



Principal's Message

Welcome to another jam packed newsletter reflecting on events of the last few weeks. It has been a really positive term in so many ways. Our Year 11 students really took their mock exams seriously and have built a very strong platform for the second round of mocks and beyond. I have seen some really engaging lessons and right up to the last day, students were completing assessments. We are committed to doing all we can to raise student achievement as this will increase their opportunities beyond school. One way to help this is by making sure that students are in school as much as possible.

Academic performance is a significant part of our work but as this newsletter shows, there is a great deal more that schools do in order to develop well rounded students. Our students are fantastic young people and are a pleasure to work with every single day.

I also wanted to say thank you to our fantastic PTA. They have already run a series of events that have raised a significant sum, which will directly benefit the students. They have many more events planned across the year and if you want to be involved then they would be delighted to hear from you.



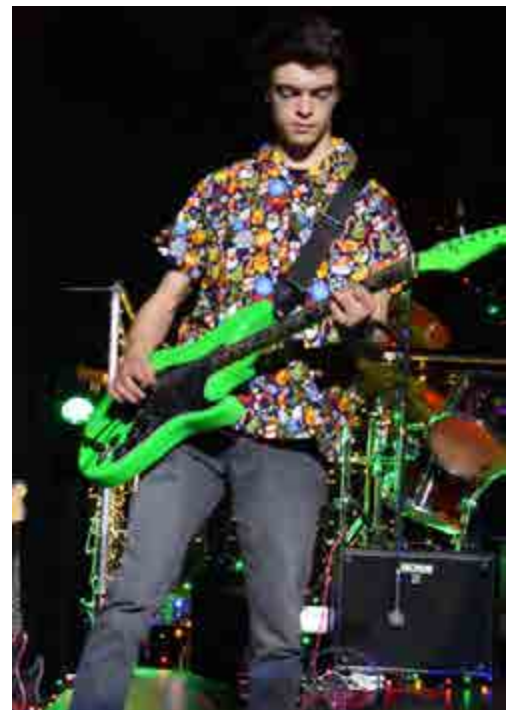
Happy Christmas to you all!

Mr J Eddy

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



A HUGE congratulations to everyone involved in the incredible performances at our Kingsmead Christmas Concert! Your hard work, dedication, and passion shone through, and you brought joy and a festive vibe to all who attended. Whether you were singing, playing or performing in a band you made the evening unforgettable.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT



We should also add a shout out to the audience for writing the lyrics for our Christmas Blues... you were also amazing for participating in our event! Performing in front of an audience takes courage. It was clear how much effort and practice you put in, and your teamwork made the entire event a success. You should all be very proud of what you achieved together. We hope you all have an amazing Christmas - we're excited to get started on music ready for our Somer of Sound Festival 2026! Ms Hall and Mr Short.



CHILDREN IN NEED

We always do our best to support charities here at Kingsmead School, and every year we really do go all out to support Children in Need. This year, we had a non-uniform day to raise money, as well as offering lots of fun stalls in the hall at lunchtime.

Here students could enjoy everything from baked goods through to games and competitions. Our students were fantastic, and there was a great atmosphere and sense of support throughout the event.



Thank you to everyone who took part, you helped us raise over £1157. Well done everyone!



REMEMBRANCE

On 11th November, staff representatives, Y10 tutor reps and year 7 poetry competition winners attended the local Remembrance service in Wiveliscombe to pay their respects during the minute's silence.

Y7 took part in a poetry competition run by Mrs Kelley to represent remembrance poetry, which were read at the service. Winner - Gabriella H 7N, 2nd - Archie L 7K, 3rd - Cecily D 7S, 4th - Oonagh G 7S. The art department also created a display of war themed artwork in the square. The local Poppy Appeal organisers noted how polite and respectful our students were. Thank you to all those who helped organise and took part.



COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

Kingsmead students are working toward Community Challenges in each year group that have been launched this term. Each Year group has a different theme to follow and will be awarded their Community Challenge badge when they have completed the challenges set by their Head of Year. Each Year will take their next theme as they go through school Community Challenge Themes; Year 7 - Belonging, Year 8 - Charity, Year 9 - Community Leadership, Year 10 - Volunteering, Year 11 - Big Wide World

This term;

Year 7 are working towards a Friendship and Kindness Passport

Year 8 organised and ran bakes sales for Pudsey and the Christmas Jumper Day

Year 9 have already taken responsibility as Sports Leaders and have been asked to consider the roles of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Year 10 have organised and collected hampers for the Wivey food kitchen

Year 11 have taken part in college application assemblies, application workshops and are starting to plan for Leaver's events.

It is wonderful to watch the students take ownership of their elements of working together towards improving our Kingsmead Community. Thank you to all staff who have supported.



GIVING THANKS



A big THANK YOU to our wonderful kitchen team!

They keep us all very well fed all year round, with a particular thank you for their superb Christmas dinner on 16th December.

10/10 for effort on the dressing up, too!

Tutor groups took part in a Kindness Countdown to Christmas in December to recognise the amount of kind acts the students at Kingsmead collectively do to help us get through to the end of term.

Tutor group winners were as follows:

7K, 8M, 9K, 10M, 11k

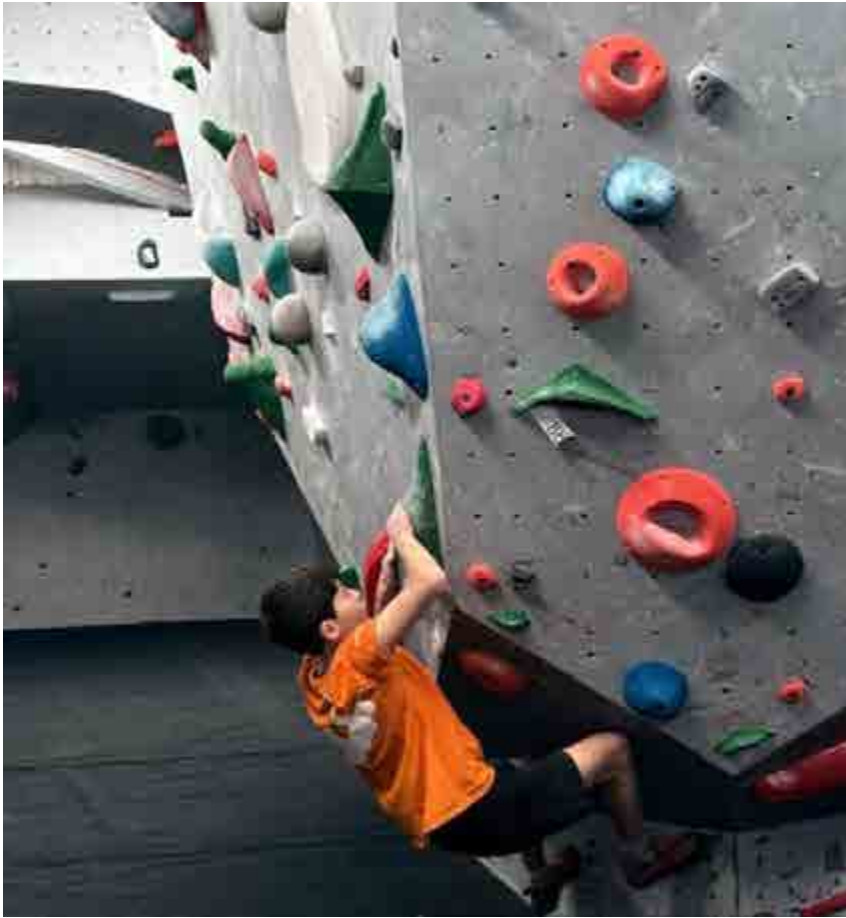
Staff winner: Mrs C Allen



A Huge thank you to Christmas Sparkle from Kingsmead School!



STUDENT RECOGNITION



We love to hear about our students' successes, not only in school, but in their own free time, too!

On Sunday 16 November, Austin G in 7K took part in an inter-schools climbing competition at Rock and Rapids, South Molton.

Each competitor had to complete 4 ropes climbs, 5 boulder problems and a speed climb.

The years 7-9 category he was in had some strong climbers, including climbers who compete for the South West and Great Britain.

Austin finished the day with a brilliant score of 794. Incredible effort, Austin!

We do a lot of fundraising for charities here at Kingmead School, but this student took it upon herself to go the extra mile for her chosen charity.

Faith H managed to achieve 100 skips a day throughout the month of October to raise a fantastic £175 for Cancer Research.

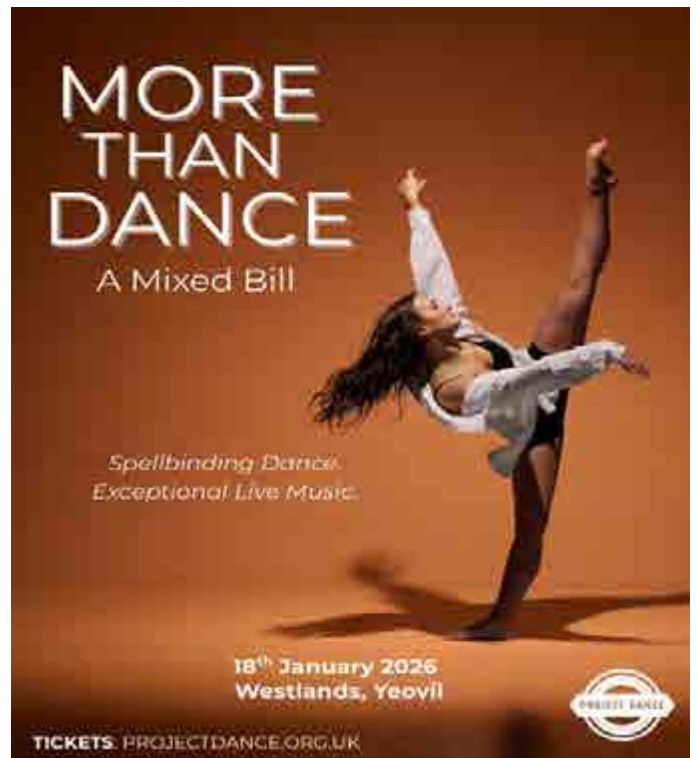
A brilliant achievement for a very worthy cause.



STUDENT RECOGNITION

Noah M participated in Taunton Young Dancer at the end of November and came second in the senior section. Noah was also scouted by Emil Dale and invited to audition for their associates programme. Noah has qualified for the Dance World Cup again, ranking 2nd (lyrical) and 3rd (contemporary and ballet) in the country for his age group. This is a great achievement given he has just moved up to an older section and will be competing against dancers up to 18 years of age. He will be representing Team England as a triple soloist (a further 2 solos on the reserve list) in Dublin in July 2026. He will be performing one of his selected solos at a dance show in January at Westlands Entertainment Centre in Yeovil, as well as many other dances he's been rehearsing the Project Dance Company. His dance school will also be performing the curtain raiser, so this may be an exhausting performance!

More imminently however, he is about to embark on panto season and will be performing at the McMillan Theatre as part of their youth ensemble in a professional production of Cinderella. A very busy Noah! Congratulations!



STUDENT RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Sienna C (Year 11) who has achieved a distinction in her LCME Grade 8 - Musical Theatre for Singers exam. This is a huge achievement and a testament to Sienna's commitment, passion and talent for Musical Theatre. Sienna has also recently been offered places at both Performing Arts Colleges she has auditioned for and we look forward to watching her journey after she leaves us next year.

You can catch Sienna performing in the Wayfarers Pantomime Society production of Snow White & The Seven Dwarves at the Taunton Brewhouse from 11th - 17th January 2026. Photo credit to Len Copland (Somersetstage - Newsies Jr)



Well done to Blake S and Zeph M for running for Somerset Youth Parliament this year, both ran with excellent manifestos.

Congratulations to Blake who was one of 3 elected out of a total of 13 candidates. Blake will now work alongside the Somerset Youth Parliament Advisory Group to shape and develop his campaign until April 2026, when he will take up his seat of office until March 2028.

MUSICAL PRODUCTION

LEGALLY BLONDE

THE MUSICAL

4TH - 7TH MARCH 2026

MATINEE 2.30PM | EVENING 7.15PM

TICKET DONATION

£10 FOR ADULTS | £5 FOR STUDENTS AND UNDER 18s

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
LAURENCE O'KEEFE
AND NELL BENJAMIN

BOOK BY
HEATHER HACH

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY
AMANDA BROWN AND THE
METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER
MOTION PICTURE




TAUNTON
SCHOOL

TAUNTON
BREWHOUSE

THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL ALL AUTHORISED.
PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI WWW.MTISHOWS.CO.UK

COOKING



The Royal Navy came in to run a Ready Steady Cook challenge with some of the year 10 Hospitality & Catering students recently. In teams they made beef burgers with a relish and side salad, and mini pavlova with cream and fresh fruit. The winning students of the judged food were: Sophie C, Leah M, Holly M, Ted S, Ruby S and Mia M. Excellent stuff!



ART

The art department ran a competition over the summer to showcase Artwork in Webbers Estate Agents during the 10 Parishes Arts Festival, and the winner is Philippa W 10e with her impressive piece with two holding hands.

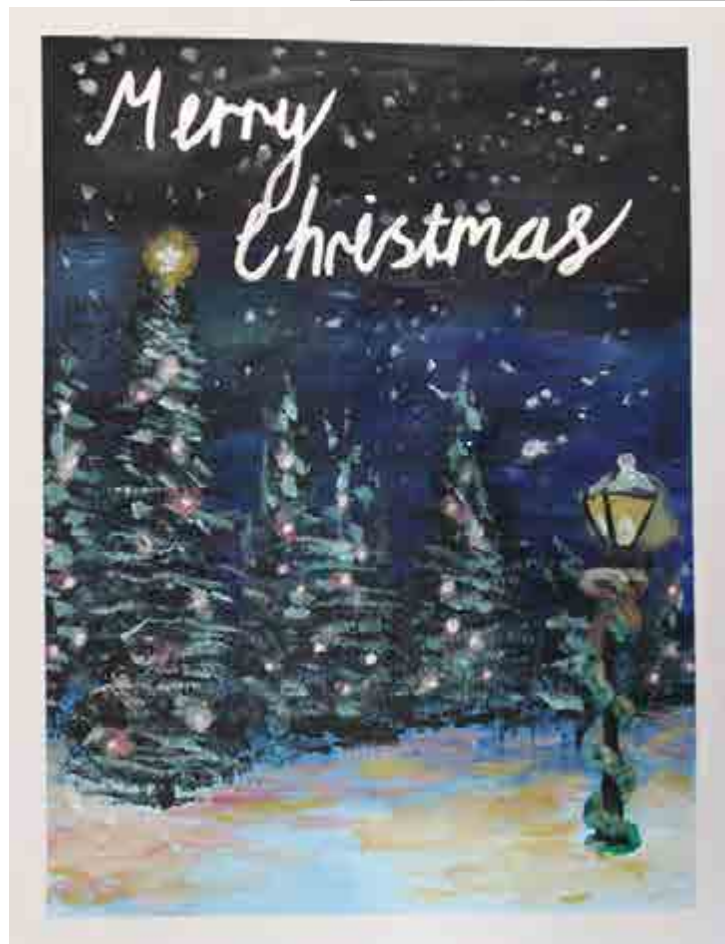


The winners of 2025's Christmas Card Competition are:

- Yr 7 Ellis J 7k
- Yr 8 Sienna P 8m
- Yr 9 Rosalind H 9e
- Yr 10 Annie 10e



Congratulations to the winners and well done to all that took part.



GEOGRAPHY

On two bright and sunny November days, Year 10 Geography students completed their urban fieldwork study in Bristol. Specifically looking at the success of regeneration, they visited the harbourside, Broadmead and Cabot Circus. Students enjoyed an hour-long tour of the docks on the Bristol Packet Boat Tours, and made incredible amounts of notes and recorded many fascinating changes. They then visited Broadmead to see improvements to this area, and then Cabot Circus. Students behaved brilliantly over the two days and the visits were very successful. Well done Year 10!



GEOGRAPHY



COMPUTING

We have come to the end of a very busy term in the Computing Department! Well done to all of the year 11 GCSE Computer Scientists and Year 11 iMedia students who have sat their mock exams with determination and desire to do their very best. The iMedia students are now embarking upon their final coursework piece where



they will create a multimedia product, whilst the Computer Scientists are looking at networking and security and the impacts of computing in society to finish off their course content. We are proud of them all. We have had in the course leader of the T Level in Software Development at UCS College Group (Bridgwater Taunton College) in the last week too, to introduce some web development skills to the computer scientists, helping them to think about their pathways to digital courses at college level.

Our year 7-9 classes have also been busy since September. Year 8 and 9 are both undertaking the IDEA Award programme - the Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award. It is an international award-winning programme that helps the students to develop digital, enterprise and employability skills through a series of online challenges. Six year 9 students have achieved their Bronze IDEA Award this term – Alice W, Annabel J, Ashton T, Freddie C, Isaac U and Rosalind H. Congratulations to them all – they will now go on to attempt the Silver Award whilst others continue to work through to achieve their Bronze Awards.



COMPUTING

Year 9 have also been taking part in the international Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. This runs for a fortnight each November, where students are presented with a series of logic puzzles, graded into categories of difficulty. They must solve as many as they can within 45 minutes. Year 9s were entered to the 'Inters' category (ages 12-14) - 268,615 'Inters' took part across the country, 3,199 were from Somerset, and 158 from Kingsmead completed the challenge. 79 students achieved a Participation Award, 39 achieved a Merit Award (top 50 – 75% in the school) and 38 achieved a Distinction Award (top 25% in the school). The top 17 of these students also achieved a Gold Award (top 10% of their age group nationally). We had two students awarded 'Best in School' too for their top score! Class Charts points and certificates have been awarded for the top scorers, and for those who have done well, they may be able to use this as a guide to how good they are as a computational thinker or whether Computer Science would be a good choice for them as a GCSE. If students wish to discuss this any further, they can come and see Mr Smith in M11. Congratulations to them all – the names of our Gold Award winners are: Archie, Alice W, John H, Phoebe F, Max J, Ella H, Sofie P, Cassius E, Finley P, Edward T, Maisie U, Joshua W, Bruno R, Alexander J, Kaden S, Emil W and Neville H.

The computing department have also started their new Minecraft EDU lunchtime club this term, which has turned out to be very popular!

They have split this into 2 sessions – one for year 7 and one for year 8 and 9.

The department is also running a girls-only lunchtime session along the same theme for girls of all years.

In the New Year, they will split into teams for some build challenges, with the hope of going on to do some eSports style competitions soon!

For more information, come and see Mr Smith in M11.



SPORT

And now onto our sporting heroes at Kingsmead School!

Congratulations to the Year 10 rugby team for their fantastic performance against Bishop Foxes.

It was a great warm-up for their upcoming county cup quarter-final. Well done on the good play!



Next, a big shout out to our Year 7 rugby players for securing third place in the area on finals day!

It's been a successful season so far, and we're thrilled to see several of them joining club rugby. Lots of potential for the future here!

Keep up the great work!

A huge congratulation to the Year 9s who secured a comfortable win against Foxes!

The team showed great togetherness and kept great focus throughout the match.

Well done, boys, for showing positive steps!



SPORT



The year 9 sports leaders have been fantastic this term, working hard to plan both indoor and outdoor festivals for year 2 and 3 students.

Over 40 year 9 students have been involved in this and their efforts have not gone unnoticed.

They have constantly received praise from the visiting schools for their enthusiasm and attitude with the younger students.

Year 11 opened the season with a hard-fought 3-point win this evening. Strong ball movement and hard work on defence kept us competitive throughout a tightly contested game.

Accurate three-point shooting proved crucial, with several key shots shifting momentum our way. A determined team effort and composed finish secured a well-deserved victory and a promising start to the season.

Well done, boys!



Twenty six of our brilliant students in years 7 and 8 participated in a rugby session led by our friends at Wiveliscombe RFC.






Everyone had a great time, and it was wonderful to see such a positive attitude from the players.

Watch this space, we predict that many of these players will be featuring here regularly in the future!



ATTENDANCE

How to Report an Absence

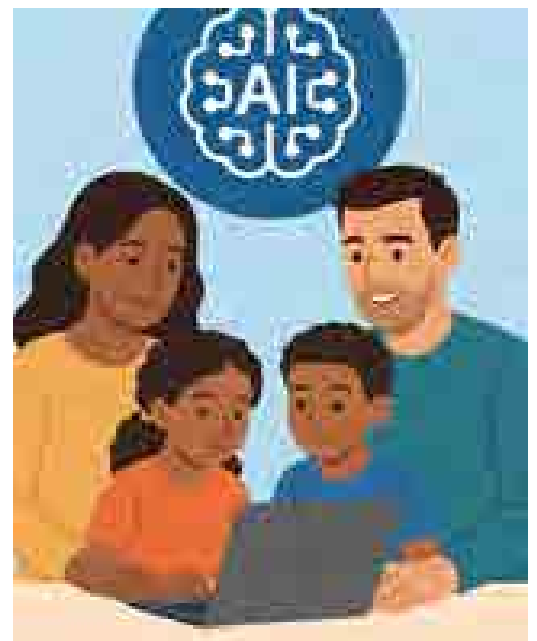
 Text: 07860 050210
 Email: attendance@kma.clf.uk
 Call: 01984 623483 option 1
 Deadline: Before 9.00am
 Please provide: Student name, date, and reason.
Thank you for helping us keep attendance accurate!

Artificial Intelligence Guide for Parents and Carers

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now part of everyday life, with tools like ChatGPT, image generators, or AI features in apps. If you're unsure what these tools do or how to keep your child safe, the Internet Matters Parent Guide to AI Tools is a great resource.

It explains AI in clear, simple language and lists popular tools children might encounter. The guide also gives safety tips—such as why filters aren't perfect and why it's important to supervise and talk with your child. It includes ideas for using AI in positive ways, while reminding families to check accuracy and encourage responsible use.



Read the full guide here: www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/

CAREERS



OPEN EVENTS

Visit a UCS College Group Open Event and see why we're Somerset's most ambitious education provider. Explore outstanding state-of-the-art facilities, meet expert tutors and experience the exceptional pastoral support that puts students at the heart of everything we do. Whether you're looking to study A Levels, T Levels, a technical and professional qualification or an Apprenticeship, our colleges and courses will help you shape a future you're proud of. For more information visit www.ucscollegegroup.ac.uk or call 01278 441234.

REGISTER NOW!

Scan to register!



BRIDGWATER COLLEGE | Wed 14 January | 6pm - 8pm

TAUNTON COLLEGE | Thu 15 January | 6pm - 8pm

STRODE COLLEGE | Tues 20 January | 6pm - 8pm

TRANSFORMING LIVES



The Academy is consulting on its Admissions Policy and the proposed policy can be found on our website here www.kingsmead-school.com/our-academy/admissions/

You are invited to provide any comments for consideration on the proposed arrangements by 5pm on 31 January 2026 for comments. Final arrangements must be determined (approved by academy councils) by no later than 28th February 2026 and must appear on the school website by 15th March 2026.

Any comments or objections can be made during the stated period to Jacqueline Friday, Admissions and Governance Administrator, for the Cabot Learning Federation. The email address for correspondence is admissions@clf.uk or in writing to Jacqueline Friday, Federation House, King's Oak Academy, Brook Road, Bristol, BS15 4JT.

COMMUNITY

We are lucky to have such wonderful welfare and pastoral teams at Kingsmead who strive to support all students and their families, upholding our ethos of 'Achieving through Caring'. Please see below signposts to supportive websites and numbers that may be useful over the holiday.



Mental Health support:

Gives tips on how to cope and suggestions for supporting someone else.

www.mind.org.uk



Call 116 123

Email jo@samaritans.org

Provides confidential, non-judgmental emotional support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those that could lead to suicide. You can phone, email, write a letter or in most cases talk to someone face to face.



SHOUT – for everyone, (24/7)Text 'SHOUT' to 85258

Shout is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It is a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. A Texter will be put in touch with a trained Crisis Volunteer (CV) who will chat to them using trained techniques via text. The service is designed to help individuals to think more clearly and to take their next steps to feeling better

COMMUNITY



online chat, Monday – Friday 12pm – 10 pm and Saturday – Sunday 6 pm to 10 pm.

Safe and anonymous online chat support for young people – friendly counsellors, self-help and community support.



From eating disorders, to abuse, anxiety, and depression – suggests support for a huge range of difficulties for young people and their parents/carers.

Text the [YoungMinds Crisis Messenger](#) for free 24/7 support across the UK if you are experiencing a mental health crisis.

If you need urgent help text YM to 85258.

Texts are free from EE, O2, Vodafone, 3, Virgin Mobile, BT Mobile, GiffGaff, Tesco Mobile and Telecom Plus



Call 0800 068 41 41 – Monday to Friday 10am to 10pm, weekends 2pm to 10pm, bank holidays 2pm to 5pm

Text 07786 209697

Email pat@papyrus-uk.org

PAPYRUS is the national UK charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide. You can contact them for help and guidance for yourself or for someone else in your care.

More resources can be found on our website:

www.kingsmead-school.com/school-life/mental-health-wellbeing

SAFETY

The Online Safety Hub is available to parents/carers who would like help setting up parental controls and knowing how to monitor their child's online activities.

It's a free resource which has guides for various devices, platforms and games that your child may use or encounter online. These can help you to protect your child from inappropriate or harmful content and contacts, helping you to have informed conversations with them about their online preferences.

<https://safeguarding.thekeysupport.com/parent-online-safety-zone/>

ITS NOT OK @ KINGSMEAD



CALENDAR



Kingsmead School Term & Holidays
2025/2026 Academic Year

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							
M		1	8	15	22	29	M			6	13	20	27	M			3	10	17	24	
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			7	14	21	28	Tu			4	11	18	25	
W		3	10	17	24		W		1	8	15	22	29	W			5	12	19	26	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th		2	9	16	23	30	Th			6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		F		3	10	17	24	31	F			7	14	21	28	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		4	11	18	25		Sa		1	8	15	22	29	
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		5	12	19	26		Su		2	9	16	23	30	
December 2025							January 2026							February 2026							
M		1	8	15	22	29	M			5	12	19	26	M			2	9	16	23	
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			6	13	20	27	Tu			3	10	17	24	
W		3	10	17	24	31	W			7	14	21	28	W			4	11	18	25	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th		1	8	15	22	29	Th			5	12	19	26	
F		5	12	19	26		F		2	9	16	23	30	F			6	13	20	27	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		3	10	17	24	31	Sa			7	14	21	28	
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		4	11	18	25		Su		1	8	15	22		
March 2026							April 2026							May 2026							
M		2	9	16	23	30	M			6	13	20	27	M			4	11	18	25	
Tu		3	10	17	24	31	Tu			7	14	21	28	Tu			5	12	19	26	
W		4	11	18	25		W		1	8	15	22	29	W			6	13	20	27	
Th		5	12	19	26		Th		2	9	16	23	30	Th			7	14	21	28	
F		6	13	20	27		F		3	10	17	24		F		1	8	15	22	29	
Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa		4	11	18	25		Sa		2	9	16	23	30	
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su		5	12	19	26		Su		3	10	17	24	31	
June 2026							July 2026							August 2026							
M		1	8	15	22	29	M			6	13	20	27	M			3	10	17	24	31
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			7	14	21	28	Tu			4	11	18	25	
W		3	10	17	24		W		1	8	15	22	29	W			5	12	19	26	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th		2	9	16	23	30	Th			6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		F		3	10	17	24	31	F			7	14	21	28	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		4	11	18	25		Sa	1	8	15	22	29		
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		5	12	19	26		Su	2	9	16	23	30		

Key:

- School Holiday
- Bank Holiday
- Term Time
- INSET Day
- Early Finish

Term dates summary:

- Term 1: 03 September – 24 October 2025
- Term 2: 03 November – 19 December 2025
- Term 3: 05 January – 13 February 2026
- Term 4: 23 February – 03 April 2026
- Term 5: 22 April – 22 May 2026
- Term 6: 01 June – 21 July 2026

Bank and public holidays 2025/26

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	25 December 2025	Easter Monday	06 April 2026
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	26 December 2025	May Day Bank Holiday	04 May 2026
New Year's Day Holiday	01 January 2026	Spring Bank Holiday	25 May 2026
Good Holiday	03 April 2026	Summer Break Holiday	31 August 2026



KINGSMEAD

— Achieving through Caring —



Cabot
Learning
Federation