

A message from our Principal, Mrs Postlethwaite...

As we reach this point in the term, we are almost a third of the way through the whole Academic Year! I want to thank our students, staff and families for the energy, resilience and commitment you bring to The King's every day. It has been a busy few weeks filled with genuine progress, calm purpose and a growing sense of pride across the school. Our focus on our values 'Aspire, Belong & Care' continues to strengthen the culture we are building together.

Attendance is improving and uniform standards are becoming more consistent. These improvements matter because they open the door to the outcomes we want for every young person here. Thank you for supporting this vision at home and reminding students of the difference these habits make.

I want to give an official King's welcome to our new SENCO, Mrs Smith and to Mr Brookes who joins our SEN department as a personal welfare assistant for one of our students. It has been lovely to welcome these new staff members this term and they've made such a positive impact already.

This half term has also seen students producing some excellent work in lessons, engaging enthusiastically with extra curricular opportunities and demonstrating kindness and care around the site. Small, everyday actions are making a big impact and the school really is a lovely place to be. I have really enjoyed showing visitors around school this last week in particular and showcasing everything we are offering to our students.

As a Church of England academy, the lead up to Christmas is a special time for us. It offers a moment to pause, reflect and recognise the hope, light and generosity at the heart of the Christmas story. Over the coming weeks students will take part in services and celebrations that remind us of these values, and I look forward to sharing this season of joy and togetherness with our whole community.

- 19th November- Y10 Keep the Cash event.
- 20th November- Y9 Keep the Cash event.
- 27th November- Awards Evening.
- 1st December- Start of Y12/13 Mocks.
- 5th December- School Closed (INSET).
- 8th December- Start of Y10 Mocks.
- 18th December- Christmas concert
- 19th December- Break up for Christmas (early finish for students)



A message from...



Our Chaplain

Some members of our student chaplaincy team have been working on this display for Remembrance, helping them to consider how others have served them and to think about how they might serve others in their day-to-day lives.



Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13).



Safeguarding

Online Safety Learning

At the end of last term, the whole school took part in important learning about online safety and how to keep themselves safe when using the internet and social media. These sessions were delivered by Mrs Holdcroft, who worked with all students to raise awareness around key topics such as consent, age-appropriate use, and personal safety online.

We are proud of how engaged our students were in these discussions and encourage families to continue conversations about safe and responsible online behaviour at home.



Supporting Online Safety at Home

The NSPCC offers excellent guidance and resources to help parents and carers have open and confident conversations with their children about online safety. Their website includes practical tips on managing screen time, understanding social media, and keeping children safe online.

You can find more information and support at www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety.

Curriculum



Supporting the Curriculum Reforms at The King's Academy

The national curriculum is evolving to ensure young people leave school fully equipped to thrive in the modern world of work. Responding to Professor Becky Francis's Curriculum and Assessment Review, the government has announced reforms designed to strengthen the basics of reading, maths, and science while also developing the broader skills essential for life and employment over the next decade.

Key initiatives include:

A new statutory reading test in Year 8 to identify students who would benefit from further challenge.

A new oracy framework to help young people become confident and effective speakers, with practical strategies and examples for teachers to enhance their teaching.

A focus on raising standards and increasing opportunities, with the government aiming for two-thirds of young people to engage in higher-level learning by age 25.

At The Kings Academy, we are proud to be ahead of the curve. Our Trust-wide Gen Z curriculum model already places oracy, financial literacy, careers, and digital technology at the heart of our teaching through the curriculum. This ensures our students not only develop knowledge but also gain the practical skills needed to succeed in life and work.

Through initiatives like the Aspire Curriculum and the Equalex pilot, we are leading the way in creating meaningful work experience opportunities that equip our students with employability skills, preparing them for a successful future beyond school.

The Kings Academy remains committed to giving every student the tools to aspire, belong, and care, ensuring they are ready to step confidently into the next stage of their lives.





SEND

I am delighted to join the team here at The King's as the new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo). I am a qualified Geography teacher who has had experience of leading Teaching and Learning and SEND across my previous setting. I am passionate in ensuring that all children receive the support they need to thrive in education. I will be working closely with the fantastic team of staff at The King's to continue to identify needs, implement effective support strategies and monitor the progress of our students. Over the past couple of weeks since starting in my role, communication with parents and your children has been key. I encourage you to reach out to the school if you feel your child may need more support by contacting:
enquiries@thekingscofeacademy.org

Messages will then be shared with my SEND team and this will be followed up by a call, email or a meeting if needed.



Enrichment



Y10 & 11 Girls Football

Our Year 10 and 11 girls were invited to represent the school in a girls' football tournament at Newcastle under Lyme College, competing against other schools from across the Newcastle District. They enjoyed their own exclusive changing room and received an inspiring introduction to the Andy Griffin Football Academy. Students were exceptionally well-behaved, showed excellent teamwork and demonstrated real determination throughout the event.



Y11 Boys Football

Our Year 11 boys enjoyed an excellent evening of football on Thursday, securing two impressive victories. They opened with a hard-fought 1-0 win against Chesterton, with Max B producing a composed finish to seal the result. The team then went on to deliver a dominant 3-0 performance against St Thomas Boughey, with goals from Max B, James S and Alfie C. The boys demonstrated outstanding teamwork, discipline and determination throughout both fixtures.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Girls Football Whole school	Music coursework catchup Year 9	Football Whole school	Seniors Band Year 7, 8, 9	Football Year 7 and 8
Football Whole School	English Poshclass Year 9 and 10	Football - Year 9, 10 and 11	Den Lesson Year 10 and 11	Chess and Board Games Day Whole School
GCSE Science Program Year 10 and 11	Christian Union Whole school	Chess - Year 9, 10 and 11	Spiritual Belief Space Whole School	Creative Writing Whole School
GCSE Science Higher tier Poshclass Year 10 and 11		English Poshclass - Year 9 and 10	KSA Art Poshclass Year 10 and 11	English Poshclass Year 10 and 11
PSHE Poshclass		English Poshclass - Year 11	Poetry Year 7, 8, 9	KSA Art Poshclass Year 10 and 11
Net Art Club Limited to 8 students in Yr 9 and 10	Badminton 8 Students max	English Poshclass Year 9 and 10	Physical Drama Group Whole School	KSA Art Poshclass Year 10 and 11
India drop in Year 9 students going to India		English Poshclass Year 11	GCSE Science Foundation class Year 10 and 11	
Battery		School leadership club Whole School	After school 15.05	
IT Poshclass Year 11	IT Poshclass Year 10	Code club Whole School		
Enterprise Poshclass Year 11		KSA Art Poshclass Year 10 and 11	Lunch 13.20	
		Peaceful Colouring Club Whole school		
Computing Poshclass - Yr 10	Netball games and support club Whole school	K21 Science club WEEK A ONLY		
KSA Art Poshclass - Yr 10 and 11	KSA Art - Year 10 and 11			
KSA Art Poshclass Year 10 and 11				



Home-School Links



When a student should stay home

- If they have a high temperature 38°C and above
- If they are otherwise unwell and not well enough to attend or carry out normal activities.
- If they have been diagnosed with or show symptoms of highly infectious diseases like chickenpox, where they must stay home until all blisters have crusted over.

When a student can attend

- If they have mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feel well enough to attend.
- If they have hand, foot, and mouth disease but seem well enough to go to school.
- If they have head lice; there is no need to keep them off school, and they can be treated without seeing a GP.

Advice for parents and carers

Inform the school: Always contact the school to let us know if your child is unwell.

For mild coughs and colds, ensure they drink plenty of fluids, and use paracetamol if they have a temperature, which can be bought into the school office.

If your child has an asthma condition, remember they may need their blue inhaler more often.

Tell the school about any medical conditions your child has, so we can support your child in school



Mrs Perry

English



Over the last fortnight students in English have been practising their independent annotation skill and extended discursive and analytical writing, showing application of inference, ambitious vocabulary and analysis of writer's techniques.



CRKING portrays innocence as dependent on circumstances and crime and violence as justifiable by said circumstances. This is evident in the quote "she put up with years of her husband beating her, but she put up with his creeping around for a single day". This implies that the narrator is justifying Beverly murdering her husband due to her being abused for years and later cheated on. This might make a reader feel pity for an even personable relative to her circumstances, causing her to take the narrator's side in defending her. Furthermore, the verbs "beaten" and "creeping" portray Beverly's husband as an abuser and a cheater and thus a sinner. This is due to the Bible that both of these acts to be sinful (on every one of the 10 commandments is "thou shalt not commit adultery"). Although looking at it from that perspective, it would make Beverly herself a sinner as she has killed someone, what her husband did was would make her legally as well as morally and spiritually guilty whereas Beverly is (arguably) only legally guilty and stays pure as her. Therefore, the writer believes that violent acts are, in some situations, justifiable such as in Beverly's case when enduring years of violence made her violent herself and this is not really

Maths

This week, Mrs Turner represented The King's in Manchester at the award ceremony for Center Of Excellence for the Delivery of Financial Literacy. This award demonstrates that the pupils at the academy have access to a curriculum that embraces and has embedded financial education into our vision and ethos. Under the leadership of Mrs Turner, Financial Literacy has become a cornerstone of the wider Mathematics curriculum that is delivered by the maths team and beyond.



All young people here at The King's gain knowledge, skills and confidence to be able to make informed and independent financial decisions. We are already implementing the recent changes that the government announced in their curriculum review - where Financial Education was rated top by both pupils and parents as the area they wished to see more evident in schools.

Mrs Wilson

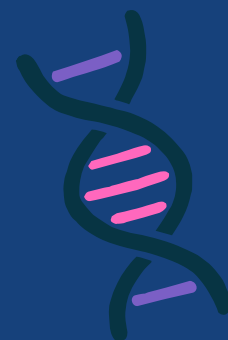
Science

What's been happening?

This week saw our first yr8 trip of the year. They headed to Jodrell Bank to check out the amazing ways science investigate our universe.

They had the opportunity to delve deeper into the mystery of Pulsar Stars and how we detect them. How we use the Lovell Satellite to understand distant stars, even those which have been dead for millions of years!

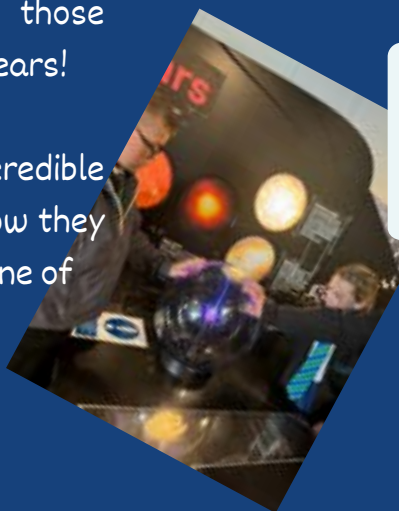
Next they got to play with the incredible whispering satellites and delight in how they work and finally they got to listen to one of the experts about how stars form into red giants and black holes! They even got treated to a demo on how rocket fuel works!



**WED LUNCH
WEEK A**

KS3 Science Club

This week we did some spookily wicked experiments; including tea bag ghosts and slippery slime! The students were able to make their own slime and watch as we used convection currents to sent lit tea bags floating into the air!



KS4 Science Study Support Sessions

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

Code Club Competition

I am delighted to announce the code club competition our fantastic Mrs Kirk has set up for our trust. All schools across the trust will enter this competition who now run a code club. What a fantastic opportunity for our students in the run up to Christmas. Thank you Mrs Kirk for all the work you do with our students in the code club.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

Your Task
Create a code that celebrates the 12 days of Christmas.
You can use:
Scratch, Python or Micro-bits.
Come to CodeClub Wed afterschool 3.14 all welcome!

How to enter
Send a short video or screen recording of your code in action to Mrs Kirk

Prizes to be won!

Deadline
5th Dec



Wellbeing Hub

Oracy in Y11 & 6th Form Physical Education



Y11 and Sixth Form students took part in a series of oracy-rich Physical Education activities designed to enhance teamwork, leadership and communication. Through challenges such as the nightline, team skis, problem solving stepping-stones and blindfolded obstacle courses, students were required to give clear verbal instructions, listen actively and make collaborative decisions under pressure. These tasks encouraged them to articulate strategies, negotiate roles and build trust within their groups, developing not only their physical skills but also their confidence in speaking, reasoning and working effectively with others.

KS4 BTEC Sport Study Support Sessions

Sport	Wednesday Lunchtime	1.6
Health & Social Care	Wednesday Lunchtime	1.6
Child Development	Wednesday Lunchtime	1.6



Humanities



Primary

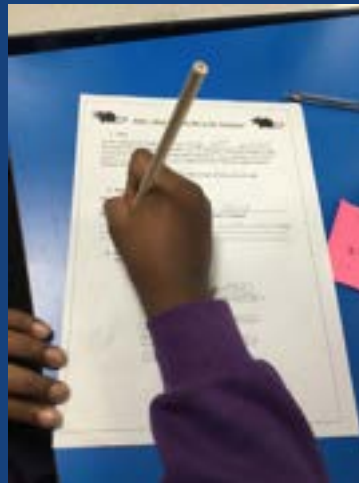
LINKS



Primary Links Day with the Humanities Department

We were delighted to welcome pupils from Springhead, St Saviour's, St Mary's, and Dovebank for our Primary Links Day with the Humanities Department. The theme for the day was "Our Local World", and pupils took part in a range of engaging activities across Geography, History, RE, Citizenship, and Local Biodiversity.

Highlights included learning about the importance of caring for our environment and creating their own seed bombs to help local wildlife thrive. It was wonderful to meet the visiting staff and students and see their enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the day!





Creative Arts



GCSE Art Trip

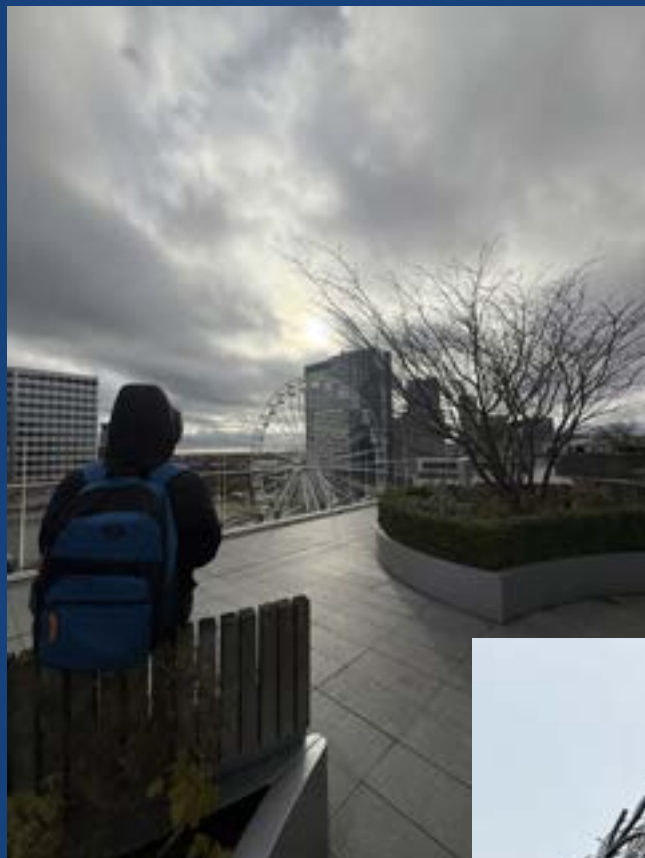
On Monday 3rd November, we took our Year 10 GCSE Art groups to Birmingham. Here the students visited an art gallery and in the afternoon attended a workshop with PicTours where they were taught how to take photographs in an urban environment. The students really enjoyed visiting parts of the city where they could experiment with camera angles using tips from the professional photographers to capture that perfect shot!

Behaviour was exceptional too - well done Year 10!





Creative Arts





Careers

What a start to the half term, Year 7 completed their National Sustainability Challenge run by The Inspirational Learning Group. They did an amazing job at creating their own sustainable town focusing on employers supporting the town, housing and accommodation styles available within their town and presenting their ideas to our fantastic judging panel which included industry experts. A fantastic effort by all and our winning team will be competing in the National Finals in the summer term! Well done to Polina D, Lucy T, Reuben S Jake C and Will J for their excellent presentation.





Year 7

This first 2 weeks back have been incredible!
We have seen our first rewards trip for just year 7 - with a trip to the cinema for those top 15 with no negatives and 100% attendance. As well as our first big breakfast! What an incredible way to start the half term by celebrating the achievements of the year group - well done!





What an excellent start back it has been for our Year 8 students! They continue to impress with their fantastic attitude to learning and their commitment to making the most of every opportunity. It's been wonderful to see so many pupils approaching their lessons with enthusiasm, positivity, and determination to do their best.

A huge well done to Mr Aslam and Jericho 8, who have once again claimed the title of top form in the school; an outstanding achievement that reflects their hard work and team spirit.

Congratulations also go to Mrs Cross and Cana 8, and Mrs Bolton and Galilee 8, who achieved a remarkable 100% attendance last week. This is a fantastic accomplishment and sets a brilliant example for the rest of the year group.

A huge well done to our top 20 students in the year group for positive points, who were treated to a big breakfast to celebrate their brilliant achievement!



Attendance HEROS!

Well done to our lucky winners:

Matthew B
Brandon H
Jonah B
Owen B
Tasha G
Alife J



Year 9

Celebrating year 9

We have the excellent news that year 9 won the driving lesson competition. 40 lucky students will be selected if they can continue with their 100% attendance and amazing attitude towards learning.

We have also enjoyed a tasty rewards breakfast where the top 20 students from last ½ term were selected for their amazing attitude to learning; receiving the most amount of positive points.

Each week we celebrate attendance and three lucky winners have the chance to win chocolates and lunch passes. However you have to be in to be in with a chance to win.

Year 9 in form time have been thinking about how we work with the teachers, they have spent time this week reflecting on which teachers they would like to thank. Teachers have really enjoyed finding notes from them thanking them for the wonderful lessons they deliver.





Year 10

Year 10 had their first rewards breakfast this week celebrating the top 20 receiving positive points last half term! This is an amazing achievement and it was great to see some new faces on the list.



Mr Barber

Year 11



A massive congratulations to our top 20 pupils for the first half term. These pupils achieved the most positive points in Year 11.

Benjamin W
Aimee M
Megan W
Dembo G
Daisy-Mae M
Felicity K
Bethan S
Lily A
Peter M
Isabelle D
Dru L
Willatt Sophie W
Hough Zane H
Burdett Lochlan B
Foster Lewis F
Bowler Laurie B
Jack B
Aleesha D
Amelia P
Madison T



**School days
until the first exam**



Sixth Form

Students from sixth form attended a trust-wide visit to Harper Adams. This visit challenged post-16 students from across the trust to reflect on “what next?” They focused on considering employability, further education, their future, and how they can take the driver’s seat in shaping their own paths.

During the visit, students attended lectures, went on tours, and had the incredible opportunity to hear from a number of inspiring entrepreneurs who reflected on their own journeys, education, and careers. Our students listened attentively, engaged thoughtfully, and conducted themselves in a way that made us extremely proud.

Student Spotlight: Benasil M



Benasil M, 12 months ago, listened to an inspiring talk from Mrs. Baker at the local food bank and has since dedicated a number of her own hours to volunteering there. Well done, Benasil! We are so proud of your actions and how they embody so many of the core values we uphold here at The King’s.