



PARENTAL NEWS BULLETIN

Issue 3 Monday 14th September

HEADLINE NOTICES

Very Sad News



It is with deep sadness that we inform the Kingsdale community that two of our most dedicated, long serving and much-loved members of staff, Ms Sharon Archer and Mr Harry Brown Jr did not wake from their night sleep last week.

Ms Sharon Archer worked in our off-site Annexe, the Norma Gibbes Supplementary School. Ms Archer will be remembered for many things such as her kind and nurturing approach to students as well as her infinite capacity for supporting them at times of great challenge. Mr Harry Brown Jr was a musical luminary of Kingsdale, past and present, having been an outstanding student, before becoming a foundational member of the Music faculty and senior school Governor and Trustee for over 25 years. Mr Brown Jr was a well-renowned and consummate professional musician, with a national reputation for jazz improvisation.

We extend our sincere thanks to Ms Archer and Mr Brown Jr for the wonderful work they did to support students and colleagues at Kingsdale.

Books of condolence for both colleagues have been opened at the school which can be located in the Main Reception. They remain available for all students, parents and other associates who may wish to show their respects.

We realise that this news will come as a shock to staff, students and parents. Please remember that there are a range of helpful support systems at the school at such difficult times, including our own dedicated counsellors. Please contact Ms Turner via wellbeing@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk for more details.



*School Photographs

The school photographers will be coming into school on the days listed below. Please ensure that your child is aware of the day that their school photograph will be taken. Arrangements for photographs for siblings and further details issued separately by Heads of Learning.

Monday 21st September 2026 – Year 11
Tuesday 22nd September 2026 – Year 13

THEME OF THE WEEK

A Positive Approach to Life

'If you think you can, you can. And if you think you can't, you're right.'

WORD OF THE WEEK

Sagacious

Having or showing keen mental discernment and good judgement; wise or shrewd.

'She sought the advice of a sagacious elder before making a decision.'

SCHOOL NEWS

Kingsdale Careers Programme 2026-27

We are very proud of our Careers Programme at Kingsdale and a lot of the exciting talks and opportunities that we offer throughout the year come from parental volunteers. So, we need your help to support our Careers programme for 2026-27! The mainstay of our Careers programme are our lunchtime talks, which usually last 45mins to 1 hour and are aimed at a range of year groups.

These sessions will most likely happen on a Wednesday this year but we can be flexible.

We will also be hosting our Careers Fair in early 2027.

If you think you would be able to support us with any of our careers programme lunchtime talks, the Careers Fair, or in any other capacity, or should you have any questions, please get in touch with us via

careers@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Kingsdale Foundation School Open Day Season

This week sees the start of our Open Day events for Year 7 & Year 12 places commencing September 2027. Please see Page 4 for further details. Parents who are willing to speak at an open event to prospective parents are asked to contact

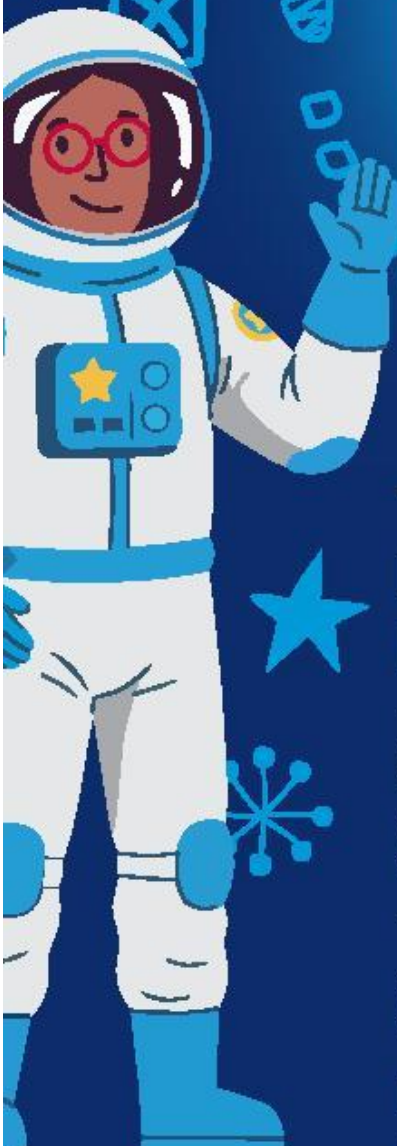
Mr Harding via

dhtpa@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk



 **CHILDREN'S
COMMISSIONER**

THE BIG FUTURE



**The Children's Commissioner,
Dame Rachel de Souza, has
launched The Big Future survey.**

It's your chance to have your say on what it's like to be a child or young person in England today - what you love, what worries you, how you have fun, and the changes you want for a better future.

There are questions about voting, school, your area, online safety, and space for you to tell her what you think is important!

**It takes less than 10 minutes to
complete the survey.**



Take part now:

childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture

#TheBigFuture  @childrenscommissioner



School News



Year 7 Summer School

Over 2 weeks in the Summer Holidays a large number of our new Year 7 cohort came to Kingsdale to take part in Summer School.

Students had lessons with Kingsdale staff, played sports, learned languages, did music and drama and much more besides!

We also went on trips to Chessington World of Adventures, Oxygen Trampoline Park and Activate Interactive Gaming.

The students started as Year 6 students who were just getting used to being at Kingsdale, and finished with new friends, new found confidence and excitement to begin their year at Kingsdale.



Admissions



Open Days for Year 7 Entry September 2027

Our scheduled Open Days for September 2026 Year 7 entry will take place in September and October 2026. More details can be accessed [here](#). Appointments are available for booking [here](#).

Open Days and Evenings

Wednesday 16th September 2026

9.30am-11.30am, 1.30-3.30pm & 5.30pm-8pm

Saturday 19th September 2026

10am-12 noon, 1-3pm & 4-6pm

Wednesday 23rd September 2026

9.30am-11.30am, 1.30-3.30pm & 5.30pm-8pm

Wednesday 30th September 2026

9.30am-11.30am, 1.30-3.30pm & 5.30pm-8pm

Saturday 3rd October 2026

10am-12 noon, 1-3pm & 4-6pm

Wednesday 7th October 2026

9.30am-11.30am, 1.30-3.30pm & 5.30pm-8pm

Saturday 10th October 2026

10am-12 noon, 1-3pm & 4-6pm

Open Days for Sixth Form (Year 12) September 2027

You can access details regarding our Sixth Form open events for Year 12 September 2027 entry [here](#).

The dates of the open events are as follows:

Wednesday 23rd September 2026: 4.30-7.30pm

Wednesday 14th October 2026: 1.30-6.30pm

Wednesday 4th November 2026: 4.30-7pm

Wednesday 25th November 2026: 4.30-7pm

For all queries regarding admissions to the Sixth Form, please contact the Sixth Form Office:
via email at sixthform@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

* Please Note the Deadline for Booking Year 7 Scholarship Assessments Online or Submitting a Supplementary Form is 5th October 2026.



IGNITE YOUTH LEADER PROGRAMME

Age 14-18

Free
Limited
Spaces

Do you want to:

- ★ Develop leadership skills
- ★ Build your confidence
- ★ Communicate effectively
- ★ Solve problems creatively

22nd September - 1st December 2026

Our programme:

- 📖 Online Learning Modules
- 👥 Group support session
- 🗣️ Workshops (Online or In-person)

APPLY TODAY

YouthLeader@ignitehubs.org.uk
www.ignitehubs.org.uk

Applications open:
20 Jul 2026

Closing date:
18 Sep 2026

UK Registered Charity 1186658

What You'll Experience

📖 Online Learning Modules

You will explore:

- Personal growth and confidence
- Creativity and innovation
- Communication and presentation skills
- Leadership styles and values
- Teamwork and emotional intelligence
- Critical thinking and problem-solving

All modules are accessed through **the Ignite Learning & Careers Hub**, our online learning platform, allowing you to learn at your own pace.

🗣️ Live Sessions

Join our expert facilitators on:

22nd Sep 2026 | 5pm - 6:30pm

Welcome Session (online)

6th Oct 2026 | 5pm - 6:30pm

Workshop 1 (Online or In Person)

17th Nov 2026 | 5pm - 6:30pm

Workshop 2 (Online or In Person)

1st Dec 2026 | 5pm - 6:30pm

Programme Close & Celebration
(Online)

👥 Group Support Session

An opportunity to ask questions and connect with other participants.

10th November, 5pm-6pm

(Online or In Person)

*In-person sessions will take place at a centrally located library in Southwark, London.

Apply today and begin your journey to becoming an Ignite Youth Leader

Applications Open: 20th July 2026

Closing Date: 18th September 2026

Apply Now



📧 www.ignitehubs.org.uk | ✉️ YouthLeader@ignitehubs.org.uk



INTER-HOUSE SPORTS DAY 2026

The Sports Department and House Team are pleased to announce the results of our Inter-House Sports Day Finals Event which took place on the last day of the Summer term at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. As always, the event marked the end of yet another year of sporting excellence at Kingsdale Foundation School celebrating the outstanding talents of our track and field athletes. Cheered on by students, staff, and visitors our finalists put in impressive performances striving to win all important points for their House. A huge [congratulations](#) goes out to all who participated in the event not only on the final's day but also during the heats events that took place for each year group where our finalists were selected.

The scores are now in and our Inter-House Sports Day champions 2025/26 are Albatross House with an impressive 260 points closely followed by Dove with 252 points, Swift with 212, Eagle with 176 and Falcon 148.

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation for the support of all those who attended the event and very much look forward to this year's event later in the summer term where the Houses once again battle it out for Gold. We would also like to thank our event photographer Esira Hall, Year 10.

For further details regarding sport at Kingsdale School please contact Ms V. Turner, Director of Sport via pe@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk





PE Department Extra-Curricular Sports Activities Timetable - Autumn Term 2025-26

Sports Clubs Autumn Term 2026

The Health, Sport & Recreation Faculty are pleased to provide details of our extra-curricular sports programme taking place during the Autumn term commencing Monday 14th September 2026. Please be advised that you can book your child on to the club(s) of their choice via Evolve, our online booking system, details of which have been provided separately to all parents via registered email.

Please be advised that, in most cases, submission on Evolve will confirm your child's place, however, please be aware that places are limited for activities such as Horse Riding, Aerial Silks, Skateboarding, Cycling and Swimming. For these activities and to ensure that all students have an opportunity to attend these sessions, slots will be allocated to students in blocks during the course of the academic year. Please be advised that in instances such as this the member of staff in charge of the club will notify you via email when your child's place becomes available.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms V. Turner via pe@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk should you require further information regarding our sports provision at Kingsdale Foundation School.

Activity	Time	Venue	Staff
Monday			
Football – Boys – Year 8	8.00-8.50am	Astro	Mr Fitchett
Handball – Mixed – Year 7 and 8	8.00-8.40am	Sports Hall	Mr Roberts
Sports Scholars – Mixed – Year 7	11.00-11.45am	Astro	Mr Dash
Recreational Football – Boys – Year 7	11.00-11.45am	Astro	Mr Price
Swimming – Mixed – Year 7	12.55-3.40pm	TBC	Ms King
Cheerleading – Mixed – All Years	4.15- 5.15pm	Sports Hall	Ms King
Football – Boys – Sixth Form	3.45-5.00pm	Astro	Mr Price
Tuesday			
Football – Boys – Year 11	8.00-8.40am	Astro	Mr Foster
Table Tennis – Mixed –All Years	8.00-8.40am	GM1	Mr Price
Sports Scholars – Mixed – Year 9	12.55-1.40pm	Astro	Mr Price
Dance – Mixed – Technique – Year 8 and 10	12.00-12.45pm	Dance Studio	Ms McGregor
Dance – Mixed – Technique – Year 9	12.55-1.40pm	Dance Studio	Ms McGregor & Ms Dookey
Cycling – Mixed – All Years	3.00-5.00pm	Herne Hill Velodrome	Ms McManus
Aerial Silks – Mixed – Year 7 and 8	3.15-4.15pm	'My Aerial Home'	Ms Jaymes
Dance – Mixed – Contemporary – Year 7 and 11	3.45-5.00pm	Dance Studio	Ms Dookey
Dance – Mixed – Contemporary – Year 8, 9 and 10	4.15-5.15pm	Dance Studio	Ms Dookey
Basketball – Mixed – Year 7 and 8	3.45-5.00pm	Sports Hall	Mr Lord/Mr Dash
Wednesday			
Hockey – Mixed – Year 8, 9 and 10	8.00-8.50am	Astro	Ms Jaymes & Ms Marshall
Horse Riding – Mixed – Year 7	10.45-12.15pm	Dulwich Stables	Ms McGregor
Horse Riding – Mixed – Year 7	12.45-2.15pm	Dulwich Stables	Ms McGregor
Sports Scholars – Mixed – Year 8	12.00-12.45pm	Sports Hall	Mr Foster
Football – Boys – Year 10	12.00-12.45pm	Astro	Mr Lockett
Cheerleading – Mixed – All Years	4.15- 5.15pm	Sports Hall	TBC
Netball – Girls – All Years	4.15- 5.15pm	Sports Hall	Ms King/Mrs Sinclair
Rugby – Girls – All Years	4.15- 5.15pm	Playing Fields	Ms McManus
Rugby – Boys – Year 7 and 8	4.15- 5.15pm	Playing Fields	Mr Roberts/Mr Lord/Mr Jones
Rugby – Boys – Year 9	4.15- 5.15pm	Playing Fields	Mr Roberts
Rugby – Boys – Year 10 and 11	4.15- 5.15pm	Playing Fields	Mr Foster
Football – Girls – Year 7 and 8	4.15- 5.15pm	Astro	Mr Dash
Skateboarding – Mixed – Year 7 and 8	4.15- 5.15pm	Playground	Mr Owen
Rugby – Mixed – Sixth Form Enrichment	1.45-3.40pm	Playing Fields	Mr Roberts
Netball – Mixed – Sixth Form Enrichment	1.45-3.40pm	Courts	TBC
Football – Mixed – Sixth Form Enrichment	1.45-3.40pm	Plying Fields	Mr Jones
Volleyball– Mixed – Sixth Form Enrichment	1.45-3.40pm	Deep Dish	TBC
Gym – Mixed – Sixth Form Enrichment	1.45-3.40pm	Gym	TBC
Thursday			
Football – Boys – Year 9	8.00-8.50am	Astro	Mr Price
Basketball – Boys – Year 9, 10 and 11	8.00-8.40am	Sports Hall	Mr Lockett
Volleyball – Mixed – All Years	3.45- 5.15pm	GM2	Mr Fitchetr
Dance – Street Dance – Mixed – Year 7 and 11	3.45-5.00pm	Dance Studio	Ms McGregor & Ms Dookey
Dance – Street Dance – Mixed – Year 8, 9 and 10	4.15- 5.15pm	Dance Studio	Ms McGregor & Ms Dookey
Friday			
Football – Girls – Year 9, 10, 11 and Sixth form	8.00-8.50am	Astro	Mr Jones
Basketball – Girls – Year 9, 10 and 11	8.00-8.50am	Sports Hall	Mr McManus
Football – Boys – Year 7	3.45-5.00pm	Astro	Mr Owen



ART AND DESIGN CLUBS

2026 - 2027

MONDAY

Year 11

Get Ahead Graphics Club

11.00 to 11.55am
(Period 3)

Ms Gardiner TE1

Year 8

Young Makers Club

4.10 to 5.10pm

Ms Koch TE2

Year 9-11

Graphics Get Ahead Club

3.45 to 5.00pm

Ms Rix TE1

Year 10

Fly High Club

4.15 to 5.15pm

Ms Leung FS1

Scholars Club (by invitation only)

Year 8

MONDAY

4.10 to 5.00pm

Mrs Gregson AR3

TUESDAY

Year 10

Get Ahead Graphics Club

12.00 to 12.50pm (Period 4)

Ms Virgin TE1

Year 9

Fly High Club

4.15 to 5.15pm

Ms Leung/Mr Polin FS1

Year 9-13

Get Ahead Textiles Club

3.45 to 5.00pm

Mrs Howell AR2

Year 9-11

Graphics Get Ahead Club

3.45 to 5.00pm

Ms Rix TE1

Year 7

Camera Club

3.45 to 4.30pm

Ms Hallas PS1

Year 10-13

Art Get Ahead Club

3.45 to 5.00pm

Ms Montero AR4

Year 7

Art/D&T Homework Club

3.45 to 4.15pm

Ms Stewart AR1

Year 7

Bronze Arts Award Club

4.10 to 5.00pm

Ms Fearn AR6

Year 9-13

Get Ahead Textiles and D&T Club

3.45 to 4.45pm

Ms Lewis AR7

THURSDAY

All years

Art Breakfast Club

8.00 to 8.30am

Mrs Smiley AR5

Year 7

Young Designers Club

11.00 to 11.55am

(Period 3)

Ms Virgin TE3

Year 11-13

Art Get Ahead Club

3.45 to 5.00pm

Ms Gregson AR3

Year 7 and 8

Love of Food Club

3.45 to 5.30pm

Ms Leung FS1

Year 11

D&T Get Ahead Club

3.45 to 5.00pm

Ms Koch TE2

Scholars Club (by invitation only)

Year 7

THURSDAY

3.45 to 4.45pm

Ms Stella AR4

(Starts 26th

November 2026)

FRIDAY

Year 11

NEA Workshop

3.45 to 5.00pm

Ms Leung FS1

Year 9-13

'Finish it Friday Textiles Club'

3.45 to 5.00pm

Mrs Howell AR2

Year 8

Textiles Club

12.00 to 12.50pm

(Period 4)

Ms Fearn AR6



Discover our FREE rail safety videos and keep your children safe by visiting railsafefriendly.com

THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over **3 million young people** on the dangers of the railways.



SCAN ME

DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN BECOME THE NEXT STATISTIC



"I implore you to listen to Harrison's story"

Simon Frazer, Principal,
Guilsborough Academy

According to the **ORR Report**, April 23 – March 24 on UK railways:

12

people died in accidents while trespassing

58%

were struck by a train or tram

42%

were electrocuted

According to **Rail Safe Friendly**, July 25:

120+

companies support the programme

11,000+

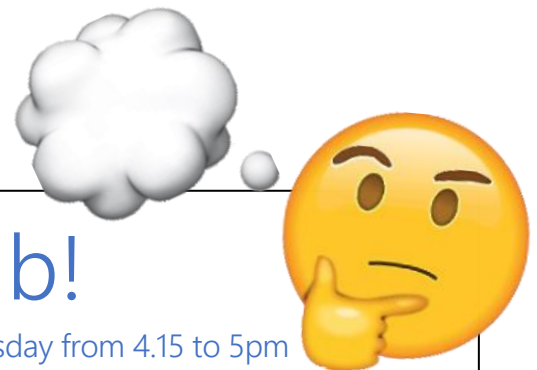
schools in the UK have engaged

20,000+

UK schools still need to be reached

Big History Club!

For Key Stage 3 and 4 students 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.

In our next session on Tuesday 15th September we will be meeting in Room HU6 to introduce ourselves and to discuss what we'll be investigating this year (and consuming biscuits).

Bring along any ideas for people, events or items from history you



GO
ALL
IN.

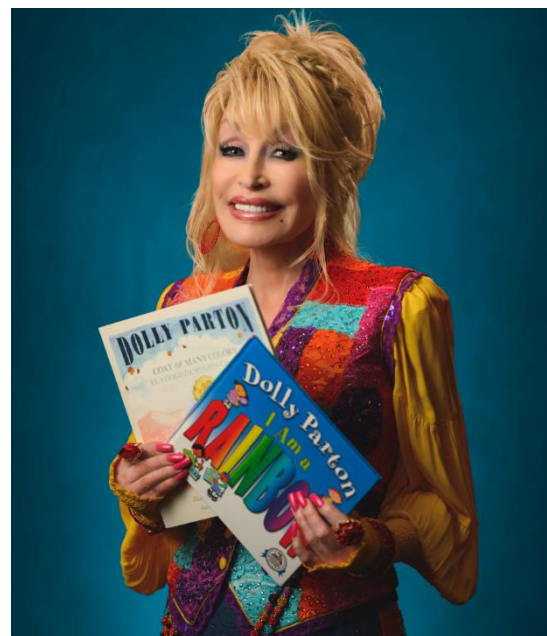
National
Year of
Reading
2026

National Year of Reading Department of Music

This half-term, the Performing Arts faculty is taking the lead on our whole-school reading focus, exploring how music, drama and dance can inspire us to engage with words, stories and ideas in different ways.

For the next 3 weeks, the Music Department is launching Song of the Week, encouraging pupils to listen closely to great songs and explore the relationship between music, lyrics and meaning.

Our first Song of the Week is *Dolly Parton's Coat of Many Colours*.

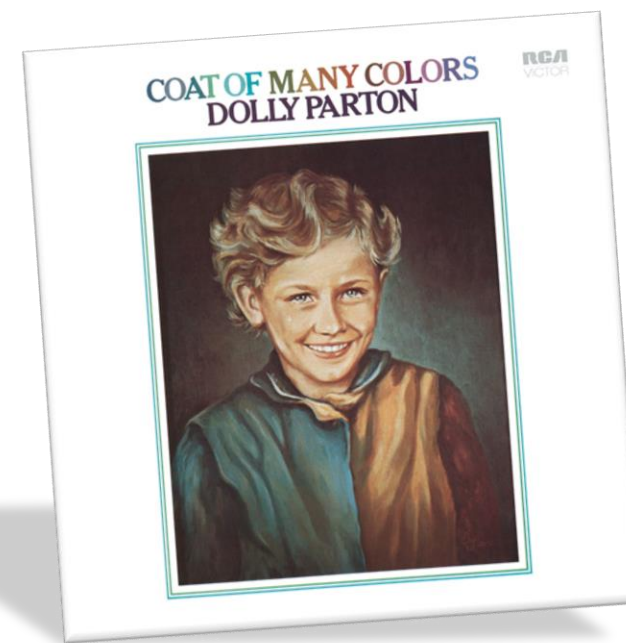


Dolly Parton was an American singer-songwriter and one of the most celebrated figures in country music. Released in 1971, *Coat of Many Colors* is one of her best-known and most personal songs. The lyrics tell a story from Dolly Parton's childhood, when her family had very little money and her mother made her a coat from scraps of different-coloured fabric.

Listen carefully to *Coat of Many Colors* and follow the lyrics as you do so.

As you listen, think about:

- Storytelling. The song tells a clear story from Parton's childhood. How does she introduce the characters, setting and events? Why might telling a personal story make the song more powerful?
- Poverty and wealth. Parton's family has very little money, but she describes herself as feeling rich. What does the song suggest about the difference between having money and being truly wealthy?
- Family and love. What does the coat represent to Parton? Why is it valuable to her even though it is made from scraps of material?
- Imagery and symbolism. The coat is a real object, but could it also represent something more? Think about ideas such as family, love, identity and pride.
- The other children. How do the reactions of Parton's classmates contrast with the way she sees her coat? What might the song be saying about judging people by their clothes, possessions or background?
- Your response. The song was released more than 50 years ago. Do you think its messages about poverty, family, kindness and judging others are still relevant today? Why?



Dolly Parton – *Coat of Many Colors*

Back through the years
I go wonderin' once again
Back to the seasons of my youth
I recall a box of rags that someone gave us
And how my mama put the rags to use
There were rags of many colors
But every piece was small
And I didn't have a coat
And it was way down in the fall
Mama sewed the rags together

Sewin' every piece with love
She made my coat of many colors
That I was so proud of
As she sewed, she told a story
From the Bible she had read
About a coat of many colors
Joseph wore and then she said
"Perhaps this coat will bring you
Good luck and happiness"
And I just couldn't wait to wear it
And Mama blessed it with a kiss

*My coat of many colors
That my mama made for me
Made only from rags
But I wore it so proudly
Although we had no money
I was rich as I could be
In my coat of many colors
My mama made for me*

*So with patches on my britches
And holes in both my shoes
In my coat of many colors
I hurried off to school
Just to find the others laughing
And making fun of me
In my coat of many colors
My mama made for me*

*And oh, I couldn't understand it
For I felt I was rich
And I told 'em of the love
My mama sewed in every stitch
And I told 'em all the story
Mama told me while she sewed
And how my coat of many colors
Was worth more than all their clothes*

*But they didn't understand it
And I tried to make them see
That one is only poor
Only if they choose to be
Now I know we had no money
But I was rich as I could be
In my coat of many colors
My mama made for me
Made just for me*

Competition: Music Review of the Week

After listening, pupils are invited to submit a short 150–300 word review of *Coat of Many Colours*

The writer of the best review will receive a Dolly Parton album on CD.

The winning review will also be displayed on the Music Department noticeboard and shared in the Parental News Bulletin

Reviews should be emailed to: musicstaff@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Mental Health & Well-Being Weekly Focus for Students: Belonging And Connecting

This week's mental health and well-being focus for students is Belonging and Connection both of which are core human needs that directly shape our mental health and emotional well-being. It is therefore essential that we strive to create a school environment for both students and staff which promotes a sense of belonging and provides ongoing opportunities for connection for all members of our school community.

Why Belonging Matters

- Emotional Safety: Feeling accepted lowers anxiety and builds daily confidence.
- Academic Success: Students who feel connected engage more in class and attend school regularly.
- Stress Buffer: Strong friendships help teens cope with academic pressure and social changes.

Fitting In vs. Standing Out

- Fitting In: Changing behaviour to match a group can cause stress and hide our true identity.
- Standing Out: Embracing unique traits builds genuine self-worth, even if it feels risky at first.
- True Belonging: Real connection happens when teens feel accepted for who they are, not who they pretend to be.

Building Community at School

- Inclusive Spaces: Our extensive extra-curricular clubs programme provide students with shared goals and opportunities to connect with others.
- Peer Support: Mentorship and kindness campaigns reduce bullying and isolation.
- Staff Connection: A trusted teacher or counsellor can make a lonely student feel seen and valued

Please contact Mrs V Turner via mentalhealth&wellbeing@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk for further information on our mental health & well-being offer for students.

Welcome from the Learning Support Faculty!

The Learning Support Faculty would like to welcome everyone back to the school and we hope everyone has enjoyed their time so far.

We would like to introduce our fantastic team to you and let you know a little bit about what we do.

- Director of English and Learning Support: Miss G Smith
- SENCO: Ms S Jarada
- Assistant SENCO: Ms M Thorn
- SEND Consultant: Ms L Dadkhah
- SEND Consultant: Ms C Francis-Finch

The Waves of Intervention model are used at Kingsdale Foundation School, with a particular focus on Wave 1: Quality First Teaching. Our staff are given regular CPD opportunities by specialists with-in the Learning Support Faculty, from external agencies and within faculties and pastoral teams. Students who require additional support may be allocated a Teaching Assistant (TA) to supplement the teaching and input they receive. Students who require access arrangements for examinations are assessed in line with JCQ guidance.

The Learning Support Centre (LSC) is a therapeutic intervention provided to allow students experiencing anxiety to be referred for a period of time. This is a quiet space for students to work and be supported by teachers and TAs. Students have access to learning mentors, counsellors, and an art psychotherapist through a referral procedure in line with their needs. The SEND provision in lessons is monitored through the quality assurance of teaching and learning procedures

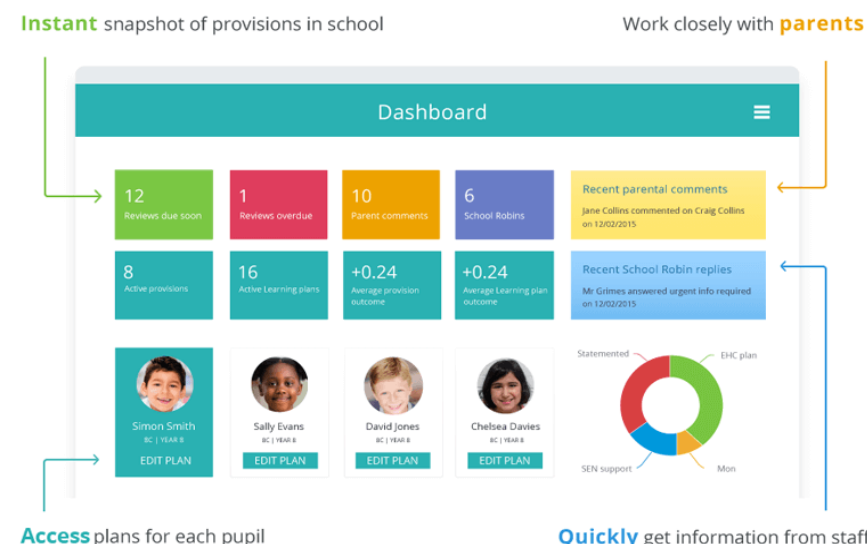
Edukey

As part of the school's focus on Quality First Teaching we have a programme called Edukey.

Edukey is a fantastic piece of software for ensuring staff can plan and deliver their lessons effectively for all students.

All provision plans for students are uploaded so information is accessible to all staff, including documentation, provision plans, meeting logs and a tool to be able to communicate quickly and easily with the teachers of said pupil.

This also means all staff can be proactive in seeking information relating to each and every pupil's needs.



SEND FACULTY NEWS

SEND Local Offer

Information and Local Offers

The Learning Support department would like to remind you that you can find lots of useful information in our SEND Policy and Report which can be found [here](#) under the 'SEND Policies & Report'

You can find out information regarding your local SEND offer here:

- [Southwark](#)
- [Lambeth](#)
- [Lewisham](#)
- [Croydon](#)
- [Bromley](#)
- [Wandsworth](#)
- [Merton](#)



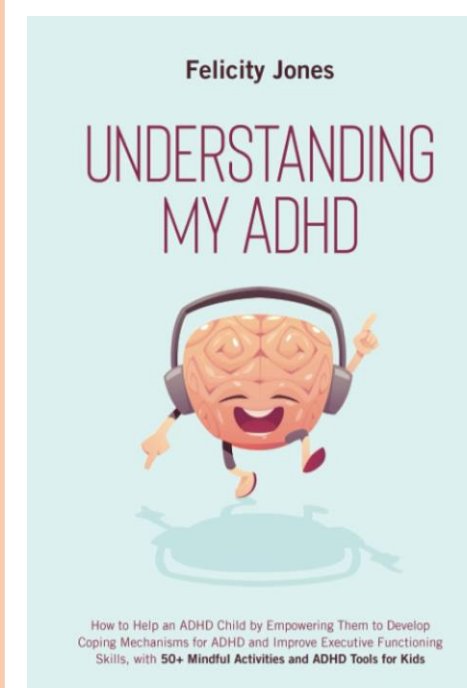
Understanding My ADHD:

How to Help an ADHD Child Discover Their Talents, Improve Executive Functioning Skills and Develop Coping Mechanisms for ADHD

by Felicity Jones

Unlock your child's true potential as they discover their own special strengths that arise from having ADHD. By learning key skills and simple techniques your child can manage their ADHD, take control of everyday frustrations and succeed.

Understanding My ADHD is packed with easy activities and inspirational facts to help your child build self-esteem and thrive in all aspects of their home, school and social lives. Together we explore their emotions, encourage self-awareness and show a strength-based approach to ADHD.



SEND Parent Support: Helping Your Child with Homework at Home

At Kingsdale, we recognise that homework can sometimes present additional challenges for pupils with SEND. Difficulties with attention, organisation, working memory, reading, processing speed, anxiety or simply getting started can make a task that appears straightforward much more demanding.

After a busy school day, some young people may also need time to regulate and recharge before they are ready to begin work at home. The aim is not for parents and carers to become the teacher at home. There are, however, some simple strategies that can make homework feel more manageable and help your child develop greater independence.

Find a routine that works for your child

Some young people need to complete homework while they are still in "school mode", while others need a genuine break first.

Try to establish a predictable routine that works for your family.

A snack, some movement or quiet time after school can be particularly helpful for pupils who find the school day tiring or overwhelming.

Where possible, identify a regular place for homework with distractions kept to a minimum.

Make starting the task the priority

For some pupils with SEND, particularly those with difficulties with attention or executive functioning, starting can be harder than actually completing the work. Instead of "Go and do your homework", try helping your child identify one small first step:

- "Let's look at what you need to do."
- "Which task shall we start with?"
- "Let's read the first question together."

Once they have started successfully, encourage them to continue independently.

Break homework into manageable chunks

A whole page, extended piece of writing or several homework tasks can quickly feel overwhelming.

Try breaking work into smaller sections and using short periods of focused work followed by a brief break. A timer can be useful, for example, 15 to 20 minutes of work followed by a short break.

A simple checklist can also help your child see their progress and experience the satisfaction of ticking tasks off as they complete them.

Support, but don't feel you have to do it with them

You do not need to know the answer or reteach the lesson!

If your child becomes stuck, try prompts such as:

- "What is the question asking you to do?"
- "What did you do in the lesson that might help?"
- What could you do first?"
- Is there an example you can look back at?"

For pupils with literacy difficulties, reading a question aloud or using appropriate text to speech technology can help remove the reading barrier so that they can concentrate on the actual learning.

Help with organisation

Organisation does not always come naturally, particularly for young people with difficulties with executive functioning.

Encourage your child to check what needs completing, look at deadlines and prioritise tasks. Phone reminders, calendars, visual checklists and alarms can all be useful. Initially, you may need to do this alongside your child.

Over time, try to gradually hand responsibility back to them. The long term goal is independence, rather than creating a system that relies on an adult always reminding them.

Know when to stop

Homework should not routinely result in prolonged distress, arguments or your child working for considerably longer than would reasonably be expected.

If a piece of homework is causing significant difficulty, it is useful for the teacher to know this. Please do not feel that you need to complete the work for your child simply so that it can be handed in.

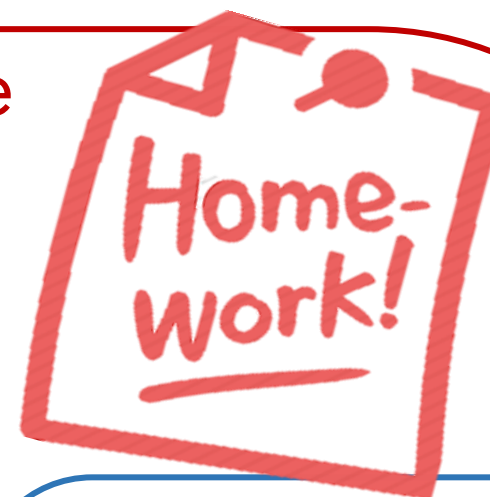
If there is a recurring difficulty with homework in a particular subject, we would encourage parents and carers to contact the subject teacher in the first instance. If the difficulty appears to be related more generally to your child's SEND, organisation or ability to access homework, please contact the Kingsdale Learning Support team so that we can consider what further support may be helpful.

Notice the successes

For some young people, completing homework independently represents a significant achievement. Praise the behaviours you want to encourage:

- "You got started by yourself today."
- "You kept going even when that was difficult."
- "You remembered to check what was due."
- "You asked for help when you needed it."

Building these habits gradually can be just as important as getting every answer right.



Further Support for Parents and Carers

For families who would like additional advice, these organisations have some excellent free resources:

British Dyslexia Association

Practical advice on homework, organisation, reading and supporting children and young people with dyslexia.

[Homework advice from the British Dyslexia Association](#)

National Autistic Society

Advice specifically for parents and carers on why autistic young people may find homework challenging and strategies that can help.

[Homework advice for parents and carers](#)

ADHD Foundation

A wide range of resources for parents and carers supporting children and young people with ADHD and other neurodevelopmental needs, including resources on homework, routines and executive functioning.

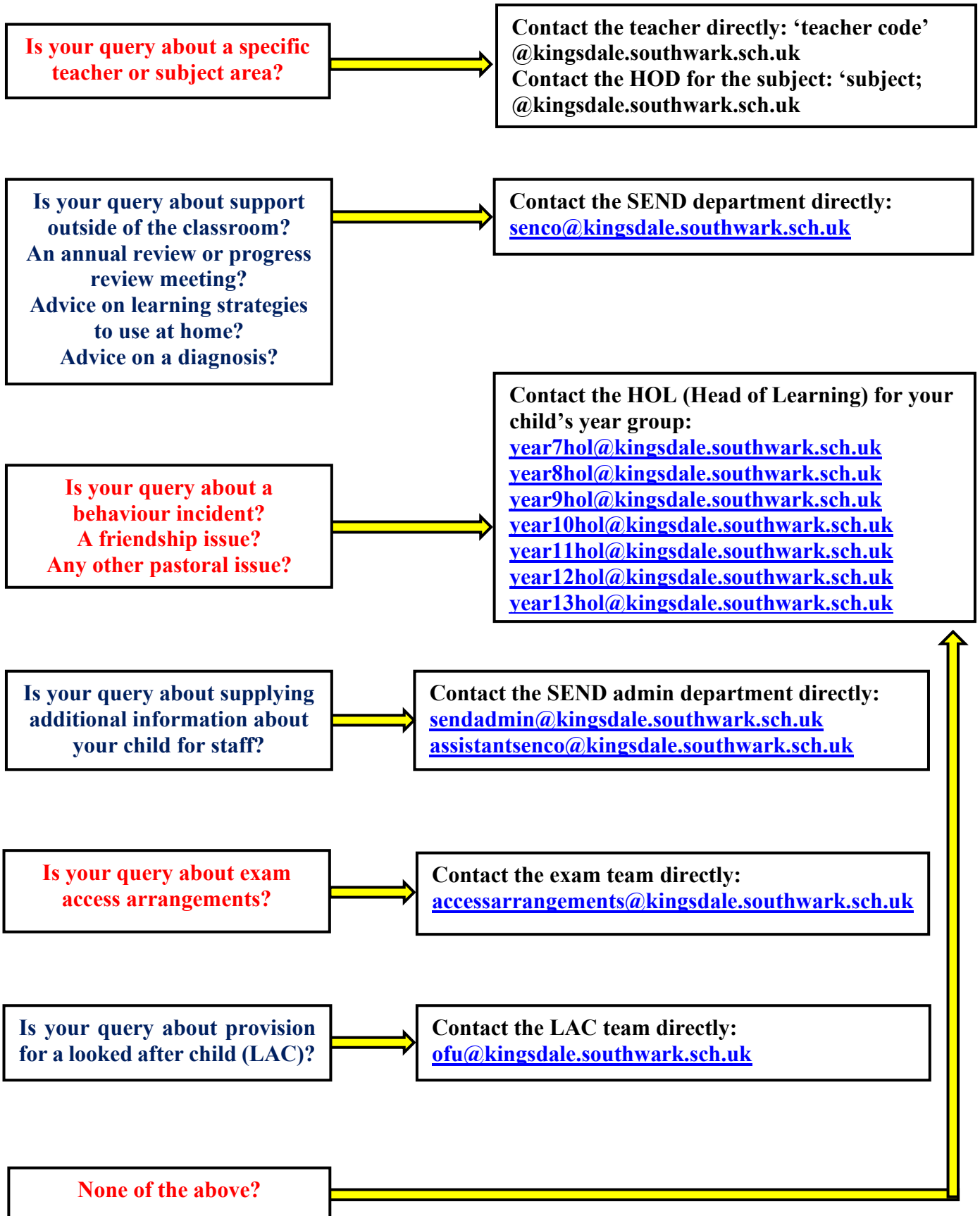
[ADHD Foundation Parent and Carer](#)

Working Together

At Kingsdale, we want homework to help pupils consolidate their learning and develop confidence and independence. **If homework is regularly becoming a source of significant difficulty at home, please tell us.** Understanding what is happening outside the classroom can help us identify barriers and work with you and your child to find appropriate strategies.

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.



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!



Young
People
Southwark

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

Change Grow Live Registered Office: 3rd Floor, Tower Point, 44 North Road, Brighton BN1 1YR. Registered Charity Number 1079327 (England and Wales) and SC039861 (Scotland). Company Registration Number 3861209 (England and Wales).



Drug and
Alcohol Service
Southwark



Young
People
Southwark

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:



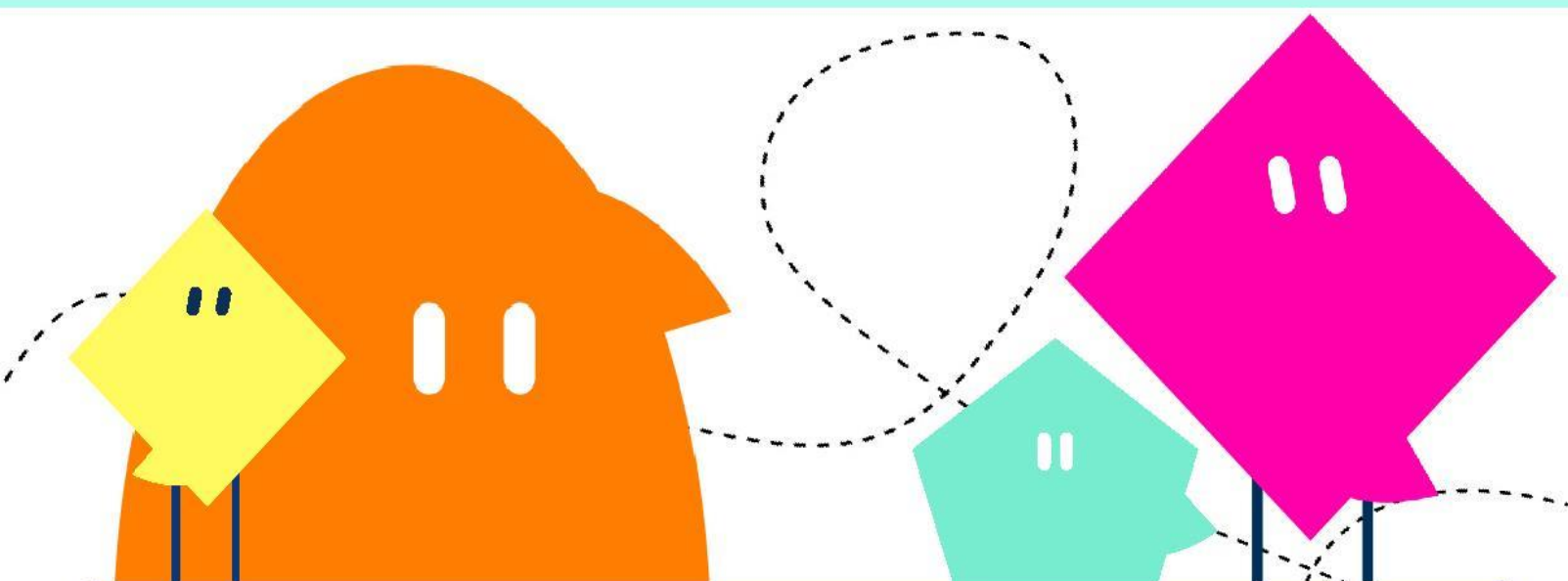
ParentZone – Resources for parents/children to help keep kids safe online.



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

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 anyway 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



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.

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.sch.uk

Is My Child Eligible for **Free School Meals**?

Your child may qualify for free school meals if you receive certain benefits. Any parent or carer in England can check here, even if your child's school isn't signed up. It's free to use (run by LGfL, an education charity) and you'll get an instant result checked securely against government records.

☰ **Qualifying benefits include**

- ☑ Universal Credit
- ☑ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- ☑ The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- ☑ Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ☑ Child Tax Credit (if not receiving Working Tax Credit)
- ☑ Working Tax Credit run-on

Conditions apply to some benefits – the quickest way to find out is to run a check.

📅 **New from September 2026**

Free school meals are expanding to **every child in a household that receives Universal Credit**.

You don't need to wait until then to find out if you're eligible. Run a check now and you'll see if your child will be eligible from September.

IF ELIGIBLE



Your child gets a free, nutritious lunch every school day.



Save around £500 per child, per year on the cost of school lunches.



May unlock additional Pupil Premium funding for your school – supporting things like tutoring, trips and clubs.

Your child's school is notified automatically if they use the checker, or simply share your email receipt with them as proof of eligibility.



What is #YMHD?

Youth Mental Health Day (YMHD) encourages understanding and discussion of mental health in young people, enabling them to live happy and healthy lives all year round. Each year, the day aims to get young people, and those who support them, talking about how to improve mental health.



Stem4, a charity that supports young people to build positive mental health, is proud to be the founder of Youth Mental Health Day in the UK, which started in 2020. It is celebrated this year on 18th September 2026.

STUDENT TASK: Check in on your friends on this day and for the remainder of the year by asking specific questions:

1. What has this week been like for you?
2. How are you managing everything that's on your plate?
3. What's the good news of the week and the bad news of the week?

HOUSE CAPTAIN YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

Would you relish the challenge of becoming a House Captain?

- Are you an organiser and communicator?
- Are you a good team player?
- Do you have lots of creative ideas?



Then you could be ready to be a House Captain!

STUDENT TASK: Write a paragraph to explain why you want to be a House Captain. The House System remains integral to promoting the *Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development* for all our students across the school.

Email your paragraph:

housesystem@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Include your full name and tutor group.

CALENDAR 2026-27



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

AUTUMN TERM 2026

First Autumn Half-Term

Tuesday 1st September Friday 16th October

INSET DAYS – School closed to all students

Tuesday 1st September – Wednesday 2nd September

Half-Term Holiday

Monday 19th October – Friday 30th October

Second Autumn Half-Term

Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December

SPRING TERM 2027

First Spring Half-Term

Monday 4th January – Friday 12th February

Monday 4 January INSET DAY

School closed to students except those in Year 11 by invitation

Half-Term Holiday

Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February

Second Spring Half-Term

Monday 22nd February – Friday 25th March

SUMMER TERM 2027

First Summer Half-Term

Monday 12th April – Friday 28th May

Monday 12th April INSET DAY

School closed to students except those in Year 11

Mayday Bank Holiday

Monday 3rd May 2025

Half-Term Holiday

Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June

Second Summer Half Term

Monday 7th June – Friday 23rd July

Friday 26th July INSET DAY

School closed to students except by invitation

STAY SAFE ON NEW DEVICES

Whether you're an internet newbie or a pro at surfing the web, it's always important to keep online safety in mind. We've pulled together a list of top tips to make it easier for you to protect yourself and your devices in the digital world - helping you steer clear of hazards like misleading information and vicious viruses. There's never a bad time to refresh your internet safety knowledge, but it's an especially smart thing to do before you start using any shiny new devices!



SPORTS FIXTURES

Monday 14th September 2026

- No planned fixtures/events

Tuesday 15th September 2026

- No planned fixtures/events

Wednesday 16th September 2026

- Under-18s Boys' Basketball Away Match v Globe Academy. Leave school at 1.30pm. Start 2.30pm. Return by 5.30pm approx: Mr Dash

Thursday 17th September 2026

- Under-14s Girls' Hockey Away Match v James Allen's Girl School. Leave school at 4pm. Start 4.30pm. Return by 6pm approx.: Ms Jaymes

Friday 18th September 2026

- No planned fixtures/events

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

Don't forget to check out our extra-curricular sports programme on page 8.

HOUSE NEWS

Online Safety Corner

For this week's Online Safety focus we are looking at 'Stay Safe on New Devices.'

Get a greater insight. Please read!

Remember to keep an open dialogue with your child about their activities online.

The House Leader Board 2026-27

Week ending
11th September 2026

1st Place - Albatross 2,206 points

2nd Place - Falcon 2,195 points

3rd Place - Eagle 2,120 points

4th Place - Swift 2,068 points

5th Place - Dove 2,061 points



School Shop

Refillable water bottles are now on sale in the School Shop! This is part of the school's environmental plan and move away from plastic.

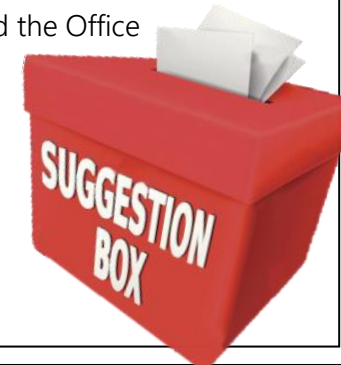
£2.60 per bottle

Available in white, aluminium,
500ml only (67x 205mm)

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.



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.

Kingsdale Foundation School, Alleyn Park, Dulwich, London, SE21 8SQ
Web: www.kingsdalefoundationschool.org.uk Tel: 0208 670 7575 (To report student absence use Option 2)