

Newsletter

Year 9 Term 2



Message from the Principal: -

What a wonderful Term 1! The building work is now finished and our students are enjoying the refurbished Science area, the new toilets and the new PE area. The Academy is striding forward after another set of excellent exam results and our current Year 11 students have certainly hit the ground running. We are seeing record numbers of students staying after school to 'invest in themselves' and attend their masterclasses. These sessions make a huge difference to our students and help prepare them effectively for the summer examinations and their PPEs (mock exams) which start shortly.

Our bumper Year 12 group have settled well into our Sixth form and continue to impress on the back of their successes in the summer examinations, whilst our Year 13 students are preparing diligently for their forthcoming PPEs.

It has been a pleasure to see our new Year 7 students also settle so well at Kingswood. A special thanks to the Year 7 team and our dedicated Transition Lead: Assistant Principal Mrs Bonner. Mrs Bonner oversees the transition of Year 7 students from their Primary Schools and has impressively run the transition of all our students currently in Year 7 through to Year 11.

Overall, all of our students have impressed me this term and there is a real buzz around the Academy. I am impressed with the high standards of uniform, manners and dedication in lessons. Every day I see more and more examples of our RISE values in action: Respect, Independence, Service to Community and Empathy.

In Term 2 we will continue to focus on high expectations with a particular drive on the importance of high attendance. Post pandemic, national attendance in schools has dropped. This is the educational issue of a generation because, as we explain to our students, having high attendance is the golden thread that links happiness, wellbeing, improved understanding in lessons and ultimately success in exams. This in turn opens up more doors to their future and crucially provides our students with more choices for their next steps. The excellent news is: I have just been informed that our attendance is running at a higher figure than the national average. This is great news for our students who clearly want to be in Kingswood to learn and are developing the habit of high attendance, which will remain with them for life.

I can proudly say that colleagues here at Kingswood continue to go that extra mile for our students and the local community by working tirelessly to improve the life chances of our young people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both them and you for your support as we all pull in the same direction together to ensure the best possible experience and opportunities for the students here at Kingswood Secondary Academy.

M Gamble



Newsletter

Year 9 Term 2



Key Dates / Events:

Visit to the Somme:

Thursday 14th -
Saturday 16th
November.

Christmas Holidays:

Friday 20th December
- Tuesday 7th January.



Join us on X (Twitter)
[@KingswoodAcad](https://twitter.com/KingswoodAcad)

Message from Head of Year 9: -

Dear Parents/Carers

Term 1 has been extremely informative for our students as we prepare them for their option choices for GCSE. During the academic year all students will be exposed to the potential courses that may run in September 2025. We encourage our students to take every opportunity and explore the different subjects before deciding on their final option choices. Students will study core GCSE subjects and in Term 2 they will complete assessments that will build on the data we have to help allocate them to the correct class groups in year 10. Our students have responded positively so far and are achieving some amazing things in their lessons and we do hope they continue to achieve. We try to attend lessons throughout the day to see how they are getting on and encourage them to do well as we build the foundations to prepare them for the next steps.

The year team is aware of the decisions you make as parents to send your children to school and we will take responsibility and care for your child if they come to school feeling slightly unwell. We will use our professional and parental judgements to support your child within the building and we encourage them to come to school as regularly as possible, as we worry that absences can lead to missed learning. These missed learning episodes cause gaps in knowledge and unfortunately this will impact their learning in future years. We always encourage students to catch up with missed work.

Leading up to Christmas we would again like to task the students with the shoe box appeal. These shoe boxes will be gifted to the SkyLark Ward at Kettering General Hospital where unfortunately some children will be hospitalised during the festive period. They will receive a special gift from our Year 9 Kingswood students that they can open on Christmas day. We are kindly asking for any donations of new or unused items that can be brought in to school by students to fill these boxes. Last year we took 20 shoe boxes to the ward, and they were greatly received. Thank you so much!

We hope that Term 2 brings more opportunities for your child in school and we encourage them to do their best every day.

Mr Feely, Mrs Ward and Mrs Boyle



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 9 Enrichment Clubs:

Why is Enrichment so important?

Enrichment:

- Helps children develop their interests and talents;
- Enables children to develop their character, confidence and independence;
- Teaches children how to keep physically and mentally healthy;
- Prepares individuals for future success.

Students can also participate in the following:

Student council: Elected form representatives from all year groups discuss issues affecting students and the Academy. This is a working party which helps our Academy progress.

KEM – Kingswood Ethnic Minorities: Volunteers discuss issues that affect and create a more inclusive community. This raises awareness, and students help to plan our cultural celebration days.

LGBTQ+: Formed of students from all year groups. This is an open and safe group where students discuss issues affecting their community. They also raise awareness by organising events and celebration days.

Personal Development:

First of all thank you to all those parents/carers who completed the survey on communication between school and our families and how well your child is doing in Kingswood. The survey is now closed - however, if you do need further information, please either contact reception or look on the website/newsletter to find what/who you are looking for and just drop us an email. I am going through the results at the moment, which suggests you are very happy with the communication from school, over 90% of parents understand the importance of attendance and know how their child is doing in school. I will provide further updates next term.

PSHE

It has been an extremely busy term and one in which we launched our new structured form time sessions with our dedicated 1-hour fortnightly PSHE lessons. I communicated home in Term 6 with the changes to the resources and the structure as we recognise that PSHE is such an integral part of our students' lives and we needed to elevate it further. The feedback from staff and students has been overwhelmingly positive. Not only do students enjoy the new Cre8tive Resources PSHE lesson which now gives extra time to educate them on issues that do affect our young people, but both staff and students enjoy the time together to discuss and build those important social and communication skills.

The topics for Term 2 are:

- Year 7 Celebrating Differences
- Year 8 Equality and Diversity
- Year 9 Legal and Illegal Drugs
- Year 10 Exploring World Issues
- Year 11 Staying Safe.
-

If you want further information about PSHE and the topics that are being taught, please refer to our website on the PSHE area and the overview is there for you to look through. Please feel free to drop me an email if you have any concerns: abonner@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 9 Enrichment Clubs:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Break 2 1:40-2:10	Break 2 1:40-2:10	Break 2 1:40-2:10	Break 2 1:40-2:10	Break 2 1:40-2:10
Coding Club (7-10) JS IV3	Dance and Drama Club CR & CD EP2	Books Builds Brians HH L1	Dance and Drama Club CR & CD EP2	Debating Club WM H2
Singing Club MT SC8	Amime and Manga Club HW L2	Board Games Club FH (Hope Church) PA1	STEM Club (9&10) JM & HJ SC5	IT Club (10&11) JS IV3
	Singing Club MT SC8	Singing Club MT SC8	Humanities Film Club SE H3	Kingswood Ethnic Minorities Group (KEM) MT SC8
	Pride Club LB E4	Science Club LC SC3	KS3 Art EE A1	
	GCSE Pod MW & NM E7	Colouring Club AM H5	Kingswood Ethnic Minorities Group (KEM) MT SC8	
		Fashion Club RBR M2	Keyboard Club TR MU1	
FOOTBALL ASTRO JL/MG Years 7-13				
LIB Chess, Anime, Computer & board games	LIB Chess, Anime, Computer & board games			
After school 3:10- 4pm				
LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club
KS4 Maths Masterclasses	KS4 Science Masterclasses	KS4 English Masterclasses	KS4 Humanities & MFL Masterclasses	
Rock Band TH & AB				
Music 3:10-4:10				



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 9 Enrichment Clubs:

Timetables for **Instrumental Lessons** are in the practice room corridor. Students must check their timetable in preparation for their lessons. Please speak to Miss Hinnis for more information.

Please see the Term 2 **Sports Club** timetable below:

AFTER SCHOOL (3:10pm– 4:10pm)				
Venue	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Astro / Field	Y7&8 Football Club KL Girls Football Club – All years ROM	Touch Rugby – All years and mixed gender LF		
Netball Courts / Gym	Netball Club – All years KA / RLA			
Sports Hall			Y7 Basketball Club PH	Y8-11 Girls Basketball Club SM
Main Hall	Table Tennis Club – All years SD			
Fixtures / Revision (See teacher)		Y9 & 10 Girls Netball Fixtures @ KW KA / ROM / EP	Y7 & 8 Girls Football Fixtures @ KW ROM / SM	Y10 & 11 Boys Football Fixtures SD

Please note: The Kingswood Secondary Academy PE Kit must be worn for all after school clubs. Clubs will run from 3:10-4:10pm, therefore students must ensure that they register and arrange to be picked up at 4:15pm.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 9 Curriculum Clubs:

Curriculum clubs:

Independent learning is an integral part of the learning process at Kingswood Secondary Academy. It builds resilience by allowing you to take ownership of your learning linked to the learning in lessons as well as forming good study habits. These rooms are available for Years 7, 8, and 9 until 4:10pm for independent study:



Monday	LRC (library)
Tuesday	LRC (library)
Wednesday	LRC (library) English in E2 with specialist staff
Thursday	LRC (library) Humanities in H2 and MFL in L2 IV1 and IV4 with a vocational teacher

Sports clubs:

Sports clubs are also timetabled for after school. They are advertised in all form rooms, on Facebook, on our website and in the PE area. Please speak to your PE teacher for more information.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 9 Curriculum:

The curriculum and independent learning at Kingswood Secondary Academy

Independent learning (home learning) is an integral part of the learning process at Kingswood Secondary Academy. It builds resilience by allowing our students to take ownership of their learning linked to the learning in lessons as well as forming good study habits. The Academy uses ClassCharts to record all independent learning tasks. All students and parents / carers have an individual log in for ClassCharts. If you need access, please contact your child's form tutor.

There are many different tasks that teachers may set students to complete independently such as completing research, undertaking a project, revising for a topic, completing an assessment, reviewing and / or improving a task and completing some online activities.

Please read the curriculum timetable which highlights the learning expectations for each subject this term. We hope you find this information useful and take time to discuss the subject topics and learning opportunities with your child.

Term 2: Year 9 subjects	Curriculum, independent learning topics and assessment focus	Useful website links / additional information
English	Gothic Literature Frankenstein by Mary Shelley Disturbed Voices Poetry	https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/gothic-literature-8196 https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/frankenstein/ https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/introduction-to-poetry-335c
Maths	Three dimensional shapes Constructions and congruency	White Rose videos https://vimeo.com/575518560 https://corbettmaths.com/ https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/
Science	Reactions Electromagnets Organisms (Digestion)	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p Reactions Electromagnets Organisms (digestion)



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 9 Curriculum continued:

Term 2: Year 9 subjects	Curriculum, independent learning topics and assessment focus	Useful website links / additional information
Geography	South America: What in the World	https://www.britannica.com/place/South-America
History	Holocaust	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zk94jxs
Religious Studies	Marriage and the family	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zypxfdm#znc4239
French	Me, my family and friends.	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zmfr7nb/revision/1
Spanish	My family and friends	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/znk8nrd
Art	Developing colour theory: paint mixing skills, blending skills and oil pastel studies	Secondary Art and Design classroom resources (bbc.co.uk) Blending skills and oil pastel studies.
Dance	Developing Skills for live performance The Car Man – Matthew Bourne	The Car Man New Adventures (new-adventures.net)
Drama	Developing Skills for live performance Blood Brothers script work	Blood Brothers - Plot summary - Plot summary - GCSE English Literature Revision - WJEC - BBC Bitesize
Engineering	Bus Shelter	https://www.tinkercad.com/
IT	Animations	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z8f82hv/revision/1



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 9 Curriculum continued:

Term 2: Year 9 subjects	Curriculum, independent learning topics and assessment focus	Useful website links / additional information
Music	Music for Media – Sci Fi and Minimalism	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zmsvr82
PE	Boys: Rugby Basketball Girls: Football Fitness	Basketball https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbtmGKif7Ck Football https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/lawsandrules
Technology Groups rotate every 7-9 weeks	<p>Food: Health and safety in the kitchen. Cooking techniques and cook a variety of simple dishes.</p> <p>Textiles: Fabric Portraits— Develop complex images using fabric and embellishment techniques and reverse applique.</p> <p>Finance Skills: Pupils are taught about real life finance skills and using an online programme.</p> <p>Vocational Studies A – Pupils look at nutrition and the promotion of a food product.</p> <p>Vocational Studies B. Pupils look at marketing and packaging of a food project.</p> <p>Engineering: Students will design and create a spinning top using resistive materials and carry out peer evaluation.</p>	https://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/recipes/ https://www.nutrition.org.uk/



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Communication

Year 9



Music Mark

We are delighted to accept our Music Mark award which we received in September 2024.

Kingswood Secondary Academy was nominated by NMPAT, our local music education hub, for our commitment to music education.

We currently have 50 students learning a musical instrument in school and these students partake in clubs and bands within the academy, and also perform outside our academy in a variety of ways.

We are proud to showcase our talent within school and are delighted to share this recognition with our community.

Miss T.Hinnis (Head of Year 11 and Teacher of Music)



Congratulations to our Reader Leaders!

Our Year 12 students embarked on their Word Warrior training. They will now engage in a 10-week reading mentoring programme designed to enhance their leadership skills whilst contributing to the wider school community.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Communication

Year 9



Celebrating success:

We are pleased to celebrate the achievements of the top 20 RISE earners in Term 1. Well done for showing Respect, building Independence, having a sense of Service to our community and demonstrating Empathy in lessons and in the community.

Hanna	Kruszko	171	Ruvimbo	Chinembeza	137
Logan	McDonald	159	Katherine	Esteves	135
Liam	Lan	153	Riley	Hardie	135
Kalib	O'Rourke	150	Max	Simpkin	135
Lilly	Morrow	141	Ricky	Moon	134
Franstel	Buatsi	140	Cooper	Rennie	134
Chloe	Cowperthwaite	140	Sophia	Salcuceanu	134
Alexa	Dragot	140	Dominic	Pinkerton	133
Finley	Benson	138	Lottie	Little	132
Lewis	Whitehead	138	Sofia	Seamer	132

Congratulations to the top 10 Tutor Groups for Term 1:

9B	3102	10W	2675
8I	2980	7O	2631
7K	2913	7I	2614
7W	2737	8K	2603
7N	2679	7G	2586

Our RISE Store

The RISE store is currently taking 300 orders a week this academic term from students who have applied themselves and followed our RISE values. Respect, Independence, Service to the community and Empathy are key to our students in developing the whole 'Kingswoodian' person. Students are regularly awarded Independence points for their efforts in and around their learning. These have been given out for reasons including participation in class discussions, good quality work within lessons and quality pieces of homework as we recognise that learning can also take place outside the classroom. We would like to celebrate with all our students who in Term 1 have achieved RISE points and used their points in our RISE store. Well done!



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Communication

Year 9



New student lockers

Our current lockers have come to the end of their life cycle and we have been working on providing a more modern, robust and secure solution. We have also been keen to improve the functionality e.g. booking, problem resolution (including when students lose their keys), and the cleaning and sorting of items left in lockers by students at the end of the year. After consultation with the Trust and speaking with colleagues at other schools which have used the supplier, we have now installed new student lockers that are now available to rent.

Having a student locker can help our students to reduce carrying equipment and avoid misplacing important school items. The normal price for the hire of one of these lockers for a year is £35, however we have negotiated this price down to £25 for our students / families. Please read the flyer below for more information about how the new system will work:

secure locker rental
thinking outside the box

Two simple ways to rent your locker

Simple, safe, secure...

Visit www.locker.rentals **or** **Scan this QR code**

Once on the web app do the following:

- Enter your **location**
- Choose your **preferred locker area** from the drop down menu (if available)
- Click on **check availability**
- Where prompted enter your details and read and agree to the terms and conditions
- Click on **rent locker** and follow the instructions for entering your payment details
- You will then be emailed a locker code and the number of your locker compartment.

How to Access your Locker:

- Go to the locker number detailed on your confirmation email
- Enter the **4 digit code** detailed on your confirmation email and open the lock
- Should you forget your code it can be reissued by visiting www.locker.rentals and clicking on the re-issue my locker code link.

For all other enquiries, please email enquiries@securelockerrental.uk



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Communication

Year 9



The Kingswood Secondary Academy is part of the Greenwood Academies Trust (GAT). Please use the link below to see our full list of current vacancies for both Kingswood Secondary Academy and other Academies within GAT: <https://www.kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org/page/?>



Please access the Academy website to find information about aspiration and careers and how to best support your child, including job of the week:

<https://www.kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org/page/?title=Job+of+the+Week&pid=615>



ClassCharts

Please access ClassCharts <https://www.classcharts.com/account/login> for all homework, RISE points and behaviour information. You will need a code in order to log on. Please contact your child's tutor who will provide this for you.

How to access ParentPay



ParentPay is a convenient facility that enables parents and carers to pay, in a cashless way, for various items. You can access ParentPay by visiting <https://www.kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org/> and then by clicking on the shopping trolley icon. Here are just a few of the things that can be paid for via the ParentPay Shop:

- Equipment Packs
- Art supplies
- Revision guides & books
- Uniform
- Exam Re-takes.

In the payment screen it is essential that we are able to identify your child and his/her Tutor group. Once we have received payment notification, we will process your order and your son/daughter will be advised when they can collect their items from Reception. Items will not be posted home.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Communication

Year 9



Annual Lockdown Drill:

The safety and welfare of our students and staff is our highest priority at Kingswood. As you would expect, we regularly practise emergency drills to ensure our staff and students know what to do in an emergency. The aims of the training drills are to improve our ability to protect pupils/students, save lives, and reduce injuries. These practice drills allow us to evaluate our emergency operation plans and improve our response skills.

For many years now we have also practised our 'Lockdown Drill' and we wanted to make you aware of this. These drills are designed to ensure that pupils/students are aware of our safety procedures and to reduce the level of anxiety that could come from a real-life situation should it ever occur - which of course, we hope never will.

A lockdown would be initiated when a situation arises that requires the isolation (rather than evacuation) of students and staff from an identified risk, such as; dangerous animal in the vicinity of the school, local emergency (gas cloud/air pollution), or an intruder on our site.

In the event of a real risk and lockdown, we would initiate lockdown in liaison with the police. Parents will be contacted at a suitable time to inform them of the event. It is vital that parent(s)/carer(s) do not:

- Contact the school via telephone in order to keep our phone lines clear
- Contact your child/children directly by mobile phone even if they contact you
- Come to school in person, unless told it is safe to do so by ourselves

We appreciate that this would be extremely difficult, but if the above points are not followed this could jeopardise the safety of students and staff in school.

Please be sure that your contact information is up to date and accurate. It is a good idea to have several trusted adults listed as contacts with the school.

We must stress that these incidents are extremely unlikely to occur. However, we are best to be prepared and as a result of our lockdown planning we did successfully initiate a lockdown on the advice of the Police in 2022 when stray dogs were in the local community.

Thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions regarding the above information then please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Communication

Year 9



Parking and access to Kingswood Secondary Academy:

Wherever possible we encourage our students to walk or cycle to the Academy for the obvious health and environmental benefits this brings.

If you do bring your child by car, please can you note the following:

Dropping off your child in the morning:

It would be most helpful if you could drop off your child off a few hundred metres from school and they walk the short distance in.

If you do wish to use our roundabout then we do allow this in the mornings. This works because parents drop off their children over a 30-45 minute period, so congestion does not tend to be a significant issue.

Collecting your child at the end of the day:

Due to the inevitable departure of students in a relatively short period of time at the end of a school day, it does not work for us to allow parents onto site to collect their child. This is because of the very significant congestion caused which leads to vehicles backing up out of our entrance, in turn then blocking Gainsborough Road in both directions.

In summary: please do not drive onto our school site to collect your child at the end of the day.

Exception: If your child has a disability then please speak with their Head of Year or Miss Skorwider in our Special Educational Needs Department who will make appropriate arrangements.

Sadly, we quite often get complaints from local residents e.g. on Tower Hill Road and Oak Wood Drive. With this in mind, we'd be very grateful if you note the following:

Tower Hill Road is a no stopping area between Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm and this is clearly sign posted on the road.

Please park considerately and consider parking further away and allowing your child to walk for a couple of minutes to get to you, so you can park in a less congested location.

Please avoid blocking residents' drives and do not use residents' drives to turn around in or stop in. Please avoid parking on yellow lines.

Thank you for your understanding.

Contact details

If you have recently moved to a new address and/or have updated your contact details, for example you have a new telephone number or email address, please can you contact your child's form tutor, Deputy Head of Year or Head of Year with the new details so we can update our records. Thank you.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Communication

Year 9



Kingswood Secondary Academy – Uniform Requirements

At Kingswood Secondary Academy we believe that wearing our distinctive uniform gives our students a sense of belonging, fosters pride in the Academy and stops students coming to school in inappropriate clothing or footwear. Students are our ambassadors in the community and therefore we expect all students to wear full uniform when travelling to and from the Academy, at all Academy functions, on extra-curricular visits and when taking part in sports events. Please refer to our website for updated uniform policy and expectations.

Our Academy uniform consists of:

- An Academy tie with a traditional white shirt which has a fastened top button and is long enough to be tucked into trousers or a skirt; the bottom of the tie should meet the waistband
- Black trousers or skirt made of standard material – studs or zips on pockets must not be visible. Jeans, cords, hipster and tight-fitting (e.g. Revs-style) trousers are not appropriate and all trousers should cover the ankle. Combat-style trousers, e.g. with additional side pockets, are not allowed. Skirts should be no shorter than knee length and should not be fitted or made of tight stretchy material. Skater-style skirts are not suitable. As a rule of thumb, trousers and skirts should be modest.
- Academy blazer for all students in years 7 to 11
- Black or grey socks with black trousers; neutral or black tights with skirts
- Black leather or leather-style traditional school shoes that can be polished, with a heel no more than 2cm in height. (No boots or trainers, or trainer-style shoes such as Vans or Converse are allowed. Girls' ballet-type footwear is not acceptable)

Physical education kit for all years:

- Black tracksuit bottoms with academy logo
- Black short-sleeved sports polo shirt with purple panels and the academy logo
- Black long-sleeved sports shirt with purple panels and the academy logo
- Black shorts with academy logo
- Suitable trainers or other sports footwear
- Sports leggings with academy logo or plain black sports leggings (not cotton) Students will also be required to bring other appropriate kit to their PE lessons where necessary. For example, shin-guards for contact sports, studded boots for rugby, mouth guard for some PE activities. Students will be given specific advice from their PE teachers.

