



# KINGSMEAD LIFE MAGAZINE



**ISSUE 18 - DECEMBER 2024**

# FOREWORD

I am writing this with my fingers crossed that the weather holds for the finale to our half term, our exciting Christmas markets. We have our own fake snow, so we don't need any more, or any rain thank you. With food, drinks and prizes available from our large Christmas huts, we also have our two concerts with amazing music, acting and a few little surprises to boot.

Despite the multitude of colds and sniffles out there, students here have been resilient, in school and learning, fully involved in Kingsmead life. By doing so they get to be with their friends, build strong understanding in lessons and have fun.

We have continued to see success in Sport with a number of teams progressing in their respective County and District competitions in football, netball, handball and athletics. There has been personal success too for:

- Jack and Aston, representing the Midlands at Handball and earning special commendations.
- Ira, for adding titles to rank now as National, European and World Champion in her category.
- Ace, representing the UK in Ice Skating
- Savannah, gaining Silver at the European Wado Karate Championships

I am so proud to note the substantial number of opportunities our children learn new skills, practice their talents and lead. Our unique and full enrichment programme for example has allowed students to learn resilience to learn circus skills, innovation to build their own jewellery, mindfulness to read with younger children and employability to learn different languages such as Mandarin and British Sign Language. Not only are these enjoyable for students and staff to learn and experience together, but they also build the well-rounded Kingsmead student.

We are grateful for the support of the Trust and our local community in providing opportunities for our students to learn and excel. Most recently we have welcomed the return of Isaac, an ex-student who is studying at Trinity College Oxford and supported our current aspirant Oxbridge applicants. We also had some in-depth, expert training from Jack, who left Kingsmead to become a cyber-IT expert, and gave our students some firsthand, real-life knowledge.

The term ends with us surpassing even our high expectations. Mock results suggest that our current Year 11 are ahead of what we have had even in recent years. If they maintain their high work ethic and focus, they have a fantastic chance to achieve the grades they want for their future aspirations and destinations. We have seen with the release of the National League Tables that Kingsmead is once again at the top end for the third year in a row. This is a massive achievement with our students being able to demonstrate the impact of strong teaching and motivation to succeed.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone again in January.

# KINGSMEAD CHRISTMAS MARKET

'Twas the Term End at Kingsmead

'Twas the term end at Kingsmead, and all through the school,  
The students were buzzing, the energy cool.  
The marquees and huts stood tall with great care,  
Hosting events, spreading joy in the crisp winter air.

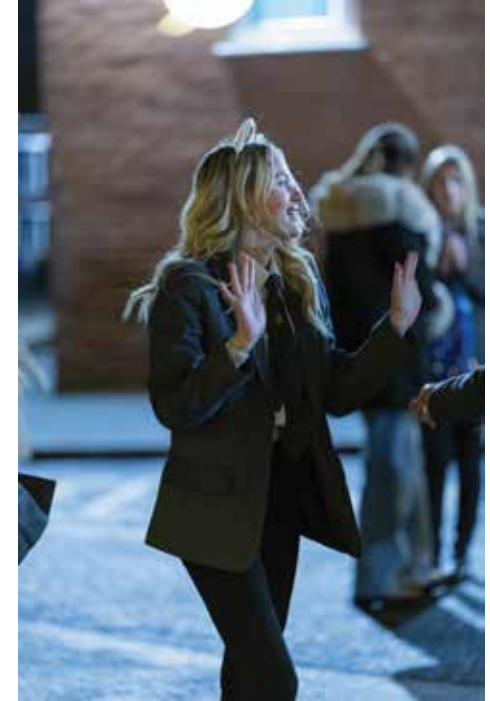
The German-style Market was merry, a seasonal treat,  
With crafts and delights and warm things to eat.  
Pre-loved fashion on offer, a treasure-filled stall,  
Finding new homes for clothes that once fit us all.

The bake sale was bustling, a feast for the eyes,  
With cakes, buns, and cookies – oh, such a surprise!  
The tombola spun with a magical hum,  
As parents and children all hoped for prizes to be won.

Our students, so spirited, took to the cause,  
Collecting for netball with tireless applause.  
Leadership shone in their hearts and their deeds,  
Reflecting the values that Kingsmead seeds.

The concert was splendid, a night to remember,  
With performances glowing as bright as December.  
Voices and music filled halls with delight,  
A triumph for all on that marvelous night.

So here's to the families, the staff, and the cheer,  
Who've made Kingsmead special throughout this great year.  
May your holidays sparkle, your hearts feel light,  
Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!



As the year comes to an end, we wanted to share some Christmas magic with our community before the holiday. This year, we revamped our Christmas celebration with Kingsmead Christmas Market, an event that highlights how we value our students and their families.

We spent the build up to the event constructing our very own German Market inspired wooden huts, stringing up fairy lights and organising games and refreshments to create the perfect Christmas Market atmosphere. It was great to see our wonderful students running various stalls and greeting our guests with big smiles on their faces, their hard work and commitment to creating a successful event really shows!

We hope all our guests thoroughly enjoyed their evening and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas.



# KINGSMEAD CHRISTMAS MARKET

# YEAR GROUP FEATURE: YEAR 8

What an amazing half-term Year 8 have had! From start to finish, they've truly shone in everything they've done. The school disco was a highlight, with Year 8 students bringing their best dance moves and even clinching the title of best dancer—what a fantastic display of energy and enthusiasm!

Beyond the fun, Year 8 also demonstrated incredible community spirit. They went above and beyond by representing Kingsmead at the St Peters Primary Academy Christmas Fair, where they sold beautifully crafted bracelets, decorations, and reindeer food. They also ran a series of games, created by the pupils of St Peters, which brought smiles to everyone involved.

It was heartwarming to see Year 8 so engaged with visitors, staff, and younger students, showcasing the kindness and respect that are at the core of Kingsmead's values.

This half-term has been full of laughter, hard work, and wonderful achievements, and I couldn't be prouder of how Year 8 has represented themselves and the school. Their kindness, enthusiasm, and dedication are truly inspiring. Well done, Year 8! Here's to an even more amazing year ahead!



# RIME FEATURE - INNOVATIVE

Innovation in any school can be challenging. School's are generally doing the same thing each year, educating, imparting knowledge, teasing out discussion, developing bigger brains. Doing new things, or old things in a new way, requires innovative approaches and a willingness to try things out. At Kingsmead this keeps us 'fresh' and the teachers are always seeking ways to improve learning. No two years are the same, no two students are the same. We are constantly looking for ways to connect students with knowledge, to help it stick and re-arrange misconceptions into foundational, fundamental knowledge that creativity can spring up from. The main way in which innovation happens in students' lives though is what they do outside of lessons and we have a community where there are opportunities to take up new hobbies, volunteer and generally improve ourselves as human beings. I have started a project gathering stories from the students about what they do outside of school. I share a few of their responses here to inspire you and get an idea of what Kingsmead students to become innovative, thriving members of the community.

**Jack, Year 11**

**Tell us what you do outside of school.**

*Outside of school, I go sailing.*

**How long have you been doing it?**

*I have been sailing for 9 years, from the age of 6.*

**How did you get started?**

*My dad took me to the local sailing club for a taster session.*

**Why do you do it?**

*I go sailing because I love the rush of going fast and doing well in competitions.*

**What is the very best thing about it?**

*The very best thing about sailing is the people you meet from all over the country.*

**How long do you think you will keep doing it?**

*I will continue sailing hopefully for the rest of my life.*

**What advice do you have for someone who might be interested in doing this?** *Just keep going and don't give up.*

**Sophie, Year 11**

**Tell us what you do outside of school.** *Tennis.*

**How long have you been doing it?** *11 years.*

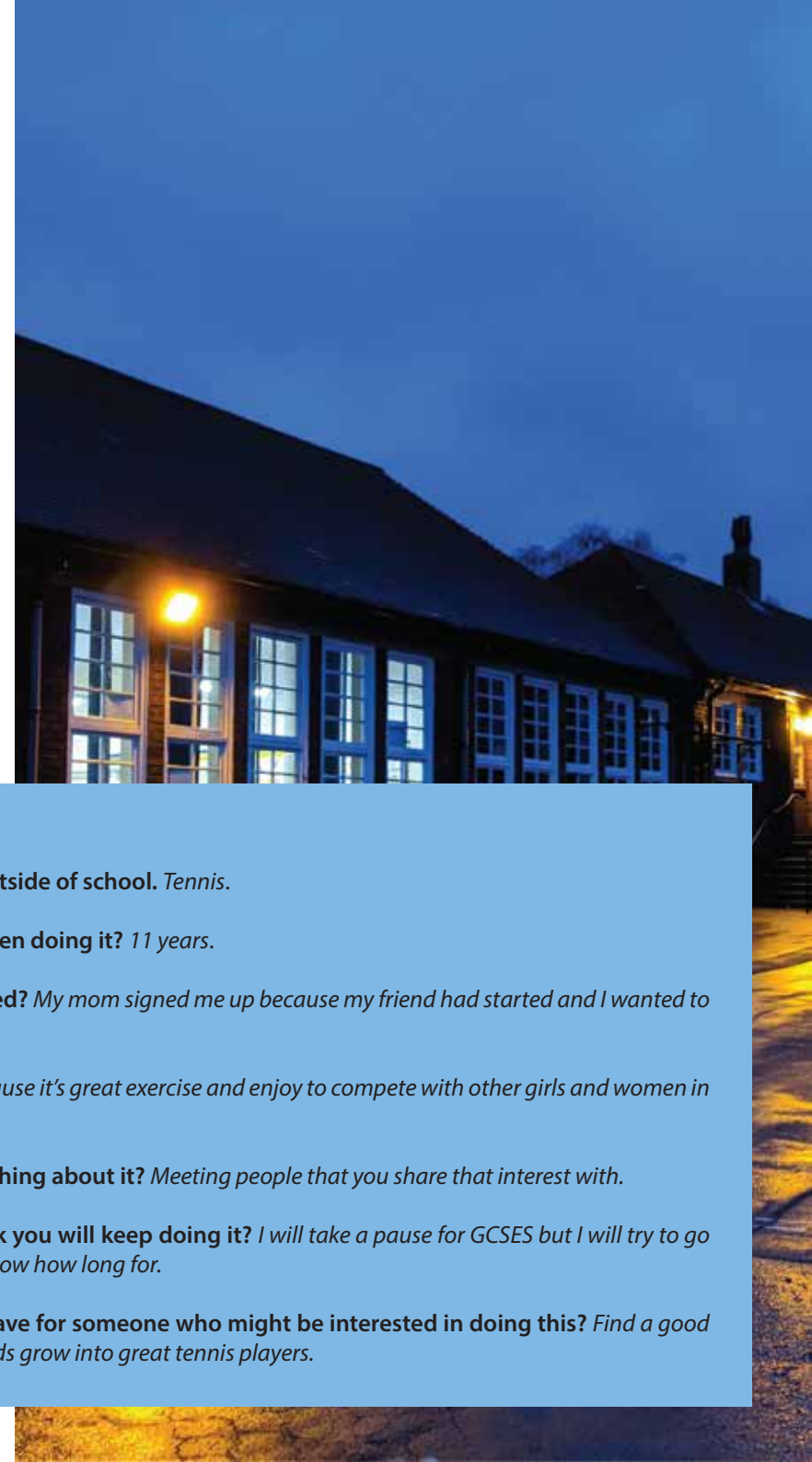
**How did you get started?** *My mom signed me up because my friend had started and I wanted to go with her.*

**Why do you do it?** *Because it's great exercise and enjoy to compete with other girls and women in the area.*

**What is the very best thing about it?** *Meeting people that you share that interest with.*

**How long do you think you will keep doing it?** *I will take a pause for GCSEs but I will try to go back after and I don't know how long for.*

**What advice do you have for someone who might be interested in doing this?** *Find a good club that helps lots of kids grow into great tennis players.*



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP



## Introducing our House Captains!

Sixth Form students Liv, Oliver, Annalise and Owen have already been working hard and planning future house competitions and events that not only promote teamwork and pride amongst our students, but also demonstrate our RIME values and give back to the school community.

We are incredibly excited to see the positive impact they have in their roles!

## RIME Bids

Once again, our Student Council hosted both staff and students during this year's RIME Bid pitches. Our students are the most important stakeholders in our school, so why should not they have a say in how the money is spent and how we shape our school. At three separate times throughout the year, staff will be able to apply for funding to help develop their initiatives and projects. The applications go through a short-listing process run by the Student Council and then a final presentation round, again judged by the Student Council. It gives the students a say in what they want and how the school is built. Some fantastic initiatives were pitched this time round, making it a tough decision for the Student Council! We're excited to see the areas in which the fund will be dedicated to, we're sure our students will make some excellent choices.



# SIXTH FORM

During Christmas time, we want to thank the neighbours of Kingsmead for their support throughout the year.

Our Sixth Formers headed out to the surrounding streets to personally thank our neighbours and deliver delicious cakes, as well as a copy of our exclusive Student Life @ Kingsmead magazine, a new publication completely from the voices of Kingsmead students, including our House Captain and Student Leadership Sixth Formers.

Our special delivery service was welcomed with many warm responses and well wishes going into the festive period. We hope all our neighbours enjoyed their cakes and have a wonderful Christmas.

We are so proud of the kind young adults our Sixth Form students are becoming as they head into the new year, we can't wait to see the success they have throughout 2025!





# LEARNING AND TEACHING

## Celebrating Excellent Teaching – Learning and Teaching Team

At Kingsmead, excellence in teaching and learning is not just a goal but a daily reality, as evidenced by the dynamic, engaging lessons observed across departments this term. Our teachers consistently demonstrate strong subject knowledge, effective pedagogy, and high expectations, ensuring all of our students achieve their best.

In classrooms this term, we have observed teachers using high-level questioning techniques to keep every student actively involved. Encouraging students to elaborate on their answers and make connections to prior learning, teachers foster critical thinking and deeper understanding. For instance, in Psychology, students could confidently explain complex concepts like ecological validity and its application in research studies in preparation for mock examinations.

Year 11 lessons were observed to be meticulously designed to align with exam requirements. Teachers leverage their deep understanding of specifications and mark schemes, preparing students with resources like summary sheets, mini-tests, and model answers to ensure they are prepared for mock examinations. An example of this was seen in Chemistry, the use of mini whiteboards for targeted questioning and immediate feedback against the mark scheme from teachers ensured students' fully understood different question types.



Our focus as a staff body has been on structured talk: using talk as a tool for thinking. One example of this was seen in Year 7 History where students' were learning about the different claimants to the throne in 1066. Year 7s were tasked with understanding the characteristics of a strong King during this time and then collecting data on the claimants together. Students were split into pairs and collected data on two of the four claimants, then feeding back to their partner to ensure all the data is collected. Then, using this new knowledge, students were asked to evaluate the strongest claimant to the throne together, using sentence stems that were designed to stimulate structured discussion.

Whilst visiting different lessons, feedback from students reinforces the value of these strategies. They appreciate the high expectations, engaging lessons, and the support provided for them to excel. At Kingsmead, we continue to aim to keep getting better: creating inspiring environments where students thrive. As a community, we celebrate this shared commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.



# CAREERS



As we prepare for the festivities to begin: All we want for Christmas is you! It's true, we really do! As part of this term's edition of the newsletter, we're asking for your help and support at our up-coming careers events in 2025.

On 12th February, we will have our annual Futures Fayre. With a wide range of employers, universities, colleges and training providers coming into school, our Sports Hall will buzz with excitement as students have discussions with representatives their future pathways and potential careers. Alongside this, to give a realistic view on careers, we will also have a "meet the professional" section, where students can speak to individuals about their own careers, the good and the bad bits!

Please spread the message far and wide to anyone who would like to attend, either on behalf of the company they work for, or as themselves to speak about the role they do.

Then on 27th March, Year 10 students will be put to the test in our mock interview day. We're sure you will all agree when we say that those pre-interview nerves are so hard to control, and no matter how much experience you have, we all get nervous from time to time. Given this, and the increase in numbers of students who are keen to find apprenticeships after Year 11, we want to help our students as best as we can and therefore will be giving all 240+ Year 10 students their first taste of an interview.

For this to happen, we need volunteers, so whether you can spare an hour, or the whole day, please consider joining us and helping students learn key skills, to support their future successes.

To get involved in any of the events mentioned, or if you think you can help our careers department in another way, please get in touch with Mrs Kendall on 01543 227 331, or via [n.kendall@kingsmeadschool.net](mailto:n.kendall@kingsmeadschool.net). We love hearing from you.

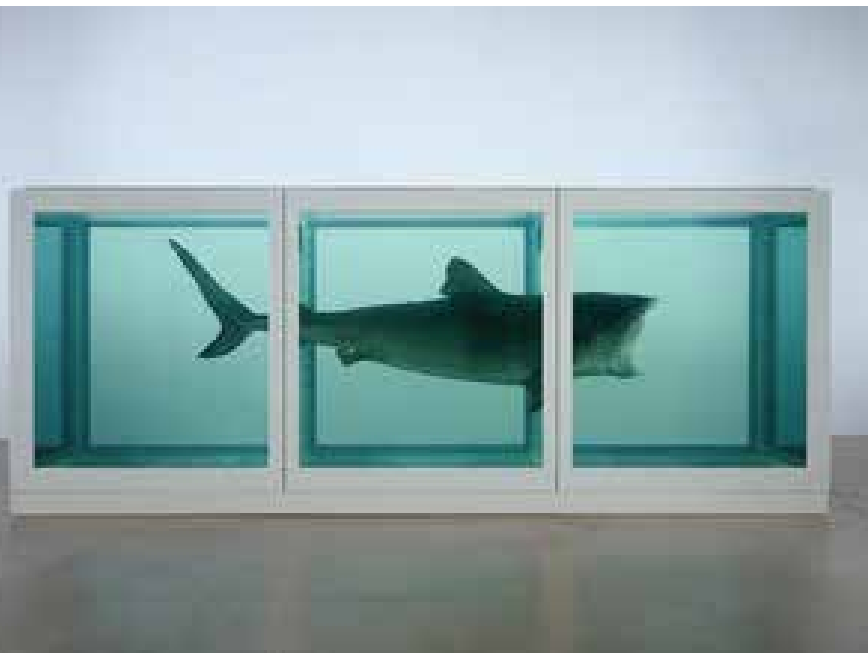
However, if you cannot get involved with the 2 events mentioned above, please support us by sharing our social media posts that will be coming out in January. It helps spread the word and allows us to offer the best careers support to our young people, making sure as always, that when they fly the Kingsmead nest, students are #employable.



# ENRICHMENT

At Kingsmead, our Art History Enrichment offers students the opportunity to delve into the fascinating world of art, exploring how it shapes and reflects society. Recently, we have focused on the concept of value in art, analysing the ground-breaking work of Damien Hirst. His controversial pieces, such as *The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living*—a tiger shark suspended in formaldehyde—challenge traditional notions of beauty and provoke discussion on how fame, materials, and context influence an artwork's worth.

We have also explored the emotive and conceptual pieces of Tracy Emin and Marina Abramović, two iconic figures in contemporary art. Emin's *My Bed* offers a raw and intimate glimpse into her personal life, transforming the mundane into a poignant commentary on vulnerability and self-expression. Similarly, Abramović's performance piece, *The Artist is Present*, where she sat silently across from visitors for hours on end, explores endurance, human connection, and the power of presence. These works have sparked rich debates among our students, prompting them to think critically about art as an experience rather than just an object.



Studying Art History teaches students to analyse, interpret, and engage with the world in new ways. It helps them understand cultural contexts, express their opinions, and appreciate diverse perspectives. As one student remarked, "I love learning about artists like Hirst and Emin. They make me see art differently—it's not just paintings, but ideas and emotions." Another added, "Art History teaches me to ask questions about everything, not just art. It's inspiring!"

Through this programme, students gain not only an appreciation for art but also transferable skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and empathy—preparing them for a lifetime of learning and discovery.

# SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

## Safeguarding spotlight on sharing images

Online sexualised activity has increased among young people. Unfortunately, what they don't always understand or consider when getting involved in this type of behaviour, are the risks, consequences and impact sharing and posting sexual content of themselves can have when things get out of hand and goes wrong.

'Sexting' is the exchange of self-generated sexually explicit images and message, through mobile picture messages, web-cams over the internet. Some young people also refer to this as cybersex, sending nudes, dirty pics or naked selfies. It has become an increasingly common activity among children and young people, often considered by them as 'normal' harmless fun or flirting; what they fail to see, understand or are unaware of, is the risks and potential consequences that come with this activity.

### How to protect your child:

- Talk to your child: It is important to ensure they understand the risks of 'sexting' advise them about staying safe, future impact and reassure them they can talk to you if something ever makes them feel uncomfortable, worried or things go wrong for them. The NSPCC provides guidance for parents on how to approach the conversation.
- Learn together: CEOP has produced some excellent resources, these can be found on the Thinkuknow website.
- Reassure your child: Let your child know that you are always there to support them if they feel worried or pressured by anyone, or if a situation they get involved in gets out of hand they can come to you.



# WELLBEING

We have had a very busy, jam-packed Autumn term in Kingsmead's Wellness Hub. We have had the pleasure of supporting our new (now not so new!) Year 7 students settle in and find their feet in secondary school. We have continued to run our successful Image-in-Me and He-motions wellbeing intervention groups as well as our 6th form and Year 11 drop-in sessions. Alongside our Performing Arts students, we have worked closely with our primary partners delivering an Anti-bullying performance and workshop to over 300 pupils and we continue to work tirelessly supporting our students daily with one-to-one mentoring, our shield and shelter programme and restorative support sessions.

As we come towards our Christmas break, we thought it most appropriate to dedicate our section this term to talk about keeping well over the festive period. Whilst Christmas is pitched as 'The Most Wonderful Time of the Year', we recognise that it is not always this way for many of us, and it is more important than ever to look after your mental health and wellbeing during this time.

We ask you to stay kind and mindful to one another during this time. You do not always know someone's story and experiences but what you can do is help by staying compassionate and offering a helping hand to those that may need it.

Visit the Wellness Hub dedicated area on the Blended Learning Platform for lots of information and signposts to services on keeping well over the Christmas period.

## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS SELF CARE

1 Spend some time in nature - Nature has been proven to improve mood, beat stress and anger and reduce loneliness.

2 Complete a random act of kindness - helping others is highly satisfying not only doing a good deed but can help us feel warm and fuzzy inside!

3 Practice journaling - take 10 minutes to practice writing down your daily events, this can help offload the mind and put things into a better perspective.

4 Practice deep breathing and relaxation- do not underestimate the power of 3 deep, long belly breaths to help us feel calm and think straight when things can feel overwhelming.

5 Practice gratitude - Writing down what you are grateful for trains the brain to appreciate the little things and increases overall happiness and wellbeing.

6 Compliment challenge - choose someone to compliment to share positivity and kindness and make them feel good.

7 Watch a festive film - taking timeout from a busy schedule and watching something Christmassy and festive can help distract the mind and relax.

8 Social media detox - have a day away from social media- yes you heard correctly! Put the phone down and stay away from distractions for the day.

9 Try something new - Engaging in something new can get our creative juices flowing and can be inspiring and motivating. Why not bake a cake, learn a new skill or try learning a new language!

10 Take a mindful walk - getting outside and going for a walk or run gets our heart rate up and blood pumping. Exercise is a natural endorphin and being mindful whilst we do it can help us to feel grounded and grateful.

11 Share a mindful hot chocolate - taking time out to spend with a loved one and pausing from the fast pace of life can help us feel grounded and settled.

12 Make a set of goals for the New Year- New Year resolutions do not always work as often they are not realistic or manageable. Instead think of some simple, achievable goals for the new month ahead.

# KINGSMEAD FARM

This term we have been busy on the Farm with our GCSE students undertaking their practical exams, Year 9 and Year 11 taster sessions and our enrichment groups learning how to handle and groom our animals.

The Farm is an extremely important part of life here at Kingsmead and enables us to offer Animal Management for a GCSE option and at A Level too, something other schools just cannot do and we are very lucky to have this in our school. Miss Powell and Mrs Westbury have been settling in our newest animal. who is Olive, a Herman Tortoise. Olive has settled in really well with us and is already a big hit with the students.



# STUDENT ARTWORK

Kingsmead strives to recognise excellence and celebrate our students achievements. Our Thursday staff briefing was delighted to discover a pop up art gallery, featuring work from our current Artist's in Residence. These students display outstanding talent and dedication throughout their studies, producing incredible works of art as a testament to this.

Members of staff were welcome to take an in depth look at their work as well as discuss the inspiration for their pieces with the students. It was fascinating to see the different techniques and mediums chosen by the artists and how they complimented their chosen subjects.

As we continue our Artist in Residence programme, we would like to expand on the way we present students art, by displaying pieces throughout the school, to inspire students who are looking to explore their creativity as they begin to choose their options for GCSE. We can't wait to see what our amazing students will create next!



# THE SPORTS REPORT



	Football			
	Pheonix	Gryphon	Drakon	Pegasus
Y71	60	80	60	100
Y72	60	80	100	80
Y81	100	60	60	80
Y82	40	60	80	100
Y91	40	80	100	60
Y92	80	100	60	40
Y101	40	80	60	100
Y102	80	80	60	100
Total	500	620	580	660

	Netball			
	Pheonix	Gryphon	Drakon	Pegasus
Y71	40	60	100	80
Y72	40	80	60	100
Y81	80	60	100	40
Y82	80	100	40	60
Y91	60	100	80	40
Y92	60	80	100	40
Y101	40	80	60	100
Y102	100	60	80	40
Total	500	620	620	500

House	Total
Pheonix	1000
Gryphon	1240
Drakon	1200
Pegasus	1160



Our House Football tournament was a huge hit amongst our students, they shown lots of enthusiasm and pride for their Houses! How great did they look in the house jerseys as well?

The competition Ended With Gryphon winning the Cup, by just 40 points!



The Year 9 Netball team played their first match of the season against Chase High last night . They've been working hard in Enrichment on skills and tactics which helped them to win 8-4.

A great team performance, well done!

The Year 10 Netball team played their first league game of the season. They played some excellent netball and won convincingly 32 - 0. Well done!





# THE SPORTS REPORT

A huge well done to our U16 netball team who played in the county netball tournament at Denstone College this week. The standard was extremely high and the girls played some outstanding netball.

We finished 3rd in the group and 5th overall but there was only one goal in it between the top 3 teams in the group. They were a pleasure to watch and for the Year 11's who represented Kingsmead for the final time have been a pleasure to work with for the past 5 years.

We are so proud of their success and they have paved the way and been an inspiration for our younger year groups!



We are excited to announce that our Year 8 football team has secured their first victory in the League Cup against Cardinal Griffin, triumphing with an impressive score of 7-2!

This win is a significant milestone for the team, reflecting their hard work, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the season. Their commitment to attending weekly training sessions since the beginning of term has truly paid off.

Congratulations to all the players for their outstanding effort! We look forward to witnessing more successes as the season continues!



Well done to the Year 7 Netball squad who beat Cannock Chase High school 6 - 0 in their first ever game for Kingsmead. They supported each other really well and their confidence grew throughout the match. A brilliant result. Well done!



# THE SPORTS REPORT



We are proud to announce that our students recently participated in the Cannock and District School Cross Country events at King Edwards and Chase Terrace. Among them, Charlie stood out with his exceptional performance and has been selected to represent Staffordshire schools later this year!

A huge congratulations to all the students who took part in this event. Their dedication to improving their scores and representing Kingsmead with professionalism is commendable.

After finishing first in the Year 9 Cannock and District Schools cross-country competition, Charlie received an invitation to compete at Rowley Park, Stafford, in the Inter-County competition.

Leading for most of the race, Charlie secured third place, qualifying to represent Staffordshire Schools in November at Himley Hall, Dudley.

Well done, Charlie! We are incredibly proud of you and your achievements



Well done to the Year 8 Netball team who beat Cannock Chase High school 5 - 2 in their first match of the season. The team played really well and made some excellent interceptions in defence. A great start to the season!



Year 9 students Harry of Stoke City and Travis of Derby County represented Staffordshire County this week in what was a thrilling 1-1 draw. Boys, we are so proud of your sporting achievements!



*Merry Christmas!*

From Kingsmead



# Let's Stay in Touch...

Kingsmead is a partnership. We value our links with parents and our community. We use a number of tools to ensure we maintain effective communication for each core area of a child's schooling. This approach provides parents full access to up to date information about their child and our school. We felt it would be useful to share the tools in one place as a reference point.

You (and your child) can use the same username and password for all of these tools of communication

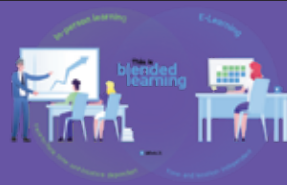
Satchel One  
(formerly named Show my Homework) Homework



How?: through the app, their website or ours

This tool is how staff set home learning. There is a student view and a parent view. Everyone can see what work is set and when it is due. It is possible for some Pieces to be submitted online. If this is the case, students should use their account (and not their parents) to do this.

Blended Learning Platform Support



How?: through the app, their website or ours

This tool is how staff set home learning. There is a student view and a parent view. Everyone can see what work is set and when it is due. It is possible for some Pieces to be submitted online. If this is the case, students should use their account (and not their parents) to do this.

Go4Schools Support



How?: through the App, their website or our website

How we share data on attainment, progress and attitude to learning

- You will see rewards given to your child 'live'
- We will share how your child is understanding each subject every 6 weeks
- For each subject you will see a checklist of core learning. On this you will see what they are secure in and what they need to work on at home
- You can use the blended learning platform to select activities that will help them at home to close gaps

MCAS  
(My Child at School) Communication



How?: through the app

How we communicate with parents

Socials



KingsmeadSchool



kingsmeadonline



@kingsmeadonline

Email



office@kingsmeadschool.net

Call Us



01543 227 320

Our Website



www.kingsmeadschool.net



Gold package  
£25.00

Photo of your chosen animal.

Certificate of sponsorship for your animal

Fact file to learn all about your animal.

Keyring with your chosen animal's name on together with your own name

Spend a morning with our Animal Technician learning about how to look after our animals and exotics at the farm. You will even get the chance to pet and feed the animals.

Silver package £10.00

Photo of your chosen animal

Certificate of sponsorship for animal

Fact file to learn all about your animal.

Keyring with your chosen animal's name on

Bronze package £5.00

Photo of your chosen animal.

Certificate of sponsorship for your animal

Fact file to learn all about your animal.

# PTFA NEEDS YOU!

## Do you want to help Kingsmead school raise money and maintain outstanding education?

### Benefits

- Join the team who make the magic happen
- Free cake and coffee at all meetings
- Meet the governors and leadership team before PTFA meetings
- Use of school facilities for events
- Make a difference to your child's education
- Give back to your community
- Support fun, exciting fundraisers like Christmas Fayre, Summer Fayre, Community days and Scarefest

Please contact [m.ordidge@kingsmeadschool.net](mailto:m.ordidge@kingsmeadschool.net) to register your interest.