



PARENTAL NEWS BULLETIN

Issue 36 Monday 6th July 2026

HEADLINE NOTICES

Mrs Brenda Bloomfield – Memorial Service and Celebration of Her Life



The memorial service for Mrs Brenda Bloomfield, the school's longstanding Pupil Support Officer and former Kitchen Manager over a period of 50 years, is due to take place on Thursday 16th July 2026 at 11.15am at St Stephen's Church, Dulwich. This will be followed by a celebration of Brenda's life which will commence in the early afternoon. Please contact the school via asrpa@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk should you wish to attend.

A Book of Condolence will be open at the school, in the Main Reception, for contributions from current and former members of the school community until Wednesday 15th July 2026.



House Excellence Award

Evie Nicholls, Year 9, has won the House Excellence Award. She was nominated by the Music team.

Evie is an exemplary model student in all her music class activities. Her scholarship performances are always outstanding; she has been in the musical theatre choir and has been cast in the main singing

parts in school musicals. Evie is an incredibly hard working, positive, talented & generous student and we appreciate all that she brings to the music department. Well done Evie on achieving this award!

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

for the Family International Culture Day
at Kingsdale Foundation School

Sunday 19th July 2026, 12noon- 4pm. Contact

Mrs Chaudhary via

sca@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

THEME OF THE WEEK

Civilisation

'If civilisation is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships, the ability of all people of all kinds to live together in the same world, at peace.'

Eleanor Roosevelt

Word of the Week

Ostentatious

Definition: Characterised by pretentious or showy display; designed to impress.

Sentence: The event was an *ostentatious* display of power and wealth.

SCHOOL NEWS

National Sports Week



National School Sports Week 2026 takes place across the UK from Monday 6th to Sunday 12th July. Powered by the [Youth Sport Trust](https://www.youthsporttrust.org/) and partners including Sports Direct, this annual campaign celebrates physical education and encourages children to undertake the recommended 60 daily minutes of active exercise.

This year's theme is 'This Summer of Sport' which aims to capture the excitement of global sporting events like the men's football World Cup, the Commonwealth Games and the women's T20 Cricket World Cup. The week prioritises inclusivity, aiming to help children of all abilities connect and enjoy joyful movement.

The Sport, Health & Recreation Faculty will be playing its part to provide opportunities for as many students as possible to participate by running additional lunchtime activities details of which will be promoted to students. Please help us support this year's theme by encouraging your children to walk, cycle or scoot to and from school and engage in our sports programme.

Art & Design Exhibition

Wednesday 8th July 2026

5-8pm at school, SE21 8SQ

This Wednesday 8th July is our annual Summer Art & Design exhibition. We invite all students, parents, friends and staff to come and join us to celebrate the GCSE and A Level Fine Art, Textiles, Photography and Graphics work on display in our gallery and Atrium. There will also outcomes by Design and Technology, Year 7 & 8 Scholars, Year 9 and Arts Award work on display - so much to see!

Our wonderful Food and Nutrition students will be serving up Spanish Pintxos, and the music department will be providing entertainment. It is always a fun evening, and we look forward to seeing you there!



Artwork by Olachi Maduka
A Level Fine Art

Art & Design Exhibition

Wednesday 8th July 2026

5pm – 8pm

SE21 8SQ



KINGSDALE
FOUNDATION SCHOOL

PE PGL TRIP



PE PGL Water Sports Trip 2026

During the very early hours of Sunday 21st June, 40 students from Years 8 and 9, accompanied by Kingsdale staff, set off for the Domaine de Segries, Ardèche in the South of France for an action-packed week of adventure. During the week students endured blistering temperatures as they skillfully navigated their way down the Ardèche descent through rapids and breathtaking scenery on a two-day 29-kilometer journey in two-man kayaks. The following day students were up early once more in preparation for another action-packed day this time canyoning, (Haute Besorgues). Under the close supervision of site instructors and Kingsdale staff our fearless students set off down the canyon making headfirst descents down mini rapids, jumping off high rocks into the water and finishing the journey with a 45-meter-high zip line across the canyon back to base. Highlights of the morning included a backwards, headfirst descent down a waterfall and a 5-meter jump into the water at the end of the course. The day finished with a leisurely and well-earned trip to Vallon Pont d'Arc for shopping and a chance to stock up on treats.

The next day students enjoyed a slightly more leisurely start to the day with an 8am breakfast before making the journey to Wave Island Water Park for a fun packed day enjoying water slides and the pool. Our final day saw students take on new challenges with a visit to a high ropes site where students demonstrated their resilience as they traversed across numerous courses with varying degrees of complexity and challenge.

Huge [congratulations](#) goes out to each and every one of the students who attended this trip for all they achieved and experienced during the week and for being such excellent ambassadors for Kingsdale School especially in such extreme temperatures. A trip that has created memories, which will stay with all who took part for life, as well as opportunities for form new friendships.

Planning for a 2026/27 Ardèche adventure are now underway details of which will be made available later in the Autumn term. Please contact Mrs V Turner with any queries via pe@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk











PERFORMING ARTS NEWS



Year 7 at Great Big Dance Off Finals

On Tuesday 30th June, 25 Year 7 Street Dancers got on the coach at 9.15am to Cheltenham as 2nd place Regional Finalists in the Great Big Dance Off competition at the National Secondary School Dance Championships. The Kingsdale dancers would be competing against 16 other groups.

The day was long and the school dance teams were all amazing. This was the first time we can say that it was difficult to choose the winners as every school came to win. But no other school had what we had - (the loudest voices!) teamwork, friendship and infectious smiles that lit up the stage. After a long day of cheering on other schools it was time for the announcement. Who was going to be crowned Key Stage 3 National Champions.....?

3rd place was called we clapped...

2nd place was called...

1st place was called...

"And the highest scoring Key Stage 3 winners are KINGSDALE FOUNDATION SCHOOL!"

The whole town hall erupted in applause. Our dancers ran to the stage to collect a well-deserved trophy (we need another trophy cabinet) with screams of excitement and joy. Needless to say, the journey home was not silent at all. The 3-hour journey home was non-stop singing.

To be crowned National Secondary Champions after only joining Kingsdale 9 months earlier is truly amazing. We could not ask for a more dedicated and hard-working team of students and for some it has been their first time dancing. We are glad they are all enjoying being part of Kingsdale and all that it has to offer.

Many thanks to the Year 7 parents for your continued support of dance at Kingsdale, you are all truly appreciated.

To all our dancers at Kingsdale - thank you! It has been great working with you, and to the Year 7's helping make your first year into secondary school so memorable.

YEAR 7 STREET DANCERS YOU ARE THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!



The Kingsdale Family International Culture Day 2026

The planning for this exciting community event to celebrate the school's diversity and inclusive ethos is well underway.

The event itself will be held on Sunday 19th July 2026 between 12 noon & 4pm. You are cordially invited to join this summer celebration with your friends and families. Tickets will be made available shortly.

In case you or your child is able to contribute in any of the activities listed below, please contact us via email at kfscultureday@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk. Activities and highlights that you can contribute to includes:

- Music, Dance & Theatre
- Stalls with cultural products
- Multicultural Cuisine
- Diverse Talents
- Interactive Performing and Creative Arts Workshops
- Artefacts from Around the World for sale/exhibition

Applications for all bookings of stalls, activities & performances will close on Monday 29th June 2026.

Student Committee members (Years 7-13) and Prefects meetings have already started and any student interested in joining the student committee must contact Mrs Chaudhary during tutor time.

We would also like to encourage you to please help us with donation of raffle prizes for this grand summer event. In case you can help us with any donations, please contact us via email kfscultureday@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk. The funds that we raise through this event will be donated to the charity 'Mind' that provides support, advice and services for better mental health.

We are looking forward to celebrating this exciting Kingsdale community event with you!



Summer Festival 2026

This year Kingsdale's Summer Festival continues to grow and takes place over the course of the Summer half term 2. Information regarding attendance and ticketing where applicable are provided separately.. Consent and visit details for external events will be sent via our Evolve trips platform.

Please note the dates and times below, with further details following via Evolve notifications and further notifications from the Music Department and Ensemble Directors.

Wednesday 8th July 2026

Kingsdale Art and Design Exhibition 5pm @ Kingsdale Atrium

- Senior Jazz

Thursday 9th July 2026

Dance Recital Evening 6pm @ Kingsdale Drama Theatre

- Year 9 Singing Scholars
- Senior Guitar (Mr Melovski)

Friday 10th July 2026

School-O-Rama Steel Pan Festival 11am-3pm

@Trevor Bailey Sports Ground SE21 7HA

- Steel Pans (Groups to be communicated later – Mr Shorter)

Thursday 16th July 2026

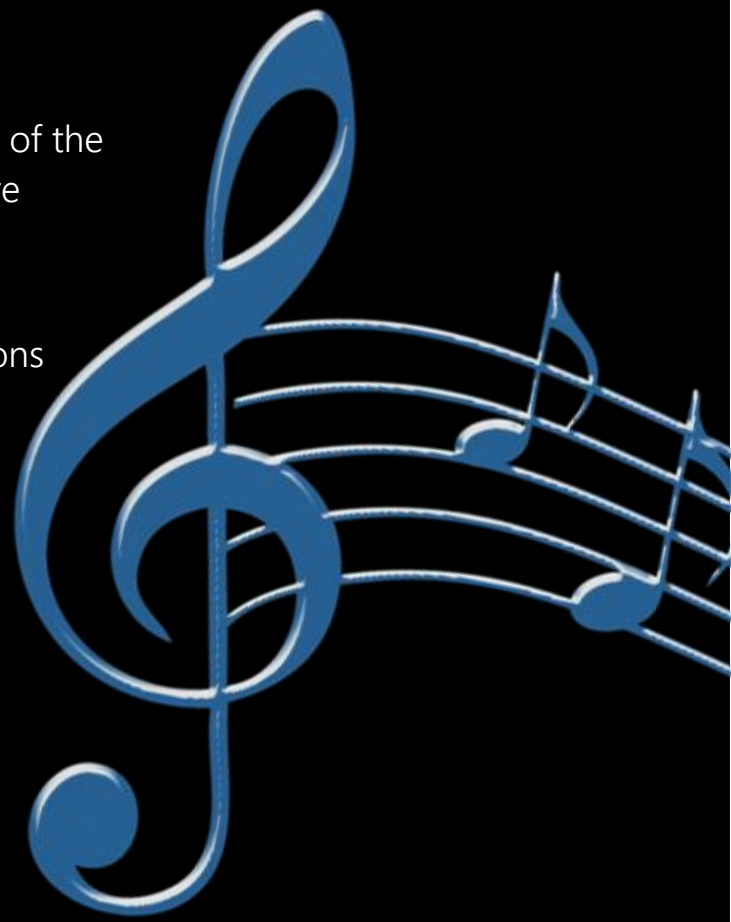
"Battle of the Bands" @ Kingsdale POD

- Electric Guitar Ensemble & Student Bands (Mr Williams)

Sunday 19th July 2026

Kingsdale International Family Culture Day 12pm @ Kingsdale Atrium

- African Drumming, Balkan Ensemble (Mr Melovski),
- Intermediate Guitar (Mr Tonks)
- Other acts TBC



We look forward to welcoming you to the performances and joining in celebrating the accomplishments of our young people



Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators

Success for Kingsdale Year 7 Students in National Translation Competition - The Anthea Bell Translation Prize

This year, students across all key stages from Kingsdale were invited to take part in the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators, a national translation competition run by the Queen's Translation Exchange at the University of Oxford.

The Anthea Bell Prize, named in honour of the celebrated Asterix translator, is an annual competition open to secondary school students. A record-breaking 25,000 school pupils from 532 schools across the UK took part in the 2026 competition, defying the national downturn in language learning. The prize, now in its sixth year, saw participation surge again this year, cementing its status as the largest creative translation competition for young people in the country.

Sanchez Headley and Sofia Toniolli in Year 7 were awarded commendations for Spanish and French respectively.

Schools taking part in the Anthea Bell Prize received free access to a suite of innovative classroom resources in six languages: French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish. Schools submitted thousands of student entries, over 5,400 of which were judged by a panel of renowned literary translators and Modern Languages students at the University of Oxford.

The surge in engagement comes as languages education faces significant challenges. A recent Duolingo-sponsored report noted that language learning is in 'catastrophic decline', yet that the skills attained while learning a language – the attributes of a 'linguistic mindset' – help young people to thrive in a global, AI-driven economy. The popularity of the Anthea Bell Prize indicates that creative, cultural content is the key to increasing uptake and attainment in languages.

Dr Charlotte Ryland, Director of QTE, said:

"The skills developed through translation – critical thinking, problem solving, empathy – set the rising generation up to thrive in our global economy. Our Anthea Bell Prize winners excel in all these skills, and I can't wait to see what they go on to do."

The names of all winning and commended students have now been published on the website. [You can view the webpage here](#). Congratulations to all those who entered from Kingsdale and especially to Sanchez and Sofia for their commendations!

YEAR 8 ARTS SCHOLARSHIP TRIP TO MARGATE 24th June 2026

The scholars met at school at 7.30am to travel by coach to Margate. Spirits were high as we began our journey, arriving at the Turner Contemporary gallery. Inside, we were given a guided tour of Hulda Guzmán's exhibition, where we saw many pieces of her work and learned a great deal about her artistic style and ideas.

After the gallery visit, we enjoyed lunch on the beach, taking in the beautiful views and the refreshing sea air.

In the afternoon, we split into two groups. One group visited the caves, while the other explored the Old Town, looking around the shops and local area. The caves were fascinating, with historic drawings on the walls. We learned that they were originally a chalk mine, later rediscovered when part of the ceiling collapsed. The owner then opened them to visitors in early 1800 and added decorative drawings.

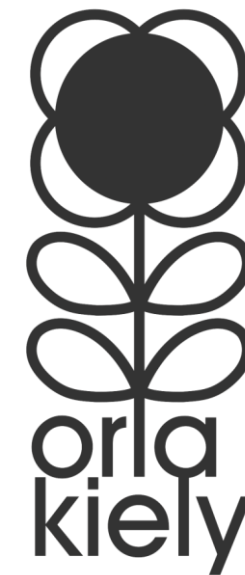
Meanwhile, the Old Town offered a variety of independent shops and cafés to explore. Many of us had brought cameras and took photographs of the artwork, buildings, and scenery.

Finally, we bought ice creams and returned to the beach to chat and dip our feet in the cool water. We even spotted small fish and crabs—it was great fun and very refreshing.

On the way home, we relaxed on the coach, with many of us managing to fall asleep after a busy day. We arrived back at school in the evening, tired but very happy after such an enjoyable trip.

By Ellie Plumpton Year 8





Year 12 Studio Visit 17th June 2026

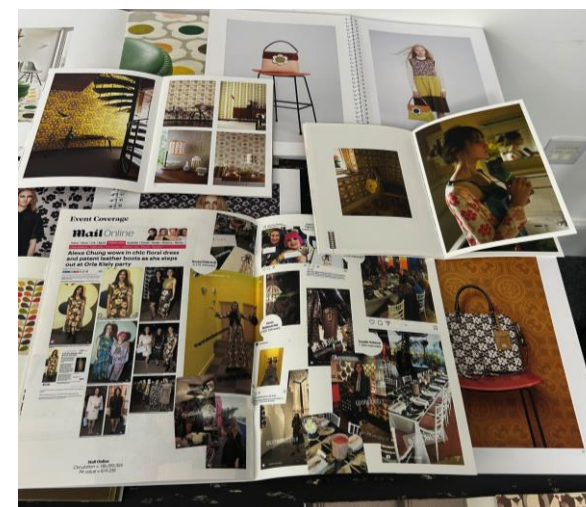
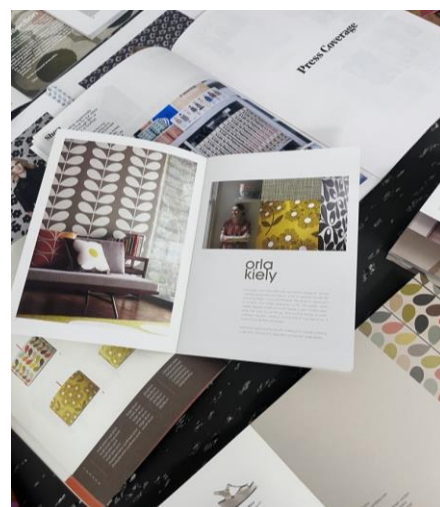
Two weeks ago, our Textiles class was lucky enough to visit the studio of iconic Irish print designer Orla Kiely.

Orla and her team were so welcoming and showed us the ins and outs of the print design, manufacturing and the marketing of her products. It was also incredibly interesting to learn about how the brand manages sustainability and how they ensure all their products are produced ethically, often collaborating with local communities in their traditional practice to produce pieces. We spoke about her and her team's journeys through art foundations, university and wider experiences ultimately leading them to Orla.

As textiles students it was a wonderful opportunity to see the real-life day to day of those working in fashion, which can often be so glamourised that it may seem unattainable. Further discussions on their combatting of AI and how they move with ever changing times, was also fascinating and provided us all with hope for the future in creative industries.

It was a beautiful way to spend a sunny afternoon, learning on a more in-depth level about the creation of the prints we have all seen before.

By Jess Gavin-Elias Year 12





Our talented Year 9 Food Preparation and Nutrition students will be preparing and serving a selection of authentic **Pintxos** – delicious, flavour-packed snacks inspired by the vibrant food culture of the Basque Country in northern Spain.

This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our students' achievements, experience their culinary creativity, and enjoy some fantastic food. We look forward to welcoming you for an evening of great flavours and student success.

Art & Design Exhibition

Join us for a taste of Spain!

Wednesday 8th July 2026
5pm – 8pm



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SE21 8SQ

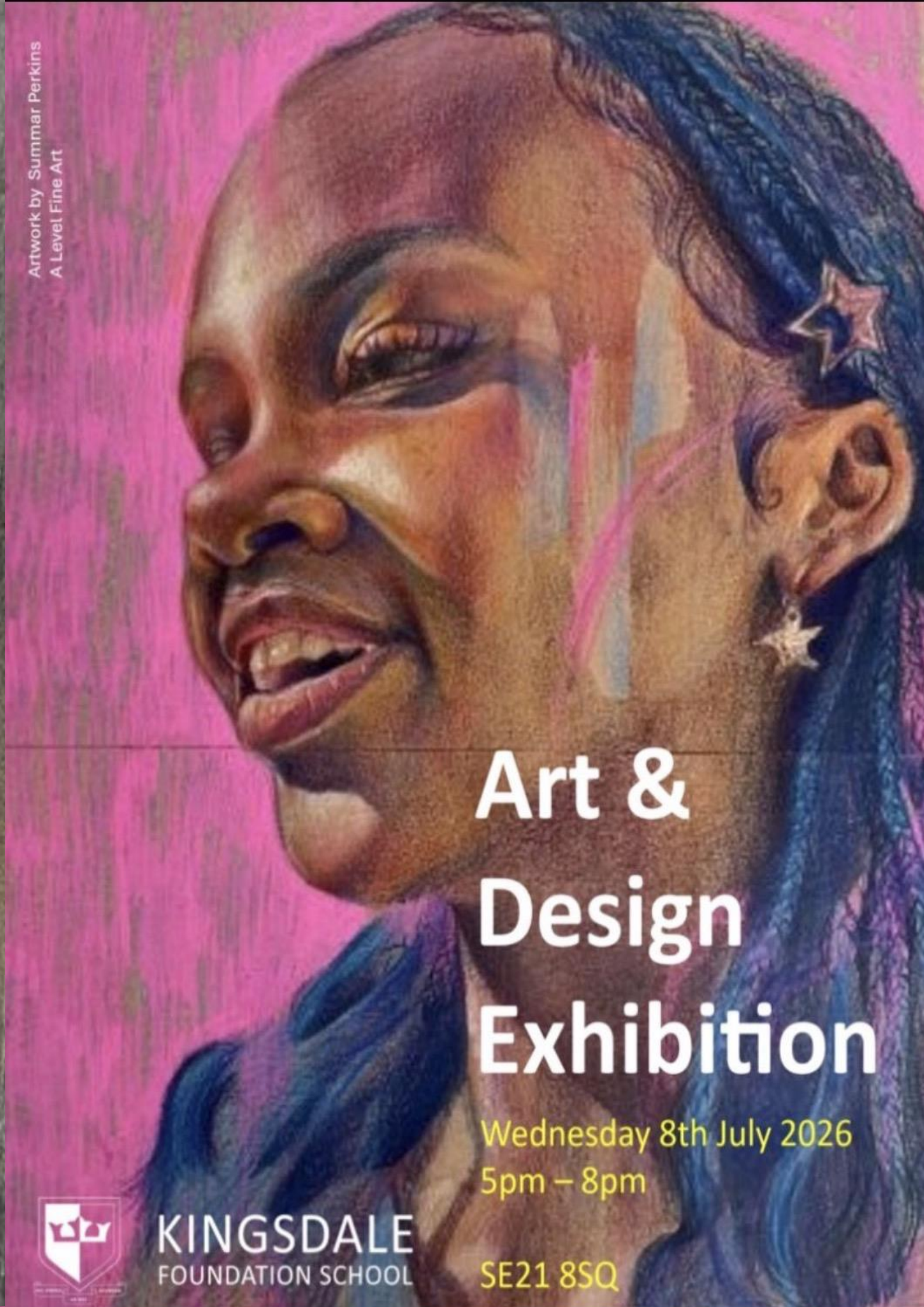
Artwork by Summar Perkins
A Level Fine Art



KINGSDALE
FOUNDATION SCHOOL

Wednesday 8th July 2026
5pm – 8pm

SE21 8SQ



Art & Design Exhibition

Inspiring Careers Talk: Exploring Careers in Strategy with Mr Pedro Vanconcellos

Last week, we were delighted to welcome Mr Pedro Vanconcellos, Head of Strategy at the Pearson Enterprise Division, who delivered an engaging and inspiring talk to our students on careers in strategy. Organised by the Careers Team, the session adopted a dynamic “TED-talk” style format that immediately captured students’ attention and encouraged active reflection.

Mr Vanconcellos began by sharing his own career journey, highlighting the many twists and turns he experienced along the way. Rather than following a linear path, his story demonstrated how careers can evolve in unexpected and exciting directions. From beginnings in law, to roles in management, alongside pursuits such as photography and ultimately into his current position in strategy, his trajectory reinforced the idea that flexibility, curiosity and openness to change are invaluable qualities in today’s world of work.

He then provided students with a clear and accessible insight into what working in strategy involves. Drawing on his current role, Mr Vanconcellos explained how strategic thinking supports decision-making at an organisational level, requiring a combination of analytical thinking, creativity, and strong communication skills.

A key theme throughout the talk was the importance of developing core transferable skills. Mr Vanconcellos emphasised the value of logical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning, alongside the confidence to contribute ideas and navigate challenges. He spoke candidly about both the rewarding aspects of his role—the ‘fun side’—and the realities of competition, pressure, and maintaining a balanced lifestyle.

Students were particularly engaged during the question-and-answer session, where Mr Vanconcellos provided thoughtful and insightful responses to a range of exploratory questions. These discussions helped students better understand how different career pathways intersect, and the importance of building both knowledge and skills to adapt successfully in a constantly changing professional landscape.

Overall, the talk was both excellent and inspiring, offering valuable guidance and reassurance that there is no single “right” route to success. Instead, it highlighted the importance of resilience, adaptability, and a willingness to embrace new opportunities—messages that will undoubtedly stay with our students as they begin to shape their own career journeys.

We have further two careers talks lined up this half term:

The Data Boom and Careers in the Data Industry on 7th July 2026

Careers in Metropolitan Police on 8th July 2026

If your child is interested, please book a place via careers@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk



EPQ - Extended Project Qualification

Next academic year, Year 12's will start the EPQ (extended project qualification) process. As part of this, students look to develop their skills in research, referencing, project management, critical analysis, academic writing and presentation delivery.

We would love to bring these Wednesday afternoon sessions to life by hearing from parents who use these skills in their own work. If you'd be willing to come in and give a short talk about how you apply any of these skills in your job, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact Alice Dixon (Year 12 Head of Learning) on ADX@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Thank you for supporting our learners!



GEOGRAPHY COMPETITION

GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION • KS3: YEARS 7, 8 & 9 • FREE TO ENTER

2026 THEME

Fragile Environments

Design and make a 3D model that showcases a fragile environment and explains why it is vulnerable.

A fragile environment is one that can be easily damaged by natural changes or human activity.



Physical Features

Landforms, vegetation, climate & wildlife



Why It's Fragile

What makes it sensitive or vulnerable

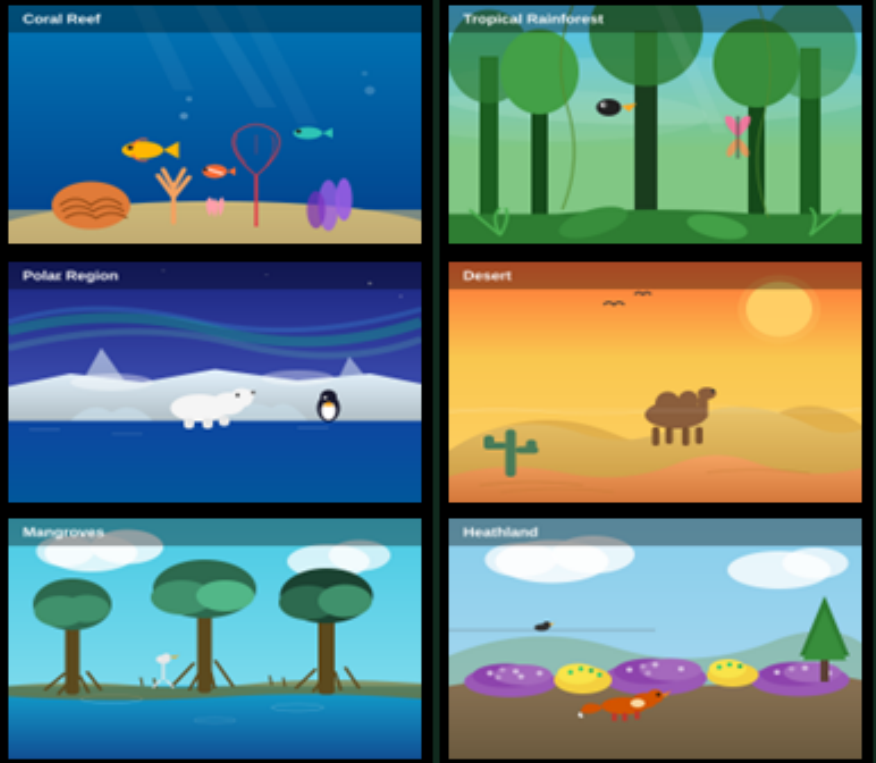


2+ Threats

e.g. climate change, pollution, habitat loss...

★ Bonus: Also show how the environment can be protected or managed!

EXAMPLES OF FRAGILE ENVIRONMENTS



Many more environments to choose from — or pick your own!

JUDGING CRITERIA

- ✓ Geographical relevance
- ✓ Detailed geographical explanation
- ✓ Originality and creativity
- ✓ Quality of model build

KS3: YEARS 7, 8 & 9

HOW TO ENTER

<https://geography.org.uk/get-connected/get-involved-1-student-activities/geographical-model-making-competition/>



1 Photograph your model

Take 2 photos: an oblique/side view AND an aerial/bird's-eye view from above.



2 Complete the entry form

Download the entry form from the Geographical Association. Write up to 300 words describing your model and explaining the geographical concept. You can type or photograph handwritten text.



3 Get parental/guardian consent

Download and complete the parental consent form from the Geographical Association. Entries cannot be considered without it.



4 Submit everything online

Fill in the form at the bottom of the Geographical Association competition page, attaching your entry form and consent form. That's it!

ENTRY CATEGORIES

Individual — KS3

Years 7, 8 & 9

KEY DEADLINE

Closes 31 July 2026

MATERIALS



Main material: reused or waste cardboard + other recycled materials from home or school

No need to buy new materials for colour — use pencils or paints you already have.

AWARDS & TIPS



Winners and runners-up receive awards from the GA, announced on social media.

→ Add labels for features, threats & protection strategies

→ Use your 300 words to explain the geography — not just describe the model

DEADLINE: 31st JULY 2026

Southwark Council in partnership with London Bubble Theatre invite you



SCREEN TIME & MENTAL HEALTH

An event for parents, carers and professionals

- Watch a powerful performance from London Bubble Theatre about the impact of screentime on young people, originally delivered to over 1,000 Year 7s across Southwark.
- Take part in an open discussion to share your perspective and learn from others.
- Hear from researchers from Queen Mary University and take home some tips for managing young people's screen time and mental health.

09 JUL 2026

12.30PM - 2.30PM

 **Peckham Library (Pod 1)**
122 Peckham Hill Street
London SE15 5JR

 **FREE!**
Click the link to book

Organised by:

Southwark
Council
southwark.gov.uk



**Light refreshments will be provided.*

Book [Here](#). We look forward to seeing you!

 **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



Mental Health & Well-Being Weekly Focus for Students: Coping Strategies and Help Seeking

This week's mental health and well-being focus for students is "Coping Strategies & Help-Seeking". For secondary school students, managing mental health and navigating the transition to adulthood involves a combination of daily, self-led coping practices, formal in-school support, and accessible external crisis services. At Kingsdale School both students, and staff, have access to a wide range of support services provided free of charge by the school alongside links to many external support providers.

Kingsdale School provides staff with free and confidential support from our Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), including access to counsellors. Practical mental health support for teachers can also be accessed from specialised services such as the Education Support 24/7 helpline (08000 562 561).

Please contact Ms V. Turner via mentalhealth&wellbeing@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk for further information on our after-school staff clubs, how to access our sports facilities for after school staff activities or details of our school counselling services.

In-School Help-Seeking

Schools serve as a primary hub for early intervention and support:

- **Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs):** Many UK secondary schools (including those across London) partner with the NHS to offer brief, 1-to-1 cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and guided self-help sessions.
- **Pastoral & Counselling Teams:** Speaking with a Designated Mental Health Lead (DMHL), head of year, or school counsellor provides an immediate, safe, and confidential space to talk through issues like academic stress and friendship conflicts.
- **School Nurses & Place2Be:** Young people can usually self-refer to a school nurse or specific charities working directly on-site, such as [Place2Be](#).

Self-Led Coping Strategies

Students can utilize five core, evidence-based coping skills to regulate their emotions and build resilience:

- **Emotional Regulation:** Identifying the feeling and practicing deep breathing or grounding techniques (e.g., the 5-4-3-2-1 sensory method) to manage physical anxiety.
- **Cognitive Reframing:** Challenging negative or catastrophic thoughts by writing down alternative, more balanced perspectives.
- **Problem-Solving:** Breaking down overwhelming academic workloads into small, manageable, sequential steps.
- **Active Relaxation:** Scheduling time for physical activity, listening to music, or practicing mindfulness through apps like *Combined Minds*.
- **Self-Care & Boundaries:** Setting realistic goals, creating a predictable daily routine, and carving out tech-free time to disconnect

National Year of Reading Department of Sport, Health & Recreation

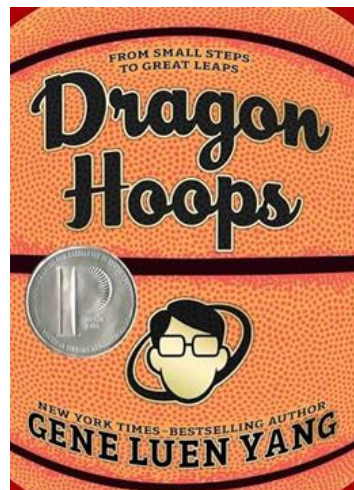


National Year of Reading 2026

This half term the PE department have been helping to celebrate the National Year of Reading by blending literacy with movement through active, gamified warmup initiatives.

Each week we have been announcing a sports related book of the week and a weekly sports reading theme. To link all our weekly themes together the department are running a competition awarding a prize for the best poster or written piece of work, in each year group, which shows evidence that students have carried out the weekly reading themes.

Any student who wishes to enter should ensure they submit their compilation of evidence from each weekly theme to Mrs Turner, Director of Sport, (Sports Hall upstairs office), by Monday 13th July 2026. Winners will be announced in the subsequent issue of the Parental Newsletter.



This week's PE book of the week is Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang, a critically acclaimed, non-fiction graphic novel memoir published in 2020.

The book masterfully shifts the spotlight onto Yang's own life as a self-proclaimed comic book nerd and math teacher at Bishop O'Dowd High School in California, tracking the school's varsity basketball team, the Dragons, on their epic chase for the State Championship.

Gene doesn't get sports however when his school's team goes on a historic, decades-in-the-making winning streak, he gets pulled into the world of basketball. The novel follows the real 2014–2015 basketball season and profiles the diverse lives, cultural backgrounds, and personal hurdles of the student-athletes and coaches. The book seamlessly weaves in the global history of basketball, from its invention to its massive rise in China and explores Yang's own creative struggle as he tries to write the book while the unpredictable real-world season unfolds in front of him. It goes way beyond the court to tackle systemic racism, sexism, and intense peer pressure.

This week's PE reading theme of the week is 'The Business of Sport'. Students are asked to explore the economics of sports clubs, sponsorship deals, and the influence of media rights on clubs. For those students taking part in this half terms sports reading competition, please add what you have found whilst exploring this theme to your entry. For further information please contact Mrs V Turner, Director of Sport, at pe@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

National Year of Reading 2026

We are proudly supporting the National Year of Reading 2026 and the theme of 'Go All In.' Watch this space for more information regarding the exciting programme of initiatives we have planned to support this important focus. As a 'Do Now' activity, we ask all parents to ensure that their children have a reading book in their school bag every day which they can obtain from the school libraries.

National Year of Reading Department of Sociology

Book recommendation Boy Everywhere by A.M. Dassu



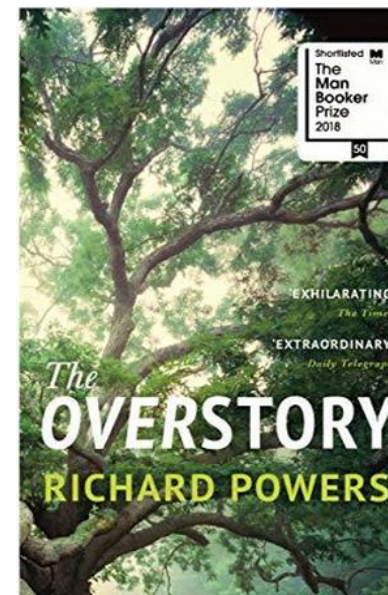
A novel that follows Sami, a 13-year-old boy forced to flee his home in Syria when civil war breaks out. As Sami and his family undertake a dangerous journey across Europe in search of safety, readers gain an insight into the challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers.

National Year of Reading Citizenship Competition

Knowledge of current events is vital in Citizenship. Find a news article that is related to something you have covered in Citizenship this year. Write a paragraph summarising the article, and explain how trustworthy you believe it to be and why. Submit entries to Mr Packham or Ms Yurdakul: spm@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk; eyl@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

National Year of Reading Department of Sociology

Book recommendation The Overstory by Richard Powers



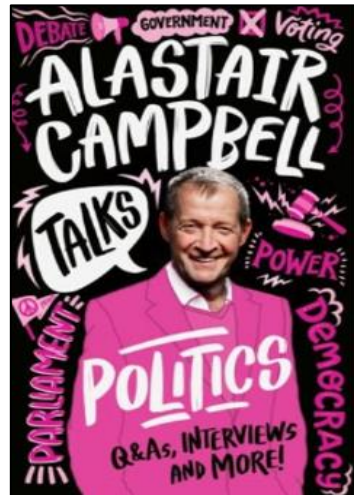
Suitable for students 15+

An interesting read about human relationships with nature and a fictional insight into the connections we have with each other and the natural world. It reads like lots of short stories that are interconnected.

National Year of Reading Sociology Competition

Sociology is everywhere! Find a newspaper article based on a sociological issue of your choice; crime, families, education, culture, the media, the environment and write a review of the article to win a £10 book voucher. Submit your review to Ms Keith-Jopp at rhp@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

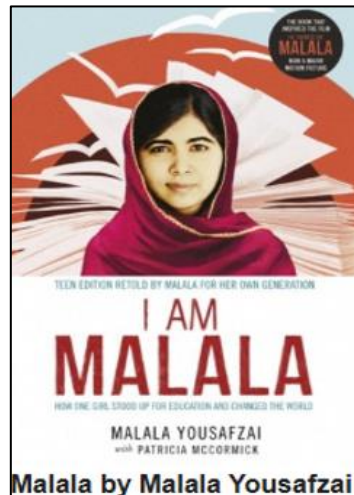
National Year of Reading Department of Politics



Key Stage3 Book Tip

Alastair Campbell Talks Politics

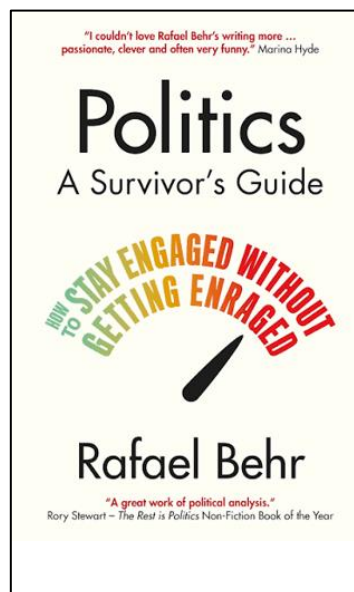
In this book, Alastair Campbell explains how politics works, explores major political ideas and issues, and encourages readers to engage critically with the world around them.



Key Stage 4 Book Tip

I Am Malala

This memoir tells the story of Malala Yousafzai's fight for girls' education in Pakistan and how she became a global advocate for human rights after surviving an attack by the Taliban.



Key Stage 5 Book Tip

Politics: A Survivor's Guide by Rafael Behr

This book offers a witty and accessible introduction to how politics really works, revealing the strategies, compromises, and behind-the-scenes realities of political life.

Year 8 Classics Book Club – Step into the Ancient World!

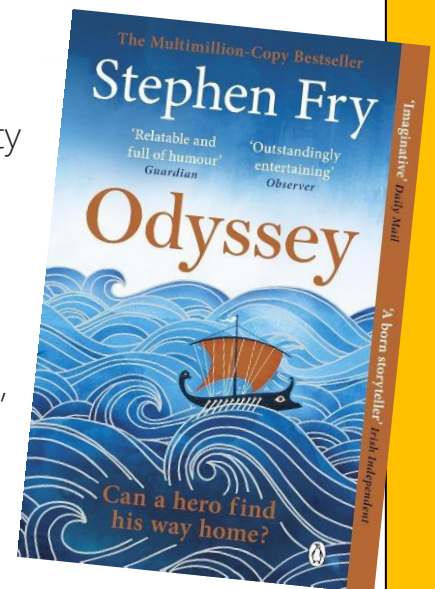
Do you enjoy myths, battles, heroes, love stories and epic adventures?
Are you a Percy Jackson or a Stephen Fry fan?
Have you yet to experience life in the ancient world but want to learn more?!



Then join our **Year 8 Classics Book Club** and travel back in time to the fascinating worlds of **Ancient Greece and Rome!**

From powerful gods and legendary heroes to fierce gladiators and mighty emperors, we'll explore some of the greatest stories ever told.

Whether you're new to Classics or already hooked on Greek mythology, this club is the perfect place to discover, discuss and debate.



What to expect:

-  Exciting reads inspired by Greek myths and Roman history
-  Fun group discussions and debates
-  Creative activities like storytelling, quizzes, and mini-dramas
-  A chance to learn about ancient culture, beliefs, and daily life

When: Tuesdays 12.10 pm

Where: Lower School Library

Who: All Year 8 students welcome

If you want to find out more about the club please contact:
Miss Evans or Mr Bowring in the Languages Department.

SCHOOL NEWS



Big History Club!

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

Do you want to dive into the past?
Is there something we don't cover at school
that you would like to learn about?

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

In our session on **Tuesday 7th July**
we will be asking
**What can female Samurai tell us about Medieval
Japan?** with Ms Preston

Bring along any knowledge you already have,
and ideas for future sessions



CALENDAR 2025-26

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 at
attendance@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

SUMMER TERM 2026

SPORTS DAY

Thursday 23rd July 2026

Second Summer Half Term

Monday 1st June – Friday 24th July

Friday 24th July INSET DAY

School closed to students except by invitation

2026/27 Term Holiday dates now published [here](#)



LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

We have been celebrating LGBTQIA* Pride Month at
Kingsdale Foundation School. Pride month is held
every year in June to celebrate the LGBTQIA*
community rights and achievements as well as
commemorating the history of the queer rights
movement and to advocate for equal justice and
acceptance.

Kingsdale Foundation School prides itself on being
an inclusive school and welcomes acceptance and
inclusion of various peoples amongst its student
and staff body as well as the local community.
There have been Pride Month assemblies for all
year groups, alongside weekly Pride lunch-clubs
where students are welcome to bring any
questions. We also joined the London Pride March
on 4th July with other school of Southwark. A full
report to follow next week!

For any related questions please send your child
to Mr Tilly (Drama) or Ms Koch (Languages).



Supporting Your Child with Anxiety at Home

It is completely normal for children and young people to feel worried or anxious from time to time. Starting a new class, taking tests, making friends or trying something new can all cause feelings of anxiety especially in a school as big as Kingsdale! However, when worries become overwhelming or begin to affect daily life, children may need some extra support. The good news is that there are many simple things parents and carers can do at home to help.

1. Listen First, Solve Second

When your child tells you they are worried, try to listen without rushing to fix the problem straight away. Let them know you understand how they are feeling. Try saying:

"That sounds really difficult." - "I'm glad you told me." - "Let's think together about what might help."

Feeling heard and understood is often the first step in reducing anxiety.



2. Keep Routines Predictable

Children feel safer when they know what to expect. Regular routines for waking up, meals, homework and bedtime can provide reassurance and help reduce uncertainty. If a change is coming, such as a trip, appointment or starting a new activity, talk about it in advance so your child has time to prepare.

3. Encourage Brave Steps

It can be tempting to help children avoid situations that make them anxious, but avoiding worries often makes anxiety grow. Instead, encourage your child to take small, manageable steps towards facing their fears. Celebrate every success, no matter how small. Confidence grows through experience.



4. Help Them Calm Their Body

Anxiety affects the body as well as the mind. Encourage your child to practise calming strategies when they are relaxed so they can use them when they feel worried. Ideas include:

- Slow, deep breathing.
- Going for a walk or spending time outdoors.
- Listening to calming music.
- Drawing, colouring or reading.
- Creating a 'worry box' where worries can be written down and talked about later.

5. Be Kind to Yourself Too

Supporting an anxious child can be exhausting. Remember that you don't have to manage everything alone. Looking after your own wellbeing helps you to support your child more effectively. If your child's anxiety is beginning to affect their sleep, friendships, school attendance or everyday life, speak to your GP or contact your child's school. Early support can make a significant difference.

SEND FACULTY NEWS

Helpful Websites

- NHS – Anxiety in Children
Practical advice on recognising anxiety and supporting children at home.
<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/anxiety-in-children/>
- YoungMinds – Parents' Guide to Anxiety
Information, advice and a free Parents Helpline for families supporting children with anxiety and other mental health concerns.
<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>
- Anna Freud
Evidence-based advice, resources and practical strategies to support children's mental health and emotional wellbeing.
<https://www.annafreud.org/parents-and-carers/>

Celebrating Disability Pride Month this July



This July, our school is proud to celebrate Disability Pride Month, a time to recognise, celebrate and value the experiences, identities and achievements of disabled people. It is an opportunity to promote inclusion, challenge stereotypes and help everyone understand that disability is a natural and valuable part of human diversity.

Disability Pride Month began in 1990 alongside the disability rights movement and has grown into an international celebration. It encourages us to move beyond simply being aware of disability and instead focus on creating a world where everyone feels respected, included and able to thrive. Disability Pride is about recognising strengths, celebrating achievements and challenging the barriers that disabled people can face in everyday life.

How We Are Celebrating at School

Throughout July, students will have opportunities to:

- Learn about Disability Pride Month and why it is important.
- Celebrate the achievements and contributions of disabled people throughout history and today.
- Explore how we can all help create a more inclusive school community.
- Discuss the importance of kindness, respect, accessibility and challenging stereotypes.

By encouraging open conversations and celebrating diversity, we hope to inspire our pupils to become confident, compassionate and inclusive members of our community.

How Families Can Get Involved

You can support Disability Pride Month at home by:

- Reading books that include disabled characters and authors.
- Watching films or documentaries that celebrate disability and challenge stereotypes.
- Talking about how everyone has different strengths, challenges and ways of experiencing the world.
- Encouraging children to ask respectful questions and celebrate differences.

Small conversations at home can have a big impact on helping children develop empathy, understanding and respect for others.



Find Out More

- [Scope](#) – Information about Disability Pride Month, disability equality and practical ways to become an ally.
- [Disability Rights UK](#) – Information about disability rights, inclusion and disabled people's voices.
- [Sense](#) – Support for people with complex disabilities and resources for families.
- [National Autistic Society](#) – Information and support for autistic people and their families.
- [Contact](#) – A national charity supporting families with disabled children.

SEND FACULTY NEWS



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](#)



How Contact can help

Contact is a UK charity that provides support and information to families with disabled children, whatever the condition or needs.

Our helpline

Our freephone helpline can give advice about any aspect of raising a disabled child, including help with finances, education, emotional and practical support.

 **0808 808 3555**  **helpline@contact.org.uk**

Guides for parents

We have a range of free guides for parents, including:

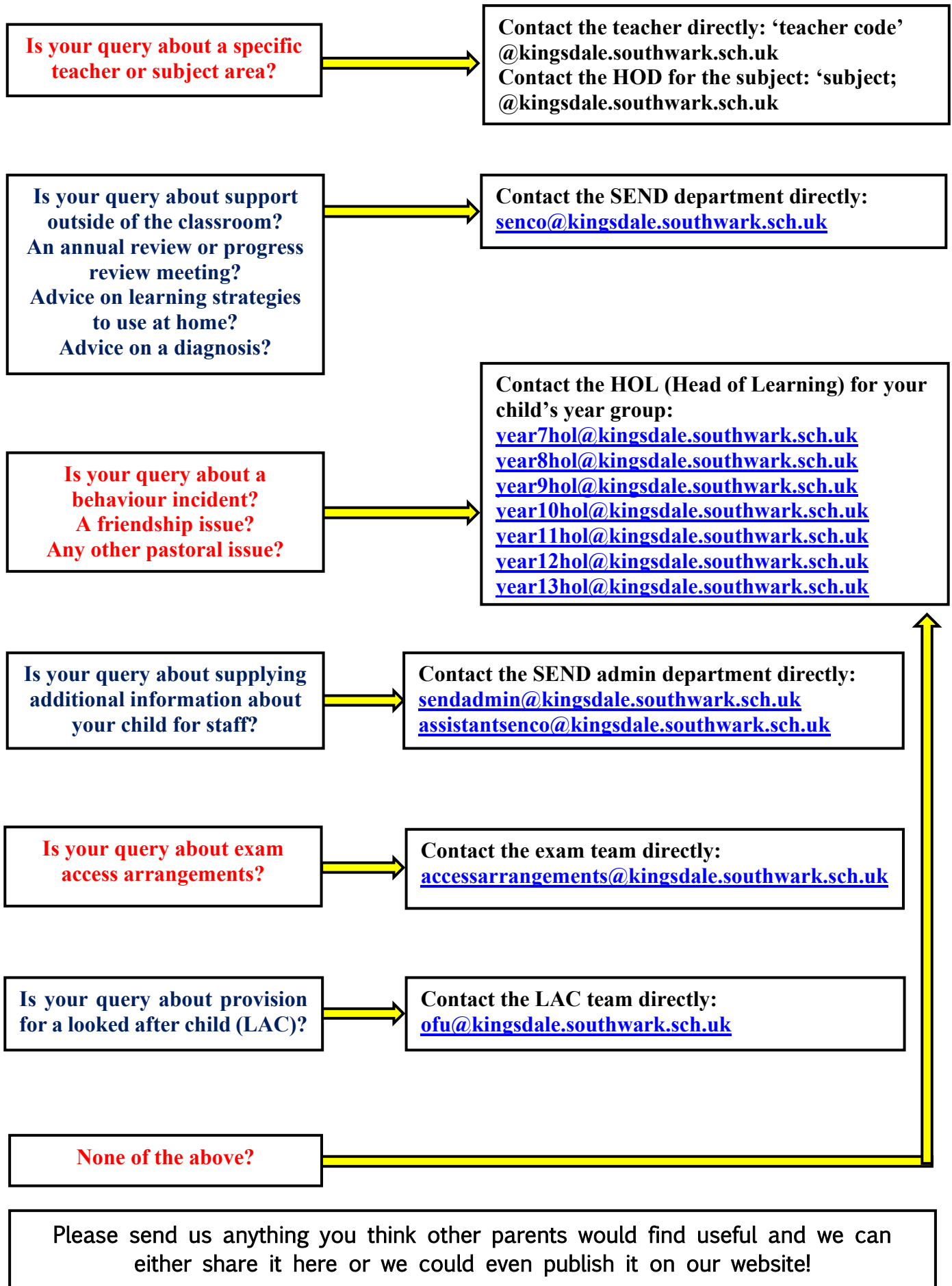
- *Personal Independence Payments and other benefits at 16*
- *Preparing for adulthood*
- *Holidays, play and leisure*
- *Aids, equipment and adaptations*

A full list of our guides is at the link below. All our guides are free to parents who call our helpline, and are free to download.

 **www.contact.org.uk/publicationslist**
 **0808 808 3555**

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.





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.



Education from
the National
Crime Agency

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

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



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

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 COMPETITION

Inter-House Sports Day Mascot Competition



Get ready for one of the most exciting days in our school calendar – Inter-House Sports Day is happening on Thursday 23rd July 2026! As part of this year's Inter-House Sports Day, we're inviting all students to get creative by designing a brand-new house mascot!



This is a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their artistic talents and create a mascot that represents the spirit, values and teamwork of their house. The winning design will become the official house mascot and will feature in future Sports Day events and house competitions.



A special shout-out goes to Sophia Nguyen, Year 8, who created and beautifully illustrated a brand-new Eagle House mascot last year. What a brilliant drawing!



STUDENTS - HOW TO ENTER: Share your Mascot with 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 FORTNITE



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College

SPORTS FIXTURES

Monday 6th July 2026

- National Sports Week Activities taking place throughout the week – details issued separately by Ms Turner & Mr Roberts
- Year 10 Girls' & Boys' Sports Day Heats at Mary Datchelor Playing Fields. 9am - 11am: **Mr Roberts/PE Staff**

Wednesday 8th July 2026

- Year 7-10 Girls' & Boys' Dance Teams at National Finals at Mecca Swindon. Leave school at 7am. Start 10.30am. Return at 7pm approx.: **Ms McGregor/Ms Dookey**

Thursday 9th July 2026

- Under-13s Boys' Rugby League Finals Day at Sunbury-on-Thames. Leave school at 8.15am. Start 10.45am. Return at 5.30pm approx.: **Mr Lord/Mr Price**

Friday 10th July 2026

- Under-13s & 15s Girls' Softball Cricket Regional Finals Day Venue Raynes Park Sports Ground. Leave school at 8am. Start 10am. Return at 5.30pm approx.: **Ms Jaymes/Mr Price**

All fixtures are available to view via the following link:

<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 Fortnite.'

Get a greater insight. Please read! Remember to keep an open dialogue with your child about their activities online. See page 31 above.



The House Leader Board 2025-26

Week ending
3rd July 2026

- 1st Place – Dove 118,838 points
- 2nd Place – Albatross 118,103 points
- 3rd Place – Swift 118,066 points
- 4th Place – Falcon 116,506 points
- 5th Place – Eagle 114,923 points



Swift drops to 3rd place! It's very tight at the top!

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 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.

