



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we reach the end of Term 5, many of our students are now preparing for their national examinations. I have been incredibly impressed with the dedication shown by our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they approach their GCSE and A-Level exams. Their conduct has been excellent, and our staff continue to work tirelessly to support them during this important time.

It has been wonderful to see students leaving exams with smiles, with some even describing papers as “easy.” In reality, there are no truly easy exams—success comes from hard work. As in life, the more effort you put in, the easier things begin to feel. This confidence reflects the commitment students have shown over time, not just this year, but since they joined us in Year 7.

I would also like to emphasise the importance of high attendance, which remains the “golden thread” linking student wellbeing, engagement in lessons, and overall achievement. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that students attend regularly, arrive on time, wear the correct uniform, and come fully equipped each day. Your partnership helps us maintain standards above the national average and supports students in achieving their full potential.

Key Dates

Last day of Term 5: Friday 22nd May 2026

Start of Term 6: Monday 1st June 2026

Last day of Term 6: Tuesday 21st July 2026

As we approach the half-term break, I encourage all students—especially those with exams and academy assessments—to continue working hard, while also taking time to rest and recharge. Finding a balance is key.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, wonderful students, and supportive families for making Kingswood such an ambitious, inclusive and thriving community.

Wishing you all a restful half term, and the very best of luck to all students in their upcoming exams.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Matthew Gamble

Principal

Kingswood Secondary Academy





Key Dates / Events:

Academy Assessments continue

Wednesday 17th June –
Letters Unplugged
5:30pm-7:00pm

Thursday 2nd July –
Rewards Evening at
The Core at Corby
Cube, 5:00pm-7:30pm

Friday 3rd July –
Warwick Castle visit

Tuesday 7th July – Year
7 & Year 8 Spelling Bee

Wednesday 8th July –
Year 7 Sports Day

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Academy - Home](#)

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Our Year 7 students have made an excellent start to life at Kingswood Secondary Academy. Since joining us in September, they have settled in incredibly well, embracing new routines, subjects, and friendships with confidence and positivity. It has been a pleasure to see how quickly they have become valued members of our school community.

As we move into the final term of Year 7, this is a great opportunity for students to finish the year strongly. We encourage all students to continue demonstrating the positive behaviours that make our academy a safe, respectful and ambitious environment for everyone. This includes being ready to learn, showing kindness to others, and taking pride in their work and surroundings.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank and celebrate those students who have consistently demonstrated our #RISE values. The number of positive RISE points achieved this year is a testament to the hard work, resilience and commitment shown by so many of our Year 7 students—well done!

We look forward to seeing all Year 7 students continue to grow in confidence and success as they prepare for Year 8.

The Year 7 Team

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.



Attendance is Everyone's Business!

Last academic year, we witnessed a substantial increase in attendance, and I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved!

At Kingswood, we recognise and celebrate positive behaviour and encourage children to attend school by continuing to reward them with a wide range of prizes, including:

- **Weekly rewards** for the form group with the highest attendance in each year group
- **"Friday Feast"** – a prize draw for a student with 100% attendance to win a £20 Just Eat voucher
- **RISE points** awarded for daily attendance, with bonus points for achieving 100% attendance each week – these can be spent in our RISE Store for fantastic rewards
- **Attendance Flash rewards** awarded at the end of every term
- **NEW - Badges and certificates.** More information will follow - watch this space!
- **NEW - Hot Chocolate mornings** rewarding all students across the school with 100% attendance for the half term.

I hope we are all ready to make **Term 6 our best ever for attendance!**

Mr J. Moring
Student Attendance Lead

ATTENDANCE EVERY DAY COUNTS



KINGSWOOD SECONDARY ACADEMY

Respect, Independence, Service, Empathy

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.

PSHE Curriculum Overview

As we move into the final term, all year groups will focus on the theme of **Healthy Wellbeing**. In addition, most year groups will continue to study the statutory requirements of **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)**.

Year 7 will learn about puberty and body development. Pupils will be introduced to secondary-level RSE topics, including reproductive systems and personal hygiene (such as diet and body odour), alongside lessons focused on self-esteem.

Year 8 will build on aspects of the Year 7 curriculum, revisiting themes such as healthy eating, body-positive image, and stress management. Pupils will also explore issues surrounding bullying, including safeguarding and child abuse.

Year 9 will spend time studying reproductive systems before moving on to topics related to body confidence. Later in the term, pupils will learn about bullying, stalking, the impact of social media, and cancer prevention.

Year 10 will begin the term with a final RSE lesson on delaying sexual activity, before progressing to a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Topics include managing anger and anxiety, understanding mental health illnesses, self-care strategies, and how to support friends during difficult times.

For all PSHE topics, pupils have access to the **Kingswood Way QR code**, which allows them to confidentially share concerns with **Mrs Bonner**. Pupils are also signposted to local RSE and mental health support services available across the **North Northamptonshire** area during PSHE lessons.

Further information for pupils and parents/carers, including additional PSHE and RSE resources, can be found on our shared Padlet:

<https://padlet.com/abonner2/pshe-resources-board-e2um141bnuk223l>



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Break 2 and After School 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
KS4 Exams Clinic SC4 RM	Dance & Drama Club EP2 CR	Debating Club H2 WM	Dance & Drama Club EP2 CR	Crystal Club SC2 SM
Singing Club SC8 MT	KS3 Jamming Music Club MU2 TH	Board Games Club FH (Hope Church) PA1	STEM Club 9&10 SC5 JM & HJ	Kingswood Ethnic Minorities Group (KEM) SC8 MT
KS4 Art Catch A1 EE	Singing Club SC8 MT	Singing Club SC8 MT	HUMs Film Club H3 SE	Warhammer/ Boardgames M6 JM
GCSE Pod/Silent Study E8 MW/NM	Business Club IV4 SD/CL	Colouring Club H5 HA	KEM SC8 MT	PRIDE E4 LB
		Anime& Manga Club L1 HW	KS3 Doodle Club A1 LW	
		Music Year 11 MU2 TR	Garage Band MU2 TR	
			Fashion Club M2 RBR	
Basketball	Basketball	Basketball	Basketball	Basketball
Table Tennis	Table Tennis	Table tennis	Table Tennis	Table Tennis
FOOTBALL ASTRO JL/MG Years 7-13				
LIB Chess, Anime, Computer & board games	LIB Chess, Anime, Computer & board games	LIB Chess, Anime, Computer & board games	LIB Chess, Anime, Computer & board games	LIB Chess, Anime, Computer & board games
After school 3:10- 4pm CHECK SPORTS CLUBS IN PE for clubs & Fixtures				
LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club
Year 11 Maths Masterclass	Year 11 English Masterclass	Year 11 Science Masterclass	Year 11 HUMS/MFL Masterclass	
Year 10 Masterclass Art A1/2 Dance& Drama EP3		Year 10 Masterclass Hospitality & Catering T2 Health & Social Care IV5 Business IV4	Year 10 Masterclass Music Mu1 & Mu2 Child Development ME1 Sports Science T1	



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Sports Clubs Timetable

Sports Clubs Timetable - Please speak to your PE Teacher about the Term 6 Timetable

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 ensure that you register and arrange to be picked up at 4:15pm.

Sports Fixture Timetable—Term 6

Week Commencing	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1 st June	Wednesday Girls Rounders @ PW				
8 th June	Thursday Boys & Girls Athletics @ Corby Triangle			Tuesday Girls Rounders @ CTS	
15 th June			Tuesday Girls Rounders @ LP		
22 nd June		Wednesday Girls Rounders @ KBA			
29 th June					
6 th July	Tuesday Girls Rounders @ PW				



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 for **Year 7 Term 6 2025** 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 6: Year 7 subjects	Curriculum, independent learning topics and assessment focus	Useful website links / additional information
English	'Max Kowalski Didn't Mean It' by Susie Day	Research Myths and Legends from around the world.
Maths	Developing number sense Sets and probability Prime numbers and proofs	KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize
Science	Acids + alkalis Ecosystems Forces	KS3 Science - BBC Bitesize Acids and Alkalis Ecosystems Forces
PE	Girls - 3 weeks Athletics 3/4 weeks Badminton OAA Boys - 3 weeks Athletics 3/4 weeks Rounders Tennis or table tennis	Badminton: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z3qq6fr/revision/1 Rounders: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmCMS46_N-U



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum for Year 7 Term 6 continued

Term 6: Year 7 subjects	Curriculum, independent learning topics and assessment focus	Useful website links / additional information
Art	Studying Artist Yayoi Kusama and making a self-portrait inspired by her work.	An Introduction to Yayoi Kusama Tate
Dance / Drama	Dance – Creating Choreography from a stimulus Drama – Devising Drama based on Wacky Soap	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrbp47h https://mbalit.co.uk/client/mark-wheeller/
Geography	A regional study in Asia Studying the physical geography of Asia as well as some of the current human events happening.	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zqmv7h#z7x3r2p https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zqmv7h#zsvdqfr
History	Stuarts	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01wb3tq/clips
IT	Clear messaging in digital media	Clear messaging in digital media Different ways to present information - Presenting information on computers - KS3 ICT Revision - BBC Bitesize Media literacy resources - BBC Bitesize Refresh link - What are digital communication systems? - BBC Bitesize
Music	Popular Music (Wonderwall)	British pop music - KS3 Music - BBC Bitesize



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum for Year 7 Term 6 continued

Term 6: Year 7 subjects	Curriculum, independent learning topics and assessment focus	Useful website links / additional information
Religious Studies	Prejudice and Discrimination	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zdrxbdm/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkdk382/articles/zvbp7nb
Spanish	School	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zg9mhyc/articles/zjdrvk7 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zm2xgwx/revision/1
<p>Technology rotation</p> <p>Groups rotate every 7-9 weeks to cover all the areas</p>	<p>Food: Health and safety in the kitchen. Cooking techniques and cooking a variety of simple dishes. The theory of food is then also taught in an extra lesson for half the year.</p> <p>First Aid: Pupils follow a bespoke program developed for us teaching them basic first aid.</p> <p>Textiles: A Sweet Wrapper based project with the sewing machines, applique, layering materials, planning and pattern making.</p> <p>Finance Skills: Pupils are taught about real life finance skills and using an online program.</p> <p>Engineering: Pupils will be introduced to the diverse engineering / building sector through a range of practical activities.</p>	<p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/occasions/recipes_for_kids</p> <p>Easy Art for Kids: Wire Sculpture - Babble Dabble Do</p> <p>https://www.tinkercad.com/</p>



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Year 7 Communication

Celebrating success:

We are pleased to celebrate the achievements of the top 20 RISE earners in **Term 5**. Well done for showing **R**espect, building **I**ndependence, having a sense of **S**ervice to our community and demonstrating **E**mpathy in lessons and in the community.

Viktor	Zagorski	107	Taleah	McCalla	95
Bogdan	Ghetau	105	Marek	Mikolajczyk	95
Brighton Jnr	Majoni	104	Alvin	Scornea	95
Leah	McConnell	102	Nicolas	Cristea	94
Kalton	Ettanli	100	Olivia	Hajo	94
Jesse	Chambers-Tonner	99	Alan	Idasiak	94
Arron	Taylor	99	Agata	Sliwczynska	94
Robert	Bratu	97	Ella	Wright	94
Edward	Ngbede	97	Leon	Bonnefemme	93
Lily-Grace	Buchan	96	Anita	Jonas	92

Congratulations to the top 10 Tutor Groups for **Term 5**:

8W	2000	7K	1688
8S	1858	9K	1646
8K	1794	8D	1644
7W	1781	9D	1625
9W	1704	8G	1598



Our RISE Store

We continue to see an incredible number of orders through the **RISE Store**, celebrating students who consistently demonstrate our school's core values: **Respect, Independence, Service to the community, and Empathy**. These values are key to helping our students grow into well-rounded Kingswoodian individuals.

Most RISE points this term were earned through **Independence**, which is awarded for efforts in and around learning. Points are given for things like participation in class discussions, producing high-quality work during lessons, and completing homework to a good standard.

We would like to celebrate all students who have earned RISE points and enjoyed spending them in the RISE Store. To continue offering a wide variety of items in exchange for RISE points, we warmly welcome donations from the wider community. Suggested items include **stationery, sweets, chocolates, toiletries, gift sets, and vouchers**.

If you know of any companies or sponsors who may be able to contribute to the store for our students, please contact **Mr. Feely** at: feely@kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Year 7 Communication



Chair of the Kingswood, Hazel Leys and Exeter Neighbourhood Board Announced for £20 Million Pride in Place Programme

We are delighted to share the fantastic news that Mrs Alex Bonner, Senior Assistant Principal at Kingswood Secondary Academy, has been appointed Chair of the Kingswood, Hazel Leys and Exeter Neighbourhood Board as part of the Government's £20 million Pride in Place programme for Corby.

A lifelong Corby resident, Alex was born and raised in the town and has lived on the Exeter estate for the past 24 years. She has worked with young people for over 30 years, with 17 of those spent at Kingswood Secondary Academy, where she teaches English and is a valued member of the senior leadership team.

The Neighbourhood Board will oversee how £20 million of government investment is used over the next 10 years to support regeneration and long-term improvement across the Kingswood, Hazel Leys and Exeter estates. While the remaining members of the Board are yet to be appointed, the Chair will play a pivotal role in shaping the Board's composition and direction.

Speaking about her appointment, Alex said:

"I'm immensely proud to have been chosen as chair of the board which will oversee such a big investment into the heart of these neighbourhoods, and I look forward to working closely with everyone involved and seeing real progress."

Corby has some incredibly resilient people who are bursting with creativity and passion. Plans for Kingswood, Hazel Leys and Exeter must be shaped collaboratively, with local voices leading the way, and I'm delighted to be able to play a part in this.

I believe that Kingswood Secondary Academy, and the young people within the local area, will be pivotal as the driving force of this brilliant project."

The Pride in Place programme aims to develop a shared, long-term vision for each neighbourhood, identifying local priorities and determining how investment will be spent to best support the community. As Chair, Alex will work closely with local MPs, councillors, community representatives, businesses and residents to ensure transparent governance, strong community engagement and a legacy once the programme concludes.

Lee Barron MP, Member of Parliament for Corby and East Northamptonshire, commented:

"It was essential that we appointed someone with strong links to this Corby neighbourhood to lead the project, and that's why Alex is such a great fit as Chair of the Board. I'm looking forward to seeing real progress as the project moves forward."

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council, also congratulated Alex on her appointment, highlighting her personal connection to the area and commitment to championing the community's ambitions.

We are incredibly proud of Mrs Bonner's achievement and know she will use this opportunity to make a meaningful and lasting difference for our local community.

Further information about the Pride in Place Programme is available [on the council's website](#).



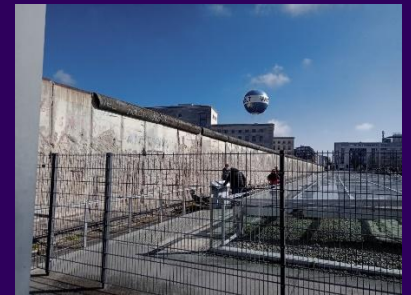
Kingswood Secondary Academy

Year 7 Communication

Year 11 History Trip to Berlin

From 30 March to 2 April, our Year 11 students took part in a four-day History trip to Berlin, gaining valuable first-hand experiences that enriched their understanding of GCSE History.

The group visited a range of significant sites linked to Germany between 1918 and 1939, including Sachsenhausen, the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin Wall, and the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. These visits provided valuable opportunities for students to deepen their knowledge by connecting classroom learning with real historical locations.



Alongside the educational visits, students also enjoyed exploring German culture, tasting traditional food, and taking part in an evening of bowling. The students are to be commended for demonstrating excellent maturity and conduct throughout the trip.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Year 7 Communication

UK Maths Challenge Success

We were delighted to see over 200 students from Years 7 and 8 take part in the UK Maths Junior Challenge on Wednesday 29th April 2026.

The event ran from 8:45–10:00am, beginning in the Atrium before moving to the Sports Hall. Students approached the challenge with enthusiasm, demonstrating focus, resilience and a real curiosity for problem-solving.

Building on Success

This follows the success of the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge earlier this year, where 90 students from Years 10 and 11 participated. Their hard work was celebrated in a special event recognising their achievements.

What is UKMT?

The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) is a national charity that provides opportunities for students aged 11–18 to develop their mathematical thinking through engaging and challenging competitions.

These challenges focus on:

- Logical thinking
- Problem-solving
- Mathematical reasoning

Why It Matters

Taking part in the UKMT Challenge helps students to:

Build confidence in their mathematical ability

Develop problem-solving skills

Discover enjoyment in maths beyond the classroom

Strengthen skills valued by universities and future employers

Highlights

Students showed a positive and determined attitude, even without extensive preparation together

The challenge helped identify students with strong reasoning skills, including those who may not usually stand out in lessons

We were particularly impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our students across all year groups

We are incredibly proud of all students who took part and the effort they demonstrated throughout the competition.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Year 7 Communication

Corby Athletics – Weekend Support (Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th May)

Over the weekend of Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May, our Cadets proudly supported the Corby Athletics event. They were on site from 9:30am to 5:00pm on both days, playing a key role in ensuring the smooth running of the competition.

It was fantastic to see such commitment, teamwork, and enthusiasm throughout the weekend. Every cadet involved represented the school exceptionally well, demonstrating resilience, professionalism, and a strong sense of community while supporting both athletes and event organisers.

A huge thank you to everyone who gave up their time to take part. Your efforts made the event a great success and provided a valuable and rewarding experience for all involved.



Year 10 Cadets Praised for Responsible Action

Two of our Year 10 Cadets, James D and Nadia M, found a baby hedgehog on the path on their way to school. Acting sensibly and with compassion, they brought her into school and, with staff support in the finance office, did their best to keep her warm while arrangements were made to find a safe place for her to thrive.

Although the hoglet sadly did not survive, the Hedgehog Lodge Rescue praised the students' actions, commenting: *"Well done to the students who spotted her. They clearly knew what to do and were sensible enough to alert a responsible adult who helped to set things in motion. They are young civilians who should be proud."*



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Year 7 Communication

UNI Club Graduation – Celebrating Academic Excellence

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our Year 8 and Year 9 pupils who took part in the UNI Club. Pupils worked alongside a university PhD tutor to develop their research skills and produce a university-style piece of academic work, gaining a valuable insight into higher-level study.

Every participant successfully completed the programme, and we recently marked their success with a graduation celebration. Well done to all involved – we are incredibly proud of you.



CoachBright Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Programme – Rewards Celebration

We have 15 Year 10 pupils and 15 Year 7 pupils who have been taking part in the CoachBright Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Programme. As we approach the end of the coaching cycle, it has been a pleasure to see how positively the pupils have engaged.

Our Year 10 mentors, in particular, have demonstrated a high level of maturity, commitment and responsibility throughout the sessions, acting as excellent role models for the younger students.

To celebrate the success of the programme, a pizza reward celebration took place on Wednesday 13 May.

Participating Pupils – Year 10

Freddie Abrahams
Rudi Booth
Alan Brzostowski
Halle Collins
David Craciun
Fariah Fatade
Kenie James
Leyton Ray Jones
Wiki Krol
Blake Lewis
Tate McKimm
Shivani Nair
Tracy Sowunmi
Oliwia Typiak
Wojciech Walach

Participating Pupils – Year 7

Effie Braithwaite
Shaylene Burbidge
Zach Burns
Gracie Coleman
Chloe Dickens
Kenzo Duffy
Brodi Gibson
Kal Grundy
Autumn Logue
Freddie O'Farrell
David Mbamalu Olisa
Jacob Promubol
Beatriz Borges dos Santos
Thomas Walkden



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Year 7 Communication

Principal's Pride Celebration

We were delighted to recognise our Principal's Pride nominees from Years 7–9, who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement throughout the term.

A formal celebration was held, during which students were presented with certificates, badges, and a small token of appreciation. They also had the opportunity to meet personally with Mr Gamble, who congratulated them on their success.

We commend all nominees for their diligence, resilience, and commitment to excellence—your efforts are truly outstanding.

Principal's Pride Awardees:

Lola Ballard
Dillan Brown
Lily-Grace Buchan
Ruvimbo Chinembeza
Brodi Gibson
Scott Ginnings
Sorina Grosu
Kaileb Hartley
Nicola Kevisa
Ruby McKeown
Afia Safi
Lauryn Sowunmi
Adithya Suresh
Dawid Wendlant



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Year 7 Communication

RSC and KSC Collaboration

The Kingswood Shakespeare Company (KSC) had the exciting opportunity to work alongside director mentors from The Core Theatre this half-term. During the session, students took part in a range of theatre warm-ups and development activities used by professionals from the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) when creating industry-level productions.

Students are currently preparing their final performance for the RSC Playmaking Festival, which will take place at The Core Theatre on 1st July.

The session was both engaging and enjoyable, and our students' enthusiasm, teamwork and commitment were praised by the visiting practitioners. We are extremely proud of how well they represented Kingswood.

As we move into the final stages of rehearsal, we are very much looking forward to seeing our students perform alongside other schools in the local cluster. Break a leg, KSC!

Ticket Information

Tickets for the festival are now available:

£6 for adults

£3 for under 16s

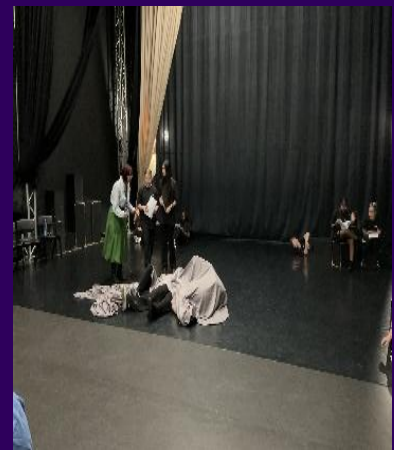
You can book tickets online here:

<https://thecorecorby.com/whats-on/rsc-playmaking-festival-the-tempest/>

Alternatively, tickets can be purchased:

In person at The Core at Corby Cube box office

By phone on 01536 470470



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Year 7 Communication

Upcoming EPA Trip to The Curve Theatre, Leicester

We are delighted to be offering our BTEC Performing Arts students the opportunity to attend a theatre trip to the Curve Theatre in Leicester this June.

Students will experience Matthew Bourne's *The Car Man*, a dynamic and visually striking production that presents a contemporary reimagining of classic storytelling. Combining music, dance and drama, the performance is widely acclaimed for its creativity and powerful staging.

This trip provides a valuable opportunity for students to experience professional theatre at the highest level, enhancing their understanding of the performing arts while inspiring their own creative development. It promises to be a memorable highlight and a fantastic example of the exciting opportunities available beyond the classroom.

We hope all students have an enjoyable and inspiring experience.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

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Careers Education and Guidance at Kingswood Secondary Academy

An article by Ian Doherty, Careers Adviser, Prospects Careers Service

As the Careers Adviser at Kingswood Secondary Academy, I provide structured and personalised guidance to support students in planning their future pathways.

All students in Years 10 and 11 receive an individual 1:1 careers meeting, during which we discuss their aspirations, post-16 options, and next steps. Following each meeting, students are provided with a typed action plan, which is shared via their school email and Unifrog account to ensure accessibility and ongoing reference.

Students who remain in the Sixth Form are offered an additional 1:1 guidance meeting during the summer term of Year 12. These sessions focus on exploring and preparing for post-18 pathways, including university applications, apprenticeships, and other training opportunities.

This structured programme ensures that all students receive individualised, impartial advice at key transition points, supporting them to make informed decisions about their future.

As the Careers Adviser at Kingswood Secondary Academy, the best part of my role is speaking to students about their future plans. I first met Denis in Year 10 and have stayed in touch with him throughout his time in the Sixth Form, where he is on track to achieve an A in Maths alongside Distinction* grades in IT and Business.

Seldom have I encountered a more focused and dedicated individual, with Denis showing clear determination from an early stage to secure a degree apprenticeship with a large UK company. Through hard work, resilience and perseverance, Denis was recently offered an IT apprenticeship with Microsoft.



Denis has successfully secured a degree apprenticeship with Microsoft, a fantastic achievement following a competitive application process.



A degree apprenticeship enables students to work towards an undergraduate degree while earning a salary and gaining invaluable industry experience. Despite receiving several final-stage offers, a role with Microsoft within their B2B Sales and AI-enabled Customer Solutions team was always Denis's preferred option.

Denis will begin his new role in September, commuting to the Microsoft office in Paddington, London, alongside working from home. I am confident that he will thoroughly enjoy his apprenticeship and will prove to be a real asset to the company. He plans to remain in contact with the school, and everyone at Kingswood looks forward to hearing about his progress.





In his own words, to follow are Denis's Top 10 tips on how he achieved his success:

Start your planning early

Year 13 is too late as you need to build your CV, know where to apply for vacancies, practice online assessments and structure interview answers. The students already ahead of you have been working on this since year 12.

Use every platform

Don't just wait for roles to come to you - treat finding opportunities like a job. I set up accounts on various apprenticeship websites including Trackr, the government website, Apprentago and Higherin. Most importantly - visit company websites directly.

Network everywhere – Reach Out

At my school careers fair, I handed out business cards (with a QR code linking to my LinkedIn) to every company in the room. One of those conversations led to LinkedIn messages, then a coffee chat with Nicky Griffin, a senior IT consultant at Microsoft. Coffee chats give you things no website can: the language people use internally, honest insight into the role, and a name you can mention naturally in your interview. Nicky was an amazing mentor.

Manage your applications

At my peak I was juggling 5–6 online assessments and video interviews in a single week. On average, 2 per week from November through to March. I used an Excel spreadsheet to manage my applications. A good spreadsheet is also available on Trackr.

Research the company

Visit company websites, use AI, listen to podcasts, watch videos, read the LinkedIn posts of existing employees. Find out about current projects e.g. for Microsoft I researched their current "garage" initiative. I also attended the Microsoft prep session on Zoom and had a question ready as I was determined to be remembered.

Work experience is important

There are far more opportunities than most students know about - virtual programmes, in-person placements, summer experiences. In year 12 I did 5 days at Cisco through their Pathways programme. This changed everything as I saw my competition for the first time.

Join online communities

This shifted my entire perspective as I could measure myself against the most competitive students in the UK. Seeing the effort other students were putting in made me raise my own standards. You cannot see what elite looks like from just inside your own school. Sites I recommend include LEAF and ApprentaDream.

Make the most of social media

Use LinkedIn as a research tool. Find people who have landed similar roles, look at how they position themselves, take note of their certificates. Follow companies. Post positive comments. Be active on Tik-Tok and other sites looking for genuine advice and tips from people who have just landed offers.

All it takes is one

For a long time nothing. Silence feels like failure. Rejections, no responses, watching others get offers. Then I got my Microsoft offer. From March onwards 5 final stage offers including Deutsche Bank, Oliver Wyman, and Santander. A Zoom interview at Citi Group. It isn't a steady stream - it's silence, then everything at once. If you put in the hard work the drought isn't a sign you've failed. It's just the gap before the dam breaks.

Be bold in your interviews

Here's what most people miss: at this level, every candidate is underqualified. Nobody has 3 years of experience at 18. So, in the final stages, they are not just assessing your answers – they are hiring people they want to work with that will blend in with their team.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Year 7 Communication

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: [Kingswood Secondary Academy - Vacancies](#)



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

[Kingswood Secondary Academy - Job of the Week](#)



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.

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 [Kingswood Secondary Academy - ParentPay & Shop](#)

Here are just a few of the things that can be paid for via the [Kingswood Secondary Academy Shop](#):

Student Planners/Calculators/Student ID cards, lanyards & holders
Art supplies
Revision guides & books (these are provided free of charge to PP students)
Uniform
Exam Re-takes

Payment reports are printed out daily and orders processed. Your child can collect their orders the FOLLOWING DAY from Student Services.

Items will not be posted home.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Year 7 Communication

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 and carers 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 because 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

Year 7 Communication

Parking and Access to Kingswood Secondary Academy

Wherever possible, we encourage our students to walk or cycle to the Academy, as this offers clear health and environmental benefits.

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

Dropping Off Your Child in the Morning

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

If you wish to use our roundabout, this is permitted in the mornings. This works well because drop-offs occur over a 30–45-minute period, so congestion is generally not a significant issue.

Collecting Your Child at the End of the Day

Due to the large number of students leaving in a short time frame, we do not allow parents onto the site to collect their children. This is because of the significant congestion it causes, which leads to vehicles backing up onto Gainsborough Road and blocking traffic in both directions.

In summary:

Please do not drive onto the school site to collect your child at the end of the day.

Exception:

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

Consideration for Local Residents

We often receive complaints from local residents, particularly on Tower Hill Road and Oak Wood Drive. With this in mind, we kindly ask that you:

- Note that **Tower Hill Road is a no-stopping area** between Monday and Friday, 8am–6pm. This is clearly signposted.
- Park considerately. Consider parking further away and allowing your child to walk a few minutes to meet you, helping reduce congestion.
- Avoid blocking residents' driveways or using them to turn around or stop.
- Do not park on yellow lines.

The AA - School Safety Alert

- Over **6,000 children under 16** were injured on UK roads in 2023 while walking or cycling.

The AA - Safety Advice for Drivers

- Slow down in school zones—even if not signposted.
- Avoid distractions, especially mobile phone use.
- Park responsibly—not near school gates or on zigzag lines.
- Watch out for children on bikes, scooters, or crossing roads.
- Obey school crossing patrols.

“The return to school is a busy and exciting time for families, but it also brings increased risks on the roads. With more children walking, cycling, and scooting to school, drivers must be especially cautious.”

— Tony Rich, AA Head of Road Safety

Thank you for your co-operation.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Year 7 Communication

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 (see below) – 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.
- We introduced a **new skirt** in September 2025, and it is available for purchase from **Price and Buckland**, (our uniform supplier). Any student who chooses to wear a skirt must wear this approved style purchased from Price and Buckland. Students who prefer not to wear a skirt may continue to wear **tailored black trousers**, which should meet the guidelines outlined in our current uniform policy.
- 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.

