Principal's Newsletter

The King's CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY KIDSGROVE

Aspire Belong Care

20th November 2026 Issue #5

A message from our Principal, Mrs Postlethwaite...

As we approach the end of November, there is a real sense of achievement and anticipation across our school community. Our Year 11 students have just completed their mock examinations, and they were absolutely amazing! These exams have been the culmination of months of hard work, commitment and preparation, and it has been wonderful to see the way in which our students have approached them with such focus, determination and maturity. They have shown real resilience, supporting one another and rising to the challenge. I hope they feel proud of what they have achieved and recognise just how much progress they have made. Of course, the journey continues, but these mocks are an important milestone and a valuable opportunity to reflect, learn and build confidence as they look ahead to the summer examinations.

As we approach the first Sunday of Advent on 29th November, we look forward to a special season in the Christian calendar – a time of hope, expectation and preparation as we make room in our hearts for the coming of Jesus. In the busyness of school life, Advent reminds us of the importance of hope, peace, joy and love, and of taking time to notice the light and goodness around us.

As we move towards the end of the Autumn term and the festive activities December will bring, may we carry these values with us, supporting one another, showing kindness and remembering the true meaning of this special season. I wish you all a peaceful and happy start to Advent.

Upcoming Events

- 26 November- Y11 An Inspector Calls
- 3 December- Awards Evening
- 4 December- INSET (School Closed)
- 10 December- Christmas Concert
- 17 December- Y11 Parents evening
- 18 December- Break up for Christmas 1pm
- 4 January- Return to school
- 28 January- Y9 Parent's Evening
- 11 February- Y8 Parent's Evening



Information

Drop off and Pick Up

There is very limited space within our visitor car park and insufficient room for vehicles to turn around safely, particularly at the beginning and end of the school day. Please do not drive down Fourth Avenue to drop off or collect your child at the front of school.

The Leisure Centre has also asked that parents and carers do not use their car park for school drop-off or collection. Once a vehicle turns down Fourth Avenue, drivers are effectively forced to enter either the school visitor car park or the Leisure Centre car park, neither of which should be used for this purpose.

We therefore ask parents and carers to use the lower car park on Fifth Avenue for drop-off and collection. Alternatively, please park safely elsewhere, being considerate of local residents, and allow your child to walk the short distance into or out of school.

If your child has a physical disability or Special Educational Need that means they need to be dropped off or collected directly from school, you will need to apply to the school for a permit if you haven't done so already. Details of how to apply can be found on our school website.



Key Contacts

Heads of Year

Mrs Goldstraw - Head of Year 7
JGoldstraw@thekingscofeacademy.org

Mr Barber - Head of Year 8
BBarber@thekingscofeacademy.org

Miss Richardson - Maternity Cover Head of Year 9
LRichardson@thekingscofeacademy.org

Mrs Kirk - Head of Year 10
JKirk@thekingscofeacademy.org

Miss Stevens - Head of Year 11
EStevens@thekingscofeacademy.org

Mrs Finnemore - Head of Sixth Form
LFinnemore@thekingscofeacademy.org

For any further support requests or enquiries please contact the below and your email will be forwarded to the appropriate contact.
enquiries@thekingscofeacademy.org

Key Contacts

School Support

Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Z Holdcroft

zholdcroft@thekingscofeacademy.org

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs S Harrison

sharrison@thekingscofeacademy.org

Attendance & Welfare Officer

Mrs S Beswick-Pepper

sbeswick-pepper@thekingscofeacademy.org

Home School Support Worker

Mrs N Thorne

nthorne@thekingscofeacademy.org

General Enquiries

enquiries@thekingscofeacademy.org

Attendance Team

Attendance

Mr Worthington	Mrs Beswick-Pepper	Mrs Thorne
Attendance Champion	Attendance & Welfare Officer	Home School Link Worker

The King's CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY KIDSGROVE

ATTENDANCE

Why is it important?

Aspire Belong Care

Absence from school:
Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The government states that every pupil should attend at least 95%.

How do YOU measure up?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

89% & Below
Drastic effect on academic achievement

95% - 90%
Cause for concern

100% - 96%
Excellent



Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)? YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in

A cough, cold or sore throat
Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.

Threadworms
Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Should go in (let the school know)

Cold sores
Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis
Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice & nits
You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.

Hand, foot & mouth disease
If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Slapped cheek syndrome
Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Seek treatment before returning to school

Impetigo
They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Ringworm
See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever
They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Chickenpox
Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Keep them off (at first)

Ear infection
If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Measles
They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.

Vomiting & diarrhoea
Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

Arbor

HOW TO REPORT A CHILD'S ABSENCE

Using the Arbor Parent App

1 Open the Arbor Parent App

Find the Arbor app on your phone and open it.



2 Log in to your account

Enter your username and password.



3 Select your child's name

If you have more than one child, choose the child who will be absent.



4 Go to Attendance

On your child's home screen, tap Attendance.



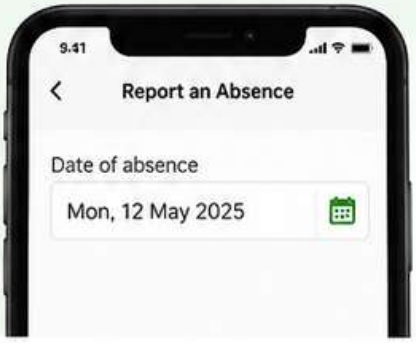
5 Select Report an Absence

If your school has enabled it, you will see the option to **Report an Absence**. Tap this.



6 Choose the date

Select the date (or dates) that your child will be absent.



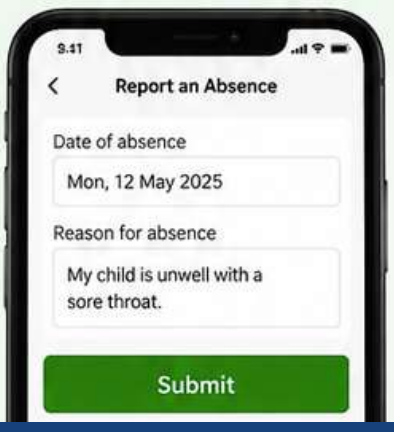
7 Enter the reason

Type the reason for the absence, for example illness or a medical appointment.



8 Press Submit

Check the details and press **Submit**.



! Important Information

- Not all schools allow parents to report absences through Arbor.
- If you cannot see the Report an Absence option, you may need to telephone or email the school's attendance office.
- For urgent absences, please contact the school directly.


NOVEMBER
NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE
IN IT FOR ADVENT!
GET 100% ATTENDANCE IN NOVEMBER
TO RECEIVE YOUR ADVENT CALENDAR!
Maltesers
Cadbury
HEROES
SHARE GOOD TIMES
Nestlé
KitKat

Mrs. Holdcroft

Safeguarding





Anti-Bullying Week 2026: Break the Silence

As parents and carers, we all want our children to feel happy, safe, and valued. It is natural to worry about bullying, particularly if we have experienced it ourselves or feel our child may be more vulnerable. The good news is that support is available, and by working together, families and schools can play a vital role in creating a positive and inclusive environment for every child.

Every November, schools across the United Kingdom take part in Anti-Bullying Week, a national campaign led by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. This year, Anti-Bullying Week 2026 takes place from Monday 16th November to Friday 20th November and is centred around the theme "Break the Silence."

The theme encourages children, young people, and adults to speak up when they witness or experience bullying, helping to create a culture where concerns are shared, support is readily available, and no one feels they must face challenges alone.

At school, we will be exploring this important message through assemblies, class activities, discussions, and opportunities for pupils to reflect on how they can support one another.

As a parent or carer, you are a vital part of preventing and addressing bullying. Encouraging open conversations at home, listening to your child's experiences, and helping them understand the importance of kindness and respect can make a significant difference.

For further information, advice, and practical resources for families, please visit the Anti-Bullying Alliance Parent and Carer Pack:https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2026/parent-and-carer-pack

Together, by breaking the silence, we can help ensure that every child feels safe, supported, and able to thrive.



Mrs. Smith

SEND Support

Staffordshire Connects is an online directory run by Staffordshire County Council that connects residents to local health and care services, community groups, clubs, and support activities.

There is lots of support for different areas on here but if you would like to know more about SEND services and the Staffordshire L ocal offer this is the place to check.



Mrs. Smith

SEND Support

SEND TEAM

Get to know our staff



My name

Mrs Smith

My role

Assistant Principal: SENDCo

Ask me for help with...

Anything related to special educational needs.

Favourite film

Honey

Favourite colour

Purple

Favourite snack

Pick n mix

Something that makes me smile

Spending time with my family

If I could pick a superpower...

I would freeze time

A fun fact about me

I am a Port Vale fan

Mrs Keay

Christian Distinctiveness

Following our Anti-Bullying Week activities, we reflect on Jesus' words, "Love one another as I have loved you."

(John 15:12)

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for each person in our school community and for the gifts they bring. Help us notice when someone is left out, make room for them and choose words that build them up, both in school and online.

Give us the courage to speak up when someone is being hurt and the kindness to check in afterwards. Help anyone who is struggling to find a trusted person they can talk to.

May our actions this week show your love and help everyone at The King's feel that they belong.

Amen.

Whole School

KS3 Enrichment

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Enrichment Timetables KS3

Sports Enrichment Timetable

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Location	Teacher
Boxing	KS3	Monday	Lunch	Dance Studio	Mr Furnival
Girls Football	Whole School	Monday	3:05-4:05pm	Sports Hall / Astro	Miss Kaminskas
Netball	Whole School	Wednesday	3:05-4:05pm	Sports Hall	Mrs Berrisford
Boys Football	Year 9	Wednesday	3:05-4:05pm	Astro	Mr Griffiths
Football	KS3	Friday	Lunch	Astro	Miss Kaminskas
Basketball	Whole School	Friday	3:05-4:05pm	Sports Hall	Mr Kolita
Boys Football	KS3	Starting after October half term	3:05-4:05pm	Astro	TBC

Other Enrichment Clubs Timetable

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Location	Teacher
Homework Club	Year 9	Monday & Thursday / Tuesday & Friday	Monday & Thursday lunch time; Tuesday & Friday 3:05-4pm	Library	Mrs Little
Homework Club	Years 7-8	Monday & Thursday	Monday & Thursday 3:05-4pm	Library	Mrs Little
Warhammer	Whole School	Monday	Lunch	1.6	Mr Collis
India Trip Drop In	Trip Students	Monday	3:05-4pm	2.5	Mrs Danks
The Musical Drama Group	Whole School	Monday	3:05-4pm	Drama Studio	Miss Richardson
Duke of Edinburgh	Whole School	Tuesday	3:05-4:05pm	Canteen	Mr Butcher
Pokemon	Years 7-9	Wednesday	Lunch	2.13	Mrs Perry / Miss Dawson
Choir	Whole School	Wednesday	3:05-4:05pm	3.7	Mr Austerberry
School Biodiversity Club	Whole School	Wednesday	Lunch	2.5	Mrs Danks
Mindfulness Colouring	Whole School	Wednesday	Lunch	1.4	Mrs Davis
Board Games	Whole School	Friday	Lunch	2.17	Mr Haworth
Creative Writing	Whole School	Friday	Lunch	2.12	Mr Asplin
Humanities Games & Support Club	Whole School	Friday	3:05-4pm	2.5	Mrs Danks
Nail Art Club	Year 8	Monday	Lunch	3.10	Mrs Wright
Christian Union	All Years	Tuesday	Lunch	Chaplain's office	Imogen
Careers Drop In	All Years	Wednesday	Lunch	3.10	Mrs Wright

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Whole School

KS4 Enrichment

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Enrichment Timetables KS4

Masterclass Timetable

Masterclass	Year Group / Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher
Maths	Year 11	Monday (Week A - Priority)	3:05-4pm	Maths Classrooms	Maths Teaching Staff
Exam Clinic	Year 10	Monday	Lunch	3.14	Mrs Kirk
RE	Year 11 Full Course	Monday	Lunch	2.7	Mrs Keay
Science Masterclass	Years 10-11	Monday (Week B - Priority)	3:15-4pm	3.11	Mrs Wilson
Science Drop In	Years 10-11	Monday (Week A only)	Lunch	3.11	Mrs Wilson
Sport	Years 10-11	Tuesday	Lunch	1.5	Miss Kaminskas / Mr Griffiths
Health & Social Care	Years 10-11	Tuesday	Lunch	1.5	Mrs Finnemore
Child Development	Years 10-11	Tuesday	Lunch	1.5	Mrs Berrisford
Geography	Year 11	Wednesday (Week B - Priority)	3:05-4:05pm	2.4	Miss Sharrock
History	Year 11	Wednesday	3:05-4:05pm	3.2	History Teaching Staff
RE	Year 11 Short Course	Wednesday	Lunch and 3:05-4:05pm	2.8	Mr Barber
Engineering design (R039 retake)	Years 10-11	Wednesday & Thursday	Lunch and 3:05-4:05pm	1.5	Mr Hinchliffe
English	Year 11	Thursday (Week B only)	Lunch	2.13	Mrs Perry
Sport	Years 10-11	Thursday	3:05-4:05pm	1.6	Mr Worthington / Miss Kaminskas
Health & Social Care	Years 10-11	Thursday	3:05-4:05pm	1.6	Mrs Finnemore
Hospitality & Catering	Years 10-11	Thursday	3:05-4:05pm	1.7	Mrs Bolton
Music	Year 11	Thursday	3:05-4:05pm	3.7	Mr Austerberry
Spanish	Year 11	Thursday	3:05-4:05pm	1.4	Mrs Davis
Computer Science	Year 11	Thursday	Lunch	3.14	Mrs Kirk
Enterprise Coursework	Year 11	Thursday (Week B only)	3:05-4pm	3.14	Mrs Kirk
Art Coursework	Years 10-11	Thursday & Friday	3:15-4pm	3.5 and 3.6	Miss Pattison / Miss Stevens

Sports Enrichment Timetable

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Location	Teacher
Football	KS4	Monday	Lunch	Astro	Mr Griffiths
Girls Football	Whole School	Monday	3:05-4:05pm	Sports Hall / Astro	Miss Kaminskas
Netball	Whole School	Wednesday	3:05-4:05pm	Sports Hall	Mrs Berrisford
Boys Football	Years 9-11	Wednesday	3:05-4:05pm	Astro	Mr Griffiths
Boxing	KS4	Thursday	Lunch	Dance Studio	Mr Furnival
Basketball	Whole School	Friday	3:05-4:05pm	Sports Hall	Mr Kolita

Other Enrichment Clubs Timetable

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Location	Teacher
Homework Club	Years 9-11	Monday / Thursday / Tuesday / Friday	Monday & Thursday lunch time; Tuesday & Friday 3:05-4pm	Library	Mrs Little
India Trip Drop In	Trip Students	Monday	3:05-4pm	2.5	Mrs Danks
Warhammer	Whole School	Monday	Lunch	1.6	Mr Collis
The Musical Drama Group	Whole School	Monday	3:05-4pm	Drama Studio	Miss Richardson
Nail Art Club	Years 9–10	Monday	Lunch	3.10	Mrs Wright
Duke of Edinburgh	Whole School	Tuesday	3:05-4:05pm	Canteen	Mr Butcher
Christian Union	All Years	Tuesday	Lunch	Chaplain's office	Imogen
Choir	Whole School	Wednesday	3:05-4:05pm	3.7	Mr Austerberry
School Diversity Club	Whole School	Wednesday	Lunch	2.5	Mrs Danks
Careers Drop In	All Years	Wednesday	Lunch	3.10	Mrs Wright
Mindfulness Colouring	Whole School	Wednesday	Lunch	1.4	Mrs Davis
Board Games	Whole School	Friday	Lunch	2.17	Mr Haworth
Creative Writing	Whole School	Friday	Lunch	2.12	Mr Asplin
Humanities Games & Support Club	Whole School	Friday	3:05-4pm	2.5	Mrs Danks

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Mrs Danks

RSHE

What Are We Learning?

Across school, pupils will be developing their understanding of:

❤️ Healthy Relationships

Friendships and kindness - Respecting differences - Resolving disagreements positively - Online friendships and staying safe online

🧠 Health and Wellbeing

Mental health and emotional wellbeing - Identifying and managing feelings - Building resilience and confidence- Healthy lifestyles and self-care

🌍 Living in the Wider World

Belonging to communities - Diversity and inclusion - Aspirations and future goals - Rights and responsibilities

Parent Information

RSHE helps children develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to stay healthy, safe and prepared for life.

We encourage you to:

Talk openly with your child about their learning.
Discuss feelings and emotions regularly.
Promote healthy screen-time habits.
Encourage kindness, respect and empathy towards others.
Conversation Starters for Home

Try asking:

What does a good friend look like?
How can we show respect to people who are different from us?
What helps you when you feel worried or upset?
What are your hopes and dreams for the future?

Online Safety Reminder

✅ Keep personal information private.
✅ Talk to a trusted adult if something online makes you feel uncomfortable.
✅ Remember that not everything online is true

Mrs Thorne

Home-School Links

We all know how busy the run up to Christmas can get. Why not take a bit of time out for yourself.



EMMAUS HOME & HOPE

Wellbeing Wreath-Making Workshop

TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER, 11am-2pm

Emmaus Charity Superstore, Unit 450 (middle floor)
The Potteries Centre, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1PS.

Join our FREE Emmaus Home & Hope monthly workshop for local people and families who need a bit of support.
Take some time for yourself and get creative by making own Christmas wreath to support your wellbeing.

Get support with:
- Physical and mental wellbeing
- Relaxation and mindfulness
- Budgeting and finances
- Connecting with others
- Accessing further help and assistance.

- **Make your own beautiful seasonal wreath**
- **FREE food, snacks and drinks provided**
- **Take your finished wreath home with you**

Contact Support Worker Julie to book your place and get some support.
Phone or message: 01782 846 111 or 07927 533 503
Email: homeandhope@emmausnorthstaffs.org.uk

emmaus.org.uk/north-staffs

EMMAUS North Staffs
HOME&HOPE
COMMUNITY FUND

Emmaus North Staffs is a registered charity, no 1171570

Parental wellbeing support workshop:

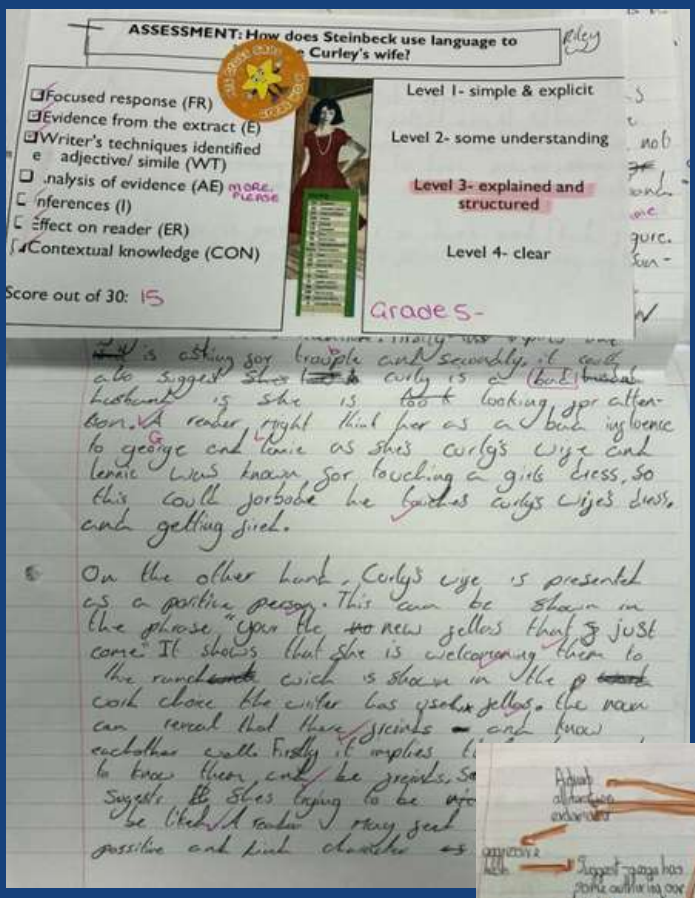
Emmaus Home & Hope are hosting a Wellbeing Wreath-Making Workshop on Tuesday 24 November, 11:00am - 2:00pm, at the Emmaus Charity Superstore, Unit 450 (Middle Floor), The Potteries Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1PS

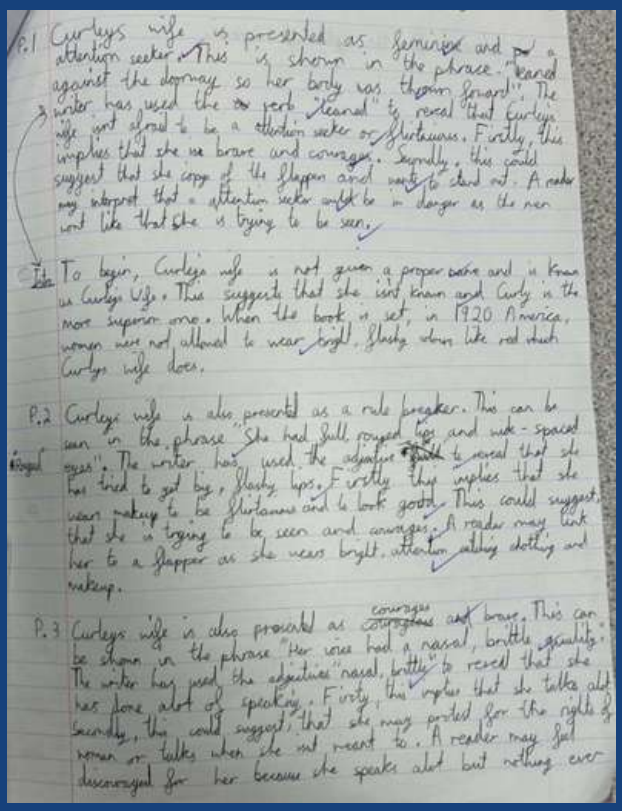
Mrs Perry
English

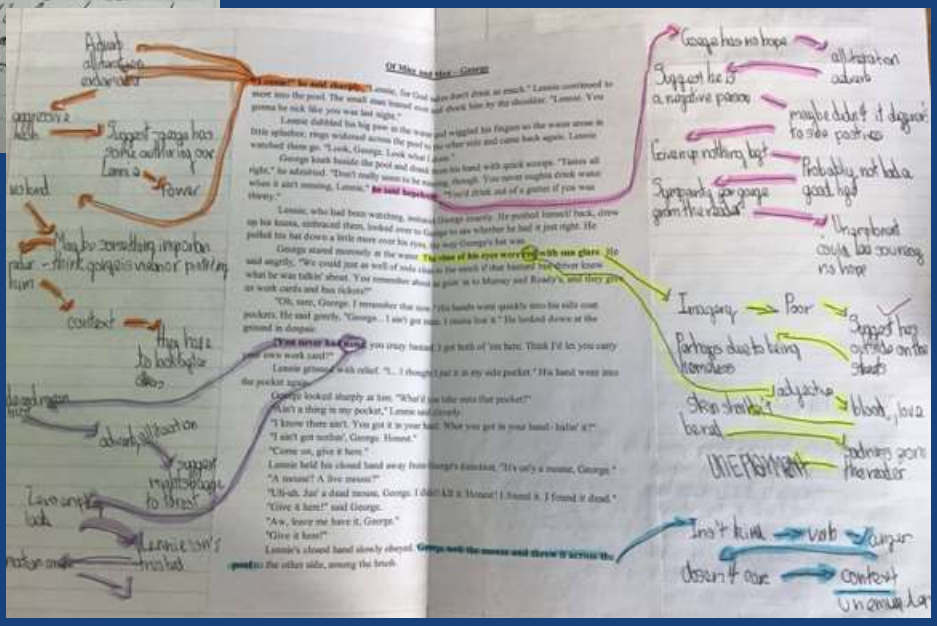


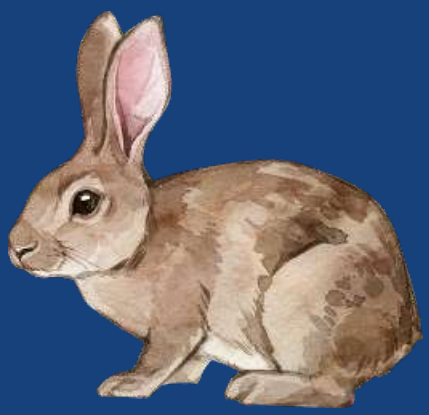


Year 8 have concluded their thematic study of Of Mice & Men and have now started to explore how diverse voices - from John Agard to Maya Angelou - express their different experiences in poetry.









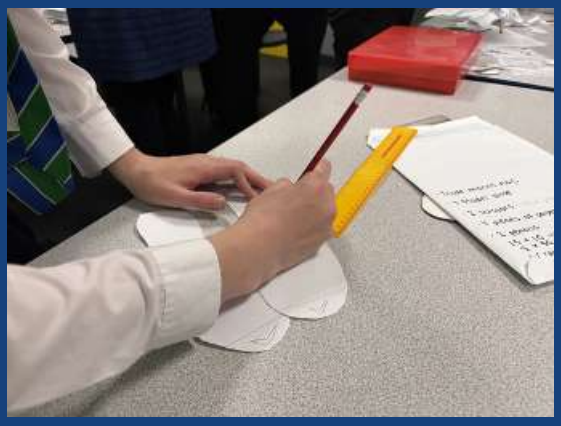
Mr Purle

Maths

In October, Year 8 took part in the Trade Game, learning about how international trade works and the impact it can have on low-income communities. They each became part of a family, making trainers to sell to large corporations who sell them on at a huge profit. They discovered how hard it can be to make ends meet, especially when inflation is high and the costs of the materials can be as much as they make for the final product.

Thankfully, through organisations such as Fair Trade and Christian Aid, we can source products from companies who pay their workers fairly and allow them to make a decent living.





🎉 A HUGE well done to our Years 7 to 10 students taking part in the CENTURY Maths challenge!
Students are ranked within their year group by how many maths questions they complete, and we've just handed out prizes to our latest winners. Congratulations to everyone who earned a prize, and well done to all those who have been getting stuck in! 👏
The leaderboards are updated every two weeks, so there's plenty of time to get involved and see how far you can climb. Every question counts, so log in, give it a go and see where you place in the next round! 💙

Year 7
Ryan T- 812
Codey D - 405
Ruby S - 368

Year 8
Jacob D - 536
Joe C - 287
Praise O - 270

Year 9
Owen B - 272
Elisia B - 255
Harper-Rose G - 230

Year 10
Jayden H - 555
Jayden R - 255
Ezekiel R - 231

Mrs Wilson

Science



Educake

22,720 questions in total have been answered this year.
Well done, The King's!
This week's leaders:

Eva L – 587 questions!!

Charla T – 300 questions

Yana A – 76 questions











Year 8 students recently enjoyed a fantastic trip to Jodrell Bank, where they explored interactive exhibits, learned about space science, and saw the famous Lovell Telescope. The visit brought their classroom learning to life and inspired plenty of curiosity about the universe. Students were a credit to the school throughout the day and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Miss Sharrock

Humanities





Year 9 University Experience Day

On Friday 27th November, our Year 9 students will have the exciting opportunity to visit a Staffordshire university for an engaging and interactive experience designed to broaden their horizons and explore future career pathways. During the visit, students will take part in a range of problem-solving activities and taster workshops, giving them the opportunity to experience subjects and careers beyond the classroom. Workshops will include music production, engineering, nursing and forensic psychology, allowing students to explore a variety of disciplines and discover new interests.
The trip will provide a valuable insight into university life, higher education opportunities and the wide range of careers available to students in the future.

There is still time to give consent for your child to attend. Please check your child's Arbor account to provide consent or contact Miss Sharrock if you have any questions.

Well done, Year 11! We would like to recognise your hard work and effort throughout your mock examinations. We hope you take confidence and momentum from your mocks as you continue working towards your GCSEs. Now, more than ever, it is important to make the most of the support available to you. Attending masterclasses, asking questions and addressing areas for improvement will all play a vital role in helping you make progress and achieve your potential. Keep up the hard work!

Mr Aslam

Computer Science

This term, our Year 9 students are taking part in the Bebras Challenge, an international computing competition that introduces young people to the fascinating world of computational thinking. The challenge encourages students to develop problem-solving, logical reasoning, and analytical skills through a series of engaging puzzles and tasks, without requiring any prior programming knowledge.

The Bebras Challenge is designed to inspire students to think like computer scientists, helping them build skills that are valuable across all subjects and future careers. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, resilience, and creativity our Year 9 students demonstrated so far while tackling these thought-provoking practice challenges.



Miss Richardson

Drama









7



It has been so lovely to welcome Year 7 students back and see them in their new class sets.
We have been studying The Grinch and will be using our FUEL BAG skills from last half term to create short performances. We have already read the script.
We are getting into the Christmas Spirit nice and early!

8

Year 8 students have been studying The Pantomime.
We have our school trip on Thursday 17th December.
This is where the whole of Year 8 get the opportunity to go to the Regent Theatre and watch the pantomime.
Tickets can be purchased on Arbor for £16.50
Any issues, please let Miss Richardson know.



9



Year 9 students have been studying communication and devising.
Some students have been creating devised performances based on a stimulus, which prepares them for Year 10/11 is they choose the Performance Qualification.
Others have been working on their communication skills and have been debating topics like Crisps VS Chocoalte.
What would you choose?

Mr Austerberry

Music





We were delighted to welcome Entrust Music Service to The King's CofE Academy for a fantastic live music performance. It was a great opportunity for pupils to hear different instruments played live and consider which one they might like to learn. Thank you to the Entrust team for sharing their enthusiasm for music with our pupils. If your child would like to learn an instrument, please encourage them to speak to the Music Department to find out how to sign up for lessons.

Miss Pattinson

Art

GCSE Fine Art



Year 10 have been working hard over the past few weeks in preparation for an exciting workshop with practising artist Peter Davis in January. As part of their preparation, pupils have taken their own photographs exploring the theme of people using technology and have carefully transferred their chosen images onto canvas, ready to paint. During the full-day workshop, they will have the opportunity to work alongside Peter, developing their understanding of colour mixing, paint application and the techniques needed to achieve a realistic painting style. This will be a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop their practical skills and gain valuable insight into the work of a professional artist.

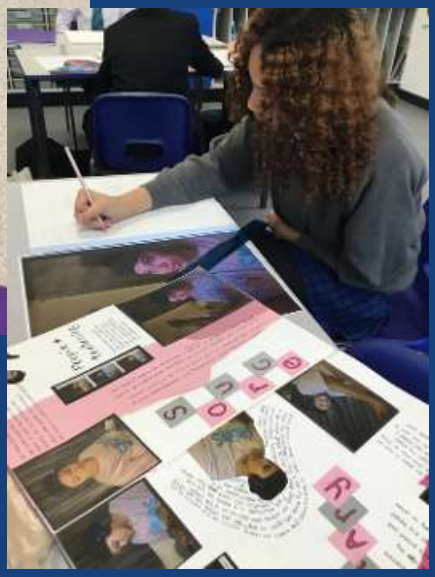






Peter Davis





Can parents/carers please check Arbor for consent and further details of this upcoming event!

Miss Pattinson

Art

Year 9

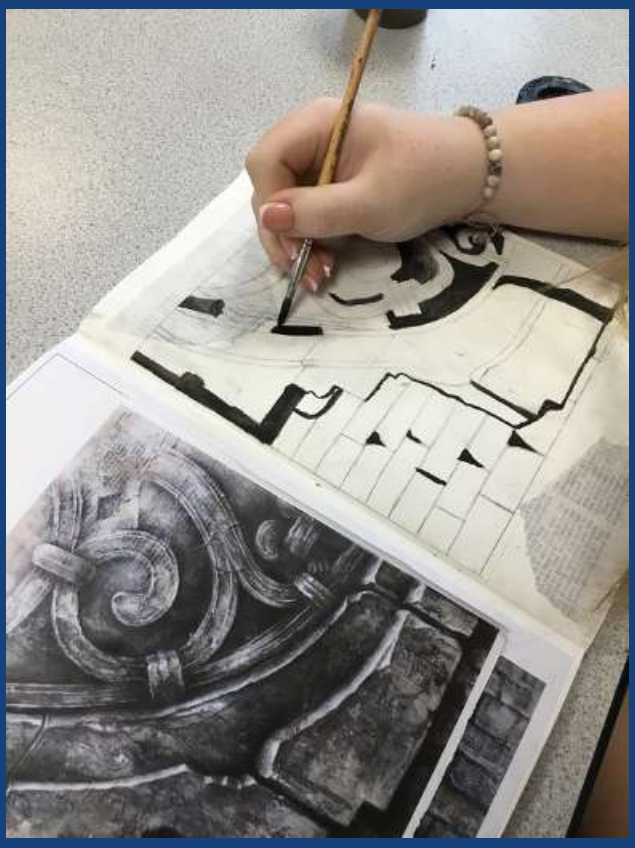


This term, Year 9 have been exploring the layered mixed-media artwork of Ian Murphy. They have developed their drawing skills and experimented with a range of materials, including newspaper, paint and charcoal, to create striking mixed-media drawings inspired by decorative architecture.









Miss Kaminskas

Wellbeing



The King's in Action: Football and Netball Fixture Round-Up



Year 11 Footballers Round Off Five Years of Representing The King's After five years of representing The King's, our Year 11 footballers have completed their final Newcastle District League campaign. Over several weeks, they took on local schools, earning two hard-fought draws and battling to the final whistle in their one defeat. Leon Elliott was on the scoresheet, and the whole squad showed commitment, resilience and determination week after week. Thank you to every player who has pulled on a King's shirt over the past five years. You have done the school proud!





Year 10 Footballers Visit Newcastle-under-Lyme College On Tuesday, our Year 10 footballers competed against local schools at Newcastle-under-Lyme College and explored the sports facilities and opportunities available after Year 11. The players showed teamwork and resilience, encouraging one another throughout the tournament, with Jacob Baxter getting on the scoresheet for The King's.

Year 10 Netballers Finish Third on Stoke Debut On Thursday 5 November, our Year 10 netballers finished third overall in their first Stoke schools netball tournament. They won every match except two, which was one draw and one loss. Sharp shooting and excellent teamwork kept the goals flowing throughout the tournament. Their skill and determination impressed the other schools, who are keen to welcome The King's back for future tournaments.



Mrs Wright

Careers



Careers interviews help students plan their next steps
Students in Years 10 and 11 and Sixth Form have been attending careers interviews to explore their options and start planning for life beyond school. These conversations give students time to talk about what they enjoy, recognise their strengths and ask questions about the different routes open to them.

For Year 10, it's an opportunity to explore career ideas early and see how the subjects they enjoy could lead to different jobs. Year 11 students can use the advice to weigh up their options after GCSEs, including Sixth Form, college and apprenticeships. For our Sixth Form students, the interviews offer a chance to discuss university, apprenticeships or employment and work out what they need to do next.

It's natural for plans to change as students learn more about their options. A careers interview can help them leave with a practical next step, whether that's researching a course, looking into an apprenticeship or finding out what qualifications they'll need for a role that interests them. Well done to everyone who has taken part and made the most of the opportunity to think about their future.

Mrs Goldstraw

Year 7



Year 7 continue to flourish as they settle into life at secondary school. It's lovely to see their confidence grow as they build friendships, get to know their teachers and become more independent. They're making great progress in lessons, and we're proud of the effort they're putting into their work. Well done to everyone who has challenged themselves to put their hand up, ask a question or keep going when they've found something tricky.

Our All In for Advent challenge is coming up, so remember to be in school every day and arrive on time to earn your Advent calendar. Getting into good habits now makes a real difference. Packing your bag the night before and allowing plenty of time for the journey can help you arrive feeling settled and ready for your first lesson.

If your child is finding mornings difficult or there's anything affecting their attendance, please get in touch with the Year 7 team. We're always here to listen and work with you to find the right support.

Parent's Evening Date:

13th May 2027

Mr Barber

Year 8



Well done, Year 8! 🌟

We're really proud of the progress you're making and the effort you're putting into your lessons. It's been lovely to see so many of you taking on feedback, getting involved in class and sticking with your work even when it's challenging. Those small steps are making a real difference.

Let's keep it going with All In for Advent! 🎄 Be in school every day to earn your Advent calendar, and make sure you arrive on time, in full uniform and ready to learn. Take a moment each morning to check you've got everything you need for the day ahead.

Keep up the brilliant effort, Year 8. We're looking forward to seeing what else you can achieve this term!

Parent's Evening Date:

10th June 2027

Miss Richardson

Year 9



Year 9,

First of all let me say what a pleasure it has been to drop in during form times, see the work you have been completing in lessons and hear how your weeks have been. We continue to work together to ensure we are making Miss Stanyer proud! As a year group, we have received 2524 Aspire Points! That's a fantastic achievement!

Don't forget our 2 key focusses for the rest of this half term:
Being on time to lessons & Disruption to Learning.



Current Attendance:
92.7%



Attendance Incentive!

In our assembly this week, I mentioned the new incentive for the form group who have got the highest attendance per week. The from group with the highest attendance will have a Friday treat with Chester.
Your form group will come down to the Drama Studio and have some Chester cuddles, and get the chance to play with him. There will be some treats for your form too! (Not dog treats)

Any students that have allergies will still receive their treat and a different activity will be arranged by their form tutor.



I would like to hear your ideas for our incentives for attendance achievements. Share your thoughts with your form tutors or me.

Parent's Evening Date:

28th Jan 2027

Mrs Kirk

Year 10



Well done, Year 10. We've seen some great effort in lessons, with students working hard, staying focused and taking pride in the work they produce. Keep building on this by arriving ready to learn, following instructions first time and showing respect to staff and one another. Those everyday choices help everyone make the most of their lessons.

We're All In for Advent! Attendance and punctuality remain a focus, so make sure you're in school and on time every day to be eligible for our Advent rewards. Let's keep up the hard work and finish the term well.

A reminder for Year 10 Health and Social Care students that your coursework is due on Thursday 3 December. Use the time before the deadline to act on feedback, check that you've completed all sections and speak to your teacher if you need any help.

Parent's Evening Date:

19th Nov 2027

Miss Stevens

Year 11



Well done to our Year 11 students for the way they approached their mock exams. They worked hard, took the exams seriously and conducted themselves maturely throughout. We're proud of the effort they've shown. Their mock results will help them see what's going well and where to focus their revision ahead of the summer exams.

Attendance remains a priority for Year 11. Department for Education research found that pupils with higher attendance in Year 11 were more likely to achieve a grade 5 or above in GCSE English and maths. At this crucial stage, arriving on time and attending every day helps students keep up with lessons, act on feedback from their mocks and make the most of revision time with their teachers.

If your child is finding it difficult to attend regularly or arrive on time, please speak to me or a member of the Attendance Team. We can talk through what's getting in the way and work with you to find the right support.



School days until GCSE Exams begin

Parent's Evening Dates:

17th Dec 2026

15th April 2027

Mrs Finnemore

Sixth Form



Well done, Sixth Form!

We're so proud of how hard you've worked over the past few weeks. From preparing for your English and maths resits to getting through your mock exams, you've shown real commitment and kept going even when things felt challenging. You should be proud of the effort you've put in.

Next week, we're off to the Manchester Christmas Markets! 🎄

It's a well deserved reward for your hard work and a chance to spend time together after a busy few weeks. Well done, Sixth Form. We're looking forward to celebrating with you!

42 school days until January exams begin

Mrs Finnemore

Sixth Form



December 2026

- Friday 4th December 2026: INSET Day
- Friday 11th December 2026: UCAS Personal Statement Deadline

January 2027

- Wednesday 6th January 2027 (AM): Unit 4 - Research in HSC Exam (Year 13)
- Friday 8th January 2027 (PM): Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development Exam (Year 12)
- Monday 11th January 2027 (AM): Unit 22 - Investigating Business in Sport (Year 13)
- Wednesday 13th January 2027: UCAS Deadline (6pm)
- Thursday 14th January 2027 (AM): Unit 3 - A&P for HSC (Year 12) / Unit 19 - Development and Provision of Sport (Year 13)

Student Leaders



Who Are We?

We are your Year 11 Student Leaders, and we are proud to represent The King's and our fellow students. We applied for our roles by demonstrating our commitment to our school values of Aspire, Belong and Care, which guide how we lead and support others.

We provide a link between students and staff, listening to your views, sharing your ideas and helping to make our school a place where everyone feels welcome, supported and valued.

We volunteer at school events, act as ambassadors, support younger pupils and set a positive example. We want to give something back to the school community and help others make the most of their time at The King's.

You can identify us by our green ties! Whether you have a suggestion, need a little guidance or simply want someone to listen, please come and speak to us.

We are proud to serve our school community and look forward to making a difference together.