



KINGSMEAD LIFE MAGAZINE

ISSUE 20 - JULY 2025

FOREWORD

Kingsmead School enters its final weeks before the summer break.

We have remained focused on what matters most, students, their opportunities and experiences. Current Year 11 and 13 have been impressive in the lead up, during and after the exams this year. We all wish them good luck for when the results are announced in August.

Other years too have been completing the Trust end of year exams and then getting prepared for next year as part of early promotion. As you will see from the articles here and our social media, Kingsmead students continue to make our community and parents proud.

The next enrichment programme cycle has started. Responding to student and parent feedback, we have managed to include more spaces in popular choices, as well as some completely brand new ones, including our first stand-up comedy session. Watch this space.

Our enrichment programme ensures all students get a chance to explore their interests and talents, with staff, in a different way to more traditional lessons. This wider curriculum has been running for some time now has enabled us to run our farm, produce amazing school productions, compete in National sports events and of course, just have fun.

Talking of fun, our 2nd Kingsfest arrives on Wednesday 9th July. It promises to showcase student talents in music, performing, craft making and entrepreneurship. Do come along and enjoy. Tickets are available through MCAS and Eventbrite. We will again have our pre-loved uniform and exam revision guide swap shop here for all those of you interested.

Elsewhere, our staff are working hard developing the school curriculum and honing their craft through the recent Trust-wide inset day. The focus was on adaptive teaching, which will ensure we continue to reach for our aim, to ensure every student succeeds here at Kingsmead.

Our new Head students have been getting ready for next year, building the 25-26 Student Leadership Team. If you are a student and interested in getting involved, see the notices in tutor time. We continue to focus on Kingsmead's values, in particular, we are looking to develop revision skills, build resilient character and focus on wellbeing within the school through student and staff ambassadors.

We hope everyone has a lovely, restful Summer. We wish our fabulous class of 2025 Year 13 the very best for the next stage of their learning journey.



KINGSMEAD - AN ECO SCHOOL

Kingsmead renews it's Commitment to Eco-Schools for a Greener Future

We are proud to announce that Kingsmead has officially renewed its commitment to the Eco-Schools programme, an internationally recognised award scheme that empowers students to drive sustainable change within their school and community.

At Kingsmead school, sustainability is more than a subject, it is embedded in the way we learn, lead, and live every day. Over the past year, our Eco Committee, made up of passionate students and staff, has worked tirelessly to promote environmental responsibility through practical actions and awareness campaigns. From biodiversity projects to reducing waste, our students are helping to shape a greener future.

A key part of our commitment lies in the environmental improvements across our school site. This year, we have made significant strides toward becoming more eco-friendly, including:

- Switching our main boiler system to biofuel, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.
- Installing LED lighting in every room, cutting down on energy consumption.
- Upgrading pipework and roofing with enhanced insulation, increasing the overall energy efficiency of our buildings.
- Adding electric vehicle charging stations in the staff car park to support sustainable transport and reduce emissions.
- Taking part in No Mow May.

Our students are equally dedicated. Our eco-leaders have organised regular litter-picking sessions, helping to keep our school and local community clean while educating others on the impact of waste. These student-led efforts show real ownership of the environment and pride in making a difference.

We're also proud of our exciting partnership with Great Imagining, an innovative organisation



supporting young people in rethinking the future of our planet. Through their workshops and creative learning sessions, our pupils have explored sustainability in imaginative ways, fostering big ideas and even bigger ambition.

Another key event this term is our upcoming Community Day on 17th July, where students, staff, families, and local organisations will come together to promote sustainability and health & wellbeing. This hands-on day will include community clean-ups, planting projects, and workshops designed to bring people together in support of a greener, healthier future.

We are proud of how far we've come and even more excited about what lies ahead.



YEAR GROUP FEATURE - YEAR 10

A Huge Term for Our Year 10s – Soon to Be Year 11!

What a term it's been for our Year 10 students, who have now officially stepped into their final year! A massive achievement for them as they completed their first official mock exams in the main hall. The year group were impeccably behaved, punctual, and gave their absolute best in every exam — a real credit to themselves and the school.

This experience has truly helped Year 10 realise that the countdown to the real thing has begun. They've responded brilliantly to the early promotion to Year 11, settling into their new responsibilities and expectations with maturity and focus.



Alongside this, we've seen some outstanding role models emerge. A special mention to a couple of our Year 11 lads who recently supported one of our partner primary schools by refereeing a Hednesford-organised football tournament. The event was a huge success, and the boys even got the chance to meet Pitman Pete and Premier League referee Craig Taylor, who offered valuable advice and inspiration to our budding young referees.

Speaking of primary partnerships, our early transition day with our new Year 7 students was another huge success. It wouldn't have been possible without our amazing student helpers — Maya L, Maya BL, Phoebe, McKenzie, Bella, and Chloe — who made the day run smoothly and made our newest students feel so welcome.

We're also incredibly proud of Grace, who represented her cadets with pride, taking part in multiple memorial events and flying the flag high for our school.

Sporting success continues to thrive within our year group. Congratulations to our talented girls' football team for once again becoming County Cup Champions! And a huge shout-out to the boys representing Penkridge Cricket Team, who made it not only to the semi-final but also to the County Cup Final — Good luck!

With just one big year ahead, it's safe to say our new Year 11s are focused, prepared, and ready to make it count.

RIME FEATURE: EMPLOYABILITY

Building Employability Skills Through the School Year

Throughout this academic year, our students have had countless opportunities to develop key employability skills — teamwork, leadership, communication, creativity, and time management — by taking part in a wide range of events and initiatives that not only contribute to their personal growth but also give back to our wider community.

In September, students kicked off the year by supporting the Hibbs Lupus Trust, engaging in fundraising activities that taught them valuable lessons in organization, advocacy, and compassion. October brought with it the thrills and chills of Scarefest, where students collaborated on event planning, managed

logistics, and worked in teams to create a spooky and memorable experience for all. In November, our school proudly supported the Royal British Legion through charity work and remembrance events. These moments provided students with the chance to demonstrate empathy, responsibility, and respect for national heritage.

December was a bustling month packed with community spirit. The Christmas Fayre and Christmas Concert offered students opportunities to develop their creativity, confidence, and public speaking skills, while the Key Stage 3 Christmas Disco allowed younger students to get involved in event organization and teamwork in a fun, social setting.

The new year started with a bang in January, as our talented cast and crew took to the stage for the School Production of 'Grease'. From acting and dancing to behind-the-scenes production and technical support, this event showcased students' ability to work together toward a common goal with professionalism and dedication. In February, love and thoughtfulness were in the air as students sold Valentine's Day gifts, learning key lessons in marketing, budgeting, and customer service. March saw the return of our ever-popular Bake Sales, where students mixed business with pleasure, selling their sweet creations to raise funds — a delicious way to hone their entrepreneurial and money-handling skills. April brought festive energy back to the school hall with the Easter disco,



giving younger students more chances to shine through volunteering, decorating, and helping to manage the event.

As we approach the end of the school year, there are still exciting opportunities ahead. The summer term will close with two of our biggest community events: Kingsfest, our vibrant Summer Concert, and Sports Day, a showcase of team spirit, perseverance, and healthy competition.

These experiences help our students become well-rounded, employable young people ready for the future. We're incredibly proud of their commitment and enthusiasm, and we look forward to seeing them embrace the final opportunities of the year with the same energy and passion.



SIXTH FORM



As these students now turn the page to begin exciting new chapters, many will go on to study at prestigious universities across the country, while others will pursue ambitious apprenticeships or take time to travel and explore the world. Whatever path they take, we are confident that the skills, values, and experiences they've gained here will serve them well. We will miss each of them dearly and feel incredibly proud to have been part of their story. We can't wait to see all that they achieve in the future.



On their final day at Kingsmead School, our Year 13 students marked the end of an incredible chapter with a day of Leavers Celebrations, honouring their journey through secondary school. The atmosphere was filled with a mix of excitement and reflection as students came together to celebrate the friendships, achievements, and memories that have shaped their time with us.

A special highlight of the day was the distribution of their personalised Yearbooks—each one packed with photographs, anecdotes, and heartfelt messages capturing the essence of their years at Kingsmead. Among the laughter and smiles, the ever-popular 'Most Likely To' awards—voted for by their peers—brought a joyful sense of nostalgia and camaraderie.

Year 12 Transition

In addition, we welcomed some old and new faces back to Kingsmead for Sixth Form Induction Week. Mrs. Horsfield was on hand to discuss everything Sixth Form life related and where Kingsmead Sixth Form can take our students in the future. Students then experienced some taster sessions of their chosen subjects to prepare them for the leap into A Levels in the new academic year.

We can't wait to see you all in September!



LEARNING AND TEACHING

Building Strong Foundations: Routines and Engagement in the Classroom

It's been wonderful to see students settling into their new classes following the early promotion. One of our key focuses as a school has been establishing clear routines to support a calm and productive learning environment. These routines are not just about structure—they are the foundations that help students feel confident, prepared, and ready to learn.

Starter Activities

Starting lessons in a positive, purposeful way has been a particular priority. Teachers are using a variety of techniques to make sure students are immediately engaged when they enter the classroom. These "lesson starters" may include quick recap activities, thought-provoking questions, or short, targeted tasks designed to activate prior knowledge and spark curiosity. These routines help to set the tone, giving students a clear sense of direction and a mindset geared towards learning from the very beginning of each session.

Mini Whiteboards

An exciting feature of our teaching this term has been the increased use of mini whiteboards across a range of subjects. These simple tools are proving incredibly powerful in helping students actively participate in lessons. They allow every student to contribute,

whether it's solving a maths problem, writing a key term in science, or sharing an idea in English.

Teachers can instantly see who has understood the concept and who may need further support, which helps to guide their teaching in real time. It also means students receive immediate feedback—an important part of the learning process.

Questioning

Questioning has also played a vital role in promoting engagement and deeper thinking. Teachers are using a variety of strategies to involve all students, not just those who put their hands up. By asking open-ended questions, encouraging discussion, and giving students time to think and respond, we're developing a culture of curiosity and reflection. This helps students to feel that their ideas are valued and that making mistakes is a natural—and important—part of learning.

We've been particularly impressed with how well students have responded to these expectations. Across all year levels, we've seen increased focus, more meaningful contributions during discussions, and greater independence. These are all signs that students are taking ownership of their learning.

We've been particularly impressed with how well students have responded to these expectations. Across all year levels, we've seen increased focus, more meaningful contributions during discussions, and greater independence.



These are all signs that students are taking ownership of their learning.

Parents and carers can support this work at home by asking students about the routines they're following in class and discussing what they're learning. Questions like "What did you do at the start of your lessons today?" or "What was something interesting you wrote on your mini whiteboard?" can help reinforce the importance of these strategies and encourage students to reflect on their learning experiences.

We're proud of the strong start students have made and look forward to building on these routines and strategies as the year continues. With consistent support from home and school, we know our students will continue to thrive.

HIGHFLYERS

Year 7

Year 7 Highflyers attended a COBRa day to learn about the causes of diseases. During this event, they learned how to treat and prevent diseases. Working in groups, students created and presented an action plan for smallpox, developing their research and teamwork skills in the process. This term, we will be running a careers session to help students think about their own career goals, the qualifications required, and the skills needed for these careers.



Year 8

The Year 8 Highflyers participated in a careers session focused on exploring a variety of career pathways to raise aspirations and broaden their horizons. Using the Start platform, they researched careers related to the subjects that they enjoy and may consider for their GCSE options, as well as their personal strengths and interests. They then gathered essential information about each job role and created informative slides to showcase their findings.

Year 9

Year 9 Highflyers had a session led by Year 11 Highflyers who spoke to them about their GCSE journey. The three older students provided top tips, "do's and don'ts" for study and recommended useful revision websites which the Year 9s then had time to explore. They attended the Staffordshire University trip this half term along with the rest of Year 9.

Year 10

Year 10 Highflyers took part in a session recently to support with their future careers and pathways. In the careers section they explored possible future careers and pathways and subjects needed to get there. They also researched a variety of university courses and their entry requirements. This gave the students a clear understanding what they need to achieve in order to access their preferred route. The second part of the session involved an introduction to Super-curricular activities. These are any activities where students explore subjects beyond the syllabus they study in school and can really strengthen their personal statement when applying for top universities and future careers. Students in any year can do these in their own time and further information about super curricular activities can be found on the school website.

CAREERS

Summer might be fast approaching, but by no means is Kingsmead slowly down. This term saw our new Year 10 students head of the University of Staffordshire. Students spent the morning learning about what universities are, how they differ from school and the types of subjects you can study. A number of university ambassadors talked to students about why they'd chosen to study at Staffordshire, what courses they were studying and what it's like to be at university.



In the afternoon, we split into 10 groups, and took part in a range of taster sessions, including Games Design, Psychology, Food Science, Engineering, Poetry and Art. Students were a credit to themselves, and we hope they enjoyed the trip, as well as starting to aspire to high education should that be the pathway they wish to follow.

Secondly, the spotlight goes to our new Year 13s as they took on mock interviews as part of their careers day. The feedback from our interviewers was phenomenal, with many students being personally named in feedback for their outstanding performance. Students also spent the day working on CVs and UCAS, getting ready for those all-important applications they will be making from September. We're excited to see what the next 12 months will bring for them.

1:1 career appointments have now started for our new Year 11 students. This is a reminder that parents are welcome to accompany their child to their appointment if you wish.

Furthermore, Mrs Kendall will be present at parents evenings going forward so that if you do have any questions about careers or your child's next steps, there is ample opportunity to speak to her.

Moving forward, we are looking ahead to Autumn term and all the exciting activities planned in the school calendar. With the introduction of mandatory Modern Work Experience for all students in Key Stage 3 and 4 from September 2026, one of our main priorities in 2025-26 will be enhancing our network of partnerships, in the hope Kingsmead students will be able to find meaningful experiences.

Dates for the Diary:

Friday 28th November 2025 – Take Your Child to Work day

We highly encourage students to participate in the Take Your Child to Work day, allowing them to gain valuable experience of the workplace.

Wednesday 11th February – Careers Fayre

Please share this date with employers and businesses who might be interested in coming to speak to Kingsmead students. They can contact Mrs Kendall on n.kendall@kingsmeadschool.net



ENRICHMENT



Discover Your Passion: Exciting New Enrichment Clubs at Kingsmead!

At Kingsmead, learning doesn't end when the final bell rings—it continues through our exciting Enrichment programme, designed to unlock potential, spark curiosity and encourage students to grow beyond the classroom. For the new academic year, we're thrilled to launch a fresh range of Enrichment Clubs that offer something for everyone. Whether you're an artist, an adventurer, a strategist, a storyteller or a future entrepreneur, there's a club that's calling your name.

This year's brand-new clubs include Air Dry Pottery, where students can explore tactile creativity and craft stunning sculptures and ornaments. Those with a passion for the environment can join Litter Picking, making a real difference in our local community while learning about sustainability and teamwork.



For tech-savvy minds, Computer Coding is the perfect gateway into the world of programming, problem-solving and digital innovation.

Feeling funny? Then Stand-Up Comedy is your stage to develop confidence, charisma and the ability to connect with an audience through laughter. Personal Finance offers essential life skills in budgeting, saving, and understanding money—a must-have for any future adult. Love stories and legends? Our Mythology club dives into fascinating tales from around the world, sparking imagination and cultural appreciation.

Curious about global cultures? Festivals From Around The World brings international traditions to life, celebrating diversity and broadening horizons. Need a physical challenge? Boot Camp provides an energetic outlet to stay fit, build resilience and have fun as part of a team. Prefer your adventures to be imaginary? Dungeons and Dragons will unleash your inner hero through storytelling, strategy and collaboration.

Game Shows and Hosting will let you experience the thrill of quizzes, challenges and live entertainment. Budding artists and entrepreneurs can join Art Enterprise, combining creativity with business savvy as students create, market and sell their own work.

These clubs aren't just fun—they're vital. Enrichment activities like these help students discover hidden talents, build new friendships, and develop soft skills such as leadership, time management, teamwork and confidence. In a competitive world, universities and employers alike are looking for well-rounded individuals who show initiative, curiosity and personal growth beyond the curriculum.

More importantly, Enrichment gives students the freedom to enjoy learning—to explore interests without the pressure of grades, to take creative risks, and to find joy in trying something new. It's in these moments that many young people find their true passion, and even future career paths.

So don't miss out. Whether you're stepping into a fantasy world, sculpting a masterpiece, mastering your money, or bringing laughter to your peers, Kingsmead's new Enrichment Clubs are ready to welcome you. Sign up, show up, and get ready to explore a side of yourself you haven't yet discovered. Your next adventure begins now.



SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Fostering Gender Respect in Our School Community

We are committed to nurturing not only academic success but also a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all students. One of the key areas we continue to emphasize is the importance of respecting gender and gender identity—an essential part of helping all students feel seen, valued, and supported.

High school is a formative time when students are learning about themselves and others. It's also a time when issues like identity, relationships, peer dynamics, and self-expression are front and center. Promoting respect across all genders helps create a culture where all students can thrive socially and emotionally.

Educating through curriculum: PHSE classes include age-appropriate conversations about gender, identity, respect, and empathy.

Parents play a vital role in shaping students' values and confidence. Here are a few ways you can support gender respect at home:

- **Start conversations early and often:** Discuss topics like respect, kindness, and identity in a way that matches your child's age and maturity level.
- **Listen with empathy:** If your child shares questions or stories about gender identity—their own or others'—listen first, ask questions second.
- **Talk openly:** Encourage conversations about your child's online experiences and how they interpret messages about gender and relationships.
- **Know the signs:** Sudden changes in behaviour, language, or online habits may signal exposure to unhealthy ideologies.



SMARTPHONES IN SCHOOLS: RECLAIMING FOCUS, CONNECTION, AND CHILDHOOD

We love reading at Kingsmead. One of the books that our staff have become very interested in is 'The Anxious Generation' by Jonathan Haidt. This article outlines some of the key points and implications for students, parents and school.

Smartphones are powerful tools. For adults, they've become essential in helping us navigate, communicate, work, and stay organised. It's only natural to want to pass those benefits on to our children.



A phone means they can call us if they need help and feel connected to their friends. But when it comes to school, smartphones often do far more harm than good—and the latest research is making that clearer than ever.

We now know that students check their phones on average every 8.6 minutes. These devices aren't neutral; they're designed to be addictive, to interrupt, and to dominate attention. As psychologist Jonathan Haidt puts it in his book 'The Anxious Generation':

"The two big mistakes we've made: overprotecting children in the real world (where they need to learn from vast amounts of direct experience) and under protecting them online (where they are particularly vulnerable)."

Smartphones and Learning: What the Research Shows

Studies have found that even having a phone nearby can reduce concentration. One TikTok-focused study showed that students who used the app heavily were more likely to procrastinate and less likely to finish homework on time. Constant exposure to instant gratification also rewires attention, making it harder to focus on longer, more demanding tasks like reading or studying.



Beyond schoolwork, phones can erode students' ability to enjoy offline moments. In a dining study, people with phones visible during the meal were 7% more distracted and reported enjoying the experience 5.4% less than those who had no phones present.

Socially and emotionally, the impact is just as concerning. Social media promotes comparison, unrealistic ideals, and online pressures that contribute to rising anxiety, especially among girls. It's no coincidence that we're seeing increased reports of poor sleep, reduced self-esteem, and greater impulsivity among teens.



How Parents Can Support the Shift

Delaying smartphone use is one of the most effective steps you can take. Many families start with simple phones that allow calls and texts only. For those with smartphones already, consider these strategies:

1. Limit notifications to reduce distraction
2. Create phone-free zones for studying and sleeping
3. Use focus apps like Forest to encourage screen breaks
4. Model mindful tech habits at home

The Case for Smartphone-Free Schools

Smartphone-free schools don't just benefit individual students—they transform entire communities. From learning outcomes to wellbeing and behaviour, schools that take the step report improvements that ripple through every corridor and classroom.

- **Better learning:** Students at smartphone-free schools often achieve GCSE results one to two grades higher. Without constant distraction, they concentrate better, think more critically, and engage more deeply.
- **Improved mental health:** Reduced anxiety, less social comparison, and fewer incidents of cyberbullying all lead to more emotionally resilient students.
- **Stronger behaviour and relationships:** Teachers consistently observe fewer conflicts and more positive peer interactions. Without screens, students become more present—with their learning and with each other.
- **Safer spaces:** Removing phones significantly reduces safeguarding risks, including exposure to harmful content and covert recording.
- **More childhood, less screen time:** With phones out of sight, children return to play, conversation, and face-to-face friendship—building the social and emotional skills they truly need. A shift in cultural norms: When schools set clear boundaries, it empowers parents to do the same. We begin to shift the cultural expectation that every child needs a smartphone—and instead protect the time and space they need to grow.



WELLBEING



The Importance of Self-Awareness in Demanding Educational Roles

In the challenging environment of teaching and support roles, where responsibilities extend beyond the classroom, proactively managing wellbeing is crucial. The ability to understand one's emotional responses, physical state, and personal limits serves as a key strategy for navigating workplace pressures.

Being attuned to feelings and physical signals allows for early identification of potential strain, such as increased sensitivity or tiredness. Recognising these indicators enables timely action to prevent escalation into exhaustion.

The emotional landscape of educational work fluctuates, influenced by external factors and personal circumstances. Acknowledging the normality, and manageability, of these feelings depends on maintaining inner awareness. This mindfulness supports sound decision-making: knowing when to take a break, seek assistance, or adjust workload.

Prioritising self-care is a necessity, not a luxury, for professional and personal sustainability. Recognising personal limits and communicating boundaries is a strength, not a weakness. Addressing challenges early on allows for effective solutions, such as regular breaks or reflective practices.

In conclusion, the demanding nature of our school necessitates a conscious effort to maintain self-awareness. Proactively recognising and addressing early signs of strain safeguards mental health, enhances performance, and supports a sustainable career. Prioritising self-awareness and self-care is essential for thriving in a high-pressure environment.



MENTAL HEALTH

Building a Stronger Community: Mental Health Awareness Week at Kingsmead

Mental Health Awareness Week, which took place from the 12th to the 18th of May, focused on the theme of Community—something we value deeply at Kingsmead. A supportive community plays a crucial role in mental wellbeing, offering a sense of belonging, safety, and encouragement during times of need.

Throughout the week, we celebrated the strength of our school community with activities that reinforced connection and positivity. Each day, students participated in challenges designed to spark meaningful interactions, such as simply asking, “How are you?” or sharing a compliment with someone. These small gestures helped to break down the barriers that can make reaching out about mental health difficult.

Lunchtime saw a competitive yet light hearted staff vs. students table tennis tournament, adding an energetic and fun element to the week's events. The highlight of the week, however, was Friday's Tea and Talk gathering, where staff and students came together over a free breakfast, enjoyed games, and reflected on the importance of looking out for one another. It was a wonderful way to close the week, showcasing the supportive and inclusive environment that makes Kingsmead such a special place.



Mental Health Awareness Week reminded us that we are stronger together. By continuing to foster open conversations, kindness, and support, we ensure that our community remains a place where everyone feels valued and heard.

At Kingsmead, we recognise that mental health isn't just a focus for one week—it's a challenge that many students navigate every day. That's why we are committed to providing continuous support for students who may be struggling with their well-being.



AWARENESS WEEK

Mental Health Awareness Week reminded us that we are stronger together. By continuing to foster open conversations, kindness, and support, we ensure that our community remains a place where everyone feels valued and heard.

At Kingsmead, we recognise that mental health isn't just a focus for one week—it's a challenge that many students navigate every day. That's why we are committed to providing continuous support for students who may be struggling with their well-being.

Progress Leaders serve as the first point of contact for students needing guidance, offering essential pastoral care and academic support. Where further assistance is needed, referrals can be made to our dedicated Wellbeing Team—Mr. Stephens and Miss Maymand—who provide specialised interventions. Additionally, we work closely with external agencies, such as the NHS's 'Mental Health Hub,' ensuring students have access to more intense support tailored to their needs.



ATTENDANCE

The Power of Showing Up: How Attendance Fuels Achievement

In a world that's constantly moving, with distractions pulling us in every direction, there's one simple but powerful truth that often gets overlooked: showing up is half the battle. In education, it might just be the most important half.

Why Attendance Matters

Every day a student is present in the classroom is a day filled with opportunity: to ask a question, to master a new skill, to make a connection, or to learn something that sparks a passion. These moments build up, day after day, forming the foundation of lifelong success.

"Success doesn't come from what you do occasionally. It comes from what you do consistently."

This quote reminds us that greatness isn't born in single moments—it's built through daily effort. By showing up, students aren't just meeting expectations; they're investing in their dreams.

The Ripple Effect of Consistency

Students who attend school consistently often develop stronger routines, better time management, and increased resilience. They're not just learning Maths & English; they're learning how to commit to goals, how to overcome obstacles, and how to show up even when it's hard. These are the qualities that carry them through school, university, careers, and beyond.



For Parents and Guardians: Your encouragement makes a difference. Helping students get to school on time, even on tough days, sends a powerful message: education matters. It's an act of belief in their future.

For Students: Your presence is powerful. Every time you walk through the school doors, you're choosing growth. You're choosing to be part of something bigger than yourself. You're saying "yes" to your goals—even if you haven't figured them all out yet.

Let's make a collective commitment this year—to value every school day, to support each other, and to recognise that showing up today builds the success of tomorrow.



We had some new arrivals on the 29th April; 10 chicks!

They are now growing up very quickly and they are developing very cheeky and playful personalities. They are currently in a separate enclosure to enable farm staff to keep an eye on them to ensure they grow up strong and healthy. In a few months' time they will be moving back into the rest of their chicken family in the goat quad, we are sure they will continue to be cheeky and fit in well with the other chickens, keep your eye out for them.



KINGSM EAD FARM



Olive our Hermann Tortoise has been enjoying the nice sunny days to sunbathe and explore different grass areas around school, she especially enjoys eating grass with the guinea pigs.



The tree in the goat and chicken quad was cut down during May half term, the materials from the tree (wood chip and logs) have been used sustainably around the farm to create natural log hides for the chickens, rabbits and guinea pigs. Even the reptiles have benefited from the logs as they have been used to create environmental enrichment in their enclosures.

Mrs Westbury and Miss Powell have enjoyed, welcoming many primary schools to the Farm to showcase the amazing animals. They have also been continuing to support students during practical lessons and enrichment sessions, expanding students' knowledge and confidence with the animals.



The sheep have had their yearly hair cut!

On the 20th of May Skippy and Beau had their annual shear, so they feel a lot cooler ready for the warm summer months. They are enjoying all the fresh long grass around school site, you may even see them walking around school.



THE SPORTS REPORT

U15 Girls Football – County Cup Final

The U15 girls football team played in the County Cup Final at Stafford FC against Madeley School and became County Champions with an 8-0 win!

Kingsmead produced an absolutely outstanding performance. The first half was littered with goal scoring opportunities, but the opposition dug deep and kept the score at 1-0. It was early in the second half, when confidence was boosted with an early goal, that the floodgates opened. The girls found another gear and the quality of skill and teamwork demonstrated was sensational.

Spectators were treated to a thrilling masterclass with spectacular goals at one end a goal line clearances at the other. Goals from Aiyarin (3), Frankie (2), Sophie (1), Scarlett A (1) and Scarlett P (1). The players should all be incredibly proud of their achievement. Many thanks to family and staff who came and provided enthusiastic support to help drive the girls onto success.



Year 7 Rounders District Tournament

The Year 7 rounders team played in the District Rounders Tournament this week at EDA. The girls showed a great competitive spirit and played with determination. Some lovely hitting and focused fielding was on display. This meant they came joint second in their section which was brilliant. Unfortunately, they narrowly missed a place in the semi-final on rounders difference. Well done girls.



Our Year 9 rounders team competed in the district tournament at EDA. They played 6 matches and secured two wins, two losses, and one draw, earning an impressive 3rd place finish overall. Their resilience, teamwork, and talent were evident throughout with some big hits and impressive fielding - well done girls!

THE SPORTS REPORT



Y10 Rounders District Tournament – KGD

The Year 10 girls took part in the district rounders tournament at EDA. They batted brilliantly, scoring a high number of rounders in each game and their fielding was exemplary. They played 6 matches in total and were unbeaten throughout the tournament which was a great achievement. For the second year running they won and were crowned District Rounders champions. Really well done!

Y9 & Y10 Rounders Match vs Abbots Holme – KGD/RHL

Our Year 9 and Year 10 rounders enrichment students were all given the opportunity to take part in a friendly but competitive fixture against Abbots Holme. Our Year 10 teams put on a fantastic performance against Abbots Holme's senior team consisting of their Year 11 and 12 students, winning both of their games convincingly with confidence and teamwork. Excellent fielding, quick thinking, and strong batting helped secure their double win. Our Year 9 teams faced a very strong Abbots Holme team consisting of their Year 9 and 10 students and despite their best efforts were defeated in both matches. They demonstrated great resilience and sportsmanship throughout with some impressive batting and excellent fielding. Overall, it was a great afternoon of rounders, and all teams should be proud of their efforts. We look forward to more fixtures like this in the future!



Join us every Friday (boys) and Monday (girls) after school for our exciting Handball Club! For the past two years, we've had a blast learning new skills, making friends, and staying active. Everyone is welcome to come and play! So why join? It's a fun, fast-paced game and a great way to improve fitness and teamwork in a friendly, supportive atmosphere.

Don't miss out—bring your energy every Friday after school!



Three Kingsmead Handball teams (across three age categories) travelled to WV Active, Wolverhampton, to participate in the West of England Regional Handball Finals. It was an exhilarating day, with many matches played and enjoyment had by all the teams involved. Well done to the qualifying teams and everyone else who took part.

THE SPORTS REPORT

Our students have recently achieved outstanding success in cricket, showcasing both their talent and dedication to the sport. Year 11 students Archie, Oli C, Ollie J, and James played a pivotal role in helping Penkridge Cricket Club secure victory in the prestigious County Cup.



Their impressive run didn't stop there, as they also battled their way to the finals of the District Cup, demonstrating consistency, teamwork, and determination throughout the season. Each of them made significant contributions on and off the field, and their efforts did not go unnoticed. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the way they represented both their club and our school with such enthusiasm and sportsmanship.



Our Year 9 rounders team showed incredible spirit and determination at this year's tournament, proudly finishing in 4th place! The students demonstrated true Kingsmead resilience, never giving up and pushing through every match with energy and teamwork. Each game was a chance to grow, learn, and support one another, and their positive attitude was a real credit to the school. Well done to everyone involved – a fantastic achievement!