Principal's Newsletter

The King's CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY KIDSGROVE

Aspire Belong Care

23rd October 2026 Issue #4

A message from our Principal, Mrs Postlethwaite...

As we reach the end of our first half term, I am incredibly proud of all that has been achieved at The King's. Eight weeks of hard work, community, reconnecting with routines and getting back into the swing of school life have flown by!

It has been a busy start to the year, with improvements in attendance and the continued development of our systems and processes to ensure that every student is supported to achieve their best. These improvements reflect the collective effort of our staff, students and families, and I would like to thank everyone for the part they play in making our Academy such a positive place to learn and grow.

As we look ahead to Autumn 2, there is plenty to look forward to as we begin the build-up to Advent and Christmas. Before we get there, we have another important half term in which to keep building on our progress, making the most of every lesson and living out our values of Aspire, Belong and Care.

Please take a look through this edition of our newsletter for more information about our November Attendance Challenge and the exciting opportunities ahead.

I hope all our students, families and staff enjoy a restful half-term break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for the next chapter of our school year!

Upcoming Events

- 23 October- INSET (Staff only)
- 26-30 October- Half Term
- 2 November- INSET (Staff only)
- 3 November- Sixth form Maths/ Eng resits
- 4 November- Y11 Support session.
- 9 November- Y11 Mocks start
- 19 November- Y10 Parent's Eve
- 3 December- Awards Evening
- 4 December- INSET (School Closed)

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 Stanyer - Head of Year 9
OStanyer@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

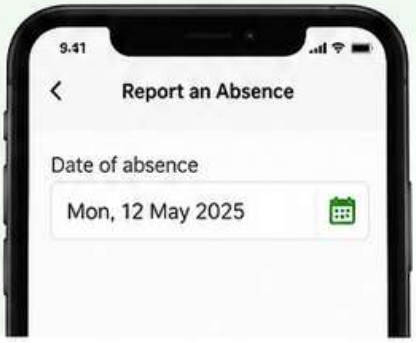
On your child's home screen, tap Attendance.

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.

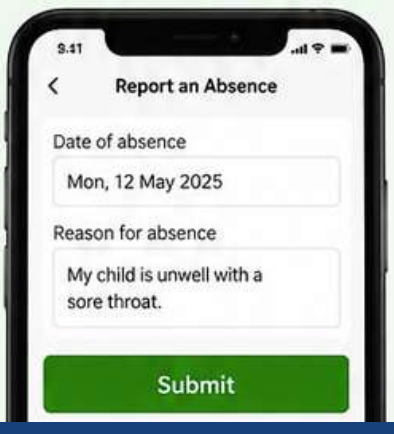


7 Enter the reason

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.

OCTOBER
ATTENDANCE
CHALLENGES
OCTOBER
BE IN SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!
Cadbury HEROES
SHARE GOOD TIMES
WIN A BAG OF HEROES!
ATTENDANCE WHEEL SPINNERS IN YEAR GROUP ASSEMBLIES
Every child who got 100% attendance the week before will have a spin on the Attendance Wheel!
FREE FOOTWEAR FRIDAYS
For the year group with the best attendance, the most improved attendance and the best form groups in each year group.
BEST YEAR GROUP ATTENDANCE
MOST IMPROVED YEAR GROUP ATTENDANCE
BEST FORM GROUPS IN EACH YEAR GROUP
NON-UNIFORM DAY
THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER
For the year group with the best attendance!
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WINNERS THIS MONTH!

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

The Staffordshire HAF programme will run at various locations in local areas starting from Monday 26 October until Friday 30 October 2026. It is funded for children and young people aged 5 – 16 years who receive targeted free school meals.

Author Experience & Nervous System Regulation Workshop

📅 Thursday 29th October 🕐 11:00am – 1:00pm 📍 Newcastle-under-Lyme Family Hub, Cemetery Road, ST5 6DJ

This free wellness and literary session is open to parents and children and offers a range of engaging activities, including:

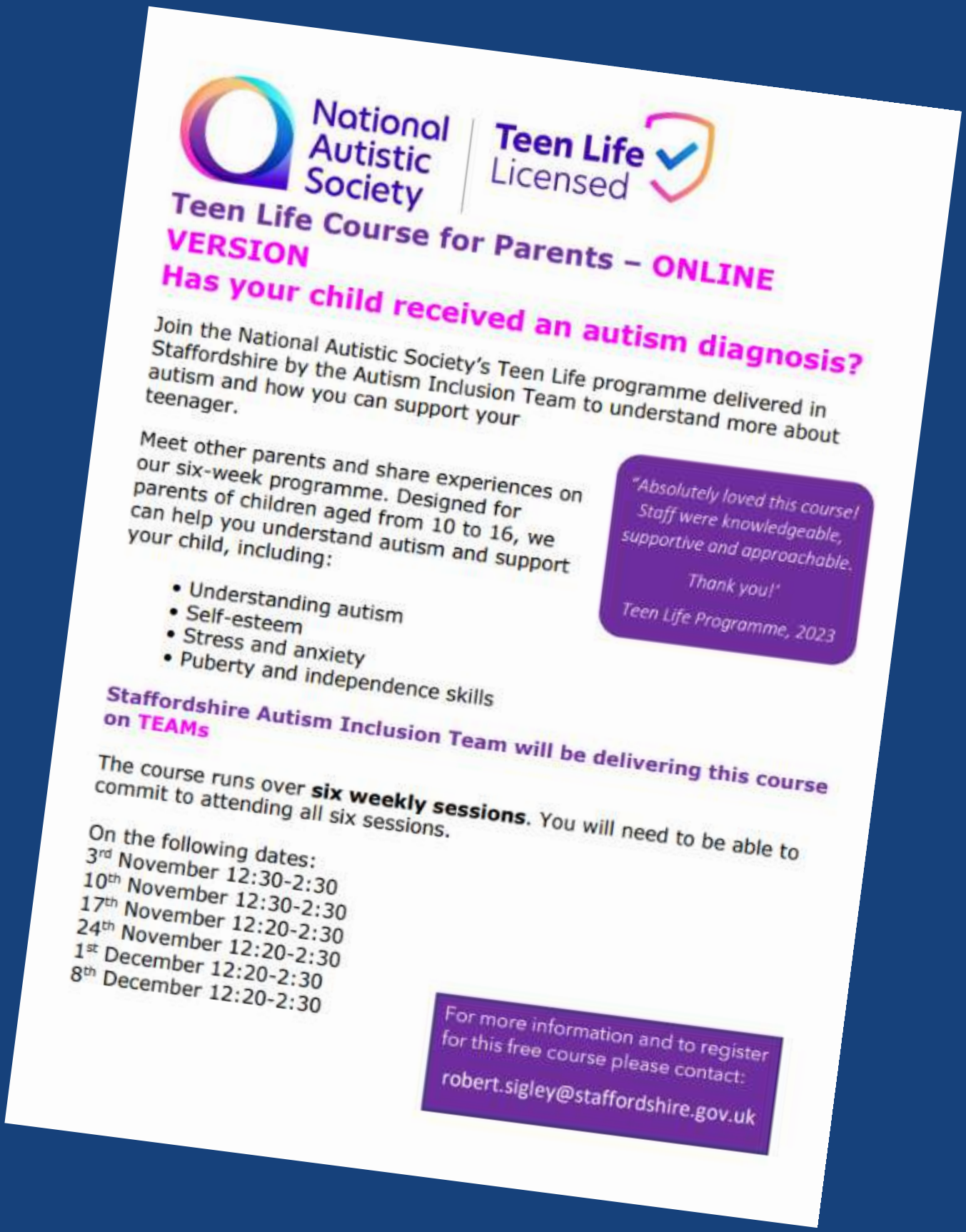
Interactive games
Fun guides to understanding and supporting regulation
Calming and creative activities
An opportunity to meet author Rachel Munro and purchase a signed copy of Ephemeral Power

The session aims to help families explore nervous system regulation in a fun, accessible and engaging way while enjoying quality time together.

For further information or to book a place, families can contact: 📧 familyhubadminnewcastle@staffordshire.gov.uk 📞 01782 296100

Mrs. Smith

SEND Support



National Autistic Society | Teen Life Licensed

Teen Life Course for Parents – ONLINE VERSION

Has your child received an autism diagnosis?

Join the National Autistic Society's Teen Life programme delivered in Staffordshire by the Autism Inclusion Team to understand more about autism and how you can support your teenager.

Meet other parents and share experiences on our six-week programme. Designed for parents of children aged from 10 to 16, we can help you understand autism and support your child, including:

- Understanding autism
- Self-esteem
- Stress and anxiety
- Puberty and independence skills

"Absolutely loved this course! Staff were knowledgeable, supportive and approachable. Thank you!"

Teen Life Programme, 2023

Staffordshire Autism Inclusion Team will be delivering this course on TEAMs

The course runs over **six weekly sessions**. You will need to be able to commit to attending all six sessions.

On the following dates:
3rd November 12:30-2:30
10th November 12:30-2:30
17th November 12:20-2:30
24th November 12:20-2:30
1st December 12:20-2:30
8th December 12:20-2:30

For more information and to register for this free course please contact:

robert.sigley@staffordshire.gov.uk

Mrs Keay

Christian Distinctiveness

Dear God,

As we celebrate harvest, we thank you for the gifts of the earth, for the food on our tables and for the people whose hard work helps to provide it. Help us to appreciate all we have and to remember those who do not have enough.

Teach us to share generously, to notice when others need support and to show kindness through our words and actions. May our harvest donations bring comfort and hope to families in our community, reminding them that they are cared for.

As this half term draws to a close, we give thanks for the learning, friendships and achievements we have shared. Thank you for those who encourage us when things are difficult and help us to recognise the good in each day.

Bless our students, staff and families during the half-term break. Give us time to rest, opportunities to laugh and moments of peace. Be close to anyone who is worried, lonely or finding life difficult, and help us to look out for one another.

Keep us safe and bring us back refreshed, ready to embrace new challenges and continue to live out our values of Aspire, Belong and Care.

Amen.

harvest festival

Whole School

KS3 Enrichment

The King's CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY KIDSGROVE

Aspire Belong Care

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

Aspire • Belong • Care

Whole School

KS4 Enrichment

The King's CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY KIDSGROVE

Aspire Belong Care

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

Mrs Danks

RSHE

Where to get support: Form tutor, head of year or safeguarding team. Speak to a trusted adult at home, or contact childline.

ChildLine 0800 1111

We have had a great first half term in RSHE. Students have been exploring their future pathways and considering the options available to them after school, while also developing an understanding of the skills, qualities and experiences that will support them in their future careers.

Year 8 and Year 9 have followed a slightly different programme this half term. Year 8 students have focused on mental health and emotions, developing their understanding of emotional wellbeing and strategies to support positive mental health. Year 9 students have explored relationships and the care system, considering different types of relationships and learning about the support available for young people in care.

Looking Ahead to Next Half Term:

Year 7 – Health and Wellbeing

Students will be learning essential first aid skills, including how to perform CPR and how to use an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) safely and effectively. These are valuable life skills that could help students respond confidently in an emergency.

Year 9 – Relationships

Students will be learning about:

mmitted relationships

Consent

Sexual harassment

Contraception

These topics will support students in making informed decisions and understanding the importance of respectful relationships.

Year 8 – Relationships

Students will explore:

Influences on relationships

Consent

Sexual orientation

Gender identity

This will help students develop respect, understanding and confidence in building healthy relationships.

Year 10 – Relationships

Topics will include:

Conflict in relationships

Healthy and unhealthy relationships

Persuasion and influence

Misogyny

This learning will help students recognise unhealthy behaviours and promote positive, respectful interactions with others.

Year 11 – Relationships

Students will explore:

Long-term commitments

Sexual health

Pregnancy

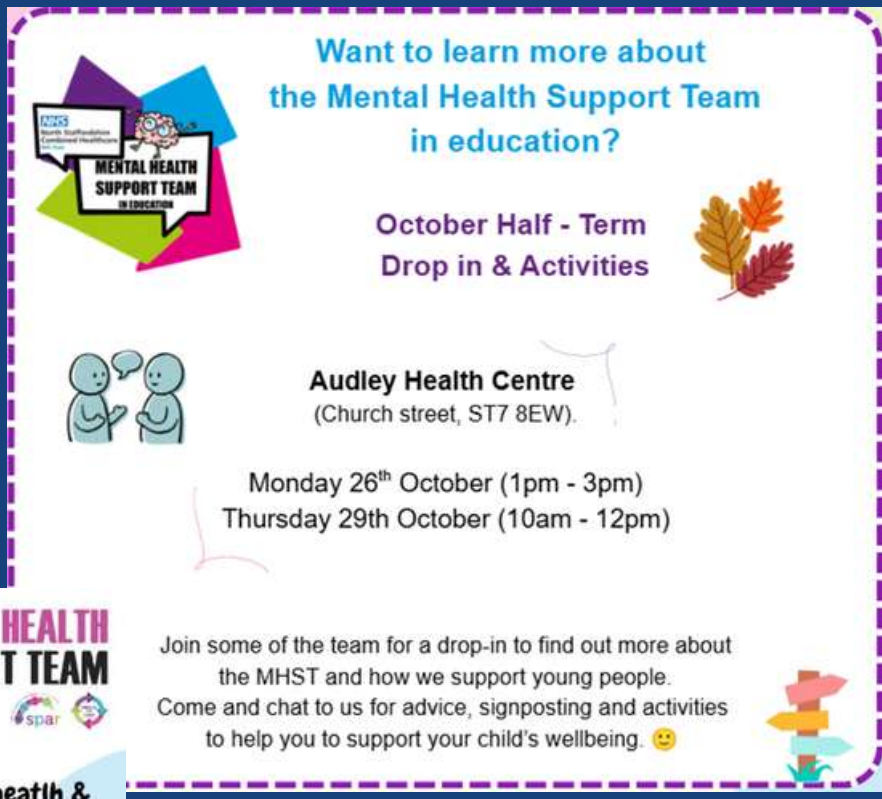
These lessons will equip students with the knowledge they need to make responsible choices as they move into adulthood.

We look forward to another successful half term as students continue to develop the knowledge, understanding and confidence needed to make informed decisions, stay safe and build healthy, respectful relationships.

Mrs Thorne

Home-School Links

More exciting developments from the Mental Health Support team for Parents and carers. Please check out the new opportunities to meet the team and see how they can help you, help your young person.



Their Facebook page is

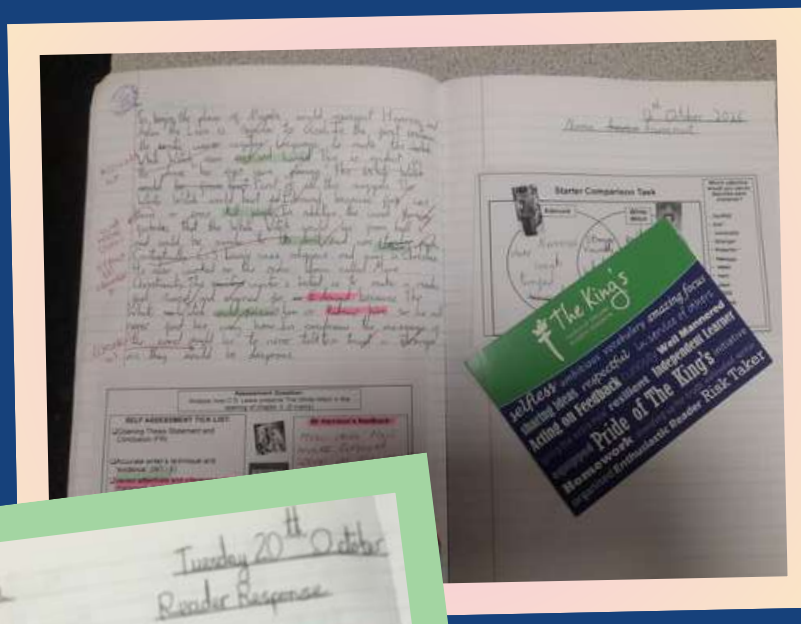
MHST for North Staffs Combined Health
Counselling & mental health

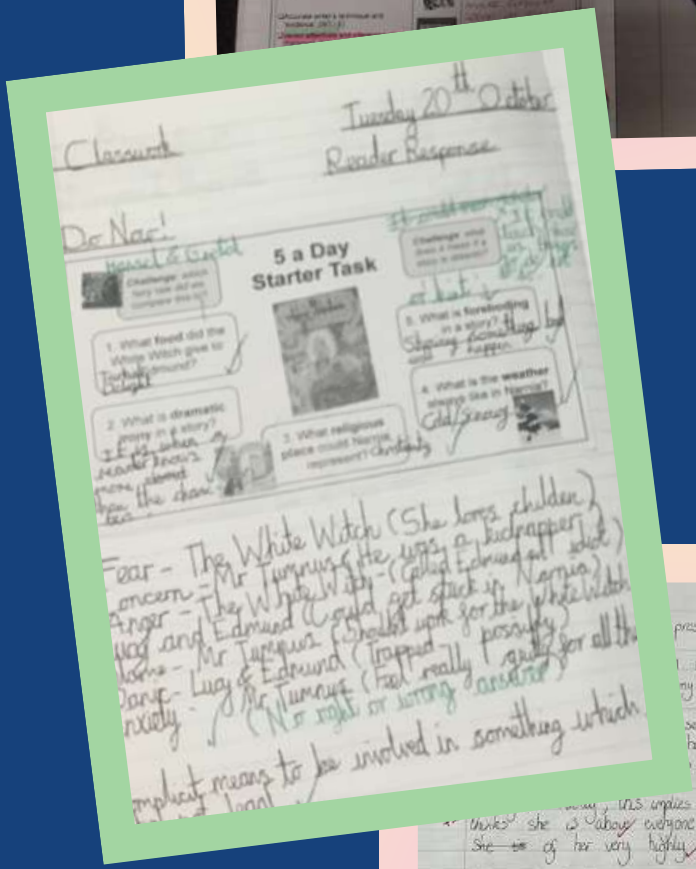
Also, another great free course for Parents and Carers. Understanding your teens

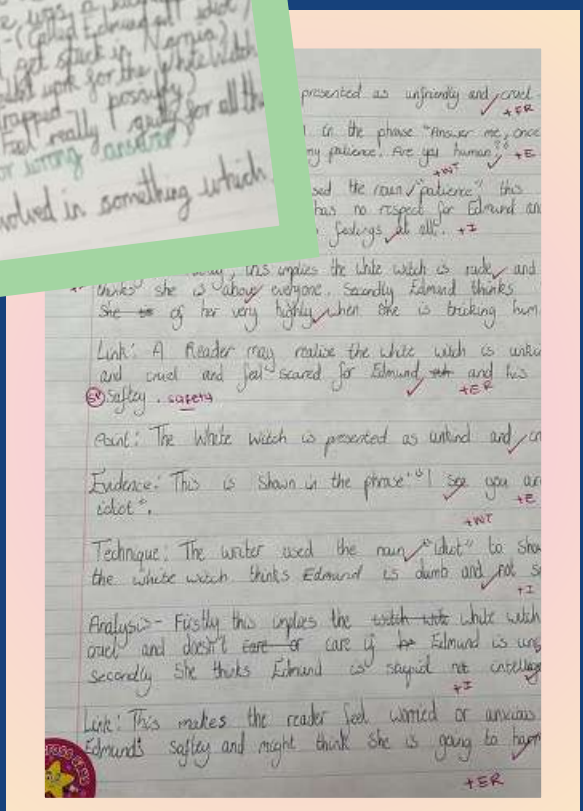
Mrs Perry

English

As we close on their first half-term, English staff have shared fantastic examples of reading and writing work from Year 7 inspired by our study of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.







Orders have now been placed and every child in Year 7 is awaiting their free book, funded by school, which are due to arrive in the Autumn term.

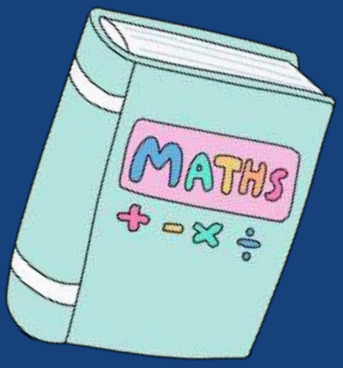
Happy reading!

Mr Purle

Maths

Our Year 9 and 10 pupils studying GCSE Statistics alongside GCSE Maths have been putting their skills into practice through a Statistical Enquiry Cycle project. Working in groups, they investigated hypotheses of their choice, from whether more sleep leads to more achievement points to whether people can distinguish branded foods from Lidl alternatives—with blind taste-testing included!

Pupils collected, presented and analysed data before drawing conclusions and sharing their findings with the class. The projects brought together learning across subjects while showcasing excellent teamwork, statistical understanding and communication skills.

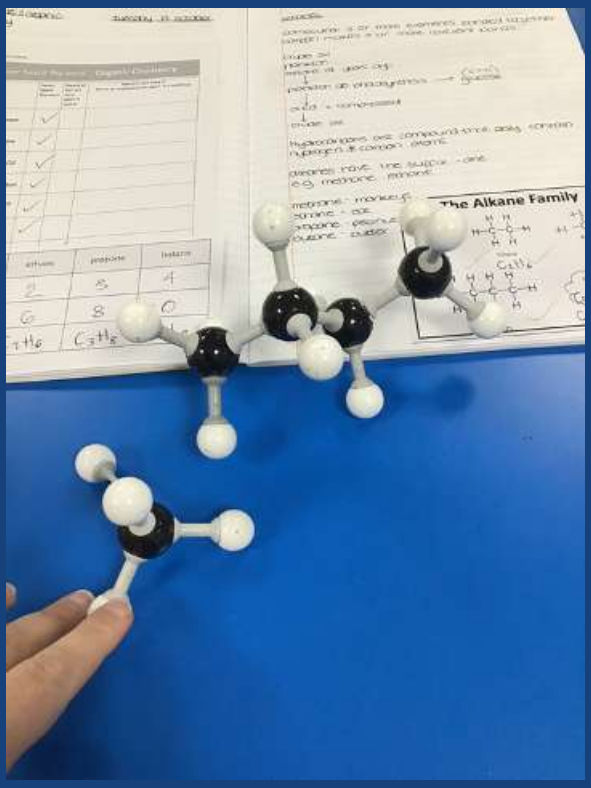


It has been fantastic to see so many of our pupils attending GCSE masterclasses and making the most of the extra guidance and support available. Their commitment to preparing for their exams is something to be proud of. Keep up the hard work!

Mrs Wilson

Science

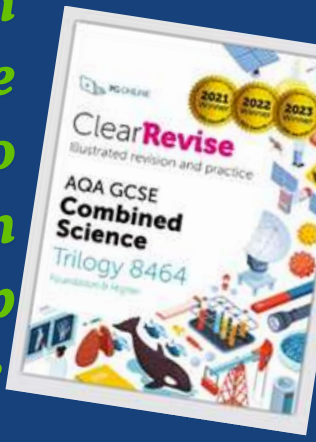
INDEPENDENT LEARNING



Year 11 have begun learning about hydrocarbons in Chemistry and have used the Molymod modelling kits to help understand their structures. They have learnt about the origins, formulae and names of the first four hydrocarbons - ask them why they need to know that Monkeys Eat Peanut butter!

Quick Reminder

Key Stage 4 Revision materials are available to purchase through Arbor School shop until 31st october



Year 11 Mock Exams

Just a reminder to all Year 11 students that your mock exam after half term will be a full Paper 1 exam for each Science. The topics included are listed in the table below and revision materials are available on the shared onedrive link - please speak to your teacher if you are unsure about what to revise!

Biology paper 1	Chemistry Paper 1	Physics Paper 1
Cell Biology Organisation Infection and Response Bioenergetics	Atomic structure and the periodic table Bonding, structure and properties Quantitative Chemistry Chemical Changes Energy Changes	Energy Electricity Particle model Atomic structure

Miss Sharrock

Humanities

Our pupils have enjoyed some fantastic learning experiences through this half term's Humanities field trips.

Year 10 began with a visit to Carding Mill Valley, where they collected data in a river environment, investigated river characteristics and enjoyed the beauty of the Long Mynd. Students were exceptional throughout the day and a credit to the school. The rain held off for most of the visit, and even a little drizzle failed to dampen their spirits!

Year 11 historians visited Quarry Bank Mill on 8th October, bringing their classroom learning to life by exploring its industrial heritage. Our Year 11 geographers then visited Shrewsbury on 15th October, applying their geographical knowledge and developing their fieldwork skills.

These visits provided valuable opportunities to deepen understanding, build confidence and experience learning beyond the classroom.

Well done to everyone who took part!

Mr Aslam

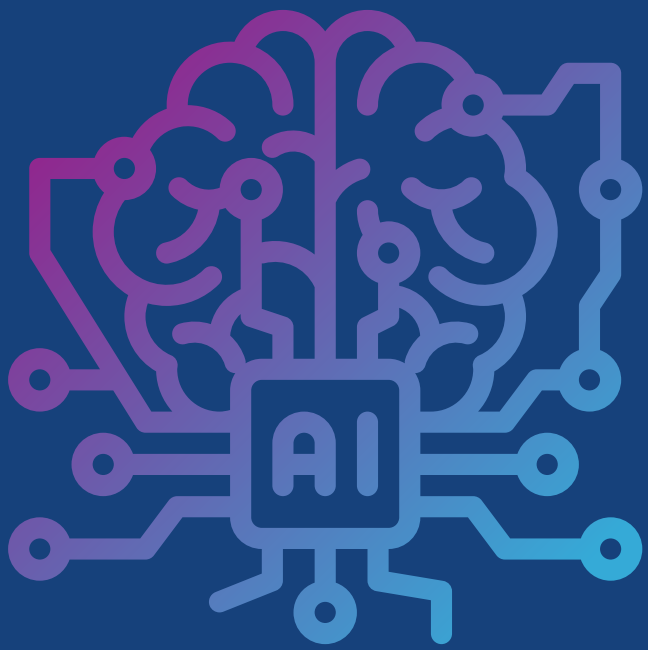
Computer Science

Our KS3 pupils have made a fantastic start to the year in Computing, exploring how to navigate the digital world safely, responsibly and confidently.

Pupils have studied social media, digital footprints and the importance of thinking carefully about what we share online. They have explored how to spot fake news, recognise online scams and identify password phishing attempts, alongside learning about age verification and the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI).

We have also investigated logical and physical methods of protecting data, from secure passwords and access controls to keeping devices physically secure. Learning about computing legislation has helped pupils understand their rights and responsibilities when using technology.

We are proud of the enthusiasm, curiosity and thoughtful contributions our KS3 pupils have shown. An excellent start to the year—keep up the brilliant work!



Mrs Davies

Spanish

A Fantastic Start in Spanish!

Our KS3 pupils have made a brilliant start to the year in Spanish, building their confidence and developing their language skills.

Year 7 have been exploring Spanish phonics and greetings, learning key sounds and how to introduce themselves as they begin their language learning journey.

Year 8 have been studying "En mi estuche..." (In my pencil case), putting their vocabulary into practice by creating pop-up pencil cases. A lovely opportunity to combine creativity with their Spanish learning!

Year 9 have been working on "Mi rutina diaria" (My daily routine) and learning to tell the time in Spanish, helping them describe their everyday activities in greater detail.

Well done to all our pupils for their enthusiasm and hard work this half term.
¡Muy bien!

Miss Richardson

Drama

A huge Well Done to Year 7 for making a fantastic start in Drama! It has been a pleasure to work with you in your form groups using our FUEL BAG skills.
Some great use of Facial Expressions, Body Language and Levels being used by form 7RCR.

Mr Austerberry Music

A Wonderful Start in Music

What a wonderful first half term it has been for me starting in Music at The King's! It has been a pleasure getting to know our pupils and seeing their enthusiasm and creativity in lessons. I look forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings as they develop their musical skills, explore new ideas and grow in confidence.

It is also time to start thinking about our Christmas Concert! If you would like to take part, whether by singing, playing an instrument or sharing another performance talent, please come and speak to me. I would love to hear your ideas and see lots of pupils getting involved!

Mr Austerberry

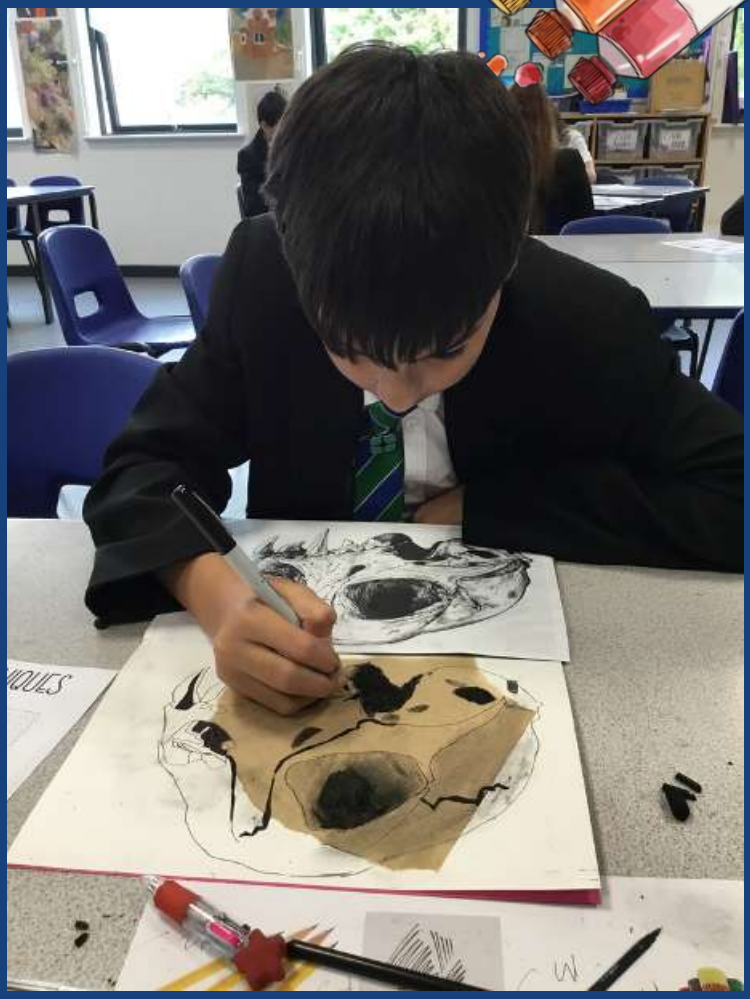
Miss Pattinson

Art

Year 9 have made a great start to their mixed media drawings this week. They were tasked to draw in the style of Henry Moore, using a range of media and shading techniques such as scribbles and cross hatching. These outcomes are fantastic!

Miss Pattinson

Art



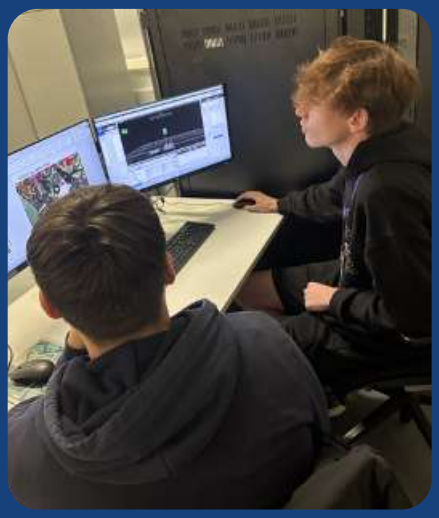
Well done to all pupils for your hard work and producing this work in only 2 lessons!

Miss Kaminskas

Wellbeing

From Classroom to Campus: Year 13 Explore the Science of Sport

On Wednesday, Miss Kaminskas took Year 13 BTEC Sport students to Staffordshire University for a hands-on Campus Experience Day, exploring sports rehabilitation, biomechanics, strength and conditioning, and sports psychology.



In sports rehabilitation and therapy, students explored the anatomy of the elbow, identifying the key muscles, tendons and ligaments that support movement. They practised locating tendons beneath the skin and learnt how strapping can be used to support an elbow injury.

The biomechanics session brought sports science to life through force platforms and advanced movement analysis. Students performed squat and countermovement jumps, then interpreted their results to identify strengths, areas for improvement and links to sporting performance.

In strength and conditioning, students set up and completed a mid-thigh pull test, analysing their force production. The day ended with sports psychology, exploring how different factors affect attention and reaction time. Students showed enthusiasm throughout, using specialist equipment and applying classroom learning while gaining valuable insight into university courses and future careers in sport.

Mrs Wright

Careers

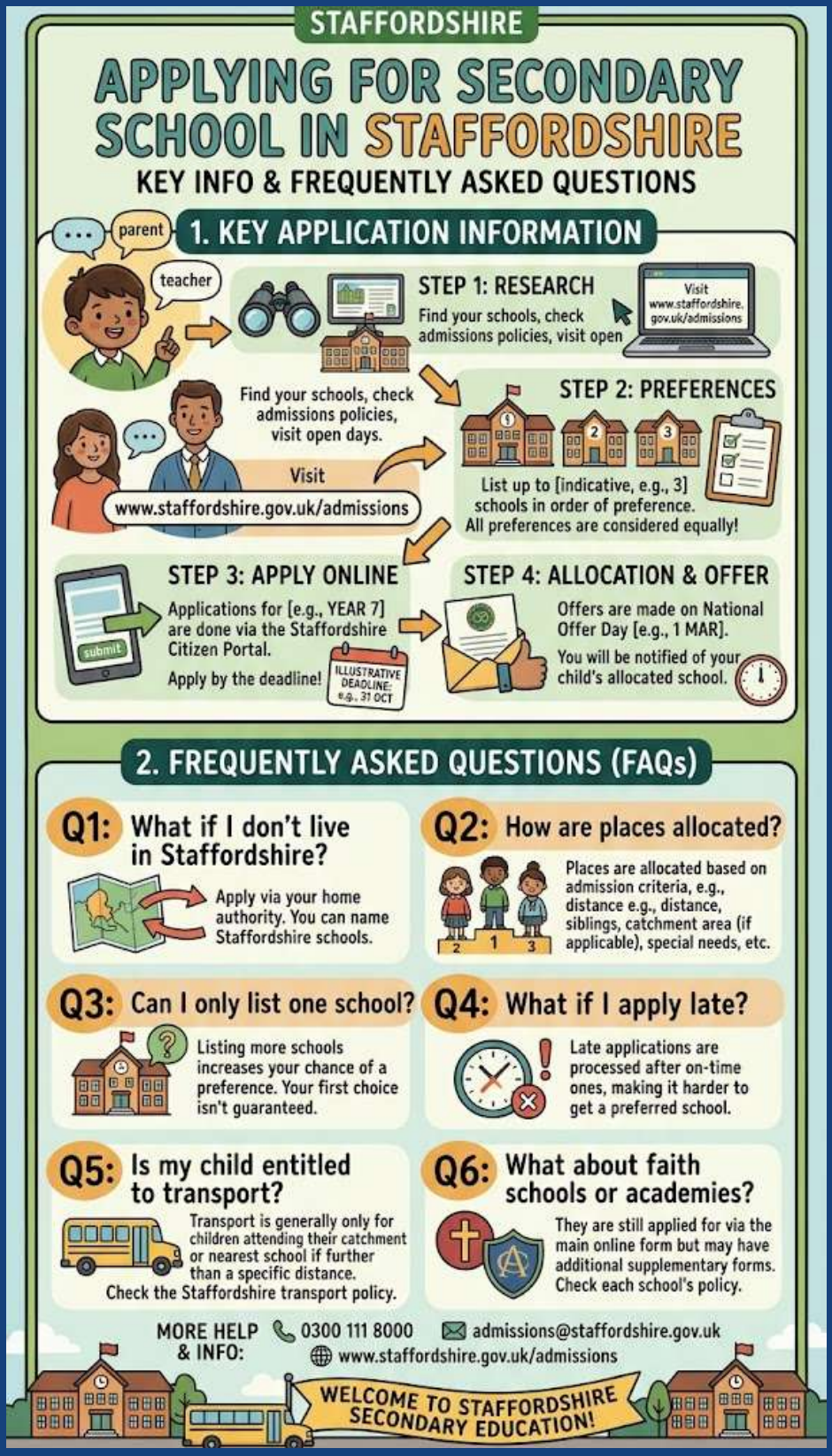
Our Year 9 pupils put their teamwork, problem-solving and engineering skills to the test in the Critical Load Challenge. Using playing cards, masses, sellotape and lolly sticks, teams competed to build the tallest tower. Penalties for using lolly sticks added an extra challenge!

The activity encouraged pupils to explore skills linked to careers in engineering, construction and design, bringing their learning to life through practical careers engagement.

Congratulations to Ethan A., William B., Marcel K. and Archie M., our winning team, who achieved an impressive total score of 1,465!

Mrs Goldstraw

2027 New Starters



If you have any questions or concerns, please email me over half term on jgoldstraw@thekingscofeacademy.org

Mrs Goldstraw

Year 7

And just like that we are at the end of our first half term!

Year 7 have settled in brillianlty and have become a true part of our school community, making positive contributions to school life

Our attendance is the best in the school, sitting at 96.4%

After half term, students will move into their sets for subjects, which have been based on internal assessments, SATs results and CAT testing. If you are unsure which set your child is in, or have questions about their set, please email me

Have a restful and enjoyable half term!

Parent's Evening Date:

13th May 2027

Mr Barber

Year 8

Year 8 have had an exceptional half term, and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, effort and positive attitude they have shown. There is so much to celebrate, and it has been wonderful to see pupils working hard, supporting one another and demonstrating our values of Aspire, Belong and Care.

This half term, 20 Year 8 pupils were celebrated for achieving the highest number of positive points. This was a lovely opportunity to recognise those who consistently meet our expectations through their hard work, conduct and contributions to school life. Well done to everyone who received a reward, and to all pupils who have worked hard to make positive choices and improve throughout the half term.

Attendance has also been excellent, and we would like to thank our families for their continued support. Being in school every day and arriving on time helps pupils keep up with their learning, build confidence and make the most of the opportunities available to them. We want every member of Year 8 to feel proud of the part they play in our year group's success.

As we approach Christmas, pupils can look forward to more attendance competitions and challenges, with further opportunities to celebrate their commitment and achievements. Remember, you have to be in to win!

Let's return after the half-term break ready to build on this fantastic start.
Come on, Year 8 — together, we can do this!

Parent's Evening Date:

10th June 2027

Miss Stanyer

Year 9

Wow, Year 9, where do I even start? What an amazing half term! You have given us so many reasons to be proud, and it has been wonderful to see your hard work, growing confidence and achievements.Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support this half term.
A huge well done to our 43 students who have not received any negative points this half term, the students who are outshining other year groups by achieving some of the highest positive points totals across the whole school, and the 45 students who have maintained 100% attendance! These are fantastic achievements!

Let's also keep up the focus on attendance. Every day in school matters, helping you stay connected with your learning, friendships and the opportunities available to you. Keep making that effort, Year 9 , together, we can build on everything you have achieved so far.
After half term, Miss Richardson will begin taking on more responsibility as I prepare for my maternity leave. I know you will be in safe hands, and she is looking forward to continuing to support you and celebrate your successes.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our parents, carers and pupils for your support, kindness and encouragement. It is a privilege to work with Year 9, and I will miss you all while I am away. I look forward to seeing you upon my return and hearing about everything you have achieved.
Sadly this will be my last contribution to the school newsletter until September 2027! Although I will miss my Year 9 team and seeing the students each day, I know they will be in very safe hands and will continue to be supported and encouraged to achieve their very best.
Have a lovely half term!

Parent's Evening Date:

28th Jan 2027

Mrs Kirk

Year 10

Year 10 have been working hard this half term as they continue their GCSE journey. It has been lovely to see pupils applying themselves to their studies, developing their independence and rising to the expectations of this important year. There is plenty to be proud of, and we want everyone to build on this positive start.

Attendance remains a key area for improvement. As we work towards mock examinations, being in school every day and arriving on time is especially important. Each lesson helps pupils develop their understanding, practise essential skills and build confidence. Maintaining good attendance now will help them feel more prepared for the challenges ahead.

We know that some pupils may face difficulties with attendance, and we are always here to offer support wherever possible. Please speak to us if you have any concerns so that we can work together to help your child attend, feel settled and succeed.

There are also plenty of rewards and challenges to get involved in, giving pupils opportunities to have their effort, commitment and achievements recognised. We would love to see every member of Year 10 taking part and making the most of school life.

Thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support. Have a restful half-term break, Year 10, and return ready to keep working hard, improve attendance and make the most of every opportunity!

Parent's Evening Date:

19th Nov 2027

Miss Stevens

Year 11

Y11 Parent session 4th November 6-7pm

Focus on SEMH and exam stress - please sign up via the microsoft form that has been sent to your email

Year 11: The Showdown of the Century!

Year 11, are you ready to step up to the challenge? It's Blue Team vs Red Team in a four-week showdown, with Miss Stevens taking on Mr. Worthington and I cannot lose!

Every day counts, and every student has a part to play. We need you turning up, supporting your teammates and giving your team the best chance of claiming victory. As we work towards your exams, being in school also means making the most of every opportunity to learn and succeed.

Who will come out on top? Let the challenge begin!

School days until GCSE Exams begin

Parent's Evening Dates:

17th Dec 2026

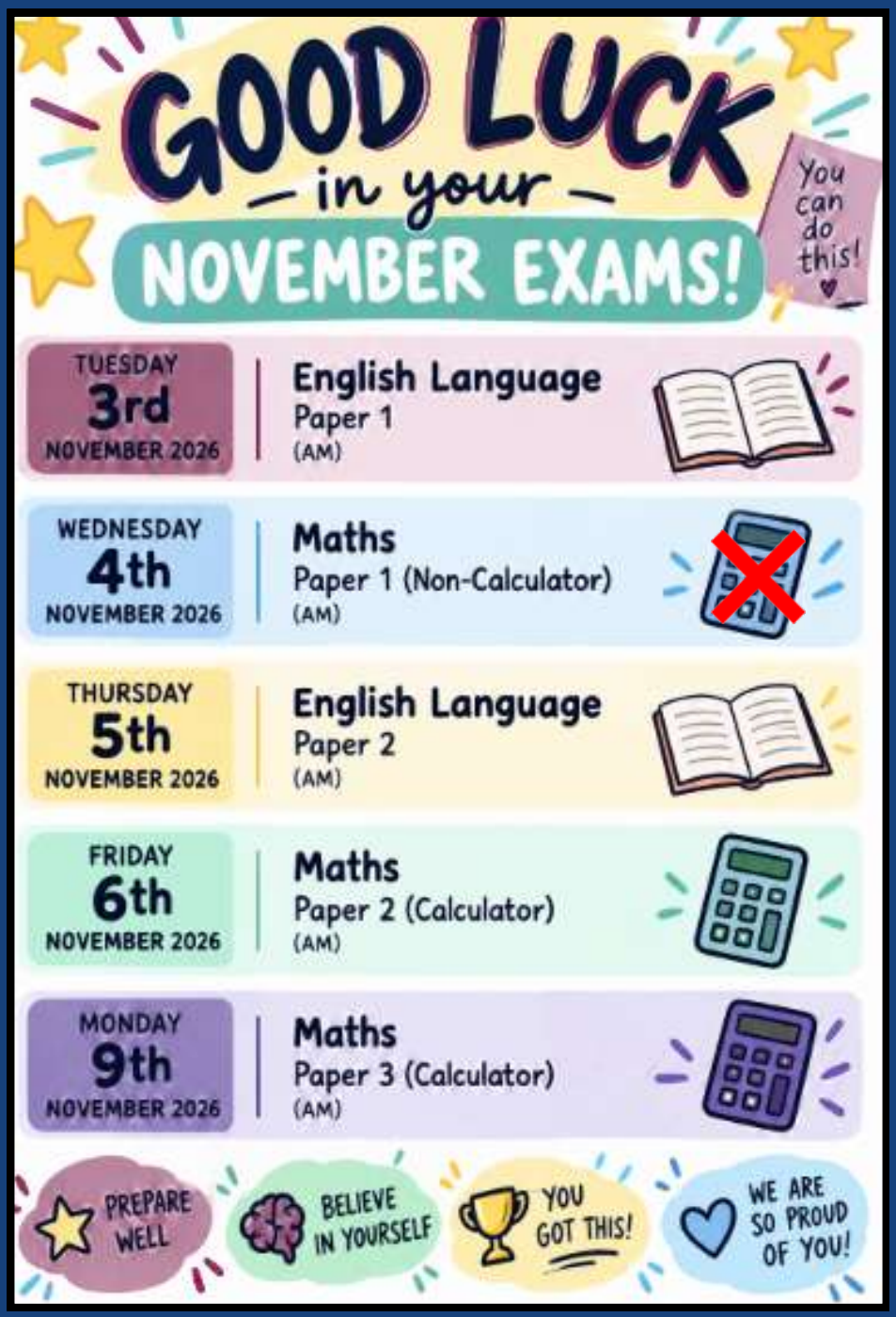
15th April 2027

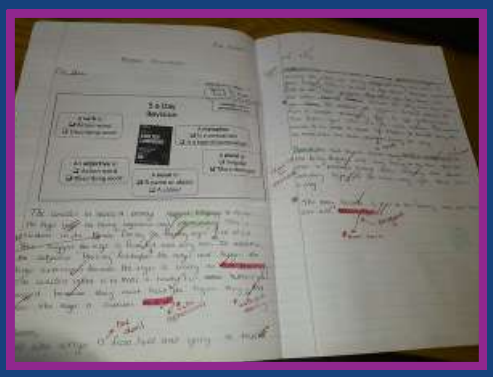
Mrs Finnemore

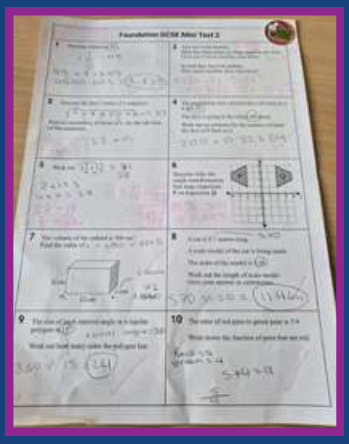
Sixth Form

On Thursday, Mr Harrison welcomed the Sixth Form Team into his lesson to see the fantastic work our Year 12 and 13 students were putting into their preparation for the upcoming November exams.
It was wonderful to see students working so hard, demonstrating dedication, focus and a real commitment to achieving their best.

Well done to everyone involved! Keep up the excellent work, and good luck with your exams!







42 school days until January exams begin

Mrs Finnemore

Sixth Form

Upcoming Events

November 2026

- Tuesday 3rd November 2026 (AM): English Language Paper 1
- Wednesday 4th November 2026 (AM): Maths Paper 1 (Non-Calculator)
- Thursday 5th November 2026 (AM): English Language Paper 2
- Friday 6th November 2026 (AM): Maths Paper 2 (Calculator)
- Monday 9th November 2026 (AM): Maths Paper 3 (Calculator)

Mock exams

- Tuesday 10th November 2026 (PM): HSC Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development
- Wednesday 11th November (AM): Sport Unit 22 - Business for Sport
- Monday 16th November 2026 (AM): HSC Unit 3 - A&P for HSC
- Tuesday 17th November 2026 (Am) Sport Unit 19 - Provision and Development of Sport

T Level Engineering. The ESP assessment will take place over three consecutive weeks, commencing on Monday 9th November 2026 and conclude on Monday 23rd November 2026. Assessments will be completed during timetabled lessons. Please ensure you check your emails carefully for confirmation of your designated assessment rooms and times.

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.