



JULY 2025

# Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

## Headteacher's Message

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Dear Parents

This academic year has been truly remarkable, filled with incredible achievements and memorable moments that showcase the dedication and hard work of our entire school community.

To our students, your curiosity, resilience, and enthusiasm have made every day a joy, and we're so proud of all you've accomplished. To our parents, your unwavering support and partnership have been invaluable in helping our students reach their full potential.

In this newsletter, you'll find highlights showcasing some of the many successes we've celebrated together throughout the year. As we close this chapter and look ahead to a well-deserved summer break, we wish you all time to relax, explore, and create wonderful memories with family and friends. Thank you for making this year so special, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for new learning opportunities in September.

Mrs Matharu

# English

## Shakespeare's Birthplace & Workshop

### **Year 9 Shakespeare Birthplace Trip**

It was an absolute pleasure to accompany so many of our Year 9 students to Stratford on Wednesday the 16th of July.

The day gave students an opportunity to visit this beautiful town and see for themselves where Shakespeare wrote some of his most famous plays and sonnets. The students took part in a workshop with the Birthplace Trust where they studied a key scene lifting it from the page, to the stage. Their end performances after only an hour were absolutely fantastic.

The second part of the day allowed them to visit Shakespeare's birthplace, house and gardens. While there, I was approached by a visitor who complemented the students saying that they had never seen such a well behaved group.

The final part of the day was a picnic on the river outside the RSC - this was a unique experience enjoyed by all.



# History

## Year 10 Rockingham Castle

In June, Y10 GCSE History students visited Rockingham Castle as part of their local site investigation for the History Around Us exam paper.

For this exam unit, students need to be able to use the physical site evidence at the castle to answer exam questions on how the site has changed in feature and function, its typicality and the benefits and challenges of using the physical remains to understand the site.

We were very lucky that the sun was shining for us on all 3 days! The trip included a tour of both the inside and the outside of the castle site by the very knowledgeable guides. Students were able to see for themselves the physical changes to the castle over time as it was used in differing ways in the Medieval, Tudor, Civil War and Victorian periods. They even got the opportunity to bang the kitchen gong and try on replica civil war helmets!

As always, the students were a credit to themselves and to KC showing interest and curiosity. The castle guides commented on how impressed they were with the students – well done Y10 historians!



# Science

## Year 8 - Big Bang Science Tour Birmingham

In June 57 year 8's had an amazing time exploring all things science.

This included technology, Zoolab, growing plants from cuttings to feed a growing population, engineering for the future, uses of virtual reality, drones and robotics in space science and medicine, as well as the blood, brain and cancer whilst having the opportunity to engage in the live science shows put on at the NEC.

Our students also had the opportunity to talk to professionals from different fields in science and ask many questions about not only the exhibits but further career pathways for a future in science.

Well done for representing Kingsthorpe College so well.



## R.E **CND Peace Education**

As part of their current unit on Religion, Peace, and Conflict, our Year 10 students recently took part in an engaging on-site session delivered by a representative from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). The session offered a compelling overview of nuclear weapons — covering their history, global impact, and the ongoing debate around their use in modern society.

Students explored both sides of the argument before being invited to share their own views and cast a vote on whether nuclear weapons are still necessary today. The outcome was clear: a resounding no. The majority concluded that the catastrophic consequences of such weapons outweigh any justification for their continued existence.

The session was a valuable opportunity for students to think critically, consider religious and ethical perspectives, and engage with a real-world issue in a meaningful way.

## I.T **Vector Graphics**

This term our Year 8 students have been using Inkscape to create vector graphics.

They have been experimenting with a variety of shapes and lines as well as colours to create their finished pieces.

Some students even experimented with our graphics tablets and decided to draw their designs freehand.

Here is a selection of the work produced.



## Performing Arts Royal Shakespeare Company

Our relationship with the RSC continues to go from strength to strength. This year we selected our strongest actors in year 9 and 10 to work on a comedy project. This culminated in a performance at the Royal Theatre in a piece entitled 'Oh Lord What Fools These Mortals Be!'. To have a day in that beautiful, professional space was very special and the KC students really rose to the occasion. Their vocal skills were crystal clear and their comedy on point! It was fantastic to see them make strong friendships with collaborators from Manor school and Northampton academy. The planning has already begun for 2025-26.



## Performing Arts Summer Show at the Old Savoy

We have ended the year with a bang, booking the Old Savoy Deco theatre for our summer show, this year called 'Unite'. Excitement was high with the students as we moved in to the theatre for the day. The worked tirelessly and produced an incredible show. The feedback has been amazing. They united with our friends from Born to Perform (disability dance group) and showed top quality work from all 3 disciplines. A truly celebratory end to the year. We are so proud of the 150 strong cast!



## Visual Arts

It's been another exciting time for the visual arts faculty leading up until the end of term.

In photography, year 10 have just completed a project on contemporary photography Marcelo Monreal. This project combines portraiture with images of natural forms like flowers. Students are now ready to move onto the final couple of artists of their manipulation portfolio, so they have the necessary skills to create a final piece.

At key stage 3, students have been completing African inspired masks that show off the colours and patterns used to create art.

In year 8, students have been putting the finishing touches to their clay tiles are inspired by Austrian artist Hundertwasser.



At key stage 3, students have also started a mixed media piece in the style of painter Abby Diamond. Pupils have completed tonal studies of animals to start, which helps prepare them for the mixed media piece they will be completing before term ends.

Fine artists in year 10 have been producing personal responses to their chosen artists . Work began in the 5 hour mock, with students continuing work on large scale outcomes. Year 10 did themselves proud displaying the diverse range of skills they've acquired and creative ideas in their work. The year group were commended by staff and invigilators for their mature attitude and focus during their mocks, which were extremely proud to hear.



# **Health and Social Care**

Our Year 9 Health and social care students had a brilliant opportunity today to meet with a certified Reiki practitioner and therapist as part of their ongoing learning experience about different therapeutic activities that can benefit an individual in multiple ways and help to improve their physical, intellectual, emotional and social wellbeing.

None of the students had any prior knowledge of Reiki therapy or it's Japanese origin. So, this introductory session provided a good foundational stepping stone of knowledge for the Year 9 students, where they learnt about how Reiki is founded on the body's energy centers, known as "chakras" and how this therapy would be provided by a trained practitioner. The students even had a go with one another and practiced holding their hands above and below each other so they could experience the force of their own body energy!

Alongside the Reiki practitioner, Year 9 Health and Social Care students had the fantastic opportunity to meet with a visiting Occupational Therapist.

Students gained valuable insights into the vital role occupational therapists play in supporting people of all ages to live more independent and fulfilling lives. From mobility aids to mental health support and rehabilitation therapies — they learned just how diverse and rewarding this career can be!

"It was really interesting to see how occupational therapists help people get back to doing everyday things we often take for granted," said one student.

A huge thank you to our guest speaker for inspiring the next generation of healthcare professionals!

Massive thanks to our guest speakers for giving up her valuable time and providing this learning experience to our aspirational health and social care students!



# P.S.H.E

## McCarthy Dixon Foundation

Student Leaders Lend a Hand to Support Hundreds of Local Families

A group of dedicated students from the Student Leadership Team at rolled up their sleeves on 17th July 2025 to support a vital community initiative led by The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation.

The students volunteered their time to assist with the preparation and distribution of essential supplies, helping to move and organise bags destined to support approximately 900 families across the region.

The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation, known for its wide-reaching support to individuals and families facing hardship, welcomed the students' enthusiasm and hard work.

Staff at the foundation praised the team for their positive attitude, teamwork, and willingness to step up and serve.

"This experience not only gave our students the chance to support those in need, but also allowed them to develop leadership skills, empathy, and a greater understanding of the importance of giving back," said Mrs Griffin, who helped coordinate the visit. The Student Leadership Team want to continue encouraging opportunities for meaningful community involvement.



# P.S.H.E

## Year 7 - First Aid Training

Year 7 Learn Life-Saving Skills with First Aid & Defibrillator Training

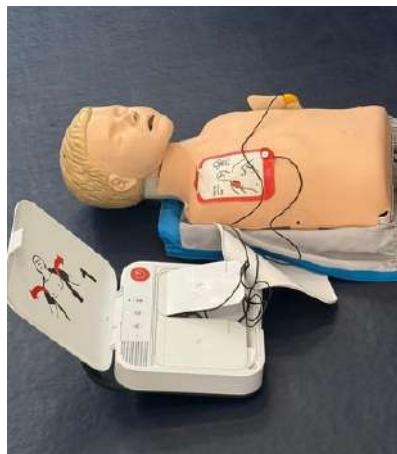
We are delighted to share that our Year 7 students recently took part in a vital First Aid and Defibrillator Training session, delivered by the highly skilled team from South Northants Community Responders.

The session focused on building essential life-saving skills, with students learning how to assess emergency situations, perform CPR, and use a defibrillator. The hands-on approach gave our students the confidence to act quickly and effectively in a medical emergency—skills that could one day help save a life.

Throughout the training, students were engaged, enthusiastic, and respectful. The experience not only empowered them with practical knowledge but also helped foster a strong sense of responsibility and community awareness.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the South Northants Community Responders for delivering such an impactful and inspiring session. Their commitment to community education is truly commendable, and we are proud to partner with them in helping our students grow into capable and caring individuals.

We hope this is just the first step in building a broader understanding of health and safety among our students, and we look forward to offering more opportunities like this in the future.



# P.S.H.E County Schools Champions

We are incredibly proud to share that three of our talented Year 9 students achieved 3rd place in the Grand Final of the County Schools Competition held on 30th June at the Castle Theatre.

The students wowed judges and audiences with their original couture gown design, created as part of a powerful campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of vaping among primary school students. The gown was not only visually striking, but also carried a clear educational message designed to engage younger pupils in a creative and impactful way.

The project challenged students from across the county to use creativity, and communication to highlight important health and social issues—and our team rose to the occasion with flair, passion, and innovation.

Taking part in the live final at Castle Theatre was an unforgettable experience for the students, who represented our school with professionalism and pride.

"We are so proud of their creativity, teamwork, and the powerful message behind their design," said Mrs Griffin. "This competition gave them the chance to showcase their talents and raise awareness of a serious issue in a way that was inspiring and age-appropriate for younger children."

Well done to our fantastic Year 9 team—you've made the entire school community proud!



# Careers

## Interactive Careers Assembly

On Wednesday 16th July, Year 9 students at KC were treated to an engaging and inspiring assembly led by Young Inspirers, featuring guest speakers Dillon from Office Mango and Empress from Wincanton.

The session was designed to introduce students to the world of apprenticeships and help them begin thinking about their future career pathways. Dillon and Empress shared their personal journeys, starting from their time in school to where they are today, working in successful careers built through vocational training and on-the-job learning.

Students learned about the various types of apprenticeships available, the skills employers look for, and the steps they can begin taking now to explore their options. The speakers also offered practical advice on discovering personal interests, making informed choices, and staying motivated through the challenges of secondary education.

"It was really eye-opening to hear from people who were once in our shoes," said one Year 9 student. "I didn't know there were so many options outside of university." The event was part of the school's ongoing commitment to preparing students for life beyond the classroom, ensuring they are well-informed and confident when making decisions about their futures.



# Careers

## **Aston Martin**

Inspiring Futures at Aston Martin Formula 1!

Some of our Year 9 students had an unforgettable experience visiting Aston Martin Formula 1.

They toured the factory, saw innovation in action, and took part in a fireside chat with F1 sponsors and industry leaders — gaining valuable insights into the world of engineering, technology, and elite motorsport.

Some of our Year 12 students on 2<sup>nd</sup> July had the privilege of attending the Aston Martin "Make a Mark" Day, an inspiring and interactive event designed to open young minds to the future of technology, engineering, sustainability, and global careers. Hosted at one of the UK's most prestigious automotive companies, the day gave students a unique look at how creativity, innovation, and real-world skills drive industries forward.

Throughout the day, students engaged in a wide variety of cutting-edge sessions delivered by leading global companies and organisations. Each workshop was tailored to spark curiosity and support students in developing valuable skills for their future.



# **Careers Fair 2025**

## **A Future in Focus – Careers Fair Inspires Students of All Year Groups**

Students from all year groups at Kingsthorpe College had an inspiring and action-packed day as the school hosted its most successful Careers Fair to date, welcoming over 30 leading organisations, colleges, and universities.

The event, held on [insert date], transformed the school into a vibrant hub of career exploration, as students engaged directly with professionals, employers, and education providers to discover the wide range of opportunities available to them after school.

A huge thank you goes to all our incredible exhibitors, including Red Bull F1, Starting OFF, Northamptonshire Police, Northants Fire & Rescue, EKCO, Royal Air Force, Royal Navy, British Army, Briggs & Forrester, Northampton Town Football Club, Keepmoat Homes, Wincanton, Bapon, Darlin's Barbers, Truck East, Travis Perkins, Luxe Academy, Madison Black, and both Northampton College and Moulton College. Their time, enthusiasm, and industry insight made a lasting impression on our students.

The fair also featured a strong presence from the higher education sector, with representatives from Lancaster University, University of Sheffield, University of Hertfordshire, University of Derby, Coventry University, University of Buckingham, University of Birmingham, and Nottingham Trent University all on hand to discuss courses, entry requirements, and student life.

Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive, with many describing the event as "inspiring," "eye-opening," and "a great opportunity to ask real questions about real jobs."

This year's Careers Fair is a reflection our school's ongoing commitment to preparing students not just for exams, but for life beyond the classroom. With so many routes to success—whether through apprenticeships, university, or direct employment—students left the event more informed, motivated, and excited about the possibilities ahead.

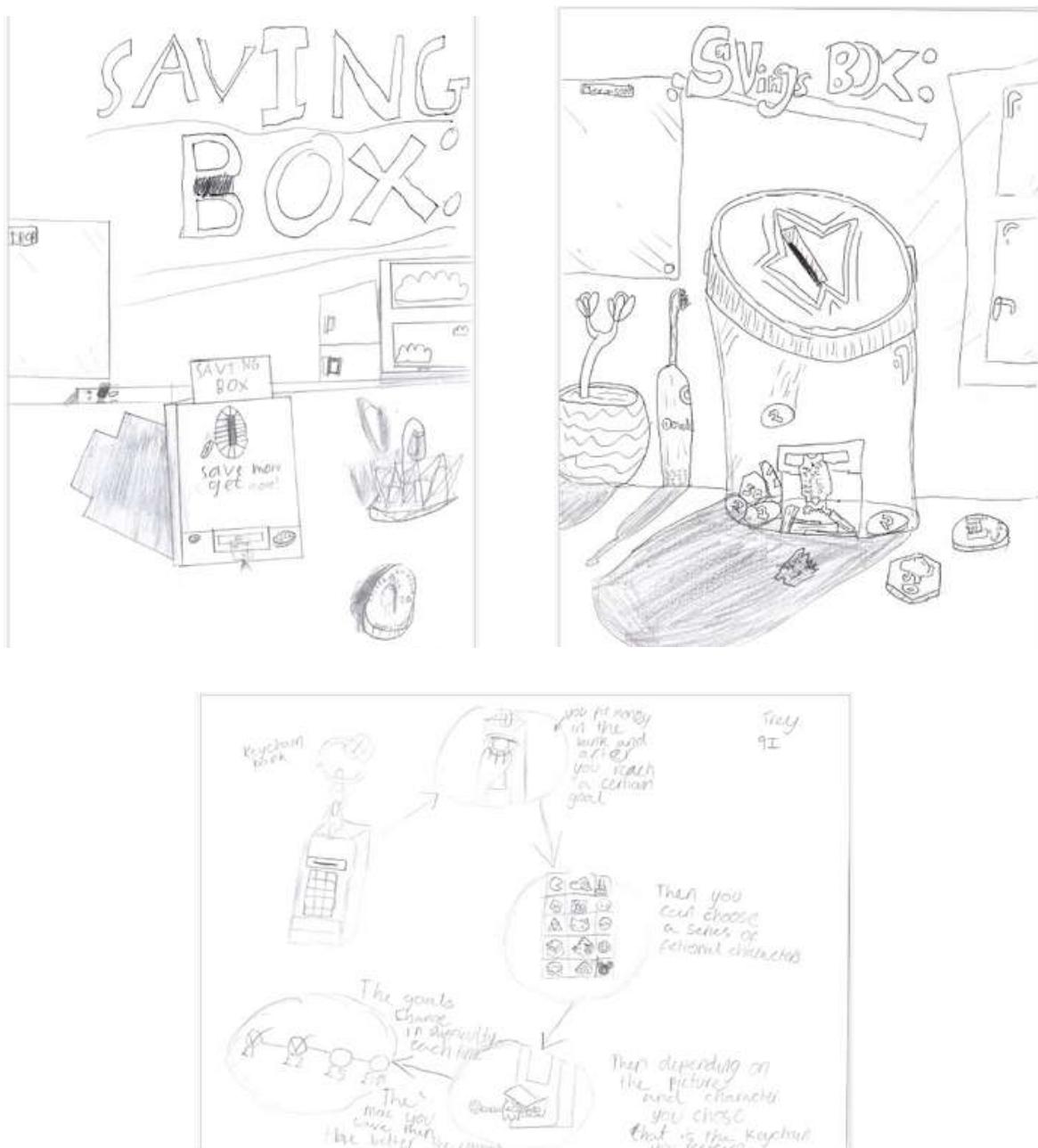


## Electives Money Matters

'The students from our Money Matters Electives were given the challenge of getting creative with saving.

They were asked to design a saving bank that would encourage young people to save some of their money. The students did an amazing job creating all sorts of saving boxes including a saving vending machine that gave you full size sweets and prizes, a see-through saving jar that dispenses prize tickets that can be swapped for lots of top prizes, electronic consol bank that will allow you access to apps, games for the time you 'purchased' & a Keychain saving bank that allows you to select and create keychains based on your favourite characters.

This activity got the students thinking about what motivates people to save money and allowed them to be creative in what would motivate them to save more too. It was interesting to see what kind of 'reward' students would give themselves when they save money.'



## Combined Cadet Force

## Armed Forces day



This term all contingents were invited to attend the Armed Forces Day parade which took place in Kettering town centre. With over a 1000 service men, women, and cadets all parading, it was a wonderful event to be part of. Our cadets showed off their drill and turnout which they had been practicing throughout their parade evening. Well done to all that attended.



Our year 10 cadets spent a an adventurous afternoon on the climbing wall at Southfields, challenging themselves and overcoming the fear of heights.



Well done to all of our cadets this year, we are all incredibly proud of you.

## **Duke of Edinburgh** **Gold**

As the warm weather set in, the Gold DofE practice to place along the river Nene. 2 nights of camping and 2 days of paddling, with the unrelenting beautiful sunshine. Following the practice weekend, the gold qualifier expedition continued onto the River Wye where 4 nights camping and 4 full days of canoeing starting at Hay-on-Wye and finishing at Symonds Yat. Experiencing rapids, and challenging low water levels with a mixture of rain wind and sunshine. Congratulations to Rene Roberts for fully completing the expedition.



## **Duke of Edinburgh** **Silver**

Congratulations to all our Silver DofE students! Their qualifying expedition in the Peak District took place over a long weekend completing 3 full days of walking with 2 nights camping. They showed fantastic navigational skills to complete their planned routes, along with camping and cooking skills. With their team goal to work towards, their teamwork shone through along with a wonderful sense of humour. Well done to all that completed.



# Year 13 Prom

## **Year 13 Prom 2025 – A Night to Remember!**

Tonight we had the absolute pleasure of celebrating our amazing Year 13 students at their prom – a well-deserved celebration marking the end of their school journey at Kingsthorpe College.

From the moment they arrived, dressed to impress and full of excitement, it was clear we were in for a special evening. The energy, the laughter, the dancing – and yes, even the heartfelt goodbyes – made for an unforgettable night.

What stood out most was the maturity, kindness, and respect every student showed throughout the event. They were a credit to themselves, their families, and our school – truly a fantastic group of young people who handled the night with grace, positivity, and joy.

To our Year 13s – thank you for being such a brilliant year group. We are so proud of you all and cannot wait to see what the future holds. Wherever your next steps take you, remember: once part of Kingsthorpe, always part of Kingsthorpe.



## Year 11 Prom

On Thursday 3rd July, our Year 11 students celebrated the end of an unforgettable chapter with a spectacular prom night at the Mercure Hotel. The evening was full of joy, laughter, and lasting memories as students arrived dressed to impress, filling the venue with glamour and excitement.

A buffet was served and music was provided by Mr Stones, giving everyone the chance to relax and enjoy the evening together. The highlight of the night came with the much-anticipated prom awards, where students voted for their peers in fun categories. The Prom King and Queen were crowned, and the titles of Future Prime Minister and Future Major Influencer were awarded, sparking cheers and applause from all.

A photo booth from our own Mr Griffiths added extra fun to the night, capturing memories of a truly special evening.

Congratulations to all of Year 11 – you looked amazing, and you celebrated in style. We wish you all the best for the exciting journey ahead!



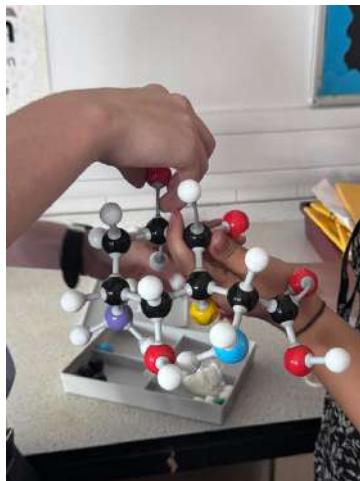
# Transition Days

Year 12 Transition Day – What a Fantastic Start!

Today we were delighted to welcome our new Year 12 students as they began their transition into Sixth Form life here at Kingsthorpe College. It's was a brilliant couple of days — students settled in so well and showed great enthusiasm throughout.

They experienced a wide range of engaging and inspiring taster lessons, including Economics, Business, Geography, Sociology, Art, and Criminology and many more. It was fantastic to see them getting involved, asking thoughtful questions, and beginning to explore their subjects in more depth.

We're so proud of how well they've embraced the transitions days.



A huge well done to all of our amazing Year 6 students who joined us for their transition day! They brought energy, enthusiasm, and a fantastic attitude—and we couldn't be prouder of how confidently they all embraced life at KC. This is just the beginning of an exciting journey!

It was a full house at the Year 6 parent information evening—a brilliant show of support and a clear sign of the strong partnerships we'll be building together.

At Kingsthorpe College, everything we do is shaped by our core values of care, respect, aspiration, and responsibility—and tonight truly reflected the strength of our community.

We are so excited for the future and can't wait to work together to help every student thrive.



## Orbis Rewards Trips

### Celebrating Success: Orbis Reward Trips – 21st–22nd July

To celebrate the incredible achievements and positive contributions of our students throughout the year, Kingsthorpe College ran a series of exciting Orbis reward trips on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July. These experiences were, designed to reward students who consistently demonstrate our school values through excellent behaviour, effort, and attitude to learning.

Over the two days, students had the opportunity to take part in a range of unforgettable activities, including:

Hunstanton Beach – A Day filled with beach games, seaside walks, ice cream, and classic fish & chips by the coast.

Meadowhall Shopping Centre – A relaxed and sociable day of retail therapy, giving students time to enjoy themselves and explore one of the region's top shopping destinations.

Box End Aqua Park – An energetic water adventure full of inflatable obstacle courses, laughter, and lots of splashing!

West Midlands Safari Park – A wild day out with up-close encounters with exotic animals, educational exhibits, and fun rides.

Paddleboarding at Cransley Reservoir – Students took to the water for a fun and challenging paddleboarding session, learning new skills, building confidence, and enjoying the outdoors.

The energy, positivity, and teamwork displayed by our students across all activities were a true credit to the college. We'd like to say a huge well done to all involved and extend our thanks to the staff who helped organise and support these fantastic days out.



## Special Recognition



Ms Mellor and Eden have qualified for Crufts 2026. Eden and the junior team won their qualifier for the YKC Flyball. Ms Mellor was in the senior team and came 2nd to also qualify for the senior competition.



### **Student Services SUPERSTAR Signs out.**

After 20 years Mrs Marriott in Student Services is hanging up her KC lanyard and starting her new role as a retirement lady that lunches.

For the past 20 years Mrs Marriott has been an integral part of the school, always being there for students and staff, going above and beyond everyday.

We would all like to thank Mrs Marriott for her dedication, professionalism, kindness, helpful can-do attitude and above all her amazing sense of humour.

So, in the words of Mrs Marriott remember to always check, check, check again!!!

We wish you all the best in your retirement and we miss you already

Love Team KC



## Dates for your Diary

### **A-Level Results Day: Thursday, 14th August from 9:00am**

- Students can collect results from the Learning Hub
- Support staff will be available throughout the day
- Results will also be available on Arbor in the afternoon

### **GCSE Results Day: Thursday, 21st August from 9:00am**

- Students can collect results from the gym
- Our pastoral and careers teams will be on hand to provide guidance and support
- Information about sixth form enrollment and next steps will be available
- Results will also be available on Arbor in the afternoon

**Wednesday 3rd September** - School reopens for Year 7/12 students only

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September** - School reopens for all years, see below for plan of morning arrival.

Year group	Arrival time/Line up	Welcome back assembly
Year 7	8:25-8:40	
Year 8	8:25-8:40	8:40am
Year 9	8:40-9:00	9:05am
Year 10	9:05-9:25	9:30am
Year 11	9:30 – 9:50	9:55am
Year 12	8:25-8:40	10:20am
Year 13	8:25-8:40	10:20am

