PARENTAL NEWS BULLETIN

Issue 9 Monday 9th November 2026

KINGSDALE FOUNDATION SCHOOL

THEME OF THE WEEK

Remembrance

'Neither fire nor wind, birth nor death can ease our good deeds.'

Abraham Lincoln

WORD OF THE WEEK

Ineffable

Too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words.

'Our deepest encounter with the universal force is sometimes almost *ineffable*, almost inexpressible.'

HEADLINE NOTICES

Year 11s Visit Parliament

On Tuesday 20 October 2026, Nina,, Sienna and Laura in Year 11 had the exciting opportunity to represent Kingsdale Foundation School at the House of Commons, taking part in Pearson's '*What Comes Next? The Future of Education Exchange*'.



Held in the Churchill Room at the Palace of Westminster, the event brought young people together with policy makers, educators and sector experts to share their views on the future of education.

Students joined round-table discussions on two key themes: how technology and AI are changing learning and how schools can support wellbeing, belonging and confidence so that every student can thrive.

They also visited the interactive Exchange Hub, where they added their ideas to a shared wall, voted on questions about school, technology and learning and had the chance to speak with Pearson's video team. It was a wonderful chance for our students to have their voices heard by people who shape education policy, and they represented the school brilliantly. We are very proud of them!

Dejuan signs with Fulham



We are pleased to announce that Dejuan, Year 8, has signed with Fulham Academy after a successful completion of his eight-week trial. Fulham are a Premier League Club!

Well done Dejuan – we're very proud of you!



We are delighted to invite students and families to the Kingsdale Reading Festival taking place on Saturday 21st November, from 12 noon to 2pm! Join us for an exciting afternoon celebrating books and the joy of reading, featuring author talks, book signings, local booksellers, games and activities in the library. There will be plenty to explore for readers of all interests and abilities! The festival is for all students and their families are warmly welcome. Please see Page 2 for our main flyer. Further details, including how to book your place through Evolve, issued separately.

Last Open Day for Sixth Form (Year 12) September 2027 Entry

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

KINGSDALE
FOUNDATION SCHOOL

READING FESTIVAL

BOOKS
PEOPLE
IDEAS
GAMES
DISCOVER
BE INSPIRED

A CELEBRATION OF BOOKS, STORIES AND READING FOR EVERYONE!

KINGSDALE
FOUNDATION SCHOOL
ALLEYN PARK
DULWICH
LONDON SE21 8SQ

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2026
12.00 – 2.00PM | KINGSDALE

KS3 AUTHOR PANEL
12.15 – 1.00pm in The POD
Presentations and Q&A



LAURA BAGGALEY
South London-based author of powerful and thought-provoking books for young readers.

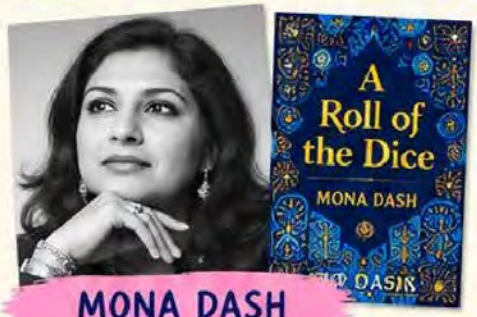


GITA RALLEIGH
Author of *The Destiny of Minou Moonshine* and other inspiring stories for young readers.



STEVE BLACKMAN
Author of *Zero Override* – a thrilling, fast-paced science-fiction adventure about AI, robots and a group of teenage hackers.

KS4/5 AUTHOR PANEL
1.00 – 1.45pm in The POD
Presentations and Q&A



MONA DASH
Author of *A Roll of the Dice* and other compelling fiction.



KAVITA A. JINDAL
Author of *A Manual For A Decent Life* and other insightful novels.



PAUL WATERS
Author of *Death at the Elephant House, Murder at the Moonlit Square* and other gripping mysteries.

BOOK SIGNINGS
Get your copies signed and meet the authors

OPTIONAL WORKSHOPS
30-minute workshops running alongside the main presentations

ALL WELCOME
Students, families and the local community

FEATURING LOCAL BOOKSELLERS:

Dulwich Books
Jamaica Heritage Books
MOON LANE BOOKS

Information on how to sign up to attend this event will be on Evolve.



KFS China Trip

During the October half-term, Year 9 students took part in a highly successful cultural and educational exchange visit to China, travelling across Beijing, Hangzhou and Zhoushan.

The trip provided a unique opportunity for students to immerse themselves in Chinese culture, visit world-renowned landmarks including the Great Wall and the Forbidden City and participate in a wide range of activities with partner schools.

From cultural workshops and classroom experiences to sporting events and friend-ship - building activities, students embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, maturity and respect. They were outstanding ambassadors for Kingsdale, forming lasting international friendships and returning with unforgettable memories, greater cultural understanding and increased confidence.

We are incredibly proud of the way they represented the school throughout the visit and thank all staff, students and host schools who helped make the experience such a resounding success.





UKMT Maths Challenges Results

Congratulations to our Year 12 and 13 students who achieved outstanding scores in the recent Senior Maths Challenge, a national competition arranged by the UK Mathematics Trust. The Senior Mathematics Challenge is an annual competition designed to provide students with opportunities to apply their problem-solving skills in solving a range
of questions, such as:

As shown in the diagram, a playground is built in the shape of a regular pentagon. In the centre is a smaller regular pentagon, with lines perpendicular to each side at each vertex of the smaller pentagon. The order of the rotational symmetry of the diagram is 5. The side-length of the larger pentagon is 10 m, and $PQ = RS = 2$ m.



What fraction of the area of the playground is the area of the shaded region?

A $\frac{3}{5}$ B $\frac{5}{8}$ C $\frac{9}{25}$ D $\frac{16}{25}$ E $\frac{81}{125}$

Over 70% of our candidates achieved top results! Further, congratulations to Jay in Year 13 who scored the highest score in school, and Daria Tashkinova in Year 11 for achieving merit in the prestigious Maths Olympiad. Several students have also been invited to participate in the Kangaroo follow-on rounds. Students with Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates can be found below. All participants will receive a participation certificate. Well done young mathematicians!



Name	Certificate
Aqeel	Silver
Nana	Bronze
Raman	Silver
Joseph	Silver
Ava	Bronze
Beatrix	Bronze
Harper	Gold
Rares	Silver
Harris	Silver
Dora	Bronze
Rafael	Bronze
Luke	Gold
Esmé	Silver
Mika	Gold
Alice	Bronze
Bea	Bronze
Miriam	Bronze
Amber	Bronze
Hannah	Bronze
Julia	Silver
Jay	Gold Best In Year
Freddie	Bronze
Nasir	Gold
Jake	Gold
Eli	Silver
Raffaella	Bronze
Tolly	Bronze
Sebastian	Bronze
Iacopo	Gold Best In School
Oliver	Gold
Ivy	Gold
Silvio	Silver
Morgan	Gold
Olivia	Bronze
Spike	Silver
Marius	Gold
Woody	Gold
Lukas	Bronze
iris	Silver
Samuel	Gold
Danny	Bronze
Arman	Bronze
Daria	Merit

To see more of the brilliant Art, Textiles, Photography, Graphics and Textiles work by our students, as well as Art alumni, please follow us on Instagram **@kingsdaleart - @kingsdaledandt - @kingsdalefoodscience** *(age restrictions apply)*

The Art and Design Department Celebrate Black History Month

Year 9 Textiles students have been inspired by Lisa Butler, who explores her African American heritage, culture and history through vibrant textile portraits. Students created their own childhood portraits using printing, dyeing, applique and embroidery.











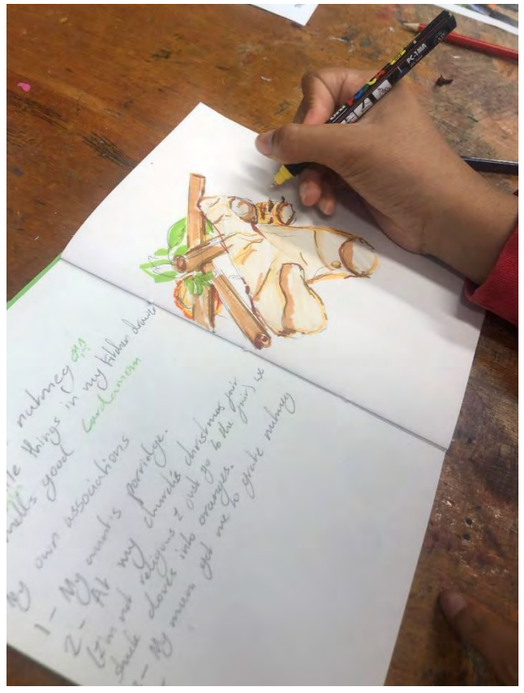


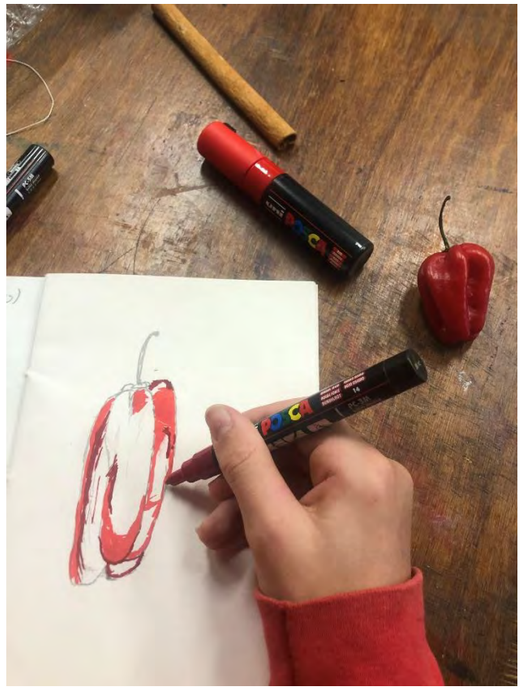


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Untold Stories: Through Food and Spice

Students and teachers from Camberwell College of Art came into work with our Year 9 Graphics students.
The project provided students with an opportunity to explore Black histories, identity, heritage and storytelling through creative activities, drawing on the connections between food, culture, family, migration, memories and place. Students explored the sensory, handling and drawing key spices from the spice trade.















ART & DT NEWS

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Design & Technology

Year 12 students have been learning to cook Caribbean Jerk Chicken and Macaroni Pie on their University Survival course. YUM!

Stranger Danger Advice for Young People

With the evenings now drawing in and many students travelling to or from school in the dark we would like make students aware of the importance of maintaining personal safety and reducing risks when travelling alone or in small groups.
As teenagers increasingly have more independence and mobility than younger children, safety relies on smart habits rather than simply avoiding all strangers. Below are some street-smart rules and practical safety habits to help keep young people safe when out and about.

Core Street-Smart Rules for Teens

Trust your gut: If a person, group, or situation feels off or uncomfortable, walk away immediately-you do not owe anyone politeness or an explanation.

Stay aware of your surroundings: Avoid walking alone late at night in dark, isolated, or unfamiliar shortcuts and limit loud headphones or deep phone distraction when moving through busy or isolated areas.

Use the buddy system: Whenever possible, travel home from school, parties, or social events with friends.

Plan your transport safely: Use licensed black cabs or private hire apps (like Uber or Bolt) where you can track your ride and share your live location with a parent or friend. Never accept a ride from an unlicensed or unverified driver.



Watch out for scams and grooming: Real danger often comes from people who try to test boundaries, build false trust, or ask you to keep secrets from family or friends whether in person or online.

Practical Safety Habits

Keep phones charged: Make sure your mobile phone has enough battery before heading out and consider sharing your live location with a trusted parent, guardian, or close friend using maps or messaging apps.

Know local safe spaces: If you feel threatened or followed in public, head into a busy, well-lit shop, supermarket, petrol station, or approach uniformed staff (like security guards, bus drivers, or police officers).

Emergency numbers:

Dial 999 if you or someone else is in immediate danger or a crime is happening.

Dial 101 for non-emergency police reporting.

Call Childline at 0800 1111 for free, confidential advice and support if you are worried about something.

Please contact Mrs V Turner via health&well-being@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk for further information.



Girls' Football Tour to The Netherlands 2026





At the end of the first Autumn half-term, 37 of our students travelled to The Netherlands in our first-ever Girls' Football Tour. The tour was a massive success as the girls immersed themselves in a new culture, new language and played in some highly competitive fixtures against local Dutch teams. We're extremely proud of the girls as they represented Kingsdale superbly and we hope to visit The Netherlands again with another tour party.

Day One

It was an early start as we departed Kingsdale at 5:30am and it was the quietest coach journey of the tour! After a short journey to Dover, we got on the ferry and travelled across the Channel to arrive in Calais and begin our journey across Europe. The girls had their first experience of Belgian culture as we stopped off for a break in the local service station, where they enjoyed a Belgian Burger King. Before long, we had arrived in at our destination in the scenic Dordrecht, which is part of the National Park De Biesbosch, we were able to settle into our rooms and enjoyed an early night before a big day of activities.



Day Two

On Friday, the group had the opportunity to travel into Amsterdam to visit the Johan Cruijff Arena, which is the home of Dutch Giants, AFC Ajax. The girls were marvelled by their surroundings as they got a behind-the-scenes look of the stadium as they visit the changing rooms, media rooms, AFC Ajax museum and had pitch side access. It was a fantastic experience as they had the opportunity to in the hallways where some of the legends of the game have played. After the stadium tour, they were able to explore the local area and buy a few parents for their loved ones at home before departing back to our accommodation. In the evening, the group enjoyed our quiz night as the group flexed their brains to work together to become our quiz champions. Our eventual winners were – Betsy, May, Eva, Beth, and Poppy.















Day Three

Saturday was our first round of fixtures as we travelled to local side FC Tilburg. After a short journey, we arrived at our hosts' ground and were given a friendly welcome to the incredible facilities. Our attention quickly turned to our fixtures which turned out to be a successful day for Kingsdale!
Our Under-13s drew 1-1 who were unlucky not to go on and win the game whilst our Under-15s and Under-16s won their games 5-1 and 4-0.
With our successful results, the teams headed into the clubhouse to celebrate their victories and bonded with our opposition. Once we returned to our hostel, some of the students took the opportunity to explore the National Park and learn about the wildlife in the surrounding area before heading to dinner. Finally, we ended the night with the very popular karaoke night! Some of the best performances of the tour came from Dolly, Cece, Violet, Ella, and Sofia.

Under-13s Player of the Match vs FC Tilburg – Ruby P
Under-15s Player of the Match vs FC Tilburg – Wren
Under-16s Player of the Match vs FC Tilburg – Leila

Under-14s Match Report by Ever

Yesterday, the Under 14s played a tough team and drew 1-1. Mishelle scored the equaliser with lots of help from the other players on the team it was a hard match, but we pushed through and secured a draw. A special shoutout to Luna because of her injury and persistence and to Ruby P for her defending skills and also everyone else who played did amazing.

Day Four

The penultimate day of the tour proved to be a tough test for all our teams. We faced one of the best youth clubs in the country, BSV Boeimeer.
Our Under-13s were first to face this opposition and they got off to a flying start taking an early 1-0 lead which was met with huge cheers from our Under-15s & Under-16s teams. In a tightly contested game, the girls ran out of steam as they lost 5-3 but had plenty of positives to take from the game. It was the turn of our Under-15s & Under-16s teams who found themselves playing against very organised sides. Our Under-16's went toe-to-toe with Boeimeer as they fought back twice to bring the game level to 2-2 but with 10 minutes to play, the hosts cruelly punished the girls and scored three late goals to win the game 5-2. It was a bitter pill to swallow as the girls competed brilliantly but felt the impact of playing two games in two days! However, one of the best games of the tour came from the Under-15's as they pulled off a Hollywood-esque comeback. Despite being 3-0 at half-time, the girls didn't let that bring them down as they fought back to draw 3-3 with a last-minute screamer from Poppy. It was a competitive day of football and the girls returned to Dordrecht for some well-earned rest. We finished the night with our tour awards to highlight some outstanding performances from our students throughout the tour.

Under-13s Player of the Match vs BSV Boeimeer – Beth
Under-15s Player of the Match vs BSV Boeimeer – Poppy
Under-16s Player of the Match vs BSV Boeimeer – Sofia

Under-14s Match Report by Eva

The match started well, and we created some good chances. Ever scored an early goal after reacting quickly to a great free kick and getting a tap-in. Beth then scored an amazing free kick from outside the box, straight into the top corner. Unfortunately, we conceded three goals, as the other team took the lead. In the second half, we kept working hard and supporting each other. The opposition scored another two goals, but we managed to get one back after a great play from Ruby G and a brilliant run from Milan, making the final score 5–3. Our Player of the Match was Beth because of her great passing, defending, skill and teamwork.

Overall, I think we played well because we created chances and worked hard. However, the other team were very physical and had some good shots. We also had a team talk with Mr Price and Mr Jones, which helped motivate us at the start of the second half. Next time, we need to communicate more, take fewer touches and move the ball around quicker. It was a really tough match, but we still played well and can improve for the next game.

Under-16s Match Report by Cece

Kingsdale Under 16 put in an amazing performance despite suffering a 5–2 defeat in their latest fixture. Sofia was the standout goalscorer for Kingsdale, finding the back of the net twice to give the team something to celebrate. Both goals were assisted by Caliyah, who showed great vision and creativity to set up her teammate on both occasions. This was also helped by an all-round performance throughout the whole squad with stand-out performances from Dolly, great saves from Martha and a great second appearance from Leila!
Despite the result, Kingsdale continued to push forward and showed attacking promise throughout the match. Sofia's brace and Caliyah's two assists were positive highlights for the team to build on going into their next fixture.

Day Five

It was the last day of the tour and time to say goodbye to The Netherlands. There was a sombre feeling on the coach after a thoroughly enjoyable few days which was full of life-long memories. After a few stop-offs along the way and the ferry back to the UK, we finally made our way back to Kingsdale to commence the half-term break!

On behalf of the staff attending the tour, we would like to say a massive thank you to all the students who attended as their behaviour and attitude throughout the tour was superb. They were a credit to themselves and the school which made a thoroughly enjoyable tour. We hope you had a great time and thank you for all being absolute legends!

Under-13s Player of the Tour – Beth
Under-15s Player of the Tour – Poppy
Under-16s Player of the Tour – Leila
Goal of the Tour – Dolly
Most Improved Player – Wren
Unsung Hero of the Tour – Mi'lan

















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

SPORTS NEWS



Under-15s Boys' Rugby - Kingsdale v St Celias

This was a fantastic performance from the U-15s Boys' team, securing a dominant 58-26 victory against St Cecilia's!

Kingsdale showed quality across both sides of the game, playing some excellent rugby in attack and demonstrating great commitment and determination in defence.

A brilliant team performance with a great effort from everyone involved. Well done, boys!

Final Score: Kingsdale 58-26 St Cecilia's

Tries: Spencer (3), Robbie (3), Alfie (1), Zak (2) and Isaac (2). Harry D also added the conversions.



Under-13s Boy's Rugby

Kingsdale v St Celias

A great effort from the team in a very competitive game, with them unfortunately narrowly losing 4 tries to 3.

This was our first fixture of the season and there were plenty of positives to take away. The boys played some excellent rugby, showing great commitment and determination in both attack and defence.

Lots to be proud of and plenty to build on moving forward. Well done to everyone involved!

Final Score:
Kingsdale 3-4 St Cecilia's



Music Scholars Concerts



We are pleased to inform you of the finalised dates for this year's Music Scholars' Concerts.

Every year our Music Scholars perform either as soloists or in small group in our Winter Recital series, with students having been prepared by their teachers. This provides valuable experience performing for an audience and for Year 11 GCSE music students.

Parents are warmly invited to watch their child perform for on the date listed below in theMary Graham School of Music, with entry via the main school entrance on Alleyn Park. Junior concerts will include Years 7-9, with Senior concerts including Years 10-13 unless otherwise informed. Please note the specific time for the concert as they are not all the same and the specific teacher for the concert.

Tuesday 10th November
Guitar 1
Mr B Glasser, Mr Somervell & Mr Burnett
Juniors: 5pm ● Seniors: 6pm

Thursday 12th November
Jazz Piano
Mr A Glasser & Mr Carter
All pupils: 5pm

Friday 13th November
Singing 1
Mrs Burke, Ms Bastick-Vines & Ms Heard
Juniors: 5pm ● Seniors: 6:30pm

Monday 16th November
Singing 2
Mr Lloyd Smith & Ms Vaughan
Juniors: 5pm ● Seniors: 6:30pm

Thursday 19th November
Strings 1
Ms Melvin, Mr Robson & Mr Graham
Juniors: 5pm ● Seniors: 6pm

Friday 20th November
Piano 1
Mr Yada & Ms Qiu
Juniors: 5pm ● Seniors: 6pm

Monday 23rd November
Brass
Mr Smith, Mr Morgan & Mr Little
Lower Brass
Juniors: 5pm ● Seniors: 6pm

Tuesday 24th November
Woodwind
Ms Cawley, Mr Lockrane, Ms Ryall,
Ms Dean, Ms Rogan & Mrs Foster
Juniors: 5pm ● Seniors: 6:30pm

Thursday 26th November
Strings 2
Ms Watts, Ms Evans & Ms Skinns
Juniors: 5pm ● Seniors: 6pm

Monday 30th November
Piano 2
Mrs Black & Mr Parks
Juniors: 5pm ● Seniors: 6pm

Tuesday 1st December
Drums
Mr Pickering, Mr Brito,Mr Lewis
All pupils: 5pm

Thursday 3rd December
Steel Pans
African Drumming
Mr Shorter, Ms Dyer
All groups: 5pm

Friday 4th December
Guitar 2
Mr Tonks, Mr Melovski, Mr Johnson
Juniors: 5pm ● Seniors: 6pm

We look forward to seeing you there!

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

ALUMNI NEWS

THALIA GAMBE WEST END DEBUT



Former Kingsdale student Thalia Gambe will make her West End debut in *John Proctor is the Villain*. Thalia graduated from Rose Bruford Drama School in 2024. Congratulations from everyone at Kingsdale!

JOHN PROCTOR IS THE VILLAIN

By **Kimberly Belflower** | Directed by **Danya Taymor**

WYNDHAM'S THEATRE • 2 FEBRUARY – 24 APRIL 2027

ABOUT THE PLAY

The Royal Court describes the play as a "bitingly funny, fresh reimagining of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*".

Set in a Georgia high school in 2018, it follows teenage girls studying Miller's play as the #MeToo movement gathers momentum. Events in their own lives lead them to challenge their teacher's view of John Proctor as a hero.

A LEVEL DRAMA
SCHOLARS PRESENT

COMEDY FESTIVAL

2026

PLAYS
MUSIC
COMEDY

NOVEMBER 2026

SCHOOL CLUBS

Model United Nations (MUN)

Building confidence, communication and global awareness through debate and diplomacy

WHAT IS MUN?

Model United Nations is an educational simulation of the real United Nations. Students step into the role of diplomats and act out how international decision-making actually works.

OUR MUN PROGRAMME

Year 11 MUN Club – led by Mr Boyd, coaches students on debate fundamentals and public speaking.



Kingsdale MUN conference

SKILLS DEVELOPED

- Public speaking
- Research
- Writing
- Negotiation
- Teamwork
- Confidence

Where we went

- St Paul's MUN
- Alleyn's MUN
- Dulwich College MUN
- LIMUN
- GODMUN

Every Tuesday P3 (lunchtime) in IT2!

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



COME ALONG TO....

YEAR 8 DRAMA CLUB!

Monday lunch times 12.15 - 12.45
in DR1
with Mr Bourne and Miss Woodhouse

Drama games, exploring scripts, mini performances and lots of FUN!

Any questions? Speak to Mr Golding in his office or email him: qgg@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Literacy News

AUTUMN TERM 2026 READING CHALLENGE

COSY AUTUMN LITERATURE

Choose any book that suits the autumn theme.

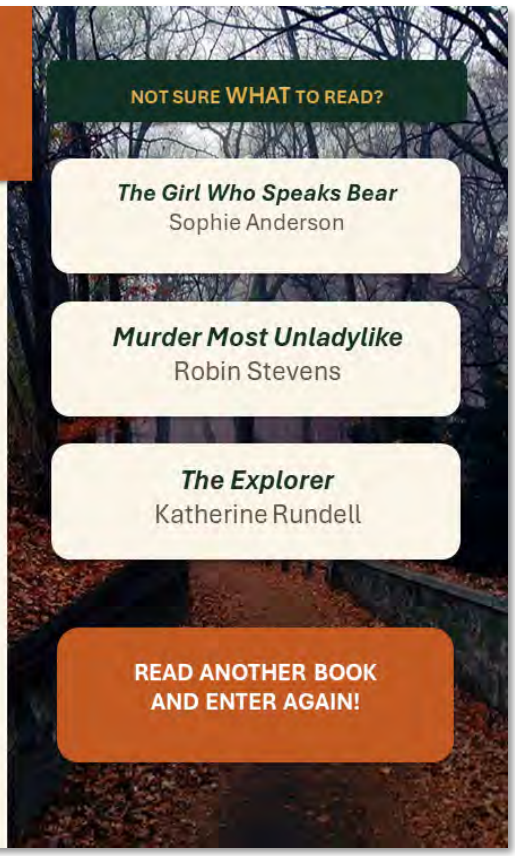
HOW TO TAKE PART

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

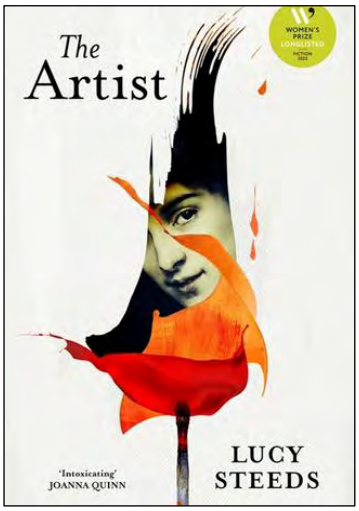
BOOK TOKEN + ACHIEVEMENT POINTS FOR EVERY ENTRY

DEADLINE: FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2026



Reading Recommendations

Teacher Recommendation



Mr Drysdale recommends
The Artist
by Lucy Steeds

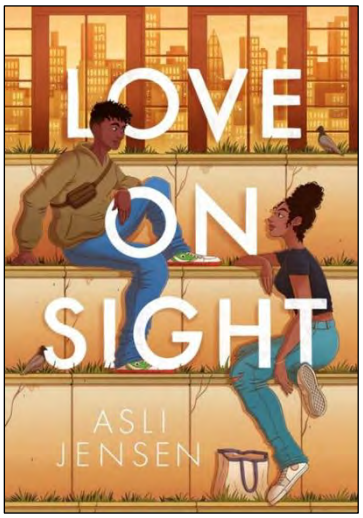
In the sun-drenched countryside of 1920s Provence, an English journalist named Joseph arrives to interview a reclusive painter. Instead, he finds himself drawn into the strange household of the artist and his niece, Ettie, whose own creative ambitions have long been overshadowed.

As Joseph becomes the painter's model, secrets and tensions begin to emerge. The novel combines mystery, romance and a fascinating exploration of who gets to make art — and who gets the credit for it.

Mr Drysdale recommends this for its atmospheric setting, compelling characters and questions about creativity and power.

Suggested for Year 11 and above; more suitable for confident, mature readers.

Student Recommendation



Ella, Year 9, recommends
Love on Sight
by Asli Jensen

Two young Londoners find themselves drawn to one another, but falling in love is not quite as straightforward as they hoped. Their feelings must compete with family expectations, cultural traditions and the pressure to decide what kind of future they want.

Set in contemporary London, this debut novel explores what happens when the person you want to be clashes with the person others expect you to become. It is a story about first love, independence and finding the courage to make your own choices.

Ella recommends this for its relatable teenage characters and its thoughtful exploration of love and identity.

Suggested for Year 9 and above; includes romantic relationships and some mature themes.

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

National Year of Reading
Autumn 2

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies.
The man who never reads lives only one."

We are delighted to support the National Year of Reading 2026, launched by the Department for Education in collaboration with the National Literacy Trust.

At Kingsdale, our ambition is to build a strong culture of reading in which every young person sees themselves as a reader. Reading is fundamental to success across the curriculum, but its value extends far beyond the classroom. It develops knowledge, vocabulary, imagination and confidence, while opening up different perspectives, experiences and worlds.

The National Year of Reading encourages everyone to "Go All In", with the message "If you're into it, read into it." This reflects the approach we want to take at Kingsdale. Whether a young person is interested in music, sport, gaming, drama, film, fashion, science, baking or something entirely different, there is something for them to read and discover.

National Year of Reading
Department of English

Throughout the year, different subject areas will lead our whole-school reading initiatives. This half-term, English is leading the programme.

English Takes Over: National Year of Reading!

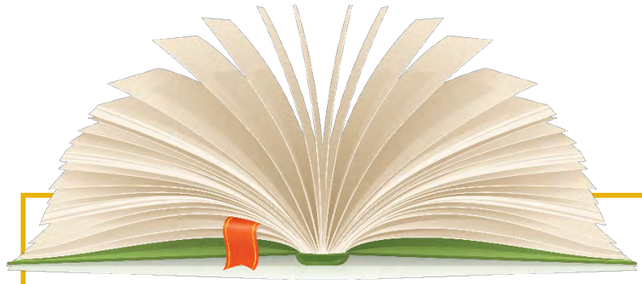
For the next seven weeks, the English Department will be celebrating the National Year of Reading with exciting activities and weekly reading challenges!

Look out for teachers wearing their 'Ask Me What I'm Reading' T-shirts and encourage your child to ask them about their favourite books and current reads.

We are also looking forward to our Kingsdale Reading Festival on Saturday 21st November, 12–2pm, featuring author talks, booksellers and fun reading activities for students and families. Further details about signing up will follow.

This Week's Reading Challenge:

English is taking reading around the world. Your challenge is to read something from somewhere different – perhaps a story, poem, article or book by a writer from another country or culture.



Library News

We recognise that students have different starting points and that some require additional support to become confident readers. Year 7 students are receiving a Library Induction, and paired reading will provide additional encouragement for reluctant readers in Year 7.

Book Clubs are taking place in the library as well.
Year 7 Book Club is on Wednesdays lunch time in the LSL
Year 8 is on Thursday lunch time in the LSL

Our library is open before school, at lunchtime and after school, giving students opportunities to read, discuss books and borrow or return them. We also want our library to reflect what young people genuinely want to read.

Students can recommend new books by speaking to their English teacher or emailing English@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk.

Reading Book Expectation

We ask that every student brings a reading book to school each day. Building a reading habit does not have to mean reading for hours. Regular reading, little and often, can help make reading a natural part of everyday life.

How parents and carers can help

Families are essential partners in developing positive reading habits. You can support at home by:

- encouraging your child to read regularly and ensuring they bring a book to school each day
- talking to them about what they are reading and asking for their opinions
- helping them find reading linked to their interests, whether that is a novel, biography, magazine, graphic novel, play, article or non-fiction book
- visiting libraries and bookshops together where possible
- encouraging participation in our reading challenges, competitions and clubs
- modelling reading at home. Young people seeing adults read sends a powerful message that reading is something we value throughout our lives.

Our aim is not simply to ask students to read more, but to help them want to read more. We hope the National Year of Reading will help us create an even stronger community of curious, confident and enthusiastic readers.

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

The Music Department is proud to announce the winning entries of our Song of the Week Review Competition, held as part of the National Year of Reading – Go All In! initiative.

During the autumn term, pupils have explored songs by Bob Dylan, Dolly Parton and Sam Cooke, reflecting on their lyrics, musical features and wider social messages. We received a fantastic range of thoughtful and insightful reviews.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part, and congratulations to our winners, whose outstanding entries are featured below. We hope the competition has inspired pupils to continue listening, reading and exploring the stories behind the music!

Winners

Ari, Year 8 - Sam Cooke 'A Change is Gonna Come'

My interpretation of Sam Cooke's song 'A Change Is Gonna Come' is a message of hope and unity. This song was written shortly before the Civil Rights Act, in 1964. The Civil Rights Act was passed to make discrimination, especially racism, illegal in the United States of America.

Firstly, Cooke opens with a reference to where he was born - Clarksdale, Mississippi. When he was born and when the song was released, there was a lot of racism in the southern states of the US. This was a legacy of the America Civil War but 80 years later, when southern states fought northern states to preserve slavery. Mississippi is a southern state, and was part of the Confederacy, which fought for slavery.

Sam Cooke also refers to how he's metaphorically running like the river. This depicts how he has been running from racism and oppression from other races. He sings about how he's afraid to die but he's finding it hard to live - that lyric shows just how hard it is to find life when everyone is discriminating against you and maybe he is struggling to find a middle ground.

On the instrumental side, in the third verse, brass noticeably kicks in. This adds confidence and momentum to the song with such a brave and distinct sound. This confidence is also represented in the chorus, with the lyric 'yes it will', which is reassuring the listener(s) that justice will happen. This specific lyric marks the end of the chorus, and so does a major base chord. This chord shows an introduction into the next verse on a hopeful and uplifting feeling, relating to my point of a message of hope from earlier.

In one of his verses, he sings about how he can't go to town and watch a movie without someone telling him to not hang around too long - confusion and questioning is faintly implied here, as he doesn't know why he is being treated unfairly. He also mentions in a bridge how he went to a brother, which probably refers to someone in his community, close friends or just someone that he feels connected to because of race or culture. This is a symbol of a unity amongst people that couldn't be unlocked across different ethnicities or backgrounds.

Lastly, in the chorus, Cooke sings 'long time coming', which refers to how it had taken so long for people to realise that slavery and racism were unfair, biased and cruel. Since the 16th century during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, racism kept on and on, until officially illegal in July 1964.

'A Change Is Gonna Come' is a delicate song of peace and fairness, demonstrated by the strings section, but it sends a powerful and meaningful message of protest against racism and discrimination.

Adedayo, Year 7 - Dolly Parton 'Coat of Many Colours'

First and foremost, I just want to say how upset I am by the tragic news of Dolly Parton's death. She was such a good singer, and most importantly, she transformed so many lives, from making children's books to starting charities. So, I just want to say that her name will not be forgotten.

To begin with, talking about the song and instruments themselves, I would say it is a very touching song because of the soft background music that sounds very soothing and relaxing. Dolly's beautiful voice just combines perfectly with the song as a whole. But the song alone gives us really good analogies. Being a Christian myself, I recognise how her mum compares the coat she sewed to Joseph's coat, both being colourful.

Again, Dolly is just a kind, relatable singer because I would say she is a 'down-to-earth singer'. In the song, she talks about how the coat was made out of rags, but despite it not being store-bought or made with the right materials, she still cherished and embraced the coat and her mum's thoughtfulness. That is why I describe her as a humble, caring singer and celebrity.

Finally, the reason why I would want to win the Dolly Parton CD would just be the fact that she is such a good role model (as I said the same thing about Bob Dylan). I would even go to the extent of calling her a big sister because of her personality and the characteristics she possesses.

Olivia, Year 7 - Bob Dylan 'Blowin' in the Wind'

'Blowin' in the Wind' by Bob Dylan was released in 1963, a folk anthem that was used in the 1960 Civil War movement. In this song Bob Dylan features only his voice, acoustic guitar and harmonica. The tempo in this song is quite slow, the melody is sweet and it is an easy to remember the tune, which makes the message that Dylan is trying to give easier to get across to people.

In each verse, Dylan asks rhetorical questions about peace, war, freedom and human rights. He uses the phrase: 'How many…?' twice at the start of every verse and answers them by saying the phrase 'The answer my friend is blowin' in the wind'.

I think this song is trying to say how people suffer every day and how blind they sometimes are. Dylan asked questions in the song instead of saying them because he is trying to make the reader/listener think more.

Even though this song is over 60 years old I believe that Dylan's message in this song is still relevant even today, because wars are happening in countries like Ukraine and Iran. The world needs peace and wars must stop.

Runner's up

Roshaun and Rachel (Year 7) - Sam Cooke 'A Change is Gonna Come'

Leo (Year 8) and Alethea (Year 7) – Dolly Parton 'Coat of Many Colours'

Beth (Year 8) and Ruby (Year 7) - Bob Dylan 'Blowin' in the Wind'

Honourable mentions

Dorothea S, Arthur A, Benji D, Thomas W, Isaac L, Elijah O, Gabriella R, Isaac A, Belle S, Maisie P, Angelo V, Safiya B, Federico S, Zoe W

Mental Health & Well-Being for Students: Mindful Digital Habits

This week's mental health & well-being focus for students focusses on mindful digital habits. Poor digital habits such as excessive screen time, late-night scrolling, and constant smartphone or social media use significantly affects students across academic, mental, physical, and social domains. A Mindful Digital Habit focuses on helping young people build a balanced, conscious relationship with smartphones, social media, and screen time without resorting to total bans or fear



Academic and Cognitive Impact

Divided Attention and Loss of Focus: Using phones or checking notifications during lessons reduces concentration, leading to missed instruction and lower-quality work.
Declined Attainment: Studies by bodies like the UK Education Committee show that unregulated phone use hurts academic performance, whereas interventions or mobile phone restrictions help improve exam and GCSE outcomes.
Sleep Deprivation: Late-night screen exposure and blue light disrupt circadian rhythms, causing chronic fatigue that impairs memory consolidation and classroom performance the next day.

Mental and Emotional Well-Being

Anxiety and Depression: Overuse of fast-paced or algorithm driven content triggers dopaminergic reward loops similar to addiction, correlating with rising rates of adolescent anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem.
Social Comparison and Body Image Issues: Curated feeds and AI filters foster unrealistic standards, driving body dissatisfaction and emotional distress.
Exposure to Harmful Content: Struggling students are particularly vulnerable to toxic group chats, cyberbullying, and exposure to self-harm or eating disorder material online.

Physical Health

Sedentary Lifestyle: Excessive screen time replaces outdoor play and physical exercise, contributing to lower physical fitness and poorer diet habits.
Eye Strain and Posture Issues: Prolonged staring at small screens causes digital eye strain, headaches, and neck or back discomfort.

Combating the effects of poor digital habits

Build Self-Awareness: Help students notice *why* they reach for their phones (boredom, habit, stress, or the fear of missing out/FOMO).
Protect the "Big Three": Safeguard essential pillars of adolescent wellbeing: sleep, physical activity, and real-life relationships.
Understand Digital Design: Teach students how apps use attention grabbing features (infinite scrolls, push notifications, and intermittent rewards) to capture their focus.
Foster Digital Resilience: Equip students with practical skills to curate feeds, block or report negativity, and step away when online spaces drain their mood.

Key Classroom & Form-Time Themes

The Psychology of the Scroll (Why Tech Feels So Hard to Put Down)
Concept: Explore how the adolescent brain responds to social feedback, likes, and notifications during a phase of high social sensitivity.
Activity: Look at "app traps"—breaking down how notification badges and algorithms trigger dopamine loops and discussing the difference between *active* use (chatting with a close friend, creating art) and *passive* use (mindless doomscrolling).

Protecting Your Energy & Mood Tracking

Concept: Connect screen habits directly to emotional states, anxiety, and irritability.
Activity: Run a "Mood vs. Media" audit for 24 hours. Have students log how they feel *before* and *after* checking specific apps or news feeds, identifying which digital spaces lift them up and which drain them.

Creating Healthy Friction and Boundaries

Concept: Small, manageable changes work better than extreme digital detoxes that trigger FOMO.
Activity: Set up phone-free zones (such as the dining table or the bedroom an hour before sleep) and add "friction" (turning off non-essential push notifications, putting phones in a drawer during homework, or moving social apps off the home screen).

Please contact Ms V. Turner via health&wellbeing@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk or vtr@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk for further information on how to access our health & well-being provision for students.

Keeping Young People Safe Online

A QUICK GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Social media is a big part of teenage life. While it can help young people connect, learn and be creative, it also comes with risks.

All the platforms below have a minimum age of 13+.

- Snapchat Disappearing messages and photos.
- TikTok Short videos and trends.
- Instagram Photo and video sharing.
- WhatsApp Messaging and group chats.
- Discord Chat platform popular with gamers.
- Roblox Online gaming platform with chat features.
- BeReal Daily photo-sharing app.



Top Tips for Parents

- ✅ Keep accounts private where possible
- ✅ Turn off location sharing
- ✅ Know which apps your child uses
- ✅ Check privacy settings regularly
- ✅ Encourage open conversations about online experiences
- ✅ Remind children never to share personal information with people they only know online

Watch Out For...

- Increased secrecy around devices
- Changes in mood after being online
- Sleep difficulties
- Anxiety about social media or group chats
- Withdrawal from family or friends

Common Risks

- ⚠ Cyberbullying and friendship issues
- ⚠ Contact from strangers
- ⚠ Exposure to inappropriate content
- ⚠ Online scams and fake accounts
- ⚠ Sharing personal information or images

Need Support?

Internet Matters: www.internetmatters.org
NSPCC Online Safety: www.nspcc.org.uk
CEOP: www.ceop.police.uk

Remember: The aim isn't to stop young people using technology, but to help them use it safely, confidently and responsibly.

Choosing the Right University: A Guide for Students with SEND and Their Families



Finding the right university is about more than academic results. Choosing a university is an exciting milestone, but for students with SEND, there may be additional factors to consider.

Finding the right course is important, but so is choosing an environment where students feel comfortable, supported and confident enough to succeed.

The good news is that universities have a responsibility to make reasonable adjustments for disabled students, and many offer extensive academic, pastoral and practical support.

Whether your child has autism, ADHD, dyslexia, a physical disability, a sensory impairment or mental health needs, planning ahead can make the transition to university much smoother.

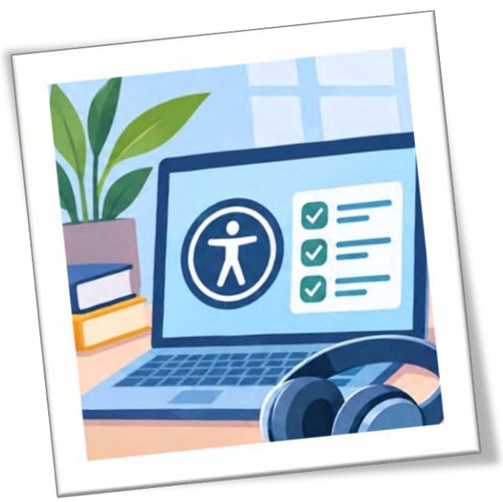
1. Look beyond university rankings

League tables can be useful, but they should not be the deciding factor. A university that offers excellent teaching, accessible facilities and effective student support may be a better choice than one with a higher ranking. When researching universities, consider:

- How is the course taught and assessed?
- Are lectures recorded or available online?
- What support is available for students with SEND?
- Is the campus easy to navigate?
- Would your child prefer a smaller, quieter university or a larger, busier environment?
- How far is the university from home, and how independently would your child feel comfortable living?

Encourage your child to think about where they would feel happiest and most able to learn.





2. Contact the university's disability support team

Every university should have a service responsible for supporting disabled students. We strongly recommend contacting this team before accepting an offer. Ask what support is available for your child's particular needs.

This might include extra time in examinations, alternative assessment arrangements, assistive technology, specialist study skills support, mentoring or adjustments to teaching. It is also worth asking how quickly support can be arranged and what documentation the university requires.

Importantly, support at university does not automatically replicate the support a student received at school. Students who have previously had an EHCP or a Pupil Passport should discuss their needs with the university as early as possible.

3. Understand Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) can help eligible students meet additional study-related costs arising from a disability, long-term health condition, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty.

Depending on individual needs, support may include specialist equipment, assistive software, non-medical helpers or additional travel costs.

DSA is not based on household income and does not need to be repaid.

Students should investigate eligibility and apply as early as possible, as arranging assessments and equipment can take time.

4. Attend open days and ask questions

University open days are particularly valuable for students with SEND. They provide an opportunity to experience the environment rather than relying solely on websites and prospectuses. Where possible, arrange to meet a member of the disability support team during your visit.

Questions worth asking include:

- Is there a quiet space students can access when feeling overwhelmed?
- What happens if a student experiences difficulties attending lectures?
- Is specialist accommodation available?
- How are reasonable adjustments communicated to lecturers?
- What support is available for organisation, independent study and managing deadlines?
- Is there a named person students can contact if they are struggling?

It can also be helpful to speak to current students about their experiences.



5. Think carefully about accommodation and independence

For some students, moving away from home is an exciting opportunity. For others, it can feel overwhelming.

Consider whether university accommodation offers a suitable environment, including quieter rooms, accessible facilities or accommodation close to teaching buildings.

It is also important to think about everyday routines such as cooking, shopping, managing money, travelling independently and maintaining a healthy balance between studying and socialising.

Students do not need to have mastered every aspect of independent living before starting university, but identifying areas where additional preparation might help can build confidence.

6. Plan the transition early

Students with SEND often benefit from additional preparation when moving into a new educational environment. Families can support this transition by encouraging students to develop independent study routines, practise communicating their needs and become familiar with the support available.
Where appropriate, students can share relevant information from their EHCP, Pupil Passport or previous assessments with their chosen university.
Although EHCPs do not continue into higher education, the information within them can still be valuable when discussing reasonable adjustments and support.

7. Remember that university is not the only option

There are many routes to successful careers and further study. Degree apprenticeships, higher apprenticeships, specialist colleges, supported internships and other training pathways may be worth exploring, depending on a young person's interests, qualifications and aspirations.
The most important thing is that students feel involved in decisions about their future and understand the options available to them.



Final thoughts

At Kingsdale, we want all our students to feel ambitious and confident about their futures. Having SEND should never mean automatically ruling out university or limiting aspirations. The key is to research carefully, ask questions and make sure students understand what support they can access.
The best university is not necessarily the most prestigious one. It is the university where your child can thrive academically, socially and personally.

Helpful Links for Students with SEND and Their Parents

These resources provide advice on choosing a university, accessing SEND support, applying for financial assistance and preparing for higher education.

Resource	Website Address	How It Can Help
UCAS: Choosing a University with SEND	www.ucas.com	Advice on researching universities, comparing courses and identifying appropriate SEND support.
UCAS: Support for Disabled Students	www.ucas.com	Guidance on contacting university disability teams, reasonable adjustments and preparing for higher education.
GOV.UK: Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)	www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa	Official information about financial assistance, specialist equipment, assistive technology and additional learning support.
GOV.UK: How to Apply for DSA	www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa/how-to-claim	Step-by-step guidance on applying for financial support, including eligibility, supporting evidence and assessments.
Complete University Guide: Advice for Parents	www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk	Practical advice for parents supporting a young person with SEND through the transition to university, including accommodation and independent living.
Disability Rights UK: Higher Education Advice	www.disabilityrightsuk.org	Independent advice about disability rights, reasonable adjustments, financial support and accessing higher education.

AST Autism Support Team

Autism Support Team

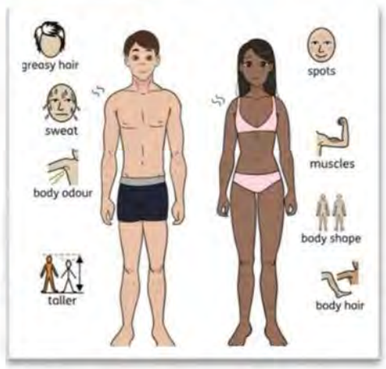
Puberty, Relationships and Sex

FREE training for parents and carers of Autistic children / teenagers

Do you want to understand what your Autistic child is experiencing during **puberty**, help them to navigate complex **social & emotional changes** and prepare them for **safe and healthy relationships**?

Through this training session you will develop an **understanding** of:

- ✓ How autism shapes a young person's experience of puberty.
- ✓ The differences Autistic young people may have when navigating a romantic or intimate relationship.
- ✓ Touch, personal space, arousal and sex from the perspective of an Autistic young person.



You will also come away with **practical skills and activities** around supporting an Autistic person with:

- ✓ Managing their moods and emotions associated with puberty.
- ✓ Understanding 'public' and 'private.'
- ✓ Understanding different types of relationships and interactions, and how these might change during puberty.
- ✓ Strategies for managing sexual feelings, for example masturbation.
- ✓ Understanding and exploring their sexuality.

Join us for an **in-person, practical training session** on:

Tuesday 1st December
10:00am-4:30pm

Southwark Council,
160 Tooley St, SE1 2QH

Register here

Or scan the QR code →

For any further queries, please contact autismsupportteam@southwark.gov.uk

Communication Flowchart: SEND

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

Is your query about a specific teacher or subject area?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Is your query about exam access arrangements?

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

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

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

None of the above?

→

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

CAREER NEWS

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

At Kingsdale, we are proud to offer an extensive careers education programme that supports students in preparing for their future pathways and careers.

Our aim is to ensure every student is equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to make informed decisions about their next steps.



Free Apprenticeship Webinars for Students, Parents & Carers

These webinars support Gatsby Benchmarks 2 and 5 by helping students and those supporting them understand apprenticeship opportunities and recruitment processes, while hearing directly from employers about what they look for in successful candidates.

NavigATE: What to expect from the apprenticeship recruitment process

Securing an apprenticeship starts with understanding the recruitment process. Ideal for prospective apprentices and those supporting them, this webinar provides a step-by-step look at what happens from application to appointment, along with practical tips on how to prepare. Attendees will also hear from the Emerging Talent Lead at the Met Office.

Thursday 12th November 2026, 15.30 – 16.15

Register here

Students, parents and carers are encouraged to register even if they are unable to attend live, as all registrants will receive access to the webinar recording and presentation slides afterwards.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. If you do not already receive our free schools and colleges newsletter, you can subscribe at amapps.uk/parent-carer-newsletter to receive updates on future webinars, new resources and other careers education updates.



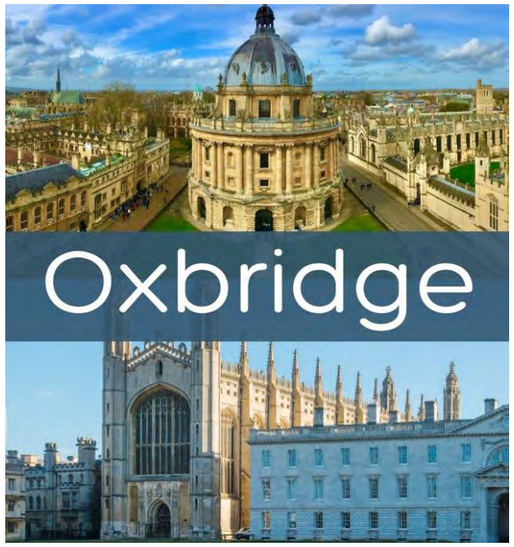
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Oxbridge Interview Support



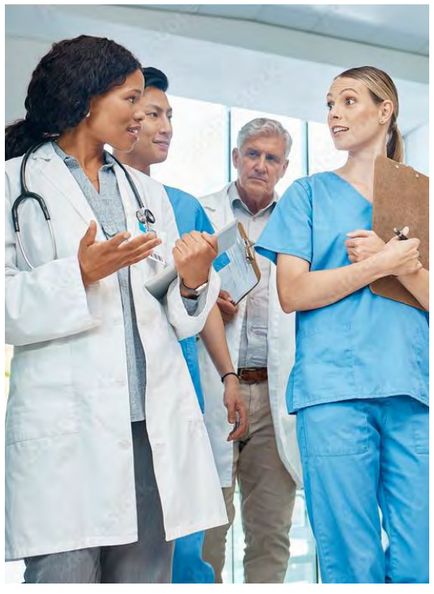
As we approach Oxbridge interview season, we are looking for parents with experience of Oxford or Cambridge who may be able to provide interview practice support.

If you attended Oxford or Cambridge or have experience of the Oxbridge interview process we would love your help to mock interview our applicants.

Individuals with experience in the following areas in particular would be really appreciated:

Biochemistry, Chemistry, Bio Medical Science, PPE, Social Political Sciences, Philosophy, History, Maths, History of Art, Engineering and English.

Please email Mr Burke - jbu@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk if you think you may be able to help.



Medicine Society Support Call Out

As part of our offer to our Sixth Form students, we run a Medical Society and we are keen to hear from medical professionals who can tell our students about their own careers and roles within the sector.

This could be doctors in different specialisms, but also other medical professionals such as nurses, physios.

In addition to this, we would love to hear from any doctors or dentists who would be able to do a mock interview with our medicine and dentistry applicants.

Please email Mr Burke - jbu@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk if you think you may be able to help.



Careers in Languages

We'd love to hear from you!

We are organising a Careers in Languages event for our students and would love to hear from parents and carers who use a language, or multiple languages, as part of their career.

We are looking for volunteers to join a panel and share their experiences with students — including how they use languages in their work, how languages have supported their career journey, and why language skills are valuable in the workplace.

Whether you work in business, finance, law, healthcare, education, travel, technology, international relations, the arts or another field, we would love to hear from you!

This is a wonderful opportunity to inspire our students and help them understand the many exciting ways that languages can open doors in the world of work.

If you would be interested in taking part, please contact Ms Delli at ddi@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk by Monday 9th November.

Thank you for helping us inspire the next generation of linguists!

CAREER NEWS

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

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Our aim is to ensure every student is equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to make informed decisions about their next steps.

Personalised Careers Guidance Programme

As part of this programme, personalised 1:1 careers guidance interviews have started for our current Year 12 and Year 11 students in the first instance from 18th September 2026 and continue throughout the Autumn and Spring Term.

Each session will be led by our Independent Careers Advisor, Ms Ethney McCulloch, and will result in an Individual Careers Plan. These guidance interviews provide students with the opportunity to discuss their interests, strengths, aspirations, suitable courses, post-16 application processes and current labour market information to help them make informed decisions about their future.

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



Unifrog for Labor Market Information and Future Pathways Guidance

Kingsdale uses Unifrog as its online careers platform, bringing together up-to-date information and resources on careers, further education, apprenticeships, universities and the world of work.

Students can access Unifrog using their Kingsdale school email address and password at www.unifrog.org. Labour Market Information describes the real-world jobs market, including salary trends, weekly working hours, and future job demand. Please encourage your child to use Unifrog to explore live career and regional employment data.

This is available in the subjects library/ careers library sections on Unifrog. Parents and carers can also create a parent account using their own email address to support their child in exploring future pathways. Please log-in via www.unifrog.org/parent



Post-16 Options

Students may wish to consider a range of post-16 progression routes, including: School Sixth Forms, Sixth Form Colleges, Further Education Colleges, T Levels, Vocational Qualifications, Apprenticeships.

For impartial information on post-16 pathways, we recommend the National Careers Service website: https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

Apprenticeships are an increasingly popular route, enabling young people to earn while they learn and gain valuable industry experience. In order to receive monthly guidance, information and opportunities on apprenticeships, parents may sign up here.

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.

Careers Information on School Website

In addition, information about our Careers Programme, Careers Policy and useful careers resources can be found on the school website here.

Supporting Our Careers Programme

We are always keen to hear from parents and carers who would be willing to support our careers education programme through careers talks or sharing insights from their profession with students across all year groups.

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

Change Grow Live | 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).

Change Grow Live | Drug and Alcohol Service Southwark | Change Grow Live | 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

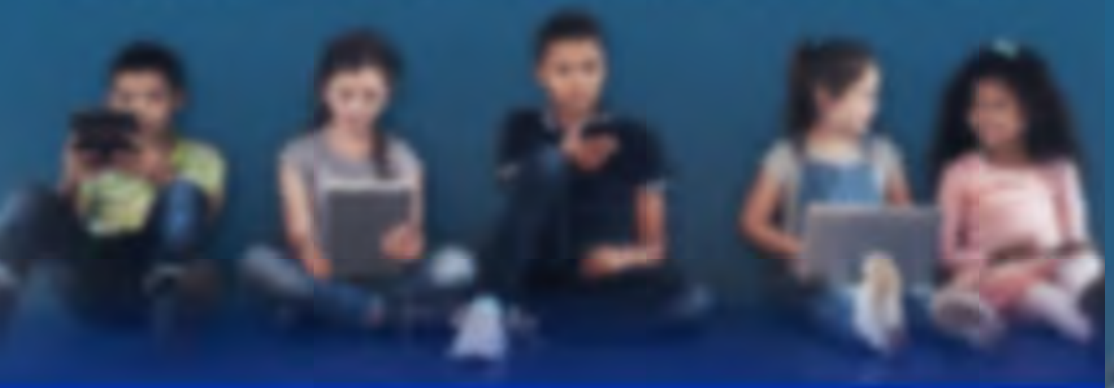
Talking to your child about

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

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

CEOP 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.org

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

THE LUCY FAITHFULL FOUNDATION
Working to protect children

shore



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

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.



National Hiking Day
Monday 17th November 2026!

Monday is National Hiking Day, a celebration of getting outdoors, exploring nature, and enjoying the crisp beauty of mid-November hills. Whether you're an early riser catching the dawn stretching over sleepy peaks or heading home under a sky brushed with flamingo pinks and oranges, there's no better time to lace up your boots and hit the trail (headtorch recommended!).



STUDENT TASK: You are invited to send in photos from their hikes or share maps of your routes to inspire others to get outside and explore. Your journey could encourage someone else to discover the joy of the trail!

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

Prizes will be awarded to outstanding entries!



Origami Day

Origami Day celebrates the beautiful and intricate Japanese art of paper folding. Though paper folding traditions have appeared around the world, Japan's origami has become the global symbol of this timeless craft. Over the centuries, origami has evolved - from a sacred ritual to a noble pastime, to a beloved children's hobby - and today it continues to inspire creativity in art, mathematics, science, and technology.

Declared a commemorative day in 1980 by the Nippon Origami Association, Origami Day is held on November 11. The date "11/11" symbolizes the four equal sides of a square sheet of paper—the foundation of every origami creation. The day also honours the connection between origami and peace, inspired by Sadako Sasaki's story and her thousand paper cranes.

Take a moment on November 11 to fold a crane, a flower, or a simple shape—and celebrate the art, creativity, and hope that origami brings to the world.



STUDENT TASK: In celebration of Origami Day, we invite all students to take part in the Origami Day House Challenge! Your mission is to create your own origami piece - it can be a crane, flower, animal, or any other design that inspires you. Use any kind of paper you have at home or school.

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



The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) are the official organisers of Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. This year's theme, "Power for Good," encourages everyone to use their actions and voices to make a positive difference and stand up against bullying.

The week will run from Monday 16th to Friday 20th November, starting with Odd Socks Day on Monday 16th - a fun and colourful way for children and adults alike to celebrate what makes us all unique!

The theme was chosen following consultation with teachers and pupils, who wanted to focus on empowerment and positivity - reminding us all that even small acts of kindness can have a powerful impact.

STUDENT TASK: Create a drawing/painting/poster/collage to represent 'Power for Good'.

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

CALENDAR 2026-27



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

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

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

AUTUMN TERM 2026
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

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS

iPhone

Apple devices come with built-in apps already available: Mail, FaceTime and Safari, for example. However, you can choose which apps and features appear on your child's device and which ones don't. You can also manipulate the features in Game Centre to enhance your child's safety and privacy when playing games, as well as blocking iTunes or App Store purchases if you wish.



How to Restrict Built-in Apps/Features

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)
5. Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear(or disappear) on your child's device

How to Restrict Game Centre

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)
5. Scroll down to Game Centre
6. Choose between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends Only in the settings for each feature

How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
5. Select Allow or Don't Allow for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)

National Online Safety®
www.nationalonlinesafety.com

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.09.2021

SPORTS FIXTURES

Monday 9th November 2026

- Under-16s Girls' Football Away Match at Burgess Park against Oasis Academy South Bank. Leave school at 1.30pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 5pm approx.: Mr Jones/Mr Price
- Under-13s Boys' Football Home Match v Weatherby Pembridge School. Leave school at 1.45pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 4.15pm approx.: Mr Fittchett
- Under-12s Girls' Football Home Match v St Matthews Academy. Leave school at 1.45pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 4pm approx.: Mr Dash
- Under-13s Girls' Hockey Away Match against Streatham and Clapham High School. Leave school at 1.15pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 5pm approx.: Ms Jaymes

Tuesday 10th November 2026

- Under-12s Boys' Football Home Match v Sacred Heart School. Leave school at 1.45pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 4pm approx.: Mr Owen
- Under-15s Boys' Rugby Home Match v Rutlish School. Leave school at 1.30pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 5pm approx.: Mr Lord/Mr Price

Wednesday 11th November 2026

- Under-14s' Girls Hockey Tournament at High-Gate. Leave school at 7.30am. Start 10am. Return at 3.30pm approx.: Ms Jaymes
- Under-12s Boys' Rugby Away Match v Rutlish School. Leave school at 1pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 5pm approx.: Mr Roberts

Thursday 12th November 2026

- Under-13s Boys' Indoor Cricket Competition at Alleyn's School. Leave school at 12pm. Start 1pm. Return at 4pm approx.: Mr Price
- Under-15s Girls' Hockey Away Match v James Allen Girls School. Leave school at 3.45pm. Start 4.30pm. Return at 6pm approx.: Ms Jaymes
- Under-13s Boys' Basketball Away Match v Alleyn's School. Leave school at 3.30pm. Start 4pm. Return at 6pm approx.: Mr Dash

Friday 13th November 2026

- Under 12s-18s Girls'/Boys' Cross Country Cup Regional Finals at Dulwich Common. Leave school at 12 noon. Start 1pm. Return at 4pm approx.: Ms Sinclare/ Mr Jones/Mr Price
- Under-12s Boys' Football Home Match v Hampton School. Leave school at 1.45pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 4.15pm approx.: Mr Owen

Please note that fixtures maybe postponed or rearranged due to weather conditions.
All fixtures can be viewed via the link below:
http://www.kingsdaleschoolsports.org.uk

HOUSE NEWS

Online Safety Corner

For this week's Online Safety focus we are looking at 'How to Set Up Parental Controls for iPhone Apps'.Get a greater insight on this page .Remember to keep an open dialogue with your child about their activities online.

The House Leader Board 2026-27

Week ending
6th November 2026

Follow each week to see the progress of each House

1st Place – Albatross 31,888 points

2nd Place – Falcon 31,801 points

3rd Place – Eagle 31,603 points

4th Place – Swift 31,225 points

5th Place – Dove 31,058 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.