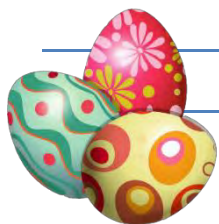




PARENTAL NEWS BULLETIN

Issue 26 Monday 31st March 2025

HEADLINE NOTICES



Easter Break

Please be reminded that the Spring term concludes on **Friday 4th April 2025**. Further details have been circulated separately.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a restful break and look forward to seeing the students back for the new Summer term!

The Summer Term 2025 will commence on Tuesday 22nd April 2025 for selected Year 11 students (invitation only) and on Wednesday 25th April 2025 for all other students at the usual times. Parents can find full details regarding school and holiday dates for the 2024-25 & 2025-26 academic years on our website [here](#).

Non-Uniform Day

We are excited to announce that the **last day of term, Friday 4th April 2025**, will be a **non-uniform day**.

As part of this tradition, we kindly ask for a £1 donation at the school gates. All proceeds will go towards supporting our nominated House Charities.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all joyful and relaxing Easter break.



House Excellence Award

James Belletty, Year 11, has been nominated for the House Excellence Award by the Languages Department. James has made impressive progress in French. He has done so much work this year, leading to him achieving a substantially higher grade. His hard work and determination are certainly now paying off!

Well done James, we appreciate all your hard work!

Last call for Kingsdale Pond Dig!

Last call for volunteers to help to bring the Kingsdale pond vision to life on **Thursday 3rd April**.

If your child would like to take part, please encourage them to sign up by contacting Mr Hayward, Head of Science at jhd@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk



HAPPY EASTER

THEME OF THE WEEK

Easter

'The highest act of love is the giving of the best gift, and if necessary, at the greatest cost, to the least deserving.'

WORD OF THE WEEK

Inadvertently

Without intention; accidentally

'The text was edited in a way that inadvertently changed its meaning.'

SCHOOL NEWS

London Marathon Sponsorship

On Sunday 27th April, Mr Uddin will be taking on the challenge of running the London Marathon to raise money for Alzheimer's Research UK. This cause is very close to his heart, and he would be truly grateful for any support you can offer. If you would like to donate to this amazing charity, please click the link below to visit the fundraising page:

http://2025tcs londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/joshim-uddin?utm_source=enthuse

'When I hit the wall (likely around the 32km mark!), knowing your donations and encouragement are behind me will give me the strength to keep going and cross that finish line.'

*Thank you so much for your support.
Mr Uddin*

Careers Fair 2025 has finally arrived!

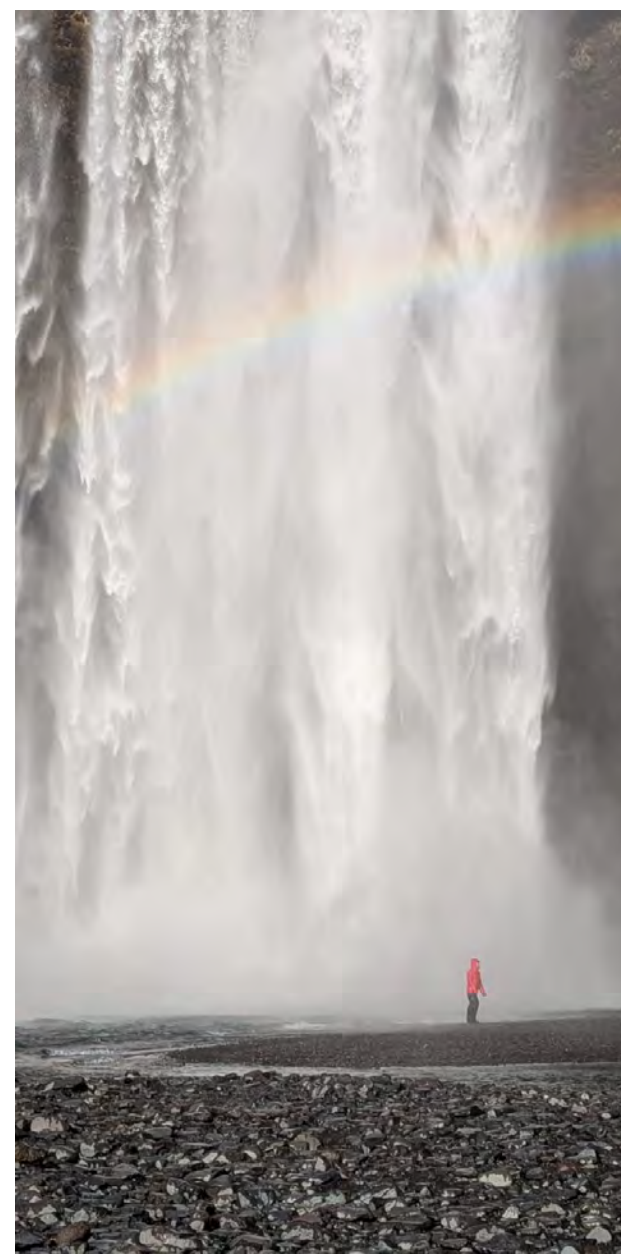
We're so excited the Careers Fair will be taking place on Wednesday 2nd April!

We want all of our students to have the opportunity to have meaningful conversations but that will depend on you being proactive and confident - so plan ahead and make the most of it!

If you have any queries please e-mail careers@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

ICELAND





GEOGRAPHY NEWS

Year 9 Geography Trip to Iceland: An Epic Adventure Through Fire, Ice, and Water!

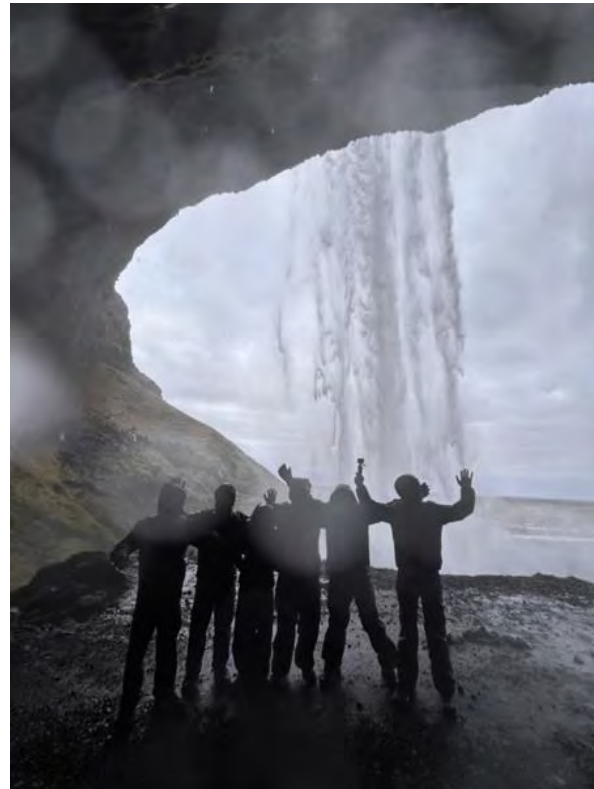
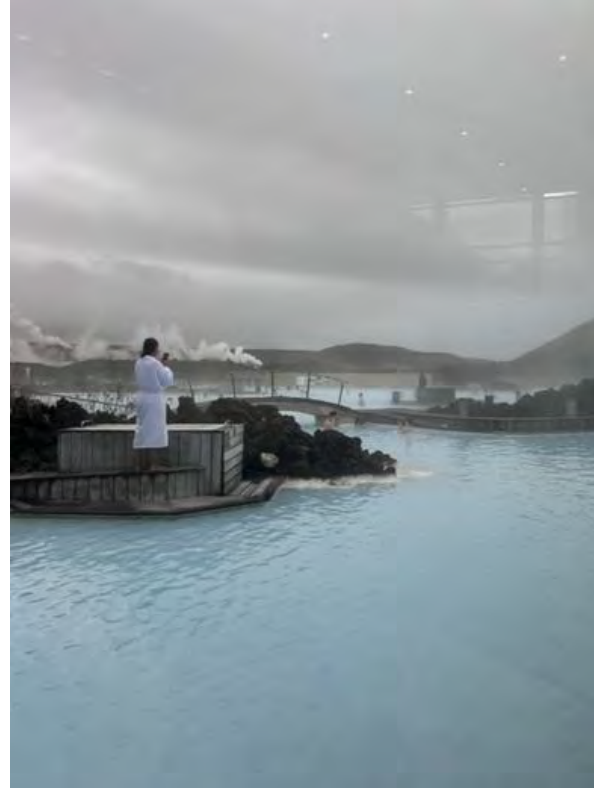
Our Year 9 geography students had the adventure of a lifetime in Iceland earlier this month, where the earth's raw power and beauty were on full display! From towering geysers to roaring waterfalls, glaciers, and active volcanoes, this trip was the ultimate hands-on geography lesson—bringing our classroom studies to life in the most exciting way possible!

The journey kicked off with the mind-blowing **Strokkur Geyser**, erupting every 10-15 minutes with hot water blasting 30 metres into the air—an unforgettable demonstration of Iceland's geothermal activity. Students then explored the **Hellisheidi Geothermal Plant**, seeing how the island uses this natural energy to power homes and industries—showing just how vital geography is in understanding our sustainable future.

The trip continued with stunning landscapes that left everyone speechless. From the thundering **Skogafoss Waterfall** to the retreating **Solheimajokull Glacier**, students saw firsthand the forces of erosion and climate change at work. The **Gullfoss Waterfall** and **Vik's black sand beaches** highlighted the dramatic effects of water and volcanic activity on the land, while a visit to the **Fagradalsfjall Volcano**, still active from its 2021 eruption, brought the earth's fiery power into sharp focus.

We wrapped up in Reykjavik, soaking in the city's culture and architecture before heading to the **Blue Lagoon** for a well-earned dip in the rejuvenating geothermal waters.

This trip was a thrilling reminder of why studying geography is so crucial. It's not just about maps and facts—it's about understanding the forces that shape our world and seeing them in action. Iceland truly brought our lessons to life, inspiring our students with the power and beauty of the planet!



Artwork by Margaux Glipa
A Level Textiles



Art & Design Exhibition

Wednesday 9th July 2025

5pm – 8pm



KINGSDALE
FOUNDATION SCHOOL

SE21 8SQ

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

National Primary and Secondary Dance Finals Winners!

On Wednesday 26th March, 51 KFS Dance students had an early start, meeting at school at 5.30am in order to make their way to the National Primary and Secondary Dance Finals.

This competition is open to schools that competed in 24/25 Dance Competitions and placed in the Top 10. Kingsdale was one of the schools that made it through!

We arrived in Milton Keynes at 9.30am and were surprised to find that other schools were already practising inside the venue. Everyone took part in the Street Dance Foundations Workshop, and watched a video on the works that UDOIT are involved in with schools.

Suddenly, the time had come for the competition to start...

The primary schools started the proceedings. It was amazing to watch the dance skills of these young children. Congratulations to Woodcroft Primary School who won this category.

This was followed by the Junior Street Dance Competition. The Kingsdale team performed brilliantly. Their hard work shone through in their outstanding moves, timing and teamwork. The Key Stage 3 Street Dance team came 1st which was very much deserved as their performance was amazing.

Up next was Senior Street Dance. The team worked extremely well together and were not intimidated by the other performers. Their outstanding display was rewarded by also coming 1st in the Senior Street Dance Finals.

Finally, it was the All-Styles Competition. You can perform any style of dance in this heat and Kingsdale chose to perform a fantastic contemporary piece. Our year 7 & 8 dancers did fantastically well, placing 1st in the Key Stage 3 All Styles Finals.

Our teams performed incredibly well and were a real credit to the school. We are so very proud of all the commitment all the dancers, in all year groups, have continuously shown throughout the year and continue to do so. Well done!!!

Street Dance Workshop at Trinity Laban

On Tuesday 25th March, our Year 7s & Year 8s had the opportunity to take part in a Street Dance Workshop at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire Of Music and Dance.

Our students were pushed to new limits - sweating and learning new styles in street dance - they were all exhausted tired after the workshop.

The students managed to impress Trinity Laban so much that an invitation has been extended to our Year 9 & 10s to attend another workshop in May.

We would like to thank all the parents and carers for their continued support of the Dance department at Kingsdale.

We are looking forward to Kingsdale's Dance Showcase later in the year where all the dancers will have the opportunity to take part in. Watch this space!





SIXTH FORM NEWS

Philosophy Trip to Cambridge

Year 12 and 13 Philosophers were treated to a day in sunny Cambridge last week. They were fortunate to hear ex-Kingsdale student and Cambridge Philosophy academic Will Hornett and his colleagues give lectures on topics related to the A Level Philosophy course.

Students particularly enjoyed lectures on topics such as 'Can machines have minds?' and 'Consequentialism and the trolley problem'.

It was insightful having an experience of university-style lectures and students were able to get a taste of Cambridge as a university.

With thanks to Mr Ljoka and Mr George for accompanying the students.

'The series of lectures in Cambridge were so good, engaging and educational. I'm certain it has greatly benefitted my A Level journey.'

Olivia, Year 12

'It was pretty fun; I thought the content was interesting and gave me a taster of university life. It was interactive, which felt personal, despite there being so many people there.'

Amalia, Year 12



DEBATING NEWS

Model United Nations (MUN) Competition at JAGS

Last week saw students participate in our termly MUN competition at JAGS with schools in the local area. Students on this occasion represented Vietnam, Brazil, Kenya and Russia across a variety of committees. Students gave a fantastic account of themselves as usual, with Aminah Bisette receiving a commendation for her contribution to her committee. A big well done too goes to Chloe Jenkins, Eleanor Green, Julian Miller and Theo Macey who participated in their first ever conference.

We look forward to participating in competitions next term and beyond. Well done all!



SCHOOL NEWS

Reading Age Check

As many of you will know, we regularly check and compare progress on our students' reading ages.

All students in Years 7 to 10 will therefore shortly be emailed a link to an online reading test.

This is an adaptive test, which starts with questions aimed at the actual age group and then moves on to more difficult/easier according to answers given already, to ensure that the maximum reading age is determined.

The test will have to be completed by the end of the Easter Holidays.

Should you experience any problems in accessing this test at home, please contact us via our email

exams@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk so that we can timetable a slot to do it in school.



SPORTS NEWS

Volleyball and Basketball Fixtures Updates

Under-13s Mixed Volleyball

Kingsdale v Haberdashers' Hatcham

Final score: Kingsdale 2-1 Haberdashers

Player of the Match: Loren Lawrence

Under-15s Mixed Volleyball

Kingsdale v Haberdashers' Hatcham

Final score: Kingsdale 2-1 Haberdashers

Player of the Match: Ashni Woodfield

Under-16s Mixed Volleyball

Kingsdale v Harris Lipham

Final score: Kingsdale 2-0 Harris Lipham

Player of the Match: Sid Bailey

Under-14s Basketball

Kingsdale v Bishop Thomas Grant

Final Score: Kingsdale 52-49 BTG

Player of the Match: Dylan Ameen

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

Crystal Palace Triathlon Update

There is a wonderful triathlon opportunity taking place at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre on **Sunday 11th May 2025**. Crystal Palace Triathletes is a local club formed over 30 years ago where the famous, former Kingsdale student, Alex Yee (Olympic God Medalist) trained and competed! For more details about the competition please go to the website [here](#).



SAVE THE DATE 9TH JULY 2025!

Art & Design Exhibition
Wednesday 9th July 2025
5pm - 8pm

SE21 8SQ

As our Year 11 and 13 Art, Photography, Graphics and Textiles students prepare to take their practical exams after the Easter holiday, here is an opportunity to save the date of our Summer Art & Design exhibition.

Make sure the date is in your diary as we will be celebrating all the incredible work our students have produced over the last two years.

We will be displaying GCSE and A Level outcomes, as well as their beautiful sketchbooks, and also work by our Year 9 students, our Year 7 & 8 Art, Textiles, Photography and Graphic Scholars along with work by D&T.

Please come along, and bring family and friends, to enjoy an evening of Art, music and refreshments provided by our wonderful Food Science students.

YO COMICS!



ZINE FAIR

Last Sunday, Kingsdale Year 7 Digital Explorer and Graphics club students ran a stall at Yo Comics! Zine Fair at Stanley Arts Norwood. Students were selling their zines and graffiti outcomes, with the customised dollar bills being the big seller of the day! Thank you to everyone who attended the event and supported our stall. We made an amazing £150 which will be invested back into the clubs!



Silver Arts Award

Annabella Almasi, Year 8, wrote a review of an exhibition she visited as a part of her Silver Arts Award.

Haegue Yang

Leap Year

9 Oct 2024
5 Jan 2025

HAYWARD GALLERY

Annabella Almasi
article by

"A World of inventive, immersive and multisensory installations and sculptures that weave connections between disparate histories, cultures and traditions!"
~Hayward Gallery

I highly suggest for people to go and see Haegue Yang's work, her art is very diverse and incredibly detailed. She is an excellent artist!

Pictures taken by Annabella Almasi and Arts Awards students. Picture above is of all part takers of this event for Arts Awards!

The Intermediates

One of the most eye-catching parts of the exhibition were the group of intricate series of anthropomorphic sculptures, made out of straw, plants, feathers, seaweed and other parts which were artificially made. These great works of art are the Intermediates! All the parts of the sculptures were individually made with every single part of them even the plants and seaweed were made by humans ensuring that the Korean style weaving shall stay in tact, embracing the themes of traditional dances and rituals.

OPINIONS

There were two main groups of basketry exhibits and they became my absolute favourites of them all. It really interests me that someone could make such a beautiful, detailed piece of art that looks so strange yet amazing but it also has a story meaning.

Some of Yang's sculptures draw on global weaving practices and folk traditions. These colourful naturally dyed rattan sculptures were created in collaboration with local artisans in the Philippines and utilise the basic weaving technique rolled rinding, where a single wicker is woven onto a sculptural frame.

AMAZED!

These sculptures really attracted me to them, their colours, their positions, shapes. Truly magical artist is Ms Yang.

Exhibition-Start

I truly love and admire Yang's work because she can make everyday thoughts, objects and images into something completely different yet visually pleasing.

Another hidden element in Haegue Yang's exhibition is that she decorated the floor with patterns inspired by weather maps, perhaps suggesting that the pieces are moved by powers beyond their control. In my opinion using the floor has created an extra dimension and a new exhibit to unravel as well, fascinating idea!

At the beginning of the exhibition there was a room with an open space from which you could see nearly all the segments of the exhibition with one glance.

Inside this room was the huge Sonic Rescue Rope. An interactive piece made of thousands of tiny silver bells which would rattle in unison.

Yang has incorporated drying racks into her pieces since 2006. She considers these a metaphor for daily life. Whilst they are typically folded up and hidden she has changed them into delicate sculptures, performing hard balancing acts!

This work of art on the left really caught my attention, its diverse colours and unique frame work and interesting patterns really made me love it.

Fantastic

These two glowing lamp like sculptures were really interesting, they are made out of paper, plastic, led lights ect. As they slowly and gently spin the perspective changes with the art, each angle was a new version of it's bright, colourful floral beauty.

I enjoyed my time at Hayward Gallery, Haegue Yang's exhibition really made me re-think how to perceive and make art. She varied so many cultures, styles, arts and made it work.

Haegue Yang has created works of art from pieces of vegetables such as lettuce leaves to make symmetrical views such as the one on the left.

There was this particular self initiated faction of the exhibition called 'Sodong 30' which featured objects like drying racks, ovens, pieces and light fixtures which were all later further developed as recurring motifs. I found these little and big pieces very abstract and alive. These pieces brought so much history with them yet they are just everyday things.

Lastly, the final exhibit I saw was a exhibit crafted from free radiators and lights placed within them. They were coloured in more saturated pastels and placed around the room to see the exciting way of creation.

At the Leap Year exhibition I saw her 'Venetian blinds', she put colour on them and used them as projection screens. There was a video playing of a film trip she made to the house where she held her first solo exhibition in 2006.

Now!

Invitation

Year 8

Taster Lesson

Hands-on Workshop

Date: Wednesday, 23-04-2025

Time: 4:00 – 5:30

Room: FS2

Register your interest with Ms Leung/Miss Hinds
on or before 21st April 2025

Easter Catch Up

10.00am-2.30pm

Wednesday 9th April

D&T with Ms Koch in TE2
Graphics with Ms Gardiner in TE3

Thursday 10th April

Art, Graphics & Textiles
With Mrs Brocklesby in AR7
Art & Photography with Ms Gregson
in PS1/AR3

D&T with Ms Koch in TE2
Graphics with Ms Rix in TE1

Friday 11th April

D&T with Ms Koch in TE2

Wednesday 16th April

Photography with Ms Wallner in PS1

KNITTING & CROCHET

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

MONDAY - ROOM AR1

FRIDAY - ROOM AR3

3:45 PM - 5:30 PM

ALL SKILL
LEVELS
WELCOME!

TOOLS, MATERIALS &
INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED



ORGANISED BY MR. OLTEAN



Careers Insight Day

London Museum is excited to run a **Careers Insight Day** during May half term. This event will showcase the different jobs in a museum, helping you explore all the exciting opportunities available in this sector.

Come along to take part in workshops, see behind the scenes, get hands-on with our objects and speak to staff about their roles.

When: **Wednesday 28 May 2025, 10am – 4pm**
Where: **London Museum Spaces, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN**

To apply, please complete the form using the link below by **2 May 2025**.



London Museum Careers Insight Day

This event is open to students in Year 10-13 living in one of the London boroughs, and will be a day of workshops and tours held onsite at our (closed to the public) London Wall site, showcasing the range of careers available within a museum and giving students the opportunity to talk to staff from all departments about their roles and career journeys.

There will be interactive workshops with a chance to try out real-life work tasks (such as reconstructing pottery, writing a PR release), tours of our back of house spaces (such as our Conservation and Technicians' labs), and a marketplace event where students can practise their networking skills.

Refreshments, lunch and goody bags will be provided.

Just use the QR code link for the application form which must be completed by:

Friday 2nd May

Alternatively, click [here](#).

We are particularly keen to reach those students who may not have considered a career in heritage, or who are from groups who are under-represented in the museum workforce, including those from Black, Asian or ethnically diverse backgrounds, disabled applicants, or those eligible for free school meals.

Pictured are Kingsdale pupils who took part last year.

LONDON MUSEUM



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Calling all Year 13s interested in a career in the Museum Sector!

The London Museum have a fantastic bursary available to Year 13 students which will provide **£1000** per year of your undergraduate study and the opportunity for two-month summer placements at the London Museum.

Further details are below but if you're at all interested in careers in the museum or heritage sectors, this is for you. For further details please contact Mrs Wiggam or Ms Markes.

LONDON COLLECTION BURSARY

Paid summer student placement and annual £1,000 bursary at London Museum

What is it?

Our London Collection Bursary is designed to open up roles related to collections in museums to people who may not have considered a career in the museum and heritage sector.

The bursary provides one student with:

- An annual £1000 bursary for the duration of your undergraduate studies
- A two-month paid summer placement working within one or more departments of the museum, for each year of your undergraduate studies.



CAREERS AT LONDON MUSEUM

This infographic illustrates the areas of work and types of roles we have at London Museum. We hope it will help people in their early career, those looking to change career or move into the sector to get a better understanding of possible career paths they might choose.

CORE SERVICES

Roles in this area perform key business functions and are found across the majority of organisations meaning that experience and skills are highly transferable

- Human Resources
- Finance • IT • Facilities

COLLECTIONS

Collections based roles work closely with the museum's collection in relation to storage, documentation, movement, story-telling, conservation and display

- Curators • Conservators
- Librarians • Archivists
- Graphic designers
- Gallery technicians
- Registrars • Audience leads
- Exhibition managers

DEVELOPMENT

Roles in this area raise funds that are essential for the museum. This includes fundraising (from people or organisations), thanking supporters, and managing a range of operational functions such as events,

- Fundraising
- Event management
- Project and office management

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

Roles in this area involve running programmes for schools, families and communities across London and beyond

- Schools • Families • Early years
- Community engagement
- Audience research & evaluation
- Online learning

CUSTOMER FACING

Roles in this area interact and communicate directly with our visitors and clients and play a pivotal role in the experiences they have at the museum

- Hosts • Catering • Retail
- Visitor experience managers
- Hospitality • Security
- AV technicians • Call centre
- Photographers • Picture library

TASTER ROLES

These are the different ways you can gain experience, and insight into what we do at the museum

- Volunteering
- Student Placements
- Work Experience

COMMUNICATIONS

Roles in this area raise awareness of the museum and drive visits through the proactive promotion of the museum's activities

- Public relations
- Marketing • Social media
- Brand • CRM

NEW MUSEUM

Roles in this area drive forward the planning and creation of our new museum in West Smithfield. Although a number of departments across the museum feed into new museum work, the new museum team are instrumental in coordinating and mobilising this monumental project

- Project and programme management
- Curation and display
- Architectural and exhibition design and build
- Audience insight and engagement
- Creative programming and partnerships
- Organisational transformation

Kingsdale Careers Fair 2025 2nd April

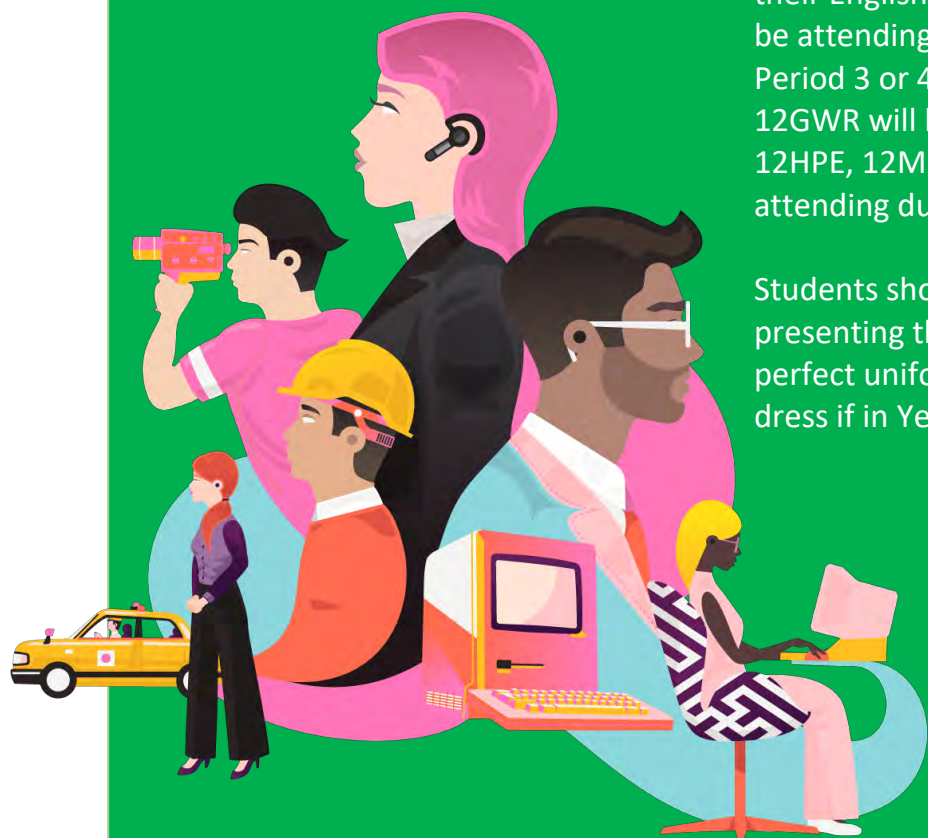
The Careers Fair is upon us and we're very excited! This Wednesday, students in Years 9, 10 and 12 will have the chance to go and talk to a huge range of representatives from different careers and future pathways. We've got people coming from Further and Higher Education as well as people who can talk about Apprenticeships and T Levels. On top of this, we have representatives in fields from everything from Architecture to Venture capital. Students have been preparing for the fair during tutor time and should have received a physical copy of the booklet outlining the different people who will be there (also sent to parents via e-mail).

A reminder that Year 10 will be attending either during their Maths lesson Period 1 or their English lesson Period 2, and Year 9 will be attending during their Maths lesson Period 3 or 4. 12AHN, 12APN, 12DLE, 12EPR, 12GWR will be attending during Period 6 and 12HPE, 12MBC, 12MBG, 12SRX and 12TSS attending during Period 7.

Students should be aware of how they are presenting themselves and should come in perfect uniform or wearing professional dress if in Year 12.

Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to help – we couldn't do it without you.

The Kingsdale Careers Team



CAREER NEWS

National Careers Week 2025

Thank you to all our students, parents/carers and guardians that contributed to the engaging conversations around the many career pathways during National Careers Week.

Continue to explore your passion and what you enjoy most. What are you good at? What do you find easy to do?

These are important questions when it comes to exploring and securing the best career for YOU?

Just in case your child missed Samsung's Live Lesson on Wednesday, you can catch up by watching [here](#).

Careers Talks 2025

A reminder that as well as Apprenticeship week, we have a range of careers talks coming up this year – details below. Students should sign up [here](#) if they are interested.

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

Careers Talks Programme

Business and Entrepreneurship
Years 8 & 10
29th April 2025 at 12.00 noon

Law Information Session
Year 12
7th May 2025 during enrichment

Charity Sector: Amnesty International
Years 8 & 10
13th May 2025 at 12 noon

Wigs & Hair (National Theatre)
Years 9 & 12
20th May 2025 at 1.00pm

Health Economics
Years 9 & 12
6th June 2025 at 1pm

Humanitarian & Development Aid
Years 8 & 10
24th June 2025 at 12 noon

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

What Is It?

Trinity's online after-school academic enrichment programme is back for 2025 and will feature a new series of mini lectures, explore taster sessions, academic skills talks and advice about preparing for university study and submitting a competitive application to university and the University of Oxford specifically.

A certificate of participation from Trinity College, Oxford, for those attending 7 or more sessions, will be provided!

Who Can Participate?

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 Is It?

Beginning 5th March until 9th July 2025.

Where Is It?

Online via Teams.

Students can sign up to Beyond the Classroom now and anytime up to 8th July by completing the [Registration Form](#). They can register at any point before 9th July.

St Anne's Super-Curricular Club

What?

St Anne's Super-curricular Club is a series of online academic taster sessions aimed at Year 12 students who want to broaden their academic interests and gain insight into university-level research and undergraduate-style teaching. Each taster session will be one hour long and will introduce students to our researchers' work, and what this subject area might be like to study at Undergraduate level.

Who?

Year 12 UK state school students who would like to get a taste of their subject at this level and learn from an Oxford University academic.

When

16:00-17:00 from 20th March to 22nd May.

Where

Online

For more details and to sign up, students can access this [booking form](#).



PROPERTY SALE!

Thursday 3rd April from 4.15 until 6PM

IN THE ATRIUM

(next to the Attendance Office)



Come and find your child's missing jumpers, jackets, bottles, and more!

Unclaimed items from the lost property box will be available for a small donation. All proceeds go to the school fund.

PLEASE NOTE:

Any items not collected or purchased by the end of the sale will be donated.

Thank you for supporting our school!

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

**ALL ABILITIES
WELCOME!**

**DRAMA CLUB
YEAR 7 & 8**

THURSDAYS 3:50PM – 4:30PM

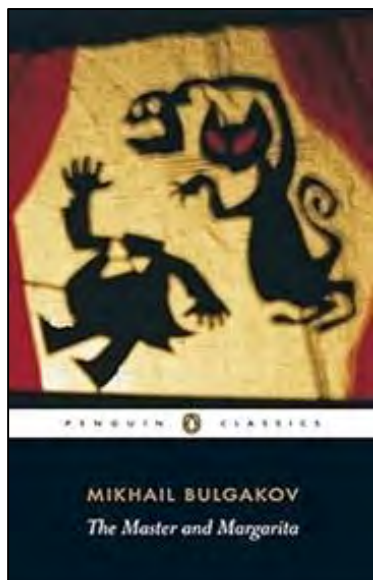
DR1

SPACES LIMITED

COLLECT A LETTER FROM MS HEYBROCK IN THE DRAMA OFFICE

SUBMIT HAND-WRITTEN BOOK REVIEWS TO
ENG. DEPT,
WIN BOOK TOKENS AND OTHER PRIZES!

Teacher Recommendation



Mr Harper recommends
Master and Margarita
 by Mikhail Bulgakov

Bulgakov's carnivalesque satire of Soviet life describes how the Devil, trailing fire and chaos in his wake, weaves himself out of the shadows and into Moscow one Spring afternoon. Brimming with magic and incident, it is full of

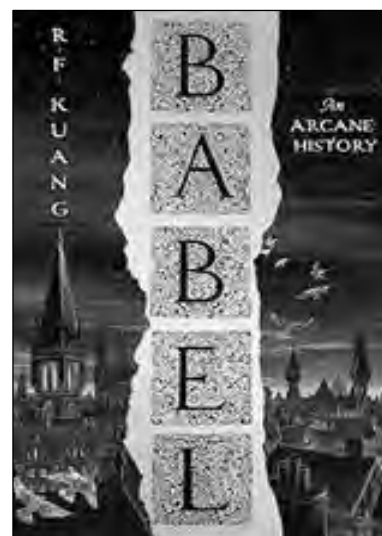
imaginary, historical, terrifying and wonderful characters, from witches, poets and Biblical tyrants to the beautiful, courageous Margarita, who will do anything to save the imprisoned writer she loves.

Mr Harper found the 'novelistic depictions of historical events really amusing' and enjoyed the love story too!

Some challenging writing; best suited for Year 9 and over, but an advanced reader in KS3 may enjoy it too!

Reading Recommendations

Student Recommendation



Rania Bushi, Year 10, recommends
Babel
 by R.F. Kuang
 Oxford, 1836.

The city of dreaming spires.

It is the centre of all knowledge and progress in the world. And at its centre is Babel, the Royal Institute of Translation.

The tower from which all the power of the Empire flows.

Orphaned in Canton and brought to England by a mysterious guardian, Babel seemed like paradise to Robin Swift.

Until it became a prison...

But can a student stand against an empire?

This book has become 'Rania's favourite standalone' (she usually prefers books in series) because the 'plot twists' had her 'shook'.

Some violent scenes; best suited for students in KS4.

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

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 selected invited students from 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

Science Intervention Programme

Parent Bulletin – Science Support Sessions

We invite all students to take advantage of our **Science Support Sessions**! These sessions are becoming increasingly popular, providing an excellent opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of scientific concepts with the help of experienced scientists.

Who is it for?

- Year 11 & Year 13 students who need support in understanding key scientific concepts.
- Any student looking for extra guidance in science subjects.

Why attend?

- A great opportunity to clarify doubts and strengthen subject knowledge.
- A welcoming and supportive environment for learning.

Science Revise & Review Sessions for Year 8 & 9

Need a bit of extra support with science? Want to go over tricky topics or get in some solid revision time?

Our *Science Revise & Review* sessions are running **Every Thursday after school, 4.15–5pm in EN1.**

These sessions are a great chance for students to consolidate their learning, ask questions, and sharpen their understanding in a focused but supportive environment. Whether they're preparing for upcoming assessments or just want to build confidence, all students are welcome to attend. No sign-up required—just turn up ready to learn!

Year 11 – Intervention programme

Date	Combined Science Intervention Programme of Study Every Tuesday			Separate Science (Triple Science) Intervention Programme of Study Every Wednesday	Saturday Sessions
	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Chemistry Sessions/ Physics	
Day/Time	Tuesday 3.45 to 4.45	Tuesday 3.45 to 4.45	Tuesday 3.45 to 4.45	Wednesday 3.45 to 4.45	Saturday Open for all
Room Number	SC – Small Tutoring sessions SC2/SC3/SC4	Small Tutoring sessions SC8/SC10/SC11	Small Tutoring sessions SC1/SC6/ SC7	S11	Online

A Level Intervention Programme

Date	Year 13 Intervention Programme		
	Biology Wednesday / Thursday	Chemistry Wednesday	Physics Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
Day/ Time	Wednesday (6M2) and Thursday 3.45 to 4.45	Every Wednesday 3.45 to 4.45	Every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 3.45 to 4.45
Room Number	SC10	Tutoring sessions	Small Tutoring sessions SL1

SEND FACULTY NEWS

Supporting your child with SEND over the Easter Holidays

Supporting your child with SEND during the Easter holidays in South London, particularly in Southwark and Lambeth, can be fun and engaging with the right activities. Here are some local opportunities 🎉

Local Activities & Holiday Clubs in Southwark

🏠 Endorphins Inclusive Holiday Sessions

📍 Location: Spa School Camberwell

🎨 Activities: Arts & Crafts, Drama, Dance, Inclusive Sports

👤 Support: 1:3 staff-to-child ratio, with some 1:1 spaces available

🔗 [More info here](#)

⚽ SportWorks

📍 Location: Damilola Taylor Centre & Spa Bermondsey

🏀 Activities: Multi-sports, games & social interaction

👤 Age Group: 5-18 years with SEND

🔗 [More info here](#)

🎭 SENSational Short Breaks

📍 Location: Southwark's Children and Family Centres

🎨 Activities: Sensory Play, Outdoor Fun, Easter Crafts

👤 Parent Respite: Enjoy a short break while your child has fun

🔗 [More info here](#)



Fun & Inclusive Activities in Lambeth

🍽️ Lambeth HAF Programme (Holiday Activities & Food)

📅 Dates: Monday 7th - Friday 18th April 2025

🍏 Activities: Cooking classes, sports, drama, Easter games

📄 FREE: healthy meals for eligible children

🔗 [More info here](#)

📁 Pebble Activities Directory

🌟 Find inclusive classes & activities (sports, drama, STEM, and more)

🔗 [Explore here](#)



SEND-Friendly Activities at Home

Not all activities have to be outside—here are some fun, low-cost ideas to keep your child entertained at home:

🎨 Arts & Crafts – Make Easter decorations 🎨

🎵 Music & Dance – Have a mini disco party 🎵

🍪 Simple Cooking – Bake Easter cookies together 🍪

🌳 Nature Walks – Visit local parks for fresh air 🌳

By exploring these inclusive holiday programs and adding some fun home activities, you can create an enriching and enjoyable Easter break for your child with SEND. 🌟

How to Get Your Child to Help with Chores at Home 🏠🌟

Getting your child to help with chores can feel like a challenge, but with the right approach, it can become a positive and even fun experience! Here are some practical tips to encourage your child to take responsibility and help out around the house.

🎮 Turn It Into a Game

🏆 Beat the Clock – Set a timer and challenge them to finish a chore before it goes off ⌚

🎵 Music Motivation – Play their favourite songs while doing chores 🎵

🏆 Points & Rewards – Give points for each completed task that they can trade for rewards 🎁

📋 Make a Chore Chart

A visual chart can help your child know what's expected of them.

Let them choose their own tasks from a list so they feel in control.

📋 Example Chore List:

✅ Monday – Take out the rubbish

✅ Tuesday – Help with laundry

✅ Wednesday – Sweep or vacuum

✅ Thursday – Wash dishes

✅ Friday – Tidy their room

🔗 [Find free printable chore charts online!](#)



💬 Let Them Have a Say

Teens love to feel heard! Instead of assigning chores, ask:

😞 "Which task would you prefer to do?"

😞 "Would you rather do dishes or laundry today?"

Giving them options helps them feel empowered and more willing to help out.



🎁 Offer Small Rewards (But No Bribes!)

Instead of paying for chores, offer natural rewards like:

🌟 Extra screen time

🌟 Choosing the family movie

🌟 A fun snack of their choice

This makes chores feel worthwhile without turning them into a paid job!



👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Do Chores Together

Make chores a family activity instead of a punishment. Try:

🏆 Cleaning races – Who can clean their area the fastest?

👤 Cooking together – Let them help prepare dinner

🛒 Shopping helpers – Have them help with the grocery list

🌟 Praise, Don't Criticise

Instead of saying: ❌ "You missed a spot!"

Try: ✅ "Wow, the kitchen looks great! Thanks for helping!"

Positive reinforcement encourages them to keep helping without feeling discourage





Spring 2025 Newsletter

FACE delivers online support via zoom for parents across the UK
Talks are 90 minutes long, £24 each - Book Online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk



Schools can now buy a
FACE School Annual Membership
which means **ALL** parents and **ALL** staff
get unlimited **FREE** access to **ALL** 16 parent talks

Thursday
24th April
19:00 - 20:00
FREE



Responding to Angry Behaviour
What can we do in the moment?

Tuesday
18th March
10:00 - 11:30
£24



Anxiety Explained
Anxiety, especially in our young is rising.
This session explains what it is, why it happens and how you can help.

Tuesday
3rd April
10:00 - 11:30
£24



Supporting a Child with ADHD
Challenging the stereotypes and giving practical interventions. Clear explanation of the condition in all its forms and extremely useful advice.

Tuesday
3rd April
19:00 - 20:30
£24



Improving Family Communication
How to reduce the shouting and arguing and start the talking.

facefamilyadvice.co.uk

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk



LOCAL OFFER

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

Cygnets Autism Programme

- **Provider:** Southwark's Autism Support Team
- **Description:** A 6-week course aimed at parents and carers of children aged 5-18 with autism. The program focuses on understanding autism, communication strategies, sensory issues, and behaviour management.
- **Details:** Weekly 2.5-hour sessions.
- **Eligibility:** Parents and carers in Southwark with children aged 5-18 diagnosed with autism.
- **Contact:** For upcoming sessions and registration, visit the [Southwark Local Offer website](#). Or click [HERE](#) to register

Parenting Courses and Support Groups

YOUNG MINDS

Mindful Parenting and Mental Health Support

- **YoungMinds Parents Helpline:** Provides confidential advice and resources for parents concerned about their child's mental health.
 - **Mindful Parenting Courses:** Focus on reducing parental stress, improving parent-teen relationships, and fostering emotional intelligence in young people.
 - **The Anna Freud Centre:** Offers resources and training for parents of teenagers struggling with emotional difficulties.
- More information: youngminds.org.uk | annafreud.org

Place2Be Parenting Support

Place2Be, in partnership with local schools and councils, offers an online **Parenting Smart** course aimed at supporting parents of secondary school-aged children.

The course covers:

- Managing teenage emotions and behaviour.
- Setting clear boundaries while maintaining a positive relationship.
- Encouraging emotional well-being and resilience.

More information: place2be.org.uk



Lambeth Parenting Groups

Lambeth Council and local organisations offer parenting programs tailored to support families with older children:

- **Being a Parent – Teen Edition:** A program designed for parents of children aged 11-16, focusing on positive communication, emotional regulation, and strengthening the parent-teen relationship.
- **Triple P (Positive Parenting Program):** Provides practical strategies to help parents manage challenging behaviour, support their child's mental well-being, and encourage positive development.

More information: leaplambeth.org.uk

South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) Support Services

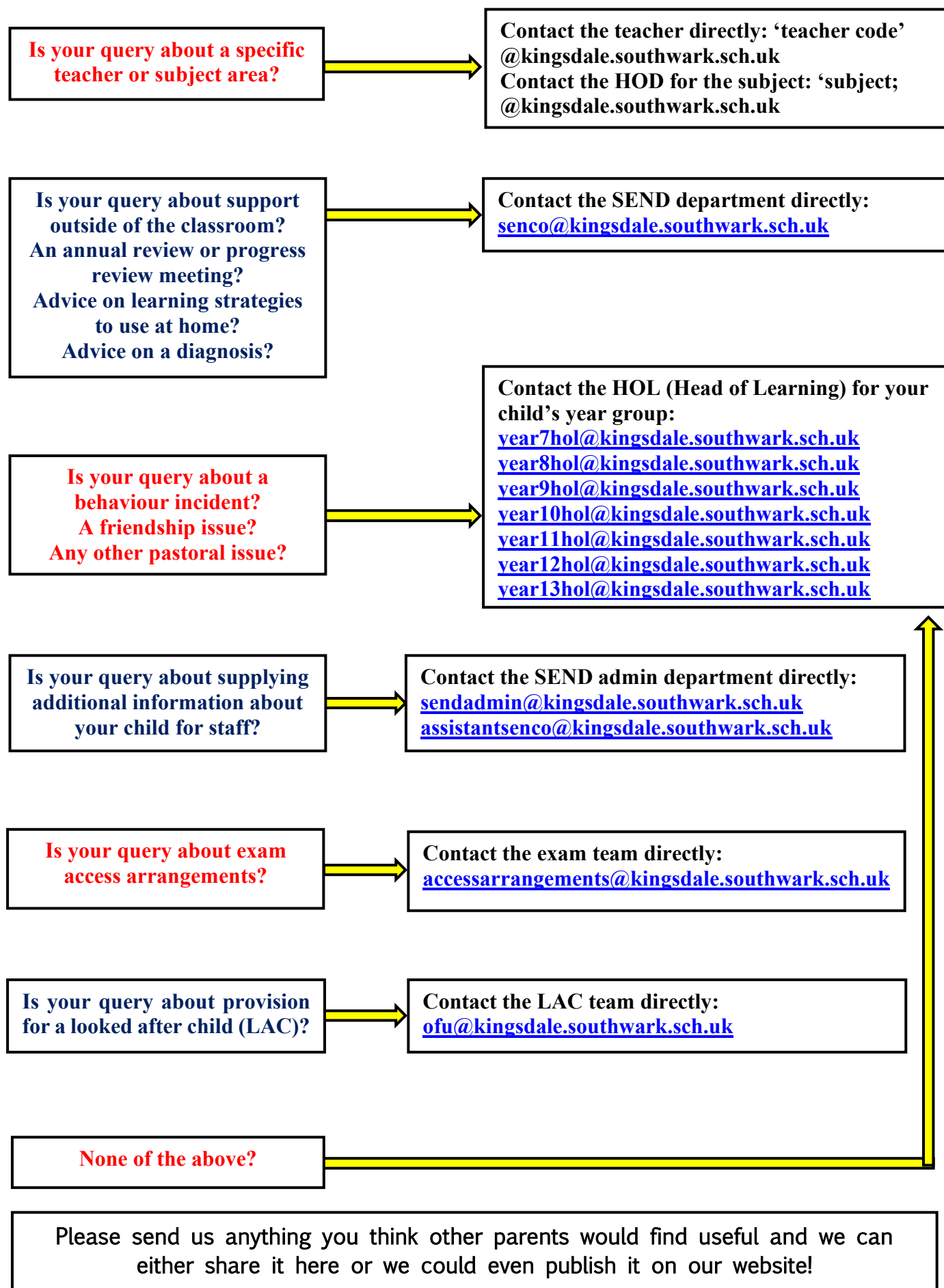
SLaM offers various mental health and emotional well-being services for young people and their families. Programs include:

- **CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services):** Provides professional assessments, therapy, and support for adolescents struggling with emotional and behavioural difficulties.
- **Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC) – Adolescent Focus:** A peer-led initiative offering parents strategies to handle teenage challenges, such as conflict resolution and emotional resilience.

More information: slam.nhs.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.





EASTER CAMP

FREE ENTRY WITH LUNCH

MONDAY 7TH APRIL - FRIDAY 11 APRIL 2025



- ✓ ARTS & CRAFTS
- ✓ COMPUTER GAMES
- ✓ FUN TRIPS
- ✓ BASKETBALL

- ✓ FOOTBALL
- ✓ T-SHIRT MAKING
- ✓ TABLE TENNIS
- ✓ CREATIVE MEDIA

FREE SPACES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN ON FREE SCHOOL MEALS

DEPTFORD CAMP SE8 5TQ | TIME: 10AM - 3PM

More information

07377431926
deptfordlionesses@gmail.com

SUPPORTED BY

MAYOR OF LONDON



EASTER CAMP

FREE ENTRY WITH LUNCH

6 YRS - 14 YRS OLD

CATFORD SITE: 7 APRIL - 10 APRIL

DEPTFORD SITE: 14 APRIL - 17 APRIL

JOIN US FOR A FUN WEEK OF ACTIVITIES

- ✓ T-SHIRT MAKING
- ✓ FOOTBALL
- ✓ ARTS & CRAFTS
- ✓ COMPUTER GAMES
- ✓ FUN TRIPS
- ✓ TABLE TENNIS

DEPTFORD CAMP

SE8 5TQ
10AM - 2PM

CATFORD CAMP

SE6 2JH
10AM - 2PM

FREE SPACES AVAILABLE FOR
CHILDREN WITH A HOLIDAY ACTIVITY
CODE  HolidayActivities

More information
07377431926

Email:
deptfordlionesses@gmail.com



 **Lewisham**

Get Rid of and Donate is a charity that are proud to be the first award winners of Lambeth Council's winners of the Climate Change Award 2024. They want to extend their work to more secondary schools in Southwark & Lambeth. The Kingsdale community can help them.

Parents can donate and drop off to the school at Main Reception, for the notice of Mr Lewis and/or Ms Dalrymple.

Get Rid of and Donate collects unwanted clothes (**not school uniform – send this to KFS Uniform Bank**), shoes, small kitchen and household textiles, bedding, curtains, personal cosmetics, musical instruments electrical/gadgets, IT equipment, toys, books, garden equipment etc.

We want to support the reduction of risk of any contamination or viruses and as such, all items **MUST BE** in good condition and clean.

ITEMS SHOULD BE DONATED IN BAGS FOR LIFE OR BOXES - NO PLASTIC OR WASTE BIN DISPOSAL BAGS

Get Rid of and Donate **DO NOT ACCEPT** the following items:

1. **Used Baby Items** - baby bottles, steamers, teething rings, bowls & cutlery, potties, baby baths, changing mats, baby underwear & socks, baby bedding, sleeping suits, baby/Children bike or car seats
2. **Old/damaged/stained bed sheets & pillowcases or duvets** - (will collect only if in good condition)
3. **Damaged Kitchen/houseware** - any broken or items with missing items, porcelain ornaments, framed pictures, ceramic cups, and drinking glasses.
4. **Commercial Publications** - magazines, newspapers, season wrapping paper, trees or decorations
5. **Specific Plastic Items** - plastic bags, clothes hangers, food containers, bottles or plates
6. **Animal Items** - cat litter trays, baskets, housing, play toys, dog cages (only new items accepted)
7. **Out of Date Food**
8. **Certain Furniture** - furniture made of MDF, dismantled furniture
9. **Damaged/Faulty Appliances/Electronics** - items that are faulty, damaged or not working.



Get Rid of and Donate rescues unwanted items – preloved good quality clothes, shoes, household/textiles, books, toys, tech/electrical, furniture, musical equipment/music/cd/DVDs and more recycling giving back to those in need.

Join our campaign to help those in need, making an impact and support GROAD's global green agenda in local communities.

Something that you no longer want can still be used by someone else giving a 2nd or 3rd life span!

Donations benefit the beneficiaries of the project refugees, asylum seekers, vulnerable families and the homeless.

The UK creates 26 million tons of waste, of which 14 million ton end up in landfill sites. *Landfill is the second most used waste treatment in the UK in 2018 with 23.6% of waste sent to landfill. We all have contributed to this in some way.

The alternatives are the three R's - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle! 

 @Getridofit
 @getridofitanddonate
 @groadonate_cic
 @groadonate_cic

Join us in our mission to others help and Get Rid of and Donate.

07944 102 112

info@getridofit-donate.com
 www.getridofit-donate.com

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.



shorespace.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



National Pet Month – April 2025

National Pet Month aims to promote responsible pet ownership and make people aware of the benefits of pets for people, and people for pets. It also raises awareness of the role, value and contribution to society of working companion animals. This month helps people learn about how to look after pets properly.

Did you know...

- More than half of the adults in the UK own a pet
- There is an estimated population of 10.9 million pet cats
- 24% of the UK population have a dog



STUDENT TASK: Share images of your pets with the House Team along with a sentence about the benefits of pets for people.

HOUSE ACTIVITY: Submit your image 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: Ramadan 2025

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims around the world. Since the Islamic calendar follows the lunar cycle, the dates of Ramadan change each year.

How is Ramadan celebrated?

During Ramadan, most Muslims fast from dawn to sunset as an act of devotion and self-discipline. Fasting is a way to strengthen faith, practice self-control, and develop empathy for those less fortunate. However, children, pregnant women, the elderly, those who are unwell, and travellers are not required to fast.

It is customary to have two main meals during Ramadan:

- **Suhoor** – A pre-dawn meal before the fast begins.
- **Iftar** – The meal at sunset, often shared with family and friends as a moment of celebration and togetherness.



Join the Kingsdale Cooking Challenge!

We know that many in our Kingsdale community will have been observing Ramadan, and we would love for you to share your experiences with us!

You can:

- Send in photos of your Ramadan celebrations.
- Share your favourite recipes.
- Capture a special moment with your family during iftar.

HOW TO ENTER: Email 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 BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 26.03.2025

SPORTS FIXTURES

Monday 31st March 2025

- Under-13s Girls' Football B team home match Semi-Final (ESFA) v Shenfield School. Leave school at 1pm. Start 2pm. Return at 4.15pm approx.: **Mr Jones/Mr Price**
- Mixed Under-16s Volleyball away match v The Elm Green School. Leave school at 2.50pm. Start 3.30pm. Return at 5.30pm approx.: **Mr Fitchett**

Tuesday 1st April 2025

- Under-15s Girls' Hockey away match against Sydenham High School. Leave school at 3.45pm. Start 4.30pm. Return 6pm approx.: **Mr Pizzey/Mr Price**
- Under-14s Boys' Rugby away match v Royal Alexandra & Albert School at Brigstock Road. Leave school at 2.45pm. Start 4pm. Return at 6pm approx.: **Mr Roberts**
- Mixed Under-12s to 15s Dance Show case at Grey Coats Hospital. Leave school at 1pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 8pm approx.: **Ms McGregor/Ms Dookey**

Wednesday 2nd April 2025

- Under-12s Girls' Hockey away match v Sydenham High School. Leave school at 3.45pm. Start 4.30pm. Return at 6pm approx.: **Mr Pizzey/Mr Price**
- Under-13s Girls' Netball away match v The Charter School, East Dulwich. Leave school at 1.50pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 5.15pm approx.: **Mr Ford/Mr Foster**
- Alumni Dance Workshop in the Dance Studio. Selected Dance Students. Start 2.30pm. Finish at 4pm approx.: **Ms McGregor/Ms Dookey**

Thursday 3rd April 2025

- Alumni Dance Workshop in the Dance Studio. Selected Dance Students. Start 2.15pm. Finish at 4pm approx.: **Ms McGregor Ms Dookey**

Friday 4th April 2025

- Under-14s Boys' Football home match v Haberdashers Aske Borough Academy. Leave school at 1.45pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 4.30pm approx.: **Mr Foster**

Please note that fixtures maybe postponed or rearranged due to waterlogged or frozen pitches.

All fixtures can be viewed via the link below:

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

HOUSE NEWS

Online Safety Corner

For this week's Online Safety focus we are looking at 'What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BlueSky Social App'. Get a greater insight here.

Please read! Remember to keep an open dialogue with your child about their activities online. **See page 28 above.**

The House Leader Board 2024-25

Week ending
28th March 2025

- 1st Place – Dove 80,412 points
- 2nd Place – Swift 78,560 points
- 3rd Place – Falcon 76,621 points
- 4th Place – Albatross 75,535 points
- 5th Place – Eagle 75,501 points



There is still time for Eagle or Albatross to catch up and win but they need to get more points quickly. Have they got what it takes to do it?

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 top of the Green Stairs.

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

