



PARENTAL NEWS BULLETIN

Issue 6 Monday 5th October 2026

HEADLINE NOTICES

Kingsdale Careers Programme 2026-2027

We are very proud of our Careers opportunities at Kingsdale and a lot of the exciting talks and opportunities 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 45 minutes to 1 hour and are aimed at a range of year groups. These 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, please fill out [this form](#). Please get in touch with us on careers@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk if you have any questions.

Lost Property

We are experiencing an increase in student lost property. Please could all parents ensure that all their children's personal belongings are clearly marked with their names. Every day we receive a large number of unlabelled belongings to the Lost Property Office which we are unable to return to students, resulting in extra expense for parents and unnecessary waste. For any lost property queries please contact

lostproperty@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

THEME OF THE WEEK Freedom

'Freedom is not the right to do as you please; it is the liberty to do as you ought. Enjoy your freedom but not at the expense of others.'

Martin Luther King

WORD OF THE WEEK Unequivocally

In a way that is total, or expressed very clearly with no doubt.

'He said the allegations against him were absolutely and unequivocally untrue.'

SCHOOL NEWS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Throughout last week, students have been attending their prospective House Assemblies during which we have celebrated the start of Black History Month.

We highlighted the theme for this year which is 'Honouring Our Communities' and helping students to understand the difference they all can make to their immediate environment. While we shared the many more traditional names associated with Black History Month, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and Rosa Parks, we also echoed the work of some local heroes closer to home. Over the next few weeks, we will share those inspiring individuals. The first of these is Safia Jama, a Community Leader working with disadvantaged vulnerable women in East London.

You can read her story below.

Safia Jama

Leading change.
Building stronger communities.

Community leadership focused on women and families in East London.

Support | Connect | Empower

Safia is a community leader in East London and CEO of the Women's Inclusive Team.

Her work focuses on supporting women from different backgrounds, including through wellbeing, learning and community programmes.

Safia's story reminds us that community leadership can begin with something very simple: noticing that somebody needs support and choosing to help.



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

KINGSDALE FOUNDATION SCHOOL



Rapp UK Work Experience



Summary

We've given **adolescence** an affordable healthy **alternative**, to drinks like coffee and energy drinks to better help their **everyday** lives.



The Rise Program is now in its 5th year and was set up in collaboration with Rapp UK Design Agency in order to provide students in Year 11 and 13 tangible and practical work experience.

Students were required to work in a team to a real brief. They were given 2 weeks to research, strategise, design and pitch their ideas to the client. This year's brief was to create and launch a new drink for Costa.

We are so proud of the incredible work the students produced and the confidence of their pitch. We thank Rapp UK for their time, expertise and continuous support and dedication to our students.

A new Drama Club run by Ms Wood



Year 7
Drama
Club



Wednesday P3
11:20-11:45



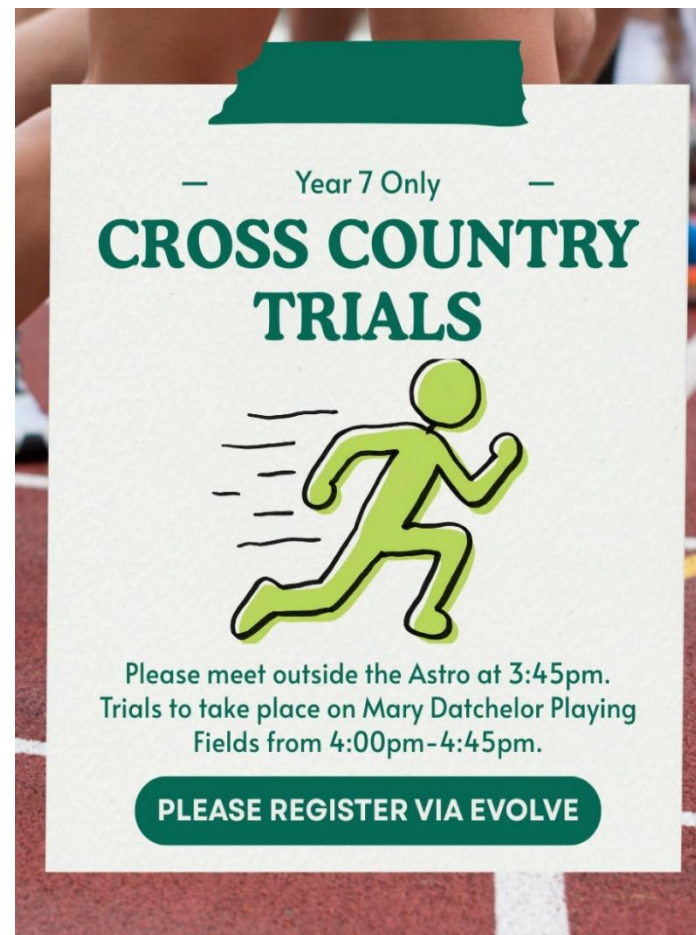
We will be doing lots of Games, Improvisation and Script work

How to sign up – just turn up!!

Find our more/Register your intrest by emailing me:

AWD@Kingsdale.Southwark.sch.uk

SPORTS NEWS



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

Year 9 Boys' B Football Team English Schools Cup: Kingsdale v Royal Russell School
Congratulations to the Year 9 Boys' Football B Team who beat Royal Russell School 5 - 0 in the English Schools Cup last week. It was 1-0 to KFS at half-time with a great goal coming from Andres.

In the 2nd half, the Kingsdale boys came out flying at Royal Russell with 2 quick goals from Samuel and Morgan. To cap off a very good day for Kingsdale, Andres scored 2 more to mark his hat trick.

A special mention goes to Maksim who made his first appearance for Kingsdale in goal during the 2nd half.

Both Maxwell and Maksim kept a clean sheet.

Final Score:
Kingsdale 5-0 Royal Russell School

Goal Scorers:
Samuel (1), Morgan (1) and Andres (3)

Player of the Match:
Andres for his 3 goals and non-stop battling



Under-14s Girls' Football Team: Kingsdale v Thomas Tallis

Well done to the Under-14s Girls' Football team who won their first game of the season last week.

It was a tough game against a determined Thomas Tallis side, but the girls showed great resilience to comeback from 1-0 down to win 2-1! Well done girls!

Final Score:
Kingsdale 2-1 Thomas Tallis

Goal Scorer:
Wren (2)

Player of The Match:
Wren



Under-15s Girls' Football Team
Kingsdale v JAGS

The Under-15s Girls' Football team made a fantastic start to the year last week with a dominant 6-2 win against JAGS.

Despite a slow start, the girls showed their ability to dominate and keep the ball away from JAGS and cruised to victory.

They'll now face a tough away fixture against Bromley High in the next round.

Final Score:
Kingsdale 6-2 JAGS

Goal Scorers:
Lisa (3), Ruby (1), Marlena (1) and Poppy C (1)

Player of The Match:
Sophia



Year 7 Boys' Football A Team Kingsdale vs Sedgehill Academy

Congratulations to the Year 7 Boys' Football A team for winning their first game in a friendly against Sedgehill Academy on Friday 25th September 2026.

The boys worked extremely hard throughout the match and finished the 1st half 1-0 up.

They started the 2nd half strong and went on to score two more goals, securing a well-deserved 3-0 victory.

A big shout-out to Harrison for scoring a fantastic hat-trick!

Final Score:

Kingsdale. 3-0 Sedgehill Academy

Team sheet:

Harrison, Bently, Emmanuel, Roman, Malick, Aamir, Javier, Ryan, Isaac, Otis, Brandon, Harroun, Idress, Jacob, Daniel & Zec.



Year 7 Boys' Football B Team ESFA Cup Cup

Kingsdale vs Fulham Boys

Well done to the Year 7 Boys' Football B Team on a 2-3 victory over Fulham Boys in the First Round of the ESFA Cup on Tuesday 29th September.

The team showed brilliant spirit, determination and teamwork from start to finish.

Final Score:

Fulham Boys 2-3 Kingsdale

Goal Scorers:

Adedayo, Felix & Archie

Team:

Ilyas, Rafferty, Fred, Joseph, Thomas, Archie, Zac, Myronas, Milan, Felix, Zeenario, Sami, Otis & Adedayo.



SPORTS NEWS

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



Year 11 Girls' Hockey A Team

Kingsdale v James Allen's Girls School (JAGS)

With both teams managing to get 9 players out on field to play, it was an excellent game of hockey. It was a very even playing field for both teams with both having equal chances to attempt to score. The ball was moving nicely between both teams. However Kingsdale managed to grab the win thanks to a goal line save by Ciara who kept it to 1-0. Well done girls.

Final Score: Kingsdale. 1-0 JAGS

Team sheet:

Ciara, Daisy, Greta, Lily, Matilda, Sofia, Kyla, Amelie & Isla.

Jacob, Year 10 at the Westminster Mile

Jacob in Year 10 ran the Westminster mile on Saturday 26th September 2026, setting a new Personal Best and reaching his target of running sub 5 minutes (just!) with a time of 4.59, finishing first in his wave and first in his age category.

Well done Jacob!



SPORTS NEWS

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

Year 7 - 13 Swimming Competition News
Well done to everyone who took part in last week's swimming competition!
It was fantastic to see such a wide range of students representing the school, with swimmers from Year 7 all the way through to Year 13 taking part. Everyone showed great determination, commitment and team spirit throughout the competition.
We are still waiting for the official results. Regardless of the final results, every student who took part should be incredibly proud of their efforts and the way they represented the school.
A huge well done to all of our swimmers and your hard work and enthusiasm were fantastic to see. We look forward to celebrating the results with you soon!



Kate Wins Silver at IGA South Regional Artistic Gymnastics Competition
A big congratulations to Kate who won a Silver medal at the IGA South regional artistic gymnastics competition last week, competing at regional Level 6.
This was her first external artistic competition since her club left British Gymnastics last year to join IGA.
She has qualified to compete at the national finals in November. Kate also achieved gold in bars which was a great achievement.
Well done Kate!



AERIAL SKILLS CLUB – Years 7 & 8 only



Sign up on Evolve to join the Club on a Tuesday P7 After School at MyAerial



Hockey Club

The KFS Hockey Club is in full swing now for the start of the season. Lots of new players are beginning their journey in hockey along with established players improving their hockey skills. Students who would like to join should come along to the Astro on Wednesday mornings from 8am.
Bring a gumshield and shin pads.

Cheerleading Club

Cheer leading has now started on Mondays and Wednesdays after school.
This is open to anyone who wants to learn how to cheer.
For further information please contact Ms King or Ms McGregor.



A LEVEL DRAMA
SCHOLARS PRESENT

CO MEE DY

2026

FESTIVAL

PLAYS
MUSIC
COMEDY

NOVEMBER 2026

Admissions



Remaining Open Days for Year 7 Entry September 2027

Our remaining Open Days for September 2026 Year 7 entry take place in September and October 2026. Appointments are available for booking [here](#).

Open Days and Evenings

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 14th October 2026
1.30pm-6.30pm

Wednesday 4th November 2026
4.30pm - 7.30pm

Wednesday 25th November 2026
4.30pm - 7.30pm

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



Parent & Carer Newsflash

CAREERS WEBINARS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

We've got lots of free webinars on offer throughout October to help you understand the career options and support available to your child.

Read on below for our highlights...



Navigate Workshops & Webinars 2026/27

Job search support, claiming benefits and opportunities for individuals aged 18-24

7th October, 6.30pm

amazingapprenticeships.com/workshops-webinars

Job Search Support, Claiming Benefits and Opportunities for Individuals Aged 18-24

7th October 6.30 - 7.15pm

If you are the parent or carer of a young person aged 18-24 and are concerned how you can support them best, join this webinar to hear from the Department for Work and Pensions who will be setting out the support available and providing an overview of the schemes being supported by the government. Join us to find out more, and if you can't make it live be sure to register anyway to receive the recording.

[BOOK NOW](#)

T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

20th October 2026
T Levels Week:
Understanding
T Levels for
Parents & Carers

REGISTER NOW

Understanding T Levels: Parent & Carer webinar

20th October 6.30 - 7.15pm

National T Levels Week (19-23 October) is the perfect time to find out about T Levels - two-year technical qualifications for 16-19-year-olds, designed with employers to prepare students for skilled employment, apprenticeships or further study. Equivalent in size to 3 A-levels, a T Level course combines classroom learning (80%) with an industry placement (20%) and focuses on vocational skills.

[BOOK NOW](#)

Higher Technical Qualifications

22nd October 18:30 - 19:30

How HTQs can support you to develop new skills and prepare you for a future job

For individuals aged 18-24 and those supporting them.

Find out everything you need to know about HTQs and how they could support you to develop new skills and prepare you for a future job.

Book your free place:

amapps.uk/htq-webinar-22-oct

SCAN HERE

How HTQs Can Support You to Develop New Skills and Prepare You For a Job

22nd October 6.30 - 7.30pm

Do you support someone aged 18-24 who is thinking about their next steps? Maybe they're taking a break while they decide what to do next, in a job that isn't meeting their ambitions. Or maybe they're wondering how they might be able to combine higher education and work. HTQs can be a great option for those who want to learn and gain new skills early in their career. Join us to find out more about HTQs and what they can offer.

[BOOK NOW](#)

Explore the options to support and advise your child
[Visit the Parent Zone](#)

 **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



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. 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 will be provided.

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. To ensure that all students have an opportunity to attend these activities sessions 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

English Department Clubs 2026–27

Free for every student, Years 7–13 — just turn up to a session that suits your year group!



Lunchtime Clubs

Bring your lunch & a book

Year 7 • Book Club

Wed P3, 11.20–11.50 • LSL
• Ms Nasi / Ms Smith

Year 7 • Creative Writing

Thu P3, 11.20–11.50 • LSL
• Ms Oduye

Year 8 • Book/Scrabble Club

Mon P4, 12.15–12.45 • LSL
• Ms James / Ms Ferguson

Year 9 • Book Club

Wed P5, 1.10–1.40 • USL
• Ms Casey / Ms Lane

Year 10 • Book Club

Mon P4, 12.15–12.45 • USL
• Ms Walker / Ms Parker

Year 10 • Creative Writing

Wed P4, 12.15–12.45 • USL
• Mr Harper / Ms Burrows



After School Clubs

Lights, camera, argument!

Years 8–10 • Film Club

Mon, 4.15–4.45 • EN2
• Mr Couling / Ms Buckenham

Years 8–10 • Debating Club

Wed, 4.15–4.45 • EN5
• Ms Santana / Ms Weisselberg



Sixth Form Clinics

Exam-ready & grade-focused

A Level Literature Essay Support

Wed, 3.45–4.30 • 6A1
• Ms Munslow

Film Studies Creative Clinic

Thu, 3.45–4.15 • 6M3
• Mr Hutchinson



Homework Support

One-to-one help to catch up & thrive

Year 7 • English Homework Support

Tue, 3.45–4.15 • IT3
• Ms Lewis / Mr Cannicott

Year 11 • English Intervention

3.45–4.15 (day tbc) • USL
• Ms Benmeriam / Ms Charles-Clark

Years 8, 9, 10 • Homework Support

Tue, 4.15–4.45 • IT3
• Mr Drysdale & Mr Tracey

Years 8, 9, 10 • Homework Support

Thu, 4.15–4.45 • IT3
• Mr Roberts & Mr Read

Questions?

whr@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Kingsdale Foundation School • English Department • Talk to your child today about which club is right for them

Literacy News

AUTUMN TERM 2026 READING CHALLENGE

COSY AUTUMN LITERATURE

Choose any book that suits the autumn theme.

HOW TO TAKE PART

- 1 READ** a mystery, magical adventure, friendship story or classic.
- 2 WRITE** a short handwritten review when you finish the book.
- 3 ENTER** at the English Office or email your review to the address below.

rrd@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

BOOK TOKEN + ACHIEVEMENT POINTS FOR EVERY ENTRY

DEADLINE: FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2026

NOT SURE WHAT TO READ?

The Girl Who Speaks Bear
Sophie Anderson

Murder Most Unladylike
Robin Stevens

The Explorer
Katherine Rundell

READ ANOTHER BOOK
AND ENTER AGAIN!

Teacher Recommendation

THE POCKET POETS SERIES

REALITY SANDWICHES

★

ALLEN GINSBERG

NUMBER EIGHTEEN

For National Poetry Day, Mr Hutchinson recommends *Reality Sandwiches* by Allen Ginsberg

First published in 1963, *Reality Sandwiches* is a collection by one of the best-known poets of the Beat Generation.

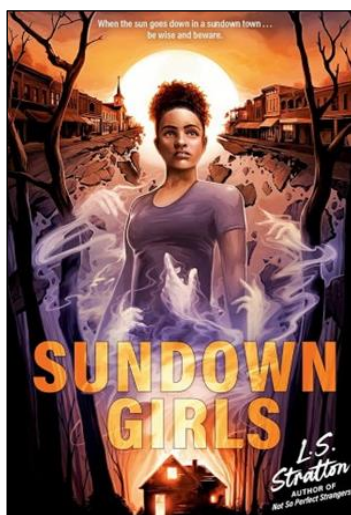
Ginsberg writes about city life, travel, politics, friendship and personal experience in poetry that can feel spontaneous, rebellious and intensely alive. The collection offers a striking example of a poet breaking away from more traditional ideas about poetic voice and form.

Mr Hutchinson recommends it for National Poetry Day because Ginsberg's energetic, unconventional writing shows just how flexible poetry can be.

Perfect for Sixth Form and Key Stage 4 poetry enthusiasts!

Reading Recommendations

Student Recommendation



Jayla in Year 10 recommends *Sundown Girls* by L. S. Stratton for Black History Month.

Sixteen-year-old Naomi Ward travels with her family to the small Virginia town of Sparks-burg, where she quickly senses that something is wrong. She discovers that the town was once a 'sundown town', a place where Black people faced

racist violence after dark. As Naomi investigates its past, a frightening mystery begins to connect the town's history with dangers in the present.

Jayla recommends the novel for Black History Month because it combines a tense mystery with an exploration of Black history that many readers may know little about. He particularly liked the suspense, Naomi's determination and the way the story shows how the past can continue to shape the present.

A recent YA thriller, published in 2026 but with some dark themes – suitable for brave readers from Year 7 upwards!

GO
ALL
IN.

National
Year of
Reading
2026

National Year of Reading Department of Drama

This half term, the Performing Arts department 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.

Year of Reading - Drama

We are celebrating Black History Month in drama through our annual August Wilson monologue festival. This sees students in Years 7-10 performing a monologue from one of America's finest playwrights. This culminates in the competition final on Thursday 15th October, which will feature acting, dance and musical performance.



August Wilson: a century of stories

August Wilson wrote about people trying to earn a living, raise a family and make something of their lives. His plays explore Black American experience such as the barriers imposed by racism, the weight of family history, and the humour, pride and ambition of the people at their centre. His language draws on the blues and the rhythms of everyday speech, turning conversations, arguments and memories into powerful theatre.

Recommended Reading

As part of the year of reading we are encouraging students to read, watch and listen to a range of plays.



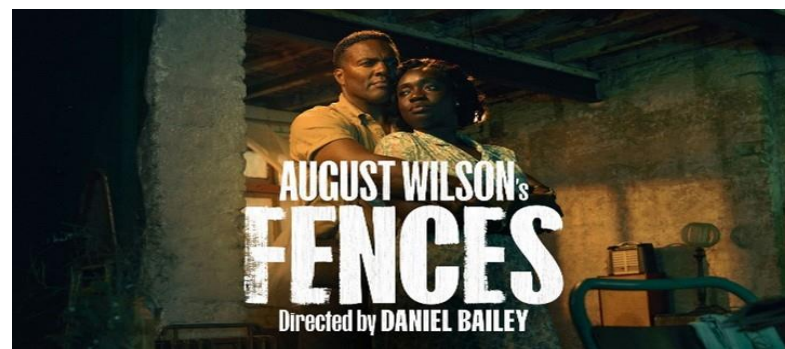
It is 1936, and Boy Willie arrives in Pittsburgh from the South in a battered truck loaded with watermelons to sell. He has an opportunity to buy some land down home, but he has to come up with the money right quick. He wants to sell a piano that has great importance to his family, but he shares ownership with his sister Berniece, and the piano sits in her living room. Berniece has already rejected several offers, because the antique piano is covered with beautiful carvings detailing the family's rise from slavery. Boy Willie argues that the past is past, but Berniece proves to be more formidable than he anticipated.

Script available from the Drama department

The film can be found on Netflix

Watch Live - Fences

The Lyric Hammersmith theatre are presenting Wilson's seminal play, *Fences* this October. Year 10 Drama students will have an opportunity to see this production. See Mr Milton for details.



About the Play

Set mostly in 1957, a landmark year for the Civil Rights Movement and a time when much of the Black community felt caught between a violent and oppressive past and the possibility of a brighter future, *Fences* follows the story of Troy Maxson, an African American father and husband who feels a desperate need to provide for his family. Troy is a man with "something to say about everything," and whose strong opinions and overbearing personality build emotional "fences" between himself and his wife and sons. As Troy struggles to find his purpose in life despite the many obstacles and prejudices that stand in his way, his actions force the members of his family to examine their own lives and their feelings about relationships, self-respect, power, commitment, birth, and death.

Script available from the Drama department

YEAR OF
READING

Drama

READING PASSPORT

This term, we are celebrating reading in Drama. All students will receive a reading passport with a range of exciting challenges. Complete the challenges to collect stamps!



1 POINT



Read a theatre review.



Read an interview with an actor, playwright or designer.



Read about a theatre practitioner.

2 POINTS



Learn and recite a poem or monologue.



Write a review of a play, film or television drama.



Read a modern play.

3 POINTS



Read a play from the Spanish Golden Age, Jacobean or Elizabethan.



Write an original scene from your own play.



Write and perform an original monologue.



Produce a short podcast discussing a play, production or theatre practitioner.



COLLECT STAMPS AND ACHIEVE

BRONZE, SILVER OR GOLD

TO BE CELEBRATED IN ASSEMBLIES. PRIZES WILL BE AVAILABLE.

Remember we are running our Drama passport with prizes available. Why not read one of these plays or watch it and write a review? Email ggg@kiingsdale.southwark.sch.uk or drop by the Drama Office with your reviews. We also have a website devoted to inspiration for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. [Click here](#) to find videos and interview. You can win stamps on your reading passport by watching these and sharing your ideas back in class.

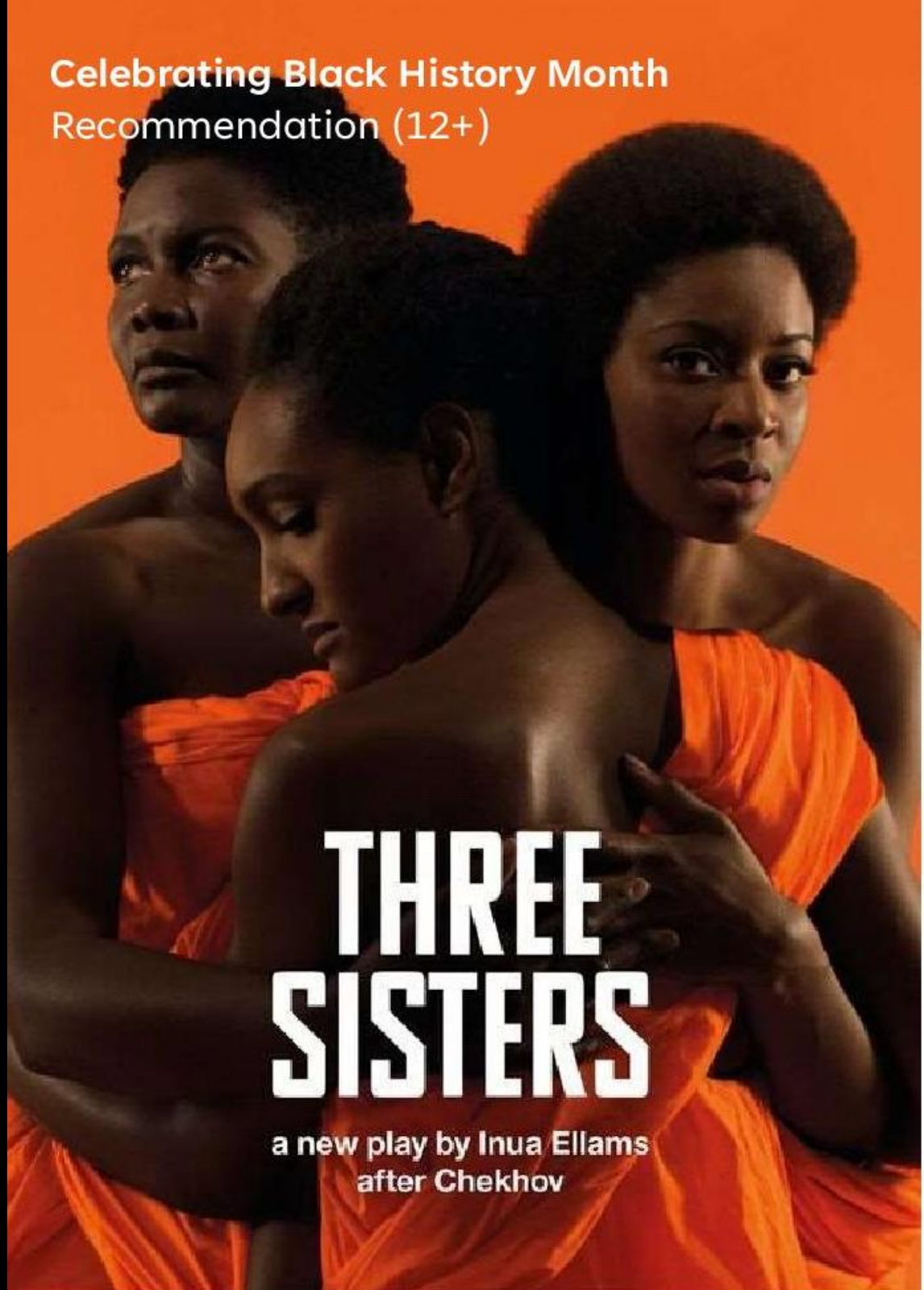
OVER 30 PRODUCTIONS. FOR KS3 WE WOULD RECOMMEND

Antony and Cleopatra	Shakespeare, William
As You Like It	Shakespeare, William
Ballet Shoes	Streatfeild, Noel; Adapted by Feaver, Kendall
Hamlet	Shakespeare, William, adapted by Christian, Jude
Hex	Ronder, Tanya
I Want My Hat Back	Klassen, Jon, adapted by Joel Horwood
Jack Absolute Flies Again	Bean, Richard and Chris, Oliver
Jane Eyre	Brontë, Charlotte
Macbeth	in a new version by Justin Audibert and the Company
Much Ado About Nothing	Shakespeare, William
The Winter's Tale	in a new version for young audiences by Justin Audibert
Treasure Island	Lavery, Bryony; Stevenson, Robert Louis



Barber Shop Chronicles	Ellams, Inua
One Man, Two Guvnors	Bean, Richard (after Carlo Goldoni)
Peter Pan	Barrie, J. M.

Want to watch at home? Contact the Drama department for the login details via ggg@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk



Celebrating Black History Month
Recommendation (12+)

**THREE
SISTERS**

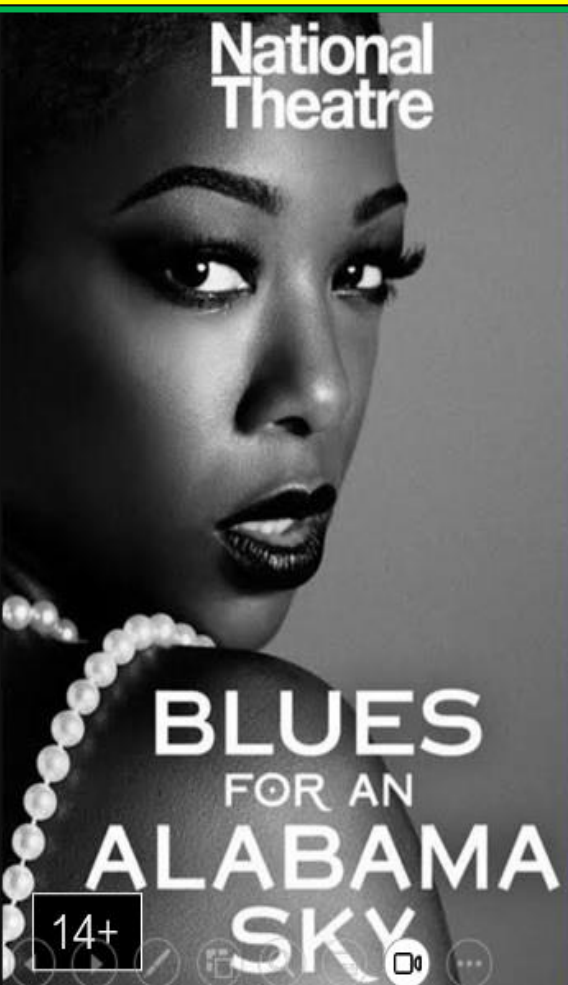
a new play by Inua Ellams
after Chekhov

THREE SISTERS

**a new play by Inua Ellams
after Chekhov**

See individual titles for the theatre's age recommendations

Want to watch at home?
Contact the Drama
department for login detail
via
[ggg@kingsdale.southwark.sc
h.uk](mailto:ggg@kingsdale.southwark.sc.h.uk)



Mental Health & Well-Being Weekly Focus for Students: Managing Workload

This week's mental health & well-being focus for students is managing workload an area which is critical for supporting mental health. For students' academic pressure and deadline bunching are major drivers of adolescent stress and anxiety. Putting strategies in place to achieve a healthy balance between work and downtime and creating effective time management are key to managing workload.

Key Workload & Mental Health Concepts for Students

The "Mental Health Bucket" Analogy

The Concept: Teach students to visualise their minds as a bucket.

The Water: Stressors, homework, social media, and exam pressure fill the bucket.

Drains vs. Hoses: Proactive coping strategies act as "drains" that sustainably lower the water level (e.g., exercise, asking for help, good sleep). Unhealthy coping mechanisms act as "hoses" which offer temporary relief but ultimately pump more water back into the bucket later (e.g., late-night scrolling, procrastination).

Time Management: Rocks, Pebbles, Sand, and Water

Help students categorise their daily schedules to prevent overwhelming workloads:

Rocks: Non-negotiable, heavy tasks (e.g., studying for an upcoming exam, major coursework deadlines).

Pebbles: Medium-priority tasks that matter but have flexible timelines (e.g., regular homework, sports practice).

Sand: Low-priority filler activities (e.g., gaming, scrolling through social media).

Water: Crucial free time left over for genuine rest, reflection, and relaxation.

Lesson Takeaway: If you fill your day with sand first, the rocks will never fit. Fit the rocks in first.

Combating "Deadline Bunching"

The Issue: Academic anxiety often spikes when multiple assignments are due simultaneously, leading students to resort to panicked, surface-level cramming.

The Strategy: Provide pupils with termly planner templates. Teach them how to break large assignments into bite-sized, weekly milestones rather than leaving everything to the last minute.

If a student is experiencing severe isolation, bullying, or distress related to their social environment please contact a member of the pastoral or safeguarding team. Please contact Ms V. Turner via mentalhealth&wellbeing@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk for further information on how to access our mental health and well-being provision.

Supporting Executive Functioning at Home

SEND FACULTY NEWS

Executive functioning is the set of skills that helps young people plan, organise, remember, manage time, stay focused and get started on tasks. These skills continue developing throughout adolescence, and some young people may need more support to build them.

At home, small changes can make a big difference. The aim is not to organise everything for your child, but to gradually give them the tools to manage more independently.

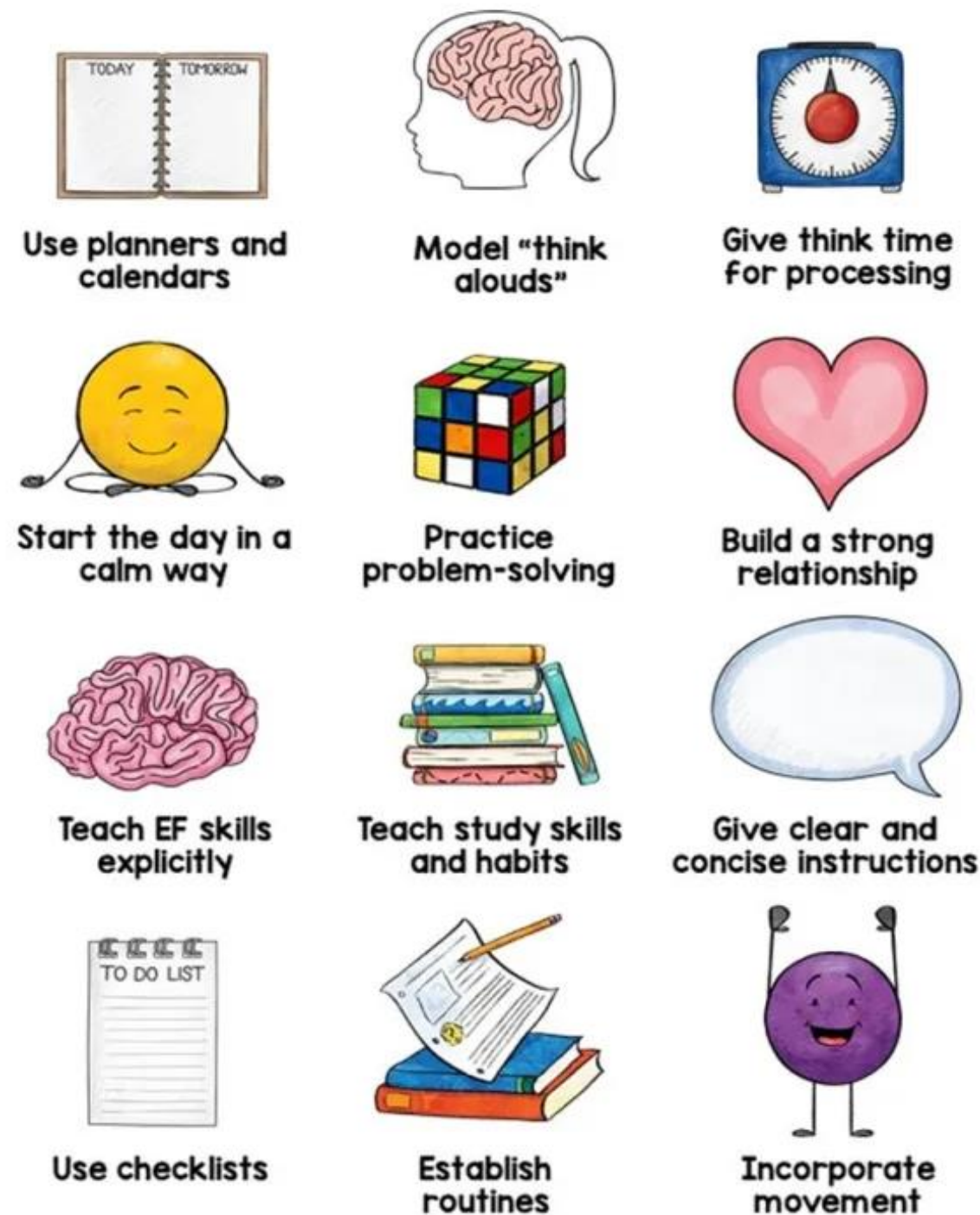
SEND Local Offer

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](#)



REMEMBER

A young person who struggles to start work, loses equipment or forgets instructions is not necessarily being lazy or careless. They may need help developing the executive functioning skills required to manage these demands independently. The long-term goal is to move gradually from:

Adult reminders → Doing it together → Prompts and checklists → Independence

5 Things to Try This Week

1. **Create a 5-minute evening reset**
Before bed, encourage your child to check their timetable, pack their bag, charge their device and identify anything they need for the following day.
2. **Make tasks smaller**
"Do your homework" can feel overwhelming. Instead, help identify the first step: *Check what is due → choose one task → get what you need → begin.*
3. **Get reminders out of their head**
Encourage the use of phone alarms, calendars, planners, sticky notes and checklists. Using a reminder is a useful organisational strategy, not a failure to remember.
4. **Try short periods of focused work**
A timer can help make tasks feel manageable. Try 20–25 minutes of focused work followed by a short break, with phones and other distractions out of reach during the working period.
5. **Ask questions instead of giving instructions**
Rather than immediately saying, "You need to pack your PE kit," try asking, "What have you got tomorrow?" or "What do you need to do before you go to bed?" This encourages your child to practise planning for themselves.

Dyslexia AWARENESS WEEK

Celebrating different ways of thinking and learning

Dyslexia Awareness Week is a national opportunity to celebrate the strengths and talents of people with dyslexia and to raise understanding of the many ways that young people learn.

Dyslexia is a different way of processing information. It can affect reading, spelling and writing, but it is also often linked to creativity, problem solving, big picture thinking and strong verbal skills.

Everyone learns in their own way



Top Tips for Parents

1 Create a positive reading environment

Encourage reading for pleasure in any form, such as books, audiobooks, magazines or graphic novels. Let your child choose what interests them.



2 Focus on strengths

Notice and celebrate what your child is good at, whether that is creativity, sport, problem solving, practical skills or big ideas. Building confidence helps them to feel positive about learning.



3 Use supportive routines

Break tasks into smaller steps, use visual reminders and keep instructions short and clear. A calm and consistent routine can make home learning feel more manageable.



4 Be patient and encouraging

Give time to process information and avoid putting pressure on speed. Encourage effort, not just the end result, and remind them that everyone learns at a different pace.



5 Keep the conversation open

Talk to your child about how they learn best and what support helps them. Let them know it is ok to find things difficult and that asking for help is a strength.



Most importantly, remind your child that their way of thinking is valuable. Dyslexia is just one part of who they are, and with the right support they can thrive.

What's On

for SEND Families in South London



Family Activities



Museums and Culture



Sport and Outdoor Activities



Relaxed and Inclusive Events



SEND Family Activities in South London

There are some great SEND-friendly and neurodiversity-inclusive activities taking place locally over the coming weeks. Here are a few that families may want to explore.

SENSory Sundays, West Norwood Library Sunday 18 October, 1.00–4.00pm

A free afternoon for families including sensory arts and crafts, messy play and parent-and-child movement and co-regulation activities. The sessions are run with the National Autistic Society Lambeth branch and are free for Lambeth residents. Advance registration is required.

SEND Inclusive Cricket, Elephant & Castle From Monday 12 October, 4.15–5.15pm

Southwark's current programme includes inclusive cricket sessions for children and families. A great opportunity for young people who would like to get involved in sport in a more inclusive setting.

Autism-Friendly Cinema, The Ritzy, Brixton Sunday 18 October

The Ritzy is running an autism-friendly screening with reduced sound, low lighting and no adverts or trailers. Children are welcome to move around, make noise or leave and return during the film.

Active Lambeth SEND Sessions

Inclusive swimming, quieter gym sessions and sensory-friendly activities are available across Lambeth leisure centres, including Brixton, Herne Hill, Streatham and West Norwood.

Find sessions [here](#)

Southwark SEND Activities

Southwark's Local Offer has a searchable directory of SEND-friendly activities, clubs and events. You can filter by age, location and whether activities are free.

Explore activities [here](#)

South London Gallery – Family Space

Free, relaxed creative sessions where families can drop in and take part at their own pace. Sessions run on the last Saturday of each month, 11am–1pm, from September to November.

Find out more [here](#)

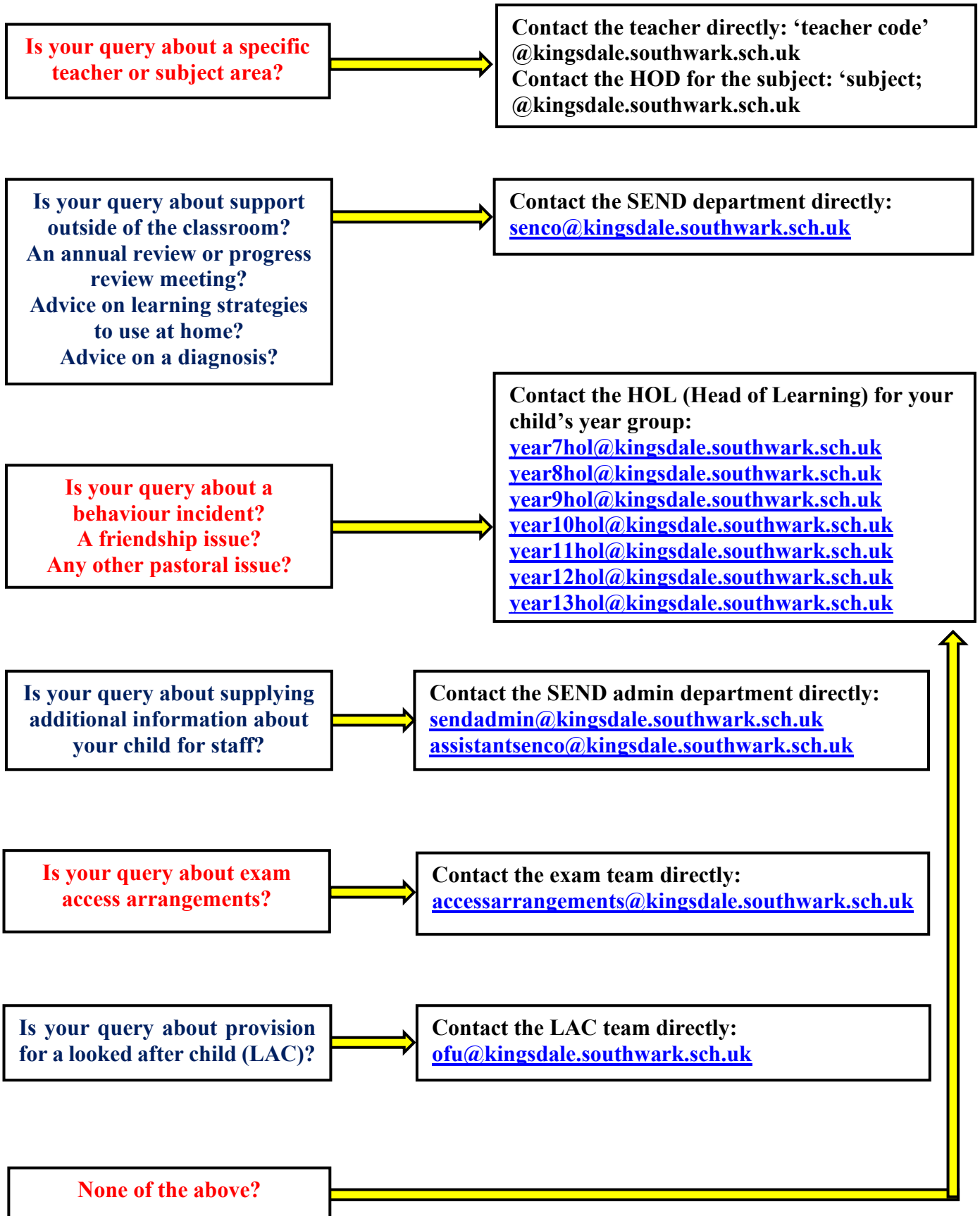
Lambeth SEND Activities

Lambeth Council also maintains a directory of local leisure activities specifically for children and young people with SEND.

Explore the directory [here](#)

Communication Flowchart: SEND

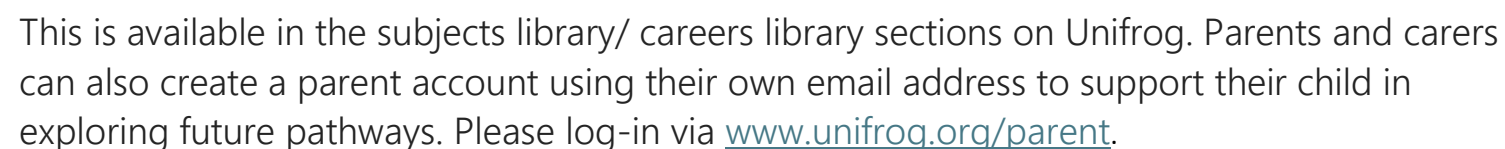
At Kingsdale we would like our communication to be as effective as possible. Please see the flowchart below to help us support your child effectively and get the information needed to the right people.



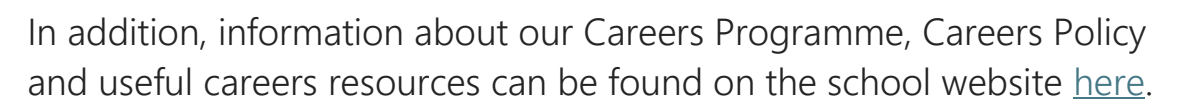
Please send us anything you think other parents would find useful and we can either share it here or we could even publish it on our website!

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

Please contact our Year 11 & Year 12 pastoral team in case you have any relevant queries on this offer.



Assemblies on technical and vocational pathways have been booked for this half term. We will update the parents on this programme as it progresses this half term.



If you are interested in supporting the school in this way, please contact the Careers Team via careers@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk.

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



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

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

Free Workshops for Parents and Carers

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

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

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



We'll cover:

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



For further information contact:

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

SCAN ME



Talking to your child about

SHARING IMAGES ONLINE

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

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

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



What can you do to keep your child safe online?

S

Set clear boundaries.

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

T

Talk with your child and be supportive.

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

E

Educate everyone in the family.

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

E

Evolve with the internet.

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

R

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



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



FOR SUPPORT AND ADVICE, PLEASE VISIT:



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



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



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



A safe space for teenagers worried about sexual behaviour

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



shospace.org.uk

Why Shore?

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

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



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.



A Celebration of Black People and Their Achievements

October is Black History Month in the UK, an event that has been celebrated nationwide for more than 30 years. The month was originally founded to recognise the contributions that people of African and Caribbean backgrounds have made to the UK over many generations. Now, Black History Month has expanded to include the history of not just African and Caribbean people but black people in general.

INSPIRATIONAL BLACK ICONS



STUDENT TASK: Create a piece of original artwork on the theme of: "A celebration of inspirational black people and their achievements"

HOW TO ENTER: Submit your entry to housesystem@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk. Ensure your entry is accompanied by your full name, tutor group and house.

Prizes will be awarded to outstanding entries. We look forward to seeing your work!



National Curry Week

The very first National Curry Week took place in October 1998 and was founded by the late Peter Grove. Peter was a prominent journalist who had fallen in love with curry. His vision was to drive awareness and appreciation of the burgeoning Indian restaurant industry, whilst also raising funds for charity. National Curry Week takes place from the 5th to 11th October 2026.



STUDENT TASK: Make your own curry. Send us a picture and a short description of how you made your curry. The best-looking curry will win valuable points for your house. *Don't forget permission from your parents or carers and have appropriate supervision in the kitchen.*

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



Kingsdale Cooking Challenge: National Vegetarian Week

Our wildlife is under threat due to climate change, with some of the UK's most recognisable and well-loved species at risk of extinction. Eating veggie is one of the simplest things we can all do to reduce our own carbon emissions.

National Vegetarian Week runs from 1st to 7th October 2026 and is an annual event to educate people

about the benefits of a meat-free diet. During National Vegetarian Week people are encouraged to try going meat-free for a week, with vibrant and exciting vegetarian recipes being promoted and shared.

Did you know...

- 1.3 billion people could be fed by the grain that is currently being fed to livestock for meat production.
- It only takes 25 gallons of water to produce 1 pound of wheat, but 2500 gallons to produce 1 pound of meat.

STUDENT TASK: Make your own vegetarian meal. Send us a picture and a short description of how you made your vegetarian meal. The best-looking meals will win valuable points for your house. *Don't forget permission from your parents or carers and have appropriate supervision in the kitchen.*

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

CALENDAR 2026-27



You can also find lots of other useful sources of information on the school website [here](https://www.kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk). 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



Call of Duty is undeniably one of the most recognisable video games on the planet. The first game was released for the PC way back in 2003, and the franchise has spawned a whopping 16 titles to date, and featured on almost 20 gaming consoles and devices. Despite being one of the most popular games on the market, CoD has never been a stranger to controversy; themes of war, terrorism and other adult subjects parents and guardians might feel uncomfortable exposing their children to, have always been a part of the series. The latest iteration, Call of Duty: Modern Warfare, is no different, even doubling down on some of these mature themes. So with that in mind, here's a helpful guide to aid you in navigating the world of Call of Duty.



What parents need to know about CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE



VIOLENCE AND GRAPHIC CONTENT

Call of Duty has been given an 18+ rating due to "violence against vulnerable and defenceless characters, motiveless killing of innocent characters, graphic violence and use of strong language." Despite the rating, the game is still extremely popular amongst under 18's who could be exposed to violent themes or foul language that parents and carers may not deem suitable or age appropriate for their children.



INCREDIBLY RAW CAMPAIGN

The single player campaign in Call of Duty: Modern Warfare focuses around a war in the fictitious Middle Eastern country of Urzikstan. It features special forces operations, large open battles, chemical weapons and torture. Infinity Ward (who developed the game) have gone on record saying this is the most realistic and grounded game they've ever made, so it stands to reason that the campaign has generated a huge amount of controversy, especially in today's heated political climate. While younger players might not fully grasp what's going on on screen, it's bound to raise some uncomfortable questions if they're left to play it unsupervised.



CHATTING TO STRANGERS

By far the biggest pull for players to Call of Duty is the expansive multiplayer. As well as offering up a wide variety of competitive game modes, Modern Warfare also includes some co-op gameplay modes. Ideally, this means players and children can join a group with their friends and play together online. However, players can play against or with anyone in the world and, with no filter, the language used may often be inappropriate for young children. Due to the competitive nature of gaming and the fact conversations are not moderated, your child could also be at risk of cyberbullying.



ADDICTIVE NATURE

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare has promised to be the best yet. The game features a number of new game modes and now includes crossplay for the first time, whereby players can now play each other across any device (i.e. Xbox, Playstation or PC). As always tends to be the case when a new game is released, players spend large amounts of time getting to grips with the new features and the repetitive nature of COD means children can find it difficult to stop playing and realise their limits.



LOOT BOXES SWAPPED FOR BATTLE PASSES

Previous versions of Call of Duty have included 'loot boxes', which have been widely discussed in the news and are considered by critics to essentially promote a form gambling. Players could unlock items as they progress but wouldn't know what they were purchasing beforehand. Modern Warfare however has swapped loot boxes for 'battle passes'. This means a greater level of transparency as players know exactly what they are buying, how they will be unlocked and when they will receive them in the game.



Safety Tips For Parents

STICK TO THE PEGI RATING

It really can't be stressed enough how much this game is not for younger children. While you could argue that most of the horrific scenes are in the single player campaign, and you can just play multiplayer and co-op to avoid them, those modes are not without their shortcomings. For example, one of the killstreaks you can attain in multiplayer is white phosphorus - a chemical weapon that can do indescribable things to the human body. This really comes down to the personal judgement of the adult, and the emotional maturity of the child, but if there's still any doubt, stick to the PEGI rating - it's there for a reason.



BE WARY OF GORE AND VIOLENCE

There's no getting around the fact that this is an incredibly realistic game, from the themes down to the gameplay, and that includes the amount of gore in the game. While there is an option to disable dismemberment of bodies in the game (options > general > dismemberment off) it still includes a rather visceral amount of violence that is prevalent throughout.



STAY SAFE DURING IN-GAME CHAT

By default, Modern Warfare allows multiplayer in-game lobbies to have an open chat feature. This basically means that anybody in the lobby with a mic can hop in and say whatever they like. Naturally, this could lead to some profane language or undesirable viewpoints being expressed. Turning this off is as simple as going to the game options, clicking the audio tab, then setting voice chat to off. Be aware that this also disables the mic on your end too, so the safest and best option is always to make sure children are in a party with their friends before they start the game, then they can still chat to each other without outside interruption.



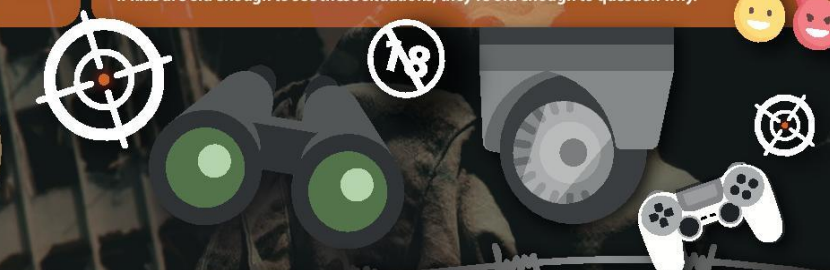
TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT THE THEMES

Modern Warfare at its heart, is a game about good vs bad and the grey areas in between. Morally complex characters and situations are more prevalent in today's modern age than they've ever been before, and it does carry some important political and social commentary. If you're okay letting children play the game, it's definitely worth sitting down with them to discuss the themes and why it's important to approach them critically. For example, Captain Price is clearly a good character, but he does questionable things in order to achieve his goals. Does this make him a bad character? If kids are old enough to see these situations, they're old enough to question why.



Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



SPORTS FIXTURES

Monday 5th October 2026

- Under-13s Boys' Football Home Match v Ibstock Place School. Leave school at 2pm. Start 3pm. Return at 4.30pm approx.: Mr Fitchett
- Under-12s Girls' Football Away Match against Grey Court School. Leave school at 1.30pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 4.30pm approx.: Mr Dash

Tuesday 6th October 2026

- Under-15s Boys' Football Home Match v Alleyn's School. Leave school at 2pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 5pm approx.: Mr Lockett
- Under-13s Girls' Football Away Match v Surbiton High School. Leave school at 1pm. Start 2pm. Return at 5pm approx.: Mr Dash

Wednesday 7th October 2026

- Under-12s Girls'/Boys' Mixed ESSA Swimming Gala. Times/Venue TBC: Ms King

Thursday 8th October 2026

- Under-14s Girls' Football Home Match v Saint Cecilia's CoE School. Leave school at 1.30pm. Start 2.45pm. Return at 5.15pm approx.: Mr Jones

Friday 9th October 2026

- Under-12s to 16s Mixed Cross Country ESAA Cup. Times/Venue TBC: Mrs Sinclair/Mr Jones

View all fixtures at:

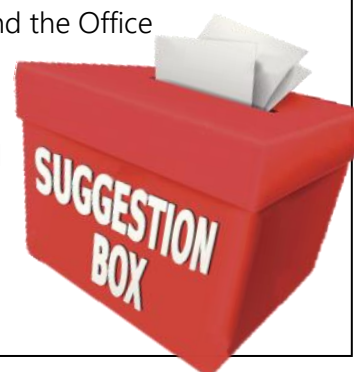
<http://www.kingsdaleschoolsports.org.uk>

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

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.



HOUSE NEWS

Online Safety Corner

For this week's Online Safety focus we are looking at 'What Parents & Educators Need to Know about 'Call Of Duty: Modern Warfare' Get a greater insight. Please read left-hand column on this page! Remember to keep an open dialogue with your child about their activities online.

The House Leader Board 2026-27



Week ending
2nd October 2026

The House Leaderboard has been reset.

- 1st Place – Falcon 18,478 points
- 2nd Place – Albatross 18,286 points
- 3rd Place – Dove 18,048 points
- 4th Place – Swift 17,943 points
- 5th Place – Eagle 17,799 points



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)