

A message from our Principal, Mrs Postlethwaite...

As we come to the end of term and approach Christmas, it feels right to pause and reflect on the Christmas story and what it continues to teach us as a school community.

At its heart, the Christmas story is about hope, humility and love. It reminds us that great change often begins quietly and that kindness, compassion and care for others truly matter. It speaks of belonging, of welcoming others in, and of choosing light and hope even in challenging times. These are values we strive to live out every day in our school through the way we treat one another, the way we support our young people and the way we work together as a community.

This term, and indeed this year, I have been incredibly proud of the progress we have made together. There has been a clear sense of shared purpose, growing confidence and a real commitment from staff, students and families to keep moving forward. None of this happens by chance. It happens because people care deeply about our school and about one another.

As we head into the Christmas break, I would like to thank our staff for their dedication and professionalism, our students for their effort and perseverance, and our families for their continued support and partnership. It has made a real difference to our school.

I wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas, filled with rest, warmth and time with those who matter most. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, refreshed and ready for the next chapter together.

- 5th January- All students return to school
- 5th January- Y12/13 external exams start.
- 16th January- Y10 Mock results.
- 26th January- Y11 Mocks start.
- 29th January- Y9 Progress Evening.
- 10th February- Y10 Science Live event.
- 12th February- Y9 Options evening.
- 16th February- Half Term (School closed)



A message from...



Our Chaplain

As we come to the end of 2025, you may be thinking back on a great year, or a year full of challenges. Either way, I hope that we are able to reflect with gratitude on the moments of fun, laughter and joy, of awe and wonder and the moments where we were able to persevere and overcome challenges.

Let's face 2026 with courage and care and make it a wonderful year!



Last week our Student Chaplaincy Team led collective worship using fun games to explore the question:
What is Christmas all about?

So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).

A message from...

Iain Baker

Vicar at St Thomas Church and St Martin's Church.



Christmas is for the kids – that's what everyone says. And it's true isn't it? The kids love writing letters to Santa. They love waiting for him come with his sleigh. They love Rudolph with his red nose so bright. They love the presents and the toys. They love the myth and the mystery, the magic and the make believe. Christmas gives them that in bucket loads.

Perhaps we have grown out of all that. Many of us love Christmas – but we who believes the fairy stories any more?

The trouble is, the heart of Christmas isn't a fairy story. It's as far from a fairy tale as could be. The real events of the first Christmas were carefully investigated and carefully written down. A man called Luke, a doctor, looked into what had happened – he wrote "I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning"

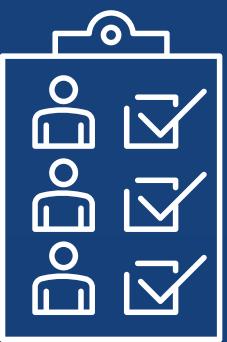
There really was a baby who was born, laid in a manger, in Bethlehem, 2000 years ago. There really were angels who announced that God had been born as a child – and had come to rescue people.

If that's a fairy story, then Christmas is as pointless as a pantomime, and nowhere near as funny. If Christmas is myth, then get back to the tinsel and the presents and the turkey, and snooze through as much of it as you can!

But if Luke is right – that God came to earth to rescue us, then he's worth a second glance isn't he? If Jesus really did come from God, he's worth listening to isn't he? Then why not find a Bible and read the rest of what Luke wrote down? Or why not come to one of our Christmas services to find out more?

Check us out at www.stthomaskidsgrove.co.uk and www.stmartinstalke.co.uk .

The true story of Christmas, and the true story of Jesus, might just make this Christmas the most exciting of your life!



Attendance



Spotlight on The Attendance Team

Mr Worthington
Assistant Principal & Attendance Champion



Mrs Beswick-Pepper
Attendance & Welfare Officer



Mrs Thorne
Home School Link Worker





Attendance

Get ready for...



Be in all 20 days in January to 'jump' through those attendance bands!

Support your Form in our weekly challenges!

Be in everyday for a 20 day reward!!

Make everyday
count!



Behaviour

At the end of a long Autumn term we have an amazing...

444
Students

With no Negative Points! An outstanding achievement showing that our students really do live out our values of Aspire, Belong and Care!

Across this term students have achieved...

208,220
POSITIVE POINTS

Our top forms!

Our top students!



8

Shelby-Jo B-W



8

Sophia B



8

Aleah D



Jonah W



8

Joseph W



Maisie P

Megan B



SEND

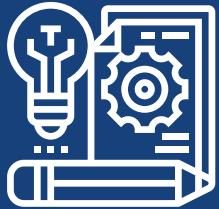


What a fantastic half term it has been in the SEND department. I have been at the Academy now for just over 7 weeks and it has been a pleasure to get to know so many students and meet with parents during this time. There will be lots of further opportunities next year to meet the SEND team with coffee mornings and afternoons planned. Dates will be shared soon and we hope that you will be able to join us for these. A reminder that if you would like to arrange a call or a meeting regarding any concerns that you have about your child please use the following email: enquiries@thekingscofeacademy.org and we will be in touch. I would like to wish you all an amazing Christmas and a Happy New Year!

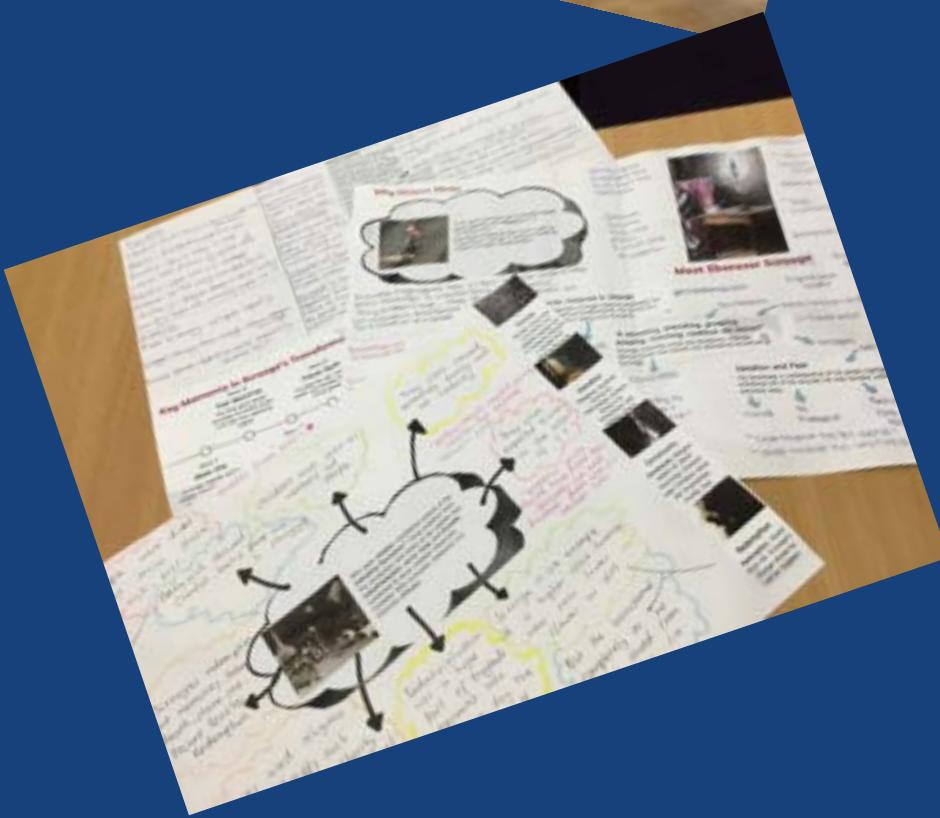


You can visit your local SEND Support Team at community hubs across Staffordshire. They are able to guide your family towards the right support and listen to any questions that you may have. Our nearest hub is Maryhill Family Hub, Gloucester Road, ST7 4DJ. They will be there there on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month.

Staffordshire Connects provides information, support and services for children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). You can find useful information at this link: [staffordshire connects](#)



Teaching & Learning



Students in Years 8 and 9 have been working hard to strengthen their teamwork skills in PE. They've been focusing on clear communication, active listening, and showing respect for one another.

In English, students have been exploring different ways to create their own revision materials. This helps them reflect on how they learn most effectively and identify the key knowledge that will support their developing skills and understanding.



Curriculum

Healthy people don't need a doctor...

Matthew 9: 14-17

Matthew 9: 14-17

What is the connection?

Who was Jesus?

Who was Jesus?

What was society like during Jesus' life?

Watch Me Learn

This week, Year 7 invited parents to join them in their Religion, Philosophy, Ethics, and Debate lessons to witness learning in action. Families participated alongside students as they delved into the societal context during Jesus's life, engaging in meaningful discussions and exchanging ideas. Our guests were highly impressed, giving the session a perfect five-star rating. Parents remarked that "the teacher set clear expectations, the atmosphere was uplifting, and numerous ideas were shared and discussed." Parents expressed their eagerness to return!



Safeguarding

Over the past couple of weeks in our Thursday lunchtime Craft Club, students have been busy creating Christmas cards and completing festive mindfulness activities.

Craft Club will return in the New Year for all year groups. Thank you to all the students who have taken part this term — your creativity and enthusiasm has been wonderful!



HEALTH FOR TEENS

We'd like to share a useful website called Health for Teens, supported by our NHS School Nurse Team. It offers clear, age-appropriate advice on personal hygiene, body odour, and a wide range of other health and wellbeing topics.

<https://www.healthforteens.co.uk>

A reminder to parents that the HAF programme is running over the Christmas break and still has places available for children to attend. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to get involved in fun activities throughout the festive period.



Christian Distinctiveness

Advent Worship Led by Our Student Chaplaincy Team

This week our Student Chaplaincy Team have been leading Advent worship across school. They have guided students and staff in reflecting on themes of hope, peace, joy, and love as we prepare for Christmas.



"He has lifted up the humble."

PAUSE & REFLECT

- Where do I see unfairness – in school, in our community, or in the news?
- What is **one small way** I could use my gifts to help someone who has less power or opportunity than me?

Something to consider

Joy in Each Other's Gifts

- Write down one thing you're good at.
- Write down one thing someone else in this room is good at (no names needed).

One thing I am good at is...
One thing someone else is good at is...

As part of our Advent journey, students across the school have been reflecting in form time on the theme Thankful for Our Gifts, inspired by Luke 1:39–56 where Mary visits Elizabeth and responds with her song of praise. Students shared the gifts—skills, friendships, opportunities—they are grateful for, and considered how they can use these to support.

Enrichment



End of Term Round up

It has been a busy and successful term of school sport, and we are extremely proud of all students who have represented the school.

Our Year 11 boys' football team competed in a number of fixtures, showing commitment, teamwork and leadership throughout. The Year 11 netball team also took part in a competitive tournament, demonstrating great determination and positivity.

We were delighted to see the start of the Year 9 boys' football fixtures, with students embracing competitive sport and representing the school with enthusiasm and pride.

A highlight of the term was competing in the Year 7 and Year 8 Girls' and Boys' Futsal tournaments at Keele University. Our students were outstanding ambassadors, displaying excellent behaviour, effort and sportsmanship throughout.

Well done to all students involved for representing the school so positively.



Still to come...



Students are encouraged to attend practices and get involved in the following upcoming events over the next half term:



Year 9 Boys' Football Fixtures

Year 10 & 11 Girls' Football

Year 7 Netball Tournament

Year 8 Boys' Football Fixtures



We look forward to another exciting term of sport and seeing even more students take part.



Home-School Links

The holidays are upon us, and it's a great time to catch up and spend quality time with family, loved ones and friends

There are so many activities to do together to make magical memories

Make Christmas cards



Gingerbread houses



Christmas craft



Baking



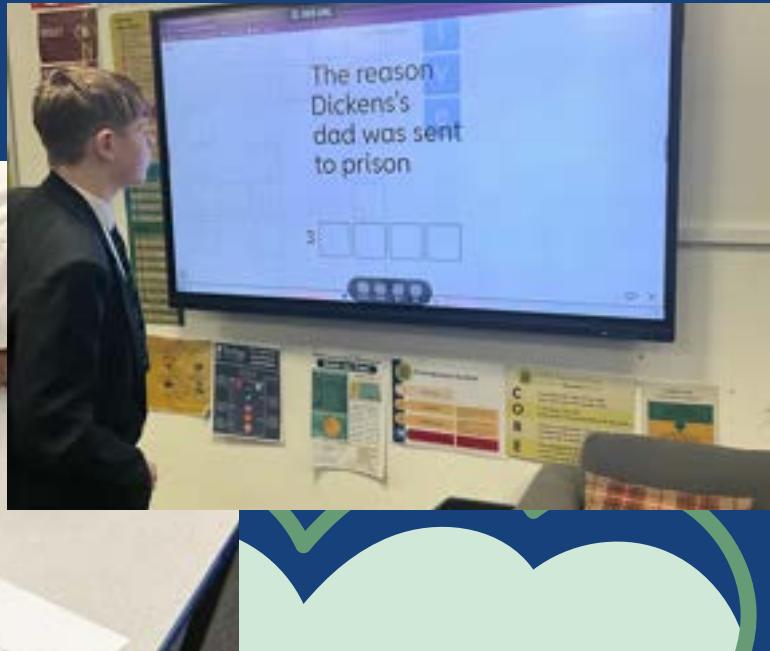
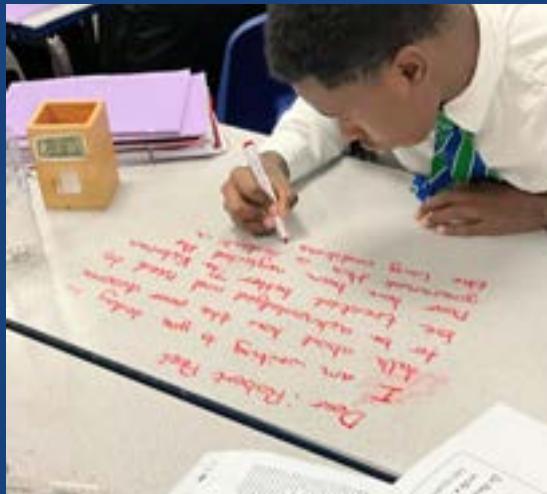
Mindfulness colouring



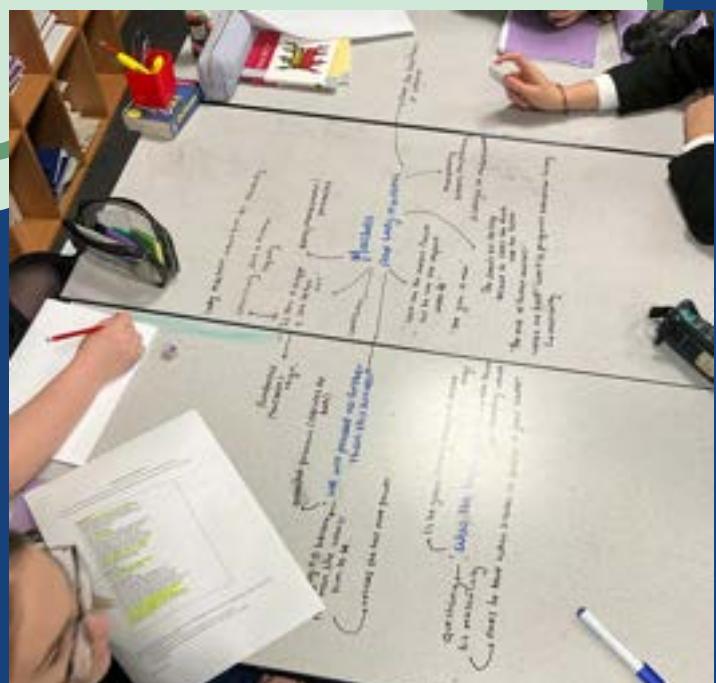
Take a walk to look at the Christmas lights



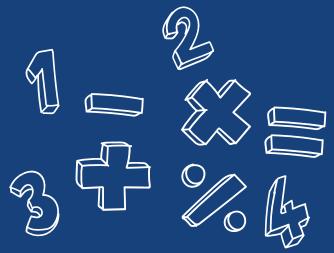
English



On Tuesday 6th December the English and Languages Hub held our first 'Oracy Opportunity Day' where students demonstrated both speaking and listening skills to articulate key skills and knowledge from KS3 and KS4 as we prepare our students for the wider world.



Maths



Keep The Cash visited our school to teach students in year 9 and 10 valuable lifelong skills related to finance and employment.

Throughout the day, students were introduced to key financial concepts—such as debt, cash flow, credit, interest, and taxation—in an engaging and enjoyable way. They also learned practical strategies for managing these areas effectively.

In addition, all students had the opportunity to write a CV and take part in a mock interview to help prepare them for future employment.



Science

Year 8 went to the world famous Jodrell Bank to explore the deep space signals that they are learning about, specifically pulsar stars. They also got to understand to how the universe started and how we are all 'star dust'!

Curriculum content

Year 7 have been learning about their bodies- looking at joints, bones and what they protect inside of us!

This term KS3 have been exploring forces, pressure and even designing the perfect parachute!



Year 7 were treated to a presentation on the uses of AI from BA systems! The session was interactive- learning some uses of AI including making a song and putting a video to the lyrics as well as meeting a robot dog, which did tricks! They also explored the dangers of AI and how to spot deep fakes!



| <u>KS4 Science Study Support Sessions</u> | | |
|---|------------------------------|------|
| KS4 Drop-in - come with a question! | Monday Lunchtimes | 3.11 |
| KS4 Higher tier Masterclass | Monday After school (3.15-4) | 3.11 |
| KS4 Foundation tier Masterclass | Thursday Lunchtime | 3.8 |



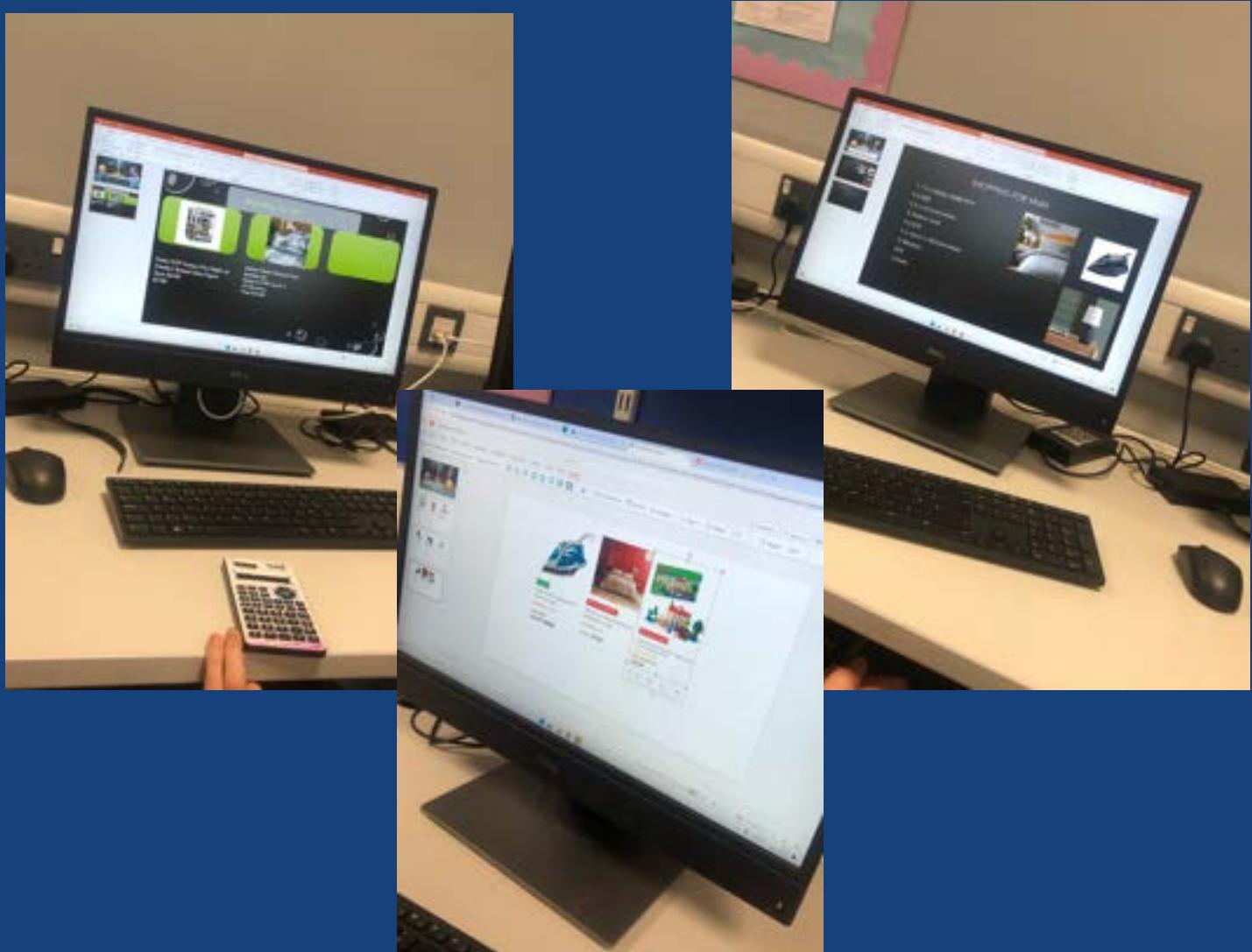
Computer Science

Keystage 3 students have been combining their ICT and Maths skills to take on the winter shopping challenge.

They had to spend exactly £70 on three gifts for each person.

They were only allowed to access the Argos website and create this in a presentation format.

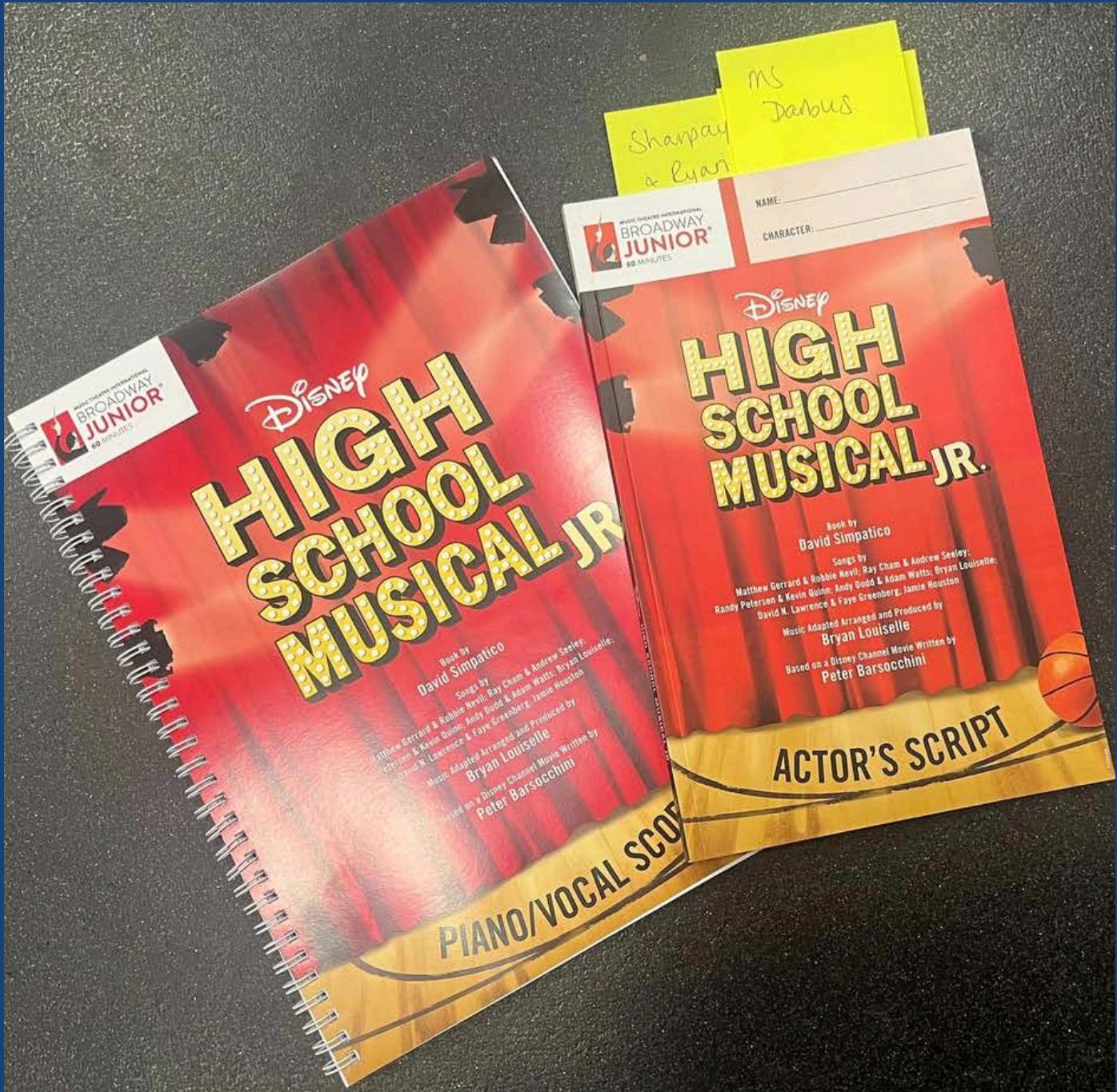
A lovely end to the term and all students have worked really hard this half term. Well done from Mr Aslam and Mrs Kirk!



Miss Richardson



Performing Arts



This years school show is **High School Musical**.

Students will need to collect a script from Miss Richardson in the Drama Studio before finishing for christmas.

Auditions will be the first week back after half term on 8th January.

Singing auditions will be on 15th January.

I look forward to seeing you all there!



Wellbeing Hub

It has been a very busy and productive half term in The Wellbeing Hub, with a wide range of activities taking place across curriculum and enrichment.

Alongside a full programme of football, netball and futsal fixtures, we have also been busy behind the scenes with Year 10 BTEC Sport moderation, ensuring high standards and quality assurance across our courses. Our Sixth Form BTEC Sport students have shown excellent leadership by organising and delivering sports events, gaining valuable experience in planning, communication and teamwork.



Within curriculum lessons, KS3 students have been developing their understanding of health-related exercise, learning about the components of fitness such as cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and speed. Students have also explored different fitness tests, developing their ability to measure performance, interpret results and understand how fitness links to health and sporting performance.

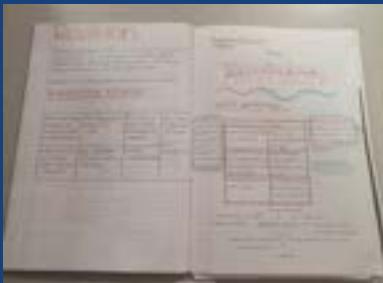
In Key Stage 4, Year 10 and Year 11 students have been focusing on invasion games and problem-solving activities, developing tactical awareness, teamwork, communication and decision-making skills in competitive situations.



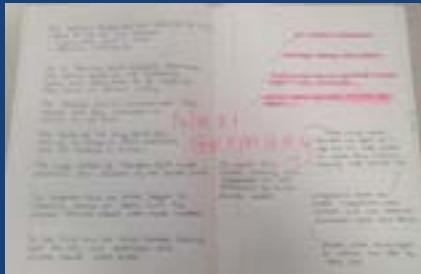
Humanities

Year 10 have been working incredibly hard this week as they prepare for their mock exams. Across Geography, History and RPED, students have shown excellent organisation in their revision, using dual coding, clear notes and digital platforms such as ChatBots, Seneca Learning and GCSEPod.

We are proud to share some fantastic examples of their work, which highlight their focus, independence and commitment. Well done, keep it up!



YEAR 10 REVISION



ENR Slip: Natural Disaster Reflection

Name: Will Ward Date: 10/01/15
Class: 9E Subject: Geography

Religious Education (RE)
What would you expect people to say about the choices you made in the game?
① They can't afford to settle? Would different beliefs lead to different actions?
② They can't afford to settle? Would different beliefs lead to different actions?
③ They can't afford to settle? Would different beliefs lead to different actions?
④ They can't afford to settle? Would different beliefs lead to different actions?

History
How do you think people in the past explained or responded to disasters differently from today?
① They had blame religion, punishment, or how they recovered.
② They had blame religion, punishment, or how they recovered.
③ They had blame religion, punishment, or how they recovered.
④ They had blame religion, punishment, or how they recovered.

Geography
How might some people choose to stay in dangerous places, even after a disaster?
① Think about land, culture, sacred spaces, or family history.
② Think about land, culture, sacred spaces, or family history.
③ Think about land, culture, sacred spaces, or family history.
④ Think about land, culture, sacred spaces, or family history.

Optional: Circle one word that describes how this activity made you feel:
① Inspired ② Curious ③ Confused ④ Surprised ⑤ Thoughtful ⑥ Impatient



DISASTER game



Year 9 have been exploring global disaster responses through the Christian Aid Disaster Game, making cross-Humanities links by considering how faith shapes people's actions, the natural causes of disasters and how responses today differ from the past. Students considered how their own decisions during the game influenced the outcome and were thoughtful throughout.



Creative Arts



Year 10 have been developing their pencil tonal shading skills this half term. To create challenge, they had to create their own still life set up using paper, string and pegs. From this task they have been taught how to look for the light source and apply various pencil grades to achieve a wide variety of tones.

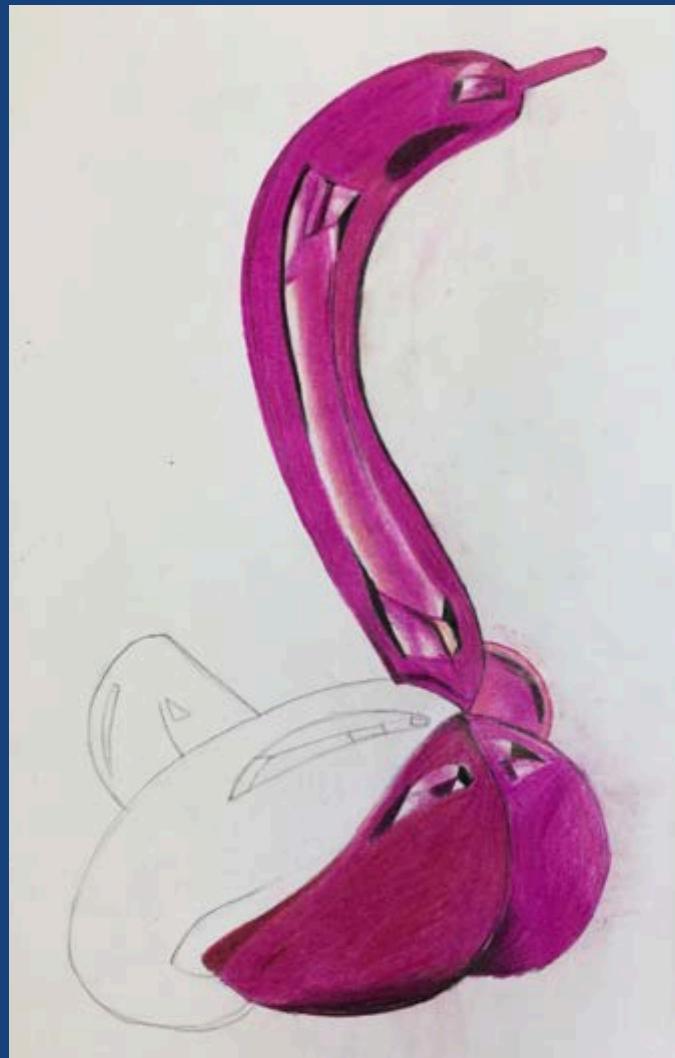
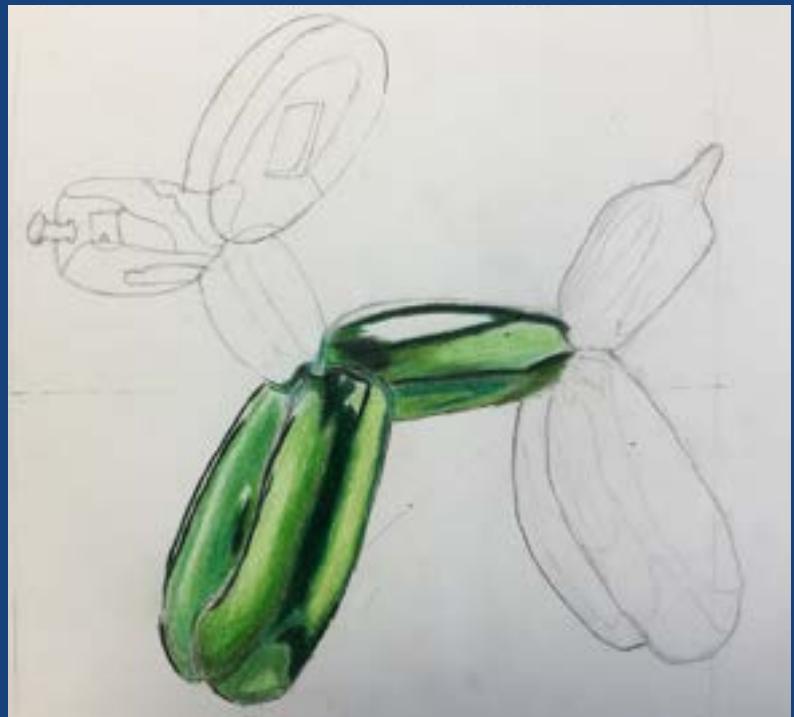


Our annual Christmas card competition was held recently for all Year 7 students to design a card with a Christian theme. All of the entries submitted were outstanding and made it very difficult for Mrs Boon to choose a winner but a huge congratulations to Evie C for her design. This will now be printed and sent out to all our local stakeholders!



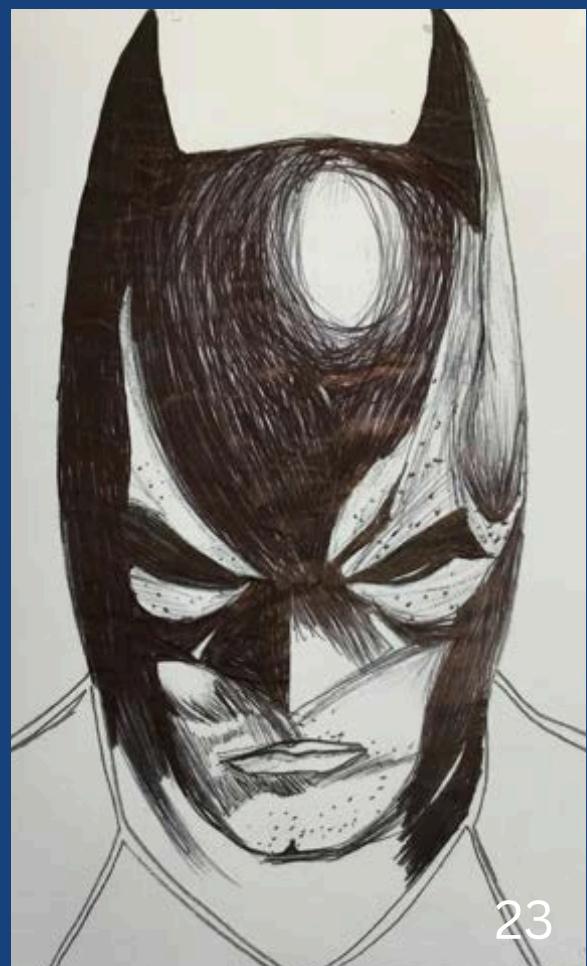
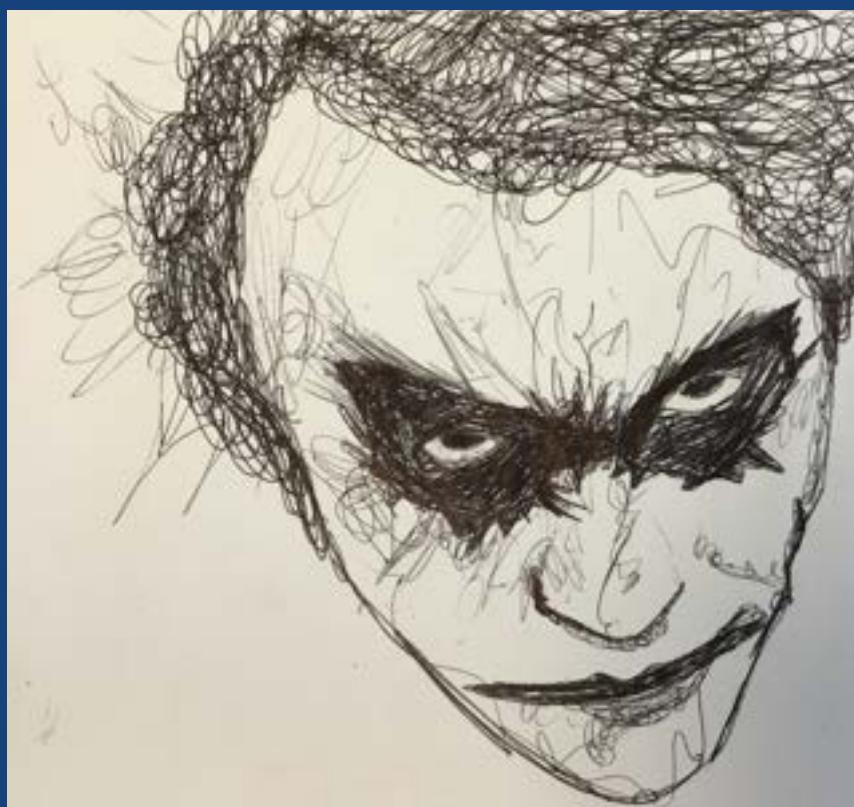
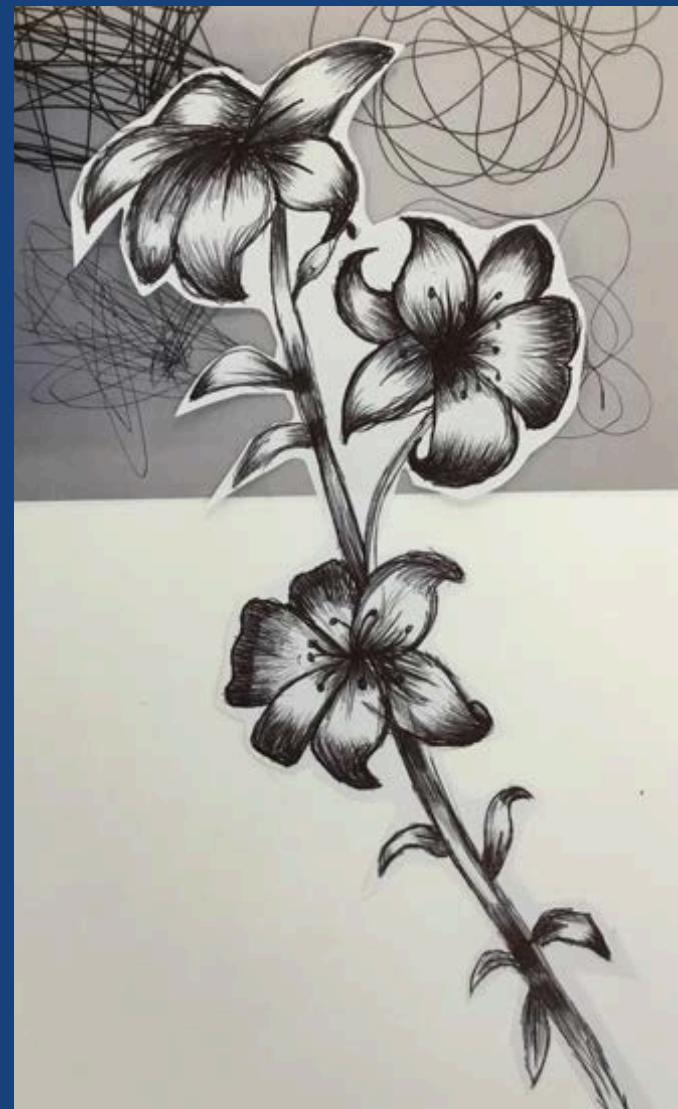
Year 9

This term we have seen some outstanding art from our students where they have explored how to use mixed media in the style of Ian Murphy and developed pencil crayon shading skills to show shiny, reflective surfaces.



Year 8

This half term, pupils have been taught how to shade with a ball point pen and develop techniques such as scribbling and gradient shading.

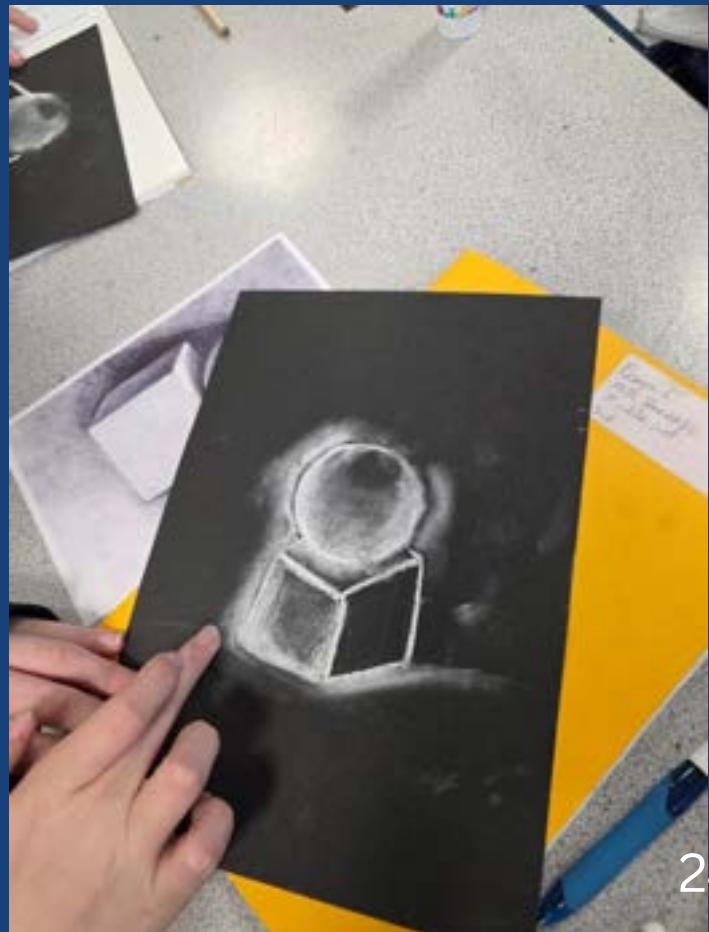




Watch Me Learn



Parents and carers were invited into the Art Department during December to watch their children learn in a typical art lesson. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with comments indicating excellent teaching and high engagement from every class that was visited - well done Year 7!



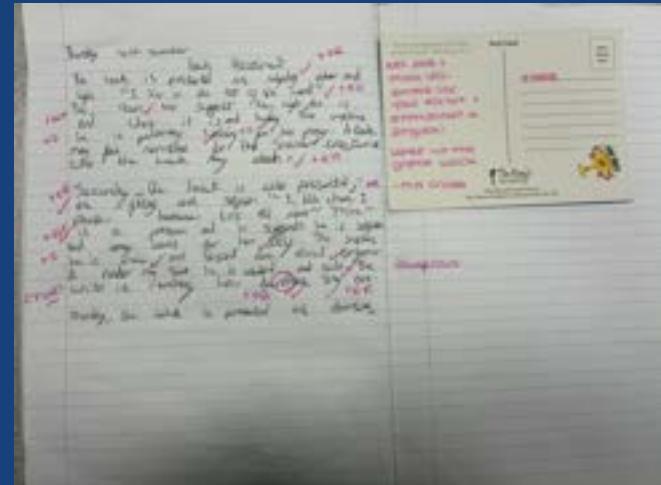


Year 7

What an incredible term Year 7 have had! It has been fabulous to see their hard work and dedication to being the best they can be!

Congratulations to Cana-7 for having perfect uniform 99.3% of the half term!

Congratulations to Nazareth-7 and Galilee-7 for having perfect equipment 99.1% of the half term!



special shout out to Jacob M, Jake C and Reuben S who have covered MILES of Kidsgrove over the last few weeks raising money and spreading Christmas cheer with the Scouts and Rotary Club - well done!

special shout out to Emmie E-H for her incredible analysis she has completed in English this half term - well done!



Year 8

Team Y8 have enjoyed another wonderful half term, with so much to celebrate.

We have seen all Y8 forms consistently in the top 10 forms every week this half term – absolutely amazing!

Alongside this, our attendance figures have been fantastic and so many Y8 students were invited to the rewards breakfast this half term- well done!



Shout out to Alfie G and Ollie H, and Nazareth 8, who worked hard during form time to mark Human Rights Day, showing excellent engagement and thoughtful contributions.



Well done to Owen R for producing a wonderful drawing – a fantastic piece of work that really stood out.



A huge well done to the Y8 students who worked with the Chaplaincy team to deliver worship and to those who have recently signed up for the Cadets taster session.

special shout-out to Maisie P for taking part in a Rotary charity run. Maisie gave up her personal time to walk miles in support of the event, helping to raise money for a great cause. She showed real maturity and organisation, supporting and encouraging younger children throughout and truly going above and beyond in her actions. We are incredibly proud of her – well done, Maisie!





Year 9

Over 90 students have made it onto the rewards event this term, this is the most in the entire school. Well done year 9. Lets make it over a 100 next term and have lots of us off to the Trafford centre.

Students enjoyed a festive game in worship this week. engaging positively and supporting each other



Student shout out

Well done on your amazing help at the Christmas fair

Viktor B.

Harry-jay J.

Jack L and Max P.

The Rock in Red One: "Every day we have a choice about who we want to be. Every decision, big or small, is an opportunity to do good and to leave the world a better place."

NOTE – Please can we make sure Jewellery is removed in January as it will be placed in reception if students bring it into school.

Year 10



We are ending our first term on an absolute high in year 10! What an amazing start to the year. Trips, achievements, improved attendance, so many new names invited to the rewards event and improved attitude to learning all round!

There are so many students in our school who deserve recognition for living out our values, but this week our special shout-out goes to Scarlett. During a challenging time at home, Scarlett has taken on additional responsibilities — cooking, cleaning, washing, and providing thoughtful support to her mum — clearly demonstrating our school value of Care. Despite this, she has continued to meet all school expectations, keeping up with homework deadlines and maintaining a positive, determined attitude to learning. Her compassion, resilience, and maturity make her a truly deserving role model within our school community.





Year 11

A massive congratulations to our top 20 this half term.

These pupils have earned the most positive points this half term.

Benjamin W

Felicity K

Aimee M

Daisy-Mae M

Megan W

Lily A

Bethan S

Isabelle D

Dembo G

Zane H

Peter M

Aleesha D

Amelia P

Sophia W

Madison T

Dru LJ

Nsikayethu N

Blake A

Milly E

Jack B



Your mock exams will begin on 26th January. There has been a consistent message about the importance of doing a little revision often.

As we approach the holidays, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas. Please remember to make time for things you enjoy alongside your revision.

Mrs Finnemore

Sixth Form



This week, students from our Year 12 Engineering cohort attended two days of sessions with My Bank. These sessions are designed around financial literacy, including banking, mortgages, debts, savings, money planning, and more. Students will receive an official qualification following these two days, and the rest of our Year 12 cohort will take part in these sessions in the new year.

Our students were polite, engaged, and hardworking, and we are so proud of them. A big thank you to Rebecca Barlow and My Bank for supporting these sessions. Financial literacy is incredibly important for our generation, and these sessions provide meaningful learning opportunities.

A special thanks also goes to our ex-student Harrison Mountain, who attended these lessons as a trainee session deliverer. It was wonderful to see how far you've come and how much you are flourishing.



Mrs Finnemore

Sixth Form



The first term of this academic year is now complete, and what a term it has been! Students have really settled into life here at The King's Academy Sixth Form, and we are so proud to see them flourish.



We have seen students taking on leadership roles, aspiring to improve attendance, attending a Trust initiative event, volunteering in the community, participating in sports, attending rewards trips, and so much more. It is truly a pleasure to see our young people aspire to be the best they can, belong to our school community, and care for each other and the wider school community.

We are incredibly proud of the start they have made to this academic year and can't wait to see all that this year holds for them. We wish our students and their families a peaceful, safe, and Merry Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you all back in the new year.

Best Wishes

Mrs Finnemore and the Sixth Form Team

Sixth Form



This term, our Hospitality and Catering students have worked incredibly hard running the bistro throughout the Christmas service. From cooking and serving to managing the day-to-day operations, students have shown outstanding commitment, working late nights and early mornings with professionalism and enthusiasm.

The feedback has been fantastic — customers praised the great food, polite and hardworking students, and the overall fabulous experience. As well as delivering an excellent service, students have gained valuable skills and qualifications that will support their future careers.



Our Sixth Form students enjoyed a fantastic rewards trip to Liverpool this term. They had the opportunity to explore the city's rich culture, visit famous landmarks, and experience the vibrant Christmas markets. The trip was a chance for students to relax, have fun, and celebrate their hard work throughout the term. Their behaviour was impeccable throughout, making it a proud and truly wonderful experience for everyone involved. It was a memorable day full of laughter, learning, and festive cheer — a fitting reward for our students' dedication and achievements.



Goodbye Carol!!



This week we celebrated a very special occasion, not just Christmas, but the 31st Christmas dinner that our wonderful Catering Assistant, Carol, helped prepare for us here at The King's. And poignantly, it was also her last as she retires after decades of service.

Carol had been the heart and soul of our school's kitchens, serving generations of students and staff with tireless hard work, compassion, and dedication.

Over the years, Carol shared not just food, but joy, laughter, and kindness. From the countless school dinners to the everyday moments in the kitchen, her presence was a source of comfort and cheer. Many of us carried memories of her thoughtful gestures, her quick wit, and her unwavering commitment to making everyone feel welcome.

She was missed by staff and students alike for all she was, all she did, and all she had been. While we were incredibly sad to see her go, we were equally grateful for all she had given to this school community. Carol leaves behind a legacy of care, warmth, and excellence that will be remembered long after her final Christmas dinner.

We wished her all the happiness, rest, and adventure that retirement can bring. Thank you, Carol, for everything.



Officially
Retired
Congrats!



Christmas Music Concert

On Thursday evening, we welcomed families, students and staff alike into the academy for our Christmas Music Concert. It was a truly beautiful and festive evening, and we are incredibly proud of all the students who took part. Performing on stage in front of a large audience is no easy task, especially with limited rehearsal time, yet every student rose to the occasion and did us all proud. Their confidence, commitment and talent shone throughout the evening. A real credit to themselves and to the academy, the performances created a wonderful atmosphere and perfectly captured the spirit of the season.



Christmas Festivities



On Wednesday, we celebrated a wonderful Christmas Jumper Day, with students invited to wear their most festive Christmas jumpers and bring in an item for the foodbank to support our local charity. At this special time of year, when kindness and generosity mean so much, our students showed incredible thoughtfulness and compassion. We were extremely proud of the way they embraced one of our core school values of care, reminding us all how small acts of kindness can have a meaningful impact within our wider community.

The celebrations continued with Christmas Dinner Day, creating a truly joyful atmosphere across the academy. Staff and students came together to share a festive meal, filling the day with smiles, laughter and a strong sense of togetherness. The sights, sounds and celebrations throughout the academy beautifully reflected the spirit of Christmas, making it a memorable day that highlighted the importance of community, kindness and shared experiences.



Promposal of the Year!



To round off an already incredible day, our Christmas Dinner celebrations were made even more special with a truly magical moment. Jack B (Year 11) went above and beyond with a perfectly planned prom proposal, unveiling a sign he had created himself and asking her to prom in front of the entire room. To the delight of everyone present, Megan said yes!

The moment was met with cheers, excitement and plenty of festive joy, creating a memory we're sure neither Jack nor Megan will ever forget. We can't wait to see them dancing the night away at Prom!

Well done, Jack—you've certainly set the bar high. We're looking forward to seeing what other prom proposals might be in store!



End of Term Rewards

Breakfast



On Thursday, we celebrated the top 20 students in each year group for achieving positive points. It was wonderful to recognise them for upholding our values: striving to be the best you can be, belonging to our community, and caring for one another and others. It was lovely to see the students enjoying their rewards and sharing breakfast together. A lovely end to the term, celebrating students who have worked hard and enjoyed the rewards of their efforts.

Puppy Power!



Our school dog Chester has passed his first step towards becoming a certified therapy dog! Chester has just completed his Kennel Club Good Citizen Puppy Award and came first in his class! In January the next phase in Chester's journey begins, with his assessment booked in with The Dog Mentor to check his temperament and suitability for school based small group work. Students and staff have loved seeing Chester in school this term during his socialisation period. At 7 months old, visitors and students comment about his calm manner and how wonderful he is in school. We can't wait to take this training to the next level!