school from Y7 to Y11.

Our leadership roles reflect the full breadth of our curriculum and extra-curricular offer;

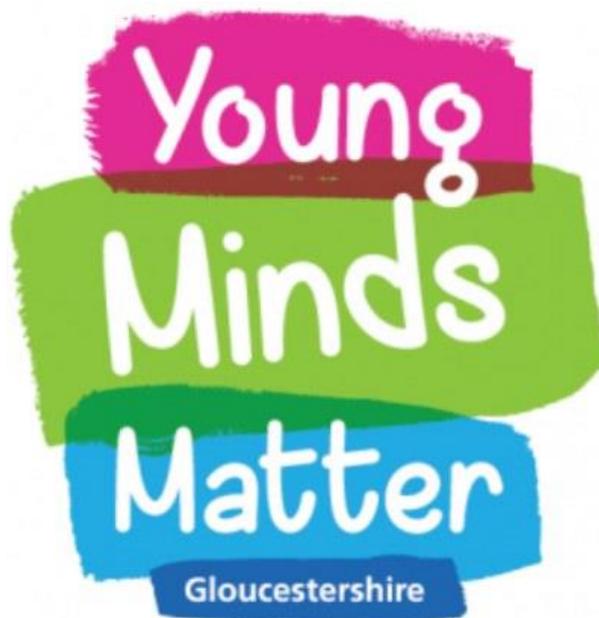
- A wealth of subject leadership opportunities, from ambassadors at School Open Events and GCSE Options Evening, to leaders and captains within Drama, Music, Art, Sport, Maths and more;
- A range of pastoral and wider leadership areas, including Year and School Council representatives, the Y11 Leadership Team, Student Mentor teams across the age-groups;
- Wider-still enrichment areas such as Charity fundraisers, Careers Ambassadors, Library leaders and Animal Club leaders.

In all areas of student leadership, we encourage our students to both have the ambition to seek and grasp opportunities, and to develop the tools to foster their social and inter-personal skills, so that they can represent Thomas Keble School in such a positive manner and also to equip them, with confidence, in moving on to fulfilling futures in life and work.

Mr South (Senior Pastoral Leader i/c Student Leadership)



Trail Blazer Pilot School



We are delighted that our school is taking part in a new, national programme to help make mental health support for children and young people more available when they need it. We will be working with the NHS in Gloucestershire and will access to improved support.

Mental Health Support Teams have been put into over 70 schools across Gloucestershire to tackle these challenges by helping young people to feel more resilient, arming them with techniques to look after themselves and strategies to help them cope better with life's ups and downs. The teams will also support parents and teachers with information and tips about how best to help children and young people who are experiencing difficulties.

The teams are made up of Education Mental Health Practitioners, Primary Mental Health Workers, TiC+ Counsellors and Team Managers. They will travel to each school involved in the programme for meetings with staff to discuss any children and young people they think may benefit from their support. We hope that these teams will provide valuable support to our pupils to help them with life's ups and down - this may involve group work and/or individual, one-to-one support, either at school or elsewhere. Where appropriate, the Mental Health Support Team will also link up with the specialist mental health services in Gloucestershire.

They will also support parents and teachers to help children and young people who are experiencing difficulties.

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to make a referral to the service, please email: studentsupport@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk

<https://www.ticplus.org.uk/>



Are you worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with you online?

Make a report to one of CEOP's Child Protection Advisors

Should I make a report to CEOP? →

If you're worried about online abuse or the way someone has been communicating online, let CEOP know.



What happens when I make a report? →

One of our experienced Child Protection Advisors will be there to make sure you get the help that you need.



How can CEOP help me? →

Online abuse affects many children and young people every day, CEOP has helped thousands of people in need of support.



Aged between 11-19 and live in Gloucestershire?

You can text your school nurse using ChatHealth on 07507 333351 for support and advice on relationships, bullying, healthy lifestyle, anxiety, drugs, smoking, stress, body worries, alcohol, self-harm and sexual health.

[Find out more about the service here](#)



Helping you find your path to better mental health

Find help for your mental health

Try our anonymous online support finder and get a recommendation for the help that's right for you.

[Start the support finder](#)



No appointment needed.

tic+chat is an anonymous, 1-2-1 support service for young people aged 9-21 living in Gloucestershire. Speak to our friendly team about anything that's troubling you. No problem is too big or too small.



How can I get in touch?

Call 0300 303 8080
to chat with one of our team
members over the phone*

OR

Live message chat online
via ticplus.org.uk

*standard provider rates apply

OPEN HOURS:
Sunday - Thursday
5pm - 9pm

Find out more
www.ticplus.org.uk



Counselling, Support and Care for Young People and Families

Charity No. 1045429
Company No. 2954230



**Need
someone to
talk to?**

**You're not
alone. We're
here for you.**





Parent Support Groups

Are you worried about your child's mental health, emotional well-being or behaviour?

Parenting can be hugely rewarding but it can also be really hard work, especially if you think your child is unhappy or you are worried about them.

You are not alone.

Our free Parent Support Groups are for parents of young people aged 11-18 living in Gloucestershire struggling with mental health, emotional wellbeing and behavioural issues.

Groups are weekly for six weeks and last 1.5 hours - daytime and evening groups available.

At various times & locations across Gloucestershire

Groups are also available online via Zoom



TIC+ cares - we're here to help!

To book your place on the next group complete a self-referral form from the TIC+ website at www.ticplus.org.uk or call us on 01594 372 777

PARENT SUPPORT & ADVICE LINE

Are you worried about your child's mental health, emotional wellbeing or behaviour?

Parenting can be hugely rewarding but it can also be really hard work, especially if you think your child is unhappy or you are worried about them.

FREE - CONFIDENTIAL - ANONYMOUS



TIC+ cares - we're here to help!

If your child is 0-25 years old and lives in Gloucestershire, drop-in to our free, anonymous, confidential helpline during open times and talk to one of our trained parent support advisors.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE



PARENT SUPPORT LINE
0800 6525675

OPEN TIMES:

Monday & Wednesday: 5pm - 9pm
Tuesday & Saturday: 9.30am - 1pm



PARENT SUPPORT WEB CHAT
www.ticplus.org.uk/parents-carers

Open times may be subject to change - check our website for up to date information

www.ticplus.org.uk



TIC+ is a mental health charity founded in 1993. Our mission is to improve, preserve and promote good mental health and wellbeing among children, young people and families.
Charity number 2761028



<https://www.onyourmindglos.nhs.uk/> A website for young people aged 12-18 developed specifically to help them cope with life's ups and downs. It includes information on local sources of support for young people about any issues they may be facing, such as anxiety, eating issues and bullying as well as links to useful websites and national helplines.

School Nursing Service <https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/school-nursing/> (Link to their Facebook page can also be promoted – I cannot access this in school as all social media access is banned on our network. **The glosfamilies directory** – this site offers a wide range of information to support families, children and young people. <https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/home.page> <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

Also our safeguarding policy has (should have) our Offer of Early Help attached – link needed.

Ways to get involved

PTA fireworks poster 2022

**SAVE THE
DATE**

Thursday
November 3rd
2022

Thomas Keble School PTA Fireworks Extravaganza

Cash only event - bring your coins!

Gates open @ 6pm

burgers coffee & tea donuts soft drinks
hot dogs hot chocolate crisps chocolate bars

Buy at: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thomas-keble-pta>

Advance family ticket: £15 online (up to 2 adults + 2 children); **£18 on the gate.**

adults: £6 children: £4

Parentkind
Member Association

After two years of very limited fund-raising opportunities due to the pandemic, the PTA was been back in full swing last year. A number of parents help out at events that we hold, but a particular thank you must go to the small band of dedicated parents who make up the core committee that drives the PTA's work for the year. So far this year, around £7,000 has been raised and, with Chalfest still to come, this total will finish even higher. The biggest fund-raiser of the year was the Big Quiz held in May which, as well as raising plenty of money, was a fabulous community event.

The school and the students benefit massively from the work of the PTA, enabling us to make purchases that we would otherwise be unlikely to be able to afford. This year's big ticket item was a new laser-cutter for the DT Department (and we were also grateful for £500 donations from Dyson and Ecotricity). This equipment is used in both the Year 8 and Year 9 Resistant Materials project, meaning every student in the school benefits from its use once or twice, at a minimum. Behind the scenes, mechanical cogs and cams are made by the technician on the laser cutter. At GCSE, all Resistant Materials students are expected to learn about CAD/CAM (computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacture) for their.

Our annual Fireworks event is coming up on November 3rd.

Tickets are available here: [Thomas Keble Fireworks Night at Thomas Keble School event tickets from TicketSource](#)

Become a Trustee

Thomas Keble is an Academy School and the Trustees are the Governors of the Academy Trust and oversee the strategic development of the school, supporting and advising the senior leadership team. They meet six times a year as the Full Trust Board and review all aspects of the school's work, and at least once a term within various committees, according to their particular expertise or interest, to focus on other specific areas.

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in this voluntary role.

Please contact the Headteachers PA Amanda Oxberry in the first instance:
aoxberry@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk

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**Parentkind
Member Association**

Contact Us



We welcome feedback when we are doing things well, but also where we could make things better:

Administration queries: adminemail@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk

Feedback: feedback@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk

Visit us on the web at [Thomas Keble School | 11-16 Comprehensive](https://www.thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk)

Careers Portal: [Careers Portal \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)