



# KINGSMEAD LIFE MAGAZINE

**ISSUE 17 - OCTOBER 2024**

# FOREWORD

We reach October half-term after a breathtaking start to the school year made by our keen students and able staff. We have been so impressed by students, in all years, with how they are approaching lessons, enrichment activities and home learning. These first few months have focused on collegiality within school and within the wider community. This reflects our school value of employability. Our student leaders across Key Stages have supported other students with their learning as academic coaches 1-to-1. They have worked with local primaries and fundraised for local and international charities, as well as running sports groups.

We continue to work with education and business providers across the county and beyond. Recent visits to New Cross Hospital, the Young Enterprise enrichment day and our role as the Midlands Oxbridge Hub have all given students an insight into the skills needed to succeed. We even had a visit from the BBC who filmed us here. The Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award teams were successful in their recent expeditions, if a little wet from the weather that hit us that weekend. They were grateful for the opportunity and keen to continue with this valued scheme.

Our lovely parents are also involved, whether it's attending partnership evenings or supporting our Parent Book Club, they continue to support Kingsmead life here. We have even had gifts kindly given to us through our wishlist scheme, which have been used in sports, classrooms and even for our farm animals.

At Kingsmead we continue to have the courage to innovate, another one of the school's core values. Our new innovation room, the Planetarium has been used in a number of lessons and visitors to the school. Our enrichment clubs have helped to support the recent European Day of Languages and the upcycling crafts team have built a range of tools and features for our outdoor classroom.

Our focus on learning in the classroom has seen us using research to develop accountable talk, involving students in discussions and debate, building critical thinking and oracy skills. Finally, we have Scarefest, a true spook-tacular. A great, safe way to finish off the half term with an event that is always popular amongst students and staff.



# OPEN EVENING 2024

In September Kingsmead opened its doors to prospective students from our local community from Years 5 and 6. Students and staff showcased the amazing magic that makes Kingsmead unique, with smiles and excitement in abundance. With over 60 subject-specific activities on offer, there was plenty to inspire our future families and the 800 attendees of the event, who were shown round by over 80 student guides. From crime scene investigations, virtual reality, steel pans, live dissections to our brand-new planetarium, there was something to inspire every young person.

Kingsmead students sang, acted, baked, guided and informed parents from the first moment they entered the school; even the pigs, sheep and ducks were showing off!



# OPEN EVENING 2024



Following this we offered parents the opportunity to see the school in different lights. Kingsmead staff provided Saturday morning tours to give parents and students the opportunity to see the school in a quieter setting or to come back to see what more we had to offer. For those parents and students who wanted to see Kingsmead in action we offered an opportunity for tours during the school day with staff warmly opening their doors to showcase the work their students were completing.

We cannot thank the staff and students enough for their hard work during these events, they have shown what makes Kingsmead great; the people and their excitement to learn and thrive. With over 200 students involved in Open Evening, the Kingsmead family were united in celebrating everything we love about our school!



# SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING 2024

The evening began with a presentation which highlighted just what makes Kingsmead Sixth Form the dynamic and unique learning environment it is. Special guests Callum and Phoebe, our Head Student and Deputy Head Student, providing their personal insight of life at Kingsmead. We then invited our guests to explore the courses we offer at Sixth Form. From Chemistry to Performing Arts, our diverse learning programme offers something for various career goals.

Our expert staff and welcoming current students were on hand to answer questions and discuss not only the academic benefits of Sixth Form but also the extra curricular opportunities we offer. Our Student Leadership team expressed how the development and teamwork tasks that have completed so far have helped prepare them for life beyond Sixth Form. We have created a positive workspace and central hub for our Sixth Formers with the Sixth Form Centre, which we were delighted to welcome potential future

During this term, we provided the opportunity to discover Kingsmead Sixth Form for our prospective students, both internal and external, with Sixth Form Open Evening. Taking that next step into Post-16 education after GCSEs is a pivotal moment in young peoples lives. With over 28 courses taught at Kingsmead by our specialist teachers, we provide a platform for students to explore their passions and achieve their aspirations for the future.



students and their families to explore during the evening. Our wonderful catering team provided some delicious snacks and refreshments throughout the evening enjoyed by all as our staff hosted talks and open sessions to give insight and detail as to what our courses entail.

Once again, we would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in making Sixth Form Open Evening so enjoyable and informative. Our values are woven into the framework of what makes Kingsmead so special and we enjoy every opportunity we get to demonstrate that to the local community. We are incredibly honoured to be the chosen place for our current Sixth Formers education and we cannot wait to see where their hard work and determination will take them in the future.

If you are interested in discovering more about Kingsmead Sixth Form, our 2024 Prospectus is now live on our website, alongside access to more information on the courses we offer.

# SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING 2024



# YEAR GROUP FEATURE - YEAR 7

Congratulations to Year 7 on a fantastic start to Kingsmead!

As we settle into the new academic year, we are incredibly proud of the way our Year 7 students have embraced their transition to secondary school. Starting a new chapter can be daunting, but Year 7 have shown resilience, innovation, mindfulness, and employability – our key values at Kingsmead. These traits have shone through in their approach to both school life and their learning, setting a high standard for the rest of the year to follow.

## Resilience in Action

Resilience is a cornerstone of personal growth, and it's been inspiring to see Year 7 demonstrate this value from the outset. For many students, adjusting to new subjects, teachers, and the routine of secondary school has been a big step, but they have met these challenges with determination. Whether it's tackling more complex homework assignments, navigating their way around the school, or adjusting to the expectations of high school life, Year 7 students have persisted. They've shown that when things get tough, they can bounce back and keep moving forward with a positive mindset.

## Innovation in Learning

It has been wonderful to see how Year 7 have embraced innovation in their learning. They have not been afraid to think outside the box, ask questions, and approach their lessons with curiosity. Our teachers have been impressed by the creative ideas and fresh perspectives that Year 7 students bring to their work, whether it's in science experiments, group projects, or problem-solving tasks. This innovative spirit is what we encourage at Kingsmead, and it's clear that our Year 7s are already embracing this mindset, seeking new ways to engage with their learning and challenge themselves.

## Mindfulness in Daily Life

Year 7 have shown great mindfulness in their approach to school life. From being considerate of others in the classroom to participating in mindfulness exercises and discussions, our students are learning to be aware of their own thoughts and emotions, as well as how their actions affect those around them. Practicing mindfulness helps create a positive, supportive school environment where everyone can thrive.



We've seen many Year 7 students taking time to check in on their peers, offer help, and be considerate of their fellow students' needs, which makes a big difference in building a strong, caring community and demonstrates our Year 7 key value of 'Be Kind'

### Developing Employability Skills

Finally, we are thrilled to see Year 7 already developing employability skills that will serve them well in the future. Whether it's through teamwork in our recent careers day, time management in planning their homework, or effective communication with others, these students are building the foundations for future success in both school and their eventual careers.

Participating in extracurricular activities, showing initiative, and taking responsibility for their learning are just a few ways our Year 7 students are demonstrating the employability skills that are so important in today's world.

Year 7 have made a fantastic start to their Kingsmead journey and we are excited to see how they continue to grow and develop throughout the year. Keep up the great work, Year 7 – we know you have an amazing future ahead!



# YEAR GROUP FEATURE - YEAR 7



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

## LET THEM FLY 2024

On Thursday 12th September, we celebrated our students' achievements over the past year at our "Let Them Fly" Celebration Evening. This was an evening dedicated to recognizing the hard work, success and extra achievements that our students have accomplished over the past year. The Palace Theatre was filled with proud parents, enthusiastic teachers, and students eager to celebrate their successes and enforce what a fantastic school Kingsmead is to be a part of.

The evening was a joyful showcase of the diverse talents within our student body, from academic achievements to sporting triumphs, community service to faculty award success.



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

## LET THEM FLY 2024

Each award recognised the unique strengths and passions of our students. This event wasn't just about high grades—it was about celebrating mindfulness, innovation, resilience employability, and the many ways students contribute to the life of our school and the wider community.

Each award was introduced by a member of staff where they spoke about the achievements of the recipient. Family members who were in attendance said how proud this made them feel and how impressive it was that so many Kingsmead students go the extra mile to make school, themselves and the local community a better place. The Let Them Fly Awards, which were awarded to students who really go the extra to make a difference, showcasing our RIME values in abundance whilst making academic progress, were given to our students for some amazing reasons.



Alongside celebrating the successes of our students, the evening also showcased the incredible talents of our Kingsmead students. Performances from students from across the school showcased how much talent Kingsmead has and really made the celebration evening more special.

Mr. Cope and Mr. Statham (our Chair of Governors) closed the evening with an inspiring speech, thanking the staff, parents, and students for their support and hard work throughout the year. They both emphasised that these awards are not only a reflection of individual success but also of the collaborative spirit that defines the school.





# LEARNING AND TEACHING

## **Learning and Teaching update: Empowering students through learning and reflection**

At the core of our teaching approach is a commitment to fostering deep learning, critical thinking, and active engagement. We aim to provide students with structured opportunities to reason, justify their thoughts, and reflect on their progress. Through the integration of structured talk, mini whiteboards, and Reflect, Revisit, and Upgrade (RRU) sessions, we create an environment where students are challenged to think deeply and supported to succeed.

## **Structured Talk: Encouraging Reasoning and Justification**

One of the most effective strategies we have been developing in classrooms is structured talk. This involves giving students opportunities to articulate their thinking, discuss complex ideas, and engage in meaningful dialogue with peers. By encouraging students to justify through reasoning and explain their viewpoints, we not only deepen their understanding of content but also help them develop essential communication and critical thinking skills.

Structured talk challenges students to think beyond surface-level answers. In group discussions or paired conversations, students explore different perspectives, reason logically, and refine their ideas through dialogue. This helps them gain confidence in their ability to explain their thought processes and engage with others intellectually.

## **Mini Whiteboards: Real-Time Assessment and Feedback**

A key tool being used in our classrooms are mini whiteboards, used to provide real-time formative assessment. During lessons, students can quickly jot down answers or ideas, allowing teachers to see immediately how well they are grasping a concept. This instant feedback helps teachers adjust instruction on the spot, addressing misconceptions and providing support where needed.

Mini whiteboards also make the classroom more interactive. Instead of relying on just a few students raising their hands, all students can participate simultaneously, ensuring that every voice is engaged.



# LEARNING AND TEACHING

ownership of their learning. During the reflection phase, students analyse their results, identifying both strengths and areas for improvement.

The revisit stage involves reviewing challenging material with targeted teacher support. This process solidifies understanding and addresses gaps in knowledge. Finally, the “upgrade” phase gives students the chance to improve their initial work, applying what they’ve learned to demonstrate growth. The RRU model fosters a growth mindset, focusing on progress and continuous improvement rather than one-time performance.

Mini whiteboards also make the classroom more interactive. Instead of relying on just a few students raising their hands, all students can participate simultaneously, ensuring that every voice is engaged. This low-pressure method encourages students to take risks in their learning, as they know they can make mistakes and learn from them without the fear of formal grading.

## The Assessment Cycle and RRU Sessions

After formal assessments, students enter RRU (Reflect, Revisit, Upgrade) sessions to reflect on their performance. These sessions are a powerful part of the learning cycle, as they encourage students to take

By combining structured talk, mini whiteboard assessment, and RRU sessions, we are creating a dynamic and responsive learning environment. These strategies not only challenge students to think critically but also ensure they are supported every step of the way. Our approach is designed to empower students to take ownership of their learning, build confidence, and ultimately succeed both in school and beyond. We have been extremely impressed with students’ application in all of these areas so far this term.



# SCAREFEST 2024

At Kingsmead, we take Halloween up a notch and this years Scarefest was no exception! A night of frights was the perfect way to finish an excellent first term of this academic year, with everyone getting in to the spooky spirit. From our terrifying scare maze, halloween disco and costume competition, students (and staff!) had a night to remember.



# CAREERS

In true Kingsmead style, our careers programme has got off to a flying start this academic year, living up to our Employable value.

Starting with year-group assemblies for Year 8, 9 and 10, students got to listen to a panel of guests talk about their journey from school to working in different roles throughout Staffordshire, hosted by the BBC bitesize careers team. There were some key messages that came from this around resilience; the need to continue working hard in subjects especially ones you find hard, as well as being open-minded to what the future could bring. The famous BBC's mic-ed up rugby ball was a winner with students, who were super keen to get involved and ask questions to the panellists. Great effort everyone!

Next, the whole of Year 7 took part in the Careers Challenge and what a day it was. Students worked in groups to complete various activities, and some presented back to the year group. The students' display of key skills such as team-working, confidence, communication and resilience was phenomenal. Well done Year 7, especially the 3 winning teams Stay & Play, Gamer Brainz and Sweet Shake Smoothie Shack; we are so proud of you all.





Year 11 will take part in their Futures Day at the end of the term as they start to prepare for their post-16 pathways. Students must remain in some form of education until they are 18 and will move onto sixth form, college or apprenticeships so support will be on hand for all Year 11 students this year to support their decision-making.

# CAREERS

Last but not least, a shout-out to our sixth formers. With the UCAS deadline pending, many are working extremely hard preparing their personal statements, and deciding which university to apply for. We have been blown away by the super-curricular activities that students have been doing in their own time, going above and beyond to stand out from the crowd and make their applications the best they can be. For those opting for alternative routes such as apprenticeships and employment, they have been updating CVs, making sure they stand the best chance of securing a position for next year.

What an incredible half term it's been. If you want to be involved in some of our future events, please contact Mrs Kendall at [n.kendall@kingsmeadschool.net](mailto:n.kendall@kingsmeadschool.net) to find out how.



# SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

As a reminder, we ask that students do not arrive at school before 8:00 AM. The school is unable to provide supervision for early arrivals, and we want to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students. We kindly ask for your cooperation in making sure your child arrives after this time. Free breakfast will be available for all students starting at 8:00 AM in the House of Pi. This is a great opportunity for students to start their day with a nutritious meal and prepare for a productive day of learning. Breakfast will be served daily, and we encourage students to take advantage of this offering. Please ensure that your child arrives on time to enjoy breakfast before the school day begins.

As technology plays an increasingly significant role in our children's lives, it's essential to ensure they stay safe online.

We encourage you to actively monitor your child's internet use, including their social media activity and the apps they download. Setting boundaries, discussing the risks of sharing personal information, and encouraging open conversations about their online experiences are key steps to helping them navigate the digital world safely. By working together, we can help protect our children and teach them responsible online behaviour.

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 are 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.





# ATTENDANCE

As part of our ongoing "Be Here to Get There" Attendance Campaign, we want to thank you for your support in encouraging consistent school attendance. We're already seeing a positive impact on students' social and academic growth, and we truly appreciate your efforts in making this possible. Regular attendance is key to ensuring that students don't fall behind—both socially and academically. When students miss school, they miss out on critical lessons and valuable interactions with their peers. We want every child to be set up for success, and being present each day is the first step toward achieving that. Let's continue working together to ensure your child is here every day to build lasting friendships, participate in classroom learning, and prepare for a bright future!



## THE ONLY SOURCE OF knowledge IS EXPERIENCE



**ATTENDING SCHOOL ENABLES YOU TO MAKE MEMORIES  
THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME, THAT WILL SHAPE WHO YOU ARE  
AND HOW YOU SEE THE WORLD!**

# WELLBEING

## Shield and Shelter: The strength of our community responsibility at Kingsmead School

Kingsmead School re-introduces the "Shield and Shelter" (SAS) programme, an initiative designed to combat intolerance and promote equality by embedding community responsibility into our school culture. Embracing diversity and inclusion is a shared duty here, ensuring our school remains a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment.

The SAS Team continue to spearhead efforts to eliminate all forms of bullying through proactive engagement. This team, which includes progress leaders, safeguarding officers, and select pupil representatives, is working with school leadership to create a

safer school environment. Rooted in the legal framework provided by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the Equality Act 2010, Kingsmead School is committed to maintaining anti-bullying policies to address any form of discrimination and harassment.

### Restorative Practice Approach

SAS employs restorative sessions that bring together victims and perpetrators to:

- Foster a secure community for students and staff,
- Mitigate mental health risks by promoting support and inclusion,
- Deter involvement in unhealthy behaviours,
- Highlight and combat bullying,
- Educate on diversity and reduce discrimination,
- Build a supportive network for pupils navigating difficult experiences.



## The '4 R's' for Restoration

Central to our plan are the '4 R's' of restoration:

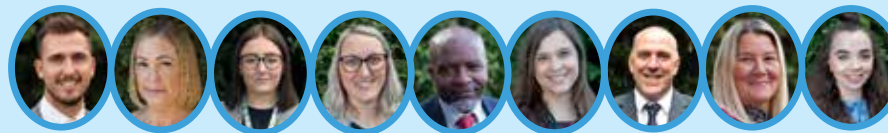
- Respect: Listening and valuing diverse opinions,
- Responsibility: Acknowledging one's own actions,
- Repair: Developing solutions in reparation sessions to prevent recurrence,
- Re-integration: Supporting a structured process for resolving issues, enabling pupils to rejoin their peers positively.

In addressing harm or conflict, students participate in restorative dialogues where they share their perspectives, discuss impacts, and suggest improvements. With mediation support, they receive attentive listening, answers to questions, and practical solutions tailored to mend and build relationships.

By embracing responsibility and empathy, the SAS programme enables the Kingsmead community to unite against bullying and foster a nurturing environment for everyone.

By adopting a culture of responsibility and empathy, the SAS programme empowers the Kingsmead community to stand against bullying while promoting a culture of diversity and inclusion.

**Protecting ALL from Threat or Harm**



**SaS Concerns:** contact Mr Stephens, Mrs Truby or email the team: [SaS@kingsmeadschool.net](mailto:SaS@kingsmeadschool.net)

Alternatively send a confidential text message to:

**07508 903 765**

# WELLBEING



# KINGSMEAD FARM

This term has been busy on the Farm. We have started our new academic year with a new group of enrichment students who have so far, been busy improving our farm for the animals and learning some skills on the way. Our Farm Club is extremely popular, and we utilise our children's enthusiasm through a variety of activities. These include the general upkeep of the farm, teaching about animal husbandry and how to safely handle the animals, to making enrichment toys for the sheep, pigs and rabbits. Take a look at our children's wonder creations with the guidance of Miss Powell.

The RIME fund, which we were successful in winning, has allowed us to transform some areas of the farm which were looking very tired. The farm is one of Kingsmead's unique selling points, so it's important that the areas are looking good for visitors but also offers a suitable living environment for our cherished animals. We have been able to give the goats more climbing equipment, which has helped with their overall wellbeing. The Guinea pigs and rabbits have been able to have some brand new housing, keeping them safe and warm as we enter into the colder months. Also, the male Guinea pigs' living area has had a glow up, thanks to Mrs Westbury and Miss Powell, who have created a wonderful living space for them.



# SUSTAINABILITY

## A BIG MOVE!

This year, our school has achieved the prestigious Green Flag Award, a testament to our commitment to environmental sustainability and education. The Green Flag Award is an internationally recognised accreditation given to schools that demonstrate exceptional environmental management and educational practices, and earning it requires meeting rigorous standards set by the Eco-Schools programme

The journey towards the Green Flag began with the establishment of our Eco-Committee, a group of students and teachers all involved in the eco club and gardening clubs with Mrs Small and Miss Powell who spearheaded our sustainability efforts. This committee was responsible for conducting an environmental review of the school, identifying areas where improvements could be made, and developing an action plan to address these issues. The review highlighted several key areas: waste reduction, energy efficiency, water conservation, biodiversity, and the promotion of healthy living.





# SUSTAINABILITY A BIG MOVE!

This term, Year 8 community day has cemented our efforts for the Green Flag Award, the school worked together with Brick-works company to allow students to litter pick and create a wild flower bee corridor. Biodiversity was promoted through the creation of a wildlife habitat on the school grounds. Native plants were introduced to attract local wildlife, and bird feeders and insect hotels were installed to provide shelter and food for various species. These efforts created a vibrant outdoor classroom where students could observe and learn about local ecosystems first-hand.

This prestigious award is a reflection of our collective effort and a significant milestone in our journey towards sustainability. It demonstrates our commitment to creating a healthier, greener future for our students and the planet. We will proudly hoist the Green Flag, we are inspired to continue our work and serve as a model for other schools striving for environmental excellence.



# THE SPORTS REPORT



## DISTRICT CHAMPIONS!!

Our Year 11s went to their last ever district netball tournament and after being runners up for the last 3 years, they have finally become champions. They won 3/3 league games against Codsall, Chase High and King Edwards, then won 14-0 in the semi-final against Netherstowe, before winning the final 13-4 against King Edwards.

They were unbeaten throughout which is an outstanding achievement and have been a pleasure to watch for the 4 previous years. We are so proud of you, well done girls!

Our Year 10 boys' Football team kicked off this season's fixtures for Kingsmead PE against a strong EDA side last week. Both teams engaged in a great battle on the pitch, ultimately settling for a hard-fought 1-1 draw.

Lloyd scored our only goal after a precise through ball from Alfie. The match highlighted the determination and skill of both sides, setting a promising tone for the season ahead! Well done lads!



The U13 girls football team got off to a sunny and successful start to the season.

They played Rawlett School in R1 of the County Cup and produced a 4-0 win with goals from Olivia (2), Libby and Esme. Well done girls, a great all round team performance!



# 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

## Socials



KingsmeadSchool



kingsmeadonline



@kingsmeadonline

## Email



office@kingsmeadschool.net

## Call Us



01543 227 320

## Our Website



www.kingsmeadschool.net



Gold package  
£25.00

Photo of your chosen animal.

Certificate of sponsorship for your animal

Fact file to learn all about your animal.

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

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

Silver package £10.00

Photo of your chosen animal

Certificate of sponsorship for animal

Fact file to learn all about your animal.

Keyring with your chosen animal's name on

Bronze package £5.00

Photo of your chosen animal.

Certificate of sponsorship for your animal

Fact file to learn all about your animal.

# PTFA NEEDS YOU!

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

### Benefits

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

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