



Aspire



Belong



Care

13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Issue #10

## A message from our Principal, Mrs Postlethwaite...

As we move steadily towards spring, there is a growing sense of change in the air. The days are beginning to stretch a little longer, and with that comes a renewed sense of energy and possibility. This time of year often reminds us that growth rarely arrives all at once. Instead, it begins quietly, with small green shoots pushing through, signalling that improvement is happening even when it may not yet be fully visible.

Across our community, there are many examples of this steady progress. Whether it is in learning, relationships, attendance, or attitudes, the steps forward we are seeing are the result of consistent effort and shared commitment. These moments, sometimes easy to overlook, are worth pausing to notice and celebrate. They are signs that the foundations being laid day by day are starting to take root.

Next week also marks the beginning of Lent, a season that, for many, is associated with reflection and intention. While its origins are religious, the wider themes are universal. Lent invites us to take stock, to consider what we might let go of, and to think carefully about what we want to invest in moving forward. It offers a natural opportunity to reset habits, refocus priorities, and commit to positive change.

As we enter this period, it feels timely to reflect on what we want to nurture as a community over the coming weeks. What do we want to grow stronger? What small, purposeful actions can we take that will make a lasting difference? Just as the first signs of spring require care and patience, meaningful improvement takes time, attention, and collective effort.

This newsletter captures many of those green shoots of growth, highlighting the progress being made and the people who are helping to make it happen. Thank you, as always, for your continued support, encouragement, and commitment as we move forward together into the next part of the year.

- 16<sup>th</sup> February-20<sup>th</sup> February - Half term
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Inset Day (School closed to students) and Italy Trip
- 24<sup>th</sup> February - Return to School
- 12<sup>th</sup> March- Y11 Mock results Parents evening
- 19<sup>th</sup> March- BTEC January exam results day
- 23<sup>rd</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> March- Y11 Catering Controlled Assessments
- 27<sup>th</sup> March- Inset Day (School closed to students)
- 30<sup>th</sup> March- 10<sup>th</sup> April- Easter Holidays
- 20<sup>th</sup> April- Year 9 Landudno trip
- 4<sup>th</sup> May- Bank Holiday (School closed)
- 30<sup>th</sup> April- BTEC Exams start
- 8<sup>th</sup> May- GCSE Exams start



# Attendance



## Spotlight on The Attendance Team

Mr Worthington  
Assistant Principal & Attendance Champion



Mrs Beswick-Pepper  
Attendance & Welfare Officer



Mrs Thorne  
Home School Link Worker



**DON'T  
MISS OUT!**



Attend all 14 school days of February to get a  
FULL HOUSE on your attendance card!

### REWARD

Entry into the prize draw at lunch time on Friday  
27th February!



### MISSION RESET!

Announced at the end of February  
Awarded for: Whole school attendance  
above 92%

Reward: Non-uniform day Friday 27th  
February





# Safeguarding

Children's Mental Health Week – Belonging

This week we marked Children's Mental Health Week, focusing on the theme of Belonging, which is also one of our core school values.

Belonging means feeling accepted, valued and included for who we are. When children and young people feel that they truly belong, it has a positive impact on their confidence, wellbeing and overall mental health.

During the week, we spoke to students and staff about what belonging means to them. Students shared that belonging is about feeling safe, having supportive friendships and knowing there is always someone to talk to. Staff reflected on the importance of creating inclusive environments where every individual feels heard and respected.

A strong message throughout the week was the importance of supporting one another. Small acts of kindness, checking in on others and making sure no one feels left out can make a real difference.

We are proud to promote belonging every day and remain committed to ensuring that everyone in our school community feels seen, supported and valued.

"True belonging doesn't require us to change who we are; it requires us to be who we are."  
Brené Brown.



Mrs. Smith



# SEND SUCCESS



Mrs Bashir says 'I have been extremely pleased with the students that I have been working with in English and Maths'.

Ms French says 'The Year 10 students I have been working with have been fantastic. I have been really impressed with their work in the Bistro and their growth in their 'This is Me' intervention'.

Miss Roberts says 'I am super proud of the student that I have been working with in Year 11 who shows so much resilience when facing challenges'.



# SEND Support

Staffordshire County Council are running some free parent sessions. They are delivered by the Specialist Teaching Support Service Autism Inclusion Team. Please note, these sessions are for parents/carers of children with a diagnosis or on the pathway (e.g. a referral has been accepted and awaiting an assessment for an Autism diagnosis, inc. those not yet referred to our service)

Stafford Family Hub: Faraday Road, Stafford, ST16 3NQ

Moorlands Family Hub: Albert Street, Biddulph, ST8 6DT

DATE	TIME	COURSE TITLE	LOCATION
26.02.2026	09.30-12.00	Early Years Workshop	Moorlands Family Hub
04.03.2026 (Max. 2 Sessions)	09.30-10.30	Understanding Autism	Stafford Children's Centre
	11.00-12.30	Raising Self-Esteem	
	13.30-15.00	Emotional Regulation	
<u>11.03.2026</u>	09.30-12.30	Transition to Adulthood	Stafford Children's Centre
19.03.2026	13.00-14.30	Understanding Autism	Moorlands Family Hub
16.04.2026	09:30 – 12:00	EYFS Parent Workshop	Stafford Children's Centre
03.06.2026 (Max. 2 Sessions)	09.30-11.00	Understanding Autism	Stafford Children's Centre
	12.00-13.30	Raising Self-Esteem	
	14.00-15.30	Autism & Girls	
10.06.2026	09.30-11.30	Understanding Self-Harm	Stafford Children's Centre



# Christian Distinctiveness

This week, a group of Year 8 students from The King's, along with Mrs Keay, visited St Thomas' to deliver an assembly all about Lent. We taught the children about this important season and led them in a worship song. It was a wonderful experience, and we can't wait for our next collective worship with you!

We are so proud of our students for being brave in public speaking, developing new skills, and taking part in delivering a session about such an important time in the Christian calendar.



# Enrichment



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	Chess 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 5
11-4 ENG Masterclass		English Masterclass- 11 set 1	Pioneers Year 7,8,9	KS4 Art Masterclass Year 10 and 11
Net 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			
Enterprise Masterclass Year 11		KS4 Art Masterclass Yr 10 and 11		
		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				

After school 15.05

Lunch 13.20

At The King's, we offer a wide range of enrichment and masterclasses to give our students a complete academic experience. These programs help students explore new interests, build skills, and grow in confidence. From creative workshops to advanced study sessions, every activity is designed to inspire learning beyond the classroom.



**Year 8 Boys Football Fixtures**  
**Year 8 & 9 Girls Football Fixtures**



# Home-School Links

Do you need *Legal* advice?

We all know seeking legal advice can be expensive. But did you know that Keele University offer a free service. This Service is call **CLOCK** and is ran by law students and is based in Keele in Town on the Iron Market in **Newcastle-under-Lyme**



**Keele Law School's Legal Advice Clinic and CLOCK now based at Keele in Town**

Staff from Keele's School of Law have celebrated the launch of Keele's Legal Advice Clinics and CLOCK provision at Keele in Town, in the heart of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

📅 Keele University / Apr 14, 2025

Mrs Perry

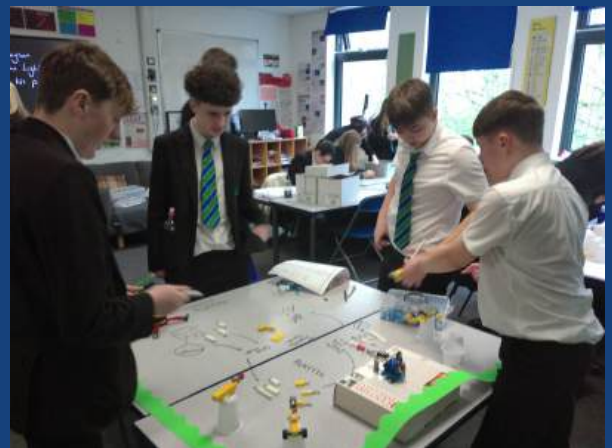
# English

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."  
Walt Disney

In English, our students have been working hard on their Power and Conflict poetry. As part of their learning, they have been exploring *The Charge of the Light Brigade* by Tennyson and asked to demonstrate their understanding in a creative way.

To do this, pupils were given random items and challenged to work together to interpret the poem through their own imaginative ideas. This task encouraged them to think critically, collaborate effectively, and express themselves in inventive ways.

The results were fantastic! Students demonstrated strong knowledge of the poem, impressive creativity, and excellent communication skills. It was incredible to see them thinking outside the box and bringing their own unique interpretations to life. Well done to all involved, your enthusiasm and hard work really shone through!



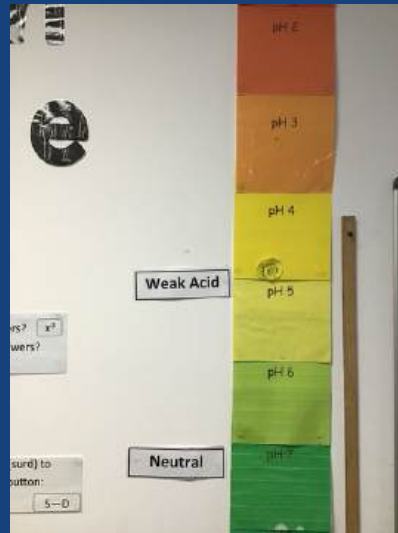
## GCSE Killer Quotes



'a huge peak, black and huge...upreared it's head'

The Prelude

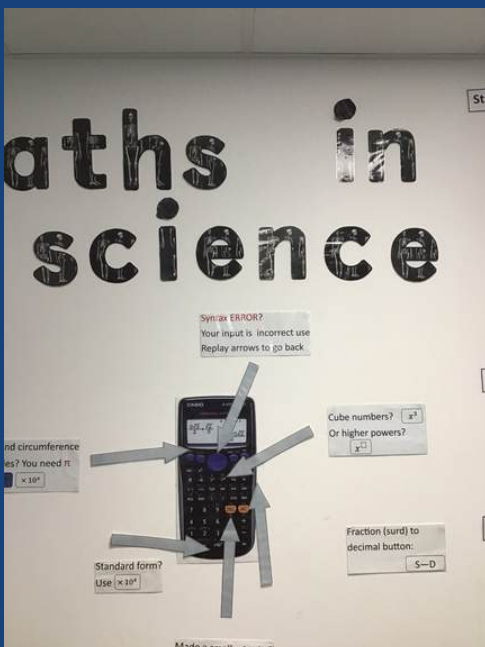
# Mrs Wilson Science



Year 7 have been exploring how variation helps protect species from extinction — and today they put their learning to the test! They designed their own camouflaged snails and carefully hid them around Mrs Wilson's lab. Every photo below contains at least one sneaky snail... can you spot them?

Students thought carefully about patterns, colors, and shapes to make their snails blend in with the environment, just like real animals do in nature. This activity gave them a hands-on experience of natural selection: snails that are better camouflaged are more likely to "survive," while those that stand out are more likely to be discovered by passing predators (also known as teachers and cleaners!).

It was fantastic to see students apply their learning creatively, observing how adaptations can increase survival chances. We're already looking forward to the next lesson to see which snails "survive" and how different strategies worked. A brilliant, interactive way to bring evolution to life in the classroom!





# Computer Science

We were thrilled to welcome Sophie from Cyberis into the Academy. She spoke to our students about ethical hacking, computing, and STEM careers, giving a fascinating insight into the world of cybersecurity and the skills needed for the future.

Sophie also highlighted the importance of girls in these careers, sharing her experiences and empowering our students to explore opportunities in technology with confidence. Students were inspired by her journey and encouraged to think creatively and critically about the role of technology in everyday life.

It was an incredible experience, and we are so grateful to Cyberis for taking the time to visit and share their expertise and passion. Our students left feeling motivated, informed, and excited about the possibilities in STEM careers!



Mrs Turner

# Maths



Mathematics is a place where  
you can do things which you  
can't do in the real world.  
Marcus du Sautoy

## Intermediate Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 28th January, 77 students in Years 9 and 10 (and one in Year 7!) took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, a prestigious Maths competition that has been running each year since 1988!

24 of our students won a certificate - 16 Bronze, 6 Silver and 2 Gold!

Both of our Gold certificate winners also progressed to the next round of competition, the Kangaroo, which will take place on 19th March.

We are incredibly proud of everyone who entered, as they worked hard to develop their problem solving skills.

Year 7 and 8 will have the opportunity to enter the Junior Maths Challenge on Wednesday 29th April - watch this space!

# Performing Arts



## Drama

This term, Year 7 have been exploring Stanislavski's naturalistic acting, using techniques like the Magic If, Given Circumstances, and emotion memory to create believable characters. Year 8 have been mastering mime, telling stories with precise gestures, body isolation, and imaginary objects, performing creative scenes like "A Day in the Park."

Year 9 have been developing their GCSE skills, using devices such as flashbacks, thought-tracking, narration, slow motion, and monologues to enhance scenes and engage the audience.

Across all years, students have focused on character, intention, and audience impact, showing creativity, confidence, and growing performance skills.

Miss Kaminskas

# Wellbeing Hub



Don't forget, BTEC Sport, Child Dev and H&SC coursework catch up every Wednesday lunchtime in 1.6



Your paragraph text



Our Year 10 BTEC Sport students have been busy filming their practical performances in their chosen sports. Their dedication in lessons and extracurricular sessions has been brilliant – well done! Remember, students can also submit videos of sport they play outside of school as evidence.

# RSHE



This term in RSHE, we have been learning about using game consoles and social media apps safely. These digital tools are fun, help us stay connected with friends, support learning, and can improve problem-solving and teamwork skills. However, it is important to use them responsibly, as too much screen time can affect sleep and mood, some content may not be age-appropriate, and excessive use can distract from homework or other activities.

To stay safe online, set limits on your screen time, take regular breaks, and balance digital activities with other hobbies. Use privacy settings to control who can see your information, and think carefully about what you post, as your digital footprint lasts even after content is deleted.

Strong, unique passwords and reporting inappropriate content or suspicious users can help protect your accounts.

If anything online makes you uncomfortable, always tell a parent, carer, teacher, or another trusted adult.

For more advice and resources for young people, parents, and carers, visit: [saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers](https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers).



# Humanities

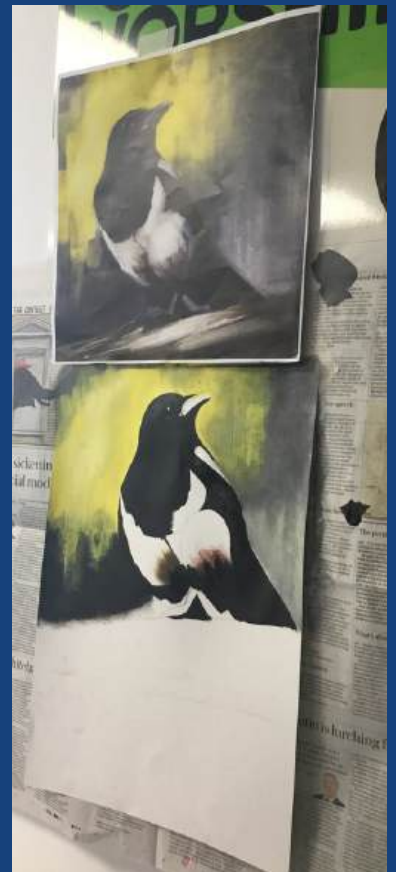
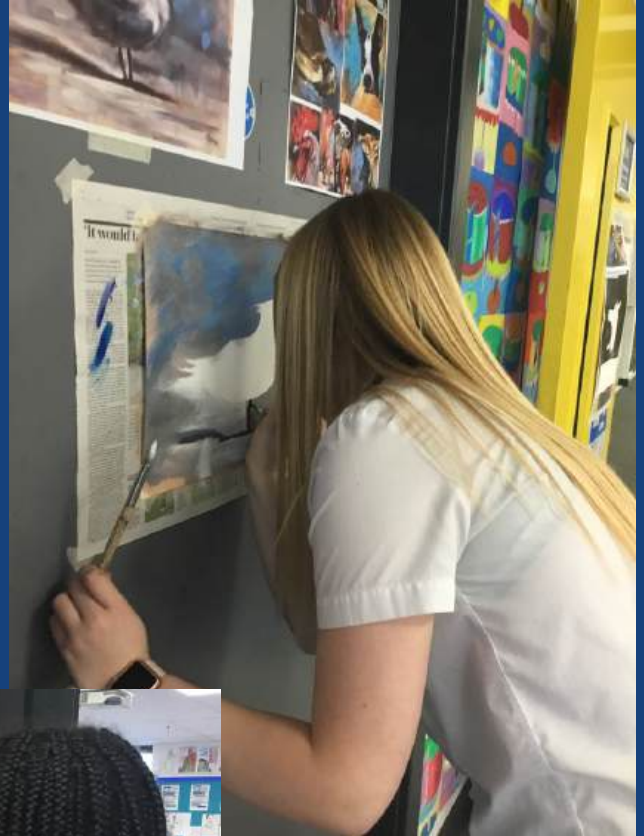
This term, Year 8 geographers have enjoyed taking their learning outdoors with fieldwork along the local canal. Pupils carried out environmental surveys, investigating water quality, wildlife habitats, and evidence of human impact.

These hands-on experiences are helping students make meaningful connections between global issues—such as plastic pollution—and the way they affect our own local environment. By seeing real examples close to home, Year 8 are developing a stronger understanding of how global challenges require local awareness and action.





# Creative Arts



## Year 10 GCSE Art

This week Year 10 have explored acrylic painting techniques in the style of artist Aimee Hoover. They have worked on a large scale to complete a duplicate of the artists work understanding colour mixing and layering. I would like to celebrate their risk taking ability and confidence using a new medium, they have all enjoyed the challenge and I look forward to the finished pieces after half term!

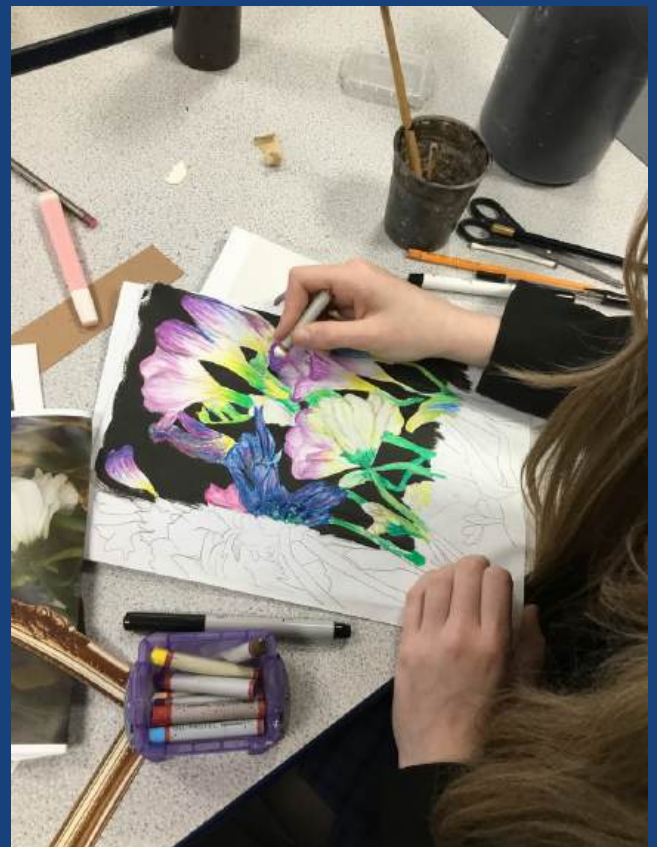


# Creative Arts



## Year 11 GCSE Art

On Wednesday the GCSE Art students completed a 5 hour mock exam. They are all working on a personal project so it was wonderful to see such a variety of ideas and art styles. Now the students have gained a real understanding of how to effectively manage their time and can better prepare for their actual exam in April.





# Creative Arts





# Creative Arts





# Careers

This week, a number of our Year 8 students had the exciting opportunity to attend the Big Expo at Stoke City FC. The event focused on careers, work experience opportunities and the development of key skills needed for future success.

Students engaged with a wide range of employers and organisations, gaining valuable insight into different industries and career pathways. The Expo encouraged them to think about their future aspirations and the skills required in the workplace, including communication, teamwork, resilience and problem-solving.

Our students were a credit to the school throughout the day. They demonstrated maturity, enthusiasm and excellent behaviour, making the most of the opportunities available to them.

A big thank you to Mr Griffiths for accompanying and supporting the students on the trip.

Experiences such as this play an important role in helping our young people make informed decisions about their futures, and we look forward to providing many more opportunities like this.



Mrs Wright

# Careers

A vibrant promotional poster for a 'Careers Fair'. At the top, the word 'CAREERS' is in large, bold, yellow letters with a red outline, flanked by two yellow stars. Below it, 'Fair' is written in a white, cursive font on a red ribbon. A red banner below that says 'THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY'. Underneath, 'Spaces Still Available!' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Below this, the text 'Inspire Our Students & Share Your Expertise!' is in white. At the bottom, a red starburst contains the text 'Get Involved & Make a Difference!' in white. At the very bottom, a blue banner says 'Email: [AWright@thekingscofeacademy.org](mailto:AWright@thekingscofeacademy.org)'. The background is blue with various icons like a briefcase, gears, a stethoscope, and a trophy. The bottom half of the poster shows a group of people: a chef, a woman in a grey blazer, a man in a white hard hat and yellow safety vest, a young man in a plaid shirt holding a microphone, a woman in blue scrubs, and a man in a dark shirt holding a soccer ball.

## 🌟 Careers Fair – Thursday 26th February 🌟

We are excited to announce that there are still spaces available for our upcoming Careers Fair! This is a fantastic opportunity for professionals from all sectors to engage with our students, share insights about their careers, and inspire the next generation.

By attending, you can:

Connect with motivated students eager to learn about different career paths

Showcase your organisation and industry expertise

Support and guide young people as they explore future opportunities

Your participation makes a real difference, helping students make informed decisions about their future careers.

If you would like to attend or need more information, please contact

[AWright@thekingscofeacademy.org](mailto:AWright@thekingscofeacademy.org)

We look forward to welcoming you and helping our students explore the exciting world of careers!



# Year 7

Another incredible half-term, with so many positive moments!

- Lots of Year 7s joining in with the school production of High School Musical Jr.
- An esports competition for students who meet our expectations consistently
- Rewards breakfast for the top 20 students

What will next half term bring! Well done Year 7

Special shout out to Grace Harding!

Grace's design for the Sandon Church window was so well received by the Church, that they have asked if they can use it to create Christmas cards to sell as part of their fundraising - well done Grace!



Special shout out to Daniel Bobrowski!

Daniel achieved gold at the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge, scoring the highest mark in the school, and is off to the next stage in March - well done Daniel!



# Year 8

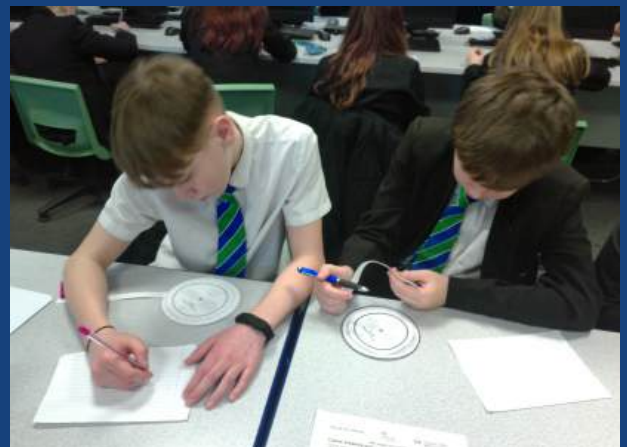
Attendance has been incredible, with students showing real commitment and determination by coming to school each day ready to learn. This consistency is making a significant difference to their progress and overall success.

Standards of uniform have also been excellent. Our students are taking pride in their appearance and in representing the school positively. It has been wonderful to see such a strong sense of identity and belonging across the year group.

In addition, we have seen a noticeable improvement in behaviour. Students are working hard, supporting one another and demonstrating greater maturity in lessons and around school. The positive attitudes on display each day are a real credit to them.

I am incredibly proud of Year 8 and the collective effort they are making. Their teamwork, resilience and determination are helping to create a year group culture that we can all be proud of.

**Well done, Year 8 — keep up the fantastic work!**





# Year 9



## Celebrating Success

Myles competed in the Cheshire Indoor Archery Championships and won 1st place for Under 15 Recurve Archer.

This is an amazing achievement and is the second year in a row for Myles !

Well done we are very proud of you.

Well done to our top 20 students who will all be enjoying the big breakfast. Hard work and dedication into each day, working towards achieving the positives will lead to successful students and bright careers



## Keeping standard high next term.

### Uniform

students have all been told in assembly around the expectations of uniform and what this means for their futures not only their time at the Kings.

After 1/2 term we will be driving our uniform expectations even higher. this includes fake eyelashes and nails.

If students choose to come to school on the Tuesday after 1/2 term wearing fake eyelashes or fake nails they will be sent to OOC until they can be removed.

### Equipment

Every child should be bringing their fab 5 into school each day.

Students are expected to get these out in form time so equipment can be checked. When students show their form tutor they have their equipment they will be awarded with positive point.



Hargreaves, Ethan
Avi, Caitlin
Bobrowski, Viktor
Cook, Lexi
Andranaki, Yana
Holloway, Imogen
Akinsemolu, Busola
Lovatt, Jack
Popovici, Denisa-Gabriela
Stanfield, Emma
El Samadi Gilbert, Jaiden
Constantin, Melissa
McIntyre, Isla
Ikin, Sophie
Carter-Pettitt, Merrilees
Plunkett, Max
Nejrup, Beau
Mathew, Aiden
Smith, Gracie

Miss Stevens

# Year 10



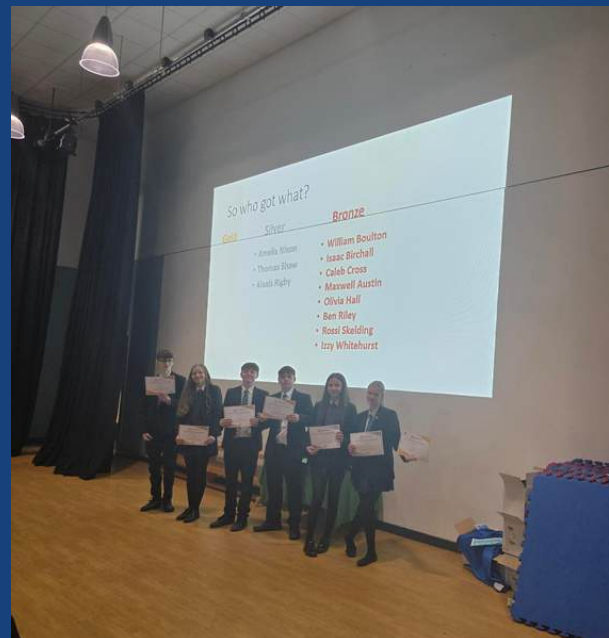
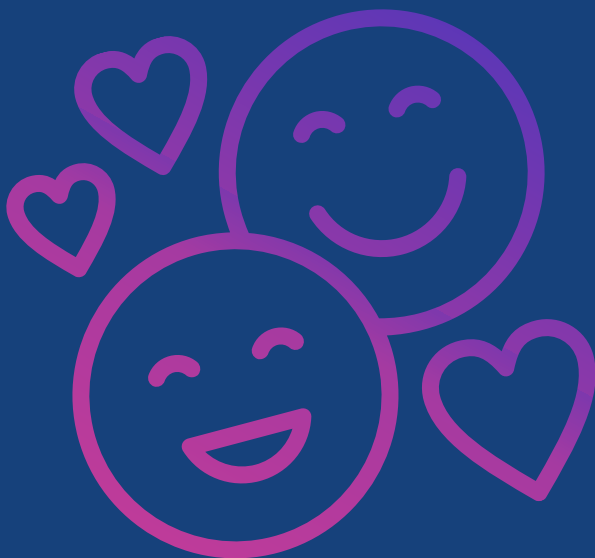
In this weeks Year 10 assembly, we focused on the important topic of healthy and toxic relationships. We explored what respect, trust and communication should look like, as well as some of the warning signs that a relationship, whether romantic or otherwise, may not be healthy.

We also placed a strong emphasis on friendships. We discussed how positive friendships should make you feel supported, valued and safe, and how true friends encourage you to grow and succeed. Equally, we reminded students that friendships should never involve pressure, control or feeling put down. Learning to recognise the difference is such an important life skill, and it was fantastic to see Year 10 engaging so thoughtfully with these discussions.

We then had the opportunity to celebrate the brilliant efforts of students who took part in the Maths Challenge run by Mim Gosling 😊 A huge well done to everyone who participated. It is fantastic to see so many students challenging themselves and embracing opportunities beyond the classroom.

We are also very excited about the upcoming Italy trip taking place on 23rd February. Students received their jumpers today, which has definitely added to the excitement. We hope everyone going is feeling ready, organised and eager for what promises to be an unforgettable experience filled with culture, learning and amazing memories.

Well done, Year 10. Keep up the great attitude and enthusiasm.



# Year 11

# EXAM!



## Year 11 – GCSEs Are Approaching!

As the GCSE exams draw closer, it is more important than ever to prioritise revision and ensure you are fully prepared. This is a busy and exciting time, and we want to help you make the most of it.

### Revision Tips and Ideas

**Plan Ahead** – Create a revision timetable, breaking your subjects into manageable chunks.

**Active Revision** – Use flashcards, mind maps, quizzes, and practice papers to actively test your knowledge.

**Teach Someone Else** – Explaining topics to a friend or family member can help you understand and remember key concepts.

**Breaks Are Important** – Use the Pomodoro technique or short regular breaks to maintain focus and prevent burnout.

**Variety Helps** – Mix subjects and techniques to keep your brain engaged and avoid monotony.



Mr Barber

Year 11

Mental  
health  
matters



Supporting Your Mental Health

Stay active, eat well, and get enough sleep to keep your mind and body ready for learning.

Take time to relax and do things you enjoy. Balance is key. If you feel stressed, anxious, or overwhelmed, reach out. Speak to your teachers, form tutors, or our wellbeing team. We are here to support you every step of the way.

Remember, preparing for exams is not just about working hard, but also about working smart and looking after yourself. With the right balance of revision, rest, and support, you can achieve your best.

We are incredibly proud of how hard Year 11 students are working and look forward to seeing you all succeed. Keep going – you are capable of great things!



Mrs Finnemore



# Sixth Form

Applications are still open for places in Sixth Form commencing study in September 2026 in:

- Hospitality and Catering
- T Level Engineering
- Health and Social Care
- Sport

If you need further help or guidance, please speak to

Mrs. Finnemore or

Mrs. Harnett, or visit our website: [www.thekingsofeacademy.org](http://www.thekingsofeacademy.org)





# Sixth Form

## Sixth Form Work Experience Success

We are incredibly proud of our amazing Sixth Form students, Jack T and Sasha L, who have been working exceptionally hard during their recent work experience placements.

Jack has been gaining valuable experience in sport, while Sasha has been developing her skills within a teaching placement at our trust primary schools, St Giles and St George's. Both students have demonstrated professionalism, maturity and enthusiasm, making a fantastic impression. We are very grateful to St Giles and St George's for providing such supportive and enriching opportunities for our students.

Work experience plays a vital role in preparing our Sixth Formers for life beyond school. It allows them to develop confidence, responsibility and real world skills as they begin taking important steps towards their future careers.



Mrs Finnemore

# Sixth Form

## University Offers and Future Pathways



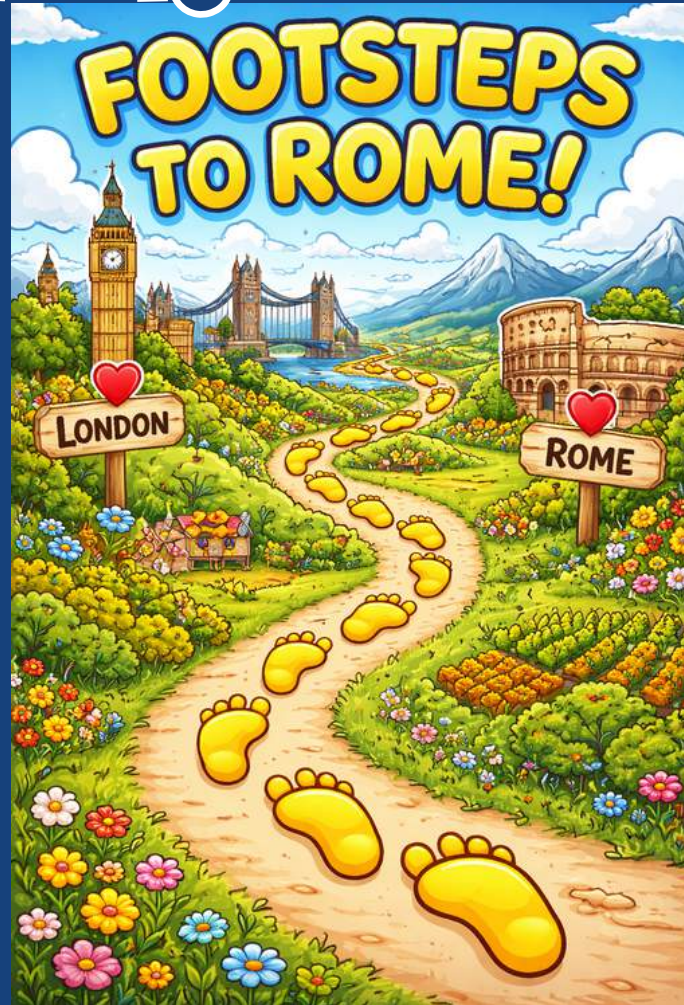
Alongside their work experience successes, we are delighted to see so many of our students celebrating offers from their first choice universities. Their dedication, resilience and commitment to their studies are truly paying off, and it is wonderful to see their hard work being recognised.

This is an exciting time for our Sixth Form as students begin to finalise their plans for the future, whether that be university, apprenticeships or employment. We are extremely proud of all they are achieving and look forward to seeing them continue to grow and succeed.

Your efforts and achievements are a credit to you all.



# Community Caring



The Proclaimers might have 'Walked 500 miles...' but the team walking for Cystic Fibrosis in February have already walked over 2.7 million steps! This is equivalent to approximately 2000 kilometres, or walking from London to Rome!

We'll be continuing to notch up 11,000 steps each, every day in February, over half term and the week after, to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Research in CF has made amazing leaps over the last five years, producing new medications which are doubling the life expectancy of most children born today with CF. Approximately 10% of patients cannot yet access this medication so we need to keep raising money to support families and help CF patients live a life unlimited.