



KINGSMEAD LIFE MAGAZINE

ISSUE 14
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NEWS, INFORMATION AND A WHOLE LOT MORE



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FOREWORD

Spring has well and truly arrived at Kingsmead, with daffodils in full bloom and the Kingsmead Pumpkin Patch seeds starting to germinate.

It was a huge delight to watch the children on their Easter Egg hunts again this year, including Year 12 and 13, who were remembering the first one that they did many years ago in Year 7. Thankyou so much to parents and the Kingsmead Foundation for supplying the eggs again. It was a pleasure to see all the students running around and enjoying themselves after another half-term of hard work both inside and outside the classroom.

There have been so many examples of our children living out their RIME values to celebrate this half-term; including the Year 9 netball team who became league champions, finishing the year unbeaten; incredible crocheting developed through enrichment; girls football teams winning again and again; Eco Club hosting the 'Great Imagining' to encourage zero emissions and our scientists winning a STEM event at Lichfield Cathedral School.

Talented, hardworking, kind, thoughtful, competitive and happy. Our children really do have it all.

Have a fun-filled and pleasant Easter break when it comes.

Best wishes,

Maria Mincher
Headteacher



BRILLIANT PARENTS

It would be impossible to pay tribute to all the things our incredible parents to support the children of the Kingsmead community. Please find here just a snapshot of some of those things – personal messages from members of staff outlining just some of the countless wonderful things that we appreciate about how our brilliant parents support the work we do at school. Quite simply, we could not do it without you, so thank you!...

WHAT YOU DO	WHY ITS BRILLIANT
Support me when I phone regarding the attitude to learning of a child.	It shows that we are a team
Support careers activities in assemblies, classroom talks and our Future's Fayre	It inspires students to think about careers they might not be familiar with
Support our Year 11 children in being fully prepared for their GCSE exams	It helps support us all in the smooth running of the exams.
Support your children in Enrichment	Studies show that taking part in extracurricular activities increase academic progress
Take you children to museums and castles	Offers the opportunity to build cultural capital and create a rounded childhood.
Are proud of you children when I phone regarding great effort or behaviour	Reinforces the fact that children deserve praise when they do things right
Write individual lessons/rooms on a piece of paper for her child who gets anxious with a heart on it for reassurance	It is kind and considerate, supporting the child and the school.
Attend back to school meetings to support the school	This shows that we are a team and sets clear boundaries for the child so that they grow up following the values that will make them successful
Support me when I have emailed regarding homework	Reinforces that we are a team and we want the best for our students/children
Make sure that your child attends school by dropping them off when they are finding things difficult, each and every day to support their child.	A child who could struggles attends every day and is getting slowly better at working as part of a team with school
Support the school, community and the children by coming to the Cannock Chase Community Litter pick	Shows a mindful attitude to the children, the community and the environment. Make excellent role models. Thank you!
Make sure that they encourage 100% attendance with their child	By working with school together we help build resilient children who go on to be successful adults
Not afraid to ask for support - knowing that we can work together to support the child who was struggling and feeling overwhelmed	We are a team; we all want to support and nurture our students in the classroom and the school.
Work with school to support the child's wellbeing - for example, helping them into school when they may find it a challenge	The child knows they are supported in all settings - team work is crucial to success

YOU SAID WE DID

We all work together here at Kingsmead to ensure our children are happy, safe, and successful. It is a partnership. We recently held our Spring Parent Forum which allowed us to explore what is, and what isn't, working from a parent point of view.

We explored in more detail areas we identified from recent surveys such as attendance, understanding the student grievance process, how parents can help students learning at home and the roads at collection time.

We can share with you what has been done or what is now planned, following our discussions. We are grateful for the parents who came for their time and ideas. If you would like to be involved in the next one, please contact Mr. Cope at s.cope@kingsmeadschool.net



You said...	We did...
Strong feedback that any bullying reported is dealt with effectively and immediately.	This said, parents don't always know what we offer as a school in terms of wellbeing. This will be shared through MCAS more in 'parent resources'.
Personal Learning Checklist (PLCs) were confidently explained by some parents whilst others were less confident.	Information has been shared on MCAS to give clarity and guidance on PLCs.
Home learning would benefit from being more clearly outlined, ensuring that all is as good as the best	A new approach has been devised with staff and students. This will be shared. This ensures home learning is meaningful and supports the learning of all.
Regarding home learning (and learning in general) students feel motivated by recognition of the effort put in.	A parents evening 'showcase' of work from the year is being considered. Books available to look at during in person parents evenings.
Parents would equally like to see and understand what students are doing in class more.	A video beginning terms explaining what is being learnt over that period of time in the subjects, year by year is being considered.
Parents would like more information on wellbeing and mental health support including signposting to services.	We will be delivering parent workshops and providing a clear information leaflet to help parents navigate support services.
The Blended Learning Platform is easier to navigate following the previous parent forum discussions.	We will continue to provide opportunities to demonstrate and explain how the Blended Learning Platform works in person.
Can we provide more information regarding the link of attendance and health / exam progress?	We will be releasing our social media information over the next few weeks to keep parents more informed and provide links for support.
The use of MCAS more for sharing key information was liked – the app is user-friendly.	We will have FAQ sections on MCAS, advertised through social media, before major holidays. It was mentioned that this would be most helpful before new Year 7's start, including pictures of equipment needed (e.g. calculators).
Parents said we do a lot to support families. We should celebrate and share this more.	Thank you, we will do this through socials.

STUDENT VOICE

We know how important it is to ensure our students at Kingsmead Sixth Form have a voice. We want them to know their voices are heard and their opinions are taken into account in order to make the most of their Sixth Form years before moving onto their future destinations after Year 13; be that at university, in full time work, or by beginning an apprenticeship.

Over the last six months, we have asked our students what they might choose to change in their Sixth Form to support their learning and maximise their potentials should they be given the opportunity.

Our students felt the Sixth Form required some time modernising as well as more privacy in the silent study area with further ways to work together in the student collaboration area of the Sixth Form. Students wanted a fresher, less busy feel to the silent study area with a range of resources and study areas available to carry out personalised work and revision.

Sixth formers also noted the need for a focus group work such as with round tables and large whiteboards for revision areas.

To respond to our sixth formers' requests we started with a renovation in Sixth Form involving stripping the walls of busy, outdated displays, and replacing with fresh walls painted in our very own RIME colours. We then ordered long tables for the silent study area and added dividers for privacy between students to support their individualised work plans.

Further work to support our students needs has involved us investing in more round desks in the group collaboration room and an increase in whiteboard space to work together by ensuring there are whiteboards for students to work from on the walls, as well as new mobile whiteboards which can be moved around the Sixth Form centre.

Students continue to have access to an increased number of

resources in the Sixth Form centre to support their learning including computers, laptops, a photocopier and stationery items ranging from pens to plastic wallets to highlighters and flashcards. Students continue to maximise their learning with physical resources offered and continuously added to for each subjects including textbooks, workbooks and revision guides for each of their subjects.

Sixth Form students continue to be able to voice their requests and needs which we make a commitment to listening and responding to. We looking forward to continuing to see how we can adapt the Sixth Form to move with the times of our students and their requirements.



WHY EASTER?



As a Christian and a Reverend I have been reflecting on and preparing for Easter over the past few weeks. This holiday is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. The time of year when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. For Christians like myself, it is a joyful and hopeful time. It marks the triumph of life over death and hope over despair. It is also a reminder of how deep God's love is for his world and all that is within it. The journey to Easter begins with Lent which is a period of reflection, forgiveness, and preparation. During these forty days and nights, Christians spend time in prayer, usually they will give something up to recreate Jesus' forty days in the desert when he was tempted. Lent is a chance to explore your spiritual side for both Christians and non-Christians. A time to explore and really contemplate what it is that I believe and how I want to live my life.

This season also coincides with Ramadan, a time of year where Muslims fast in daylight hours and reflect on their faith and relationship with God. Holi is also celebrated by Hindus on the Monday of Holy Week, another celebration of evil defeated by good. What an amazing time of year where not only the members of three faiths, but the whole world, can stop and reflect on the hope that there is in day-to-day life. Easter Sunday is the day of resurrection and new life. The empty tomb is a symbol of hope. As the sun rises on Easter morning, Christians around the world gather to proclaim, "He is risen! He is risen indeed!" All Christians celebrate it differently, but however they celebrate it they do so with thankfulness. For Christians it validates Jesus' claims to be the Son of God and the Savior of the world.

For those who are not Christian there will be the swapping of Easter eggs and maybe even a lamb dinner, because even those who have not got a faith can feel the joy of the season. It is a joy to see everyone around being part of such a wonderful celebration. As a reverend it is part of my nature to want everyone to feel the splendour of the season too. In a world where there can be often a lot of despair, Easter offers a beacon of hope. It is a reminder that, no matter how bleak our circumstances may seem, there is always hope.

So, why Easter? Because Easter is the foundation of the Christian faith, a source of hope, and love. It is the proclamation from Christians that death has been defeated, sin has been overcome, and eternal life is everyone's to receive. As a reverend, I am eternally grateful for the gift of Easter and the hope it brings to millions across the world. Happy Easter!

Reverend Killian

RIME FEATURE: INNOVATION

How are our students being innovative?

Innovation is one of our 4 core values and it is always the one that confuses students. Being a “designer” or “creative” are usually the responses that students give when discussing it. What we have tried to do at Kingsmead is help students realise that the process of growing up and learning in school is a creative process and they are “designing” their futures on a daily basis. In fact, their character and skill-set is shaped every day by the decisions they take. The key to making this deliberate, rather than ad hoc, is to give students opportunities to develop the core values. This obviously happens outside of school as well and so many of our students are doing things in their home life and community.

There are three areas that I want to highlight where innovation is taking place. In the classroom - staff are receiving more and more training on how to bring about great learning. We have been using videoed sessions of our own staff to help train each other



as we strive to be the best group of teachers with the best learners around. A sustained programme of development is the only way to get there and maintain our place at the top. Staff are encouraged to research and experiment. To try, fail, try again, succeed and adopt the new ideas that help students make accelerated progress.

Another area of innovation is our Enrichment programme. We are extremely proud of the variety of opportunities that our students get to develop skills. These go way beyond just listening to theory and help students explore what teamwork is; commitment, resilience, mindfulness, dexterity, leadership, fitness and doing something new. That's innovation.

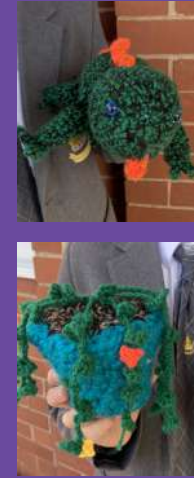


The final area is what goes on outside of school. A look at our social media posts over the last few weeks shows the following:

- Year 7 boy creating crocheted plant pots,
- Year 9 netball team becoming the District Champions,
- Year 12 performing arts students performing to Year 5 students,
- Prospective medical students attending a medical futures day,
- Students representing Kingsmead at the Schools in Harmony concert,
- Year 10 students doing the Higher Project Qualification, researching topics like: 'How have strategies in South Korean government led to greater economic success than those in North Korea?',
- Students performing at an Open mic night and new bands being formed.

The list goes on and on and each 'new' thing a student does is innovation. They might not design the next Dyson (although I wouldn't put it past them) but they are designing themselves, and the future is looking good for Kingsmead Alumni.

Mr. Summers
Assistant Senior Leader - Learning and teaching: Innovation



SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

The NSPCC logo consists of the letters 'NSPCC' in a bold, green, sans-serif font, centered within a white square.

NSPCC have a new Online Safety virtual workshop for parents. The 40-minute pre-recorded presentation covers topics such as online bullying, mental health, and social media, as well as signposting to help and support. The workshop provides parents and carers with information about how to support their child in their online world. More information on this workshop and the direct link to it has been published on our private year group facebook groups. Following this information, if you have any concerns, please contact Mrs Russell at ja.russell@kingsmeadschool.net

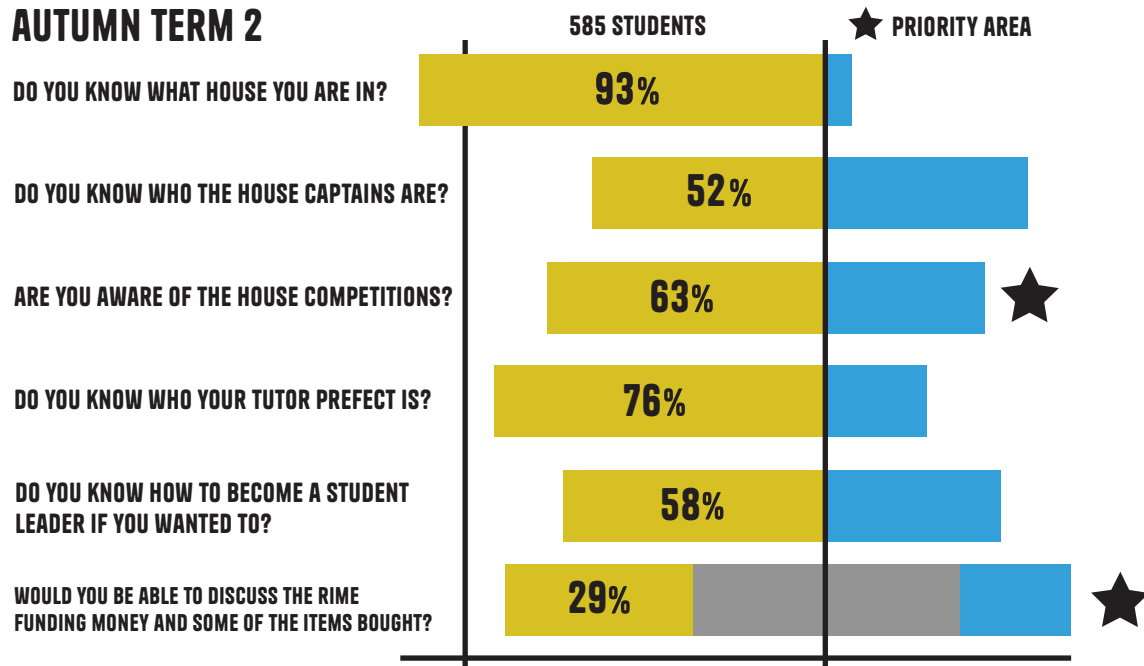
If you are worried about something that has happened online which has made your child feel unsafe, scared, or worried, please contact CEOP for help and advice. CEOP is here to keep children safe from sexual abuse and grooming online. CEOP are unable to respond to reports about bullying, fake accounts or account hacking. They have a direct reporting tool for you to report these concerns.



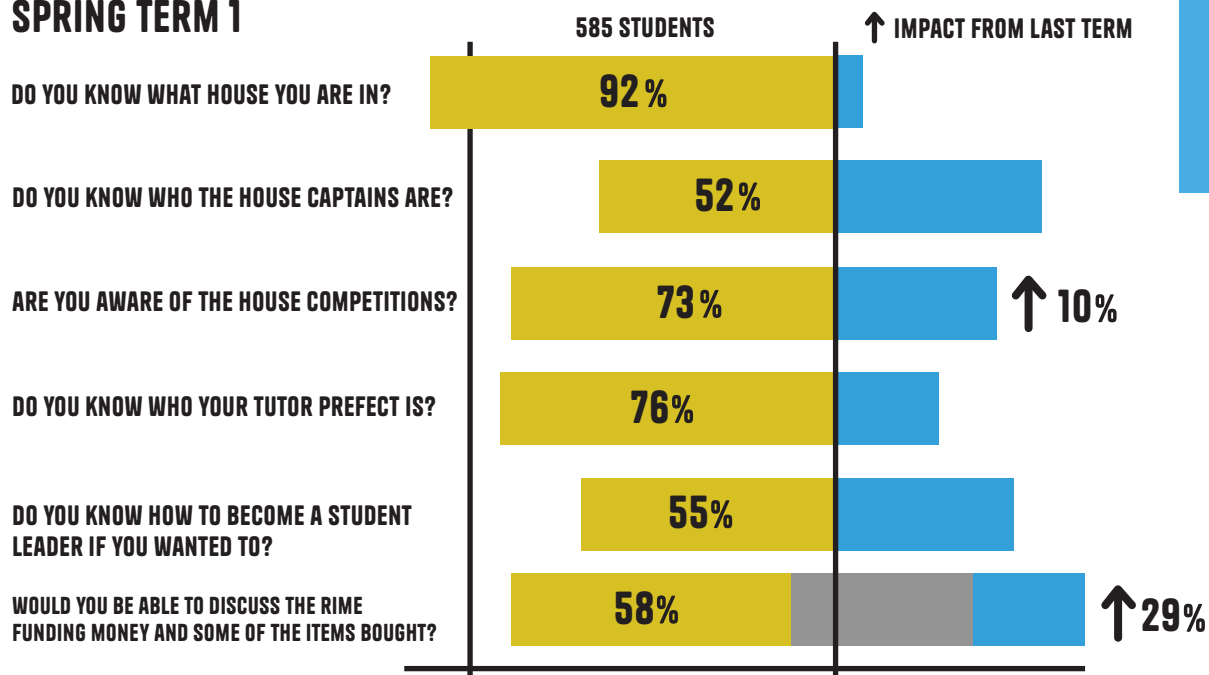
A Child of Mine are offering support for bereaved young people, on a Monday, every month at St Michaels Church Hall, Penkridge (ST195NE). 5:30pm-7:30pm.

This offers a free and safe place where bereaved young people can meet and build confidence through creative activities and humour. For more information and to see the dates available, please contact Gayle on 07803751229 or email hello@achildofmine.org.uk

RESULTS FROM STUDENT SURVEY AUTUMN TERM 2



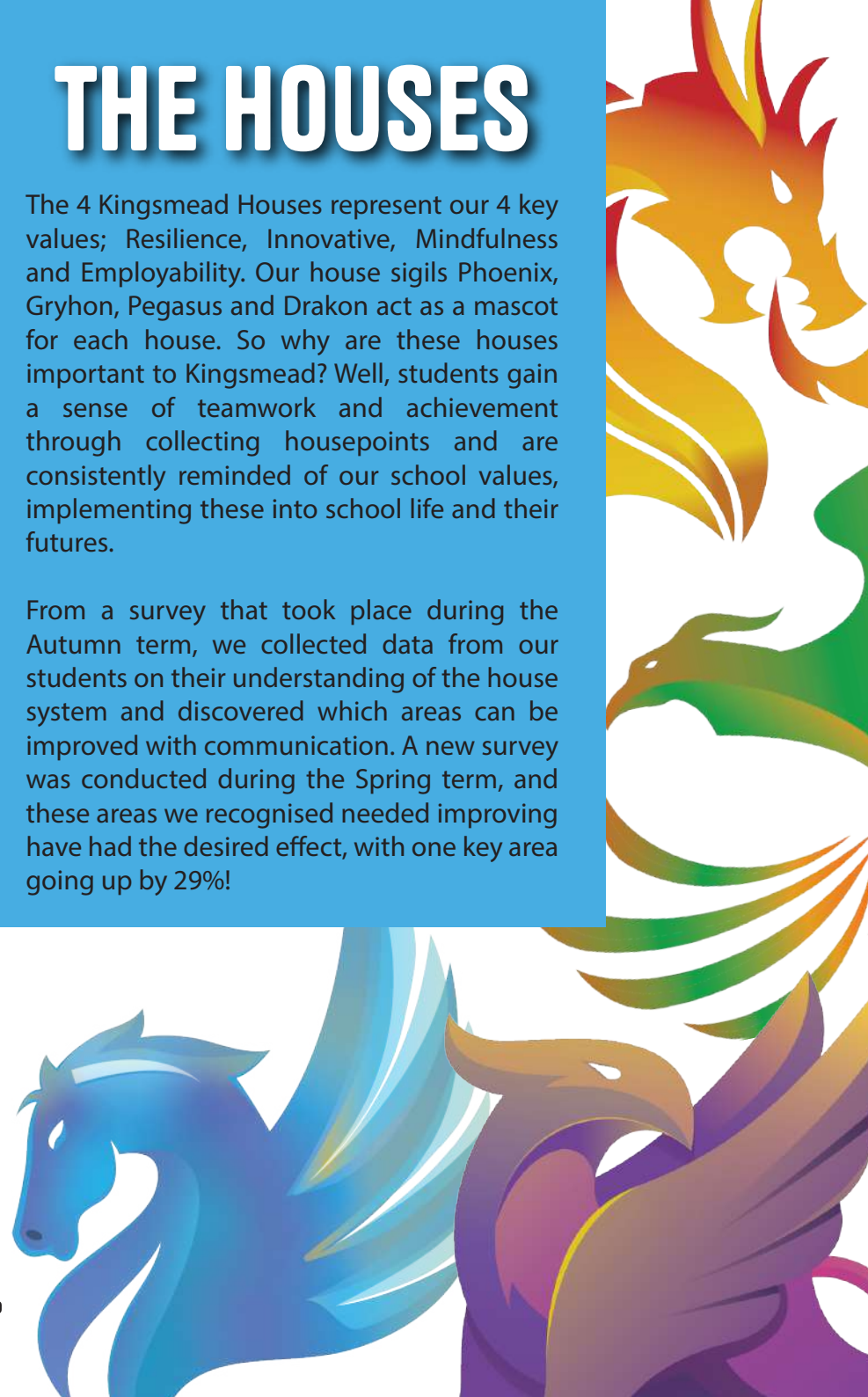
RESULTS FROM STUDENT SURVEY SPRING TERM 1



THE HOUSES

The 4 Kingsmead Houses represent our 4 key values; Resilience, Innovative, Mindfulness and Employability. Our house sigils Phoenix, Gryhon, Pegasus and Drakon act as a mascot for each house. So why are these houses important to Kingsmead? Well, students gain a sense of teamwork and achievement through collecting housepoints and are consistently reminded of our school values, implementing these into school life and their futures.

From a survey that took place during the Autumn term, we collected data from our students on their understanding of the house system and discovered which areas can be improved with communication. A new survey was conducted during the Spring term, and these areas we recognised needed improving have had the desired effect, with one key area going up by 29%!

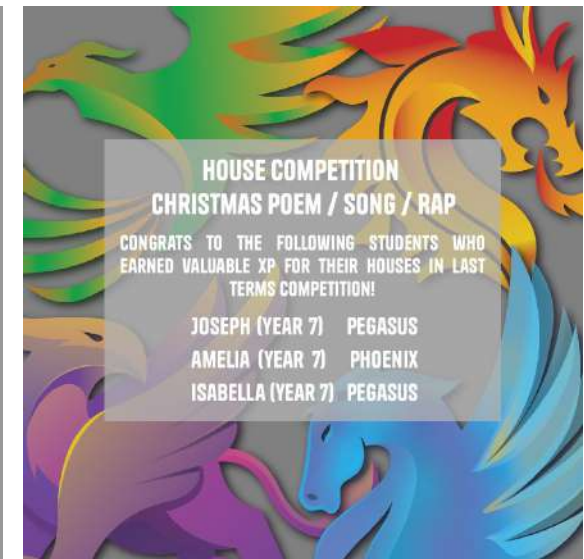
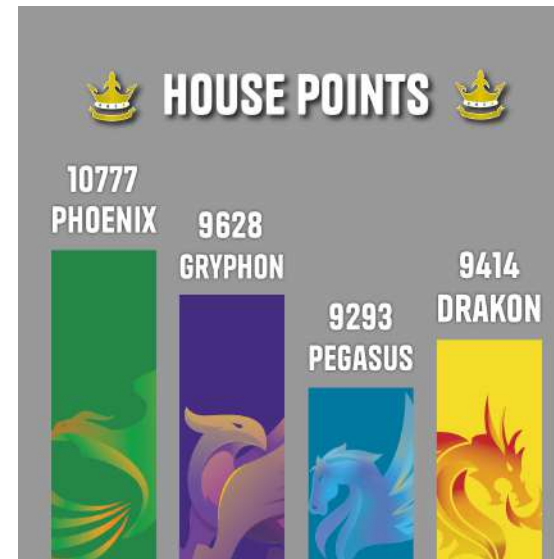
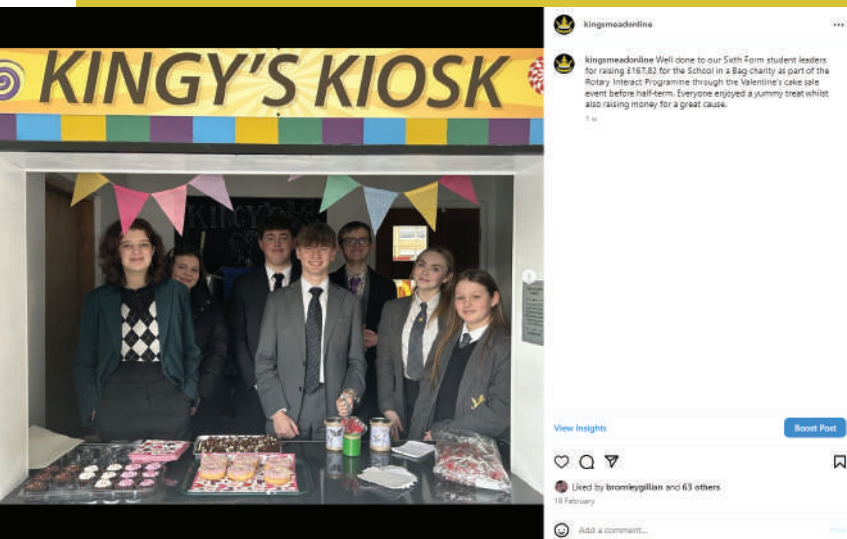
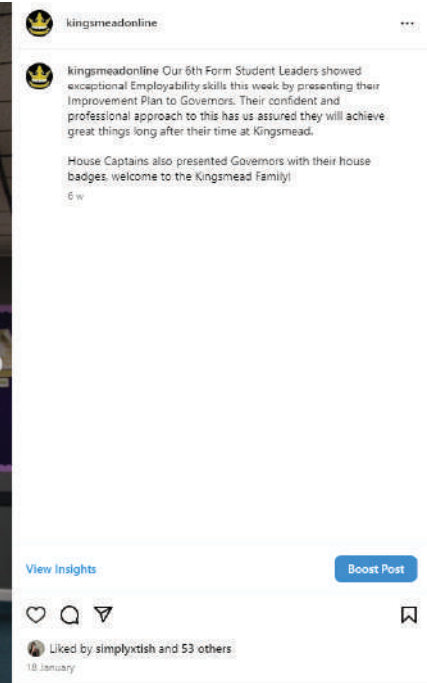


THE HOUSES

This was achieved through numerous different methods, including tutor notices and notifications on the tv screens around school, as well as promotions on social media of house competitions and the results of fundraising.

So what are the next steps? We will continue to drive House and Student Leadership through tutor notices, screens around school and social media, as well as focusing on two new priority areas, to keep survey results in a consistently positive result.

We are also looking to make links with the local community to drive the forward facing school initiative through Student Leadership with a collaboration with Hednesford Library. We are also looking to drive Student Leadership through our Primary Partners, to prepare and educate prospectus students for when they join us here at Kingsmead.



SIXTH FORM

A young man and woman are looking at a book together. The man is in the foreground, looking down at the book. The woman is behind him, also looking at the book. They are both wearing school uniforms. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a library or study area.

Year 12

As we navigate through the academic year, the Sixth Form team are excited to share some important updates and opportunities for Year 12's future endeavours.

Firstly, we want to emphasise the significance of Unifrog. This platform is a vital tool in guiding our students through their post-secondary education journey. It provides comprehensive resources, insights, and tools for researching universities, courses, and careers. Encouraging your child to engage with Unifrog will empower them to make informed decisions about their future pathways.

Additionally, mark your calendars for our upcoming open days. These events offer invaluable opportunities for students to explore various universities and their offerings. Understanding what different institutions have to offer is crucial in making the right choice for higher education. Keep an eye out for announcements regarding the top universities and their open day schedules.

Don't forget to complete the bronze award for academic coaching. This alongside other super curricular and extracurricular activities students undertake this year will stand students apart from other candidates in university, apprenticeship and job applications.

On the 1st to the 5th of July 2024, we're facilitating work experience opportunities for our students. This hands-on experience is invaluable in helping them develop essential skills, explore potential career paths, and bolster their CV and personal statements for future endeavours. Make sure to log work experience onto Unifrog as this where all insurance and health and safety documents will be stored. Make the most of this opportunity, as it can greatly enhance employability prospects.

Furthermore, we're thrilled to announce a trip to Manchester University on the 16th of July 2024. Letters have gone out on MCAS and payments for the trip can be made via Parent-Pay. This excursion promises to be an enriching experience, exposing students to campus life, facilities, and academic offerings. Such visits play a pivotal role in helping students envision themselves in a university setting and make informed decisions about their academic futures.

ACTIVE TRAVEL

In September Mr. Elwell launched his "Active Travel" initiative for Year 7 and 8 pupils. In an effort to make pupils more healthy in both body and mind, the streets around school safer and to help the environment, students were encouraged to travel to school by any method other than a car.

Once ten "Active Travels" were completed, a card was filled out and placed into a box ready for a prize draw. The prize of a £10 Amazon voucher for three students from each year group was on offer and the first draw was completed this week for Year 7 and Year 8, with the six lucky students pictured having had their cards pulled out by Progress Leaders Mrs. Milner and Mrs. Thomson.

Keep up the Active Travel and see Mr. Elwell for more reward cards. Well done students in Year 7 and Year 8!



HIGHFLYERS

The Highflyers is a unique programme we have at Kingsmead to support our most able students. The programme is designed to support, challenge, and inspire our more able students by creating a culture of raising aspirations, to give them the best possible chance of achieving their full potential at Kingsmead and beyond e.g. Attending Russell Group Universities and following aspirational careers.

The programme begins in Year 7 when students join Kingsmead, and finishes at the end of Year 11, when they will go on to join the Lyceum Society in Sixth Form. Throughout the programme, students will be provided with opportunities designed to raise their aspirations for the future coupled with opportunities designed to develop the knowledge and skills needed to progress towards these aspirations. Some examples include themed cross-curricular days, trips to Russell Group universities, super curricular sessions, and careers workshops.



By raising aspirations from Year 7, students will have maximum time throughout their school years to broaden their horizons, generate motivation to succeed, and explore their future.

Students are selected for the Highflyers programme based on a combination of their prior attainment when they join Kingsmead and their current attainment across all subjects. From this point, in order to remain part of the programme they will need to consistently meet the expectations outlined when they join and continue to strive for the best. Students can also be offered the opportunity to join the programme at other points in the school year, if they have been consistently demonstrating attainment, skills and attitude we expect from our highflyers.

Examples of some of the Highflyers sessions so far this year:

Year 8 have participated in a workshop on universities versus apprenticeships, gathering evidence and weighing up the pros and cons of each. They also had an assembly outlining where all the Year 8 tutors went to university and why they chose those particular venues and courses. The definition of a Russell Group University was made explicit in both the workshop and assembly along with some statistics about the average earning power of those who attend a Russell Group University. They have also taken part in a CSI themed day which was a cross curricular event- Students used their investigative skills to solve the crime! They were really engaged, and they worked out that the perpetrator was in fact our very own Mr. Cope!

Year 9 have been engaging with a career pilot, UCAS and the Prospects website to help consider their upcoming options choices, using these websites to look at what potential careers and further educational aspirations might require qualifications - wise, as well as considering which subjects would best enhance their future goals. This was prior to Options Evening so they could make more meaningful choices and reflections. This half - term they have participated in an 'Oxpire' session, which is the first step of introducing super curricular activities and they will all have had their options interview. We look forward to the Engineering event later this half - term.

In November some of the Year 10 Highflyers took a trip to University College Oxford. They had a variety of interesting taster sessions, which inspired them to think about possible course choices, followed by a tour of the University. It was great for them to get a taste of what University life is like and meet some current students. The whole day was an amazing experience and will help our students to aim high!



Year 11 had the privilege of gaining valuable insights from Isaac, an esteemed Kingsmead Alumni currently studying Chemistry at Oxford University. He shared exam tips and offered guidance on preparing for university life. His first hand experiences served as inspiration for our highflyers, motivating them to aim high and embrace the challenges that lie ahead. After Easter we have Cambridge University coming in to give a talk on super curricular activities and how they can benefit their University applications in the future. Students also have their GCSE exams coming up, so the focus turns to revision and preparing the best they can.



Now that students have settled into Kingsmead the new Year 7 highflyers have been selected. It was great to meet them and their parents for an introductory session and we are excited to work with them as they embark on their journey. They have completed an 'Oxpire' session where they debated one of the 'Big Questions'. This gets students to think outside of the box and challenge their thinking. In the coming weeks students will look forward to their COBRa day, which puts their disaster management skills to the test!

HIGHFLYERS

CAREERS

"We feel we may have met our future engineers" was just one of the outstanding feedback comments from Gestamp, one of our exhibitors from the Future's Fayre back in February.

With a range of 40+ different providers, the Future's Fayre was successful again in encouraging students to think about life after Kingsmead and what their next steps might be. From employers and universities, colleges, and training providers, it was great to see so many exhibitors who had kindly given up their afternoon to join us in school and speak to our students. Also new for this year, we had a group of professionals who came in and spoke about their own personal career journeys and what it is like to work in their sector. This included Dr Hunt who spoke about her role as a Vet, Ms Dunning who is a Midwife, Mr Moore who works in Cyber Security, Ms Sealey, an Occupational Therapist and our very own Kingsmead Alumni and Governor Mr Statham, Pilot with Jet2.

Equally, we were thrilled to see students engaging in conversations with the providers, asking questions about their own futures and aspiring to get the best grades they can, to open them up to a

variety of pathways for the future.

The drive around careers continued into March with it being National Careers Week. As part of the lesson structure for the week, staff spoke to students about their own personal career pathways, as well as careers that link to their subject. This information is key as it helps students realise the importance of what they are learning in the classroom, and how this translates to the real world. Mrs Kendall, our school's Careers Advisor said, "it's such a privilege to work in a school where careers education is so valued and supported by staff and parents, and it's wonderful to see our students being so aspirational about their own futures".

As we move into the summer term, Year 11 students will need to ensure they have a plan in place for September, since students must remain in education until they are 18 years old. It is exciting to hear from the students about their plans for their next steps, as well as seeing the Year 13 confirm their choices for university ahead of exams. We wish them all the very best in their up coming exams and future careers.



SEND

The vision for the team who support students' special educational needs is:

To have an established understanding of pupils and their needs that allow staff to build positive relationships and set high expectations, whilst also building confidence and independence across academic and life skills.

STUDENTS SAID	SEND DID
When and how often do One Page Profiles get updated?	Updates are made when we have new medical evidence, careers information from our careers manager and if not, at least once a term.
I do not want others to know I have a special educational need.	When One Page Profiles are emailed to staff it is highlighted that the information is to be kept private and not discussed in front of others.
PARENTS SAID	SEND DID
How do I know what strategies teachers are using?	One Page Profiles are emailed to parents each time they are updated, to ensure that parents feel a part of the process of supporting their child.
How is the medical report shared with teachers?	During parent meetings or via emails Mrs. Caffery shares the One Page Profiles and highlights which elements are from the report/EHCP/recent diagnosis.



The special educational needs department has since been working with the learning and teaching team to triangulate information seen in lessons and exercise books to ensure we are meeting the needs in the students that are identified in the One Page Profiles and that this is clearly evident in the learning and teaching.

The special education needs department has since awarded Rosettes to identify best teaching practice and to model exemplar teaching skills to other teachers. Mr. Fereday in Science and Mrs. Stableford in Geography are the most recent recipients of this Rosette.

If you have any questions or want to know more about SEND provision at Kingsmead School, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Caffrey on: n.caffrey@kingsmeadschool.net

LOUDMOUTH THEATRE



Wednesday 26th January 2024 saw our Year 8 students take part in a fantastic workshop, run by the theatre company LOUDMOUTH. They specialise in creating role play scenarios that tackle difficult and sensitive topics teenagers may experience. Even though this is taught within our fantastic PSHE curriculum by their tutors, sometimes, having young people, unknown to the students has a massive impact on them.

Year 8 spent 60 minutes in the Palace Theatre watching the drama unfold before having smaller workshops throughout the

day where they were discussing Grooming and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and how this looks, how long this process may take – months/year, what happens between the perpetrators and the victims, and the term 'victim-blaming'.

Mrs. Frazer and Mrs. Thomson were really impressed with the maturity that Year 8 portrayed, especially in the workshops, where we were in the background and allowing LOUDMOUTH to do their magic. The conversations and the recall and how they recognised the causes and signs that these young

people in the drama were in danger. We have secured their knowledge and provided them with the tools in these situations.

We are hoping to get them back again.



loudmouth
education & training through theatre



THE GREAT IMAGINING ECO FAIR

On March 8th-9th, Kingsmead took part in the launch fair of an initiative to help the Cannock Chase area reach net zero in carbon emissions. Organised by 'The Great Imagining' eco group on behalf of Cannock Chase council, this event was a festival of ideas and inspiration involving all sections of the community: schools, organisations, networks and businesses, as well as special guests. There was participatory science, art, theatre, film, music, talks, symposiums and workshops all with the aim of helping young people and community members imagine a more harmonious future wherein the human can be imbricated within the natural world in a meaningful way. Indeed, alongside the breadth and range of artistic expression there was a real sense of praxis. Art and science and community came together to explore creatively how to enact real change, be it through practical community gardening sessions or seminars in achieving solar energy for schools.

In terms of Kingsmead's involvement across the two-day event, we took a showcase of artefacts from our school museum, the Room of Curiosities, and created our own eco-stall. The ethos of our school museum is to inspire curiosity through interaction with a plethora of strange and thought-provoking objects and we wanted to bring this sense of wonder along to the Great Imagining fair. Student curators chose to share artefacts that connected to ecology, the natural world and climate change, for example we took our large sample of bleached coral, as well as our tableaux of birds in taxidermy. The pupils wanted our Room of Curiosities showcase to reflect the precariousness of wildlife and highlight the plight of species loss. Additionally, on the first day of the fair student ambassadors helped to run our stall, giving key facts about the items we had on display and encouraging fair attendants to engage with our ecological message. We also took to the stage and had three students perform their eco-poetry – an outpouring of creative energy that passionately demonstrated how necessary a green future is for Kingsmead.



HOME LEARNING

Home learning is an integral part of our curriculum at Kingsmead and there is a body of evidence to support its importance in accelerating pupils academic progress and helping them develop vital skills to succeed in education and beyond. We have recently conducted a thorough review of our home learning policies and their implementation and have made some exciting updates. Our commitment to the highest quality learning experience is unwavering and we continue to respond to the views and experiences of our staff, pupils, and parents.

Why do we do home learning?

Home learning provides pupils with the opportunity to consolidate their learning in lessons, through retrieval of knowledge and practise of skills. Our home learning tasks are designed to accelerate pupils progress, as well as supporting

the development of independent learning skills and time management.

How will we issue home learning?

All home learning is issued using the Satchel:One app and pupils will have at least 5 days to complete pieces set. Where tasks are expected to be completed over a longer period of time, a shorter deadline should be set and then extended accordingly so that the task appears in the pupils weekly 'to-do list'. All home learning will be labelled and instructions for completion will be clear and concise. A variety of home learning tasks will be set including the use of online learning platforms such as Seneca, Sparx, Bedrock and Languagenut, as well as traditional written assignments and extended tasks designed to develop essential, subject-specific skills.

How will we reward home learning?

When students complete home learning it will be promptly checked by their teacher and pupils will be rewarded with XP for outstanding work.



HOME LEARNING

How can parents support with home learning?

1. Download and regularly use the satchel:One app; as a parent you can access and view the instructions, links and documents relating to each home learning task.
2. Support your child in managing their time, it may suit your child to complete a little home learning each day or have set evenings where they complete larger amounts of home learning. Help them consider their other commitments, activities and rest time when planning the best time for completing home learning tasks.
3. Talk about the home learning tasks after they have completed the work, encourage them to reflect on its value and the quality of their work or score.
4. Praise your child for completing work on time. Embedding these time management skills is essential for managing revision in examinations.

The full strategy can be found on our website.



How will we respond if pupils do not complete home learning tasks on time?

1. If pupils do not complete the set work by the submission date, a HL infringement point is logged on Bromcom and communicated instantly to parents via the MCAS app.
2. Staff will then issue a 24hour extension.
3. If pupils fail to submit their HL the following day a 'HL Prep' will be issued by the class teacher.
4. During the 'Prep session' staff will speak to pupils to ensure they understand the importance of completing home learning and will direct pupils to the work they need to complete, they will then use the remaining time to complete the outstanding work.

ATTENDANCE

Our students, unlike many in neighbouring schools, have access to a varied, innovative, and engaging curriculum offer, in addition to our bespoke enrichment programme, where we are nurturing ambition. Kingsmead school is proud to boast being in the top 10% of secondary schools nationally, and as a result, our students go on to achieve grades higher than the national average.

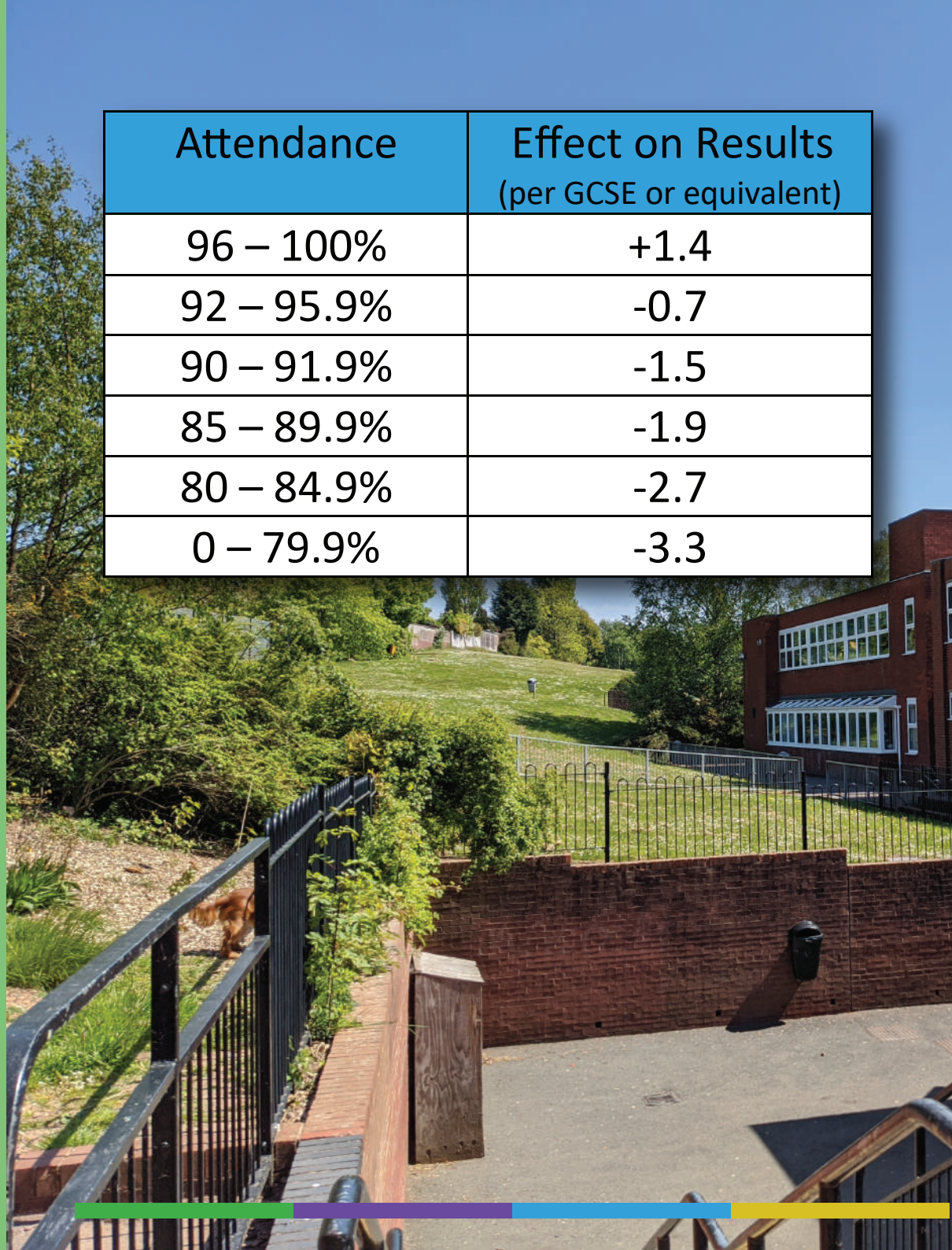
We know Kingsmead students go on to be successful young adults who achieve great success. For example, a place at Oxford University, a confirmed placement on a degree apprenticeship programme and a full-time employment offer, entering at management level. These are factual recollections of the destinations our students have secured at the end of their studies in Sixth Form, and this could be anyone of our students in the future, which is my reason for sharing.

The students mentioned all had one thing in common, they had outstanding attendance records at Kingsmead, worked hard and had supportive parents encouraging them to attend school, even on those dark cold mornings.

Evidence clearly shows that a child's performance at school correlates to their attendance at school, the information can be seen in the table opposite. By not attending school, students are putting themselves at a disadvantage in the future by risking their potential grades!

Students look to their parents for guidance and reassurance; therefore, we must recognise that parents are a key factor to student success. Small wins bring large gains, therefore it is important that you as parents feel confident that if you send your child in and they are not feeling well, they will be cared for. Let us know through the Progress Team and we will ensure they manage to get through the day and build that resilience that is needed in their future careers, whilst maintaining their social circles that are essential for their wellbeing.

Attendance	Effect on Results (per GCSE or equivalent)
96 – 100%	+1.4
92 – 95.9%	-0.7
90 – 91.9%	-1.5
85 – 89.9%	-1.9
80 – 84.9%	-2.7
0 – 79.9%	-3.3



THE SPORTS REPORT

DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

Our Year 9 netball team have won the district tournament with some outstanding individual and team performances. They were unbeaten in the group, then won against Friary in the semi-final, before finally beating King Edwards 4-1 in the final. They are also unbeaten in the league this year which makes them league champions as well.

What a fantastic achievement - their hard work, resilience, and talent has shone throughout and we are so proud!



THE SPORTS REPORT



The U13 girls football team played against King Edwards in the district league on a lovely sunny evening this week. A few new players joined the girls tonight and gelled instantly with the team.

Kingsmead were dominant from the beginning scoring very early in the first half and came in at half time 5-0 up. They remained relentless in their hunger for goals and scored three more after the break.

Full time score 8-0 with goals from Jess (3), Scarlett (2), Frankie (1), Chloe (1) and Libby (1). Go Kingsmead!



The U13 girls football team played away against Trentham Academy in the semi-final of the County Cup on Tuesday. Kingsmead took an early lead with a goal from Jess but Trentham soon equalised after converting a penalty and took the lead shortly after from a corner. Both teams put in strong performances working with endeavour and creativity.

This produced numerous goal scoring opportunities with Trentham eventually adding to their tally. Kingsmead brought it back to 3-2 with a goal from Scarlett but Trentham eventually sealed the game at 4-2 in the final few minutes.

The girls did not get the result they wanted but in true Kingsmead style they all played with passion and pride.

The Year 8 Netball squad had a bumper evening of matches last night, their hard work at the netball Enrichment sessions is definitely paying off!

They played Friary and won 9-1, EDA and won 4-0 and lost to Hart 7-0. This was some of the girls first time representing the school and we are very proud of them. The girls are looking forward to the District tournament in a couple of weeks. Keep up the great work!



THE SPORTS REPORT



The U13 girls football team continued their successful campaign in the district league when they played Chase Terrace. The opposition put up a very strong challenge. Kingsmead had to dig deep and opened the scoring early in the first half. It stayed at 1-0 for most of the game and even though Kingsmead were not fully fighting fit they were able to finally produce a 2-0 win with the second goal coming in the last few seconds of the game! Goals from Scarlett (1) and Jess (1)

Congratulations to the Year 9 Netball team who won 16-2 against King Edwards. An outstanding performance from the whole team. They remain unbeaten and are looking forward to the District Tournament.

The Year 10 Netball team also played King Edwards. The match was very closely contested and at half time there were only 2 goals separating them. They worked incredibly hard with no substitutes to call on but in the end the final score was 11-7. They have had a fantastic season only losing one match.



Well done to our Year 7 Netball team who drew 4-4 with Cheslyn Hay. Really strong defending and resilience all round led us to come back from a 2 goal deficit in the first half. Special mention to our goal shooter for the longest range shot we've ever seen!

Our student Phoebe took part in the Cannock and District school cross country on Saturday, where she came 9th out of about 50 Year 7 girls. Lets all congratulate Phoebe on this achievement!



THE SPORTS REPORT



Staffordshire U15s County Cup Burntwood Dragons Vs Four Oaks

'On Tuesday 19th March, 7 students from Kingsmead School played for Burntwood Dragons in the Staffordshire County Cup final played at Bilston Town Football Club.

The Burntwood team was made up of Year 10's Alfie, Charlie, Owen, Stan, Max, Fynn and Year 9's Lloyd. Fantastically, the lads came out on top and beat Four Oaks 1-0 due to Charlie's cool and composed goal in the 68th minute, which he slotted right between the goalkeepers legs- stunning everyone. The team battled well, fought hard and managed to hold on to their lead for the rest of the game, resulting in them sealing the victory and lifting the trophy.'

Match Review written by Vice Captain of Burntwood Dragons, Alfie.

Charlie's exceptional performance at the Staffordshire schools athletics cross country event, held at Betley Court Farm, has marked a significant milestone in his budding athletic career. Competing against a field of Year 8 and 9 boys, Charlie secured an impressive 8th place finish, showcasing not only his talent and determination but also his ability to rise to the challenge in a highly competitive environment.

This remarkable achievement has rightfully earned Charlie the opportunity to represent Staffordshire at the prestigious English Schools Cross Country Championships, set to take place in Pontefract, West Yorkshire, in March. This selection is a testament to his hard work, dedication, and the promising potential he holds as an athlete. Well done Charlie!



The Year 7 football team has shown remarkable progress in their latest match, despite facing a challenging 3-0 defeat against EDA. Despite the score, unity and spirit were glaringly evident. It's a testament to their growing cohesion and determination, characteristics that are crucial in the world of competitive sports. A special mention must go to Charlie on his debut for being named Man of the Match in his first game. Keep that hunger boys, results will come!



Our student Rylea represented Cannock & District in the Staffordshire Schools Cross Country race. He came 4th out of approximately 50 Year 7 boys. A big well done to Rylea!




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.

MCAS
(My Child at School)
Communication



How?: through the app
How we communicate with parents

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

Don't forget you can also contact us through.....

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 to register your interest.