



# KINGSMEAD LIFE MAGAZINE

**ISSUE 19 - APRIL 2025**

# FOREWORD

Spring is finally here and with it, Kingsmead students have sprung into action, demonstrating their passions, skills and talents, both in and out of school.

Our Geographers were proud to achieve overall second place in the model UN conference held at the prestigious Concord College in Shrewsbury, amongst top independent and state schools.

Evelyn and Georgia have reached the district finals in the Rotary Young Artist competition. We also had teams competing in the Elements Engineering challenge, debating finals and our own house bird photography competition.

Once more, Kingsmead students are making names for themselves nationally and internationally in sport. I'm sure you will have noted the fantastic individual and group sporting successes of

Kingsmead students being celebrated on social media

Future jobs and life skills have been at the fore this term so far, with a number of opportunities and events running across all years. Mock interviews, application form writing, Careers Fayre and competitions have added to discussions in class. We even had an inspirational visit and talk from the Wolves legend Steve Bull.

Another key visitor to the school is our new Member of Parliament, Josh Newbury. He was shown around by our students getting a flavour of what a day in the life of a Kingsmead student is like. It was great to further our links with our community through him and his team.

Indeed, we are grateful for the opportunity to have representatives leading in the recently convened Youth Parliament.



They were thrilled to visit London and the Houses of Parliament to meet students from across Britain.

We keep looking for how we can enrich the learning of our students here at Kingsmead. The Paris trip went beautifully, as did the World Book Day celebrations. We've also brought in the theatre to show our English GCSE students their text *An Inspector Calls*.

Looking ahead, the outdoor

classroom and gardens are being prepared for the summer as well as getting the football cage ready for action and the outdoor stage.

Finally, we have continued to find new and fun ways to enhance our days. The placement of four upright pianos around school has added music throughout our corridors at rest times. We have also brought in lunch time playground games and seating areas that have been well received and used.



# GCSE OPTIONS



## Year 9 Options!

Year 9 options has been in full swing since November. Pupils have experienced assemblies, taster lessons, a progress evening and the much-celebrated options evening to help them choose the subjects and courses they wish to study in years 10 and 11.

Choosing your options is an exciting and important decision. Our students are spoiled for choice with 24 different GCSEs and vocational subjects available. Thinking carefully about their future aspirations, own talents, and preferred ways of working, has been key to pupils making good decisions.

Mrs Bracebridge has been checking each individual students' choices carefully and giving one to one advice where needed. Soon we will be confirming with pupils and parents what courses each student will be taking next year.

We wish all pupils every success in their Key Stage 4 studies – we will be with you every step of the way!





# GREASE



The Kingsmead School Performing Arts Department's recent production of Grease was a resounding success, captivating audiences and showcasing the immense talent of the students involved. Running for five consecutive sell-out nights, the show became one of the most talked-about events of the school year. Through vibrant performances, meticulous attention to detail, and a highly engaged cast, Grease demonstrated the exceptional

creative spirit of Kingsmead School's Performing Arts Department. From the opening night, it was clear that the production would exceed expectations. Directed and choreographed by the talented staff of the Performing Arts Department, Grease transported the audience back to the 1950s, bringing the iconic high school drama and its catchy tunes to life. The show featured a full ensemble cast of students who portrayed beloved characters such as

Danny Zuko, Sandy Olsson, Rizzo, and Kenickie, all of whom received rousing applause for their dynamic performances.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the production was the audience's engagement. With tickets for all five performances selling out quickly, making it a highly anticipated event for both the school and the surrounding community. There were two primary performances in which 400 future students of Kingsmead School were invited to attend. These special matinees allowed the upcoming students a sneak peek into the school's vibrant arts culture, creating a sense of excitement and curiosity about the opportunities awaiting them at Kingsmead.

The cast's dynamic performances were complemented by outstanding set designs and costumes, which truly captured the essence of the 1950s. From the iconic "Pink Ladies" jackets to the slicked-back hairstyles of the "Burger Palace Boys," every detail contributed to the show's authenticity and the audience's immersion into the world of Rydell High.



# GREASE



The set, which included the iconic 'Greased Lightning' car, beautifully recreated the spirit of the original production whilst maintaining Kingsmead's imprint of originality into characterisation and staging. The lighting and sound design ensured that each musical number and dramatic moment was perfectly highlighted.

One of the show's standout features was its live musical performances. The students performed the classic songs of Grease with precision and flair. From the upbeat opening number, "Grease is the Word," to the romantic ballad "Hopelessly Devoted to You," the music played a crucial role in bringing the story to life. The harmonies were tight, the solos were powerful, the emotion poured out of the performers as they told their stories and the overall musical performance showcased the incredible talent of the school's students.

Beyond the performances, the production of Grease served as an opportunity to highlight the hard work and dedication of all involved in the production. Students from different year groups collaborated seamlessly, working together both onstage and behind the scenes.

The Kingsmead School Performing Arts Department's production of Grease was a triumph. The cast and crew delivered a captivating and highly polished show, which was met with widespread acclaim from both the school community and visitors. The success of this production not only highlighted the talent and hard work of the students but also reinforced the vital role that the arts play in enriching school life. With five sell-out nights and two performances for prospective students, Grease has set a new standard for future productions at Kingsmead School.





# YEAR GROUP FEATURE - YEAR 9

We're excited to share what Year 9 has been up to so far in 2025! It has been a fantastic few months filled with learning, growth, and exciting activities.

After settling into Kingsmead well and having taken time to build relationships with my year group and their families, it's been important to map out my vision and expectations for the year group and reassure them as they begin their GCSEs. Our focus over the past few months is centred around looking ahead.

In Year 9, students go through a structured process to choose their GCSE options. At Kingsmead, the options process begins with assemblies and information sessions explaining GCSEs, subject choices, and how they impact future education and careers.



Year 9 have also been involved during Careers week at Kingsmead. Careers Week is an event designed to help students explore different career paths, develop skills for the future, and understand the world of work.

We have been working hard in delivering a range of activities for our students to enjoy this year, providing a variety of moments for inspiration and learning as they continue what is such an important year. This term, we have had the delight of welcoming Steve Bull MBE, legendary Wolverhampton Wanderers footballer. His powerful and motivational assembly was thoroughly enjoyed by both students, staff and myself



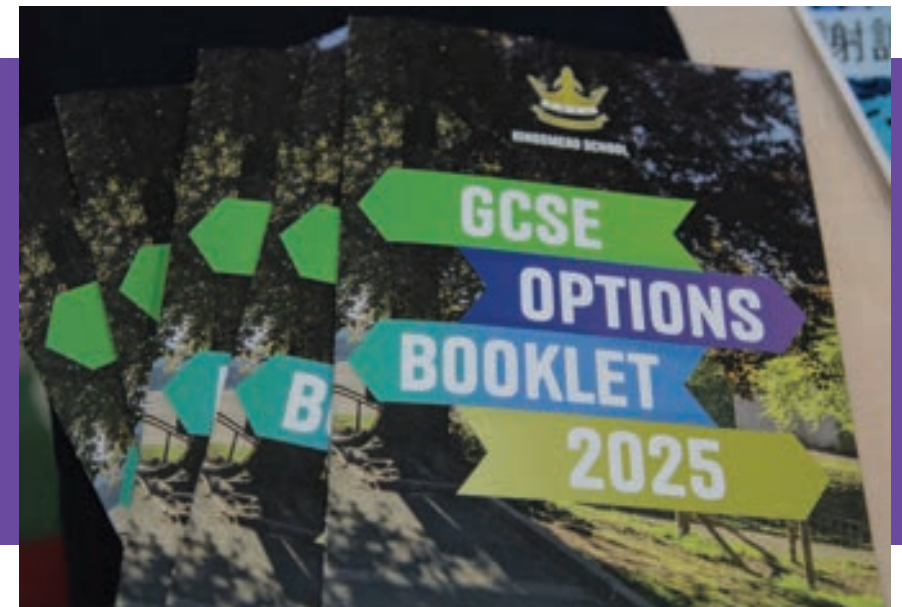
Students have received their options booklets, detailing the available subjects and entry requirements needed during our Year 9 Options Evening. Taster sessions and subject presentations have also been held in our different curriculum areas, that Year 9 found informative and enjoyable. Students found the opportunity to speak to a variety of professionals from various industries insightful and moving forward, we hope they remember the advice and insight provided to them.

(even though I am a West Bromwich Albion fan) providing great inspiration for students beginning to make exciting life choices.

Students were also invited along to a knife crime assembly delivered by Alison Cope, which shared an impactful message about the power behind social media and the consequences this can lead to. Whilst this message was difficult to hear, Year 9 remained mature and respectful, comforting one another and behaving impeccably. I was very proud of them and the way they responded to Alison's story and message.

Alongside the options process, our Year 9 students have been thriving in lessons. It has been great for me to walk around lessons and see some of the great work and conversations within lessons taking place. It makes me extremely proud to be the Progress Leader for Year 9 and excited to see just what they achieve as the year continues.

**Mr Laird, Year 9 Progress Leader.**



# YEAR GROUP FEATURE - YEAR 9



# PARIS 2025

**“My favourite part of Paris was having the chance to explore the city and see the difference in culture. I also loved Disneyland!”**

## **An Unforgettable Paris Adventure!**

During February half-term, a group of 60 students embarked on an incredible trip to Paris, immersing themselves in the culture, history, and excitement of the French capital. Over four action-packed days, they explored some of the most iconic landmarks, enjoyed breathtaking views, and created lasting memories with their friends.

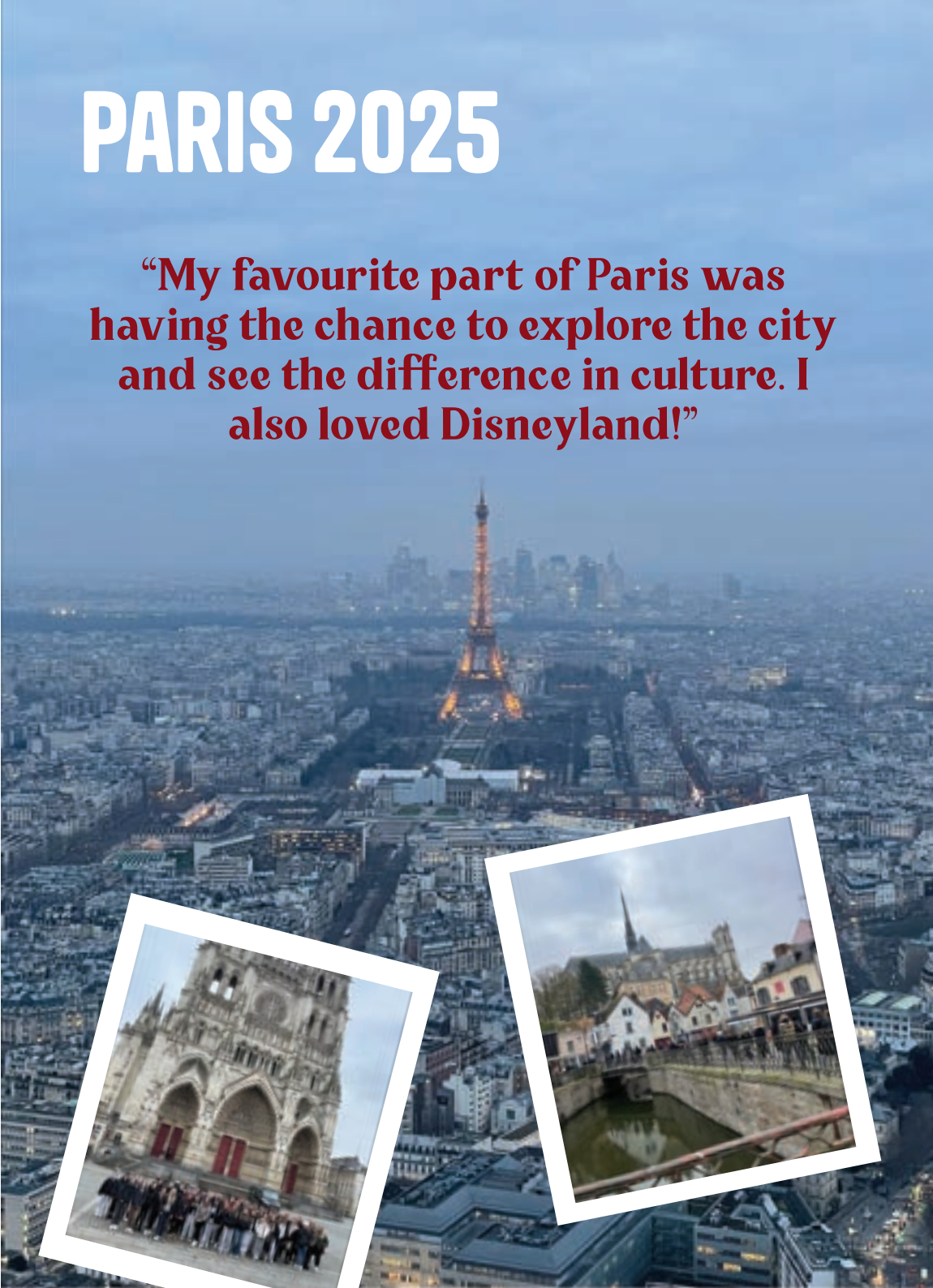
The adventure began with a visit to the small city of Amiens, where students dived straight into practising their French, ordering their lunch. Having arrived in Paris city centre, we completed a walking tour around the city centre including sights such as the Notre-Dame Cathedral and the Eiffel Tower. Although still under restoration, its striking architecture and rich history fascinated everyone.

The surrounding area, with its charming streets and quaint cafés, provided the perfect setting for soaking up the Parisian atmosphere.

To complete our first day, students marvelled at the stunning panoramic views from the top of Montparnasse tower, capturing photos of the city's skyline and taking in the beauty of Paris from above.

Day two began with a visit to the beautiful Sacré Coeur followed by a meander around Montmartre where students embraced its bohemian artistic atmosphere and took the opportunity to indulge on local cuisine.

Next on the itinerary was a relaxing cruise along the River Seine. Gliding past historic sites such as the Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay, and the magnificent bridges that cross the river, students gained a new perspective of the city. Although cold, students absorbed the culture and practised their language skills, with la joie de vivre!





# PARIS 2025

One of the most highly anticipated days of the trip was spent at Disneyland Paris. From thrilling rides to meeting beloved Disney characters, the park was a dream come true for many. Students enjoyed everything from 'It's a Small World' to the thrilling 'Hyperspace Mountain.' To complete our trip, students enjoyed the enchanting light show, making it a day full of laughter, excitement, and adventure

Throughout the trip, our students were an absolute credit to the school. Their enthusiasm, curiosity, and respect for the places they visited did not go unnoticed. Teachers and tour guides alike praised their exemplary behaviour and positive attitude. Whether engaging with the local culture, practising their French, they truly represented the school in the best possible way.

**“My favourite memory was going to Disneyland and watching the fireworks, and also eating crepes!”**

This Paris trip was an unforgettable experience, full of discovery, and fun. A huge thank you to the staff who gave up their time to ensure that the trip could go ahead and everything ran smoothly. Our students were a delight to be with and we can't wait for the next adventure!



**“The best moment of the entire trip was when we went on the ride ‘It's a Small World’ at Disneyland and there was myself, my friends and the teachers; we all sang along to the theme tune the whole ride.”**





# RIME FEATURE - MINDFUL

At Kingsmead School, we believe that mindfulness—being present and aware of our thoughts and feelings—is an important part of growing up. It helps us feel calm, stay focused, and be kind to ourselves and others. We make mindfulness a big part of our school life so that students can learn, grow, and feel happy and confident every day.

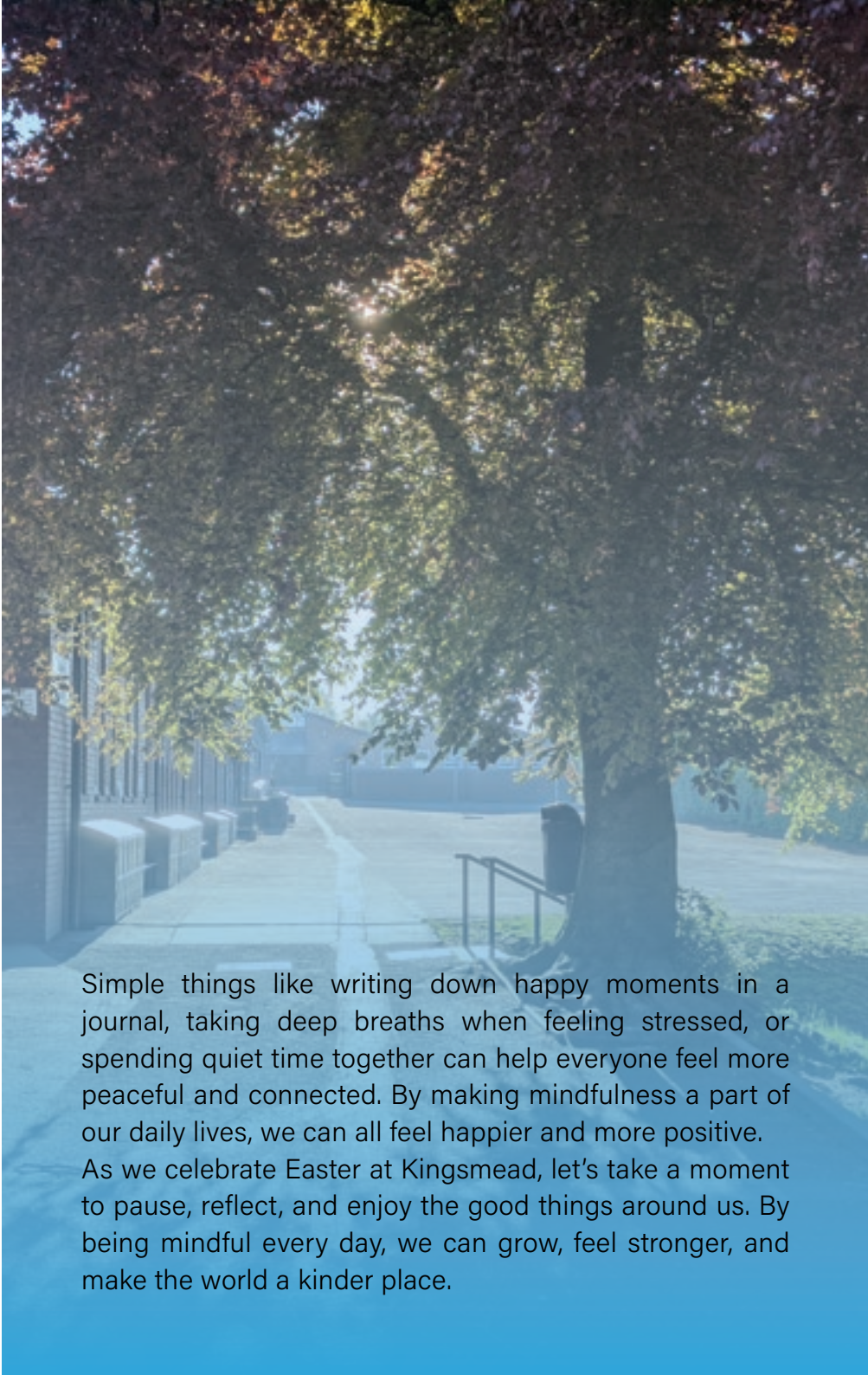
To help with this, Kingsmead has unique spaces where students can think, and be mindful during the busy school day. There are reading areas, creative rooms, and even an exotic animal centre! These places give everyone a chance to explore new ideas, be curious, and find moments of peace.

We also have lots of fun activities as part of our enrichment program. We can try new hobbies, learn new skills, and work towards special achievements. Whether it's painting, playing music, or helping in the community, these activities

help students feel more confident, focused, and happy. It's all about learning to enjoy the moment and appreciate the things we do every day.

With Easter coming up, it's a great time to think about what this season means. Easter is all about new beginnings, hope, and kindness. It reminds us to be grateful for what we have and to look forward to exciting things ahead. It's also a perfect time to think about how we can be kind to ourselves and others, just like mindfulness teaches us.

At school, we will be talking about Easter and how it connects to mindfulness. Students will have time to reflect on their achievements and set new goals. Through stories, discussions, and activities, we will explore how Easter teaches us to be hopeful, forgiving, and full of joy. Families can practice mindfulness at home too!

A photograph of a school path lined with trees, with a building visible in the background. The path is paved and leads towards a building with a large tree in the foreground. The image is slightly blurred, giving it a dreamy or peaceful feel.

Simple things like writing down happy moments in a journal, taking deep breaths when feeling stressed, or spending quiet time together can help everyone feel more peaceful and connected. By making mindfulness a part of our daily lives, we can all feel happier and more positive. As we celebrate Easter at Kingsmead, let's take a moment to pause, reflect, and enjoy the good things around us. By being mindful every day, we can grow, feel stronger, and make the world a kinder place.



## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



## VEGAN COOKERY COMPETITION



We have been busy with House Competitions so far this year! It's been great to see our students competing for house points and prizes by showing off their talents through skills such as photography and cooking.

Our bird photography competition, in association with the RSPB 'The Great Bird Watch' asked staff and students to capture a photo of a bird. A big congratulations to Year 9 student Toby who gained first place with his amazing photography skills! We would also like to congratulate staff winner Miss Powell for her lovely photo too!

Our Vegan Cookery Competition was won by Year 7 student Maddison, for her tasty vegan curry, earning house points for Pegasus! We look forward to all the House Competitions we have planned for the rest of the year, watch this space!

# THE HOUSES

Alongside our House Competitions, students have been working hard everyday to gain XP for their houses. The mighty Pegasus are charging ahead, with Drakon following closely behind. We can't wait to see where the competition goes throughout the year.

## HOUSE POINTS



# WELLBEING

## **Restorative Practice at Kingsmead School to enhance what we do.**

At Kingsmead School, we have made a conscious decision to move away from traditional punitive measures in our behaviour management system. Instead, we are focusing on a restorative approach that emphasises understanding, reflection, and reparation when students do not meet our established rules and standards.

This shift has resulted in a significant reduction in repeated offences, as students increasingly grasp the reasoning behind their behaviours through reflective processes. By implementing initiatives such as 'Shield and Shelter', our anti-bullying initiative, we not only address harmful behaviours but also foster a supportive environment conducive to every pupil's growth.

### **The Five Key Benefits of Restorative Practice at Kingsmead**

#### **It Promotes Understanding and Accountability**

Through restorative practices, pupils are encouraged to reflect on their actions and their impact on others. This promotes a deeper understanding of the consequences of behaviour, leading to increased accountability. Pupils understanding this at Kingsmead School is pivotal in cultivating an atmosphere where students effectively learn from their mistakes.

#### **It Enhances Relationships**

Restorative practice aims to repair and strengthen relationships between students and staff, as well as among peers. By focusing on dialogue and mutual respect, we encourage students to engage in a constructive manner, thereby adding to a more harmonious school community.

#### **It Empowers Students**


Involving pupils in the restorative process empowers them to take responsibility for their actions and to have a voice in resolving conflicts. This empowerment provides a sense of ownership over their behaviour, making them less likely to repeat negative actions.

#### **It Reduces Recidivism**

Our observations at Kingsmead indicate that the restorative approach significantly lowers the chances of repeat offences. Students involved in reflection and reparation tend to reoffend less, as they come to understand the impact of their actions on others while working towards making amends.

#### **It Promotes a Positive School Culture**

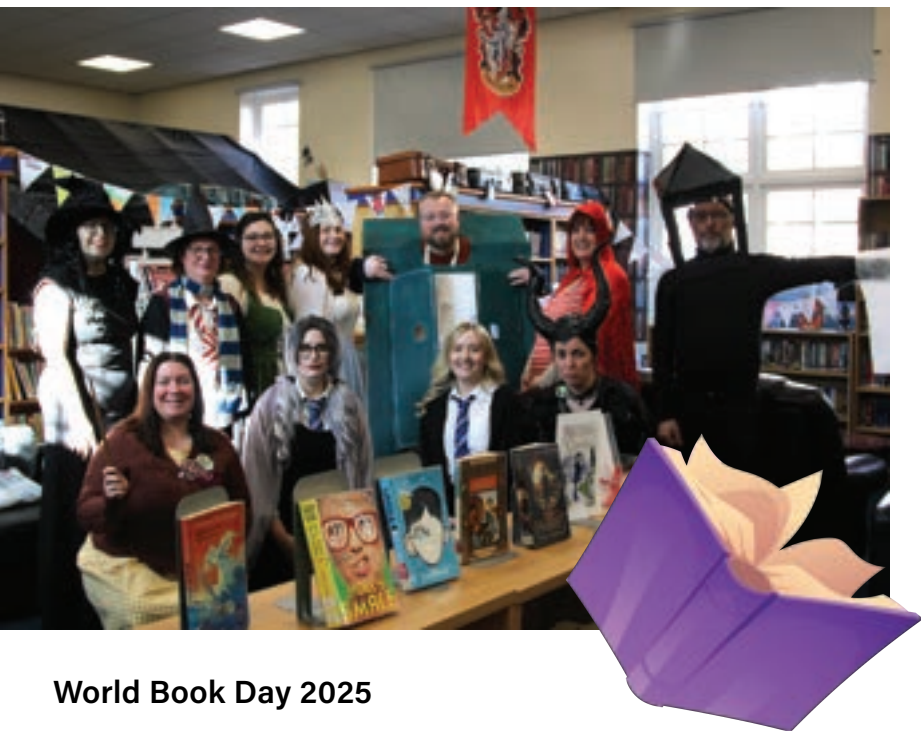
By prioritising restorative practices, we contribute to a culture of respect and inclusivity. This approach not only aids in managing issues such as discrimination, aggression, and defiance but also aligns with our values as an institution committed to fairness and equality.

A large tree with pink blossoms against a blue sky. The tree is in the foreground, with its branches and flowers filling much of the frame. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

The restorative approach at Kingsmead School represents a progressive shift in how we manage behaviour and conflict. By fostering understanding, enhancing relationships, empowering students, reducing recidivism, and promoting a positive school culture, we believe that restorative practice not only benefits individual pupils but also enhances the overall school environment.



# WORLD BOOK DAY 2025



## World Book Day 2025

Another year and another World Book Day at Kingsmead is celebrated in style – this year being our biggest event yet! It was great to see so many staff and students taking part in a day that enabled everyone to celebrate the amazing worlds that sharing stories and literature has to offer. As always, everyone from Kingsmead revelled in the annual event, celebrated across the globe, that promotes a love of reading for all. Many in our community went above and beyond in their involvement, from attending school in fancy dress to taking part in the many activities and competitions that took place throughout the day.

The festivities kicked off with the invitation to encourage staff and students to dress as their favourite book characters; we had everyone from adventurous wizards, pesky pirates and supernatural monsters to a whole staff department dressed as The Chronicles of Narnia – well done Science! In particular, Dr Horton made a fabulous wardrobe! This culminated in a fancy-dress competition where prizes for the best dressed students were awarded to Envy in Year 8 who came dressed as Coraline and Robyn in Year 7 who made a fabulous Hermes from Ovid's Odyssey.

We hosted a variety of engaging events that ran throughout the day, including the Kingsmead Book Exchange, where students could swap their gently loved books for something new.

This was further supported by many of the staff's recommended reads being placed on display on classroom doors around the school.

The beating heart of our World Book Day celebrations was, of course, our school library, led by Mrs. Walker, who ensured that there were special displays showcasing a wide range of genres and authors – many of which had been recommended by staff and students. There were also many opportunities for students to get involved with further creative activities such as the Kingsmead book hunt, short story writing and literary-themed bunting that showcased every genre you could think of; there really was something for everyone!

World Book Day was a day filled with joy, creativity, and a shared love for reading, reminding us of the importance of literature in shaping minds and expanding horizons.



# LEARNING AND TEACHING

## Revise Right: Effective Revision for Students and Parents

We have been recently doing work around effective revision strategies in preparation for the year 11 and 13 mocks. These are useful for all of our students as we approach the end of year assessments. With the right strategies, you can make your revision more effective, boost your memory, and achieve those top grades. And parents, you play a crucial role in supporting your child's revision journey too.

## Memory and Learning

Understanding how your memory works is key to successful revision. When you learn something new, it goes into your working memory, which can only hold a limited amount of information for a short time. To make that information stick, you need to transfer it to your long-term memory through effective learning strategies. Consistent practice and revisiting material strengthen memory and boosts learning.

## What to do - Active Revision Techniques

- Retrieval Practice: Instead of just re-reading notes, actively recall information from memory. This could involve knowledge quizzes, multiple-choice tests, past papers, or flashcards.
- Flashcards: Flashcards are a great tool for low-stakes testing to improve recall and strengthen memory. Create flashcards with key terms, definitions, dates, or even past paper questions. Use the Leitner System: test yourself daily on Box 1 cards, move correct answers to Box 2 (tested twice a week), and then to Box 3 (tested once a week).



- Spacing and Interleaving: Space out your revision into smaller chunks over time to help you remember the material better and reduce stress. Interleaving involves switching between different topics during a study session to strengthen memory.
- Deliberate Practice: Review a topic, then test yourself without notes to identify knowledge gaps. Focus future revision on these areas.
- Active Revision: Practice with past paper questions. On the Blended Learning Platform, question banks of past paper questions are available. When using Seneca, the "Exam Prep" feature is a decent way to get active practice in or search specific areas on SparxMaths.

## What to Avoid - Ineffective Revision

- Passive Revision: Avoid simply writing out notes, copying from textbooks, or highlighting without actively engaging with the material.
- Comfort Zone Revision: Don't just revise easy material that you already know well. Focus on challenging topics to improve your understanding.





- **Multitasking:** Give tasks enough silent work or attention. Avoid attempting to revise while multitasking.
- **Focusing on too much information:** Avoid trying to focus on too much information on a single page and cramming revision.

### Tips for Parents

- **Create a Supportive Environment:** Ensure your child has a quiet, comfortable place to study with minimal distractions.
- **Encourage Breaks:** Remind your child to take regular breaks to avoid burnout. Short, frequent breaks can help maintain concentration and reduce stress.
- **Be Positive:** Offer encouragement and celebrate your child's progress, no matter how small. Positive reinforcement can boost their confidence and motivation.



- **Stay Informed:** Be aware of your child's revision schedule and upcoming exams. This helps you provide timely support and assistance.
- **Discuss Revision Strategies:** Talk to your child about the revision techniques they are using. Understanding their approach can help you offer better support and advice.

By using these strategies and working together, students can make their revision sessions more effective, and parents can provide the support needed for exam success. Good luck!



# HIGHFLYERS

Our Highflyers have been busy this term with a variety of activities and trips.

## Year 8

Our Year 8 Highflyers took part in a CSI themed drop-down day where they were challenged to solve a fictional crime. Throughout the day they investigated forensic evidence to reveal the suspect then interrogated the suspect and witnesses before learning about the different roles in court.

Finally, Mr. Cope was put on trial for the crime and the jury found him guilty! The students developed many employability skills including teamwork and problem solving and demonstrated our RIME values in abundance throughout.

## Year 9

Our Year 9 Highflyers were focusing on their options as they are at a vital point in their school career. They had a workshop where guest

speakers from Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 who are all high-flyers spoke to them about their own options choices and GCSE and A level journey. Students really benefitted from hearing from people who had so recently been through the process and were then able to reflect on their own route over the next two years. Year 9 Highflyers also attended the Futures Fayre where they were able to access Russell Group University representatives and discuss possible courses and pathways post 18.

## Year 10

The Year 10 highflyers had a great experience visiting the University of Oxford!

They got to experience life at Oxford with a taster session in Asian & Middle Eastern studies. The students also went on a tour of the prestigious campus learning about it's legacy as well as it's famous alumni that studied there previously.

The students got to experience dining in University College's grand hall, sitting alongside fellow Oxford Students.





# HIGHFLYERS



Throughout the day, the highflyers had the opportunity to learn about the process of applying for Oxford, including completing some of the admissions test questions prospective students face when completing their entry exams.

We hope the day inspired them to achieve high and follow in the footsteps of fellow Kingsmead alumni who have moved on to great higher education institutions.

## Year 11

Year 11 had the privilege of gaining valuable insights from Isaac, an esteemed Kingsmead Alumni currently studying Chemistry at Oxford University. He shared exam tips and offered guidance on preparing for university life. His first hand experiences served as inspiration for our highflyers, motivating them to aim high and embrace the challenges that lie ahead.

## Year 7

Now that students have settled into Kingsmead the new Year 7 highflyers have been selected. It was great to meet them and their parents for an introductory session and we are excited to work with them as they embark on their journey. In the coming weeks students will look forward to their COBRa day, which puts their disaster management and employability skills to the test!





# PRIMARY PARTNERSHIP



Chasing The Future Partnership: A Year of Growth and Collaboration

Kingsmead School is proud to celebrate the first anniversary of the Chasing The Future Partnership, a collaborative initiative that has brought together Kingsmead, St Peter's Primary, Five Ways Primary, Heath Hayes Academy, Hazel Slade Academy, Poppyfield Academy, West Hill School, and Pye Green Academy. Over the past year, this partnership has yielded significant benefits for students and staff alike, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose.

One of the standout features of this partnership has been the enriching experiences provided to students. Visits to Kingsmead have allowed students from partner schools to explore our farm and participate in engaging science activities, enhancing their learning in a hands-on environment. Additionally, Kingsmead students have taken the lead in delivering anti-bullying workshops, promoting a culture of kindness and respect across all schools involved.

The partnership has also offered cultural enrichment, with students from partner schools attending a performance of the musical Grease at Kingsmead. This event not only showcased the talents of our students but also strengthened the bonds between our schools.

Sports has played a crucial role in bringing our community together. The ongoing football tournament hosted at Kingsmead has seen enthusiastic participation from all partner schools, fostering teamwork and healthy competition.

Beyond these activities, the partnership has facilitated valuable subject network meetings, where teachers from different schools share experiences, resources, and ideas. This collaborative approach ensures that all students in our local community benefit from the collective expertise and innovative practices of our educators.

The Chasing The Future Partnership continues to grow, enabling Kingsmead to work closely with our local partners to provide enriching experiences for both current and future students.

We look forward to many more years of collaboration and shared success.





# ATTENDANCE

Absence protocols being adhered to from parents/guardians are essential to maintain a structured and supportive learning environment.

Our key priority is to ensure that your child is as successful as possible during their time at Kingsmead and that they can achieve their full potential.

These protocols outline the procedures to undertake when your child is going to be Absent or Late.

## Notification of Absence:

Please promptly contact the school before 8:30am, by calling 01543 227373 or 01543 227320. If you are unable to get through, please leave a voicemail clearly stating the name of your child, year group, the reason for absence and your relationship to the child and be assured that this will be picked up as soon as possible.

## Lates:

School starts at 8:25am, please aim to get your children to school between 8:00 – 8:20am where all students are entitled to a free breakfast from 8am.

Wet weather days, bin days or roadworks, please aim to leave 5-10 minutes earlier to ensure that your child arrives on time.

If your child is going to be late, please call 01543 227373 or 01543 227320.

## Documentation:

In cases for absences related to any appointments during school time, we will request some form of evidence of this to authorise the absence. An example of this would be a photo of a medical letter that shows the child's name and date/time of the appointment. This can be emailed to [KS-Attendance@kingsmeadschool.net](mailto:KS-Attendance@kingsmeadschool.net)

## Term time holidays:

The Department for Education has made important changes to the law for families wanting to request leave of absence in term time. The changes make it clear that head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time.

You may be subject to a Penalty Charge Notice if your child's absence from school is unauthorised. This is in line with Staffordshire County Councils Code of Conduct and the "Working Together to Improve School Attendance" statutory guidance (effective 19th August 2024).

If there are exceptional circumstances, we may consider this, however, please ask your child to collect a 'Request of Leave of Absence' form from the attendance office. Once this has been completed and returned to the attendance office, a decision will be made, and Parents/Guardians will be contacted with the outcome.



# SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

## Promoting Inclusivity and Respect at Our School

At Kingsmead, we are committed to fostering an environment where every student, staff member, and family feels valued and respected. Discrimination in any form—whether based on race, gender, ability, religion, or background—has no place in our community. We encourage kindness, empathy, and open-mindedness, ensuring that our school remains a safe and welcoming space for all. By working together, we can model inclusivity for our children, helping them grow into compassionate and understanding individuals. Let's continue to celebrate diversity and support one another as one school family!

The 'Shield and Shelter' programme has been commissioned at Kingsmead School, to confront Intolerance in-order to promote equality. The 'SAS' Team, comprises of pupils from Key Stage 3 and 4 with supporting staff working with leadership to help manage restorative sessions with both victims and perpetrators from start to finish. If you have any SAS concerns, you can contact the team on [SaS@kingsmeadschool.net](mailto:SaS@kingsmeadschool.net) or send a confidential text message to 07508903765.



Young Carers Action Day - Wednesday, 12th March 2025

'Give me a break' is the theme for this year. Young carers have so much responsibility on their shoulders that they often have little time for themselves and are at serious risk of burnout. They need time out from their caring responsibilities to rest, recharge and focus on themselves. By trying to understand these pressures more fully, and helping young carers manage them, education professionals can give young carers the break they need to succeed at school and in further and higher education.

Our young carers support group took a break this week by having a session consisting of creating something that expresses being a young carer.





# SIXTH FORM

## Model UN Conference – March 2025

On Saturday 8th March 2025 eight keen Kingsmead students dedicated their Saturday to attend the prestigious Model United Nations (MUN) Conference at Concord College. They showcased their innovation, resilience, debate, and problem-solving skills on an international stage in front of other competing schools.

Before the event students were given a country to act on behalf of and conducted in depth research into the geopolitical affairs of the country. Each student selected a committee to attend on the day and was given a real-life global affair to try to solve. Students prepared solutions and speeches to help with their success on the day.

During the event, students delivered speeches and engaged in rigorous discussions, defending their viewpoints and working collaboratively with others to refine resolutions. This challenging process required critical thinking, negotiation skills, and a deep understanding of international affairs.

In the afternoon, all participants took part in a Model General Council meeting, where the most pressing resolutions were debated at a larger scale. This provided a fantastic opportunity for students to demonstrate their ability to articulate their points clearly and persuasively in a high-pressure environment.

The team's hard work and preparation paid off, as they achieved an impressive second place overall. This is an especially significant achievement considering they were the only public school in attendance. Additionally, several students earned individual awards for their outstanding contributions, further highlighting their excellence in debate and diplomacy.



# CAREERS

Yet again, it's been a busy start to 2025 with our careers programme.

The end of January meant the deadline for UCAS applications, and it is wonderful to see so many of our Year 13 students considering university as a potential pathway for their post-18 options. Recent changes with UCAS mean that it is now free of charge to apply for any student who has been in receipt of free school meals. This is a fantastic advancement, and we hope to see further positive changes to support students in the future.

February saw us celebrate National Apprenticeship Week with our Futures Fayre, with a footfall of over 600 people including parents. It was wonderful to see ex-students back in school speaking about their current roles. Fin, who left in 2023 is now working at the Hex Group in Rugeley, Oliver is at Wynnaitt Husey Accountants, as well as Louise, who left almost 20 years ago, was back speaking about her role at Veolia. March has been super busy, starting off with National Careers Week.



In line with the other schools across the JT-MAT, students took part in various activities around school, and elements of careers featured in lessons across the school. Mrs Smith, Mr Fereday, Mr Ordidge and Mr Taylor all led assemblies on their own career pathways, giving students an honest insight into the reality of careers journeys, and how sometimes plans change unexpectedly, reinforcing our resilience value and the importance of never giving up.

Law, Criminology and History Sixth Form students went to Parliament for a tour, and law debating session with Josh Newbury MP. Students spoke about issues they are passionate about such as the cost of university tuition and the antisocial behaviour in the local community and they were a credit to Kingsmead. We hope we have inspired the future leaders of our country.

And finally, Year 10 students were exceptional as they took part in the mock interview day for the very first time. Their confidence and attitude towards the day was outstanding, and we hope this has a positive impact as students transition into Year 11 and begin to think about their post-16 pathways.

As we prepare for Summer exams to begin, we want to wish all our Year 11 and Year 13 students well, so they can achieve the best grades they are capable of, to allow them to progress onto their exciting futures.





# ENRICHMENT

## **The Importance of Our New Yoga Club at Kingsmead**

At Kingsmead, we care about our students' well-being. That's why we're excited to introduce our new Yoga Club—a space where students can relax, stretch, and take a break from daily pressures. With schoolwork, social media, and everyday challenges, young people face a lot of stress. Yoga is a fantastic way to unwind, refocus, and build both physical and mental strength.

### **How Yoga Helps**

Yoga is more than just stretching—it's a great way to feel calmer and more focused. Simple breathing exercises and mindful movement can reduce stress and improve concentration, helping students manage schoolwork and other responsibilities with more ease.

### **Physical Benefits**

In addition to helping with stress, yoga also improves posture, flexibility, and balance. With so much time spent sitting at desks or using screens, students often develop aches and poor posture. Yoga helps counteract this by keeping the body active and strong. It can also boost energy levels and lead to better sleep, making it easier to concentrate in class.

### **A Supportive and Inclusive Space**

One of the best things about our Yoga Club is the sense of community it creates. Yoga is non-competitive, so everyone can join in, regardless of experience. It's a space where students can support each other, connect, and feel good in both body and mind.

### **Join Us!**

Our Yoga Club meets weekly in the school's wellness space. Whether you want to de-stress, improve flexibility, or just enjoy some quiet time, this is the perfect place to do it. Come along and give it a try—we'd love to see you there!



# TRANSITION



## Kingsmead Transition Process Begins in Earnest

We are thrilled to announce that Kingsmead's transition process for the new academic year has officially begun! At the beginning of March, we received the exciting news that 260 students from our local community have been offered a place at Kingsmead for September.

To welcome our new students, each one has been sent a personalized welcome postcard, introducing them to the Kingsmead family. Additionally, we have invited parents to join our Facebook online community. This platform is designed to share news about the transition process and help parents and students connect with each other. It was heartening to see the group grow rapidly, achieving over 100 members within just one day!

Our commitment to a smooth transition is evident as we have reached out to the 29 primary schools from which our new students are coming. This marks the beginning of our efforts to get to know each student personally.

In anticipation of our Four-Day Transition Week, starting on Monday, 20th June, we are preparing a comprehensive programme to immerse the students in Kingsmead life. This week is designed to ensure that our new students are fully prepared for their journey at Kingsmead and have the opportunity to get to know their new classmates.

We are eagerly looking forward to seeing these 260 students in September, proudly wearing their Kingsmead blazer and tie. Welcome to the Kingsmead family!



# THE SPORTS REPORT



A fantastic student achievement! Ira competed in the jujitsu Junior National championships on Saturday and won a gold medal in her category, retaining her title. She also entered a new category, competing for the first time and won a bronze medal!

Kingsmead is very proud of what our students achieve in and out of school, well done!



A big well done to our Year 9 Netball team who came third in the district at their tournament. Their resilience shone through as they came back after two difficult losses and very unpleasant weather conditions to win three games and draw one.

They worked together and played some great netball, demonstrating all of the progress they have made as a team throughout enrichment this year. We look forward to what next year will bring. Well done girls!



## The Year 7 boys had their first football fixture against a strong Chase Terrace team!

This year, instead of playing against other schools, our Year 7 students had been participating in an inter-house competition before the winter months set in and led to a mid-season break. However, a dedicated group of students have been training on Tuesday evenings, and tonight, we took as many players as we could fit into a minibus to Chase Terrace for a friendly match. The lads acquitted themselves brilliantly in a hard-fought game, and although we were narrowly defeated in the end, we scored two brilliant goals!



## Proud of Our Alumni!

We're thrilled to share the latest updates from Charlie, one of our former students! Charlie is currently studying for the National Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development at Loughborough College and is loving every minute of it. Not only is Charlie excelling in his studies, but he's also making waves in sports. He's a part of the Nottingham Senior Men Handball team in the National Premier League!

Charlie faced off against Mr. James in an exciting league match. Although Mr. James' team took the win with a score of 35-27, we couldn't be prouder of Charlie's achievements!

We are incredibly proud of our Year 7 team for their fantastic effort and the tremendous noise they made on the minibus on the journey home; we dread to think how loud the chanting would have been if they had won!



Both the U13 and U15 girls football teams travelled to SUA this term. It was a very chilly evening but as usual both teams put in 100% which produced winning performances. The results were U13 won 3-1 and U15 3-0 with goals from Olivia, Libby (2), Aiyarin (2) and Roxy







The Year 7 Netball team played Cheslyn Hay in February. They played some outstanding netball and won 19-1! All the hard work they have done in training with set plays really paid off and as a team they were organised in attack and defence.



The U13 girls participated in the regional qualifiers held at Netherstowe School. Although they didn't qualify, the team gained valuable experience, discovering new skills and potential. The week before, the U15 girls did manage to qualify! Congratulations to everyone who has been involved.

For girls interested in continuing to develop their handball abilities, a new handball club will be starting on Mondays after school at 3pm. If you've enjoyed playing handball in PE, come along and join! Keep an eye out for the notice in your tutor group for more details.

Our Year 8 and 10 Netball teams welcomed The Friary this term. The Year 8's played first and demonstrated excellent resilience throughout to keep going against a strong team. Despite losing in the end, their performance improved throughout the match and they supported each other consistently along the way which was great to see.

Our Year 10 team delivered a strong performance, securing a 17-5 win and finishing their year undefeated for the second consecutive year. This is an outstanding achievement and we are very proud!



The U13 girls football team played in a mini tournament at Kingsmead against Cheslyn Hay and Chase Terrace. The team was depleted due to illness and injury and even though the results did not go our way the girls battled on with determination giving 100%. Our goalkeeper was not available so well done to Grace, Lola and Harriet who stepped out of their normal positions and made some great saves!





Luke and Charlie both took part in the Staffordshire schools Cross Country Championships on Saturday.

On a very tough muddy course Luke unfortunately lost his running shoe so had to continue the 5k distance with one shoe to place a respectable 13th! Charlie placed an amazing 6th in his race which qualified him to represent Staffordshire in the English schools cross country championships in March



A huge achievement for Cross Country at Kingsmead! Charlie competed in the junior boys age group alongside seven other representatives from Staffordshire schools, making up team Staffordshire. The team won, becoming Junior Boys English Schools Champions and the first team from Staffordshire to achieve this!

Charlie also achieved 33rd place, making him the 33rd best cross country runner in the country!

The Year 9 netball team played some excellent netball last night, beating Chase Terrace and The Hart school 7-3 and 10-6 respectively. They had to work hard in both games to get the wins, with their resilience paying off. Well done girls