



PARENTAL NEWS BULLETIN

Issue 16 Monday 13th January 2025

HEADLINE NOTICES

House Excellence Award



Sejus Toussaint-O'Neill, Year 13 has been nominated for the House Excellence award by the Drama department.

'Sejus is exceptionally talented, yet incredibly humble. His performance in *Les Misérables* showed his skill while also helping others shine. Whether on stage or in the classroom, he is always ready to support his peers and encourage their success.

His positive attitude, trustworthiness, and ability to take direction make him a joy to work with. Sejus puts others first and truly brings out the best in those around him. He is a valuable member of any team, and his contributions are greatly appreciated! Well done Sejus!

Curriculum Coffee Mornings



Our next scheduled parental Coffee morning is due to take place for Year 11 parents on Friday 17th January between 11.30am & 1.15pm. These events are a great opportunity to meet staff and learn more about the curriculum for each year group.

Parents who are interested in attending, must register via the link sent separately by email. We hope to see you there. Please contact Mrs Chaudhary, Deputy Headteacher via sca@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk with any queries.

WINTER MUSIC CONCERTS

Please be reminded that last of the Winter Concerts will take place on

Thursday 23rd January

Steel Pans: All groups

All Students perform at 5pm

For any enquiries please email:

musiclessons@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

THEME OF THE WEEK

Respect

'To be well respected, you must first be respectful to others.'

WORD OF THE WEEK

Conflagration

A large fire extending to many objects, or over a large space a general burning.

'The conflagration spread quickly becoming extremely dangerous.'

SCHOOL NEWS

Local Community Event Notice
South Multi-Ward Meeting
Monday 13th January 2025



Please note the next South Multi-Ward meeting is happening on Monday 13th January 2025 between 6 & 9pm at The Kingswood Arts, Seeley Drive, Kingswood Estate, London, SE21 8QN.

The agenda will include Community Safety, Southwark Council Budget 2025/26 and Project Pitch & Funding Workshop - focusing on applications that have been submitted to the Cleaner Greener Safer, Devolved Highways and Neighbourhoods Funds 2025/26.

During the project pitch, applicants will be given 2 - 3 minutes to pitch their project/ideas to local councillors in breakout areas.

Decisions will be announced at the next South multi ward meeting in March 2025.



MUSIC NEWS

Music Scholars Concerts

During November and December 2024, the Mary Graham School of Music hosted a series of exciting concerts with all of our music scholars, GCSE and A Level students invited to perform.

The concerts were a resounding success with a high standard of performance across all instruments and singing styles. The Music department would like to thank all attendees for joining us to support the incredible talent we have at the school, alongside the staff who have helped stage the events and perhaps most importantly, the peripatetic music staff who prepared the students to perform so well.

A massive congratulations go to all the performers who entertained and enthralled us throughout the darkening Autumnal evenings.





CAREER NEWS

Careers Talk – Careers in Medicine for Year 8 & 10 Students
Tuesday 14th January, CR1, Period 4 (12pm)

We've all been to the doctor or into hospital, but have you ever thought about the day-to-day experiences of the people who care for you? Medicine is a varied and vital profession which combines challenge and reward like few other jobs. Students who would like to find more about how to get into medicine and the types of day-to-day experiences people in the medical profession have, are invited to come to this careers talk on Tuesday 14th January.



Students should attend **CR1 at the start of Period 4 with their lunch**. If they would like to get a school lunch slightly early, they should come to the Humanities office during PM registration on Monday 13th to get a slip. Students can sign up using the form [here](#), or can e-mail Ms Markes directly on dms@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Trinity College Oxford - Beyond the Classroom Online Academic Enrichment Programme Returns in 2025!

What? This online after-school academic enrichment programme is back for 2025 and will feature a new series of mini lectures, 'Oxplore' taster sessions, academic skills talks and advice about preparing for university study and submitting a competitive application to university and the University of Oxford. A certificate of participation from Trinity College, Oxford, will be issued for those attending 7 or more sessions! Plus there is an extension programme for students in Year 12 considering applying to study one of the 19 subjects Trinity College admits for study at the University of Oxford. The Extension Programme includes a free one night, two day residential taking place at Trinity College on the 10-11th April 2025, a mini tutorial in a chosen subject area, access to the library, free time for revision and private study to explore the subject in more detail and meet other participants on the programme. Throughout the year, students are also supported with suggested reading and other materials, take online mini tutorials and will receive additional support with their Oxford application.

Who? Any state school student in Years 7 to 12 interested in exploring learning across a broad range of themes and cross subject beyond the classroom and/or applying to Oxford.

When? Beginning 5th March until 9th July 2025

Where? Online via Teams

Links:

Students can sign up to Beyond the Classroom now and anytime up to 8th July by completing the [Registration Form](#). The Year 12 deadline for applying for this extension programme is 5th March. **Please follow this link to see what other opportunities Oxford have on offer:**

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/increasing-access/events-calendar>

Careers Talks 2025

We still have a range of careers talks coming up this year – details below
Please do sign up [here](#) if interested.

Any student who has signed up will receive an email and should note that the talk is during their lunchtime so they should bring a packed lunch or can get a slip to be released 10 minutes early from their lesson.

Careers Talks Programme

Medicine
Years 8 & 10
14th January 2025 at 12 noon (*date changed*)

Business: Vodaphone Customer Success Mar ge
Energy Investment Banking (ex-students,
Years 9, 12 & 13
28th January 2025 at 1pm

Apprenticeships: Red Carnation Hotels
Years 8 & 10
11th February 2025 at 12 noon

Neuroscience
Years 8 & 10
4th March 2025 at 12 noon

Data Centres
Years 9, 12 & 13
11th March 2025 at 1pm

Medicine Information Session
Year 12
12th March 2025 during enrichment

Architecture
Years 8 & 10
18th March 2025 at 12 noon

Law Information Session
Year 12
7th May 2025 during enrichment

Charity Sector: Amnesty International
(focus on data)
Year Groups TBC
13th May 2025

Health Economics
Year Groups TBC
6th June 2025

Humanitarian & Development Aid
Year Groups TBC
24th June 2025



Later in the year, we plan to offer talks on the following careers amongst others: economics, journalism; theatre hair & make-up, humanitarian & development aid, law, architecture, neuroscience; and information about apprenticeships.

Details of these will be sent nearer the time.

Kingsdale Careers Programme 2024-25 Volunteers Invited!

Parents! We still need your help to support our careers programme for 2024-25!

If you think you would be able to support us with any of our careers programme, including the lunchtime talks, the Careers Fair, or in any other capacity, please contact us via the email below.

careers@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

SPORTS NEWS

Yeatman Girls Kent County Cross Country Champs

Congratulations to the Yeatman girls who ran in the Kent County Cross Country Championship at the weekend.

Celia Yeatman, Year 10, came 3rd and her team, the Cambridge Harriers, were 1st in the Under-15s Girls' category.

Seren Yeatman, Year 8 came 6th and Esther Yeatman, Year 8, came 11th in the Under-13 Girls' competition and their team also placed 1st in the Under-13 Girls' team overall.

Well done girls!



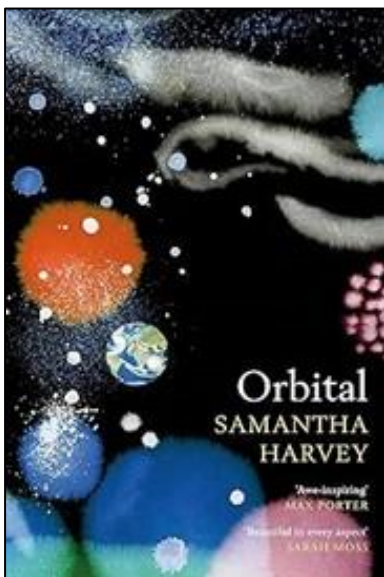
*KFS disclaimer. Please be advised
Match reports produced and
presented by student reporters.*

KINGSDALE SPRING TERM READING CHALLENGE

Spring Nature

SUBMIT HAND-WRITTEN BOOK REVIEWS TO
ENG. DEPT,

WIN BOOK TOKENS AND OTHER PRIZES!



Student Recommendation
Blythe Bell-Lawrance,
Year 8 recommends
Orbital
by Samantha Harvey.

Life on our planet as you've never seen it before: in this spellbinding and uplifting novel, six astronauts rotate in the International Space Station. They are there to do vital work, but slowly

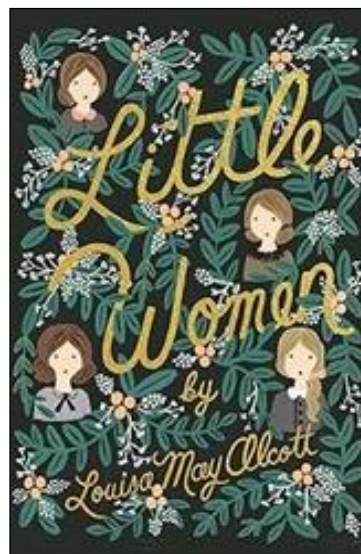
they begin to wonder: what is life without earth? What is earth without humanity?

Together they watch their silent blue planet, circling it sixteen times, spinning past continents, and cycling through seasons, taking in glaciers and deserts, the peaks of mountains and the swells of oceans. Endless shows of spectacular beauty witnessed in a single day. Yet although separated from the world they cannot escape its constant pull. News reaches them of the death of a mother, and with it comes thoughts of returning home.

Blythe really enjoyed the depiction of earth and the lives of astronauts!

Suitable for all age groups!

Reading Recommendations



Teacher Recommendation
Over the festive period, Mr Drysdale read and now heartily recommends
Little Women
by Louisa May Alcott.

Grown-up Meg, tomboyish Jo, timid Beth and precocious Amy. The four March sisters couldn't be more different. But with their father

away at war and their mother working to support the family, they have to rely on one another.

Whether they're putting on a play, forming a secret society, or celebrating Christmas, there's one thing they can't help wondering: Will Father return home safely?

Mr Drysdale adored the characters and the depiction of Christmas!

Best suited for students in Year 9 and over.



Big History Club!

For Key Stage 3 and 4 in HU6
Every other Tuesday from 4.15 to 5pm

Do you want to dive into the past?

Is there something we don't cover at school that you would like to learn about?

In Big History Club we use history and fiction books, films, art, music and more to **enquire into diverse World Histories** from ancient times to modern day.

Join us on **Tuesday 14th January** for our first session of 2025, when we will **zoom in on a history a little closer to home...** in a session led by one of our super Year 7s.

Bring along any questions you have about this topic, or ideas for people, events or items from history you want to know more about in future sessions!



CALENDAR 2024-25



You can also find lots of other useful sources of information on the school website [here](#). This includes further details about the operation of the school, including Term Dates, Assessment and Uniform.

Should you have any suggestions for additions to our website, please contact Mr Karp, via email tkp@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

For further information on term & holiday dates, please contact the Attendance Team via attendance@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

SPRING TERM 2025

Friday 3rd January INSET DAY

School closed to students except those in Year 11

First Spring Half-Term

Friday 3rd January – Friday 14th February

Half-Term Holiday

Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February

Second Spring Half-Term

Monday 24th February – Friday 4th April

SUMMER TERM 2025

First Summer Half-Term

Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 23rd May

Tuesday 22nd April INSET DAY

School closed to students except those in Year 11

Mayday Bank Holiday

Monday 5th May 2025

Half-Term Holiday

Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

Second Summer Half Term

Monday 2nd June – Friday 25th July

Friday 25th July INSET DAY

School closed to students except by invitation

SEND: Going to University



We want all our students at Kingsdale to have the opportunity to do what makes them happy and successful. For some students that means going on to university after Sixth Form. This presents different challenges for students with SEND and we would like to offer some guidance and support for parents thinking about university.

When a young person with an EHC plan takes up a place in higher education, their EHC plan ceases. Once the young person's place has been confirmed at the HEI (Higher Education Institution), the local authority must, with the young person's permission, pass a copy of their EHC plan to the relevant person in the HEI.

In 2013, Trailblazers, a group of young disabled campaigners from across the UK, published its second University Challenge report highlighting the challenges for young disabled people in gaining access to higher education. As part of its report, Trailblazers offered some advice on making a smooth transition to higher education, aimed at young disabled people considering going to university. The following advice below is based on the report.

Choosing a course

Your child should choose a university based on what they think is the best course for them. Most subjects can be studied by anyone with the qualifications, skills, and dedication

- Research courses extensively. Start your research early – one or two years in advance. The sooner your child knows what they want to do, the more time they have to get a good understanding of the facilities at their top choices.
- Familiarise yourself and your child with the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and with university websites and prospectuses. Each website should have information on the support services available, including disability services.

Interviews

If your child is invited to an interview at a university, be sure to inform the institution of any special arrangements that you require. The interview provides an opportunity for your child to discuss and ask questions about the adaptations and support that they might need to study successfully.

Access

- Visit as many of your child's shortlisted universities as possible. They might want to go on a general visit with their peers first before making a second visit to universities they really like. Have a good look round and make a list of any concerns to discuss with relevant staff. If you can't visit or if you need more information, ring and ask questions.
- Make appointments with course tutors and the university's disability support team to talk through your list of concerns. Every university should have a disability support unit to help liaise with the academic and accommodation departments whenever accessibility is an issue. The disability support team should offer to take you on a guided tour of the academic rooms, leisure facilities and accommodation – make the most of such opportunities. Ask what services are available, such as notetaking in lectures.
- Under the Equality Act 2010, universities and colleges must make reasonable adjustments to their premises to make them more user friendly for disabled students. Universities have to ensure that lecture halls, student unions, libraries, ICT suites and halls of residence are accessible. Once your child has their place, get hold of their timetable so that they can make sure that they can access all of the lecture theatres or seminar rooms.
- Visit the DisabledGo website, which has carried out detailed surveys of the facilities and support available at many UK universities – www.disabledgo.com/
- If your child needs adaptations to be made to kitchens or communal areas, speak to a member of the disability team as early as possible, so that adaptations can be in place when they arrive.

Accommodation

Your child will need to decide whether they would rather stay at home, on campus or off campus.

- If they decide that they want to stay in university accommodation, investigate the range and size of the rooms available and see as many as you can before selecting one.
- Make a list of all the equipment they might need in their room, kitchen and communal areas and let the university accommodation and disability teams know.
- If your child needs adaptations to be made to kitchens or communal areas, speak to a member of the disability team as early as possible, so that adaptations can be in place when they arrive.

SEND FACULTY NEWS



Financial support – Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)

- DSA is paid on top of other student finance. You don't have to pay it back. The amount your child receives depends on their individual needs, not on household income.
- Your child is eligible for DSA if they have a disability or long-term health condition, a mental health condition or a specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia or dyspraxia.
- Your child must also be an undergraduate or postgraduate student, qualify for student finance from Student Finance England (SFE), be studying on a course that lasts at least a year and have a condition that affects their ability to study.
- DSA can help with the costs of: specialist equipment, for example computer software, non-medical helpers, for example notetakers or readers, extra travel costs that you incur because of your disability, other costs, for example photocopying.
- You can apply for a form to claim DSA when your child applies to UCAS and fills in the main student finance application. On the form your child will need to provide information about their disability, how it affects their study and the support they will need. Fill in the form as soon as possible, as processing applications can take some time.
- Once eligibility for DSA is confirmed, SFE will ask your child to attend an assessment centre to work out what help they will need. Following the assessment, you will get a report listing the equipment and other support they can get for their course.

Clearing

Like all students, students with additional needs who don't get the grades they need for their preferred university can either take a year out or go through clearing.

- If your child has complex needs, it may be challenging to get the funding, support and adaptations that your child requires set up in time; however, going through clearing is not impossible.
- Where universities are already highly accessible, clearing may be easier.
- Make contact with the disabilities team at universities that have potential, and find out about the support that the university can offer in the short- and longer-term.
- Be realistic – gauge whether it is possible for essential adaptations to be made at short notice.
- Be prepared – have information about your child's DSA and needs assessment ready.



Find out more

Several organisations have produced guidance to support transition for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, including:

- **The National Autistic Society's toolkit: Starting college or university:** <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/transitions/england/starting-college-or-university>
- **Dyslexia at university:** <https://www.dyslexiauk.co.uk/dyslexia-at-university/>
- **British Dyslexia Association:** <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/news/university-and-dyslexia>
- **Education beyond 16:** <https://contact.org.uk/help-for-families/information-advice-services/education-learning/education-beyond-16/>

SEND FACULTY NEWS cont.

New Year: Focus On SEND Staff Development Training



As part of our INSET day training on Friday 3rd January, all staff were offered sessions delivered by our specialist on different areas of SEND.

Session 1 was delivered by Ms Francis, one of our SEND Consultants. This session was titled '**Assess, Plan, Do and Review**' and was based around how teachers can best implement and support the graduated approach when working with young people with SEND.



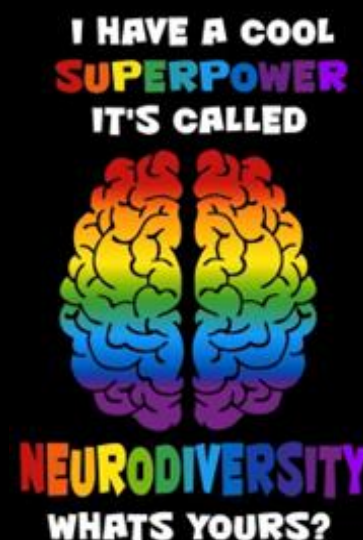
Session 2 was delivered by Ms Jarada, our SENDCo. This session was titled '**Understanding and Embracing Neurodiversity: Practical Support for Students with Autism**'. The aims of this session were to understand what neurodiversity and autism are, to learn about the strengths and challenges of autistic students, for teachers to explore practical strategies for supporting autistic students in the classroom and to encourage an inclusive and supportive school environment.

Session 3 was delivered by Ms Thorn, our Assistant SENDCo. This session was titled '**Understanding Challenging Behaviour**'. The aims of this session were to look at restorative approaches and to equip teachers with strategies to support behaviour by creating trusting relationships with the students they teach.

Session 4 was delivered by Ms Dadkhah, one of our SEND Consultants. This session was titled '**Understanding and Supporting Attention and Concentration**'. The aims of this session were to discuss the changes in attention and concentration and the external influences and to support teacher in improving attention and concentration in the classroom by discussing how to create a conducive learning environment, how to implement effective teaching techniques, how to promote active student engagement and how to enhance self-regulation skills.

CELEBRATING NEURODIVERSITY IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

We know that being neurodiverse is a SUPER power, but does everyone? We are asking our staff, students and parents to share with us what it is like to be neurodiverse or to have neurodiverse people in your family and why it is amazing! We will then share this with the school community. This could be a short video clip or a short piece of writing with or without images. If this is something you or your child would be interested in participating in then please contact me directly here: gsh@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk



Communication Flowchart: SEND

At Kingsdale we would like our communication to be as effective as possible. Please see the flowchart below to help us support your child effectively and get the information needed to the right people.

Is your query about a specific teacher or subject area?

Contact the teacher directly: 'teacher code' @kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk
Contact the HOD for the subject: 'subject; @kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Is your query about support outside of the classroom?
An annual review or progress review meeting?
Advice on learning strategies to use at home?
Advice on a diagnosis?

Contact the SEND department directly: senco@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Is your query about a behaviour incident?
A friendship issue?
Any other pastoral issue?

Contact the HOL (Head of Learning) for your child's year group:
year7hol@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk
year8hol@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk
year9hol@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk
year10hol@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk
year11hol@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk
year12hol@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk
year13hol@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Is your query about supplying additional information about your child for staff?

Contact the SEND admin department directly: sendadmin@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk
assistantsenco@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Is your query about exam access arrangements?

Contact the exam team directly: accessarrangements@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Is your query about provision for a looked after child (LAC)?

Contact the LAC team directly: ofu@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

None of the above?

Please send us anything you think other parents would find useful and we can either share it here or we could even publish it on our website!

The School Shop

A reminder that our School Shop is now open during the school day to enable students to purchase a range of useful items that they might need. This includes stationary and uniform items; all of which can be purchased using their school fob. The School Shop is located in the main Atrium nearest to the green stairs.



Lost Property

We are still receiving a large number of items that have been mislaid or lost by students.

In many cases, these items are unlabelled, making it very hard for them to be quickly and successfully reunited with their owners! Please can we ask parents to label all items of their children's property at school, including water bottles, blazers and coats.

Lost property queries can be directed to lostproperty@kingsdale.southwark.school.uk

Ways we communicate with Parents and students



We communicate with students & parents via:

Student & Parent Email

Please ensure we have your correct email and mobile phone contact details. Students should also be regularly accessing their student email accounts.

MS Teams

Used to share schoolwork, assignments and files.

Twitter/Website

You can find us at @kingsdalefs. Our website at: www.kingsdalefoundationschool.org.uk

SatchelOne (previously SMHW)

Used to share homework details and other school news via the Notice Board feature with students and parents. Login [here](#).

MyEd app

Downloaded for free at:

<https://www.myedschoolapp.com/>

This app provides a range of useful info for parents.

SCHOOL NEWS



KFS Uniform Bank

Our uniform is a key part of our identity and as such we are able to help parents and carers in providing quality uniform items. Sadly, the cost of living is still rising and some families are finding it a challenge to cover all bases in bringing up a family. There is also the negative environmental impact in design and disposal within the clothing industry to consider. Kingsdale community families can acquire cleaned and sanitised pre-worn uniform blazers (Belmont Dry Cleaners in Croxted Road have been most generous with their time and costing in this matter) and other items, dependent on availability, at a much, reduced rate.

The Uniform Bank will also be open between 3.45pm and 4.45pm each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please, always check for availability of items prior to making a purchase. This is a rolling programme that continues throughout the entire academic year and as such we are always looking for donations. Please leave washed and folded clothes at the main Reception area. Items of uniform will be available at other times of the year depending on supply. If you would like to help in any way please make yourself known to the team.

If you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact: Mr Lewis at jls@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk



If you are worried someone's drinking or drug use is affecting your child, we're here to help.



We help children and young people to cope with difficult family situations and feel stronger in themselves.

You can speak to us on 0203 404 7699
or email Southwark.YoungPeople@cgl.org.uk

Free Workshops for Parents and Carers

Do you want more guidance on how to talk to your children, teens and young people about vaping, alcohol or drugs? Do you want to be informed on the current themes and trends we come across working with young people in the borough?

Substances are more accessible today than ever before. For parents, carers or anyone responsible for children and young people, it can feel overwhelming and difficult to know how to respond.

We're offering FREE online workshops for parents and carers in Southwark, to give advice and guidance to help you navigate this quickly changing landscape.



We'll cover:

- Current trends amongst young people
- Strategies for talking to young people about substances in an open and supportive way
- Practical advice on how to keep your children safe from the dangers of substance misuse



For further information contact:

- Email: Southwark.YoungPeople@cgl.org.uk or scan the QR code for a direct link to the eventbrite page.
- You can call us on: **020 3404 7699**

SCAN ME



Talking to your child about

SHARING IMAGES ONLINE

For children and young people, socialising online is part of normal life. Chatting online and sending messages, photos and videos can be a good way of strengthening friendships. Sometimes, however, they can misjudge boundaries and may not realise the impact of their actions.

They can also be manipulated or pressured by others into sending inappropriate content, such as nude or semi-nude images. These can be sent for reasons including humour, shock-value, revenge or exploring bodies and relationships. Once images are shared, they can't be retrieved, leaving them vulnerable in many ways.

Having conversations with your child at an early age about what is and isn't ok to create and share can help keep them safe.



What can you do to keep your child safe online?

S

Set clear boundaries.

Agree with your child what they can do online and their access to certain apps/websites.

T

Talk with your child and be supportive.

Listen to what they already know so you can start a conversation about what normal use is.

E

Educate everyone in the family.

Make sure all family members know what isn't appropriate and how to stay safe online.

E

Evolve with the internet.

Keep up to date with technology used by your child and their features such as smartphones, VR headsets etc.

R

Research, review and regulate the apps and websites your child uses. This will allow you to decide whether they should use them and how to keep them safe online.



Prosecutions of children are very rare but there can be legal consequences to sharing nude or semi-nude imagery of a child (photos, cartoons or other picture formats), even if the person doing so is a child. If you think your child has shared an inappropriate image, speak to an advisor at the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP). Details below.



FOR SUPPORT AND ADVICE, PLEASE VISIT:



ParentZone – Resources for parents/children to help keep kids safe online.



CEOP Education from the National Crime Agency – Advice, information and resources to use with your child to help keep them safer from online child sexual abuse.



Internet Matters – Comprehensive resources and expert guidance to help parents/carers keep their children safe online.



A safe space for teenagers worried about sexual behaviour

Our new website for young people with concerns about their own or someone else's sexual thoughts and behaviour.



shospace.org.uk

Why Shore?

- It is one of the only resources of its kind in the world, designed specifically for young people with concerns about sexual behaviour
- It has reliable information to get anonymous help if they or a friend has acted harmfully online

SCHOOL NEWS

Safe Travel to School

At school, we have shared the key messages about keeping safe with the students. Some of the key messages are outlined below:

“LOOK UP LOOK OUT”

- **BE AWARE** of your surroundings.
- **BE AWARE** when using your mobile phone.
- Know your route home.
- Keep to busy roads.
- Try to be with other people.
- If someone tries to stop you keep walking.
- **SHOUT** for help and make **NOISE**.
- If anything happens speak to a trusted adult as soon as you can.
- **RUN HIDE TELL**.
- There is no right or wrong response as each situation is different but remember that **YOUR SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT**. Only **YOU** can assess the risk.
- Possessions are replaceable, but **you are not**.

Your child must contact the Police immediately on 999 if they are concerned about their safety or if they are the victim of a mugging/attempted mugging.

Students and Parents should also inform the school so that we can offer pastoral support and liaise with our Safer Schools Officer – PC Crampton.

Please contact Mr Harding via dhg@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk with any queries.



Kingsdale is a Safe Space

We would like to take this opportunity to once again remind students and their families of our two confidential emails which are operational both during and outside of school hours.

This provision is available for any member of our school community wishing to seek advice, discuss any matters relating to mental health & well-being or report an incident or concern confidentially via email.

We appreciate that students, parents, carers or guardians may wish to speak to someone outside of school hours or may wish to disclose an incident or concern confidentially or anonymously.

Our two confidential emails are:

health&wellbeing@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk
tellsomeone@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Please contact **Ms V Turner** for further information regarding this provision or any matters relating to mental health & well-being at Kingsdale School.

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

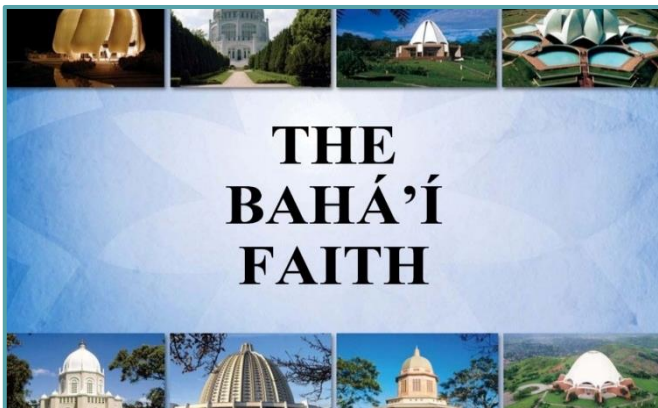
World Religion Day



World Religion Day is observed annually on the third Sunday of January. In 2025, it will be celebrated on 19th January. The day aims to foster understanding and peace among religions by encouraging people to learn about different faiths and their followers.

The observance was initiated by members of the Bahá'í faith, which emphasises the shared characteristics of all religions and advocates for their equal respect. Bahá'ís believe in the existence of one God, known by various names across different religions. They also uphold the principle of equality, asserting that all humans are born equal and entitled to the same rights, regardless of their faith.

For centuries, religious groups have often been in conflict, overlooking their shared values. World Religion Day encourages peaceful dialogue and mutual understanding to build harmony among diverse faiths.



STUDENT TASK: Symbols are used to raise awareness about charities, events, and services like recycling and hospitals. Design your own symbol to promote World Religion Day and raise awareness of working together to make the world a better place.

SUBMISSION: Submit your symbol to the House Team: housesystem@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk
Ensure your entry is accompanied by your full name, tutor group and House.

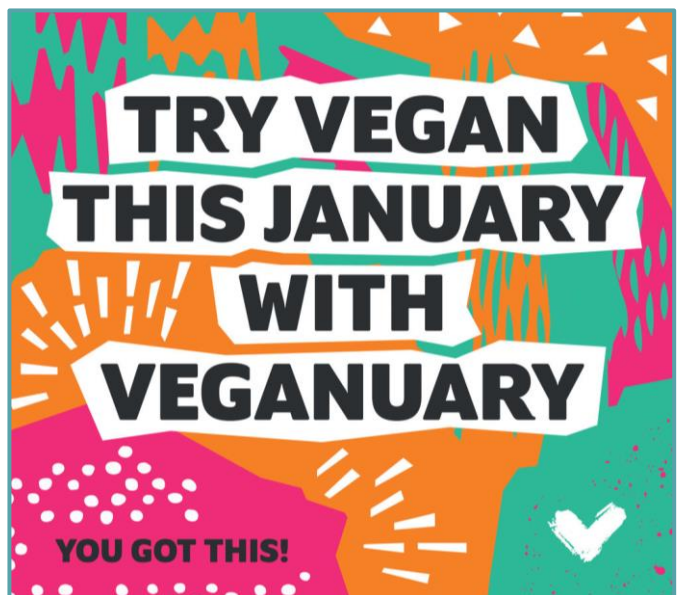


Kingsdale Cooking Challenge: Veganuary

It's the start of the new year which means a very important event has come around – Veganuary! It's a time when lots of people challenge themselves to try to eat a plant-based diet throughout the month of January.

The House Team want students to unlock your individual culinary skills by stepping up to the **Vegan Cooking Challenge**. You can use a recipe from the internet or invent your own. Please send us a picture and a short description of how you made your dish. The best-looking dishes will win valuable points for your house.

Don't forget to get permission from your parents or carers and have appropriate supervision in the kitchen.



STUDENT HOUSE ACTIVITY:

Submit your dish and recipe to the House Team: housesystem@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk
Ensure your entry is accompanied by your full name, tutor group and House.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact; this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREENTIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the Internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/justalk-kids>



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SPORTS FIXTURES



HOUSE NEWS

Online Safety Corner

For this week's Online Safety focus, we are looking at everything Parents/Carers need to know about 'JusTalk Kids'. Get a greater insight here.

Please read! Remember to keep an open dialogue with your child about their activities online. **See page 16 above.**

Monday 13th January 2025

- Under-14s Boys' Football B Team Home Match v Forest School. Leave School at 1pm. Start 2pm. Return at 5pm approx.: **Mr Foster**



Tuesday 14th January 2025

- Under-16s Boys' Hockey Away Match v Kingston Grammar Boys' School. Leave School at 1pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 5.30pm approx.: **Mr Pizzey/Mr Price**



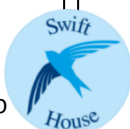
Wednesday 15th January 2025

- Under-16s Boys' Rugby Festival at Brigstock Road. Leave School at 12 noon. Start 1pm. Return at 5pm approx.: **Mr McWhirter**



Thursday 16th January 2025

- Under-14s Girls' Football Home Match v Bishop Thomas Grant School at Burgess Park. Leave School at 1pm. Start 2pm. Return at 5pm approx.: **Mr Jones**



Friday 17th January 2025

- No Planned Fixtures/Events.

* **PLEASE NOTE** Some Fixtures/Events may be cancelled due to the weather.

Extra Fixtures may be organised at short notice.

All fixtures can be viewed via the link below:

<http://www.kingsdaleschoolsports.org.uk>



The House Leader Board 2024-25

**Week ending
10th January 2025**

- 1st Place** – Dove 48,152 points
- 2nd Place** – Swift 46,948 points
- 3rd Place** – Falcon 45,159 points
- 4th Place** – Albatross 44,943 points
- 5th Place** – Eagle 44,447 points



There is plenty of time left to catch Dove House, but have they got what it takes to stay ahead?

Student Suggestion Boxes

To promote our well-established and highly effective Student Voice programme, there are suggestion boxes, which are located outside of the Attendance Office in the Main Atrium and the Office of The Headteacher at the bottom of the Green Stairs.

Please encourage your child to use this facility to make suggestions about how we can continue to improve our provision.



Remember!

You can access the school's Extra Curricular Sports page via clicking the following link here.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Turner at pe@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk should you require any further information regarding the KFS sports programme.