Principal's Newsletter

The King's CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY KIDSGROVE

Aspire Belong Care

18th September 2026 Issue #2

A message from our Principal, Mrs Postlethwaite...

I can't believe that we have been back at school for three weeks already and what an amazing first three weeks back we have had! It has been wonderful to see our school full of energy again, with students settling quickly into their routines and approaching the new year with such positivity.

Our Year 7 students have settled in so well and I had the pleasure of watching our 'Play in a week' performance last Friday which was incredible!

I have been so proud of the way our students have represented our values of Aspire, Belong and Care, both in lessons and around the school. There is a real sense of purpose and excitement for the year ahead.

Our new members of staff have also settled in well and I made time on Friday last week to meet with them at the end of the day to find out how their first week had gone. Every one of our new members of staff mentioned the care and kindness from students and staff. It really is a huge strength of the school and I feel enormously privileged to lead this wonderful community. Thank you to our students, staff and families for such a fantastic start. I cannot wait to see what we achieve together this year.

Thank you also to those parents who have adapted their drop off and collection routes. It has been noticeably better on the front carpark this week and students have been able to arrive and leave school much safer. More information about this can be found on the second page of this newsletter.

With so many exciting events coming up this term, I can't wait to report back in the coming weeks and share further updates as the year progresses!

Upcoming Events

- 22 September- Y11 Speaking & Listening day
- 23 September- Primary day
- 29 September- Alton Towers rewards trip *new date*
- 8 October- Y11 Quarry Bank Mill trip
- 15 October- Y11 Shrewsbury trip
- 21 October- Y8 Trade Game
- 23 October- INSET (Staff only)
- 26-30 October- Half Term
- 2 November- INSET (Staff only)

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.

Open Evening

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

Mrs S B-P

sbeswick-pepper@thekingscofeacademy.org

Home School Support Worker

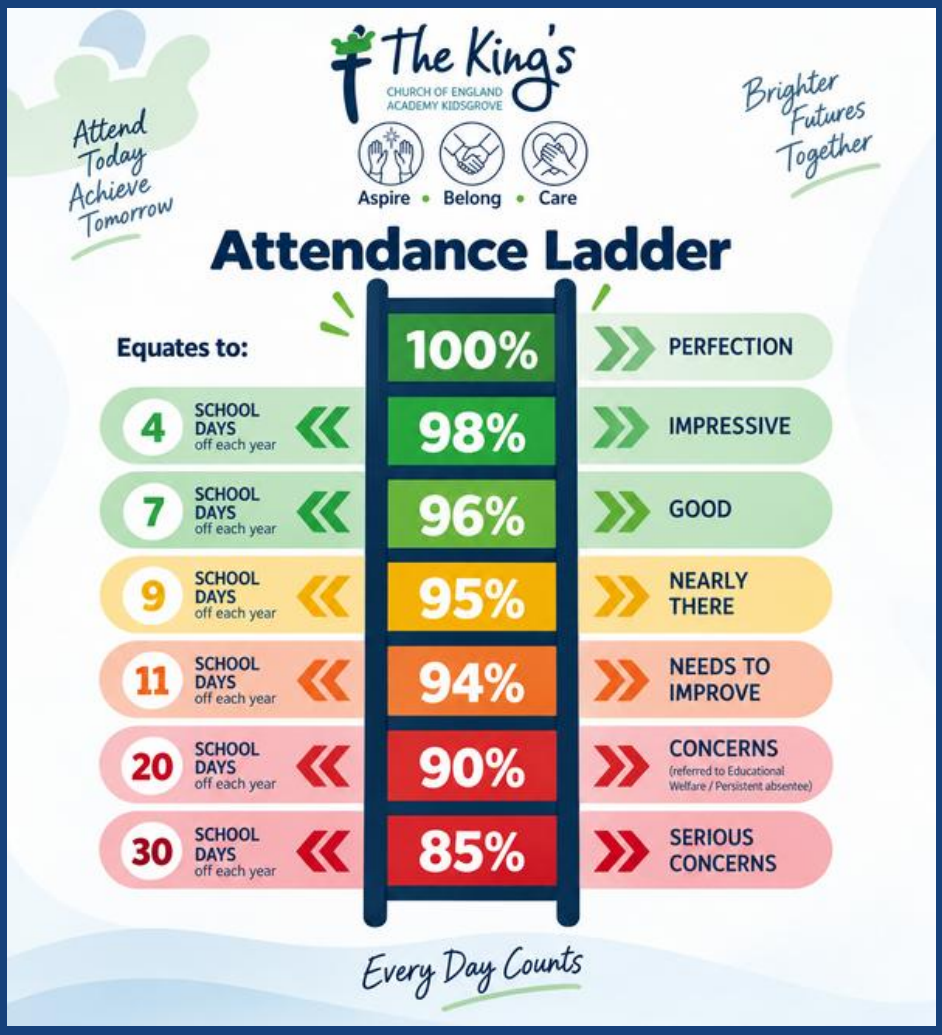
NThorne@thekingscofeacademy.org

General Enquiries

enquiries@thekingscofeacademy.org

Attendance Team

Attendance



Attendance and punctuality matter. Every lesson missed is missed learning, and even small amounts of absence or lateness can quickly add up and affect progress. We ask all students to attend school every day, arrive on time and be ready to learn from the very start of each lesson. We understand that there may sometimes be genuine reasons for absence, and we encourage families to work closely with us so that we can support students and minimise any gaps in learning. By working together, we can give every student the best possible chance to achieve, flourish and reach their full potential.

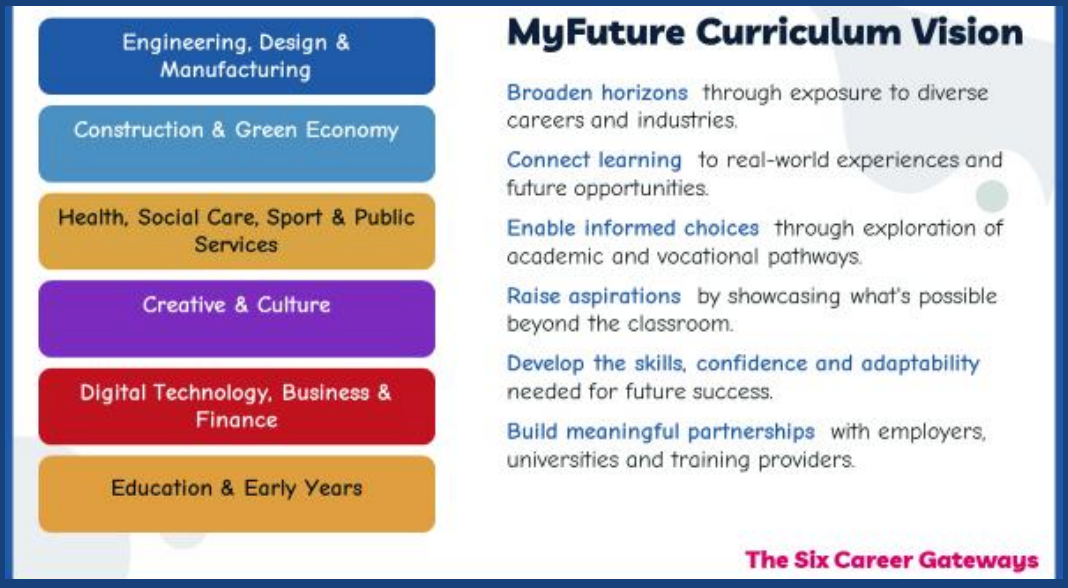
Mrs Boon

Curriculum

Key Stage 4 Future Gateways

The King's CofE Academy, as part of the Three Spires Trust, has worked in partnership with Alpha Academies Trust and Potteries Educational Trust to develop "Gateways" that provide meaningful work experience and real employer engagement opportunities for our students.

Students are able to select a Gateway aligned to their interests, giving them access to tailored experiences that deepen their understanding of different career pathways. These opportunities are designed to strengthen their knowledge of employment routes and support a successful transition into the next stage of their education or training.



Mr Furnival

Inclusion and Wellbeing

Hi, I'm Mr Furnival, the Inclusion and Wellbeing Manager at The King's Academy. My role is to support students with their wellbeing, attendance and engagement, helping them to overcome any barriers that may affect their learning or time in school. I work closely with students, families and staff to ensure every young person feels supported, included and able to thrive.

Our new Boxing Club starts next week. Through boxing-based activities, students will develop emotional regulation, resilience, self-discipline and confidence in a positive and supportive environment.

Mrs. Holdcroft

Safeguarding

Meet Your Safeguarding Team

At The King's High School, the wellbeing, safety and happiness of our students are at the heart of everything we do. We would like to introduce our safeguarding leads for this academic year: Mrs Holdcroft, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), and Mrs Harrison, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL). We are here to support students and families with any concerns relating to wellbeing, mental health, attendance, family circumstances, online safety or safeguarding matters. We work closely with staff, parents, carers and external agencies to ensure that every young person receives the support they need to thrive both in and out of school. If you or your child ever need advice, guidance or someone to talk to, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Together, we can ensure that every student feels safe, supported and valued as part of our King's community.

Alcohol Awareness Support for Families

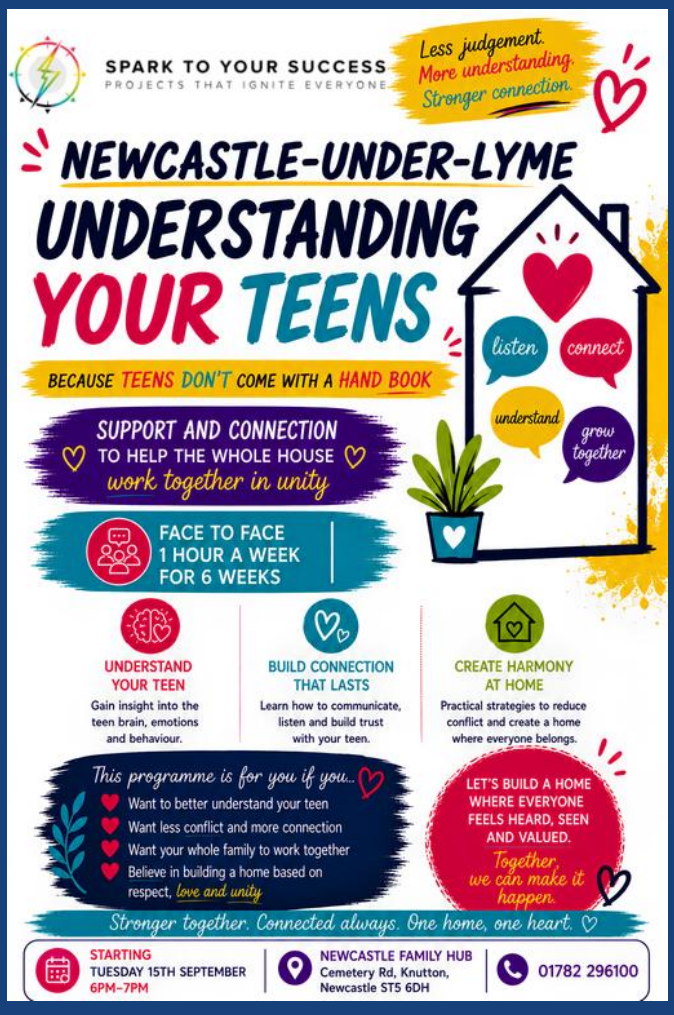
As we begin the new school year, supporting the health and wellbeing of our school community remains a key priority. We would like to share a useful resource for parents and carers that provides information, guidance, and access to trusted support around alcohol awareness. The Staffordshire App Finder has launched a dedicated Alcohol Awareness page, featuring a range of NHS-approved apps and resources designed to support healthier lifestyle choices.

One of the recommended resources is the free NHS Drink Free Days app. The app helps users set alcohol-free days, track their progress, and stay motivated through helpful tips, reminders, and milestone celebrations. Whether you are looking to reduce alcohol consumption, introduce regular alcohol-free days, or make positive changes to your wellbeing, this app offers practical support to help you achieve your goals.

To find out more and explore the available resources, please visit:

🔗 Staffordshire Alcohol Awareness Page
https://staffordshire.orchahealth.com/en-GB/alcohol-awareness-week

We encourage families to access the support available and make use of the resources that best meet their needs.



Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire health app finder

Mrs. Smith

SEND Support

Mrs Smith

Mrs Nevard

Mrs Cooper

Hello, I'm Mrs Smith, Head of SEN and Assistant Principal. I work closely with students, families and my team to ensure every young person receives the support they need to thrive. I am joined by Mrs Nevard, Deputy Head of SEN, and Mrs Cooper, Assistant SENCO, who both play a vital role in supporting our students.

Alongside our incredible team of Teaching Assistants, we are committed to creating an inclusive and supportive environment where every student feels valued. Together, we help students overcome barriers, build confidence and achieve their full potential.

Mrs Keay

Christian Distinctiveness

A Prayer for the New Term

Heavenly Father,

As we settle into the first few weeks of this new academic year, we thank You for the fresh opportunities, new beginnings and new faces within our school community.

We pray especially for our new students and staff. Help them to feel welcomed, valued and that they truly belong. Give us all courage as we face new challenges, patience as we adjust to new routines, and kindness in the way we support one another.

Bless our classrooms, friendships and conversations. Help us to aspire to be the best we can be, to care for those around us and to build a community where everyone can flourish.

Guide us through the weeks ahead and remind us that, whatever this term may bring, we do not face it alone.

Amen.

Whole School

KS3 Enrichment

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Enrichment Timetables KS3

Sports Enrichment Timetable

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

Other Enrichment Clubs Timetable

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Location	Teacher
Homework Club	Year 9	Monday & Thursday / Tuesday & Friday	Monday & Thursday lunch time; Tuesday & Friday 3:05-4pm	Library	Mrs Little
Homework Club	Years 7-8	Tuesday & Friday / Monday & Wednesday	Tuesday & Friday lunch time; Monday & Wednesday 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

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No need to sign up, just turn up at the stated location above on the relevant day and time

Please note, Duke of Edinburgh is for Years 9-10

Whole School

KS4 Enrichment

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Enrichment Timetables KS4

Masterclass Timetable

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

Sports Enrichment Timetable

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

Other Enrichment Clubs Timetable

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Location	Teacher
Homework Club	Years 9-11	Monday / Thursday / Tuesday / Friday	Monday & Thursday lunch time; Tuesday & Friday 3:05-4pm	Library	Mrs Little
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Please note, Duke of Edinburgh is for Years 9-10

Mrs Danks

RSHE

As we begin the new school year, our RSHE curriculum from Year 7 through Year 11 is now livecan be seen on our earning journey below so you can see exactly how topics build over time — from emotional literacy and healthy relationships to mental health, media awareness, and preparing for life beyond school.

If students need support at any point, our key safeguarding and wellbeing staff are here to help:

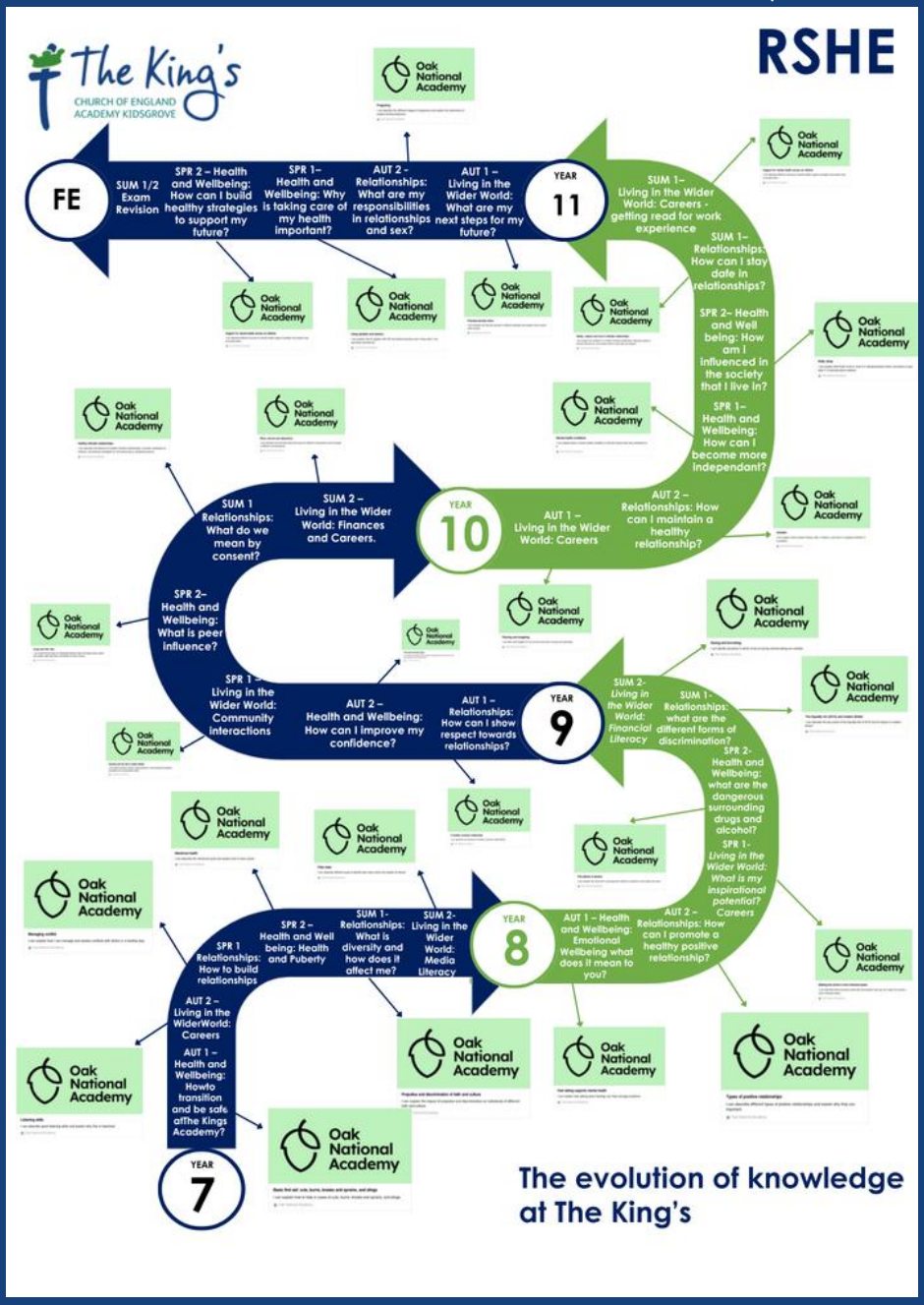
RSHE Lead – Mrs Danks

Safeguarding Team – Mrs Holdcroft and Mrs Harrison

Pastoral Team – Heads of Year and form tutors

For confidential external support, Childline is always available on 0800 1111 or via their website.

We're looking forward to a positive year of learning, reflection, and supporting every student to feel safe, confident, and ready to thrive.



Mrs Thorne

Home–School Links

Support Your Child's Success at School

Small routines make a big difference!

Good routines for bed time, homework and gaming help your child be happier, healthier and more focused at school.

Bed Time Routines

Better sleep = better learning

- ✓ Set a consistent bedtime and stick to it, even at weekends (as much as possible).
- ✓ Create a calming wind-down routine (e.g. bath, book, quiet time).
- ✓ Keep screens off at least 1 hour before bed.
- ✓ Make sure your child's bedroom is quiet, cool and comfortable.
- ✓ Aim for the right amount of sleep for their age (usually 9–11 hours for school age children).

Homework Routines

Build good habits and confidence

- ✓ Choose a quiet, tidy space with few distractions.
- ✓ Set a regular time each day for homework (e.g. after school or before dinner).
- ✓ Break tasks into smaller steps and take short breaks (5–10 minutes).
- ✓ Encourage your child to try their best, not be perfect.
- ✓ Talk about their learning – ask what they enjoyed or found challenging.

Gaming Routines

Balance is key

- ✓ Set clear time limits (e.g. 1 hour after homework and before bed).
- ✓ Choose age-appropriate games and check content and online safety settings.
- ✓ Encourage a mix of activities – gaming should be part of a balanced day.
- ✓ Keep devices out of bedrooms and away from mealtimes.
- ✓ Have regular breaks to support focus, mood and physical health.

Extra Tips for Success

Keep routines consistent

Talk and listen

Praise effort and progress

Be patient and positive

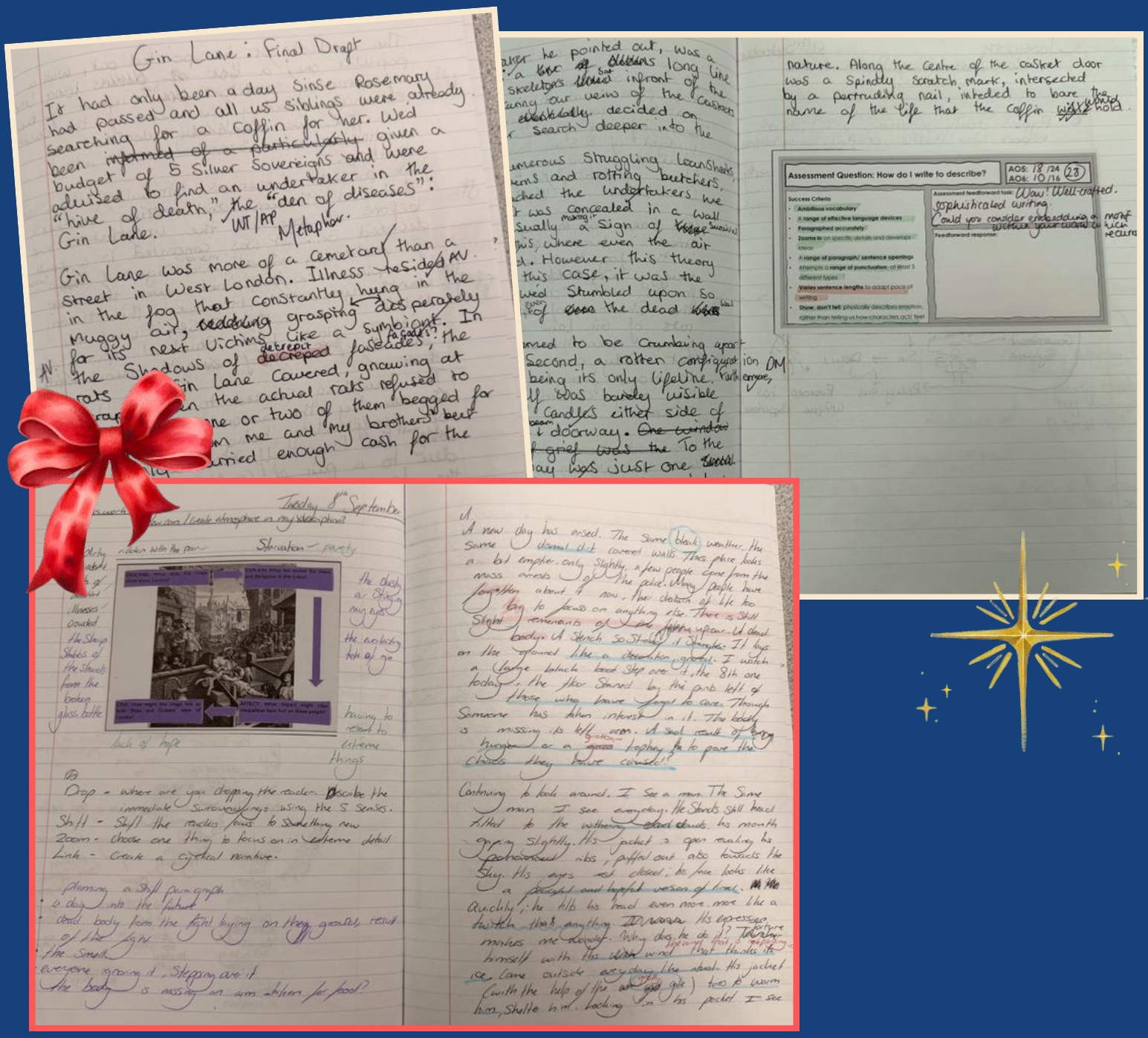
Work together with your child's school

Mrs Perry

English

Christmas has arrived very early to our Year 10 students!

Our new topic is the novella 'A Christmas Carol', officially marking the start of their GCSE course. Never have more highlighters, anthologies and revision books been witnessed! The group have shown such dedication and enthusiasm towards their studies, and we have begun to explore how we can use high-quality texts to craft our own pieces.



Mr Purle

Maths

Welcoming Our New Teachers

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Sandescu and Mr Jones to The King's Maths Department family. They bring with them a wealth of mathematical knowledge, including Master's degrees, and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know their new classes.

Key Dates

Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (Years 9 and 10): Wednesday 27 January

Junior Mathematical Challenge (Years 7 and 8): Wednesday 5 May

Year 11 Maths Masterclasses: Monday during Week A, 3.05–4.00pm

Century Tech

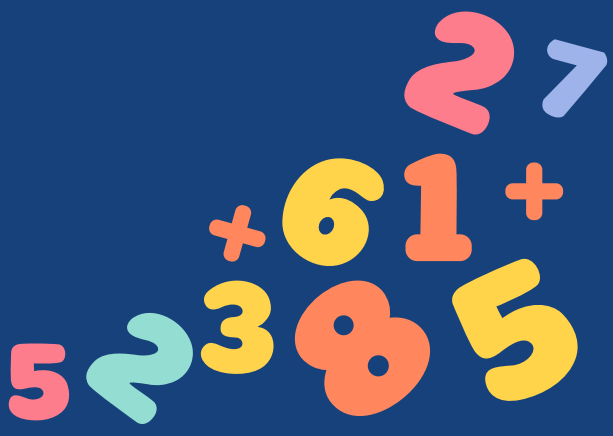
Pupils should select 'Sign in with Office 365' when accessing the Century Tech website. They can then use the same login details as their school Chromebook account.

Supporting Maths at Home

Alongside Century Tech, pupils can use the following websites for revision and independent study:

- Corbettmaths: suitable for all year groups
- 1st Class Maths: particularly useful for Key Stage 4
- Maths Genie: suitable for all year groups

Regular practice at home is a brilliant way for pupils to consolidate their classroom learning, develop confidence and strengthen their mathematical skills.



Mrs Wilson

Science

Our students have made a fantastic start to the term in Science. They have been working incredibly hard, developing their scientific knowledge and taking part enthusiastically in a range of practical activities.

It has been wonderful to see students demonstrating curiosity, teamwork and resilience in their lessons. We look forward to seeing them continue to build their confidence and practical skills throughout the term.

Educake

How to Log In to Educake

Visit www.educake.co.uk.

Select Student Login.

Enter the username and password provided by school.

Click Log in.

Once logged in, select the relevant subject to view your homework, quizzes and assignments.

If you have forgotten your login details or are unable to access your account, please speak to your class teacher.

Mr Aslam

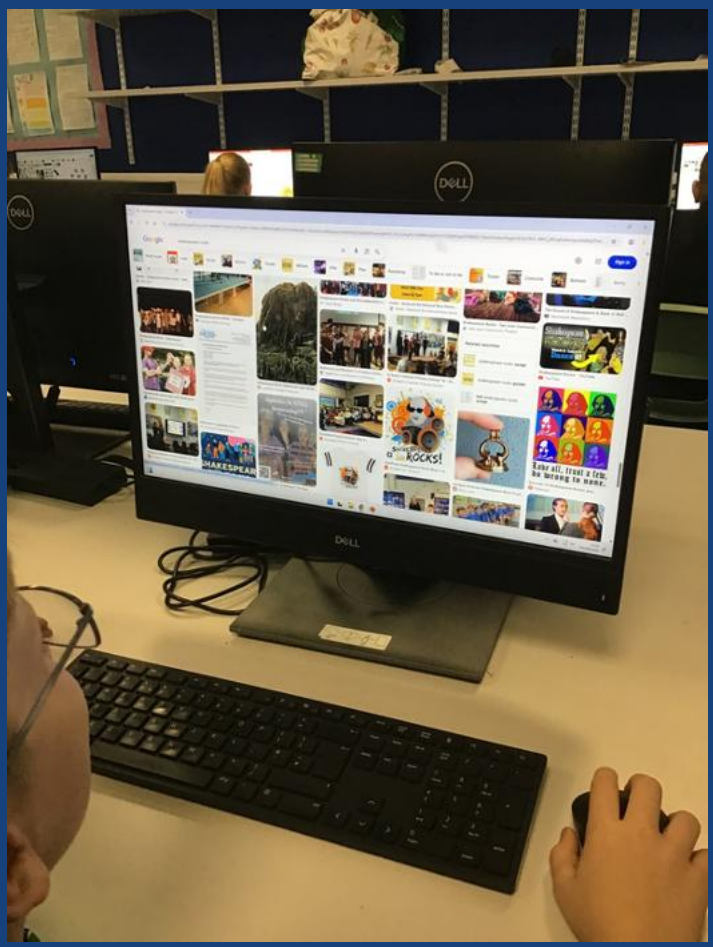
Computer Science

Year 7 Shakespeare Rocks Week!

Our Year 7 students have enjoyed an exciting and creative Shakespeare Rocks Week, with Computer Science joining in the fun!

Students used Micro:bits to write code that made a Shakespearean skull light up. They also developed their digital skills by using presentation software to design eye-catching promotional posters and created informative fact files about William Shakespeare.

It was wonderful to see students combining English, history, creativity and technology while bringing Shakespeare's world to life!



Miss Richardson

DRAMA:

Follow the Yellow Brick Road!

We are delighted to announce that this year's Academy production will be The Wizard of Oz!

Rehearsals will take place every Monday after school, with audition dates and further details to be confirmed soon.

Whether you love acting, singing, dancing or helping behind the scenes, there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved. Keep an eye out for more information and prepare to join us on an unforgettable journey to Oz!

Mr Austerberry

Music

Hello, I'm Mr Austerberry, the new Music Teacher here at The King's. Some students may already know me from my previous role within the SEN Department.

I have had a thoroughly enjoyable start to the term, particularly working closely with Year 7 during Shakespeare Rocks. The pupils demonstrated incredible enthusiasm, confidence and talent throughout the week.

I am looking forward to supporting students with our upcoming production of The Wizard of Oz, as well as many other exciting performances and events. Everyone is welcome to join the school choir, which rehearses every Wednesday after school. I hope to see lots of you there!

Miss Patterson Art

A Creative Start for Year 7

Our Year 7 pupils have settled into Academy life brilliantly. During their first week, a number of students worked with the Art Department to create fantastic props, demonstrating wonderful creativity, enthusiasm and teamwork. We are incredibly proud of how positively all our new pupils have embraced their first few weeks.

GCSE Art Reminder

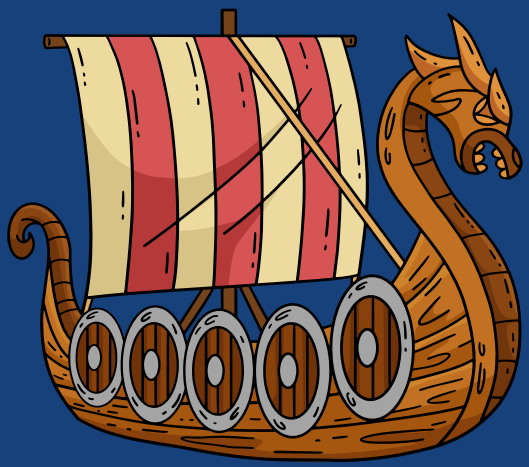
A reminder to all GCSE Art students to stay on top of their homework and meet all deadlines. Regular effort outside lessons is essential for building a strong portfolio and achieving your full potential. Please speak to your Art teacher if you need any support.

Miss Sharrock

Humanities

It has been an amazing start to the term in Humanities! Our geographers and historians have returned with enthusiasm, curiosity and a fantastic attitude towards their learning. Students have been exploring fascinating places, people and events, developing their knowledge while asking thoughtful questions about the world around them and the past that has shaped it.

We are incredibly proud of their hard work and look forward to seeing what they achieve this year!



Miss Kaminskas

Wellbeing

It has been a fantastic start to the new academic year across PE, Health and Social Care and Child Development.

Students have been thoroughly engaged in their Core PE lessons, with Year 7 developing their fundamental movement skills through Practical ABCs, Year 8 taking part in Netball and Football, Year 9 enjoying Volleyball and Tag Rugby, and Years 10 and 11 participating in Fitness and Invasion Games.

Our new Year 10 option classes have also hit the ground running in Cambridge National Sport Science, BTEC Health and Social Care and Child Development. Students have shown real enthusiasm for their new subjects and have made an excellent start to developing the knowledge and skills they will need throughout their courses.

Sixth Form students studying Health and Social Care and Sport have approached the start of the year with maturity and commitment, settling quickly into their courses and demonstrating a conscientious attitude towards their learning.

PE Kit

Students' PE kit is looking great so far this year – thank you for helping us to keep standards high!

A quick reminder that the Academy PE kit consists of the Academy PE T-shirt, plain black shorts, black jogging bottoms or black sports leggings, along with suitable astro trainers or non-marking sole trainers.

For students in Years 8–11, the previous blue PE kit is absolutely fine to continue wearing until it has been outgrown.

KS4 Masterclasses

KS4 Masterclasses have started this week, providing students with additional support outside of lessons. Sessions take place on Tuesday lunchtimes in Room 1.6 and Thursday after school from 3:05–4:05pm. For Year 10, masterclasses are an opportunity to catch up with coursework, receive extra support or get ahead with current tasks. For Year 11, sessions will focus on revision, exam preparation and developing exam technique ahead of the January examinations. All students are encouraged to make the most of this additional support.

Mrs Wright

Careers

Pre-Med Conference Opportunity

Students in Years 10–12 who are interested in pursuing a career in Medicine or Dentistry are invited to attend Newcastle-under-Lyme School's free Pre-Med Conference.

The event will provide an opportunity to hear directly from expert speakers and industry professionals, with valuable advice and practical guidance on navigating the competitive application process for Medicine and Dentistry courses.

Event details

Date: Saturday 3 October

Time: 9:00am–1:00pm

Location: Newcastle-under-Lyme School

Cost: Free

Who can attend: Students aged 15–17 in Years 10–12

Places can be reserved directly through the Newcastle-under-Lyme School events page.

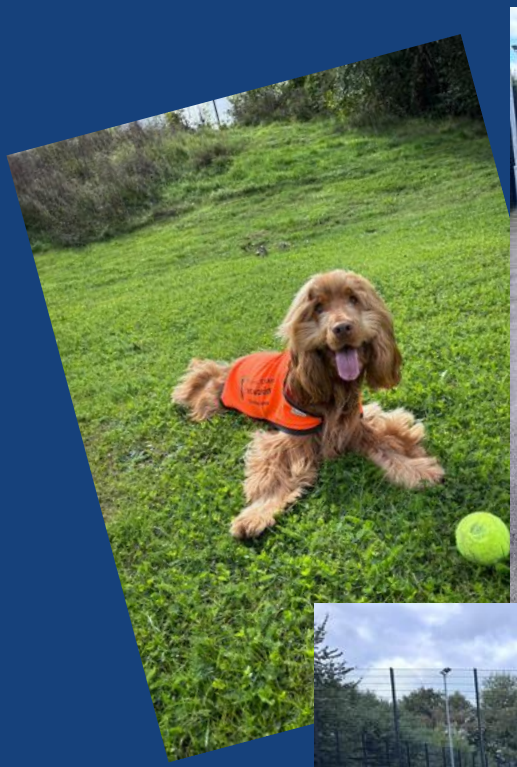
This is an excellent opportunity for aspiring medical and dental students to learn more about these career pathways and strengthen their understanding of the university application process.

Chester Pupdates

It has been a pawsome start to the term for Chester! He has been very busy making his rounds, greeting students and staff, and bringing plenty of smiles to everyone he meets.

Chester has been especially impressed by how hard our students have been working and how kindly they have supported one another. He has certainly sniffed out lots of examples of our Academy values: Aspire, Belong and Care.

Keep an eye out for Chester around the Academy. He cannot wait to share more of his adventures, favourite moments and top-dog achievements in the next edition!



Mrs Goldstraw

Year 7

What an incredible first couple of weeks we have had ! Year 7 have settled into school life so well and are exceptional members of our school community

We have brilliant attendance at 98.5%! Particular praise should be given to 7-ABR who were the only form group with 100% attendance in the whole school last week!

An incredible shout out goes to the whole year group for their brilliant work for Shakespeare Rocks! The whole year group developed skills of team work, communication and resilience throughout the week and learnt about William Shakespeare! Well done to everyone!

Mr Barber

Year 8

It has been wonderful to welcome our Year 8 students back to the Academy and officially take on the role of their Head of Year. I am looking forward to continuing to get to know each student and supporting them throughout the year.

Please remember that I am always available if students or families need advice or support, as are their dedicated form tutors. This term will bring many exciting opportunities for our students to learn, grow and create lasting memories. I am incredibly proud of the positive start they have made and look forward to seeing everything they achieve.

Year 8 Form tutors

Mr Collis - jcollis@thekingscofeacademy.org

Mr Austerberry- JAusterberry@thekingscofeacademy.org

Mrs Sandescu- VSandescu@thekingscofeacademy.org

Mrs Holton - MHolton@thekingscofeacademy.org

Mr Jones - ijones1@thekingscofeacademy.org

Miss Stanyer

Year 9

What an amazing start to the new school year! It has been so lovely to welcome our Y9 students back and see them settling into the new academic year so positively. They have made a fantastic start, and they continue to make me incredibly proud.

I would also like to give a huge welcome to Mrs Cullen, who has joined Team Y9 this year. She has already been a fantastic addition to the team, and we are delighted to have her with us.

Our Y9 attendance average is currently an impressive 95.2%!
The competition between our form groups is already starting to heat up, with everyone battling it out to see which form will be the first to achieve 100% attendance!

Every day really does count, so please continue to encourage your child to attend school every day and arrive on time, ready to learn.

Mrs Kirk

Year 10

I hope you and your family have had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It is a pleasure to welcome our students back to school as they begin Year 10, an exciting and important year as they embark on their GCSE journey. We are looking forward to supporting them as they embrace new challenges, develop their skills and continue to grow both academically and personally.

As we start the year together, I would also like to acknowledge that some students may be experiencing a few nerves about returning to school or beginning their GCSE courses. If you have noticed any changes in your child's attitude, motivation or confidence over the summer, please be reassured that this is not uncommon. As students become more aware of the demands of their examination years, some may begin to feel worried or stressed about what lies ahead.

Please know that we are here to help. Guided by our values of Aspire, Belong and Care, we are committed to supporting every student both academically and emotionally. If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing or progress, please do not hesitate to get in touch. By working together, we can ensure that every student feels supported, confident and ready to achieve their very best throughout Year 10.

WATCH OUT FOR

- Increased irritability
- Reduced motivation
- Difficulty sleeping
- Excessive worry about exams

USEFUL LINKS

CONTACT

- jkirk@thekingscofeacademy.org

Miss Stevens

Year 11

Year 11 Revision and Exam Countdown

A huge thank you to Mrs Postlethwaite for delivering a helpful parent briefing on Wednesday evening, he session guided parents through effective revision techniques and included a wide range of useful websites, resources and links that students can use to support their learning at home. These resources will also be shared with students and families.

The countdown to the Year 11 examinations is officially on! Every lesson, revision session and day in school matters, so students should aim for excellent attendance and make the most of all the support available.

Prom at Keele Hall!

This year's Year 11 Prom will take place at the stunning Keele Hall!

As an extra incentive, Mrs Postlethwaite has confirmed that she will pay for the prom ticket of any student who achieves 100% attendance during the agreed attendance period.

Students who have not yet done so can also pay £20 towards their ticket now to help spread the cost. Please note that the official ticket price has not yet been confirmed, and further information will follow.

67

school days Until January exams!

139

school days Until Summer exams!

Mrs Finnemore

Sixth Form

It has been fantastic to welcome our new Year 12 cohort into Sixth Form and to see how quickly they are beginning to settle into new routines, courses and expectations. They have made a really positive start, and it has been lovely to see new friendships forming and students beginning to find their feet. Our Year 13 students have also returned with focus and maturity, ready to take on their final year and all the opportunities and challenges that come with it. We are incredibly proud of the positive atmosphere within Sixth Form already and look forward to seeing both year groups continue to grow in confidence, independence and ambition throughout the term.

Mrs Finnemore

Sixth Form

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October 2026

- Friday 23rd October 2026: INSET Day

November 2026

- Monday 2nd November 2026: INSET Day
- 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 Week
- Tuesday 24th November 2026: Sixth Form Trip

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 (AM): Unit 3 - A&P in Sport (Year 13)
- Friday 8th January 2027 (PM): Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development Exam (Year 12)
- Monday 11th January 2027 (AM): Unit 2 - Working in HSC Exam (Year 13) / 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)

Fifth on Fourth Bistro

w/c 27/03/26

Note: For information on allergens, please consult the sheet in your menu folder at the back.
If you have any questions, please ask a member of staff.

The restaurant is open for lunch on Wednesday Thursday and Friday this week.

STARTERS (£2.95)

Soup of the day (v, gf)

Smoked mackeral pate (mk, fh, gf)

(Both starters are served with a warm bread roll)

MAIN COURSES (£6.50)

Chicken Chasseur (gf)
Pieces of chicken braised with tomatoes, mushrooms, white wine and tarragon

Cod Mornay (gf, fh, mk)
Cod Fillet baked with a cheese sauce

Vegetable Wellington (ceg, v, mk)
Vegetables encased in puff pastry with a vegetarian gravy

All served with mashed potatoes, baton carrots and savoy cabbage

DESSERTS (£2.95)

Pear conde (v, gf, mk)
Made with sweet rice pudding and tender poached pears

Sticky toffee pudding (v, mk, ceg)
Served with toffee sauce and custard

Allergy abbreviations: CLY-Celery, CCG-Cereals containing gluten, CSN- Crustaceans, EG- Egg, FH- Fish, LN- Lupin, MK-Milk, MLS- Molluscs, MSD- Mustard, NS- Nuts, PNTS- Peanuts, SMSS- Sesame seeds, SYA- Soya, SDE- Sulphur dioxide, GF- Gluten free. Other Codes; V- Vegetarian, VN- Vegan

TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Send an email to fifthonfourth@thekingsofleaacademy.org
Call on
01782 794064

Reservations should be made at least 24 hours in advance.

Review us on TripAdvisor

This menu is also available as a takeaway. Prices will be Starter: £2.95 Main: £5.95 Dessert: £2.95.
Please advise on booking if you would like your meals hot or cold. Served between 11.30 – 14.00.