



Aspire



Belong



Care

16th January 2026

Issue #08

A message from our Principal, Mrs Postlethwaite...

Welcome back, and may I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year. January always brings a sense of fresh starts, renewed focus and shared purpose, and it has been a real pleasure to see students returning to school with energy and positivity.

I would like to begin by thanking you sincerely for your patience, flexibility and support during the recent snow. We know the disruption was inconvenient, and we are very grateful for the calm, understanding way our families worked with us to keep everyone safe. Your support makes a real difference.

This edition of the newsletter is a particularly important one. It is information packed and designed to act almost as a handbook for the term ahead. Within it you will find key information on routines, expectations, dates, attendance, uniform, communication channels and support available to students and families. I strongly encourage you to take a few moments to read through it carefully and keep it for reference.

As ever, our focus remains on ensuring every child feels safe, supported and challenged to do their very best. We value the partnership we have with you as parents and carers and thank you for the trust you place in us.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to a positive and successful term ahead.

- 20th January - Sixth form Rewards Trip (Bistro)
- 26th January- Y11 Mocks start.
- 29th January- Y9 Progress Evening.
- 10th February- Y10 Science Live event.
- 12th February- Y9 Options evening.
- 16th February- Half Term (School closed)





Our Senior Leadership Team

Senior Leadership Team

Mrs E Postlethwaite	Principal
Mrs L Boon	Vice Principal: Head of Sixth Form, Curriculum & Christian Distinctiveness
Mrs A Smith	Assistant Principal: SEND
Mr A Ponsford	Assistant Principal: Teaching and Learning
Mr M Worthington	Assistant Principal: Behaviour and Relationships
Mrs Z Holdcroft	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs A Prince	Senior Business Manager



Our Heads of Year

Heads of Year

Mrs Goldstraw	Head of Year 7 and Teacher of History and Criminology
Miss O Stanyer	Head of Year 8 and Teacher of English
Mrs N Kelly	Head of Year 9 and Teacher of Geography
Miss E Stevens	Head of Year 10 and Teacher of Art
Mr B Barber	Head of Year 11 and Teacher of Religious Education
Mrs E Finnemore	Sixth Form Manager and Teacher of Childcare & Health and Social Care

About...



Our staff

English Department

Mrs Perry	Head of English
Mr C Mannion	Assistant CDL and Teacher of English
Mr E Asplin	Teacher of English
Mrs R Cresswell	Teacher of English
Mrs P Cross	Teacher of English
Miss R Gurgul	Teacher of English
Mr T Harrison	Teacher of English
Miss O Stanyer	Teacher of English

About...



Our staff

Maths Department

Mrs S Turner	Head of Mathematics
Mr A Ponsford	Assistant Principal Teacher of Mathematics
Mr J Gosling	Teacher of Mathematics
Mrs M Gosling	Lead Teacher and Teacher of Mathematics
Mr M Haworth	Teacher of Mathematics
Mr D Purle	Associate Assistant Principal, Assistant CDL: Maths and Teacher of Mathematics
Mr M Watson	Teacher of Mathematics

About...



Our staff

Science Department

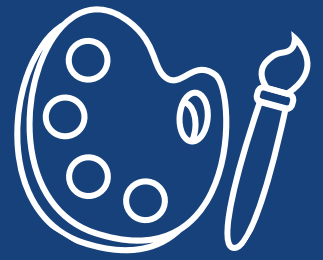
Mrs K Wilson	Head of Department
Mr T Vesty	Teacher of Science
Mrs L Leo-Keay	Teacher of Science
Miss L Sykes	Teacher of Science
Mrs E Postlethwaite	Principal and Teacher of Science
Mr A Woolley	Teacher of Science
Mr A Yearsley	Teacher of Science
Mrs A Wright	Teacher of Science and Personal Development Leader: CEIAG (Careers, Education, Information and Guidance)



Humanities Department

Miss A Sharrock	Humanities Hub leader and Teacher of Geography
Mrs S Danks	Teacher of Geography
Mrs N Kelly	Associate Assistant Principal and Teacher of Geography
Mrs C Keay	Lead Teacher: RE and Teacher of Religious Studies
Mr B Barber	Teacher of Religious Studies
Mrs J Goldstraw	Teacher of History
Mrs E Nicholls	Personal Development Leader: RSHE (Relationships, Sex & Health Education)
Miss E Thwaites	Teacher of History
Mrs A Brown	Teacher of History and Animal Care

About...



Our staff

Creative Arts Department

Miss L Pattinson	Creative Arts Hub Leader and Teacher of Art
Miss E Stevens	Teacher of Art
Miss L Richardson	Teacher of Drama
Mr T Smith	Teacher of Music

About...

Our staff

Modern Foreign Languages



Miss C Davies

Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages

Mrs A Nevard

Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages

About...

Our staff



Technology Department

Mrs D Bolton	Technology Hub Leader and Teacher of Technology
Mr J Collis	Teacher of Technology
Mr D Hinchcliffe	Teacher of Technology
Miss S Collins	Bistro Manager and Teacher of Catering

About...

Our staff

ICT Department



Mr Z Aslam	ICT Hub Leader; STEAM across the Curriculum and Teacher of Computer Science & ICT
Mrs J Kirk	Associate Assistant Principal and Teacher of Computer Science and ICT

About...



Our staff Well Being Department

Miss H Kaminskas	Head of Department
Mr C Griffiths	Teacher of Physical Education
Mrs K Berrisford	Teacher of Physical Education and Teacher of Health and Social care
Mr M Worthington	Teacher of Physical Education
Mrs E Finnemore	Teacher of Health and Social Care



Our staff

Safeguarding

Mrs Z Holdcroft	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs S Harrison	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs N Thorne	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mr M Worthington	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Miss O Stanyer	Designated Teacher for Children in Care (& Care Leavers)



Our staff

Inclusion and Student Support Team

Mr J Austerberry	Teaching Assistant and ELSA
Mrs S Bashir	Teaching Assistant
Miss C Bedson	Teaching Assistant
Mr S Brooks	Personal Welfare Support Assistant
Mrs C Cook	Clerical Assistant: SEND
Mrs K Cooper	Teaching Assistant
Miss A Davies	Teaching Assistant
Mrs S Dean	Apprentice Teaching Assistant
Miss C Fern	Teaching Assistant
Miss S Gill	Apprentice Teaching Assistant
Miss K Gouveia	Internal Exclusion Manager



Our staff

Inclusion and Student Support Team

Mrs K Hinchcliffe	Inclusion Support Manager
Mrs A Nevard	Deputy SENDCo
Ms F Massey	Teaching Assistant (SEN & Medical)
Mrs R McKenzie	Teaching Assistant
Miss M Roberts	Teaching Assistant
Mrs I Sharp	School Chaplain
Miss O Stanyer	Designated Teacher for Children in Care (& Care Leavers)
Mrs N Thorne	Home School Link Worker
Mrs T Vella	Teaching Assistant
Mr A Wellings	Pastoral Support Assistant
Miss N Welsh	Apprentice Administrator
Mrs J Willatt	Pastoral Support Officer

About...

Our staff

Support Services



Mr D Barcroft	Cover Supervisor
Mr W Blandford	Site Technician
Mrs S Beswick-Pepper	Attendance and Welfare Officer
Mr D Coxon	Cover Supervisor
Mrs A Greene	Reprographics Assistant
Mrs J Harnett	Sixth Form Administrator and Marketing Manager
Miss C Jones	Technology Technician
Miss AM Kelly	Assistant Business Manager
Mrs S Latham-Johnstone	Data and Cover Officer
Mrs L Little	LRC Administrator
Ms K Mathews	Caretaker
Ms K Phillips	Finance and Visits Officer
Miss K Plant-Burnett	Receptionist with First Aid
Mr M Sargeant	Bistro Assistant
Mr J Sherratt	Science & Technology Technician
Miss S Smith	PA to the Principal and Front Office Manager
Mr M Toach	ICT & Data Systems Manager

About...



Our Staff

Catering and Cleaning services

Mrs C Clarke	Assistant Catering Supervisor
Miss S Dean-Boote	Kitchen Assistant
Ms M Forrester	Kitchen Assistant
Mrs H Moores	Catering Supervisor
Mrs N Murfitt	Kitchen Assistant
Mrs J Proctor	Assistant Catering Supervisor

Mrs C Brough	Cleaner
Mrs C Dennis	Cleaner
Mrs H Dennis	Cleaner
Miss L Hibell	Cleaner
Miss Olha Ivashchenko	Cleaner
Miss C Rhodes	Cleaner
Mrs B Walker	Cleaner



Mobile phones

Students are permitted to bring a mobile phone to school for use on their journey to and from school. However, once students arrive on site, all phones must be **switched off and kept in their bag for the entire school day.**

Phones should not be seen, used or accessed at any point during the school day.

If a student is found using their phone in school, they will be asked to turn it off and hand it over. The phone will be kept securely in reception and returned to the student at the end of the day. Where this becomes a regular occurrence, we will require the individual student to hand their phone in at the start of the day and collect it from reception at the end of the day.

Our approach is rooted in care for our students. These expectations are in place to protect young people, maintain their privacy and ensure that learning remains our shared priority. We ask for your support in reinforcing these expectations with your child.

About...

Special Educational Needs

We are proud to celebrate inclusivity, acceptance, and understanding, and we are committed to supporting every student to the best of our ability. We recognise that all students are unique. Our aim is to ensure that students with additional needs feel valued, supported, and able to succeed both academically and personally.



We support our students with:

- Individualised and specialised plans tailored to their needs
- A team of trained and supportive staff who work closely with students
- Ongoing monitoring and communication to ensure the right support is in place
- A focus on building confidence, independence, and wellbeing



We work in partnership with parents, carers, and external agencies where appropriate, ensuring that students receive the most effective support possible.

Special Educational Needs

The Learning Support Room

The Learning Support Room is a welcoming, structured, and inclusive environment designed to meet a wide range of student needs.

The room includes:

- A classroom space where targeted literacy and numeracy interventions take place, helping students to develop key skills in a focused setting
- A grouped seating area that supports collaborative working and small-group interventions with guidance from a Learning Support Assistant
- A dedicated reflection and regulation area, allowing students to self-regulate, manage emotions, and develop strategies that support wellbeing and readiness to learn

This space plays a vital role in supporting both academic progress and emotional development.

Key SEND Staff:

Ashleigh Smith – SENDCo

Amanda Nevard – Deputy SENDCo

Joe Austerberry – Assistant SENDCo

Fiona Massey – Care Plan Co-ordinator

Claire Cook – SEND Administrator



Special Educational Needs

Additional Support for Parents and Carers

The following organisations provide valuable information, guidance, and support for families of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND):

Staffordshire Connects

Provides information, support, and services for children and young people aged 0–25 with SEND.

SEND Local Offer – Staffordshire

Details the support, services, and provision available locally for children and young people with SEND and their families.

SEND IASS – Staffordshire Family Partnership

Offers impartial information, advice, and support to parents and carers of children and young people with SEND (0–25), as well as to young people themselves.

Stoke-on-Trent Children and Family Services

Information relating to SEND services and support available in Stoke-on-Trent

About...

Safeguarding

Mrs Holdcroft - Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Holdcroft is responsible for safeguarding within the academy and manages the wider pastoral support team. As DSL she ensures that all policies and procedure are adhered to, in order to safeguard children at The King's.



Mrs S Harrison - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and Inclusion Support

As deputy safeguarding lead and Inclusion Support Mrs. Harrison supports students and parents to meet the needs of our school community. Her daily duties are to ensure that external agency support is provided in a timely manner.



Raising a Concern

If you or your child ever have a worry or concern, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Your child can speak to their Form Teacher or Head of Year, and parents are welcome to do the same. Alternatively, you can contact the school directly to report a concern or seek advice. We're always here to listen and to support your child's wellbeing.





Getting in touch

We're always here to help and we want to make it as easy as possible for you to reach us whenever you need to.

For general enquiries, please contact our Reception team on
01782 783281.

If you need to report a student absence, call 01782 783281 and select
Option 1.

You can also email us at **enquiries@thekingscofeacademy.org** and a member of the team will get back to you.

For quick updates or messages, feel free to contact us through the
Arbor app.

You can also go on our website @ **www.thekingscofeacademy.org** and go on the contact us section and fill in the contact form.

Whether you have a question, need support or just want to check in, we're always happy to hear from you.

About...

Uniform



Here at The King's, we take pride in maintaining a perfect uniform, reflecting not only our sense of belonging to the school community but also our commitment to presenting ourselves with care and respect. Our uniform is a symbol of unity, pride, and the high standards we uphold every day. Should you require any assistance or support with your uniform, please contact uniform@thekingscofeacademy.org, where a member of staff will be happy to help wherever possible.

Year 7-11	Male Students	Female Students
Black Blazer with school badge	Required	
School Tie	Required	
Jumper	Optional Plain dark grey v neck. Sweatshirts and Hoodies are not permitted.	
Shirt	White shirt. Must have a collar that can take a tie. Shirts tucked in at all times.	
Black trousers/Skirts	Plain black straight leg trousers.	Plain black straight leg trousers, no leggings, skinny or flared are permitted. The King's Skirt is available for purchase from The Uniform Shop.
Socks and tights	Knee high socks are not permitted. Black socks must be worn with trousers. Black tights must be worn with skirts (excluding the Summer where black socks may be worn)	
Coat	Coats must be removed within the school building.	
Hair	Hair should be cut appropriately for school and of a natural colour.	
Hats	Hats may only be worn outside the school buildig.	
Piercings	Jewellery is not permitted bar the exception of a wrist watch (not smart) and one simple stud per ear.	

PE Kit



To ensure all students are dressed appropriately and safely for sporting and physical activities, the Academy requires students to wear the correct PE kit for all lessons.

For health and safety reasons:

Hair below shoulder length must be tied back during all activities.

All jewellery must be removed to ensure safe participation.

If you have any difficulties accessing or providing PE kit, please contact your child's Head of Year or PE teacher. Their contact details are available via the Academy website.

Wearing the correct kit helps students participate safely, get the most from their lessons, and take pride in representing the Academy.

PE Kit	Male Students	Female students
T-shirt	Compulsory PE top	
Short/Skorts	Compulsory school shorts	Compulsory school shorts or skort
Sweatshirt	Compulsory School 1/4 zip sweatshirt	
Trainers	Required and MUST be different to normal school shoes	
Astroturf trainers	Required (Specific specification of astroturf trainer required for use of the 3g pitches)	
Socks	Royal Blue Football socks	
Tracksuit bottoms and	Optional - must be plain black in colour, brandings must be subtle and not excessive in size	
Shin Pads	Must be the right size to protect shins	

Astro trainers:

In order to effectively maintain the rubber crumb surface all users must wear astroturf trainers. They must be a multi-studded/astroturf trainer which can be purchased from prices starting at approximately £9.99 using the following link:

<https://www.decathlon.co.uk/search?Ntt=astro+trainers>

All items can be purchased from The National School wear Shop in Hanley

The school day

The Academy day for all students begins at 8:35am and ends at 3:05pm.

Student entrances open at 8:25am, allowing students to make their way directly to their form rooms. Heads of Year greet students on entry to the building and check the standard of uniform. Student entrance doors close promptly at 8:33am.

Students who enter the building after 8:33am will be deemed late to school. Students who arrive on time but fail to reach their form room by 8:35am will also be recorded as late.

The Academy week totals 32 hours and 30 minutes of learning.

The Academy operates a two-week timetable, referred to as Week A and Week B. Each day consists of five one-hour lessons, alongside a 15-minute morning break and a 45-minute lunch period. Subjects are taught in specialist zones across the Academy, enabling students to move calmly and efficiently between lessons.

All students take part in a 30-minute Form Tutor session at the start of every day, providing structured support, guidance, and pastoral care.

	All Year Groups
8.35am	Form Time
9.05am	Lesson 1
10.05am	Lesson 2
11.05am	Break
11.20am	Lesson 3
12.20pm	Lesson 4
1.20pm	Lunch
2.05pm	Lesson 5
3.05pm	End

Enrichment

The Academy offers a wide and varied programme of enrichment clubs at the end of the school day, designed to enhance students' personal development and support their wider interests. These activities provide opportunities for students to build confidence, develop teamwork and leadership skills, and explore new talents beyond the classroom.

Enrichment clubs begin at 3:10pm or 3:15pm and last for one hour. A broad range of activities is available, including academic support, creative opportunities, physical activities, and wellbeing-focused clubs, ensuring there is something to suit all interests and abilities.

The timetable for enrichment is available on the school website.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Girls Football Whole school	Music coursework catchup Year 11	Netball Whole school	Samba Band Year 7, 8, 9	Football Year 7 and 8
Football Whole School	English Master class Year 11 set 3	Football - Year 9, 10 and 11	Jam Session Year 10 and 11	Cheess and Board Games Club Whole School
GCSE Science Drop'in Year 10 and 11	Christian Union Whole school	Choir - Year 9, 10 and 11	Spiritual Quiet Space Whole School	Creative Writing Whole School
GCSE Science Higher tier Masterclass Year 10 and 11		English Masterclass - 11 set 2	KS4 Art Masterclass	English Masterclass 11 Set 6
11-4 ENG Masterclass		English Masterclass - 11 set 1	Pioneers Year 7, 8, 9	KS4 Art Masterclass Year 10 and 11
Nail Art Club Limited to 8 students in Yr 8 and 9	Badminton 16 Students max	English Masterclass 11 set 5	Musical Drama Group Whole School	KS4 Art Masterclass Year 10 and 11
India drop in Year 9 students going to India		English Masterclass 11 set 2	GCSE Science Foundation class Year 10 and 11	
Rotary		School biodiversity club Whole School		
IT Masterclass Year 11	IT Masterclass Year 10	Code club Whole School		After school 15.05
Enterprise Masterclass Year 11		KS4 Art Masterclass Yr 10 and 11		Lunch 13.20
		Mindful Colouring Club Whole school		
Computing Masterclass - Yr 11	Humanities games and support club Whole school	KS3 Science club WEEK A ONLY		
KS4 Art Masterclass - Yr 10 and 11	KS4 Art - Year 10 and 11			
KS4 Art Masterclass Year 10 and 11				

Masterclasses



The Academy also offers a range of GCSE masterclasses to support students in their academic studies. These sessions provide targeted subject-specific support, additional challenge, and focused revision to help students strengthen their understanding and maximise their achievement.

Masterclasses are delivered by specialist subject teachers and are designed to complement classroom learning by offering additional opportunities for practice, consolidation, and exam preparation.

Timetables for GCSE masterclasses are available on our website.



Detentions

Detentions are used as a last resort, after students have been given a warning. They are in place to allow staff and students to rebuild meaningful relationships in a focused environment, free from distractions. Detentions last between 20 minutes and 1 hour and are always scheduled for the day after the sanction. If a detention is already in place, it will be arranged for the next available day.

Access & Visibility

All detentions are recorded on Arbor, allowing both parents and students to view them.

Non-Attendance

- If a student does not attend a detention, it will be rescheduled once.
- If a student chooses not to attend again without a valid reason, they will be placed out of circulation.
- If there is a valid reason a detention cannot be attended, this must be communicated by a parent or carer.

Restoratives

- Restorative sessions are hosted with staff to rebuild relationships and support the student.

Procedure

- All detentions take place after school.
- Staff will register students at the rear entrance to the hall, before students begin a meaningful task.
- Core expectations during detentions:
 - Work silently
 - Begin tasks immediately
 - Behave respectfully
- Students will be dismissed one by one in silence.

About...

Arbor



At The King's Academy, we now use Arbor as our main communication platform. Arbor provides a tailored, efficient, and easy-to-use experience for parents and carers, allowing you to access all relevant information about your child in one place.

With Arbor, you can:

- View attendance and absences
- Check academic progress and reports
- Keep up to date with school events and communications
- Manage personal details and emergency contacts

Should you ever need help using Arbor, please email arborhelp@thekingscofeacademy.org.

A member of our staff will be happy to assist and guide you through any questions or issues.

Arbor is designed to make staying informed about your child's school life simple, convenient, and reliable.

Attendance

BAND 1 100-95% ATTENDANCE	EXCELLENT
BAND 2 95-90% ATTENDANCE	CONCERN
BAND 3 90-85% ATTENDANCE	SERIOUS CONCERN
BAND 4 85-80% ATTENDANCE	SEVERE CONCERN
BAND 5 80-75% ATTENDANCE	
BAND 6 75-50% ATTENDANCE	

Spotlight on The Attendance Team

Mr Worthington
Assistant Principal & Attendance Champion



Mrs Beswick-Pepper
Attendance & Welfare Officer



Mrs Thorne
Home School Link Worker



At The King's, we know and recognise that good attendance is crucial to student success. Being in school every day supports learning, wellbeing, and future opportunities.

To support our students and their families in achieving the best possible attendance, we have a dedicated team of staff who are available to offer guidance, support, and practical assistance whenever needed.

Each member of the team is here to guide and assist students and families, working in partnership to overcome barriers to attendance and ensure every student has the best chance to succeed.



Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form offers a range of high-quality vocational pathways designed to prepare students for future study and employment. We currently offer four specialist courses:

Health and Social Care
T Level Engineering
Sport
Hospitality and Catering

Each course is taught by a specialist teacher with extensive knowledge and real-world experience in their field, ensuring students receive expert guidance and practical insight throughout their studies.

Applications for Sixth Form entry starting September 2026 are now open.

Students can apply online via our website or by speaking directly to a member of the Sixth Form team, Mrs Finnemore or Mrs Harnett.