



KINGSMEAD LIFE MAGAZINE

ISSUE 22 - MARCH 2026



FOREWORD

Welcome to the spring edition of Kingsmead Life. Each term, this publication offers a window into the life of our school, and this edition once again highlights the breadth of opportunities available to our students and the continued commitment of our staff to enrich their experience. Alongside updates on our weekly enrichment and extra-curricular activities, I am particularly pleased to share how we bring our RIME values to life and to give you an insight into the professional learning programmes that support our teachers.

The term between Christmas and Easter is always a pivotal period in any secondary school, and Kingsmead has been no exception. Our five sold-out performances of We Will Rock You in February were a true highlight, showcasing the remarkable performing talent within our community. We have also celebrated a wide range of careers events, helping students and families see how Kingsmead provides a strong foundation for planning life beyond school. In addition, this is the time of year when local families receive secondary school placements for September 2026, an important milestone for children currently in Year 6.

As we approach the end of term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of both your children and the wider school community. It is genuinely appreciated.

Mr. Averis
Headteacher

WE WILL ROCK YOU

KINGSMEAD STUDENTS WOW US ONCE AGAIN!

Each year, Kingsmead School eagerly anticipates the first week of February, a time when our school is transformed into an unforgettable theatrical world. In the past we have travelled to Skid Row, stepped into the halls of Rydell High, and even wandered through Shrek's Swamp. This term, Kingsmead's community came together to celebrate an extraordinary achievement: a five-night, completely sold-out run of our school production, We Will Rock You. With a cast and crew of over 150 students from across all year groups, the production showcased not only remarkable talent within the arts, but also the inclusivity, teamwork and ambition that help define our school.

From the very first rehearsal, it was clear that this year's production would be something special. Students, whether their first production or their seventh, all stepped forward to take part: actors, singers, musicians, dancers, technicians and backstage leaders - each contributing their unique strengths to create a vibrant, high-energy performance that captivated audiences' night after night.

The scale of the production was matched only by the dedication behind it. Months of hard work culminated in a show filled with powerful vocals, dynamic choreography and confident acting, all brought together by a committed backstage team who ensured every scene change, lighting cue and costume transition ran seamlessly.





“Speechless — the talent, passion and sparkle from every single person on that stage was incredible. You should all be so proud of yourselves; you delivered a show that would give the West End a run for its money.”

Kingsmead’s production was also performed to local primary schools as part of our ‘Chasing The Future’ programme. Staff and students received a lovely set of letters from the Year 5 students, thanking Kingsmead for inviting them. It was heartening to read how much they enjoyed the show, and even more inspiring to hear that many of the students are now thinking about studying Drama when they come to Kingsmead.

The result was a polished, professional-standard performance that left audiences cheering, singing along and offering outstanding feedback.

Families, staff, governors and members of the wider community filled the theatre across all five performances, with tickets selling out faster than any previous school show. Many audience members commented on the exceptional standard of the production, praising not only the talent on stage but also the sense of unity and joy that radiated throughout the cast. Some of our favourite comments from audience members included:

“Absolutely amazing performance! Such talented youngsters — I thought I was watching the West End! Well done to all involved!”

“Thoroughly enjoyed it! Such a talented and polished performance — a joy to watch.”

“Absolutely brilliant evening! You brought me to tears at the end. Well done all of you.”

One student wrote, ***“It was the best play I have ever been to,”*** and another shared, ***“When I go to Kingsmead I will do a show.”*** We can’t wait to see them on our stage one day.





The success of We Will Rock You stands as a testament to what young people can achieve when they are supported, encouraged and given the opportunity to shine. It also reflects the commitment of the Performing Arts team who guided students through every step of the creative process.

Assistant Headteacher, Mr. Thomas Truby said "*The quality of the acting and vocal harmonies was far beyond what you'd expect to see from a school production – it is a testament to the staff and students that they have produced the magic and the standard that they have. It is quite special to have 150 students in a school production! The continued growth and development of the Performing Arts at Kingsmead continues to shine brightly!*"

We are immensely proud of every student involved and certainly cannot wait to see what is in store for next year. The students' enthusiasm, resilience and teamwork have created a production that will be remembered for years to come; a true celebration of creativity, community and the power of the performing arts. We Will Rock You has firmly secured its place in the Kingsmead School Production Hall of Fame.

Written by Mrs. Ghent Smith



ECO SCHOOLS AT KINGSMEAD

CONTINUING OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

Written by
Mrs. Watton

We are delighted to remind our school community that Kingsmead proudly achieved the prestigious Eco-Schools Distinction Award during the 2024–2025 academic year. This outstanding accomplishment reflects the dedication, teamwork, and passion demonstrated by both students and staff in making sustainability a central part of school life. Achieving Distinction is something to celebrate, but it is also a responsibility. This year, we are committed not only to maintaining these high standards but to building on them and continuing to develop our environmental impact.

A vital part of our success comes from the enthusiasm and commitment of our students. In particular, our dedicated litter-picking group, made up of students from Years 7 and 8, has played an important role in improving our school environment. These students give their time regularly to ensure the school grounds remain clean, safe, and welcoming for everyone. Their efforts demonstrate leadership, responsibility, and pride in their surroundings, and they serve as excellent role models for the wider student body.

We have also recently renewed our Eco Code, which reflects our current priorities and

ambitions as a school. The Eco Code acts as a guiding framework for our environmental actions, helping to ensure that sustainability remains at the forefront of decision-making across the school. By refreshing this code, we have reaffirmed our commitment to making meaningful and lasting changes.

Looking ahead, we are excited about plans for the summer term. We will be working in partnership with The Great Imagining for a Day initiative, linking this project with both our Eco-Schools work and the Geography curriculum. This initiative will encourage students to think creatively about environmental issues and imagine innovative solutions for a more sustainable future. It provides a fantastic opportunity for collaboration, critical thinking, and real-world application of learning.

Sustainability continues to be embedded across the curriculum at Kingsmead. Departments throughout the school are integrating eco-related topics into their teaching, ensuring that students understand the importance of environmental responsibility in a wide range of contexts. From Science and Geography to Design, Technology, and beyond, students are developing the knowledge and skills needed to become informed and active global citizens.



YEAR 9 OPTIONS

The transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 is always an exciting milestone. For the first time in their education, pupils are given the opportunity to make choices about what they study and to begin shaping their academic future.

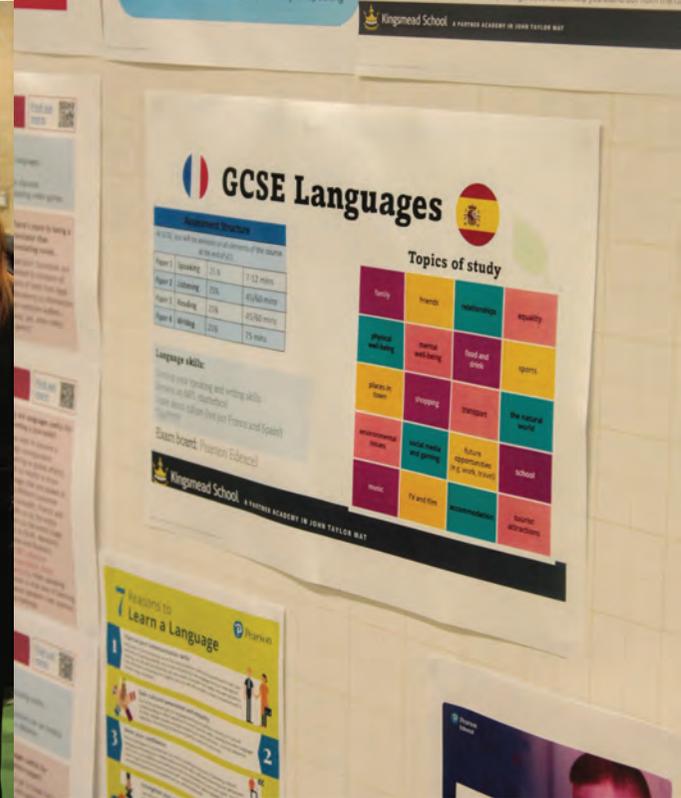
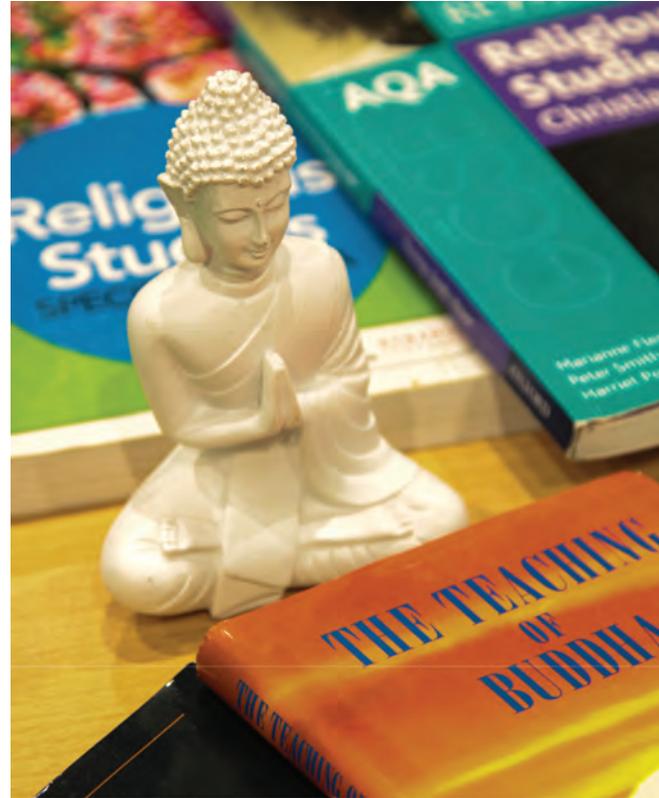
Since Christmas, Year 9 pupils have taken part in a range of activities designed to inform and support their decision-making, while also introducing them to the wide variety of subjects available.

Options Evening

Almost 80% of the year group, along with their families, attended this exciting event. In a large market style format 25 different subjects were on display, allowing pupils to explore the different courses, ask questions, and enjoy presentations from both staff and current pupils.

Assemblies

As some Key Stage 4 subjects are new at year 10, and not studied at Key Stage 3, a series of assemblies has been delivered to ensure pupils are fully informed. These sessions introduced courses such as Hospitality and Catering, Creative Media, Psychology, Business Studies and Health and Social Care.





Taster Sessions

At the end of February, all Year 9 pupils had the opportunity to experience four new subjects through a series of 'taster sessions'. They signed up to courses of interest to them that they haven't experienced before and fully engaged in the opportunity to sample an example lesson whilst learning about the course structure and assessments.

Now, following all the advice and guidance they have received, pupils have made their choices and submitted them to school. Mrs. Bracebridge and Mrs. Milner are currently meeting with each Year 9 pupil individually, to review their selections and answer any remaining questions they might have.

Over the coming weeks, pupils will receive confirmation of their chosen subjects. We wish them every success as they begin this exciting new stage of their academic journey.

Written by Mrs. Bracebridge



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

CELEBRATING OPPORTUNITY, AMBITION AND COLLABORATION ACROSS THE TRUST

National Apprenticeship Week offered a powerful platform to highlight the growing appeal of degree apprenticeships and the increasingly competitive landscape students must navigate to secure them. With top programmes demanding strong communication, problem solving, teamwork and resilience, this year's events were designed to give students meaningful, practical support while celebrating the value of apprenticeships across the Trust. The week brought schools together, strengthened partnerships with external organisations, and equipped learners with the confidence and insight needed to take ambitious next steps.

A Live Assembly to Inspire and Inform

A key highlight of the week was a live streamed assembly delivered by Not Going to Uni on the 9th February, attended by KS5 students from schools across the Trust. The session was engaging, interactive and recorded so future cohorts can benefit from the same high quality guidance.

Students explored a wide range of topics essential to understanding higher level apprenticeships, including:

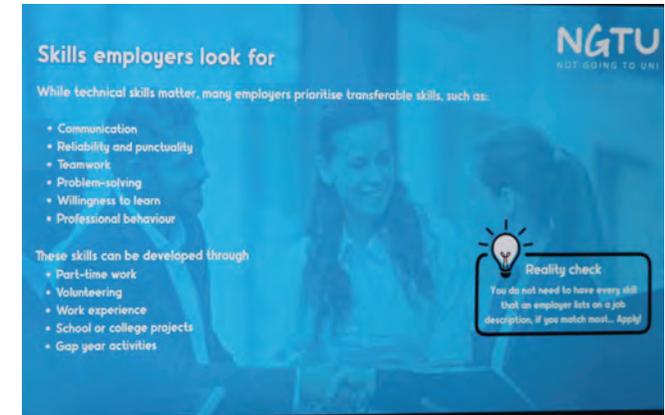
- Pathways available alongside apprenticeships
- How to find and apply for apprenticeship opportunities
- Entry requirements for competitive programmes
- Student finance and what support is available

The assembly concluded with a live Q&A, giving students the chance to ask direct questions and deepen their understanding of the routes available to them.

A Full Day Apprenticeship Workshop: Skills, Confidence and Real World Insight

The week continued with a full day workshop led by Junior Saunders from IAG Apprenticeship Programmes, bringing together Year 12 and 13 students from secondary schools in the Trust. The day facilitated a collaborative environment where learners could share experiences, build networks and enjoy a Trust funded lunch together.

One memorable moment came during a courtroom style activity, where volunteers were challenged to defend themselves under questioning.





The task was both enjoyable and eye opening, demonstrating the importance of staying calm, articulating ideas clearly and thinking under pressure—skills vital for apprenticeship success. Students also worked in mixed school groups on mock CVs and assessment tasks, strengthening their teamwork and giving them a chance to learn from peers across the Trust.



Impact and Reflection

The feedback from students captured the benefits of the week:

Gethin Edwards (Kingsmead student) - *“Overall I found the day to be extremely informative and Junior was a great host who kept us actively engaged throughout. I learnt things about apprenticeships as well as useful skills regarding job applications, that I will utilise for the rest of my life.”*

These reflections highlight the impact of the events in raising awareness of apprenticeship pathways, but also in building the confidence, ambition and readiness students need to pursue them. National Apprenticeship Week showcased what can be achieved when schools collaborate, external partners share their expertise, and students are given the tools to explore their futures.

Written by Mrs. Cain

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

CELEBRATING KINGSMEAD'S LOVE FOR READING

World Book Day at Kingsmead is more than a single event in the school calendar. It is a celebration of the reading culture that grows in our classrooms throughout the entire year. The day offers a chance for the whole school community to pause, reflect, and reconnect with the power of stories, stories that inspire imagination, build empathy, and open doors to new ideas and experiences. By celebrating World Book Day, we reaffirm the importance of reading not just as a skill, but as a lifelong source of curiosity, creativity, and enjoyment.

Our main aim for the day was for all students to experience the importance of books and reading. So, with the theme "Read it. Love it. Pass it on...", we set about making books impossible to ignore through a plethora of events — even for the most myopic of students.

We invited Staffordshire's Poet Laureate, Scarlett Ward, to deliver creative poetry workshops to our Year 7 students. In the middle of the day, Scarlett was interviewed by Kingsmead's own Poet Laureate along with other students passionate about writing. They asked everything from where she finds her inspiration to what she believes poetry can achieve (short answer: empathy throughout the world). The discussion ended with Scarlett taking away some of our students' poetry, and offering to mentor them.

Students were encouraged to bring in books they had outgrown so we could place them in the hands of new readers. Staff joined in too. The Book Swap saw many students leaving school with a new read, and we were able to donate picture books to our partner primary schools.



One playful feature of the day saw several teachers appearing as Wally, turning the school into a live-action search as students tried to spot and count how many were around (the answer: quite a few). The result was a steady stream of surprised reactions throughout the day — not least from puzzled Year 11 students emerging from trial examinations and being cheerfully greeted with a “Happy World Book Day!” by yet another Wally.

The Wallys were also on hand in the morning to welcome students to a special Book Breakfast, held in the dining hall — temporarily renamed for the occasion as the “House of Pi and Prejudice.” There, traditional breakfast items were given a literary twist. The English department — never ones to miss an opportunity for a pun — fully embraced the moment, squeezing as many book-inspired jokes as possible onto the menu. Students tucked into Peter Pancakes, Sweetbars Named Desire, and our personal favourite: Pride and Cheddarish (on toast).



By the end of the day, it was clear that World Book Day had done exactly what it was meant to do: remind us how much stories matter. Whether through shared laughter, a good book, or a brilliantly bad literary pun, the day brought the school community together around a simple idea: that reading is something to celebrate. If students left with a new title to try, a new character to discover, or even just a smile at the memory of yet another Wally in the corridor, then it was a success.

Written by Miss. Thomas and Mr. Dyke

SIXTH FORM

This term has been a busy and rewarding one for our Sixth Form students, filled with academic progress, enrichment opportunities, and important milestones. As we move toward the end of the academic year, it is a great time to reflect on all that has been achieved and to look ahead to an exciting Summer term.

Throughout this term, students in both Year 12 and Year 13 have demonstrated excellent commitment to their studies. Year 13 students have been particularly focused as they prepare for their final examinations. Many have been invited to attend revision sessions, workshops, and one-to-one support meetings with Mrs. Fisher and careers interviews, showing real determination to achieve their goals. Students have received a letter this week to invite them to revision sessions that are being held over the Easter break. We are proud of the maturity and resilience they have shown during this important period.

Year 12 students have also made a strong impression this term. They have now completed a significant portion of their courses and are beginning to prepare for their internal assessments in April. These assessments will play a key role in shaping predicted grades and future university

or apprenticeship applications. It has been encouraging to see students taking increasing responsibility for their independent study and engaging actively in lessons.

Beyond the classroom, Sixth Form students have continued to enrich school life. Many have taken on leadership roles, supporting younger students through mentoring programmes, like academic coaching and guided reading, subject support sessions, and extracurricular clubs. Their contribution to the wider school community is invaluable and helps create a positive and inclusive environment for all.

A key highlight this year has been the focus on real-world experience and preparation for future careers. Year 12 students will take part in a dedicated work experience week from 22nd June to 26th June. This opportunity will allow students to gain valuable insight into the workplace, develop employability skills, and explore potential career paths. We look forward to hearing about their experiences and the impact this will have on their future ambitions.

Looking ahead to the Summer term, there is much to anticipate. Year 13 students will begin their final examinations, and we wish them every success.





For Year 12, the Summer term will be a particularly important and exciting time. Internal examinations will take place, offering students an opportunity to demonstrate their progress and identify areas for further improvement. Students will also begin their UCAS journey, with guidance on researching universities, exploring courses, and drafting personal statements. As part of this process, students will take part in a planned visit to Worcester University, giving them valuable first-hand experience of university life and helping them make informed decisions about their future pathways.

We are also looking forward to a range of events, including our Activities week, which will provide students with opportunities to develop new skills, participate in team-building activities, and engage with external speakers. In addition, there will be workshops with Aberystwyth University aimed at supporting students with their next steps.

Finally, we look forward to celebrating the achievements of our Year 13 students as they complete their Sixth Form journey. Their hard work and dedication have been commendable, and we are confident they will go on to great success in their chosen paths.

Overall, it has been a positive and productive term, and we are excited for what lies ahead. We thank all students for their efforts and wish them continued success in the months to come.

Written by Mrs. Watton

ICELAND 2026

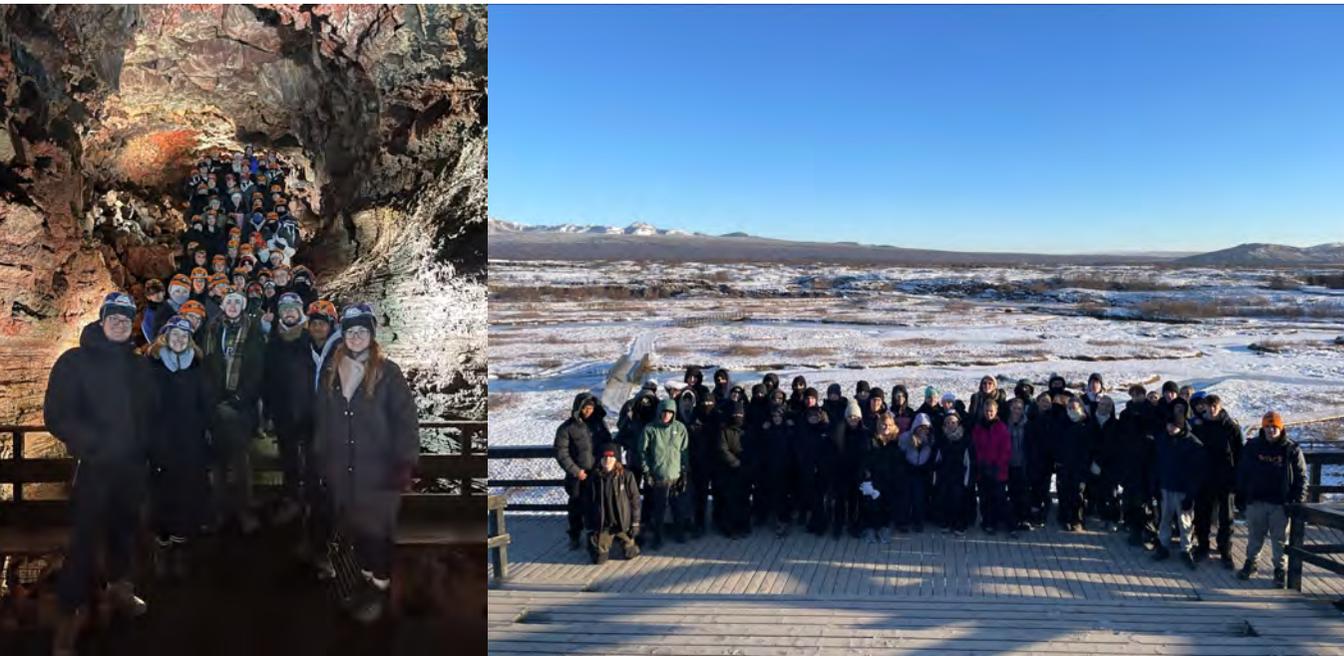
THE LAND OF FIRE AND ICE

Over February half-term a group of 50 Year 11 and 13 geographers visited Iceland in an action packed few days. One of our Year 11 students said that 'it is one of the most unique places in the world - it was like I was on the moon at one location and then in the middle of a magical field the next'.

Iceland sits on the boundary between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates, making it a hotspot for tectonic activity and the reason for our visit.

Throughout the trip, students had the opportunity to bring their GCSE Geography revision to life by exploring some of the world's most dramatic natural landscapes. Throughout the trip, students investigated coastal landforms, including caves, arches, stacks, and stumps, developing a deeper understanding of how these features are formed through powerful wave erosion.

They also visited several breathtaking waterfalls and hot springs for a dip in the geothermally heated water. This immersive experience not only strengthened their knowledge and confidence ahead of exams, but also inspired a lasting appreciation for the dynamic processes that shape our planet.



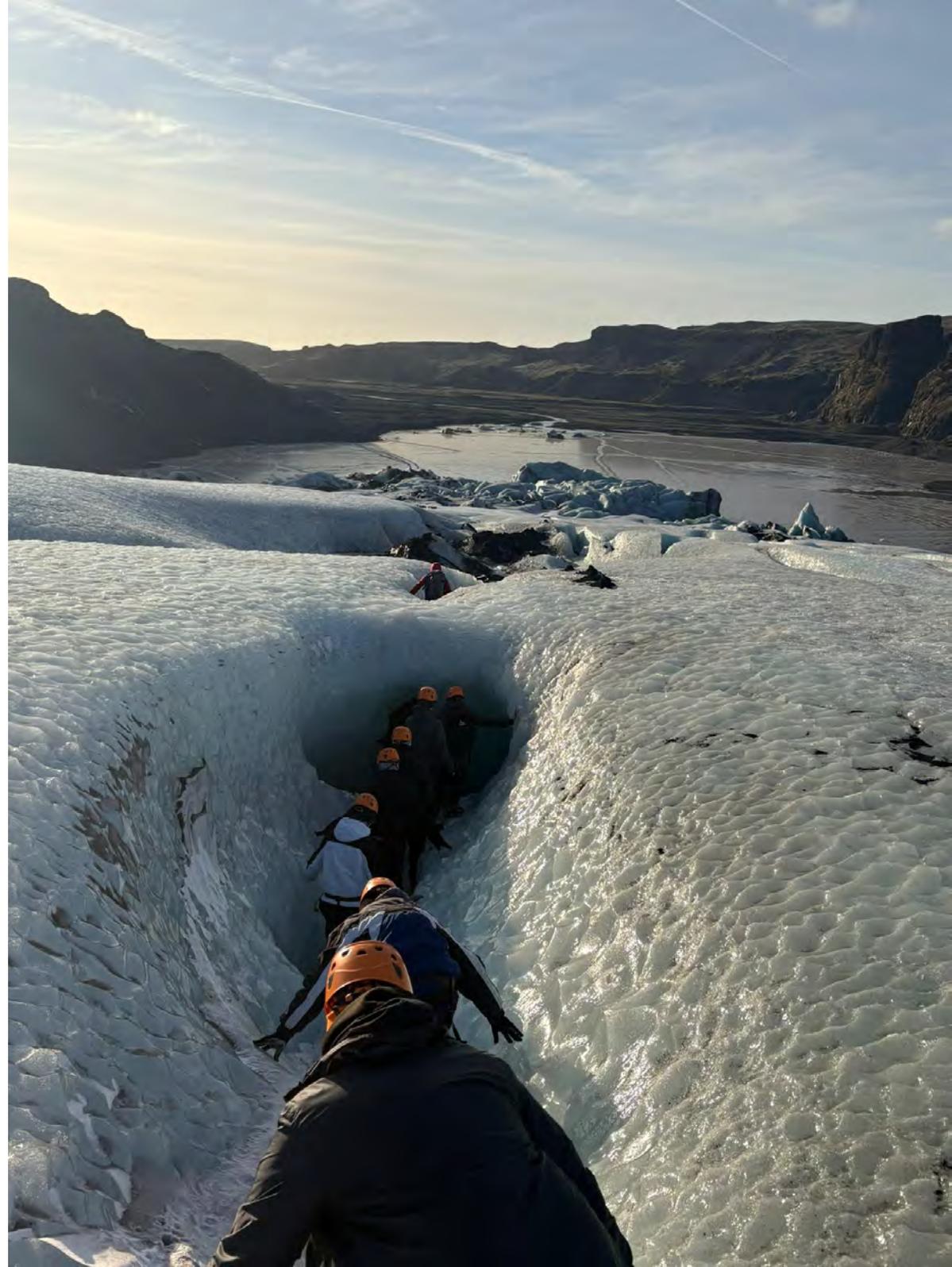
In addition, students were immersed into the land of fire with a focus on volcanoes. Students visited a lava field and went into an old lava tunnel where they could see the different minerals in the rocks as well as climbed up craters of active volcanoes.

Whilst exploring the 'Golden Circle' students waited with anticipation to see 'Old Faithful' Geysir and its the large steam eruption. Before battling the storm force winds to see, the powerful Gullfoss waterfall showcasing the raw force of glacial rivers and exploring the Pingvellir national park (one of the most

important geological sites in Iceland where the rift between the Eurasian and North American plate is most obvious). Iceland is home to massive glaciers covering about 8% of the country. Students were able to hike across the magnificent glacier exploring features looking at the carbon storage and ice crevasses. A highlight of the trip for many!

We were most fortunate that the Northern Lights came and danced across our sky not just the one night but every night! Students had a fantastic time and we are so looking forward to going back next year!

Written by Miss. Powell



STUDENT FEATURE

WRITTEN BY ARCHIE, YEAR 13

I will not deny that I have been on a lot of brilliant school trips during my 7 years at this school, from fun on the beach in Barmouth last summer to a camping trip in Year 9. However, there is no denying that our trip to Iceland last month, beats them all by a million miles. Despite the early start, staffs immediate enthusiasm was evident and extremely inviting, and despite the challenges of tiredness and airport security that never faded.

Upon arrival in Iceland there was one thing which stuck out, the absolutely staggering scenery around us. Our action-packed visit began with us immediately jumping on the coach ready to explore the unimaginable sites around us, such as volcanic craters, gaps between tectonic plates and lava tunnels, things we would never be able to in this country.

After a surprisingly good night's sleep, the second day in Iceland kicked off with an absolute cracker, with us taking to the Secret Lagoon. This was a totally unique experience, with extremely warm water mixed with freezing cold winds creating a weird sensation unlike anything else. Our journey continued with a trip to a magnificent landform, which comprised of multiple waterfalls layering down to a enormous partially frozen river. We also visited an ice cream factory, where we ate ice cream whilst being able to see through, walked around exploding geezers, and went to the bridge between continents.



Despite all of the highs of the trip up to this point, the highest came on Day 3 of 4. We began by going to a Lava Experience, where we looked at real volcanic rocks, felt what it would feel like to have an earthquake underneath you, and finished off with some fantastic sightseeing on the roof of the building. We then visited a magnificent waterfall, so large that from 10 foot away you felt its spray. A visit to the coast then followed, where we witnessed the extraordinary coastline, and then sat and had a picnic looking down on this landscape.

What followed was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience, where we climbed a glacier, not a sentence I expected to ever say in my lifetime. In our groups, we began by learning about some of the history of the glacier and how it has changed, before we put on our crampons, and hiked! This was extraordinary, the views alone were spectacular, and we even got to stand, with a harness of course, on the edge of a giant hole in the glacier.

Then came the sad day where our trip was coming to an end. We first packed up and left our accommodation, before heading off a Geothermal plant. This gave a fascinating insight into the way Iceland as a largely sustainable country make their energy, through a presentation with one of their staff, and then looking around the plant, where we could see some of the machinery through the glass.

The final stop on our trip was the capital city of Iceland, Reykjavik. We walked through the city, across the rainbow road, visited souvenir shops where I was able to purchase my holiday tradition of a christmas decoration, and explore what the city has to offer, and see the contrast between cities in the UK and Iceland.

I have to say, if I could do that Iceland trip for a constant 365 days a year I would. It was more than just a school trip, it was an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life and that is thanks to the wonderful people in Iceland, and the hard-work that all of our staff put into it, let alone Miss Powell, who organised this trip and has allowed us this experience.

Archie Friend, Kingsmead School



LEARNING AND TEACHING

At Kingsmead, we are always looking for ways to provide our students with the very best education and that begins with high-quality teaching.

This term, we have been focusing on adaptive teaching. All students work towards the same ambitious goals, while teachers carefully adjust the level of support or challenge to ensure every child can succeed. Lessons are responsive and flexible, with teachers regularly checking understanding and adapting their approach in real time so that all students are both supported and challenged.

This can look different across subjects. For example, in Music lessons, students may be working on the same piece while receiving personalised feedback to develop specific skills, whether that is improving rhythm, accuracy, or more advanced techniques.

A key part of this approach is the use of regular check-ins during lessons. Teachers use questioning, mini whiteboards, and quick quizzes to assess how students are progressing. Where needed, they revisit learning immediately to ensure understanding is secure before moving on.

Alongside this, our teachers are continually developing their own practice. A major part of this is the TALIT (Teaching and Learning Innovation Teams) programme. This initiative provides opportunities for staff to visit one another's classrooms, share best practice, and learn collaboratively. Teachers have particularly valued seeing effective strategies in action, such as consistent classroom routines, strong questioning techniques, and the use of tools like mini whiteboards to engage all students.

We are already seeing the positive impact of this work in the classroom. It is helping to create calm, purposeful environments where students are engaged, supported, and challenged to achieve their best. We are also continuing to develop how we stretch all learners and encourage greater independence.

At Kingsmead, we firmly believe that when teachers continue to learn, students benefit the most. We are proud of the positive and supportive learning environment we are building together.

Written by Mr. Shakespeare and Mr. Summers



CAREERS

Spring might have consisted of 2 shorter half-terms, however in Careers, we are bursting at the seams with events and activities.

National Apprenticeship Week kicked off an impactful and successful term. With over 700 apprenticeship standards that exist, it proves to be a popular pathway for when students leave Kingsmead and therefore, we want to ensure that our students are well-prepared, as we have with Alice in Year 11, who has made it through the rounds and has been accepted onto the Airbus apprenticeship scheme. Well done Alice!



Year 10 have been a key focus on this term, having both the Aim Higher evening and Mock Interview day. It was wonderful to see so many parents at Aim Higher, attending a wide range of workshops to support their child's post-16 and post-18 options, meanwhile students shone like the stars they are during their mock interviews. Mrs. Kendall, Mr. Laird and the team have been blown away by the feedback, with lots of XP distributed.

We look forward to the summer term, in which Year 7s will head to West Midlands Safari Park on a combined Geography, Science and Careers trip, as part of the new modern work experience whilst Year 9 will head to a university, enabling them to see what higher education is all about, ready to begin the next stage of their learning.

We wish our Year 11 and Year 13 students all the very best as they prepare for exams, with hope that their results will allow them to continue onto their chosen pathway in Autumn.

National Careers Week saw curriculum subjects putting even more emphasis on the different careers their subject could lead to with the help of different websites and platforms. Our most recommended platform for students is Unifrog, allowing students to see which careers link with their subjects, and exploring hundreds of different career profiles. Students from Year 9 upwards already have accounts, and we plan to roll this out to Year 7 and Year 8 in the coming months. Parents can also create accounts – please refer to the letter sent on MCAS for further information.

The Sports Hall became a bustling hub of universities, employers, education providers and professionals at our Careers Fayre. Feedback from both students, parents and volunteers was fantastic and the day proved to be useful for all.

Written by Mrs. Kendall

HIGHFLYERS

As always, our Highflyers have been busy this term and have been involved in some exciting trips and activities. Here is a taster of what they have been up to.

Year 8 Highflyers

Our Y8 highflyers have taken part in CSI day. During this drop-down day students worked together as teams to complete a criminal investigation case. They developed their research and forensic skills by analysing finger and footprints to



decipher which of our three suspects was guilty. Then students completed a Criminology session, where they learnt about the setting and roles of a court room. They worked collaboratively to develop interview questions and conducted witness statements. In the final session all students took part in a court case, where our main suspect was put on trial.

Our highflyers were excellent whether they were a prosecutor, defence, newspaper report or part of the jury. Demonstrating their resilience and employability skills. Students also took part in an assembly that focused on future aspirations, where they learnt about what is a Russell Group and what qualifications and soft skills required.

Year 9 Highflyers

Since January, our Year 9 Highflyers have been busy preparing for their next big step – choosing their GCSE options. They have taken part in a session on options choices and future pathways, helping them to think carefully about their interests, strengths, and future ambitions. This has been supported by a series of assemblies from Heads of Department, giving students a clear and engaging insight into what each subject offers at GCSE.

One of the highlights was a fantastic engineering session led by a mechanical seismic engineer, where students learned how earthquakes affect buildings and how engineers design structures to keep people safe. He also shared his work with Bristol University, discussing the benefits of university, including Russell Group pathways, as well as alternative routes such as degree apprenticeships.

Students also explored the wide range of careers within engineering and the different pathways into these roles, helping them make more informed choices as part of their GCSE options process.

It has been a really valuable and inspiring start to the year, and we are proud of how thoughtfully our Highflyers are approaching their futures.

Year 10 Highflyers

Selected Year 10 Highflyers travelled to University College Oxford this term where they were lucky enough to attend a lecture on women in History by former Kingsmead student, Cara. Students also got a lovely 3 course lunch in the historical college Hall before having a tour of the College itself.

All of the Highflyers attended a meeting where we discussed future plans focusing on Russell Group destinations and promoted the Futures Fayre which they were personally invited to attend. Year 11 is fast approaching for the Year 10 High Flyers so our focus on careers and the future has never been more important for them.

We look forward to seeing all the fantastic things our Highflyers get up to for the rest of the year!

Written by Mrs. Greenwood



ATTENDANCE



At Kingsmead School, we are committed to ensuring that every student has the best possible opportunity to succeed. One of the most important factors in achieving this is excellent attendance.

Why Attendance Matters

Every lesson counts. Missing school means missing vital learning, and this quickly adds up:

- **90% attendance = 1 day missed every 2 weeks**
- **85% attendance = nearly 1 day missed every week**
- Students with attendance below 90% are classed as **persistently absent**

Research shows that students with high attendance:

- Achieve better exam results
- Build stronger friendships
- Develop resilience and routines for future success

Our Current Focus

During the Summer term, we are focusing on:

- Improving attendance for all year groups
- Reducing persistent absence
- Supporting students who are finding it difficult to attend regularly



- We are also placing particular emphasis on attendance towards the end of the week, ensuring that Fridays remain a full and purposeful learning day.

How We Support Your Child

We recognise that there can be genuine barriers to attendance. We offer:

- Pastoral support through Progress Leads
- Attendance mentoring and check-ins
- Access to external support services where needed
- Individual attendance plans for students requiring additional support

What We Expect from Parents/Carers

We ask all parents and carers to:

- Ensure your child attends school every day and on time
- Avoid term-time holidays wherever possible
- Contact the school on the first day of absence
- Work with us to address any attendance concerns

Attendance and Rewards

We believe in celebrating success. This term we will be offering:

- Rewards for 100% attendance
- Recognition for most improved attendance
- Year group competitions and incentives

A Shared Responsibility

Good attendance is a partnership between school, students and families. By working together, we can ensure every student reaches their full potential.

If you have any concerns or would like support, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Thank you for your continued support.

THE SPORTS REPORT

Year 8 boys have had a fantastic showing at the Cannock & District Handball Tournament!

They've worked incredibly hard over the past 18 months and really demonstrated their skill and teamwork on court. Their dedication to training and the handball club is brilliant to see – well done, lads, we're proud of you!



The U15 girls football team played a district game against Chase Terrace this week and won 2-0 with goals from Frankie and Olivia. The whole team battled hard, showing skill and determination to overcome the challenges posed by the opposition. A great performance. Well done!

U13 County Cup Rugby – what a day at Stafford RUFC!

Despite a tough start, with three losses and a draw placing us in tier 4, the boys dug deep, learnt quickly, and sharpened their tactics with every game. Their hard work paid off as they went unbeaten in the tier 4 fixtures, earning them the title of tier 4 winners. Considering their limited experience, the squad

showed outstanding resilience, teamwork, and determination from the first whistle to the last - a brilliant achievement and something they should be incredibly proud of.





The U14 girls' football team played in the quarter final of the County Cup this week away at Ormiston Horizon Academy. This was a challenging match as the girls adapted to the sand based astro turf but their determination shone through and they made the opposition fight for every ball. Even though the result didn't go their way on this occasion with a 3-1 win for Ormiston they should be proud of the effort shown and overall performance.



Well done to our Year 8 netball team who attended their district tournament this week. They won all 3 games in their group to come out on top and go through to the semi-final. The semi-final was a close game against Friary which ended in a narrow 3-1 loss. They displayed some excellent netball, and we are very proud of the season that they have had. Well done girls!

The Year 7 boys' football team made the most of a glorious spring evening in a game against a tenacious Chase Terrace side. The only frustration of the evening? Having too much talent to choose from and being limited to playing just nine at a time! With so much skill, energy and enthusiasm on display, both on the pitch and from those eagerly waiting on the touchline — it was a challenge to contain their excitement. A brilliant performance all round. Well done, lads!



What a day for our Year 7 rugby lads at the County Tournament hosted by Stafford Rugby Club!



After an impressive morning session, the squad earned their place in Tier 2 out of 4 — a fantastic achievement that reflects just how far they've come. Facing tough competition throughout the afternoon, the lads showed real grit, in some very powerful, yet, interesting ways.

What makes this even more special? For the majority of the squad, this was their very first taste of competitive rugby. To perform at this level on debut is something to be incredibly proud of.



The U13 girls' football team played against The Hart School this week in a highly competitive game. Both teams were physically strong on the ball and demonstrated creativity around the pitch. After going 1-0 down before half time the girls persevered and were eventually rewarded with a goal from Lacey in the second half producing a final result of 1-1. A great all round team performance.

A fantastic team display saw us beat King Edward's this week in the District Cup, 3-0, with Joe taking the spotlight thanks to his hat-trick and well-deserved Man of the Match. The work rate, cohesion, and attitude from every player were very positive.

Massive thanks to the year group for their incredible support from the sidelines - the noise, encouragement, and celebrations made all the difference and created a fantastic atmosphere.

Well done, boys - onto the next round!



Year 9 boys have put in an outstanding performance at the Cannock & District Handball Tournament!

Their energy, focus, and teamwork were clear to see throughout the competition. The commitment they've shown to training and improving their game over the past 2 years has really paid off. Fantastic effort from everyone involved, well done lads!



The Year 7 rugby team travelled to King Edward's School, Lichfield, to take part in the annual District 7s Tournament. Despite their limited experience, the boys displayed outstanding resilience and a strong eagerness to learn. They finished third overall, narrowly missing out on a higher placing.

Our U13 handball squad travelled to De Ferrers Academy in Burton for the England Handball National School qualifiers and we took two teams. Both teams went unbeaten all day and saved the drama for the very end, drawing 6-6 when they faced each other in the final game. As a result, both teams have qualified for the regional finals. We couldn't be prouder of their work rate, attitude, and togetherness on and off the court.



The U16 girls football team played Blessed William Howard in the semi-final of the county cup this term. The conditions were difficult but the girls remained focused and played with endeavour. They took the lead quite early in the first half and remained dominant, although challenged by the opposition, throughout most of the game. This resulted in a 10-0 win. Goals from Aiyarin (5), Frankie (2), Sophie (2) and Roxy (1). A fantastic team performance!

Congratulations to our Year 10 football team on an outstanding 5-0 win against Great Wyrley! Joe L bagged a brace before Jaden B put the icing on the cake with an impressive hat-trick in the second half.

A superb team display — well done to everyone involved!



Year 9 netball team ended their season by attending the District Tournament. They played some excellent netball and ended with one win, one draw and two losses, just missing out on a place in the semi-finals. Well done girls on another great year of netball!





Kingsmead School