



# KINGSMEAD LIFE **MAGAZINE**

**ISSUE 21 - DECEMBER 2025**





# FOREWORD

It is wonderful to bring the opening months of 2025/2026 to a close by reflecting on my first term at Kingsmead. At every opportunity it is clear to see that our students make the very most of their time at the school. “Let them fly” are not just words that accompany a power point, at Kingsmead our students do.

I have been struck how this starts very much in the classroom. Positive relationships with the teaching staff, enthusiasm and a drive to earn XP are evident throughout. Kingsmead students thrive in their lessons. Such relationships are equalled pastorally. The Progress Leaders and Wellbeing team go above and beyond, inspiring the students to be their best but also support when necessary. Giving our students the foundations to become responsible citizens is key to our pastoral programme at Kingsmead.

And finally, all the additional clubs that take place; Clean Up Club, We Will Rock You, our sports teams and music department. I have scratched the surface here but am so impressed with the breadth of activities that are well supported. Kingsmead students have high aspirations of themselves.

Kingsmead cannot deliver this alone and I am very grateful for those that continue to support the school and its students. John Taylor Multi Academy Trust continue to give teachers, staff and students yet more opportunities to share excellent practice. And our parents. Countless numbers of you have reached out since September, welcoming me to the Kingsmead community and giving feedback. This opening term has shown me what Kingsmead offers and I look forward to coming months and years.

I wish you all a peaceful and relaxing Christmas break with family and friends.

**Mr P Averis**  
**Headteacher**

# YEAR GROUP FEATURE - YEAR 7

Year 7 have truly hit the ground running since joining us at Kingsmead, and what a start it has been! From the very first day, they have shown resilience, enthusiasm, and a real sense of belonging — settling in so quickly it feels like they've always been part of our community.

Since September, Year 7 have collectively earned an incredible 11,000 XP — a testament to their hard work, positive attitude, and commitment to learning. This is a phenomenal achievement and sets the tone for the year ahead.

Our Year 7 boys made history with their first football victory against Landau Forte, clinching the win in a nail-biting penalty shootout. The girls are equally ready to shine, with their first netball fixtures coming up soon. We're confident they'll bring home a big Kingsmead win! Year 7 also massively impressed during our Enterprise Challenge Day. Students worked in teams to design a unique business, developing a full business plan and presenting their ideas with confidence. Their determination, creativity, and teamwork shone throughout the day, and external speakers were full of praise for their innovation and attitude. It was a wonderful experience that showcased the entrepreneurial spirit of Year 7.

This term also saw the launch of our first ever Year 7 work experience programme. The inaugural group, 7DMS, spent time on the farm, working with animals and learning valuable skills. Their behaviour, work ethic, and attitude were outstanding, impressing staff and setting a high standard for the groups to follow. Every Year 7 tutor group will take part in this exciting opportunity throughout the year, and we can't wait to see how they approach it.

With such a strong start, we are confident Year 7 will continue to thrive both inside and outside the classroom. Their achievements so far are just the beginning, and we are incredibly proud of the way they have embraced life at Kingsmead.

Well done, Year 7 — your journey with us has begun in the most outstanding way, and we know this is only the start of many more successes to come.

**Written by Miss C Hinton and Miss R Hall**





## **Small Actions, Strong Mindsets: Celebrating the Resilience of Kingsmead Clean Up Club**

With over 1,400 students now attending Kingsmead, it's easy to get caught up in the ever evolving and growing community at our school. Our value of Resilience represents the power of commitment and hard work, and how these qualities can directly benefit our students both inside and outside of education. A certain group of students has continuously demonstrated this resilience through their dedication to keeping Kingsmead a beautiful and clean environment to be part of, by introducing the Kingsmead Clean Up Club.

What began as a simple idea to collect litter around the school has grown into a small but dedicated community of Year 8—and now Year 7—students who come together after school each Thursday to give their time and effort to a greater cause. Equipped with litter-picking tools, and supported by Mr. James, Mrs. Beech, and Mrs. Guest, these students have launched a highly successful initiative that has already made a clear and positive visual difference to our school grounds.

As the year comes to an end, we wanted to show just how much these efforts mean to Kingsmead by celebrating with an end of year Christmas party for our clean up club. Students replaced their litter pickers for Christmas crackers and enjoyed plenty of hot chocolate, festive treats, music and quizzes.

# **RIME FEATURE - RESILIENCE**

Our Headteacher Mr. Averis came along to commemorate our students and recognise their hard work. A special thank you also went to Mrs. Guest, who is always on hand to help our students with their clean-up efforts and boost morale along the way.

In summary, the Kingsmead Clean Up Club is a shining example of our school value of Resilience in action. Through commitment, teamwork and a willingness to give their time week after week, these students have shown how perseverance and hard work can create meaningful change within our community. Their efforts have not only improved the appearance of our school but have also strengthened a sense of pride and responsibility among our students. As we celebrate their achievements, we extend our sincere thanks to all the students involved, and to the dedicated staff who continue to support them—particularly Mr. James, Mrs. Beech and Mrs. Guest—for their encouragement, guidance and unwavering commitment. Your collective efforts truly embody the spirit of Kingsmead, and we look forward to seeing this resilient community continue to grow in the future.

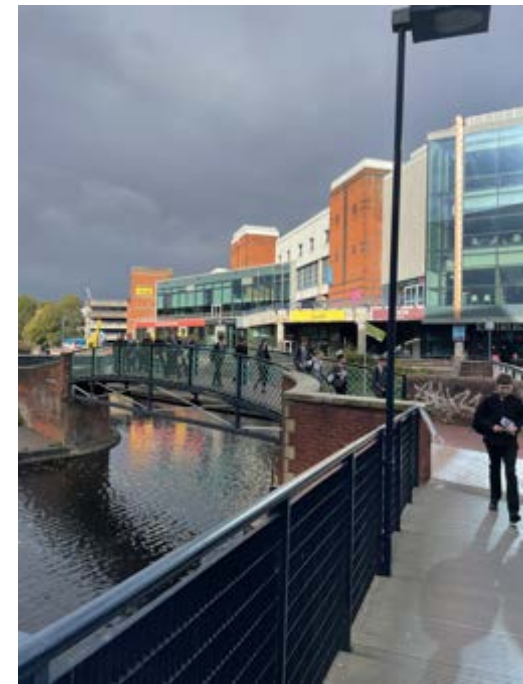
**Written by Miss A Parkes**



# EXPLORING REGENERATION IN BIRMINGHAM

Recently, our Year 10 GCSE Geography students embarked on an insightful field trip to Birmingham city centre to investigate and assess how regeneration has transformed the area.

We visited five key locations — the canal (a non-regenerated area), the Mailbox, Grand Central, the Library of Birmingham, and Brindley Place — carrying out pedestrian counts, land-use surveys, and environmental quality assessments at each site. This hands-on research helped us compare regenerated and non-regenerated areas to see where the biggest changes had taken place.



Our results showed that regeneration has brought lots of positives to Birmingham. The regenerated areas were cleaner, busier, and more vibrant, with a wider range of shops, restaurants, and public spaces complementing the city centre. In contrast, the canal area, which hasn't been regenerated, felt much quieter and less developed.

Overall, it was a fantastic day of fieldwork that really brought our classroom learning to life. We gained a much better understanding of how regeneration can transform a city — and saw first-hand why Birmingham is such a great example of urban change in action!

**Written by Miss K Powell**



# THE HOUSES

The much-anticipated **Quizmead House Competition** is officially underway, and it has already got tutor groups buzzing with friendly rivalry! Quizmead is a **twice half-termly quiz for all tutor groups**, designed to build teamwork, knowledge and house pride across the school!

All four houses — **Drakon, Phoenix, Gryphon and Pegasus** — have now completed the first quiz in their tutor groups. The opening quiz focused on **the origins and history of Kingsmead**, giving pupils the chance to test their knowledge of the school's past while competing for valuable points.

In each year group, the **highest scoring tutor group** will be awarded **5XP per pupil**, and all XP collected will contribute directly towards the **House Cup at the end of the year**. There will also be **prizes and a trophy** for the winning tutor group in each year, adding even more excitement to the competition.

Quizmead will run **every few weeks throughout the year**, so there are plenty more chances for houses to climb the leaderboard and challenge their rivals. With tutors playing a key role in driving participation and momentum, a healthy dose of competition is sure to follow.

Well done to all tutor groups for completing the first round — we can't wait to see which house comes out on top next time, especially after the most recent **Christmas round!**

**Written by Mr M Ordidge**

## Quizmead Scores Week 1



443



168



455



344





## A Busy and Successful Term in Sixth Form

### Year 12 Settle in Smoothly

The new Year 12 cohort have made an excellent start to their Sixth Form journey. Students have settled in well, embracing the routines and expectations of advanced study with enthusiasm and maturity; they have also navigated the vending machines well!

Work experience has also been launched for Year 12 through the UNIFROG platform, allowing students to begin securing meaningful placements. The key date to note is June 22nd, when work experience will officially take place.

### Year 13 Focus on the Future

For Year 13, this term has been defined by hard work and big decisions. Students recently completed a full set of trial examinations—a valuable opportunity to prepare for the summer exam season.

University applications through UCAS are now well under way, with pupils applying for an impressive range of courses. These include; Medicine, Biomedicine, Law, Business, Teaching, Sociology, Mechanical Engineering, Mathematics, and History. Staff have praised students for their ambition and dedication during the application process.

**Assemblies Encouraging Growth and Awareness** This term's Sixth Form assemblies have covered a wide variety of important themes. Topics have included mental health, kindness, Black History Month, anti-bullying, organisation, and revision strategies. These sessions aim to support students academically, emotionally, and socially as they navigate the demands of post-16 education.

**Written by Mrs S Fisher**

# SIXTH FORM

## Welcoming New Staff

The Sixth Form is also delighted to welcome a new member of staff, Mrs. Bulpitt, who has already begun working with students and contributing to the wider Sixth Form community.

Special Congratulations to the Director of Sixth Form Mrs Horsfield! One of the happiest moments this term came when Mrs Horsfield welcomed the arrival of her beautiful baby twin boys — Freddie and Jack!



# LEARNING AND TEACHING

## Enhancing Student Learning: A Look at the TALIT Lesson Observation Project

We are excited to share the progress of our Teaching and Learning Innovation Teams (TALIT) project, which focuses on improving teaching practices to enhance student learning outcomes.

## What is the TALIT Lesson Observation Project?

At the heart of TALIT is the belief that effective teaching is dynamic and collaborative. The Lesson Observation Project allows teachers to observe each other's classes, share insights, and discuss strategies to improve their teaching methods. The aim is to create a growth-focused environment where teachers can learn from one another and refine their approaches to better engage students.

## How It Works

Teachers participate in peer observations, spending time in each other's classrooms and reflecting on their own teaching methods. Afterward, they can hold collaborative discussions to provide feedback and explore new strategies. This cycle of observation and reflection encourages teachers to experiment with innovative techniques and track their effectiveness, fostering a strong community of practice.

## Why It Matters for Students

This project directly benefits students by improving teaching quality. Teachers who engage in continuous reflection and adopt creative teaching methods can:

- **Enhance Student Engagement:** Diverse teaching styles make lessons more relevant and interesting for students.
- **Support Diverse Learning Styles:** Teachers can tailor lessons to meet the needs of all students, from those needing extra help to those ready for more challenging work.
- **Foster Critical Thinking:** Hands-on, collaborative methods help students think more deeply and critically.



## • Create a Positive Learning Environment:

The focus on continuous improvement ensures classrooms are places where students feel safe to ask questions and actively participate.

## The Role of Parents

While the TALIT project focuses on teachers, parents play a key role in supporting its success. Parents can help reinforce the growth mindset promoted by TALIT by:

- Encouraging their child to learn from mistakes and strive to improve.
- Staying informed about what's happening in the classroom and discussing new teaching methods with their child.
- Supporting teacher collaboration by appreciating the collective efforts to enhance teaching.







# LEARNING AND TEACHING

## Looking Ahead

Although still in the early stages, feedback on the TALIT project has been very positive. Teachers are feeling more empowered, and students are showing increased engagement. As the project continues, we look forward to expanding its reach and incorporating even more innovative strategies.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work to provide the best possible education for our students. Through projects like TALIT, we aim to foster curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong love of learning.

Written by Mr D Summers

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# HIGHFLYERS

## Raising Aspirations at Kingsmead

This term, Kingsmead students had an inspiring glimpse into the world of Oxford and Cambridge universities through a series of special sessions and events designed to help them aim high and dream big.

### Year 9 and Year 11 Sessions

Our Year 9 and Year 11 students participated in engaging sessions led by Savannah, a representative from Oxbridge, exploring what life is really like at these prestigious institutions. Students gained valuable insight into taking those all-important next steps in their academic journey and had the chance to ask vital questions about student finance, university life, and future opportunities. The sessions opened doors to exciting possibilities and empowered our students to consider paths they may not have previously imagined.

### Oxbridge Hub Event for Year 12

For the third consecutive year, Kingsmead was incredibly proud to host the Oxbridge Hub event for our Year 12 students, welcoming guests from schools across the local area. The evening brought together over 50 students, parents, and teachers from seven local schools for an inspiring presentation by Savannah Phillips from University College Oxford.



The comprehensive presentation provided fantastic insight into Oxford and Cambridge universities, highlighting the many benefits of studying at these world-renowned institutions and offering practical advice on the application process – including strategies for making a successful application.

### Oxbridge Interview Workshop for Year 12 and 13

We welcomed Sandy Mill, an Admissions Tutor at Cambridge University, who led an excellent workshop designed to equip students with the skills and confidence needed for Oxbridge interviews. The event brought together Year 13 students from five local schools alongside our own Year 12 and 13 Sixth Form students.



Throughout the session, Sandy provided invaluable insight into what admissions tutors look for during the interview process. Students gained practical tips and expert advice on how to approach challenging questions, demonstrate their academic thinking, and present themselves effectively. The workshop demystified what can often seem like a daunting experience, helping students understand that interviews are an opportunity to showcase their passion for their chosen subject.

We wish all participating students the very best of luck with their Oxbridge applications and upcoming interviews.

**Written by Mrs K Greenwood**



# HIGHFLYERS

## **Year 8 Highflyers**

During Autumn Term 2 Year 8 high flyers have taken part in two sessions. In session one, students worked collaboratively to prepare for a natural disaster. Utilising their geography lessons students developed their teamwork, problem solving/critical thinking and presentation skills. In session two, students took part in a careers session. The aim was to think about their own career aspirations. During the session students learned about different types of careers, the difference between hard and soft skills and applied their knowledge to think about what career required certain skills and qualifications. In the final section, students were given time to research different careers they were interested in such as, teacher, vet and doctor. Next term, our students will complete a session on the different types of Universities.

## **Year 9 Highflyers**

This term, our Year 9 Highflyers have made an excellent start to their enrichment programme. Their first session was an introductory workshop outlining what's ahead this year, including guidance on GCSE option choices and the importance of informed decision-making. They then took part in an inspiring Oxbridge session led by a visiting member of the Oxford and Cambridge alumni network, who shared insights into life at a top university and answered thoughtful questions from students. The group will move on to a "next steps" session, focusing on exploring GCSE pathways, future career prospects, and how making considered choices now can open doors later on. They will also look at super-curricular activities that can enhance their interests and strengthen their academic profiles as they prepare for Key Stage 4

## **Year 10 Highflyers**

The Year 10 Highflyers met in November and began to discuss what UCAS is and how they can use the database to search for universities, courses and apprenticeships. They carried out their own individual searches looking for courses they may never even have thought of, such as an Actuary degree with a gap year in China. We also reinforced the importance of Russell Group universities and Kingsmead as an Oxbridge Hub in an effort to continue to inspire them to reach for the stars!

## **Year 11 Highflyers**

Our Year 11 Highflyer students have already had a busy and exciting start to the year. They began with an Informed Choices session, exploring which A Level subjects are essential for different university courses and how to plan ahead for their future studies. Soon after, they welcomed a speaker from Oxford University, who dispelled common myths about applying there and offered a glimpse into student life at one of the world's most prestigious institutions.

Many of the group visited the University of Birmingham, experiencing first-hand what life is like on campus at a leading red brick university. From exploring the courses on offer to campus tours and student Q&A, the trip gave them a real taste of higher education and broadened their horizons for the years ahead.

To round off the term's activities, the Highflyers welcomed back alumna Cara who is studying at Oxford University. Cara gave an engaging talk about her personal journey from Kingsmead Sixth Form to one of the world's most prestigious institutions. She shared honest insights into student life and offered practical tips on how to prepare a strong and successful application. Her visit was both inspiring and reassuring, showing our current Year 11 Highflyers that with determination and careful planning, opportunities at top universities are well within reach.

# CAREERS

It's been a busy start to the academic year in Careers with 2 year groups completing drop down days, 3 careers assemblies, and multiple careers-related trips.

Year 7's took part in the Careers Challenge hosted by Young Enterprise. Mrs Kendall and Miss Hinton were proud to see how well pupils engaged throughout the day, and the confidence that shone from the teams who presented their ideas to the rest of the year group. Well done Year 7 – you've made a fantastic start to your journey at Kingsmead, and we're excited to see you grow over the coming years.



Year 11 pupils took part in their Futures Day, discovering lots of information about their post-16 and post-18 options. It's wonderful to see how many pupils have already applied for Sixth Form and colleges, ensuring that they have a plan of action for next year. Careers meetings will continue to take place so if your child is yet to have their appointment, they can arrange this directly with Mrs Kendall, and all Year 11 pupils will have a meeting at some point this academic year.

Pupils have attended careers related trips to Finning UK in Cannock, the Hex Group in Rugeley, West Midlands Designer Outlet, University of Birmingham and University of Staffordshire's Forensic Science Day to name a few. Moreover, we were fortunate to host representatives from the RAF, Jaguar Land Rover and the Hex Group for careers related assemblies.

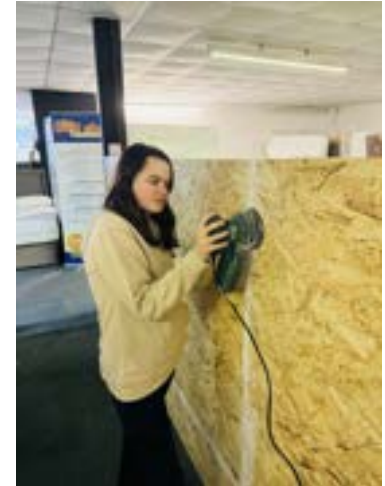
In addition to all this, we have launched our Year 7 Farm work experience programme. In light of new statutory guidance that pupils in both Key Stage 3 and 4 need to complete 25 hours of work experience, Year 7 pupils will be completing a 1-day experience with Mrs Westbury and Miss Powell on our farm, offering a unique and hands-on opportunity for pupils to develop their key skills. As we further develop our Work Experience offering, we would love to hear from parents/guardians/families if the company you work for offer work experience. We understand that securing 200+ placements for pupils will be a huge task, and therefore if you can support us in any way, please contact Mrs Kendall – [N.Kendall@kingsmeadschool.net](mailto:N.Kendall@kingsmeadschool.net).

**Written by Mrs N Kendall**



# TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY 2025

We are thrilled to see a record number of students opting in to our most recent Take Your Child to Work day, putting our RIME values into action and embracing these fantastic opportunities. Take a look at some of the wonderful things they got up to:







Schools can play an important role in helping reduce the spread of seasonal illnesses, helping keep pupils and staff healthy, supporting healthy learning environments and regular school attendance.

# ATTENDANCE

Professor Russell Viner, Chief Scientific Adviser at Department for Education sets out small actions schools can take across seven areas for maximum impact.

## Stay Healthy, Stay in School: How We Can Reduce the Spread of Illness

As we enter the colder months here at Kingsmead, we are more likely to see a rise in illness within our school community. It is because of this that we look to reducing the possibility of coughs and colds with some simple, proactive measures.

Scientific evidence demonstrates that vaccination, disinfection (cleaning), handwashing, and ventilation can significantly reduce the transmission of infectious diseases.

### 1. Parents: Communicate to minimise unnecessary absence

The NHS provides clear guidance on when children are well enough to attend school. Most mild illnesses — such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough — do not require time off school, unless a child has a temperature. Parents know their child best, but schools can support parents to make informed decisions.

### 2. Pupils and staff: Vaccinations for protection

Vaccinations are a key line of defence against flu and other preventable illnesses. When children and young people receive all the recommended vaccines in the national immunisation programme, it helps protect their health and support the wellbeing of the whole school community.

### 3. Pupils and staff: Handwashing is a simple but powerful tool

Hand hygiene is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. Wash hands before meals, after using the toilet and after touching animals.

### 4. Pupils and staff: Catch It, Bin It, Kill It approach to respiratory hygiene

Coughs and sneezes spread diseases, but simple everyday habits can help stop infection from spreading. Follow these easy habits:

- Catch it: Use a tissue to cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. If there's no tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.
- Bin it: Throw the used tissue straight into a bin.
- Kill it: Wash hands with soap and water after coughing, sneezing, or touching used tissues. Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- No spitting: it spreads germs.





# ATTENDANCE

## **5. Environment: Good ventilation to provide fresh air**

Good ventilation can help remove air that contains virus particles and prevent the spread of respiratory infections such as colds, flu and COVID-19. Let fresh air in by opening windows and doors. In colder weather you can open high-level windows instead of low ones to avoid cold draughts or air rooms by opening windows and doors between lessons and at breaktimes.

## **6. Environment: Cleaning to keep a safe and healthy school environment**

Regular cleaning helps reduce the spread of germs include regularly cleaning high-touch areas like door handles and desks and toilets, as well as providing tissues and bins in classrooms and liquid soap by handwashing facilities and encourage their use.

## **7. Behavioural reminders: Small habits, big impact**

Children (and staff!) benefit from regular reminders about hygiene and illness prevention. Explain why you are opening the window, even on a chilly day, even just for 10 minutes can make a big difference, and the benefits of bringing fresh air into the classroom and reinforce positive behaviours through classroom routines.

By taking simple, coordinated actions, schools can help reduce illnesses from spreading, promote pupil wellbeing, reduce illness-related absences, and keep pupils learning through the winter months.



# SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

## Movember at School

This November, our school proudly took part in Movember, the global campaign raising awareness of men's health issues, including mental health, suicide prevention, prostate cancer, and testicular cancer. Staff members joined in by growing moustaches, while students engaged in themed assemblies and fundraising activities. It was inspiring to see our community come together to support such an important cause. Beyond the fun, Movember gave us a valuable opportunity to talk openly about wellbeing and encourage everyone—students and parents alike—to check in on themselves and those around them. Congratulations to Mr. Shakespeare who won our Mophy for the best moustache!

## Finning trip- Year 10

Our Year 10 students recently enjoyed an inspiring trip to Finning UK in Cannock, where they explored a wide range of career opportunities within the engineering and machinery sector. During the visit, students learned about the different apprenticeship pathways available and gained valuable insights into how these roles can shape their future. The day included a guided tour of the site, giving pupils a first-hand look at the scale and innovation behind Finning's operations. To round off the experience, students took part in a team-building activity that encouraged collaboration, problem-solving, and communication—skills that will serve them well both in school and beyond.

Written by Miss L Jones





# WELLBEING

Unleashing Potential: Kingsmead's New Mentoring Manual Takes Shape!

The Wellbeing Hub at Kingsmead School is excited to announce the development of our new "EmpowerED Mentoring Manual," a pioneering, whole-school approach designed to empower every pupil to thrive and truly become the best version of themselves.

In today's fast-paced world, navigating adolescence presents a unique set of challenges, from the pressures of social media to managing stress and building healthy relationships, our young people face complex issues that extend far beyond the classroom. Recognising these modern youth trends and school-specific needs, we embarked on creating a comprehensive resource tailored precisely for our pupils at Kingsmead.

This manual isn't just another textbook; it's a framework focused on essential life skills and personal development crafted and packed with interactive activities, thought-provoking discussions, and powerful reflection points. Imagine sessions exploring Self-Esteem and Identity, building Resilience and Coping Skills, or navigating the complexities of Social Media and Risk Prevention, all delivered in an engaging format that ensures pupils aged 11-18 remain captivated and equipped with practical tools for life.



While the manual is still in its final stages of development, the Wellbeing Hub are dedicated to its research and refinement so each section delivers outcomes that, not only benefit the pupil, but can be measured so progress is monitored. This process ensures that every topic meets criteria and genuinely addresses the diverse needs and experiences of every child within our school community.

Our aim is to foster self-discovery, assertive communication, critical thinking, and empathy, creating a supportive environment where pupils can learn, grow, and navigate life's complexities with confidence.



We are excited about the positive impact this 'EmpowerED Mentoring Manual' will have, as it represents our commitment to nurturing well-rounded, resilient, and socially responsible individuals.

Please watch this space for further developments concerning this project that we anticipate will help our Kingsmead pupils unlock their full potential.

**Written by Mr M Stephens  
The Wellbeing Hub**

# PRIMARY PARTNERS



## **Chasing the Future: Building Bridges Between Kingsmead and Our Partner Primaries.**

Kingsmead School has been buzzing with activity as part of our Chasing the Future Partnership, a programme designed to strengthen links with local primary schools and create exciting opportunities for young learners. We were delighted to welcome pupils from Heath Hayes Academy, Hazel Slade Academy, Five Ways Primary, Poppyfield Academy, and St Peter's Primary for a lively football tournament. The matches were competitive, showcasing fantastic teamwork, sportsmanship, and skill.

While Five Ways Primary topped the league table, the real winner was the incredible community spirit that emerged among all the players. Before the final game, we gathered every team for a group photo—a moment that puzzled some at first! But when we explained that very soon, they'll all be Kingsmead students playing together at secondary school.



Our Year 12 Drama students have also been out in the community delivering anti-bullying assemblies and interactive workshops to pupils all Year 5 students at Chasing The Future Primary Schools. Feedback from partner schools was overwhelmingly positive—teachers praised the sessions as practical and engaging, while pupils loved acting out scenarios and learning strategies to prevent bullying. These workshops not only promote kindness but also help younger pupils feel excited about joining Kingsmead and even considering drama as a future subject. We're proud to see our students acting as role models and building a stronger, more caring community.



We also welcomed pupils from West Hill Primary and Five Ways Primary for a hands-on science practical led by Kingsmead's Science Teachers. The session introduced students to the fascinating world of dissections—a perfect way to support their learning back at primary school. There were wide eyes and curious questions as pupils got a taste of what science lessons will look like at Kingsmead. Equal parts squeamish and enthralled, they showed fantastic enthusiasm and bravery.

As part of our partnership, we're also excited to launch Computing Sessions for Year 5 in collaboration with Digital Schoolhouse, a UK games industry-backed initiative delivered by Ukie. In the first sessions, we welcomed Year 5 from West Hill, with other schools booked to attend in the new year. These sessions blend curriculum content with imaginative activities such as unplugged games and storytelling, helping pupils explore digital skills through play-based learning. This is only a snapshot of what's happening. There are lots more activities planned throughout the year, and we can't wait to share them with you.

**Written by Mr R Dyke**



# KINGSMEAD FARM



During Farm enrichment the students have had the opportunity to meet some of the exotic animals on site including Bella the Bearded Dragon and Olive the Hermann Tortoise. The students learned about the animals' habitats, behaviours, facts and simply enjoying the calm and curiosity that the animals bring to the school. Also, the students have had a tour of the Farm animals, where they fed the sheep and pigs. While on their tour they learned about the animals accommodation and their daily requirements.

Farm enrichment helps students learn about all the species we have on Kingsmead Farm, including how to look after them to meet their five welfare needs. Tasks the students can get involved in include creating box enrichment, feeding, grooming and handling different animals, and much more!

Year 10 have been enjoying their practical lessons, including cleaning animal accommodation, completing daily animal husbandry tasks, and learning how to correctly and safely handle the farm and exotic animals. Miss Powell and Mrs. Westbury have enjoyed leading sessions where they have supported students to overcome their fears of snakes and spiders.

Pupils around school love that the animals are built into their daily school life as it sustains positive mental health and wellbeing, as it helps to relax the students and supports them throughout the day.

**Written by Miss A Powell**

We have had some new arrivals join Kingsmead Farm, including;

## **Indian Stick Insects**

Stick insects are all girls as they clone themselves (babies are a copy of the mom). When the stick insects are scared, they become ridged and fall to the floor like a twig.

## **Curly Haired Tarantula and Yellow Knee Tarantula**

Tarantulas love to make burrows underground like rabbits. They hunt by detects prey vibrations through their sensitive leg hairs! The hairs on their body are soft and fluffy. They are both calm and friendly.



# THE SPORTS REPORT

The U16 girls football team found the winning formula against Landau Forte AMMS in R1 of the County Cup. Although the opposition provided a challenge and made the girls work for every ball they showed their resilience and created a final score of 4-1. Goals from Aiyarin (2) and Scarlett (2). Bring on the next round!



The U16 netball team played in the County Tournament at Denstone College this term.

They played some excellent netball at a very high standard and showed great resilience and teamwork. They finished 8th in the County which is an excellent achievement!



A big well done to our Year 8 and 10 netball teams who faced tough competition against King Edwards this week. Although the scores didn't go our way, every player from both teams showed determination, teamwork, and resilience to the final whistle. Y10 grew into the game and got better and better, and Y8 made an excellent start to their game. Both teams maintained their effort and positivity throughout, showing fantastic team spirit. Well done girls!



## Handball Club Highlights!

Fridays after-school sessions has seen over 40 students come together to sharpen their handball skills and have fun with their teammates!

We're beyond impressed with the dedication, teamwork, and enthusiasm everyone brings each week — it's amazing to see your talents growing with every session!



Our netball season continued last night as our Year 9 and Year 10 teams travelled to Chase High.

Year 9 secured a brilliant 10–1 win with excellent play down the whole court — strong defensive interceptions, great movement, and impressive shooting throughout.

Year 10 faced a challenging start but grew stronger as the match went on, showing outstanding effort, resilience, and teamwork throughout. The final score didn't reflect the quality of their performance, and their positive attitude and commitment will only help them continue to develop.

A huge well done to both teams!



Rainy days won't dampen our spirits in PE! During storm Claudia, our Hyrox-themed lesson brought out the best in teamwork and determination, with students cheering each other on as they took part in a challenging yet rewarding circuit.

Kingsmead U13 girls played against Cheslyn Hay in R2 of the County Cup this term. They put in a determined performance throughout creating chances and defending solidly including fantastic saves from the keeper. This kept us in contention right until the end and resulted in a 1-1 draw at full time with a goal from Lacey.

Penalties were needed to decide the result and there was no shortage of girls willing to step up and take one showing the team's commitment and spirit. Unfortunately on this occasion the result did not go our way and we narrowly missed out losing 2-1 on penalties but the girls should be justly proud of their gritty performance!

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The U14 girls football team played Wilnecote in R2 of the County Cup. With some players missing they battled against the odds and were 1-0 down for much of the match before finally breaking through to equalise with some heroic efforts.

The girls believed in their abilities and never gave up for one second! This led to a penalty shootout where Kingsmead held their nerve from the spot whilst our keeper produced crucial saves to secure the win and send Kingsmead through to the next round.

A spectacular performance with every single player giving their all. Congratulations.



## What. A. Comeback!

Our Year 9 boys took on Cardinal Griffin in a thriller of a match. After going into half-time 4-1 down, the team showed incredible determination and belief to turn things around in the second half, taking the win 7-6!

Freddie and Tyler both completed stunning hat-tricks, with Oliver adding the decisive goal to seal the victory. A special mention goes to Tyler, our well-deserved MVP, for his exceptional performance and leadership on the pitch.

A huge well done to the whole squad for their teamwork, resilience, and fighting spirit from start to finish.



Well done to the Year 7 netball team who beat Chase High 14-1 in their first league match of the season. They played some outstanding netball and it was a brilliant team performance. We are very proud of you! Keep up the great work girls!



Due to injuries and other circumstances, the Y10 football team faced a challenge against a strong Codsall side with just 10 men on the pitch.

Setting up with a disciplined flat-4 at the back and five across midfield, Kingsmead absorbed relentless pressure throughout the first half. The defence stood firm, with outstanding contributions from Jayden in goal and even the woodwork coming to their rescue. Despite Codsall's dominance, the teams went into halftime level at 0-0.

After the break, Codsall eased off the gas, allowing our midfield more time and space on the ball. Kingsmead capitalised on this shift in momentum. Towards the end of the second half, Joe spotted a gap in the opposition defence and threaded a perfectly weighted pass through to Joe L. After some neat footwork, he coolly slotted the ball into the net, capping off a slick counter-attack.

Kingsmead had to weather some late pressure, but the team held firm to secure a hard-fought 1-0 victory. Both Mr Laird and Mr Moreton were extremely proud of how hard the lads worked for each other, showing tremendous character and determination despite being a player down.



Kingsmead girls U13 team travelled to Rugeley John Taylor for a district fixture this term. The game started slowly with players getting used to the surface which meant going down 1-0 but the team soon got to grips with the extra bounce eventually winning 4-1 with four goals from Lacey and a couple of lovely assists from Xanthe and Poppy. Go Kingsmead!

**Written by Mr J Moreton**

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