



KINGSMEAD LIFE MAGAZINE

ISSUE 11
OCTOBER 2023

NEWS, INFORMATION AND A WHOLE LOT MORE



CONTENTS

- Foreword
- The Let Them Fly Awards Evening
- RIME Feature - Mindfulness
- Year Group feature - Year 10
- The Houses
- Student Achievement
- Facilities Update
- Sixth Form
- Wellbeing
- Student Safety
- Parental Engagement
- Kingsmead Farm
- Student Artwork
- The Sports Report
- Scarefest

FOREWORD

After an extremely wet few days, it is with huge pleasure that we look forward as a school to the next half-term. Recently the national school performance tables have been released, putting Kingsmead right at the top of performance in Staffordshire. After the euphoria of understanding just how well our children had done compared to other children across the country, I reflected on what had been crucial to their success. I believe that these are the key reasons that they did so well:

- 1) Hard work; without doubt every child who achieved several grades above their expected worked incredibly hard to get there.
- 2) Exceptional levels of support and challenge from the adults; both staff and parents who surround them.
- 3) Excellent levels of attendance; if they are not here, they cannot learn.
- 4) Resilience; those who achieved the highest results worked independently and used all of the resources that we offer as a school.

Thank you to all parents, grandparents and other members of our community who have helped our children achieve so well. For Kingsmead to be ranked in the top 200 of similar schools in the entire country you all must be doing something right!...

We wish you all a restful half-term break when it comes.

Sincerely yours,

Maria Mincher - Headteacher



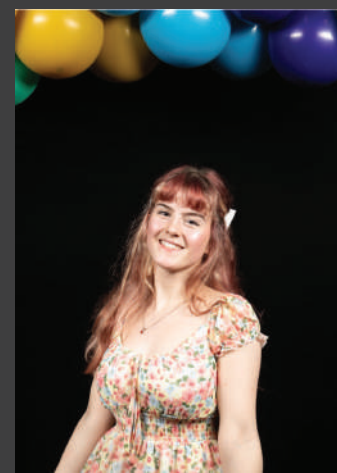
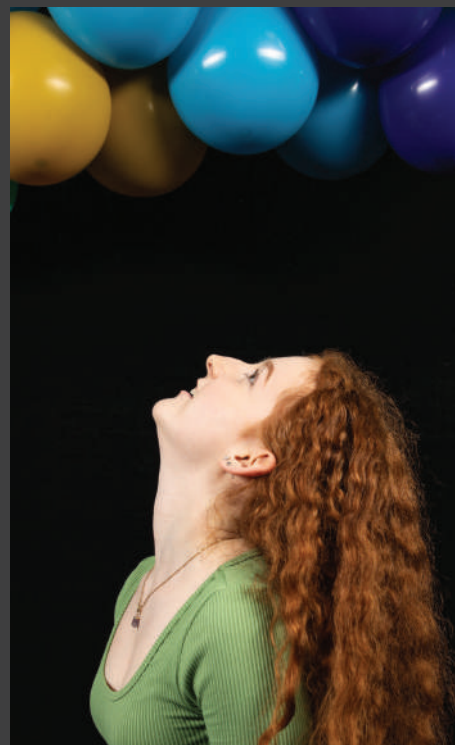
LET THEM FLY AWARDS EVENING

On Thursday 14th September we held our inaugural 'Let Them Fly' celebration evening. This awards ceremony celebrated the successes and outstanding talents of our wonderful students. Accompanied by sophisticated musical performances by Isabel and Maya and an original poem about 'letting them fly' written by our poet laureate Cara, over 40 of our students were celebrated for their achievements and triumphs over the last school year.

Categories ranged from academic progress awards to RIME awards, Faculty and Subject honours, Sports team of the year, Mastery of the Arts and Mastery of STEM and the prestigious 'Let Them Fly' presentations. Members of the Senior Leadership Team, Subject Leads and Progress Leaders all gave personal testimonies for every student that received an award, reflecting on the qualities and achievements they had earned in order to be a recipient of said award.

It was the best way to begin our new school year, recognising and celebrating the outstanding accomplishments of students from Year 7 to Year 13.

We cannot wait until next year! Keep flying high Kingsmead!



RIME FEATURE: MINDFULNESS

Mindfulness - how have Kingsmead students been mindful this half-term?

What a mindful first half-term we have had so far at Kingsmead. Firstly, our corridors are 'Kind Corridors'; our staff and students look out for each other, we don't walk on by if we see litter and are holding the doors for others whilst remembering our manners in doing so.

Walking around Kingsmead is a big reminder that we value mindfulness and that we have embedded this into our daily life.

Over this last half-term, we have shown this in events such as litter-picking both around school in Mr. Summers' lesson, as well as some Year 7s who took part in a community litter pick over Cannock Chase – values in action in all aspects of our lives.

Tuesday, 10th October marked Mental Health Day and as a school we hosted Tea & Talk. With amazing organisation from our well-being hub, both staff and students received a free breakfast and chatted with each other. This expanded into break and lunch when our newly appointed House Captains sold cakes to raise money for Young Minds.

For this next half term, we are focusing on how we tackle gender stereotypes and attitudes around this. With social media having a negative impact, it is a great way to challenge and discuss these topics in a safe environment, which allows our students to be mindful towards others.



Mrs Frazer's top 5 mindful activities for you to try this next half-term:

1. Go for a walk – this may be that you walk to school.
2. Be creative – musical, storytelling, art, drama – however you can.
3. Be Kind – show kindness to everyone. A simple smile can make someone feel better. Pay a compliment to a friend.
4. Take time for you – ensure you rest and get enough sleep, drinking plenty of water will help!
5. Take 1 thing at a time, don't overload yourself. Plan, Prepare, Action.
6. A cheeky extra...BREATHE!



YEAR GROUP FEATURE - YEAR 10

Year 10 have had a brilliant start to this academic year! They have come back from the summer break with a fantastic mindset, with a great approach to the first half term of their GCSE subjects. I have been really impressed with the levels of maturity they have shown, and it is evident they are taking everything in their stride. There has been a real shift in the mindset the year group have shown to their subjects and it is evident they have been putting a lot of effort in. The work the students have been producing has been to a really high standard, which shows how seriously they are taking their learning. This is so rewarding to see and never fails to bring a smile to my face.

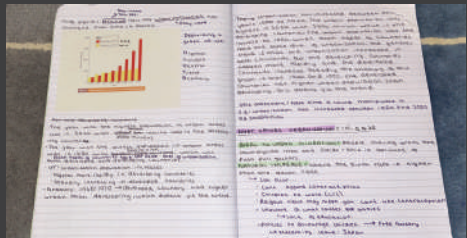
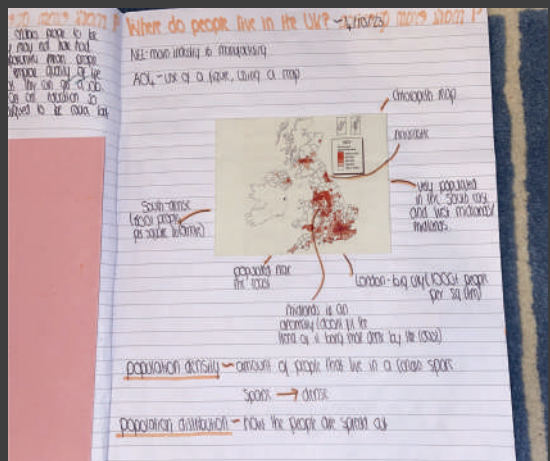
Year 10 have, without a doubt, been getting involved in loads of aspects of school life and embracing all the opportunities that have been coming their way. Multiple members of our year group are now part of the student leadership team, gaining roles as Prefects and House Captains. These students are going to be leading multiple initiatives and driving the values within school. Well done to all students from Year 10 involved in this, you are showing amazing dedication.

Alongside this academic success, the Year 10 football team have shown RIME values in abundance in their first two football games of the season. A 1-0 triumph against the Hart School was well deserved after the boys showed great teamwork, resilience and determination to seal the deal with a well worked goal from Charlie. The lads stepped up and worked brilliantly together, encouraging each other and never giving up. Special shoutouts go to captains Owen, Fynn and Alfie for stepping up and taking on this responsibility leading the team to their victory.

This leadership in action has inspired eight Year 10 boys to pick up a whistle and get involved in a two-day refereeing course to gain a qualification as a football referee. Elsewhere, our talented year ten netball team are going to be facing some tough competition in the District and County Netball Tournaments they will be taking part in over the next couple of weeks.

Well done Year 10, you continue to make me proud! Keep it up!

Miss Hinton





THE HOUSES

What a wonderful start to the year!

We have appointed our new Sixth Form Leadership Team with the addition of House Captains this year to drive our fantastic House System across the school. All students wrote professional applications and attended interviews where they shared their vision for the year ahead, and 'wow' are they good!

With all tutor groups now in a House and pupils in each year group now wearing their House badge with pride, House competitions, in-school events and fundraising will begin. House Captains have spent this half-term carefully planning the year ahead with exciting competitions and opportunities for all pupils to be earning XP for their House. The goal? To be the House who wins Sports Day and the House Cup!!

Our new House Captains have started with a bang and have already attended whole school events such as Open Evenings and organised their first fundraising event which was a roaring success – they raised £205 for the Young Minds charity!

So, what's happened so far?

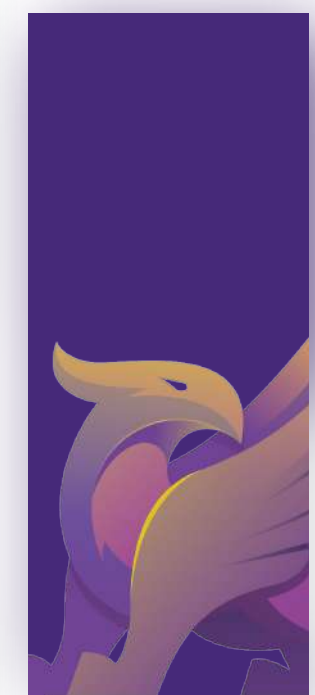
We have had a House Mascot vote where all tutor groups voted on which of Kingsmead Farm animals will be their mascot. We have House reading challenges in the library. Bake Sale House Competition – who raised the most money? Phoenix!



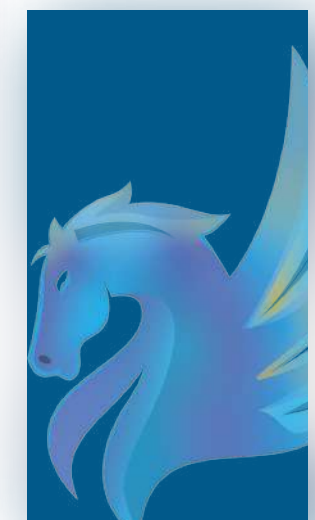
3193 POINTS



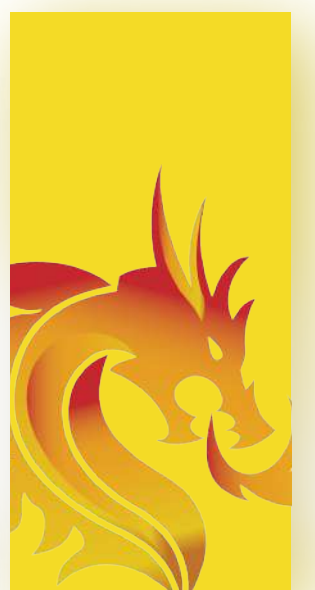
2980 POINTS



2761 POINTS



2876 POINTS



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Wow, what an amazing start to the academic year!

Students have been going above and beyond, displaying our RIME values in and out of school. As a school, we have already awarded over 12,000 XP to our Kingsmead students, with some students soon to receive their Bronze certificates when they hit 100 XP individually. Our Top XP are celebrated fortnightly in school and these students will be bringing home a rewards postcard to say a big well done! In addition to this, we will be sending home an electronic version of this postcard, so that parents can celebrate in their child's achievement as well!

After the October half-term, our new XP vending machine will be back in action. The Top XP students in each year group will have the chance to win one of many prizes - from a free school meal deal or a jump the lunch queue pass to Amazon vouchers. So keep gaining your XP to be in with a chance to have a go on the XP vending machine. Students will also have the opportunity to use the go karts, play giant jenga and connect 4 and have hot chocolate with the Head as part of our rewards programme.

This academic year, we are looking forward to many more House events offering more opportunities for students to achieve XP! We are also going to be carrying out more student voice to gather more information about what other prizes students would like to see going into the XP vending machine, so watch this space!

Our Activities Days were a brilliant way to finish the Summer term and celebrate our Kingsmead students. Students had a great choice of activities on offer from water fights to escape rooms, FIFA tournaments to zombie runs and many more. All students got the chance to do the inflatables, water slides, zip wire and sports as well! Make sure you keep gaining your XP throughout the school year...every point counts towards getting your choices for next summer's activities days!



FACILITIES UPDATE



Summer is always a busy time for improving our facilities, but this summer has seen an even greater flurry of activity as we've taken the opportunity to expand and refurbish our beloved buildings. Over half a million pounds has been spent on remodelling and refreshing the site, creating two new classrooms in our Technology department and refurbishing three more. The Food Tech classroom is now larger and has been kitted out with brand new appliances – expect many more tasty treats to be travelling home! Downstairs in Technology an entire new CAD suite has been created, allowing students to design the buildings of their dreams, with the only limit being imagination. The old technician's workshop has also been revamped and remodelled as a new teaching space for Sixth Form students.

Elsewhere in school another toilet block has undergone renovation in the oldest part of our school. Brand new toilets are accompanied by another new classroom for English lessons. With Halloween on the horizon you may be concerned to see night time activity at the school, but it's not ghosts and ghouls, it's a brand new fire alarm system being fitted! Unless it's on the evening of Scarefest of course...

Facilities planning is on-going and next summer we will see more Science Lab refurbishments as well as many other improvements that will ensure the very best learning environments for our students, reflecting the talents of our subject specialists and ensuring the continuation of our high standards of education.





SIXTH FORM

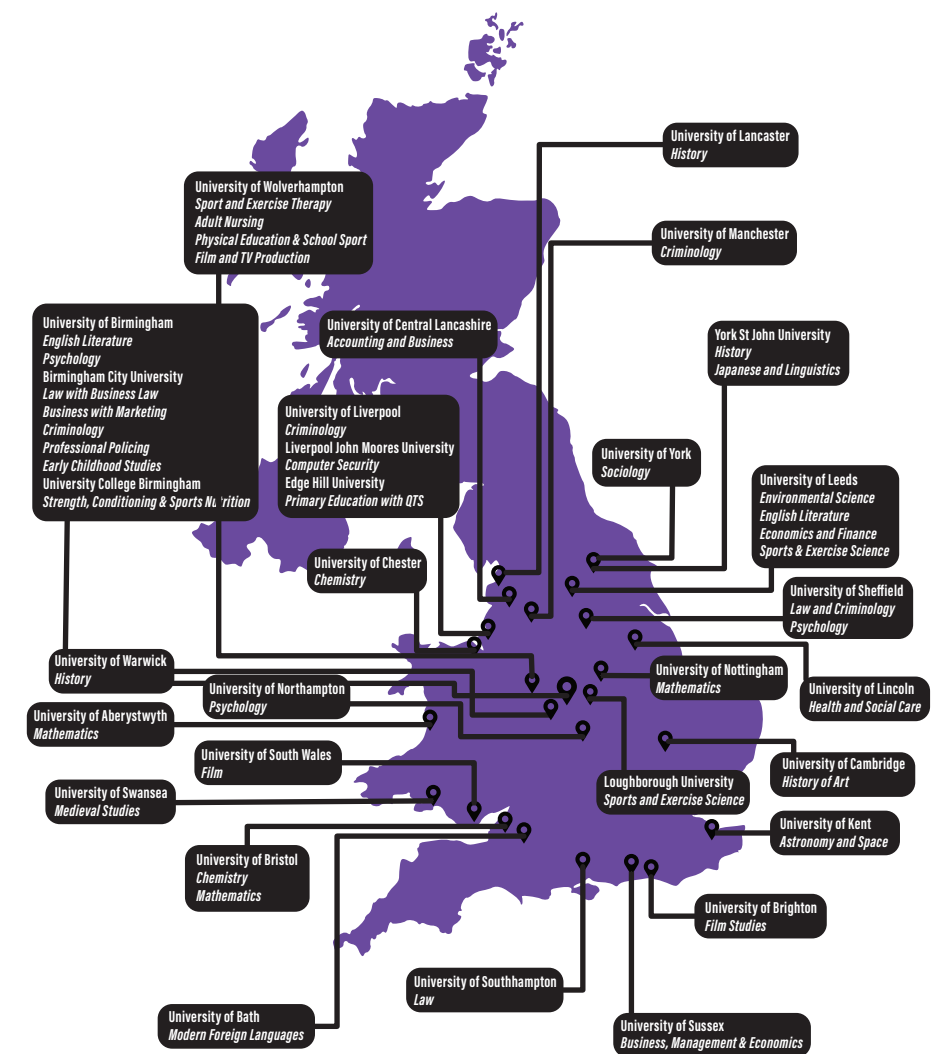
Academic coaching is off to a great start this year. Students across Year 12 are relishing the opportunity to establish their subject specialist skills by going into classes of Key Stage 3 and 4 peers, aiding staff members by helping deliver and offer support to students. Students have shown true RIME values when going into classrooms.

They are building resilience, confidence in working alongside specialist staff, time management, gaining skills which will be important as they move onto Post 18 options ahead of them. Students in Key Stage 3 and 4 are gaining from the support of their peers, being given this extra support, which benefits all. This experience gives younger students something to aspire to as they now think about their future pathways. Year 12 students have first hand knowledge of the curriculum, subject specific challenges and study techniques which work best. Having recently experienced the same challenges the younger year groups are facing; students can relate to their peers struggles and academic pressures. This relatability can make younger students more comfortable in seeking guidance and creates a positive environment where students can flourish.

Several students have already been successful in gaining their bronze award for their academic coaching by attending 5 sessions of their choosing. This certificate has been awarded to them in assembly. Every student in Year 12 should be aiming for their bronze award by half term, at the end of next week. Students can drop off their academic coaching booklet to the Sixth Form centre or to their form tutor to ensure we have the evidence of their achievement. Students who have already achieved their bronze award can now push on to get their silver. This means they do 5 more sessions of academic coaching.

University Desinations 2023

A collection of destinations from our class of 2023 - where could Kingsmead take you?



CHECK OUT OUR 2023 DESTINATIONS MAP, WHICH FEATURES THE UNIVERSITIES AND SUBJECTS OUR PREVIOUS YEAR 13'S HAVE GONE OFF TO STUDY SINCE LEAVING KINGSMEAD. THIS WAS USED WITHIN OUR SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS AS A WAY OF SHOWING JUST WHERE STUDYING AT KINGSMEAD POST 16 CAN TAKE YOU.

WELLBEING

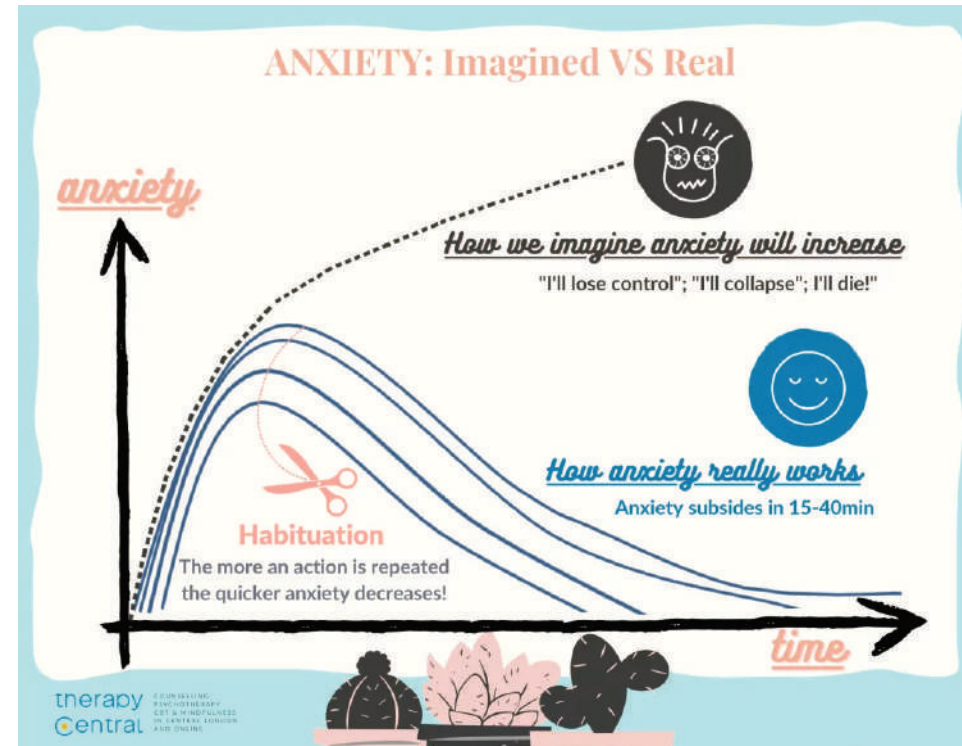
A huge welcome back to all our fantastic Kingsmead students. We hope you had a restful Summer filled with self-care and 'you' time-we bet it feels a distant memory now! Did any of you manage to do the Summer challenge we set in the last newsletter? Self-care is so important to managing a healthy, balanced life and is vital to our well-being.

It's a new term and we have hit the ground running! For many it is a welcome return to school; seeing friends again, getting back into a structured routine, growing academically and building those important relationships to flourish in the wider world. For some, however, the return can create some feelings of uncertainty and anxiety.

We know that anxiety is the result of a perceived threat to the body. It is our vital, internal smoke alarm and, put simply, is needed for survival. However, this smoke alarm, for some, can be extra sensitive and goes off at the first sign of a piece of burnt toast!

The diagram explains how often we perceive that anxiety increases and typically at the point it is most difficult we avoid the thing that is making us anxious. This might be avoiding coming to school or going to a particular lesson, for example. As you can see what actually happens is through habituation (repeating over and over) the brain and body work together and begins to realise how anxiety really works and that it does reduce. Getting in control of our breathing can be key to managing anxiety and allowing us to still think clearly and rationally. Practice diaphragmatic breathing (also known as belly breathing) as a means to gain control over anxiety.

This, teamed with pushing through and desensitising ourselves to scenarios that make us anxious, can help us massively in the long run when it comes to building our resilience and reducing anxiety altogether.



October 10th marked World Mental Health Day with the theme this year 'Tea and Talk'.

Kingsmead held our very own 'Tea and Talk' and opened the free morning breakfast up to both staff and students. It was a brilliant atmosphere with students enjoying their breakfast and drink whilst able to speak to staff. One student commented 'oh my it's so nice I could have a million of these, thank you'.

Talking about how we are feeling and having meaningful conversations with a trusted person allows our thoughts and emotions to be expressed and can be vital to our mental health.

We are busy planning for Anti-bullying week this 13-17th November. In school we will have a targeted tutor session with vital discussions and activities around how our actions can have consequences as well as our ambassadors working with our students for peer support.

Year 12 Performing Arts students will be visiting a local primary school to present a whole school performance they have devised themselves and deliver a workshop with Year 5 pupils. We are so proud of the mindfulness, employability skills and pure talents of our students, always going above and beyond this time to spread a key message to stamp out bullying.

Watch this space for more on how this went in our next newsletter.

For more information and signposting to services to support our mental health and wellbeing and for self-help visit the Wellness Hub: Kings Mentoring section on the Blended Learning Platform.

STUDENT SAFETY

Please see below information regarding two arising issues for young people that continue to require school and home to work together to help support children.

We know that children can be exposed to vaping within the community, as well as a lot of online content that may be damaging if not monitored correctly, we hope that by working together we can support children in staying safe in the online arena and in saying no to vaping.

Vaping

Some parents may be unaware that their child is vaping. For some, it may be a difficult to know how to start the conversation. Start by asking your child in a non-judgmental way if they have tried vaping. You want to encourage conversation, not shut it down. Even if you don't think your child vapes, talk about it with them anyway so they know it's unhealthy.

Signs of vaping include:

- New health issues such as coughing or wheezing.
- E-cigarette supplies, like cartridges or other suspicious looking items.
- New smells (some flavourings are banned, but others are in nicotine and marijuana vapes — so parents might notice fruity or sweet scents).

What Should I Do if My Child Vapes?

Your child will need your help and support to quit. Help them find the motivation to stop vaping.

You might want to talk about:

- Wanting to be the best, healthiest version of themselves.
- Not wanting to be addicted.
- Avoiding health effects such as decreased sports performance.
- Saving money.

Online safety

Children are growing up with technology and the internet and it can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they are doing online, who they might be speaking to or discussing the potential risks and issues.

Talking regularly with your child is the greatest tool to help keep them safe online. Talking regularly and making it part of daily conversation, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed. It also means when they do have any worries, they are more likely to come and speak to you.

What are parental controls?

Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content. They work across your WiFi, phone network, individual apps and devices.

Parental controls can help you to:

- Plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for.
- Create content filters to block apps that may have inappropriate content.
- Manage the content different family members can see.



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Parent Forum - Autumn 2023

On Friday, 13th October we invited a group of parents representing all year groups to join our latest forum discussion. The focus of this session was everything to do with communication between school and home.

We are grateful for the exchange of ideas. To hear what is going right was lovely. We were keen to also know what we could do to improve things further.

On this page, you will find our ‘you said...we did.’
If you would like to join a group of parents and staff going forward who will look at ways to support Kingsmead students please let us know (office@kingsmeadschool.net)

Did you know?

The school raised over £30,000 last year through staff and student driven fund raising and Enterprise. This money has been used to fund the hardship fund, school farm, free breakfasts, enrichment, part fund trips, activity days and the school shows.

Kingsmead is in the TOP 10% of schools in the country for academic performance. That means that you child goes to a school that ranks in the top 200 schools in the country with a progress score of +0.72.



The school overstaffs with teachers so that we do not buy in cover. This means that qualified teachers cover for each other.

Kingsmead provide a free breakfast for children every morning. This is not means tested and is fully funded by money raised in school.

The money to build the glass house, new science lab and repair the school comes from increased numbers of students in the school. Without this increase the school would be unable to do repairs or building work.

Kingsmead is the most oversubscribed school in Staffordshire and has a waiting list for places in all year groups from 7 to 11. In 2017 it was massively undersubscribed.

That schools in Staffordshire are amongst the worst funded in the country. If you picked Kingsmead up and moved it to Wolverhampton, we would be over a million pounds better off as a school.

Kingsmead increased its teaching by 2.5 hrs to help children experience enriching activities and close gaps.

Kingsmead goes above and beyond the standard curriculum offering qualifications like HPQ and EPQ which the school funds itself.

Electricity bills for Kingsmead have increased from £67,000 in 20/21 to over £170,000 in 22/23. We receive no extra funding to cover this increase.

School staff give up their free time every year to run Duke of Edinburgh and other trips. By not employing a company to do this we can keep costs down for parents and more children benefit.

All subjects at Kingsmead are taught by a specialist teacher.

YOU SAID...	WE DID...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The balance of progress reviews and progress evenings for year groups is much better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- This is great to hear. We will continue with this approach.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Those who use the app MCAS say it is very user friendly.- This was better than parentpay letters or lots of texts through the day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We will take this feedback forward and focus our communication through MCAS going forward.- We will support parents who are not yet logged on or using it.- We will look to solve any issues with activation codes for isolated cases.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Some parents still want to know more about the blended learning platform and how to best use it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We have started sharing more in parent partnership evening.- We will continue to:- Share reminders and ‘how to...’ guides.- Have specific staff available at parents evenings to demonstrate in person how to use the resource.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The same kind of questions and queries come up on social media – for example at the start of terms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We will look to share frequently asked questions.- We will direct parents to these and share in advance of key dates like starts of half terms.- We liked the idea of year sections on the website.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- It’s helpful to have the who’s who page on the website. We would like how to contact children’s tutors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We will put this in.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- For new parents, some support around computing, information sharing, setting up for life at Kingsmead, equipment needed etc. during transition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We will look at how early we start sharing information so that equipment can be brought from the start of the summer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Could there be ‘key dates’ for specific year group activities or events so families can prepare for these?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We will look to set this, through MCAS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Could there be more support around revision guides to buy and effective revision strategies?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We will act on this and provide partnership evenings and send out information about revision
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Parents wanted more information about the free breakfast in the morning. There was a strong support of this initiative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We will send out how we are funding the free breakfast and readvertise this to students.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- There was discussion around uniform including a summer uniform.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We have added shorts for boys.- Other suggestions will be considered and discussed with parents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Support around uniform. It was shared that parents felt Kingsmead student were well dressed in the community compared to other schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We will indeed take the idea of sharing a video of how to tie a tie on social media.- We will look to communicate any uniform needs like having football boots earlier.- We will have another swap shop event around Christmas time or just after.

KINGSMEAD FARM

Firstly, we would like to welcome our three brand new piglets, two female and one male. Can you guess which is our male? Carol, our mum is doing really well, the vet has been out to check up on all four of them and they all have strong heart beats and are doing really well.

Our tutor time farm tours have a different format this year, our new Year 7 tutor groups are still being taken as a whole group to meet our animals but Y8-Y13 tutors are selecting specific students from their tutor group to meet an animal of their choice as a reward or intervention. We are seeing significant success with this approach and students that may think they are not being recognised for their amazing RIME skills are now seeing the fruits of their behaviour throughout the year. Here are just a few of our students that have been chosen so far.

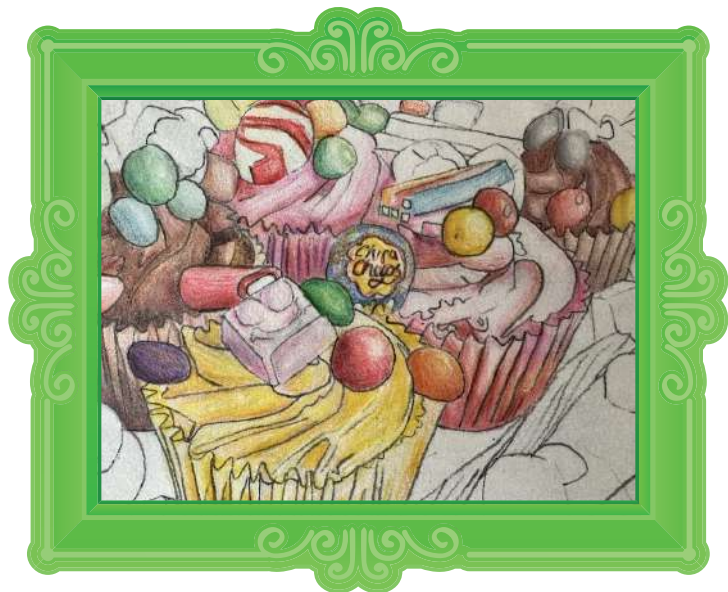
Lillee	Pegasus	Resilient
Grace	Gryphon	Employable
Shelby	Phoenix	Mindful
Ruby - Leigh	Phoenix	Mindful
Lili - Mae	Drakon	Resilient

We are looking forward to welcoming 58 Year 2 St. Peters Primary School students for a tour of our Farm during the last week of this half-term. This will reinforce outdoor learning and is in line with these current learning and teaching. I'm told they are very excited about their visit as previous St. Peters students that have already visited our beautiful animals have been expressing to their peers how good it is.

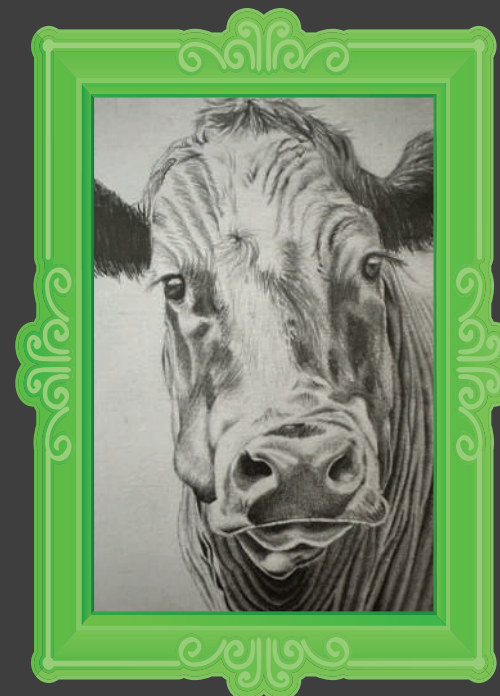
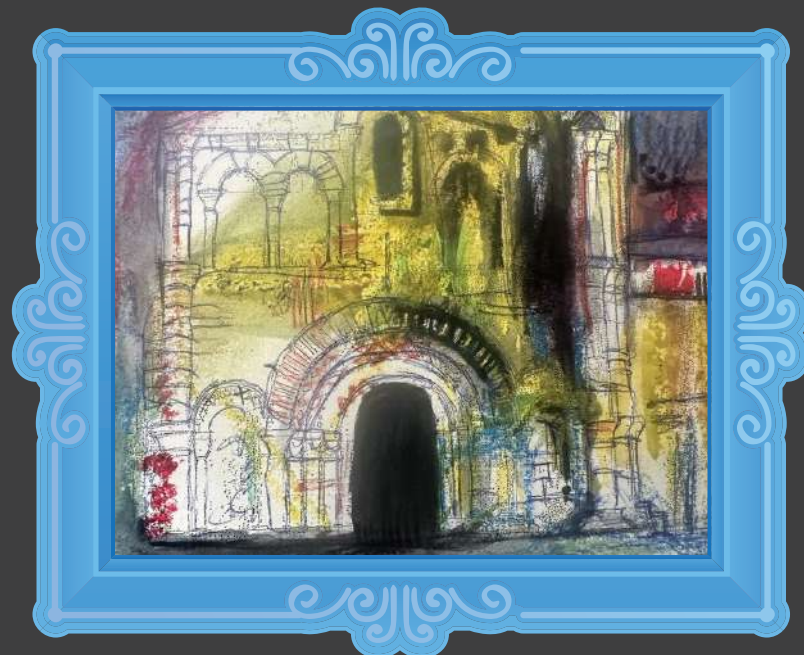
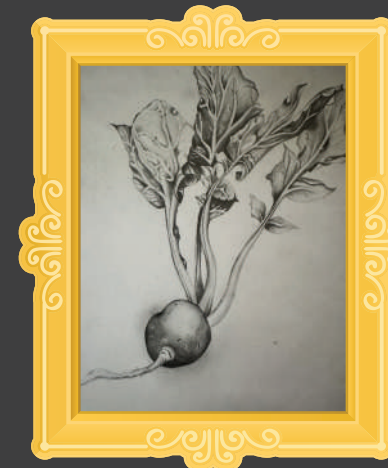
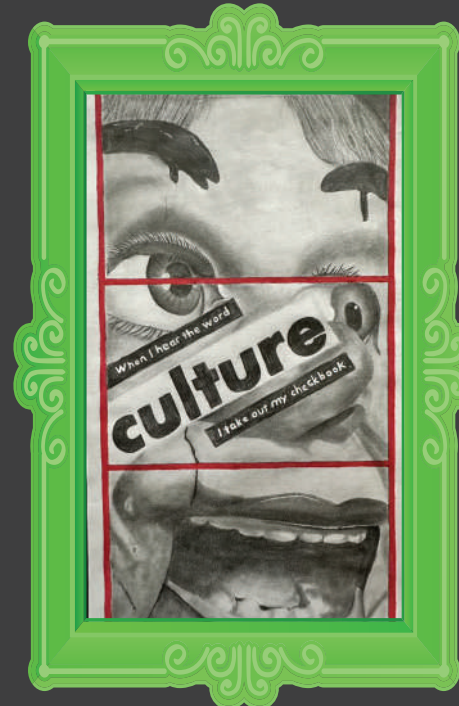
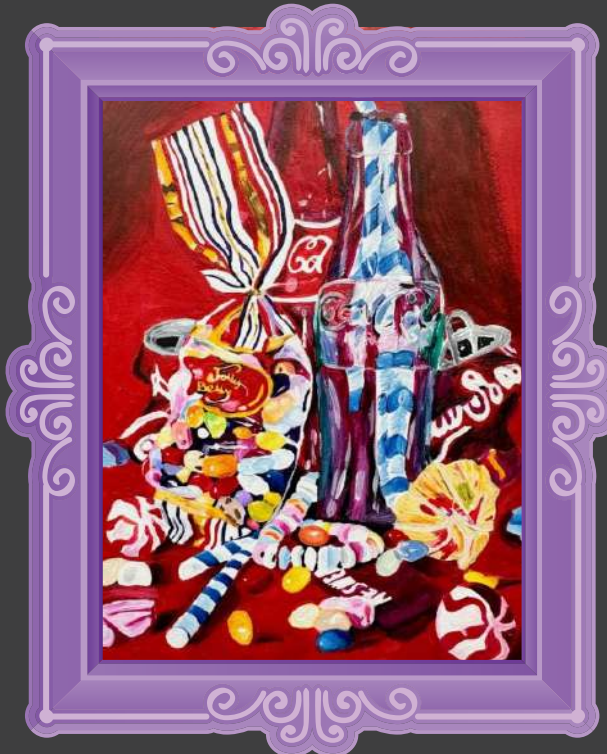
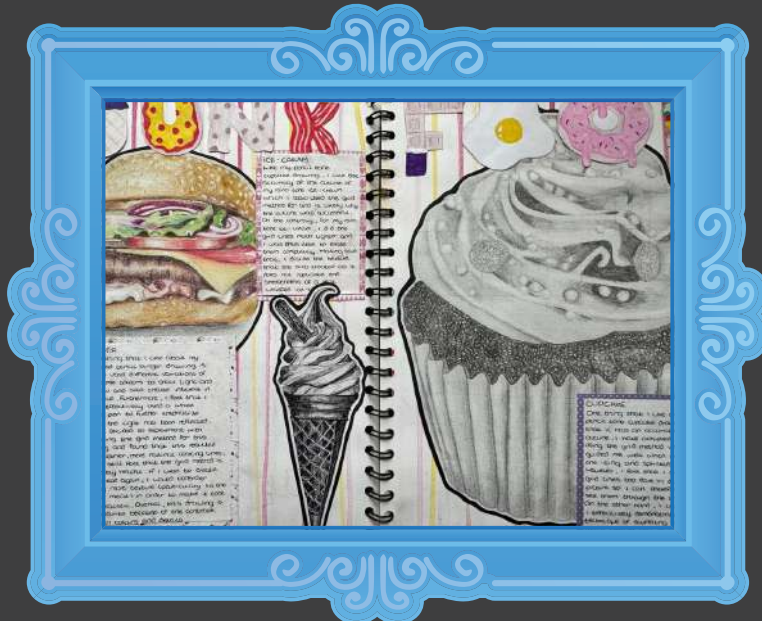
We are dedicated to animal welfare here at Kingsmead and are continuously reviewing health and safety and the facilities we offer to all students and staff and can now announce we have a fully functioning sink thanks to our RIME funding scheme where Kingsmead students decide on how some of our budget is spent. This has made such a positive impact on our shareholders by improving accessibility to hygiene facilities and the significant reduction of risk to cross contamination, THANK YOU!



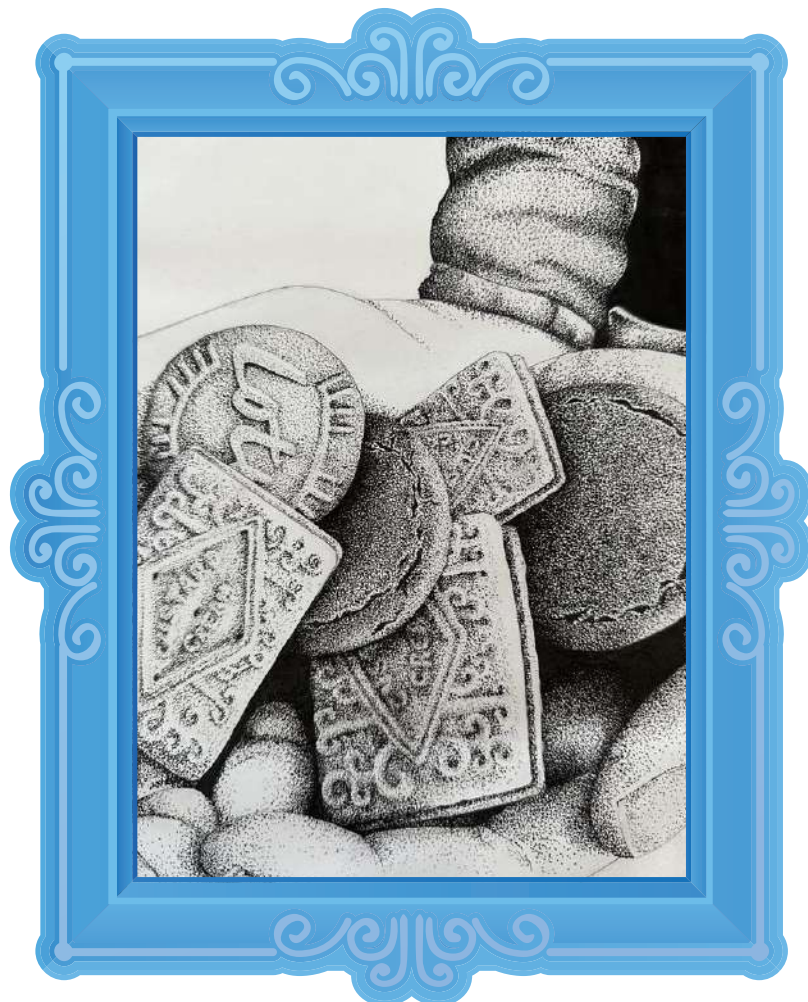
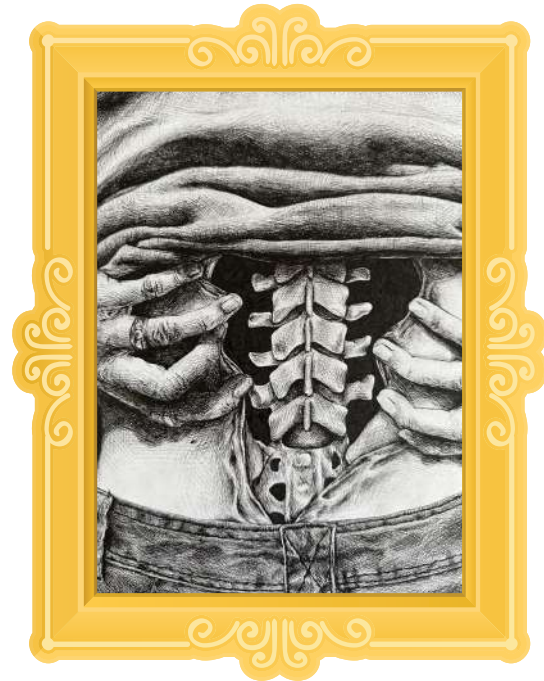
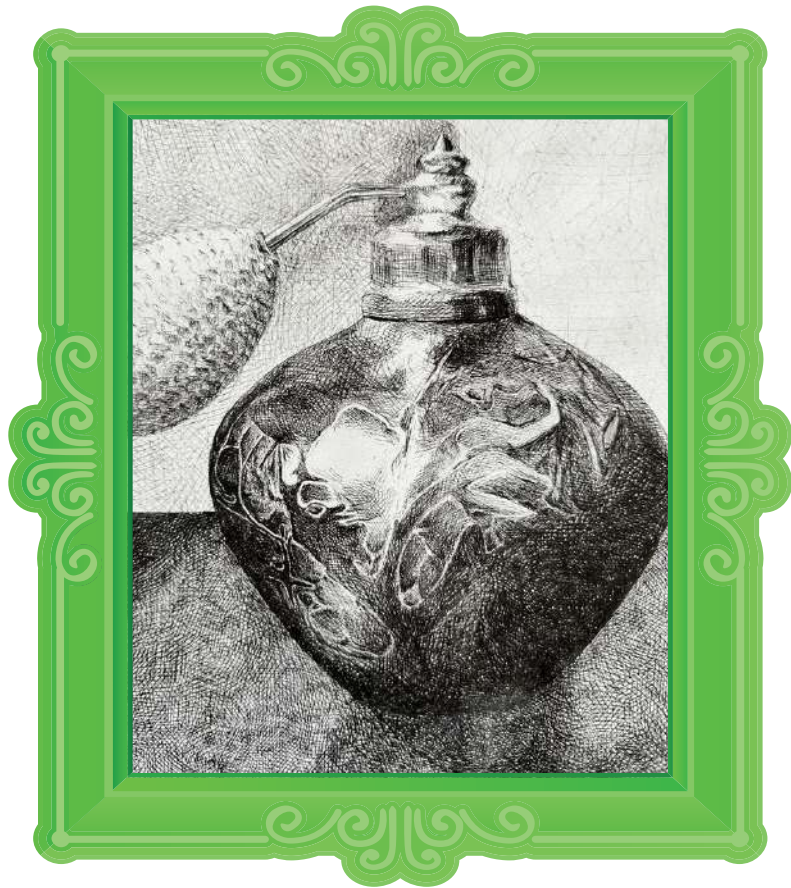
STUDENT ARTWORK



STUDENT ARTWORK



STUDENT ARTWORK



THE SPORTS REPORT



Congratulations to Frankie who has been selected to play for the Staffordshire County U14 team. This is a massive achievement as she had to go through several rounds of trials, and she has been selected a year early for the age group. She has now played successfully as Centre Back in two fixtures against West Midlands (won 1-0) and Worcester (won 4-0).



The U13 girls football team had an excellent start to their District League campaign. Conditions were difficult due to the weather but the girls showed resilience with a relentless work rate produced a 7 – 2 win against Erasmus Darwin Academy. Goals from Frankie (1), Ava (1), OG (1) and Jess (4).

The U13 girls football team played their second league game against Cannock Chase High School and again produced a commanding performance. The determination and the frequent demonstrations of quality skill resulted in a 16-0 win with goals from Frankie (4), Jess (8), Grace (1), Scarlett (1), Maisie (1), Ava (1). Go Kingsmead!



It is fantastic to see that there has been considerable interest in playing football from the Y7 girls. They have been enthusiastically attending training each week and we are looking forward to seeing what they can achieve when they put all their hard work into action during the matches this season.



Our Year 9 girls football team played their first game of the year against Landau Forte Amington in their cup fixture and displayed what is brilliant about Kingsmead students. Aside from the ten goals they scored, they worked together as a team displaying great character from goalkeeper through to striker. It's going to be a good season!

A great start to the season for Y9 with a 5-3 win over Graham Balfour in the first round of the County Cup. It was a passing masterclass in the first half with plenty of chances created. Y9 have a first-round league cup fixture against Chase High on Monday and hope for an equally impressive performance.

A huge congratulations to Olly Stone and Lloyd Oebel-Marsh who have been selected to represent Staffordshire County. In a friendly match, Lloyd scored and assisted from Centre back.



A massive well done to our Year 10 football team in their first fixture of the year against Cheslyn Hay. Despite a 2-0 defeat, the lads played brilliantly showing team spirit and resilience in abundance and a great attitude to the whole game. Well done team!



If at first you don't succeed... Our Year 10 boys football team beat the Hart school this afternoon in a closely fought game. Our opponents are a strong side who beat us on penalties last season on their way to winning the District Cup. However it was Kingsmead who won this fixture 1-0 with Charlie providing the winner! We cannot praise the players enough for the determination and togetherness they showed as a team.

THE SPORTS REPORT



Kingsmead Year 8s played their first fixture of the year against Netherstowe High, a school we were yet to compete with. The reigning champions were winners once more, beating the Lichfield school 4 – 1.

Leaving us 2nd in the league, we knew we had to make a fierce statement playing our next fixture against Great Wryley High School. It was 2 – 2 at the half time whistle. After their half time team talk, Kingsmead were ready to step into their final gear, and end up winning the game 8-2.



Still placing in 2nd in the league, we had to play our top of the league rivals, Cheslyn Hay High School. Cheslyn Hay had won both of their league games, and lead with a +19 goal difference. The mighty Kingsmead did not let that phase them away from what needed to be done. The result finished 2-0 to Kingsmead, which means that we are now top of the league!

Last year, we had played against Friary High School in the Semi-final of the League cup and were defeated 5-4; this is our only loss in since starting in Year 7. It was the first time playing against Friary since, and the Year 8s was ready to seek vengeance. Their 4th league game ended up in an 8-0 victory. Well done to everyone involved so far, you have done yourselves so proud. Let continue this momentum and pride as we step into our next fixtures.



The Kingsmead Year 7 football team played their first game ever against a very strong Nether Stowe on Thursday. Despite taking the lead, the team faced a strong opponent and ultimately suffered a defeat. However, there were glimpses of brilliance from the Kingsmead students, which gives the team a strong foundation to build on and move forward. As a team, the players understand the importance of winning and losing together. They showed great sportsmanship and resilience throughout the game. The Man of the Match was Charlie, who played an outstanding game, and Tyler scored the team's only goal.

We look forward to seeing them continue to grow and develop as a team throughout the season. Unlucky team, let's move forward!

WE'VE BEEN LOVING... HANDBALL

We had a fantastic turnout for Handball this term, with as many as 40+ students attending practice after school! It's fantastic to see a mix of year groups getting stuck in and trying something new, demonstrating excellent resilience.

Handball takes place every Friday, 2.30pm - 3.30pm. Anyone is welcome to come along and try it out!



THE SPORTS REPORT



It has been an excellent start to our netball season, with numbers growing at enrichment and all year groups working hard to improve their skills and tactical knowledge. We have only had one fixture so far – our Year 9 team played against Chase Terrace in their first league match at Kingsmead. Despite a challenging start and an injury in the first quarter, they showed excellent resilience and battled through to win 22-18!

WE'VE BEEN LOVING... CROSS COUNTRY

Cross country season is complete, with our ever-growing cross country squad representing the school with pride and integrity!

The team spirit in this side is amongst the best we've ever seen at Kingsmead, with the squad cheering each other on at every hurdle and incline.

These races happened at Cardinal Griffin, King Edwards and Chase Terrace:



Race 1

We saw an outstanding display from our cross country team this evening. We had one first place and two second places from our students. A special commendation must go to Year 8's Charlie who came first for the second year running. It was great to see so many students from all year groups taking part, especially as there were eleven Year 7 students representing Kingsmead for the first time.



Race 2

A big shout-out to our 19 students who represented us at the second district cross-country event at King Edwards High School! They all showed great resilience in some highly competitive races.

A special mention to Charlie from Year 8 who won his event, competing a year above his own. This marks his second win in two races - a truly remarkable achievement! Can we make it a hat-trick next week? Congratulations also to Rylea and Phoebe who both secured bronze medals in the Year 7 boys and girls races respectively.



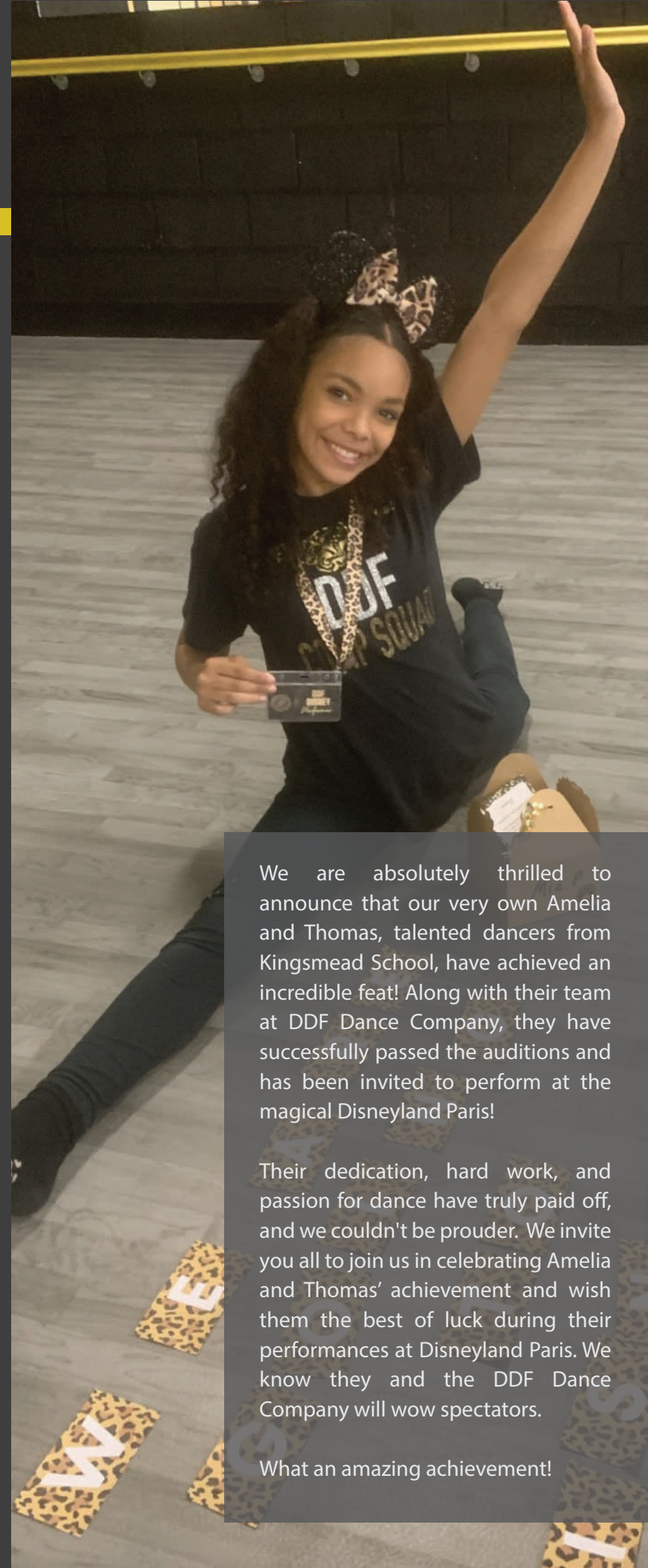
Race 3

On a cold Tuesday afternoon, we took our team to the final event of the district cross country season at Chase Terrace, Burntwood. Charlie won his race and became the overall champion for the district, and Phoebe placed 3rd in the Y7 girls' race.



Special Mention: Charlie does the Hatrick! We are thrilled to announce an extraordinary accomplishment by one of our Year 8 students, Charlie, who has made Kingsmead School history for cross-country running.

Last year, Charlie demonstrated his exceptional talent by winning two out of three cross-country events, narrowly missing out on a hat-trick. This year, he faced an even greater challenge, competing against both Year 8 and Year 9 students. Charlie successfully completed the hat-trick by winning cross-country events at Cardinal Griffin, King Edwards, and finally Chase Terrace. This remarkable feat is a testament to Charlie's dedication, hard work, and determination.



We are absolutely thrilled to announce that our very own Amelia and Thomas, talented dancers from Kingsmead School, have achieved an incredible feat! Along with their team at DDF Dance Company, they have successfully passed the auditions and has been invited to perform at the magical Disneyland Paris!

Their dedication, hard work, and passion for dance have truly paid off, and we couldn't be prouder. We invite you all to join us in celebrating Amelia and Thomas' achievement and wish them the best of luck during their performances at Disneyland Paris. We know they and the DDF Dance Company will wow spectators.

What an amazing achievement!

SCARE FEST

APOCALYPSE

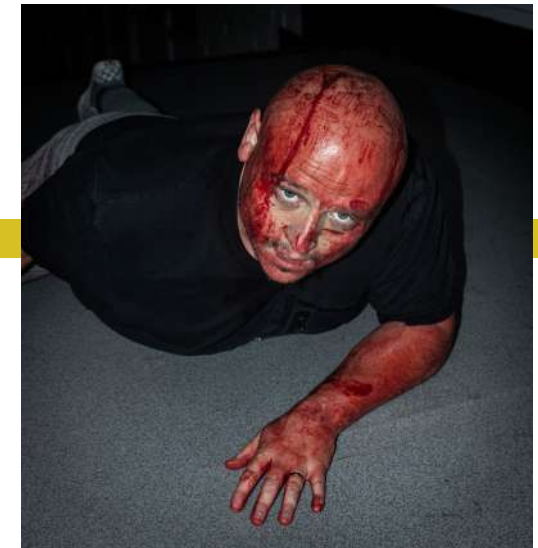
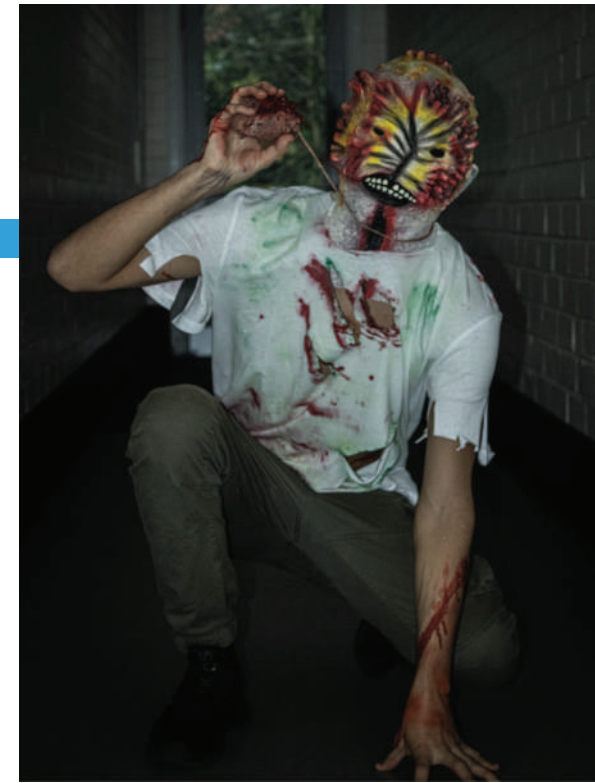


As our last event of the half-term, we hosted our annual Scarefest, a fright night which gives our students the opportunity to attend our iconic scare maze and spooky disco, and what an amazing night we all had!

A big thank you to all the staff and students who performed as zombies, survivors, doctors, victims and much more, they really turned the fear factor up and created a night(mare) to remember.

Also, thank you to our students who attended the event, their frightfully fantastic costumes and the energy they brought throughout the evening is what made it so special, so much fun was had!

Here's a collection of some of the photographs taken by our media team, which capture the excitement of the evening.





SCARE FEST

APOCALYPSE

