



Sixth Sense

Which Week?

This Week: **Tuesday 3rd Jan (Week 2)**

Next Week: **Monday 9th Jan (Week 1)**

Out with the old, in with the new

As 2023 kicks-in, so to does a new timetable for many of you that many reflect subtle changes that you will need to refer to. We will therefore issuing you all with a new timetable (this week is a WEEK 2). **PLEASE CHECK THIS CAREFULLY.**

Just to remind you all that there is a requirement for ALL students to work independently during your DIRECTED STUDY periods in the morning (where you do not have lessons). It is this work that galvanizes exceptional outcomes and great destinations and is time that cannot be gained back at a later point.

For any of you with an outlier day that does not commence until after lunch, please speak to your ACL, Miss Foster or Mr Curran.

Foodbank

Appeal Dec'22

Many thanks once again to the group of Year 13 students who all volunteered for the final few weeks of term in order to help manage the **quarter-of-a-ton** of food and items donated by students, parents and carers to the Kingfisher foodbank, based in Smiths Wood. We were able to deliver this to the food bank on the morning of final day of the previous term and therefore got it to them in time for the Christmas holidays. To those of you who donated to this, I want to thank you for making a difference.



Yr13: UCAS

Deadline

With the departure of Mrs Armitage, both Miss Foster and I will be taking over the coordination of applying to university for September **THIS YEAR!** The next two weeks are all that remain to get this completed on time and if you have 'sat' on this, please ensure that this is a priority to complete. ALL of you have sufficient time to do this during your Directed Study Time.



With celebrations for the new year only a few days ago and no doubt fresh in all of your memories, once again, talk turns to reflections upon the year that has just past 'next steps' to make this an even more prosperous one!

Only **YOU** can answer this question, however there is little doubt that Year 12 and Year 13 are years that are worthy of setting a goal to strive towards with the beauty being that **YOU** control the outcome to an extent through the application of you own attendance, efforts and energy.

Of course, we are not unique celebrating the New Year; research indicates that the earliest recorded festivities looking to welcome the arrival of a new year dates back over 4,000 years, to the ancient Babylon. Unlike the calendar that we use, the Babylonians saw a 'New Year' starting in March, where the first new moon appeared (known as the vernal equinox) where there was an equal amount of sunlight and darkness as the days then shifted towards greater light. This time was marked by a festival called Akitu (a word similar to that of barley, in their language, which was cut in the spring) and unlike our one-off event, theirs spanned 11 days, with a different ritual taking place each day that celebrated their belief that the sky god Marduk had defeated the evil sea goddess Tiamat in order for the light to win over.



Our series of information from National Online Safety, continues on this week regarding being 'green' in your approach to technology. Many of you may have received newer devices over the festive period and therefore, the information and suggestions contained may provide some food for thought in what to do with your outgoing device that will otherwise be confined to a dusty corner of a drawer or to gifting to a younger sibling (for those amazing brothers and sisters out there!).

For any feedback, please email: (Yr12) Mr Curran: ccurran@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk, (Yr13) Miss Foster: jfoster@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk;

(Learning Mentor) Ms Akhtar: norakhtar@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk, Mr Bowers: jbowers@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk (Director of Sixth Form)

10 tips for parents and carers

HOW TO BE GREEN WITH YOUR TECH

Right now, humans aren't living sustainably: we're taking too many resources and not leaving the world in a fit state for future generations. Old tech products are a clear example: if we throw them away, the poisonous lead and mercury inside can get into the food chain through the soil. Recycling tech, though, has its own issues: it's often exported to countries where the law doesn't protect people from hazards. Whole villages (including children) sort through discarded devices to remove useful parts and substances like gold, silver and copper – often putting their health at risk. Finding ways to re-use tech is the greenest option.

So what can we do with those cupboards and drawers full of old phones and unwanted computers?

Reuse, recycle, donate or sell them!

1 DONATE THEM TO CHARITY

There are lots of charities that redistribute unwanted tech to worthy causes, either in the UK or in developing nations. If your old products are still working, this is a great option – as it means that new products don't have to be made. Search online for your nearest place that does this.

2 REMEMBER THE BATTERIES

Almost all batteries can be recycled – even the little 'button' ones from smaller gadgets. You could choose a box at home or school to keep used batteries in, and then take them to a designated place that collects them. Be very careful, though – button cells can be deadly if eaten by small children or pets.

3 USE YOUR ONLINE SAFETY KNOWLEDGE

If you're recycling, selling or repurposing any of your devices, make sure that all your personal data, private photos and so on have been deleted before the tech leaves your hands or is connected online.

4 REUSE THEM

Old smartphones can be used as webcams, security cameras, baby monitors or pet cams: there are apps that will configure them to do this. You can also turn an outdated phone into a TV remote control, an alarm clock that wakes you up with your favourite track, or a media centre you can take to places where you wouldn't risk your new phone.

5 TURN IT INTO SOMETHING NEW

Smartphones are more powerful than most older computers. If you have an unwanted android phone, it's quite easy to create a new computer – you could use an old TV as a monitor, meaning you just need a mouse and keyboard. There are also small devices you can buy which let you do the same with iPhones.

6 RETURN THEM

Return devices to the manufacturer or retailer you bought them from. Some manufacturers take responsibility for their products and accept them back, to refurbish and redistribute. If they don't, you could contact them and ask why: the more consumer pressure there is on shops and manufacturers, the more likely they are to act in a greener way.

7 SUPPORT SCIENCE

Let your old devices help modern research. Scientists currently investigating topics like far-off star systems, cancer treatment and earthquakes need enormous computing power. If your unwanted device is WiFi enabled, for example, you can connect it to a network so that it can boost scientists' research.

8 SELL THEM

This is also a green option as it means that fewer devices have to be produced. On top of that, you could also donate some of the money you make to an environmental charity.

9 RESEARCH DISPOSAL METHODS

If your device is beyond repair and no one wants it, get rid of it safely through a specialist tech disposal company. Check that your device won't be shipped off to another country for processing.

10 KEEP THINKING

There's no such thing as 'too many' ways to help our planet! If you come up with a better idea than ours, contact National Online Safety and tell us.

Meet Our Expert

Neil Atkin teaches scientific literacy through his non-profit organisation, Rubbish Science, which engages people in working together to live more sustainably and creatively uses waste to help address real-life problems. There are a range of environmental activities you may like to try on their website: www.rubbishscience.com.



USEFUL LINKS: Places to donate old electrical items: www.recycleyourstuff.org.uk/donate-electrical-goods | How to turn an old smartphone into a computer: www.makeuseof.com/tag/turn-smartphone-into-pc
The rules about shop responsibilities on tech: www.gov.uk/electrical-waste-producer-supplier-responsibilities | Two scientific research schemes which old devices can support: www.zooniverse.org/get-involved and www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/zoomlab | Find your local tech recycling centre: www.recycleyourstuff.org

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