



Principal's Message

We are already at the end of another half term. Although short, a great deal has been going on in school as you will see when you start reading. I do want to say congratulations to Year 11 on their first couple of weeks of exams. There has been a real sense of purpose and dedication from them all. There are more revision classes over half term and we know that students will still be revising despite the hot weather. Well done to them all. We had a lovely day celebrating their time with us just before half term and my thanks to Mrs Cox for organising it all. Once the exams finish, then we look forward to celebrating again at the Year 11 Prom.

We are also turning our attention towards the incoming Year 6 students who will be joining us for transition days next half term. I am sure that all of our current students will welcome them.

Wishing you all a very happy half term.

Mr J Eddy



EXMOOR CHALLENGE

At the beginning of May, several Kingsmead students took part in the demanding Exmoor Challenge; a 16-mile timed, self-navigation event based around Dulverton. Organised by the Rotary Clubs of Exmoor and Tiverton, and raising money this year for Children's Hospice South West, the event brought together over 500 young people for a memorable day of teamwork, resilience and determination. Mr Nelson had the pleasure of supporting our local Scout group in training a number of students for the challenge. Alongside Wivey Scouts, students also took part with Exmoor Young Farmers, as well as two teams from Wivey Primary School. It was wonderful to see so many young people from our community involved in such a long-standing and inspiring event. Working in teams of four, participants navigated challenging Exmoor terrain while aiming to reach checkpoints at specific times. In total, there were 124 junior teams and 13 senior teams taking part - an incredible turnout.



The day began in glorious sunshine, creating a fantastic atmosphere as teams set off full of excitement and enthusiasm. However, Exmoor weather soon had other ideas! As the day went on, dark clouds gathered and heavy rain set in, with many teams finishing in a complete downpour. Despite the challenging conditions, the young people showed outstanding resilience and determination throughout. The sense of achievement on the faces crossing the finish line was truly wonderful to see. It was also heartwarming to witness so many supporters braving the rain to cheer everyone home — soaked through, but smiling all the same.



The Exmoor Challenge is no easy feat, and not every team manages to complete the course. Teams receive penalty points for arriving too early or too late at checkpoints, and each checkpoint also has a safety cut-off time. One of the primary school teams unfortunately made a navigational error and narrowly missed reaching the penultimate checkpoint in time. Despite their disappointment, they still stood proudly at the finish line cheering on their friends – a brilliant example of the supportive spirit shown by all the young people involved.

While simply completing the event is a huge achievement in itself, Kingsmead students also produced some fantastic results:

EXMOOR CHALLENGE

The two Wivey Scout teams finished an impressive 7th and 10th out of 25 teams in the all-boys junior category. Exmoor Young Farmers achieved an excellent 9th place, while the second Wivey Primary team secured joint 13th place out of 67 teams in the mixed junior category. And, in an incredible achievement, the Wivey Explorer Scouts team won the senior category outright!

The Exmoor Challenge is about far more than competition. It is an event that empowers young people, develops character and encourages teamwork, leadership and perseverance. Every participant demonstrated resilience, respect and determination in abundance.



We are already looking forward to next year, and you may even spot a couple of Kingsmead School teams taking part alongside the fantastic local youth organisations that do so much to support and develop our young people.



STUDENT RECOGNITION

Just prior to the Easter holidays Noah attended an awards ceremony hosted by Somerset Fellowship of Drama where he won (alongside his alternate) an award for Best Male 13 & Under for his role as Charlie in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory with Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society (YAOS). Pictured with 'Mrs Bucket'.



He also received recognition from the Rambert exam board winning an award for excellence in technique and artistic expression for the 2025 exam period. This is an international award.

Noah has also been selected to represent Team England at the Dance World Cup again this year and will be competing in Dublin in July. He has also qualified for 7 solos as well as a duet for All England although can only take 5 of those forward to regionals in May.

He also entered the National Youth Monologue competition and although narrowly missed selection for the regionals, he was commended by the judges and told his performance 'stood out for its creativity, individuality and potential'.

His brother Zeph has also been busy since running for Youth Parliament earlier this year. Although unsuccessful in being elected this year, he was invited to join the youth parliament advisory group. He met with Cllr Mike Best at County Hall in half term alongside many of his youth parliament and advisory group peers to help represent the youth voice in Somerset. He is also a member of Somersets Youth Forum for the third year running. Congratulations to you both.



STUDENT RECOGNITION

Nicole S in Year 7 has had many amazing achievements throughout this year.

Nicole suffered a few injuries during this season and had to stay out of the fields for two long months. But that didn't stop her! Her first game back was for the Cup Final and she smashed in two fantastic goals! The team were absolutely brilliant, truly amazing to watch.



After her team won the Cup, they went on to secure the SGFL (Somerset Girls Football) Plate Finals. Amazing effort Nicole!

We have a rising rugby star here at Kingsmead!

Matthew H in Year 10 has been selected to play for the Bristol Bears U16s rugby squad! An amazing achievement.

Well done Matthew, we look forward to hearing about all the matches next season.



Austin G in 7K had a very successful May!

First was the Accelerate trampolining competition in Willand, where he competed in the over 11s group. He completed an amazing Level 5 routine, which secured a fantastic gold medal.

Just a day later, Austin went on to score his first-ever club goal for Wellington Youth FC. To top it off, he also got Man of the Match! Well done Austin.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

With the weather forecast changing almost hourly in the days leading up to the weekend, we all prepared ourselves for a very soggy expedition! Thankfully, after completing a training day and two practise hikes, our seven Year 10 teams were more than ready to take on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award qualifying expedition on Exmoor.



Starting from different points around Wheddon Cross and Exford, the teams set off on Saturday morning in surprisingly dry conditions and with plenty of excitement. Working independently under remote supervision, the groups navigated their way across Dunkery Beacon and the surrounding moorland, covering between 16 and 20 kilometers before making their way down towards Porlock for the overnight camp.

Anyone who has experienced a wet DofE weekend knows there are few things worse than trying to pitch a tent and cook dinner in the rain, so we were all relieved that the showers cleared just in time for the teams to arrive at camp. After a long day of walking, map reading and a few navigational challenges along the way, everyone was able to relax and enjoy a dry evening together. The teams showed fantastic resilience throughout the weekend. Whether tackling steep climbs, coping with tired legs or working out where they had gone wrong on the map, students supported one another brilliantly and kept going with good humour and determination.

Sunday morning started as Saturday ended - with blue skies - and everyone was up, packed and ready to go. No doubt helped by the thought of a hot shower and their own bed waiting at home! Unfortunately, while Saturday's weather had been kinder than expected, Sunday had other ideas. The final stretch over North Hill into Minehead turned into a very wet finish, with several heavy downpours soaking teams on the last leg of the expedition. Despite the weather, every single team showed real perseverance and positivity right to the finish line, and we are delighted that all seven teams successfully passed their Bronze Expedition Section.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is so much more than walking long distances carrying a rucksack. Weekends like this help young people grow in confidence, resilience and independence, while developing important life skills such as teamwork, communication and problem-solving. Along the way, they also create memories – and stories – that will stay with them for years to come. We are very proud of all the students who took part and the way they represented both themselves and the school throughout the weekend. A huge thank you also goes to the dedicated team without whom none of this could happen.



FARMING FORTNIGHT

In the lead-up to Farming Fortnight 2026, leading agricultural education organisation LEAF Education is aiming to inspire more young people than ever to engage with farming, food production, and the natural environment.

Students in 9K have been exploring sustainable and regenerative farming – an approach that supports the natural renewal of land, soil, water, nutrients, and ecosystems. They were particularly surprised to learn that around 95% of global food production relies on healthy soil. This prompted them to consider how small, practical changes in their own environments could help improve soil quality.

During tutor time, students put their learning into action by creating bottle wormeries using food waste, organic matter, and layers of sand and soil. This hands-on project allowed them to observe how earthworms naturally enhance nutrients and soil structure. Farming Fortnight runs from 1–14 June 2026.



Farming Fortnight

Unlock the World of Farming:
Explore, Learn, Grow



ENGLISH

Under the direction of its new Head of Department, Nicola Hosgood-Wilkes, English has had a successful term helping students across key stages practise and prepare for assessments.

Year 11 students have dug in and gone to a myriad of different support sessions at lunchtimes and after-school. The English team is deeply proud of their resilience and determination.

This is Mrs. Hosgood-Wilkes' last term until she returns from maternity leave and while she will be missed, as will Mrs. Fenn. We wish them all the best with their new bundles of joy! We are also excited to welcome back Mrs. Beale to English.



Students in years 7-9 are now learning, respectively, The Tempest, Face the Play, and Romeo and Juliet. This opens up excellent chances for cross-curricular learning through the incorporation of drama vocabulary and methods.

We look forward to the last term and all the enrichment opportunities it will bring!



Thank you to all staff and students who supported Easter revision sessions. It was very well attended and boosted the revision sessions offered during term time.

Thank you in advance to those providing sessions during half term.

Good luck with the on-going exams Y11!

SCIENCE



On Thursday 2nd April, Kingsmead's Science Club took a trip to Minehead railway station to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the railway. They were invited on board several carriages where they took part in various STEM activities.

Students were an absolute credit to the school and hopefully had an enjoyable day out.

Well done Science Club! Find out more at <https://railway200.co.uk/location/west-somerset-railway/>.



LAND-BASED STUDIES

The spring weather has finally descended, and the students have been very busy with all the tasks associated with this time of year.

Once again, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Keith and Liz Summers, parents of Ellie in Year 11, for donating the seed potatoes just as they did last year. We have started planting these in earnest and look forward to a bumper crop in the autumn.

We must also extend a massive thank you to Kingsmead PTA who very generously funded our new Mountfield ride on mower. This is proving to be invaluable (as well as being a huge hit with the students), given the very large areas of grass we need to cut. We will also be using it to assist the PE department in creating a grass cricket pitch and outfield. The original artificial pitch has certainly seen better days, and we hope that they will love their new pitch once finished.

The students have also been planting a variety of vegetables in the polytunnel and outside in the raised beds. They have also planted a number of tree saplings in addition to transplanting several trees around the edges of the fields.

We have gained and lost some animals. Sadly, we lost one of our Guinea Pigs to old age and likewise two of our chickens have departed this world. We have, however, gained two more Guinea Pigs and some new chicks thanks to Ashton our Farm technician. We have also just acquired two goats, again thanks to Ashton, who are named Coco and Chanel. I suspect the students may well rename these two!

We will also be adding some ducks to our ever-growing menagerie. The students have started digging the hole for the pond liner that was kindly donated to us by Jade, our Finance Assistant. We will be constructing an enclosure for the ducks with large picket fencing that we salvaged from the old school grounds.



LAND-BASED STUDIES



Our sheep are thriving and just recently Mistletoe and Lucky were sheared. Our sincere thanks to Dee, a local sheep farmer, who very kindly came to school and undertook that for us. Holly and Penny are due to follow suit very soon.

Three of my Year 11 students are known as "The Pink Ladies" as they all wear bright pink John Deere overalls. Holly, Sophie and Brooke were the first to sow the wildflower beds last year and have just done so again this year. To commemorate that I have had a plaque made to remember these amazing girls by as they will be leaving us this year. Maisie and Alana in Year 10 will be taking up these reigns as they also wear the same bright pink overalls!

One of my Year 10 groups also planted a Cherry tree in the school grounds on Friday 8th May to celebrate the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough.

After receiving some funding of equipment from the Somerset Gardens Trust, groups of Y7 students have been very busy this term! Together, they have helped to assemble a tool shed, build and line 4 x planters with weed barriers, and sow a variety of vegetable seedlings. All students involved have worked really hard and should be proud of what they have achieved so far!



SOMERSET

allstarz
MUSICAL IN A WEEK 2026



ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL JR.





Monday 10th to Friday 14th August


Ages 5 to 18 years
9am to 5pm each day

Performances: Friday 14th August @ 4pm & 6:30pm

To book, contact tolley.angell@yahoo.co.uk

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/

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.



TEXT US NOW

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 — Achieving through Caring —		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 Friday	03 April 2026	Summer Break Holiday	31 August 2026



KINGSMEAD

— Achieving through Caring —