



APRIL 2025

KINGSTHORPE COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

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Headteacher's Message

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As we reach the end of term, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support throughout these busy weeks. Your partnership with our school community has been invaluable in ensuring our students' success and wellbeing.

This newsletter celebrates the remarkable achievements and activities our students have participated in this term. Within these pages, you'll discover the wonderful ways our young people have grown, learned, and excelled across academic subjects, sports and the arts.

I hope you enjoy reading about all the amazing things our students have accomplished. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and determination continue to inspire us all.

On behalf of all the staff, I wish you and your families a very Happy Easter and a peaceful, restful break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed for the summer term Tuesday 22nd April normal time.

Combined Cadet Force



Yr 10 CCF cadets began this term with their Skill at Arms weapon training, they attended an intensive 2 day training at Gibraltar Barracks and all cadets completed the training and Weapon Handling tests and are now competently ready to take part in the next stages of the ranges.

All cadets took part in a very competitive evening of Tag Archery, Cadets thoroughly enjoyed learning how to use the bow and arrows and the competition of knocking down each other's targets to be the winning team!



Duke of Edinburgh

Our Silver DofE students took part in a full training day where they learnt skills in preparation for their upcoming expedition, including navigation skills, Trangia training and what their team menus and goals will be. They are very much looking forward to their first expedition on 9 – 10th May in the Peak District.

Bronze DofE completed their practice walk around Grendon, they were finally able to put into practice their navigational skills using their maps and compass to complete a route.

Our Gold students continued with the water safety and rescue skills at Montsaye Pool in readiness to take part in their first paddle days in April.

Next term the expedition's will begin and we are very much looking forward to seeing all the hard work students have put in during training being used and embracing the DofE experience.



Electives

Girls Stem

There is a dearth of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) jobs in the UK. This is for a variety of reasons, but, as a country, we are missing out on a wealth of talent in this area.

The Girls' STEM Elective aims to encourage girls to explore what's out there in the exciting STEM world and consider a future career in a STEM-related field.

We do this through activities – programming a micro:bit computer, building newspaper towers, running a production line making paper aeroplanes – and through researching STEM jobs and role models – online and through a Q&A with women already working in the field.

It has been great to see our pupils' eyes opened to a whole realm of career possibilities that they hadn't previously considered, whilst having fun with the activities.

Electives

Natural History

This was a project on Volcanoes. Students researched the different types of volcanoes, active, dormant or extinct. They found out about the structure of a volcano, how volcanoes form and types of eruption.

They then created their own erupting volcano using different materials and used different chemical reactions to make an eruption.



Electives

Animal Science

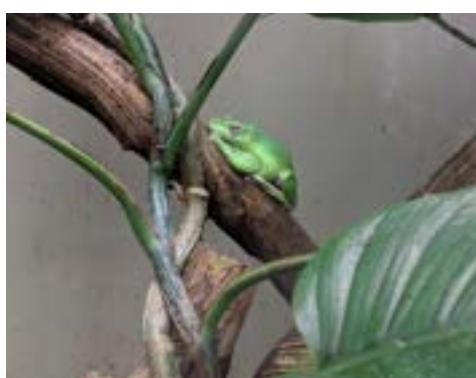
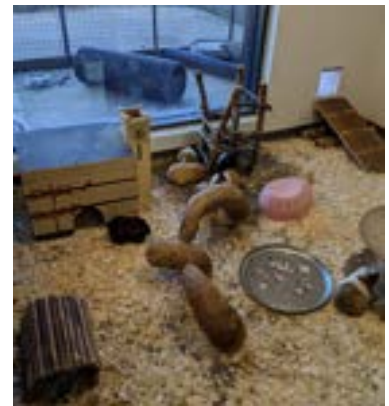
In the animal science elective students get to study the following:

- Conduct research about a range of animals from marmosets to bull frogs and lemurs.
- Learn about habitat and enclosure design from experts at Shuttleworth Zoological Centre.
- Design and build an enrichment activity for the animal of their choice.
- Visit the Zoological Centre to try out their enrichment activity with the target animal as well as handling and feeding other animals such as the binturong and capybara.

Wednesday 19th and 26th March our animal science elective group visited Shuttleworth College. We had a fantastic time looking around the zoological centre and met a large range of animals from marmosets to leaf cutting ants, alligators to axolotls, and some very noisy parakeets!

We learnt from Jody, one of the keepers, about the behaviours and natural habitats for these animals, feeling it for ourselves in the biome which is warm and humid like a jungle. We then met Rum, the binturong, and the students could stroke him and he played among us as we watched him being hand fed by Jody.

After lunch the students had a chance to try out their elective pieces with their chosen animals, which included capybara, binturong, iguana, rats and snakes. The students had an opportunity to hold a corn snake and guinea pigs before it was time for us to leave.



My Match Report - U16's Girls

Semi Final



Team 1:	Magdalen College	Team 2:	Kingsthorpe College
Venue & Date:	Magdalen College – 26/3/2025		
Match details:	<p>The County Cup Semi-final this time round having beaten Moulton in the quarter final. Brackley & Magdalen college were the hosting team having beat CCS in their quarter final.</p> <p>The game started and we were visibly on the front foot, with a couple of half chances being saved by their goalkeeper. We found the breakthrough at around the 15-minute mark, with some good work down the left by Gracie, finding a finish into the far corner.</p> <p>Gracie was on the scoresheet again with some strong centre forward play, shrugging off some challenges on her way to making it 2-0. The third goal followed quickly after again some good work by Gracie, the ball ricocheted into the path of Jess T who confidently finished the move. Going into HT we were clearly the dominant side, and the score reflected that.</p> <p>Coming out for the second half, Magdalen were set up more attacking and as a result scored a quick goal. No heads were dropped, and KC went onto score the fourth goal very quickly, courtesy of some good play and finish by Esme. Magdalen scored their second to make it 4-2, however having picked up a free kick on the left side, Gracie hit a pearler of a shot into the top right-hand corner to complete her hat trick and to make it 5-2.</p> <p>Some strong midfield play by Sarah resulted in her making space for herself to have a shot, only for it to find the top right hand corner, finding the corners of the goal seemed to be a common theme during this game!</p> <p>From front to back, the girls were outstanding throughout, the defence was solid, the midfield controlled the game, and the front line took their chances clinically. A really good all-round performance that we can hopefully emulate in the final!</p>		
Player of the Match:	Everyone! Outstanding team performance!		
Final Score:	Magdalen College 2 - 6 Kingsthorpe College		
Report written by:	Mr Kingsnorth	Year Group	10/11

P.E

Girls Under 16 Football Team

Congratulations to the Kingsthorpe College Under 16 Girls football team!

On Wednesday 2nd April Kingsthorpe College under 16's girls football team played with steely grit and determination to beat Northampton School for Girls 4-1 in the County Cup Final.

It was an emphatic win and fully deserved, every member of the team played with passion, great skill and displayed outstanding teamwork.

Thank you to team coach Mr Kingsnorth for the coaching and guidance through this season.



MFL

International Francophile Day

On Thursday 20th March, Mrs Barr gave her Year 8 French class the challenge to create the Eiffel Tower out of dried spaghetti and marshmallows, to celebrate International Francophile Day.

All students rose to the challenge and were able to create their structures, despite battling with melting, sticky marshmallows! Together, the students came up with French adjectives to describe the structure. We talked about where the Eiffel Tower is and when it was built.

Hopefully the students were inspired to visit the actual Eiffel Tower themselves one day, where they can ask for entry tickets in French too! Bon effort, 8fFr5!



Sociology

Trip to Shrewsbury Prison

Year 11 Sociology students attended a trip Shrewsbury Prison and received a tour around the facilities as part of their Crime and Deviance module on custodial sentencing at GCSE.

Students explored the different facilities and were able to compare the different cells across different time periods up to modern-day.

Students were also taught about the aims of the prison and were able to identify and discuss the limitations of the UK prison system as required for their GCSE's.



Enrichment

Law Club Trip - Mock Court Trial

Congratulations to the 'law club' team who took part in the Mock Court Trial Competition at Milton Keynes Magistrate's Court last Saturday 15th March.

The team comprising of twelve year 8 and 9 students were very nervous as they went into court, to either stand for the prosecution or defence against other school teams. It can be overwhelming to stand up in a courtroom full of people with all eyes on you but every one of the team should be proud of their achievement.

Prosecution Team:

Hibah
Obah
Travis
Maryam
Makayla
Eleanor
Kaylee

Defence Team:

Alannah
Domenica
Rose
Elizabeth
Selena

Magistrates:

Eleanor
Kaylee

We are trying to recruit more students to take part, if interested, please speak with Mrs Spencer or Miss Rosen.



Health and Social Care

Well done to our Year 10 Health and Social Care students who have completed their presentations to an audience as part of their course - They had to present on either Children's dental health or heart disease or strokes to educate, inform and raise awareness.

Take a look at some of the amazing work created by our students to go alongside their presentations.

What an achievement!



Community

On Friday 7th March, two of our students represented KC in an Iftar (the evening meal that marks the end of daily fasting in Ramadan) reading a beautiful poem. The theme of the event was Voices in Unity. The event was attended by High Sheriff of Northamptonshire as well as lots of our community.

Well done we are so proud of you.



Performing Arts

Great Big Dance Off

Ascend Elite Team and Ascend Junior Team, handpicked as part of an elite dance team, embarked on an incredible journey, training relentlessly since September with unwavering dedication and commitment. Their tireless rehearsals, fueled by passion and perseverance, have not only honed their skills but have also forged unbreakable bonds of friendship. Their hard work culminated in a standout performance at The Big Dance Off in Nottingham, where they showcased their talent and artistry in front of schools from across the region. This event was more than just a competition; it was a pivotal moment for the dancers, boosting their confidence and affirming their growth. The experience was a testament to their dedication and a preview of the many exciting opportunities awaiting them in the future. A day filled with energy, camaraderie, and the thrill of dance, it marked a significant milestone in their journey, one that promises even greater accomplishments ahead.



Performing Arts

Dance Showcase

Incredible Dance Show: A Celebration of Talent and Unity

The recent Dance Show was nothing short of spectacular, showcasing the immense talent of performers from Year 7 to Year 11.

Each performance was filled with energy, creativity, and passion, leaving the audience captivated from start to finish. The students demonstrated incredible skill, whether through contemporary, hip-hop, or classical routines, all bringing their unique styles to the stage.

As a special treat, the show was graced by the amazing Billy Lockett, who performed his heartfelt song "I Could Use a Friend." His powerful vocals added an emotional depth to the evening, making it an unforgettable experience for everyone in attendance.

The incredible collaboration between the students and Billy Lockett highlighted the unity of music and dance, making this event a true celebration of artistic expression and community spirit.



Performing Arts

Music Concert

On the 25th March, KC hosted a Music showcase.

The event brought together talented students from across year groups, who performed a variety of musical pieces ranging from classical piano solos to energetic band performances.

The showcase highlighted the dedication and creativity of our young musicians, all of whom have been rehearsing for weeks in preparation. A special thank you goes to the students who bravely took the stage and shared their talents with everyone.

We look forward to more opportunities to celebrate our students' musical achievements in the future.

A huge well done to everyone who was involved, you were all outstanding and such a credit to our school.



Performing Arts

Music - Song Writing Workshop

We were thrilled to welcome singer-songwriter Lucien Moon in March to our school for an inspiring songwriting workshop.

Lucien shared top tips and guided our students through the art of crafting their own songs. During the session, students explored melody writing, lyric development, and the emotional storytelling that makes music so powerful.

Lucien's encouragement and insight sparked creativity, resulting in some truly impressive original pieces which motivated students to perform their songs in front of their peers.

It was an unforgettable experience that left our young musicians feeling empowered and excited to keep writing.



Performing Arts

Drama - Silhouette RSC

Our collaboration with Silhouette Theatre and the RSC continues to go from strength to strength.

We are working on a blended piece entitled 'Oh what fools these mortals be' which will be performed at the beautiful Royal Theatre on June 16th. 11 of our best KC actors are on stage. We have a few more collaborative rehearsals before the big day.



Performing Arts

N.T Connections

We have been lucky enough to be chosen as a National Theatre school again this year for the third year running. This means we take part in National Theatre Connections and this year perform a piece called Saba's Swim. This explores the pressures on year 11 when a girl disappears during her mocks, only to reappear on prom night, leaving clues for her friends. This talented cast have worked incredibly hard and have already had the home performance to a Director from London.



Performing Arts

Junction and Unite Dance Shows

Ascend Dance Company & Aptitude Students Shine at County Dance Showcases
Students from Ascend Dance Company and Aptitude recently represented our school at two exciting county-wide dance showcases.
Our talented dancers took the stage alongside students from other schools in the region at Junction and Unite, two incredible performances that celebrated creativity, collaboration, and a passion for dance. These events provided a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase their hard work, skill, and dedication while connecting with the wider dance community.
We are incredibly proud of our performers and their amazing achievements on stage!



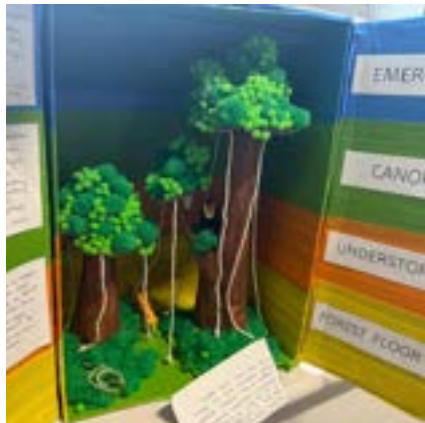
Humanities

Geography

This term Year 8 students have been studying Brazil; where people live, deforestation and threats to the rainforest, life in favelas and Curitiba - a sustainable city.

For homework, students were asked to make a 3D Tropical Rainforest showing the four different layers and what flora and fauna could be found at each layer. Many students love to show their creativity and Geography teachers were rewarded with lots of fantastic examples of the Tropical Rainforest Biome.

Well done Year 8.



Year 7 are learning about the weather including the different air masses that cause the UK to have such unique weather. There is a reason why we talk about the weather so much!

For their homework, 7f/Gg1 were asked to produce a poster about the different types of cloud. Here is a selection of some of their fantastic work.



PSHE

County Schools Challenge

Well done to all of our Year 9 students that took part in the County Schools challenge Friday 7th March.

The County Schools Challenge is a partnership project run across secondary schools in Northamptonshire.

Each year, it helps thousands of pupils learn about important social issues while teaching them invaluable skills, this year the theme was stopping vaping.

Year 9, as always, were amazing! We saw some incredible products and all students presented their ideas with real passion and confidence. Well done to all and an especially big well done to the winners. The winners will continue on to the semi finals later in this year at the Police HQ.



Careers

Year 12 University & Apprenticeship Trip

Year 12 attended a trip to University of Northampton where they attended sessions on applying for UCAS, advice on finance and tours around the campus. Students left feeling more comfortable and prepared for next steps.

Year 12 students also attended the Leicester Apprenticeship show where they had opportunity to gain insight on next steps. At the show students spoke to a variety of Universities, Apprenticeship opportunities and careers. Students left engaged and excited for their future.

Careers/STEM

Aston Martin Trip

A group of Year 12 girls recently went on an inspiring trip to Aston Martin, where they had the opportunity to hear motivational talks from Women in Leadership. The event focused on empowering young women by showcasing successful leaders in various fields. The talks provided valuable insights into overcoming challenges, embracing ambition, and pursuing careers in leadership. The visit to Aston Martin also allowed the students to explore the company's innovation and commitment to excellence, leaving them feeling inspired and motivated for their own futures.

Following Year 12, a group of Year 9 students also attended an engaging trip to MK College hosted by Aston Martin and Valvoline, where they participated in fireside chats with industry professionals. The event allowed students to listen to insightful discussions on topics such as innovation, leadership, and career development. During these chats, students had the chance to ask questions and interact with the speakers, gaining valuable advice and perspectives. The collaboration with Aston Martin and Valvoline provided students with a unique opportunity to learn from experts in the automotive and business sectors, sparking their curiosity and inspiring them to think about their future careers.



Year 11 Intervention

Pet-Xi



At the start of this term, many of our year 11 students experienced a Maths revision day with an external company, Pet-Xi. The topics of focus were chosen by their teachers following the November mocks to support in closing the gaps. Students really enjoyed the sessions which were taught differently to 'normal' lessons, with a ratio of 1 adult to every 6 students. We were really proud of our students and how well they engaged in these sessions. [Miss Gilligan]

"The day of maths revision provided to us by Pet Xi was amazing, we got to develop the skills we had on different topics and learn how to manage any topics that we struggled with, all while having the help of a team of teachers who made the learning we did a fun and relaxed experience. We also got to see our own progress by taking a short test at both the start and end of the day. This test was on the topics we covered in the lessons, and it was very rewarding to see that we had improved, as most of us got 100% at the end of the day. The day with Pet Xi offered a different way of revision that was far more interactive and interesting than the normal revision done at home by students." [Danny, year 11]

"A couple of weeks ago I spent a day with the group Pet-Xi, learning maths all day. From the beginning we were welcomed and encouraged to have fun while learning. All three of the teachers were fun, helpful, and supportive about getting things wrong, but also being rewarded for getting questions right. Pet-Xi has made me more confident in the topics we covered, and I now feel like I can easily do the topics, securing guaranteed marks in my upcoming exams, putting my mind more at ease. I have always struggled with maths and not enjoyed this subject, but their lessons helped me gain my confidence and enjoy learning maths." [Freya, year 11]

Here is what our students thought:

"I found this course very informational and immersive; it helped a lot with the subject I was originally unsure of"

"I learnt more than I thought I would in this PET-Xi course. It was fun and educational, keeping me engaged"

"Love, love, love, so fun, good atmosphere would do again"

"I enjoyed the learning as the expert and support explained the work well. The lead provided a good morale and make the course enjoyable"

"It was a great experience, I understood what I was taught, and I feel confident answering questions"

"My experience on this course has really helped me and I gained more confidence on answering questions on my own."

"The course has definitely increased my experience, and with the knowledge I got given, I could pass the math's GCSE."

"I liked this course as I think they explained well, and I feel as though I've made progress."

"Very good experience learnt a lot, thank you all very much it will help my target grade"



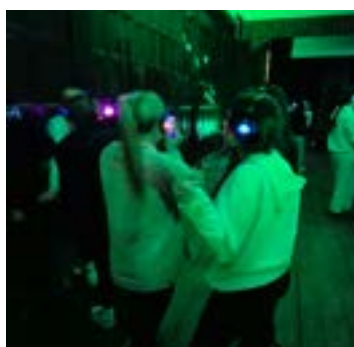
Year 11 Intervention

Revision Weekend

Kayaking, raft building, climbing, abseiling, archery tag shooting, lazer dodging, tunneling, buggy building, ziplining and of course revising for GCSE's: I'm not sure there was anything we didn't do on the Year 11 Revision Weekend. The students' resilience and bravery shone through as they over came fears attempting and even mastering activities for the first time. Watching this amazing group of young people achieve things they never thought they could with their peers cheering them was so heart warming. Watching our soaking wet students waddling back together in hysterics from a raft building session, after deciding to take a mid-spring swim will forever make me laugh. Condoover Hall was the perfect location for the students to push themselves out of their comfort zones in the plethora of activities available.

Then there were the revision sessions; the Sports Hall was buzzing with students racing to complete maths challenges, other sessions had students showing off their ability to confidently select and analyse quotes through completing "quotation explosions". Many students came to me looking so excited and relieved as they reported that the Science sessions made some concepts finally click and stick in their brains.

The weekend was a great balance of perfecting skills for the exams and pushing themselves to go beyond their limits through activities. Although we left the weekend exhausted, our minds were filled with wonderful memories that we hope the students will remember for ever, because as their teachers we for sure will. What a fun and amazing group of young people to spend the weekend with, their conduct was exceptional and I know for sure I'm going to truly miss them when they leave. [Mrs Williams, Head of Year 11]



Inclusion Update

Date for your diary:

Showcase Evening for Parents:

We will host a showcase evening for parents of children accessing SEND provision on Monday, April 28th, from 3:30pm to 4:15pm. We encourage all parents to attend and learn more about the support available.

SEND Parent Feedback March 2025

You said...We did...

You said...Who do I contact with a SEN query?

We said...Contact Miss Konadu - Aboagye SENDCO.

To foster open communication, there will be SENDCO drop-in calls every Monday, which can be booked in advance via email. Parents are invited to book a 15-minute slot for SENCO drop-in phone calls or Teams meetings every Monday from 12:30pm to 3:00pm. To schedule a session, please send an email to Mrs. Wood at clare.wood@kingsthorpecollege.co.uk.

You said... Where do I find a copy of the graduated approach?

We said... The graduated approach is a structured, four-stage system (Assess, Plan, Do, Review) used by schools to identify and support children with SEN, ensuring appropriate interventions are implemented and progress is regularly monitored.

You can find a copy of the KC graduated approach on our school website - Key Information Tab - SEND drop down.

You said... How can I support my child further?

We said... We will regularly share parent and student workshops hosted by key local professionals from our Orbis Trust SEND Partnership. Please Look out for the opportunities this term and the plans for next year.

Dates For Your Diary

Kingsthorpe College Parent Drop In's

Need to speak to a member of staff about your child?
Want to give some feedback or ask for ways to get
some support for your child?

The senior leaders of the school would like to make
you aware that we are offering parent drop in
sessions each month, no need to book - just turn up
on the following dates and we will be here with a cup
of tea and a listening ear.

2.30-4pm Thursday 8th May 2025

8.30- 9.30am Thursday 5th June 2025

2.30-4pm Thursday 3rd July 2025



Alumni

We need you!

If you're interested in supporting the next
generation by sharing your career journey
after KC, please email Rebecca Griffin at:
becky.griffin@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk



Share your journey to inspire the
next generation of students.



Careers Fair '25

**We have scheduled our next
Careers Fair on 4th July 2025 from
8:40am - 3:15pm**

we invite your business to join us:

Networking opportunities for your business

Enhance company reputation among students, parents and
carers

Engage with many potential future candidates

Inspire the next generation

GET IN TOUCH

01604 716106

Contact Mrs Griffin on

Becky.Griffin@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk