



JULY 2024

KINGSTHORPE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Bringing you all the achievements from 2023-2024

NEWS & FEATURES



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Headteacher's Message

This year has seen remarkable accomplishments from our students, ranging from academic excellence to sports victories. We celebrate their hard work and dedication in our end of term Newsletter.

Our students have participated in numerous educational visits, enriching their learning experiences beyond the classroom. Highlights include visits to historical sites, theatres, and universities. These trips and visits support the exceptional work our students produce, demonstrating creativity, critical thinking, and academic excellence.

Reflecting on a successful year and looking forward to future achievements, we thank you for being a part of the Kingsthorpe College community. Together, we make KC a place where students thrive and excel.

Looking forward to another fantastic year ahead!

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

CARE

Science

The Crest Awards are a brilliant initiative to engage students in scientific challenges and to promote STEM across the school. These students have completed their Bronze awards and have created amazing projects ranging from making bath bombs to concocting the perfect pink lemonade from scratch. They are excited to be completing the Silver Award next year and are looking forward to taking part in more wacky and wonderful science projects.



Mr Saghir



Along with the CREST Awards, in April we entered 49 of our Year 10 pupils into the University of Warwick National Scientific Thinking Challenge. We are really proud to announce that we had 3 Gold Awards, Daniel, Freddie and Ashton, 2 Silver Awards Zofia and Dorian and 4 Bronze Awards Jonah, Ruby, Dominik and Fitzpatrick. This is an amazing achievement for all of our pupils. A massive well done to all those who took part in the Scientific Thinking Challenge.



Mr Arthur

History

It has been a busy year in the History department!

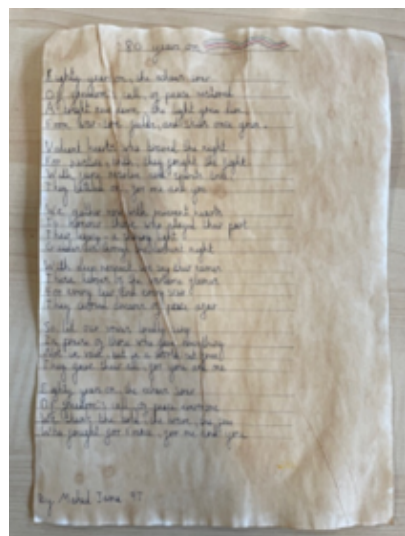
In April, the History Department took Y12 and Y13 A Level History students to the Tower of London. Students are studying the Later Tudors 1547 – 1603. The day included a self-led tour of the Tower as a historical site and then a 90 minute workshop on the Mid-Tudor crisis led by staff at the Tower. The focus was on the use of the physical evidence of the Tower itself and other evidence related to the history of the Tower to assess the extent of crisis under Edward and Mary. We had a wonderful day exploring the iconic history of the castle, including seeing the Crown Jewels, wondering through the armories collection in the White Tower, discovering the scaffold site at Tower Green, Traitor's Gate and the infamous Bloody Tower, site of the disappearance of the Princes in the Tower. The sun even shined for us! This was an excellent opportunity for students to develop their enquiry skills and bring some of the history we have been studying in the classroom to life. The students were a real credit to themselves and to KC, showing enthusiasm and curiosity. They were certainly up for the challenge of a mini scavenger hunt! Lots of fascinating history learnt and memories made. We may even have inspired a new career path for some students once they learned that the Yeoman Warders live within the castle site!



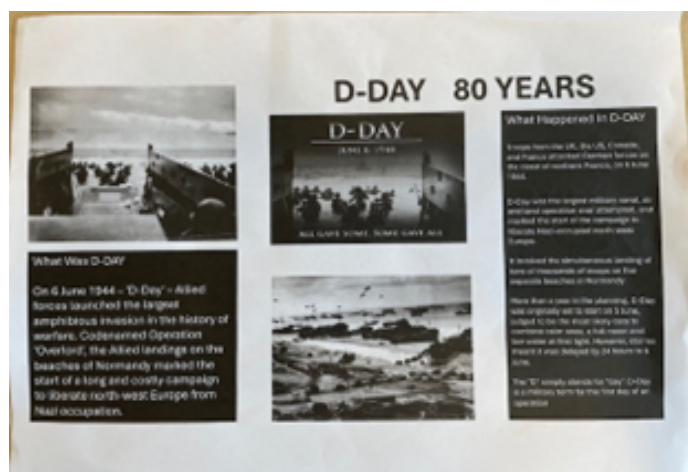
Our Year 10 GCSE History students were an absolute credit to the school when we recently took them to visit Rockingham Castle. This visit forms part of their GCSE unit "History Around Us". The students have been learning about the history and significance of Rockingham Castle in their lessons and got the chance to take a guided tour of the castle and see for themselves what it is really like. They even got the chance to try on a helmet and have a go on the piano...and as you can see Mr Mack particularly enjoyed trying on a knight's helmet in the Great Hall! After our guided tours, we had time to browse in the gift shop, and enjoy our lunch in the sunshine, within the beautiful castle grounds overlooking the Welland Valley.



We were all very proud of our Year 10 students who took part in this trip. They behaved impeccably and were able to demonstrate what they had learned when we returned back to school.



As part of the school's commemorations of the 80th anniversary of D-Day on Thursday 6th June, students have been learning about the significance of the D-Day landings and why it is so important to remember and celebrate those who took part in this episode of WW2. Students were invited to create their own artwork, poems (or anything else!) to show the significance of the anniversary of the liberation of Western Europe and to give thanks to those who served. This is a selection of that work:



The History Team.

Geography and Geology

GEOLOGY COMPETITION IN LONDON – MARCH 21ST

Six of our Year 13 students took part in the Geological Society of London's A Level Competition Final. They had to create a video about a geoscience topic, and they chose to create a video about the Pacific Ring of Fire. In the final they had to complete a decision-making exercise about the new location of a wind farm and where the turbines should be built. Our students displayed excellent teamwork and geographical knowledge and whilst they did not win they truly did Kingsthorpe College proud.



CARDING MILL VALLEY FIELDWORK 16TH AND 23RD APRIL

Students in Year 10 completed their first piece of fieldwork towards their GCSE in Geography. They travelled by coach to Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire and were tasked with collecting data about the river width, depth, velocity and gradient as well as the size and shape of the rocks in the river. The weather was variable, however the students had a brilliant time doing something they had not done before. The landscape at Carding Mill Valley is also spectacular and very different to our everyday scenery in Northampton.

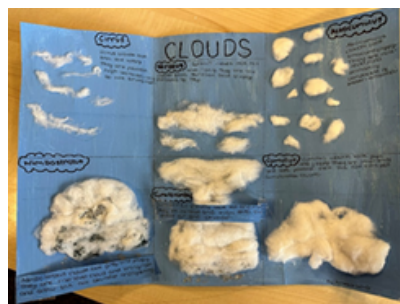
ON-SITE FIELDWORK – YEAR 7

Year 7s have become budding meteorologists, learning about the microclimate of Kingsthorpe College. We are very fortunate to have a range of fieldwork equipment including anemometers, thermometers, hygrometers and luxmeters. Students collected data around the school site to ascertain where the best place would be to build new fieldwork equipment. This piece of fieldwork was part of our 'Wicked Weather' unit where students have learnt about our weather and climate and have begun to look at a range of career links in Geography.



BEAUTIFUL CLOUD HOMEWORK – YEAR 7

Students in Year 7, as part of the 'Wicked Weather' unit, were set the challenge to create a poster about clouds. Year 7 rose to the challenge and created some beautiful work on clouds including some huge posters and even a cloud mobile. Year 7 have shown that they are very creative and we can't wait to display these on the walls in our classrooms. Well done Year 7.



Almighty Dollar Assessments – Year 7

In Year 7 students spend 6 weeks learning about the 'Almighty Dollar' a book by Dharshini David. They follow the route of a dollar around the world to discover what globalisation is and why the dollar is such an important currency. At the end of the unit students complete an assessment on the Almighty Dollar and the work they have created has been of such a high standard with students once again highlighting their creativity and their geographical ability.



Our Head of Geography, Fiona Sheriff, has received two awards for excellence. One from the Geographical Association and the other from the Royal Geographical Society. These awards are nominated by geography teachers from across the world and nominations are deliberated by a panel. These are huge accolades and to win two awards in one year is a phenomenal achievement. Congratulations Fiona!



Business and Finance

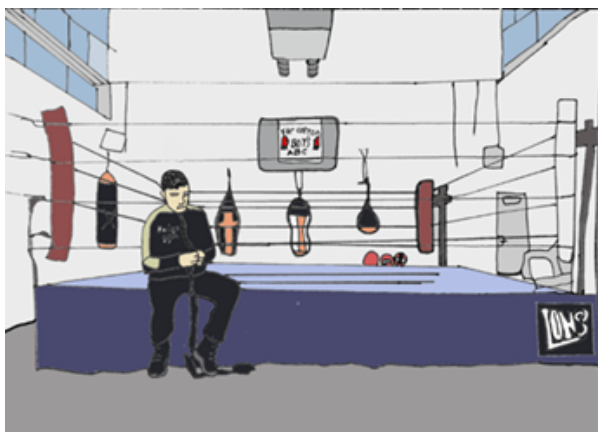


On Thursday 25th January 2024, we had the exciting opportunity to take our Year 12 Level 3 Financial Studies students to the City of London to visit the headquarters of their exam board 'The London Institute of Banking and Finance'. In the morning, we were given a guided 90 min walking tour of the financial district which helped the students learn about some of the important history of the financial district. Students heard about how insurance started in the city and developed the need for banking and financial services. They also saw Lloyds of London, the Monument, Lombard Street, the Bank of England, and The Royal Exchange.

In the afternoon, back at LIBF headquarters, the students had the opportunity to hear about the history of The London Institute of Banking and Finance, where they learnt more about the variety of further and higher undergraduate and postgraduate education courses that LIBF currently offer to students who want to pursue a career in Finance and Accounting, Business Management, Business Intelligence, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science and many more. The day finished off with a fun and interactive Kahoot! quiz all about the history of the financial district in London before we headed home for the long journey through the rush hour traffic to Kingsthorpe, Northampton.



Visual Arts



APTITUDE STUDENTS ENTER ROYAL ACADEMY COMPETITION.

In March the Visual Arts faculty Aptitude students entered the Young Artists Summer Show. This is a national competition run by the Royal Academy of Arts.

Now in its sixth year, the Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for students aged 4–19 studying in the UK.

Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts. Judges are looking for imagination, originality, and skill.

Our students created artworks on subjects such as a local boxing club, the wildlife of Ghana and friends and family. Works were created in different mediums including textiles, ceramics, and digital photo editing.

We have our fingers crossed waiting for the judges results.

Mr B Croft

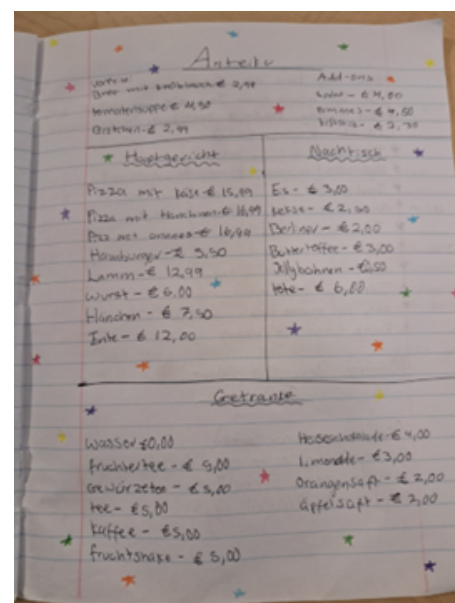
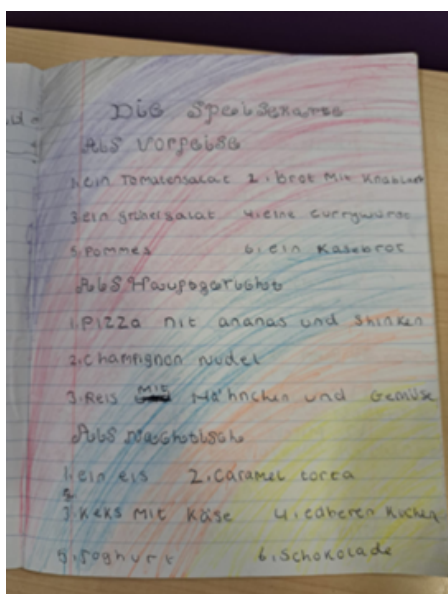


Modern Foreign Languages

The MFL team was very pleased to welcome both Mrs Barr and Mrs Ellis to the Modern Foreign Languages department at the beginning of the academic year. They were both excited to join the school and settled in very well to the KC way of life. We have also been very pleased to welcome Mrs Langlois who arrived after June half term.



As part of our normal curriculum in Key Stage 3, we asked German students in Year 9 to complete independent research alongside their normal studies and use their initiative to find out more about the culture of the language we study. We had lots of great pictures of food being baked and cooked to authentic German recipes, with some food even brought in to school for us to try! Some beautiful menus were also designed by the students. Although we embrace new technology, a variety of old school realia have been used as well, be it students dancing to songs from the 90s to learn parts of the body or dressing up a life size cardboard cut-out of Legolas to learn clothing. However outlandish it might be, if it helps students remember the words, so much the better!





Combined Cadet Force

This has been our first complete year as a Combined Cadet Force, and what a year it has been!

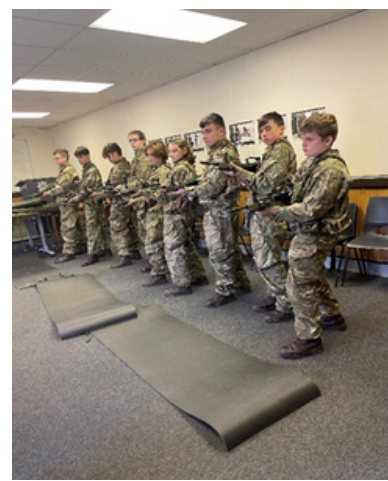
Our year 10 cadets began the year with a field craft exercise at Yardley Chase Training camp. They learnt how to cook in the field, build their own 2 man shelters and how to use camouflage and concealment in a tactical situation, finishing with learning the movements of fire and manoeuvre.

In November 29, cadets attended a weapon-handling weekend at Buckingham training camp. They learned the handling drills and safety procedures of the Cadet GP L98 weapon system. This is part of their Skill at Arms module on the Cadet syllabus; cadets were able to complete the training to a high level and successfully passed their Weapon Handling Test.

This year the cadets represented the KC CCF on remembrance parade, collaborating with other local CCF contingents and the ACF with a parade through the town followed by a service at Holy Sepulchre church. This allowed cadets to show off their drill skills and they were honoured to be able to show their respects and think of those who had given all.

Through the winter months cadets learnt first aid skills and earned their St John's Ambulance First Aid badge and completed their Communications and Information systems module.

With the annual summer camp approaching, year 10 cadets attended a Weapon Handling refresher day and retest of the Weapon Handling Test. Cadets were able to test the weapon system using a Laser shoot, where they were able to put their marksmanship principles in firing into practice for the first time, some cadets had excellent grouping scores



Year 10 Annual Summer Camp took place at Beckingham Training Camp. The aim of the camp is to consolidate all the lessons cadets have had through the year on a military training camp. The cadets spent 5 days away, developing their military skills on the L98 and Air Rifle weapon systems; they had an experience with the Paintball markers followed by Harbour lessons and how to complete this tactically. The next day cadets were on the ranges, where they had their first live firing session on the 25-metre range, they all completed excellent groupings, with one of our Cadets taking best shot of the day. This was then immediately followed by going out onto their camp exercise, completing field craft skills and scenarios, experiencing their first ambush and fire and movement. The final day, the KC cadets were able to complete a day of personal development at Kings Mill Reservoir, put into practice their excellent teamwork and leadership skills on high ropes and on the water building a raft and kayaking. The cadets arrived back at KC absolutely exhausted but very pleased with their efforts. Well done to all the cadets, a huge achievement and we are extremely proud of you all.

Year 9 cadets will be completing a summer camp, completing basic field craft and an overnight stay at Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre, followed by an adventure-training day at the Pinnacle climbing wall; this will be the first stage of field craft and sleeping out overnight for them on their journey to Summer Camp next year if successful.

We look forward to welcoming our next cohort of year 9 cadets in September, with many more exciting opportunities to follow.



Duke of Edinburgh Award



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze

30 Year 9 students embarked on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh journey this year which culminated in their Qualifying expedition in the Grendon / Wellingborough area of Northants. We had 5 groups who planned their routes, carried their belongings, cooked for themselves, slept under canvas for a night and navigated their way from Salcey Forest to Chester House over 2 days in May. Although it was extremely challenging at times for some, it was also extremely rewarding and the way they helped and supported each other through the tough times was a real credit to each and every one of them. They all now need to ensure the other 3 sections are completed to be awarded the overall Bronze Award before they embark on their Silver. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with the students this year and look forward to more enrolling in September.



Duke of Edinburgh Silver

Kingsthorpe College Silver Duke of Edinburgh students completed their Silver Qualifying Expedition in the Peak District.

They spent 3 days walking 30K along their planned route, using their navigation skills trying not to get lost! They battled the difficult terrain, carrying their carefully pack rucksacks with everything they need for their expedition.

The groups managed to cook for themselves and put their tents up for a comfortable night's sleep before the next day's walking, navigating, and avoiding cows!

The students did not let the British summer rain reduce their morale, keeping in high spirits to complete the expedition showing true determination. Well done to them all.



Duke of Edinburgh Gold

Eleanor and James picked up their Gold DofE awards from Buckingham Palace on the 10th May. They both had a lovely day in the sunshine, meeting lots of celebrities and getting their certificates. These are the first Gold awards from KC in a number of years. Please see the images attached. A fantastic achievement by both students.



Performing Arts

We have had another fantastic year in KC performing arts. I feel as though we have barely paused for breathe since September and the students continue to respond with energy, determination and enthusiasm.

On 03/03/24 2 groups of our fantastic students performed at a charity event at the Core in Corby's Cube Theatre and raised money for The Cransley Hospice Trust. Our Senior Students gave a stunning performance 'Waving through a Window' From Dear Evan Hansen Musical. Our Junior Students had a blast performing 'We Go Together' From Grease! It was such a great day and experience for the students who went up against other performances in the competition and managed to raise a brilliant £1015 for such a worthy local charity.



We kicked off the year with auditions for Annie, attended by over 100 students. After assembling a committed and talented cast, they worked exceptionally hard until December, performing 3 shows receiving incredible reviews and standing ovations.

The year 12 and 23 drama students have completed their C3 performances. All of the teachers, parents and students that watched the work were blown away by the quality, professionalism and talent on show.



Year 13 dancers went to London's Excel to the world famous Move It event. Year 12 and 13 actors saw Frantic Assembly's Metamorphosis at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre. We have been regular visitors at the Derngate Theatre where KS4 actors were frightened witless by 2:22 Ghost Story, aptitude students enjoyed every moment of Shrek the musical and year 7 raced to see Grease.

As always performance opportunities have been plentiful with a full house for the annual dance showcase in March and KS3 drama club creating their own piece entitled 'the Chelton Challenge' in May. The musicians had their own concert evening, as did our aptitude students. Both groups also worked with professional musician Thom Kirkpatrick who showcased his use of the loop pedal, voice and many instruments. Our elite dance company performed an emotive piece at NSB's Junction show, as well as an audition entry into Ndance where they were short-listed for the national competition Udance. At time of writing, year 9 dancers who are doing Arts award bronze are preparing for the NMPAT festival at the Derngate. They will also share their work with students from All Saints primary school.

Our collaboration with the RSC continues to grow which is very exciting. We have taken another group on a tour, have enjoyed teacher CPD and watched a Midsummer Night's Dream. The year culminates in the Play-Making Festival at the Swan Theatre in Stratford where 7 of our students will perform in Hamlet (with one of our year 10s taking the lead role)!

The year has culminated in an incredible experience for 7 of our most talented actors: the RSC Play-Making Festival. On Monday 8th July we spent 2 days in Stratford-upon-Avon at the RSC rehearsing Hamlet, with our year 10 Danny landing the lead role. We joined schools from across the country and performed on the Swan stage! The RSC looked after us so well: travel, food and accommodation, and the students were exemplary in all ways: rehearsing, behaviour and performance. An awesome 2 days getting to live the life of a professional RSC actor. Unforgettable!



Classwork continues to inspire and motivate students. they use this as a spring board for all our extra-curricular opportunities. New staff have jumped on board creating new chances for students including keyboard club, orchestra and African drumming club. The team is changing but I am very excited by the appointments we have made and know that in September we will rebuild, maintain our high standards and continue to respond to our students' passion and drive for the performing arts.

E.A.L Culinary Delights

Each year our EAL students celebrate their achievements and hard work, prior to the start of their GCSE exams. The students create personalised invitations, with the best three being selected to be sent to the Headteacher, their favorite teacher and a peer. The students then showcase culinary delights from their home countries. This year we had food from Spain, Somalia, India and Nigeria. It was a brilliant event where we could all celebrate our diversity.

Ms Pitt and Miss Brown



P.E

The Athletics teams have had a busy few months. The year 8,9 and 10 teams travelled to Corby Athletics stadium to compete in the County Championships. A special mention to Tori, who made it through to the regional finals in the triple jump! Our Students did really well and were very competitive. All the Students who took part were a credit to the school and represented the school in a very positive light.

The Year 7 team entered the County Championships and performed extremely well with the relay team winning their race and Alexis winning the 100m with a fantastic time of 12.65 seconds. A special mention also to Jess, Nikola J and Nikola P who were part of the winning relay team. This was alongside Alexis, Amy and Davemartin also qualifying for the minor counties competition. Well done to all involved.



Revision weekend

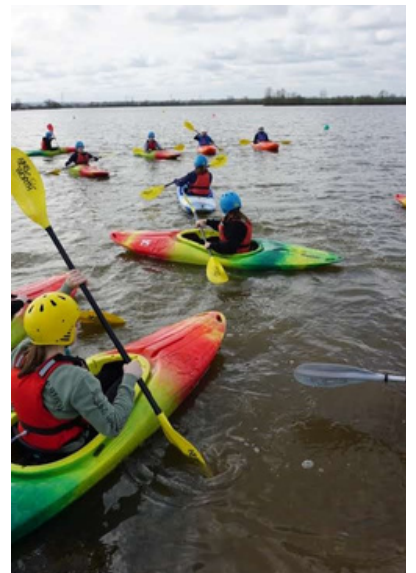
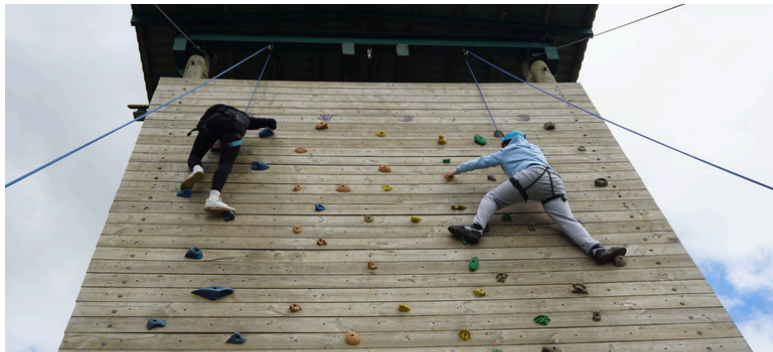
Back in March, 100 of our year 11 students took part in a revision weekend. Joined by students from Southfields School for Girls and Moulton School, we travelled to Whitemoor Lakes in Litchfield and had a brilliant time.

The weekend was a packed schedule of revision sessions, these were scheduled in the morning, afternoon and evening each day and led by teachers from all of the schools. There were also activities on offer between the sessions such as zip lining, climbing, raft building and kayaking. These activities were a good break the hard work of the revision sessions, they were also great at encouraging teamwork, as demonstrated when the year 11 boys managed to work together and capsize Mrs Clifford!

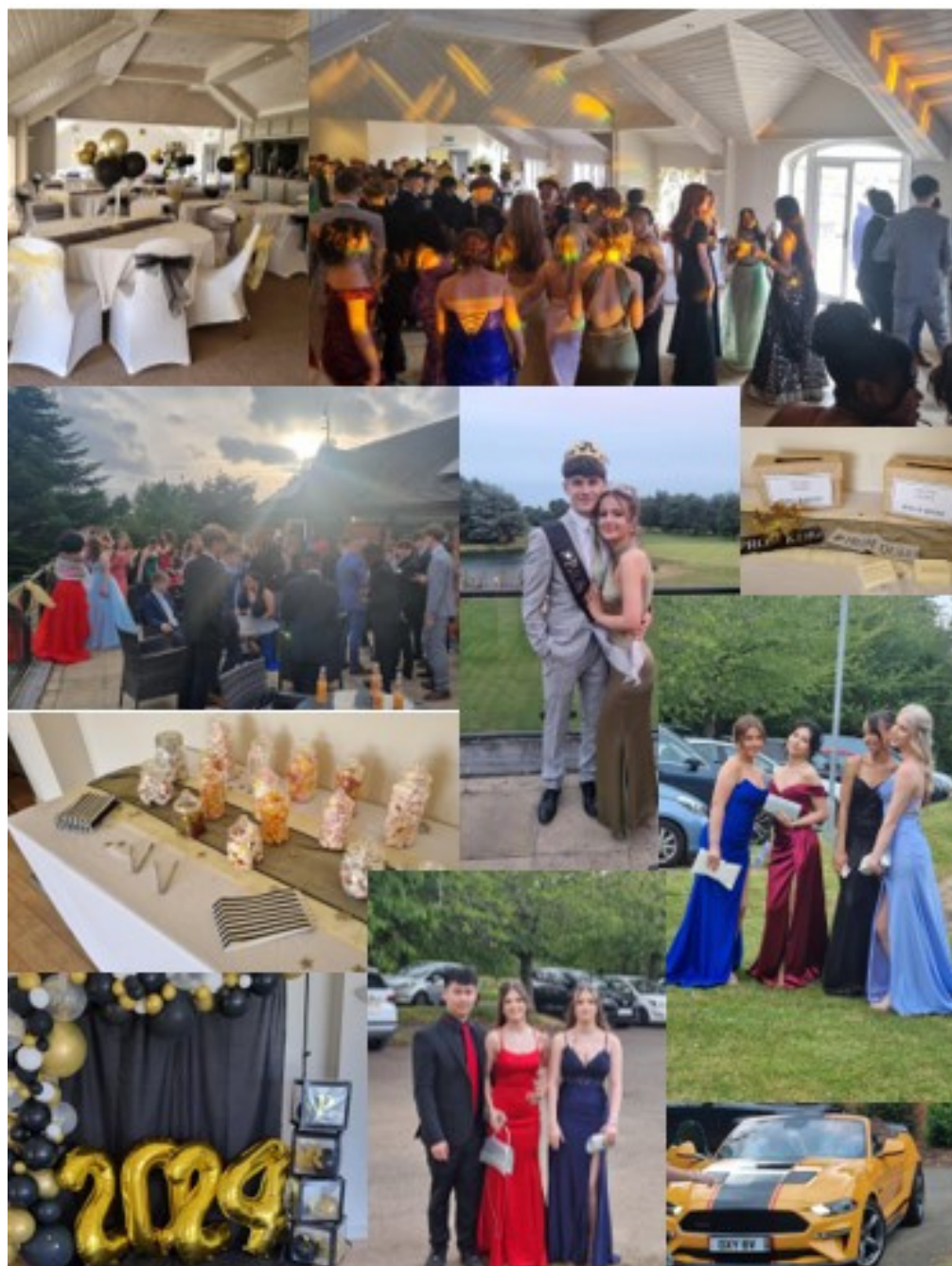
After the evening revision session, there was no time for rest. As the evenings were filled with pool, quizzes, games and just dance sessions. Just dance being a favourite of staff and student alike!

It was a fantastic weekend, that would not have been possible without all of the staff that gave up their weekend to run sessions, take part in activities and be there to offer support the students. However, it is Mr Meadway that deserves a special mention for his hard work, and no doubt sleepless nights, organising the weekend. Thank you Mr Meadway!

This is definitely something the class of 2024 will remember for a long time!



Year 11 Prom



We had an amazing send off for our wonderful Year 11s at Brampton Heath golf club. It was a fantastic evening enjoyed by both staff and students. It was the perfect send off after all the hard work that they put into exams. Well done Year 11 and the prom king and prom queen, Thomas and Sofia.

Mr Smith & Mrs Clifford

Head Students

The Post 16 Student Leadership team will work with students in years 7-12 and staff to address areas that they believe will enhance our school community even further. They have all selected an area of focus as well as continuing to organise events and fundraise for our chosen charities of: Reform Northants and Macmillan.



Head Boy

Luke's manifesto is to enhance to the school's enrichment programme.



Head Girl

Lola wants to build on the work we do to support mental health.



Deputy Head Girl

Esereme wants to focus on student mentoring.



Deputy Head Boy

Reuben wants to support well-being and anti-bullying.



Assistant Head Girl

Samiya wants to focus on equality, diversity and inclusion.



Assistant Head Boy

Krish wants to focus on how to improve the environment at KC.

Save the Date

Wednesday 4th September: Year 7 & 12 Return to school.

Thursday 5th September: All Years Return to school.

Monday 16th September: School Photo Day.

Wednesday 18th September: Meet the Tutor Evening
Year 7 & 12 - 4:30-6:30PM.

Thursday 19th September: Awards Ceremony Evening
7:00-9:00PM.

Thursday 10th October: Careers Fair.



Keeping In Touch

BY TEAM KC



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