Kingsbury School

Spring term, Issue 2
March 2026

NEWSLETTER

ENTHUSE I ASPIRE I ACHIEVE



A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we approach the end of another busy and successful spring term, I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Easter and a safe, restful holiday.

This term has been filled with remarkable achievements and activities that truly showcase the talent, dedication and spirit of our school community. From our enthusiastic World Book Day celebrations to the impressive mock trial debate in Year 10, and from Jake Whitehead's outstanding performance at the Winmau Junior World Masters to Lewis Jobbins' player of the match award, our students continue to make us incredibly proud. The launch of our Digital Creativity Programme for Year 7 and the success of our Me Time sessions demonstrate our commitment to providing enriching opportunities that develop skills and spark future interests.

None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff and students. I am immensely proud of the commitment shown by everyone in our school community, and I want to thank you all for your continued support.

At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to Miss McDonnell and Mrs Belsey, who are leaving us for new ventures. I would like to thank them both for their hard work, dedication and the positive impact they have made on our students and school community. We wish them every success in their new roles.

I am pleased to acknowledge the small but significant improvements our students have made in raising our school attendance, which currently sits at 90.55%. Good attendance is directly linked to great achievement, and whilst we are pleased to be above 90%, we recognise that we are still below the national average. We all need to work together—students, parents, carers and staff—to continue improving this vital area. Every day in school matters, and together we can ensure our students have the best possible chance to achieve their full potential.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back after the Easter break.

M Clarke, Headteacher

Coming soon:

Year 10 Parent/Carer and subject teacher evening
Thursday 16th April

PE CLUB
Wednesday 22nd April 3pm - 4pm
Athletics, all pupils welcome.

Thursday 23rd April 3pm - 4pm
Rounders all pupils welcome
Please contact Mrs Foster to sign up.
Raynor.foster@castlephoenixtrust.org.uk

Year 10 SEND Coffee Afternoon
Thursday 23rd April

Year 9 Parent/Carer and subject teacher evening
Thursday 7th May

Year 9 SEND Coffee Afternoon
Thursday 14th May

Year 9 curriculum/ options evening
Thursday 21st May

Key dates for your diary

DATE	EVENT/ACTIVITY
Thursday 16th April 2026 (4:00-7:00pm)	Year 10 Parent/Carer and Subject Teacher Evening
Thursday 23rd April 2026	Year 10 SEND Coffee Afternoon
Thursday 7th May 2026 (4:00-7:00pm)	Year 9 Parent/Carer and Subject Teacher Evening
Thursday 14th May 2026	Year 9 SEND Coffee Afternoon
Thursday 21st May 2026 (5:00-6:30pm)	Year 9 Curriculum/Options Evening
Week beginning 16th June 2026	Year 10 Trial Examinations
Tuesday 16th June 2026 (9:00-10:00am)	Open Morning for current parents/carers
Week beginning 29th June 2026	Year 7-9 End of Year Examinations
Tuesday 7th July 2026 (5:30-6:30pm)	Year 6 Intake Evening (parents/carers)
Wednesday 8th July 2026	Year 6 Induction Day (Year 6 Students)
Thursday 9th July 2026 (6:00-7:00pm)	Special Awards Evening
Week beginning 13th July 2026	Year 10 Work Experience Week

WORLD BOOK DAY

Our staff had a great time dressing up for world book day. There was a huge buzz around the school and students loved getting involved in all activities and guessing our staffs costumes!
World book day highlights the importance of reading and aims to make books accessible to everyone, we celebrate the joy that books bring and hope to inspire all our students to discover the delight books bring.





DEBATE TIME

As part of their Rights and Responsibilities unit, Year 10 took part in a class mock trial, where they debated a fictional drink drive case. Judge Alex Lucas kept the court under control while defence and prosecution lawyers Will Kenna and Callum Brooks presented their cases in a professional manner. The jury listened tremendously and after analysing the evidence, came to a NOT GUILTY verdict against the persecutor. **Well done Year 10!**





SCIENCE

Year 7 have been testing the pH of different substances and used their new skills to make some salts from neutralisation reactions!





LINES OF COMMUNICATION

We aim to reply to parents **within 48 hours**

If you do not receive a reply within this timeframe, please escalate to the Headteachers PA, Miss Biddle at

felicity.biddle@castlephoenixtrust.co.uk

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Head of Upper School (Years 9/10/11)
Please contact year groups Pastoral Lead

Head of Lower School (Years 7/8)
Ms L Franks

Attendance Officer
Mrs D Smith

Inclusion / SENDco
Mrs K Moores

Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs H Hurley

FACULTY LEADERS

English
Mrs R McKeown

Maths
Mr D Patrick

Humanities
Miss K Taylor

Science
Mr J Crane

Performing Arts & Sport
Mrs R Carey

Art and Design
Mrs C Plenty

French
Miss K Davie

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Headteacher
Mr M Clarke

Deputy Headteacher
Mrs M Carrick

Assistant Headteacher
Mr C Collis

Assistant Headteacher
Mrs H Hurley

Assistant Headteacher
Mrs L Newman

LINES OF COMMUNICATION

Year 11

Head of year
Mrs V Bancroft

Year 10

Head of year
Mrs M Beirne
Mrs B Dagnall

Year 9

Head of lower school
Ms L Franks

Head of year
Mrs E Job

Year 8

Head of lower school
Ms L Franks

Head of year
Miss L Wilson

Year 7

Head of lower school
Ms L Franks

Head of year
Ms G Marsh

We like to celebrate the achievements of our students! If you have any news of outside of school achievements, please let us know so that we can celebrate via our website and newsletter.

Please send any news items/photographs to admin4111@kingsburyschool.Info



CARE AND GUIDANCE

Key messages:

- If your child requires a toilet pass, please provide medical evidence so that we can issue one.
- Please ensure equipment is brought to school every day.
- Tutor time begins at 8:35a.m, please ensure your child is in school by 8:30 a.m so that they will be on time.
- If you require any additional parental support, please contact the pastoral team, who will be happy to help.
- Mobile Phones: In the interests of courtesy and our children's safety, we politely request that mobile phones are only used in designated 'phone zones'.

Have we got your up-to-date contact details?

Please can you ensure that we have two contact numbers for your child.

Please contact the school office to provide us with new details.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Head Students
Kaitlyn Irvine
Katie Kitley

Deputy Head Students
Katie Blackwell Joiner
Kacey Cooke
Peyton Newberry

Assistant Head Students
Hollie Oomer
Millie Shorrock
Courtney Freestone Deeming
Summer Williams
Morgan Carlin

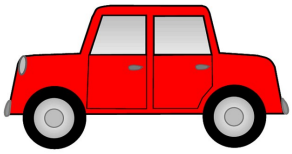
SCHOOL SITE

Parents/carers are respectfully reminded to avoid driving onto the school site at the following times (unless by prior arrangement with the school) :

- **Morning:** 8:00-8:35
- **Afternoon:** 2:45-3:15

This is to ensure the safety of our students and your children.

Following complaints from our neighbours, we would be grateful if you could avoid parking on Barlow Court.





Work Experience - Year 10

All students in Year 10 are going to be on Work Experience from **Monday 13th – Friday 17th July 2026.** During this time there will be no timetabled classes for Year 10, students will be at their work placements. Any student who does not attend Work Experience will be required to be in school.

Work Experience gives students the chance to learn about what type of job they might enjoy and develop their CV. It can be one of the most transformational experiences young people have during their education.

Students should source their own work experience placements. Please begin looking early, as there are other local schools who will be also looking for placements in our area at the same time.



We are using Unifrog (www.unifrog.org) to manage the work experience programme for example collecting information from the employer about their Risk Assessment and Health & Safety policy, as well as getting agreement from yourselves for the placement to go ahead.

More information about Unifrog will be provided by tutor groups and guidance will be given during assembly.



unifrog

Next Steps—

Any questions, please contact Miss Wellstead in the office on admin4111@kingsburyschool.info, alternatively Year 10 Pastoral Lead Mrs Beirne.

Please read the placement guides on Unifrog as they are really helpful, and then start contacting possible hosts for the placement as soon as you can!



Careers & Employability

Snow Closure Procedure

In the event of school closure due to snow, parents will be notified as early as possible via the school website, Facebook and Twitter. Parents can also subscribe to the free Warwickshire School closures text service by visiting **www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures**

Uniform

Please can parents ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform at school. We are aware of the changeable weather; however, it is imperative that students attend school in the correct attire. For further uniform guidance please see our school website for full details.



REMINDER!

Tutor starts at 8:35am. Please ensure that your child is at school for 8:30am.



ACHIEVEMENTS

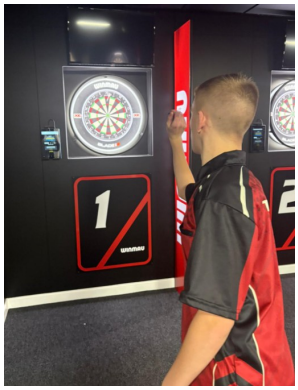
JAKE WHITEHEAD—WINMAU JUNIOR WORLD MASTERS QUALIFIERS

Jake played in the Winmau Junior World Masters Qualifiers in Bristol at the start of the year. He finished ranked 5th place out of 84 competitors after all 4 events. Jake reached a semi-final, a quarter final, and the round of 16 twice. This means he qualified for the Winmau Junior World Masters on 31st January in Aylesbury!

He played against the Junior World Number 2, Kaya Baysal, and went 1-0 up in sets, and 1-0 up in legs too! Kaya came back to win 2-1, but Jake pushed him all the way. The world number 1, widely regarded as the next Luke Littler. Mitchell Lawrie, was in the tournament too. Jake didn't get to play against him, but Mitchell was the scorer during one of Jake's matches.

We are seeking sponsors to help Jake to compete at the highest level in the JDC (such as Q School and JDC Foundation Tour) as he definitely has the ability to compete at that level. If anyone is interested in getting involved, please get in touch with the school office who will pass on my contact details – Ian Whitehead (Jake's Dad).





Ranked Players

#	Player	Leg Diff	Legs Won	3DA	Points
1	Kaya Baysal	+61	90	81.63	19
2	Mitchell Lawrie	+62	85	85.73	18
3	Charlie Greensmith	+47	79	74.85	17
4	Ethan Baines	+32	65	62.96	11
5	Jake Whitehead	+24	53	64.79	11
6	Luke Cox	+26	56	63.44	10
7	Ryan Elliott	+19	46	55.96	10
8	Finlay Cleave	+26	56	66.52	9
9	Addison Hefferon	+26	52	66.55	9
10	Connor Rourke	+10	43	59.20	9
11	Jacob Godber	+16	44	61.89	8
12	Harry Childs	+17	41	67.40	7
13	Archie Chippendale	+15	41	61.83	6
14	Max Phillips	+7	29	57.74	6
15	Charlie Clark	+10	36	60.20	5

WINMAU JUNIOR DARTS MASTERS E02 Hide

Semi-Finals
Baysal, Kaya (79.71) 2
Whitehead, Jake (69.72) B6 1

Quarter-Finals
Whitehead, Jake (65.86) 2
Elliott, Ryan (56.94) B1 0

Top 16
Whitehead, Jake (62.63) 2
Quinn, Conan (51.50) B3 0

Top 32
Whitehead, Jake (72.03) 2
Armitage, Alfie (66.36) B6 0

Top 64
Whitehead, Jake (64.92) 2

PLAYER OF THE MATCH

Big achievement for Lewis Jobbins (7You) getting Player of the match on Sunday 18th January. Atherstone Rangers Adders played in a cup match against a team 2 Divisions higher, drawing 3-3 and taking them all the way to extra time. Playing at centre back, Lewis made several goal saving tackles, and his performance and effort today was outstanding.



MACEY CUP CHAMPION

In February Kye Turner took part in an annual Cup race which kick starts the karting season down in Dorchester. Kye won by an impressive 3 seconds in the final to be crowned Junior Macey Cup Champion 2026 which he also won back as a Cadet in 2024.



Kingsbury School Digital Creativity Programme

We are excited to introduce our new **Digital Creativity Programme** for Year 7 students—a year-long initiative designed to prepare your child for the future of learning and work.

Using Apple apps and devices, students will develop essential digital skills while making their learning more creative and personalised. From creating stunning infographics in **Keynote** to producing educational videos in **iMovie**, this programme builds confidence, collaboration, and problem-solving skills that will benefit your child throughout their education and beyond.

Why it matters:

- Prepares students for a technology-driven world
- Makes learning interactive and enjoyable
- Encourages independence and creativity

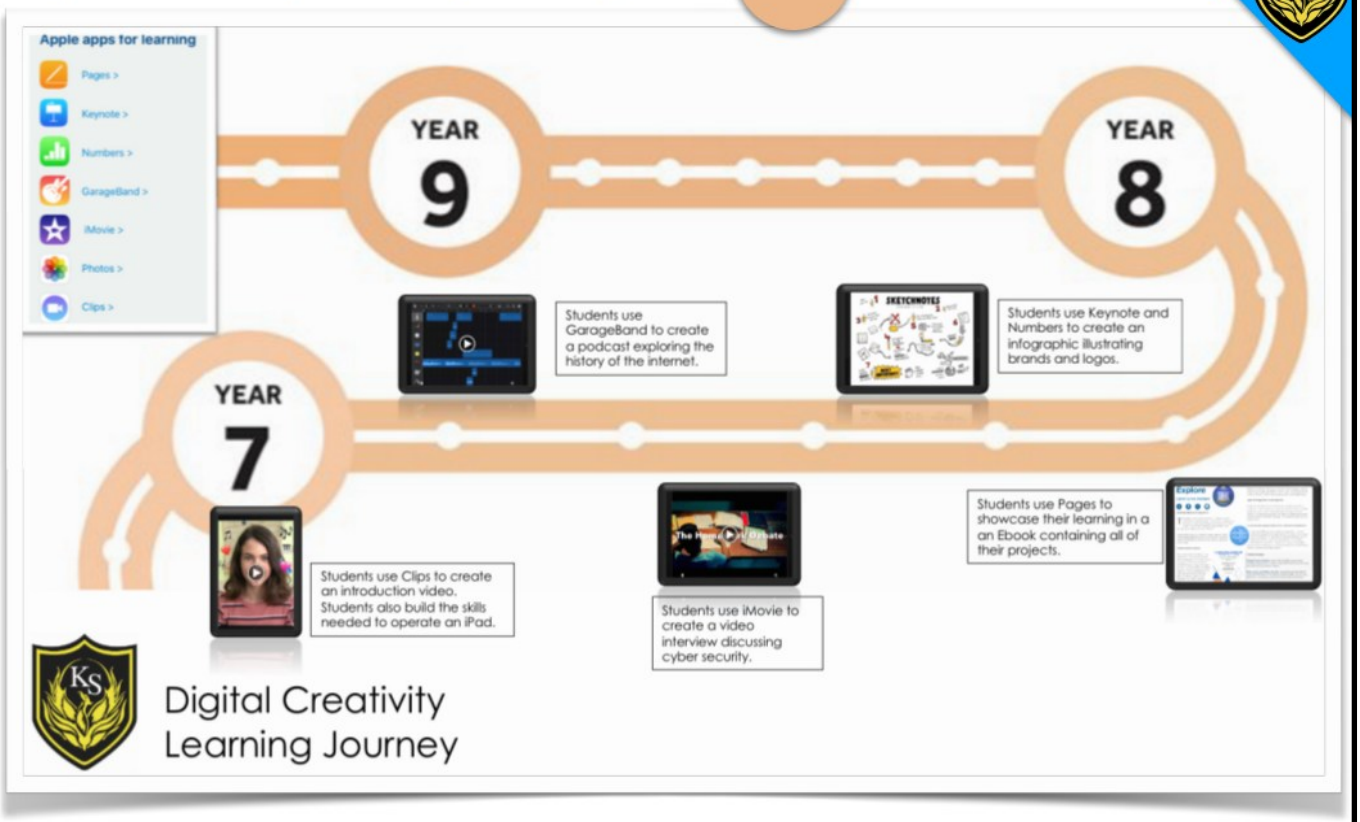
What will students learn?

- **Apple App Mastery**: Pages, Keynote, iMovie, and more
- **Creative Communication**: Present ideas in engaging, professional ways
- **Collaboration Skills**: Work effectively with peers using digital tools
- **Personalised Learning**: Tailor schoolwork to individual strengths and interests
- **Future-Ready Skills**: Problem-solving, adaptability, and confidence with technology



At Kingsbury School, we believe technology should empower students. This programme ensures every child is ready for tomorrow—while enjoying a dynamic learning experience today.

Digital Creativity Learning Journey



With its powerful tools and dazzling effects, Keynote makes it easy to create stunning and memorable presentations and comes included with most Apple devices. Use Apple Pencil on your iPad to create diagrams or illustrations that bring your slides to life.



Digital Creativity Student Portfolio





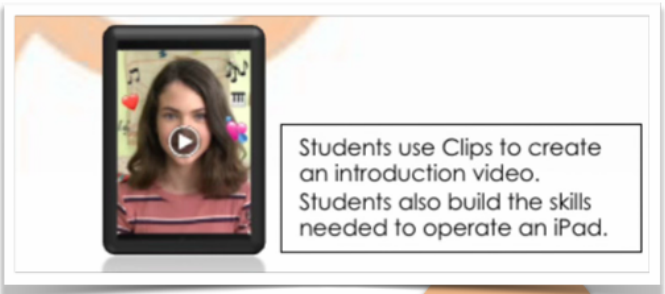
Digital Creativity Project Rubrics

Project rubrics give students clear expectations, helping them understand what quality work looks like. They break tasks into manageable criteria, guide planning, and reduce confusion. Rubrics also support fair grading and meaningful feedback, empowering students to take ownership of their learning and improve their performance with confidence.

Apple Pages is a clean, intuitive word-processing and design app for Mac, iPad, and iPhone. It offers elegant templates, rich media support, and seamless iCloud collaboration. Users can create everything from simple documents to polished layouts, with compatibility for Microsoft Word and smooth cross-device editing.

Kingsbury School Digital Creativity Programme

Unit 1: Clips Introduction Project







Introductory Video Project Using Apple Clips

At the beginning of the academic year, students completed a highly successful project using Apple's Clips app, showcasing creativity, technical skill, and teamwork.

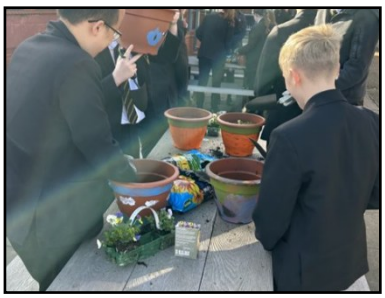
As part of an introduction activity, students learned to film and edit short videos, experimenting with features such as filters, animated stickers, emojis, GIFs, music, and timeline-based editing. They also cropped images, automated audio, and imported personal photos and videos from life outside school, including football matches and dance competitions.

The final videos were shared with classmates, creating a fun and engaging way for students to get to know one another at the start of the year. The project was a tremendous success, and students loved every moment of the creative process.

Apple Clips is a fun, simple and creative video-editing app for iPhone and iPad that lets users record or import clips, add filters, animated titles, stickers, music, and effects, then quickly share their creations. It was designed for exciting, fast storytelling with features like Live Titles and AR-based scenes.

ME TIME







Me Time is lesson that KS3 have each Friday which is all about providing students with the chance to attend clubs and complete activities that help develop their skills and spark their future interests. This term we have lots of exciting club and activities running including:

- Book and creative writing club
- Debate Club
- Make Up Artistry
- Gardening club
- Ipad and Coding
- First Aid Training
- Volunteering Club
- Boxing at Tamworth Boxing Gym
- Rugby, Netball and many more!

This has been a wonderful opportunity for our learners to develop their passions and life skills. Offering this innovative curriculum does come at a cost and we regularly run fundraising events to purchase equipment, such as CPR dummies and Gardening supplies.

If you would like to donate to our Me Time fund to further support our school in purchasing resources, please go to Arbor and donate under 'Voluntary Donations', any contributions would be greatly appreciated by our learners.

SAFEGUARDING

We take SAFEGUARDING seriously. If you are concerned about a student, please contact Mrs Helen Hurley on 01827 872316 or helen.hurley@castlephoenixtrust.org.uk

INTERNET SAFETY

The Internet is a wonderful tool, but are you using it safely?

Please advise your children not to give out any personal information related to their family, friends or themselves like full names, addresses, telephone or mobile numbers, or those of their parents.

Advise your children to inform you or their teachers if they come across content on the Internet which makes them feel uncomfortable, or if someone on the Internet harasses them or threatens them.

Advise them to assess the information they have read on websites. Just because it's on the Internet does not mean that it's always truthful information, especially when it comes to health issues, or when they are doing research for homework.

KINGSBURY CAN—KINGSBURY SCHOOL ALUMNI AND PARTNERS

This year at Kingsbury School we are working hard raise student aspirations and support them in being the best they can be!

As part of this, we are launching a campaign to celebrate our former students by capturing stories to gather information on 'where are you now'?

Why are we gathering stories

We would like to celebrate and showcase the achievements of alumni who have left the school

We recognise that alumni can act as role models for current students, offer advice from their own perspective, and demonstrate to students that 'someone like me' can succeed and achieve what they set out to work on.

We hope that students in being able to relate to alumni, can use the success stories to boost their own confidence and motivation to build a positive and transformative future.

How to sign up

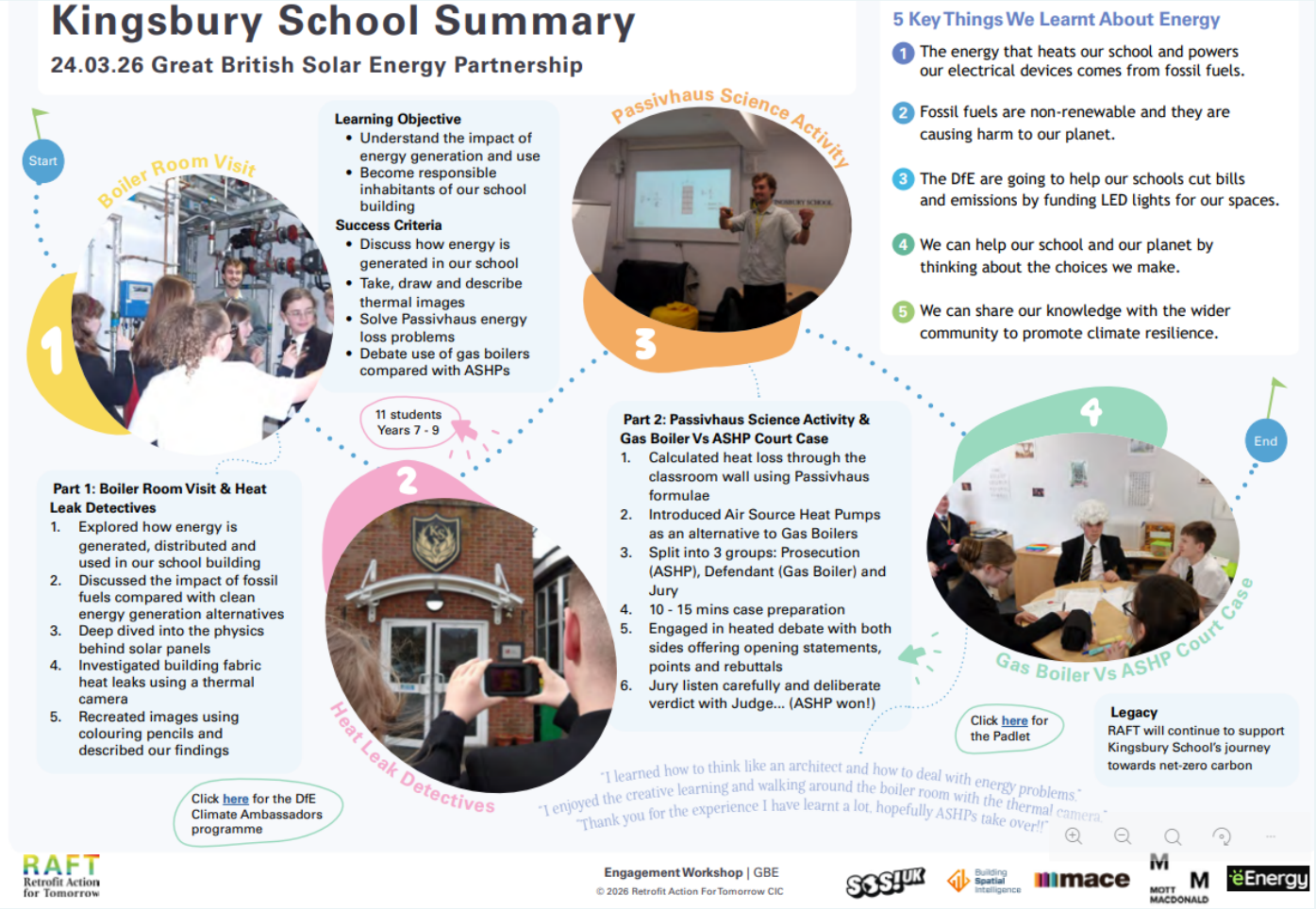
If you are an ex-student of Kingsbury School and would like to provide us with details of 'where are you now', please complete the form below.

Kingsbury Can: Where are you now?

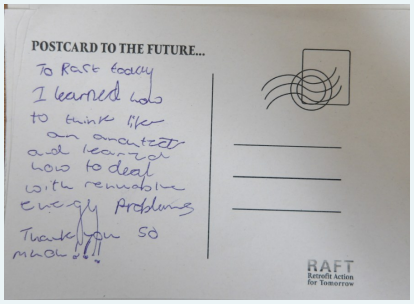
Your stories will most likely be used around school to inspire the next generation of Kingsbury Learners. You can engage with and support the school in other ways beyond sharing your story such offering to host work experience, conducting mock interviews or supporting events in school. All of which you can sign up for in the form above.

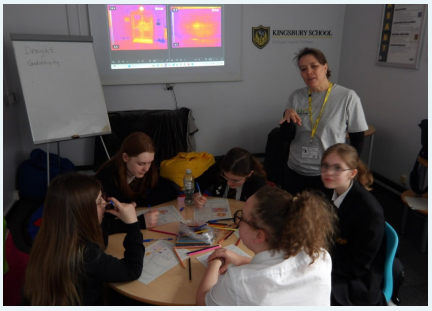
Friends of and other supporters

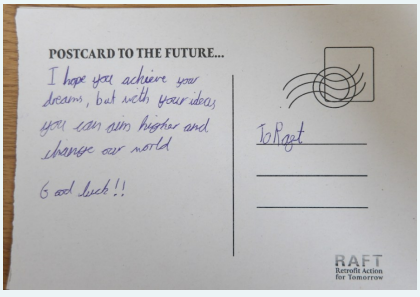
We recognise that many other friends of Kingbury School, local organisations and employers can support us in boosting students' confidence, motivation and career aspirations. We work with a range of employers and other local support organisations and would like to continue to build new relationships. If you are interested in supporting us and/or finding out more, please email lauren.newman@castlephoenixtrust.org.uk

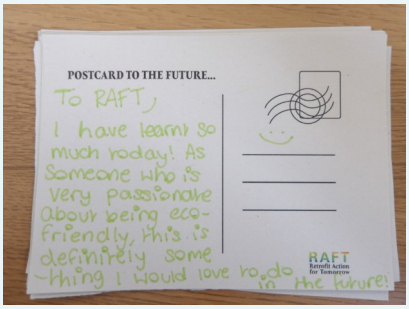


RAFT is an architect-led, multi-disciplinary team with expertise in deep building retrofit, community engagement, and zero carbon planning. We are working alongside our partners (Mace, eEnergy, Laser, Energy Sparks and Inspired Efficiency) to reduce the energy demand of school buildings across the Midlands, monitor energy consumption, introduce renewable energy generation through solar panel installation, and engage students in **purposeful workshops** that empower young people to understand the environmental impact of their school building and become active participants in shaping a **low-carbon future**.

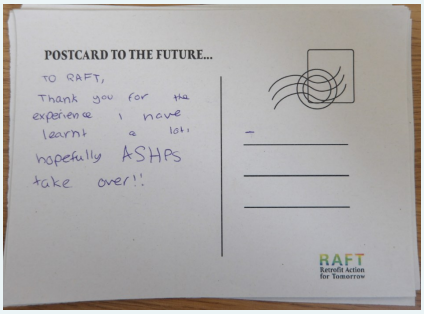








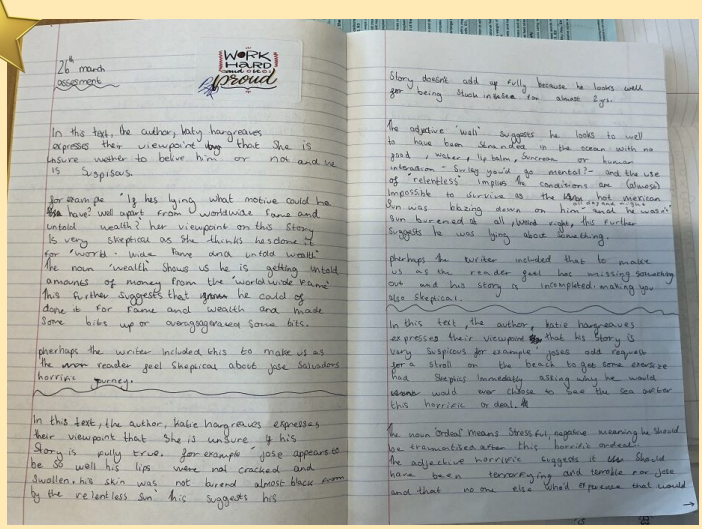


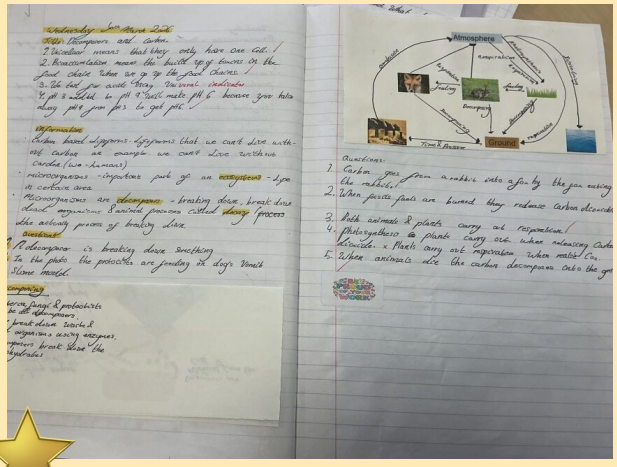


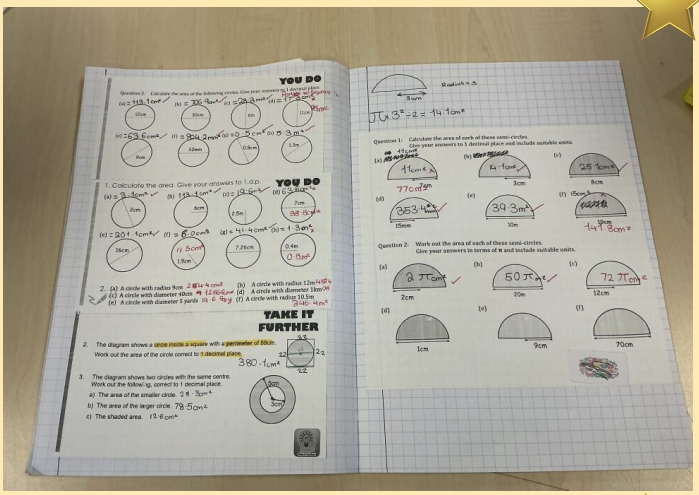
PROUD

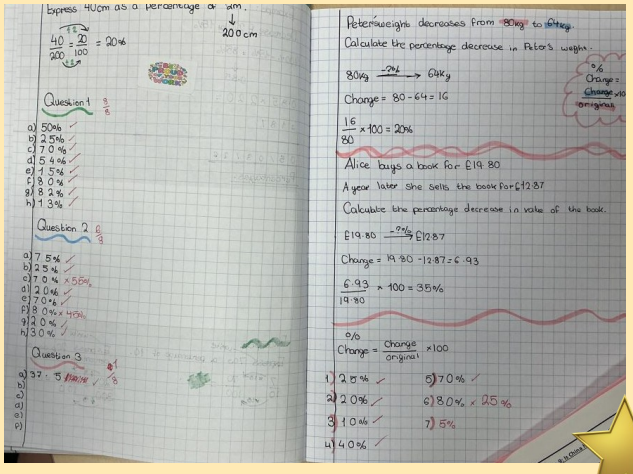
Year 8 have been celebrating the work that they are **PROUD** of over the last half term. Students are issued with a **PROUD** sticker from staff and then every week for 15 mins there is a celebration of all of the wonderful work that year 8 students are **PROUD** of.

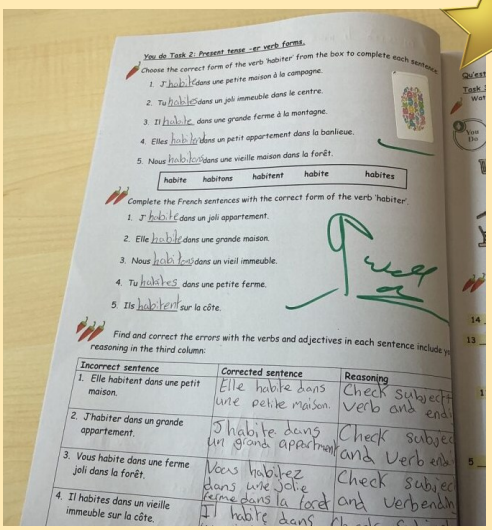












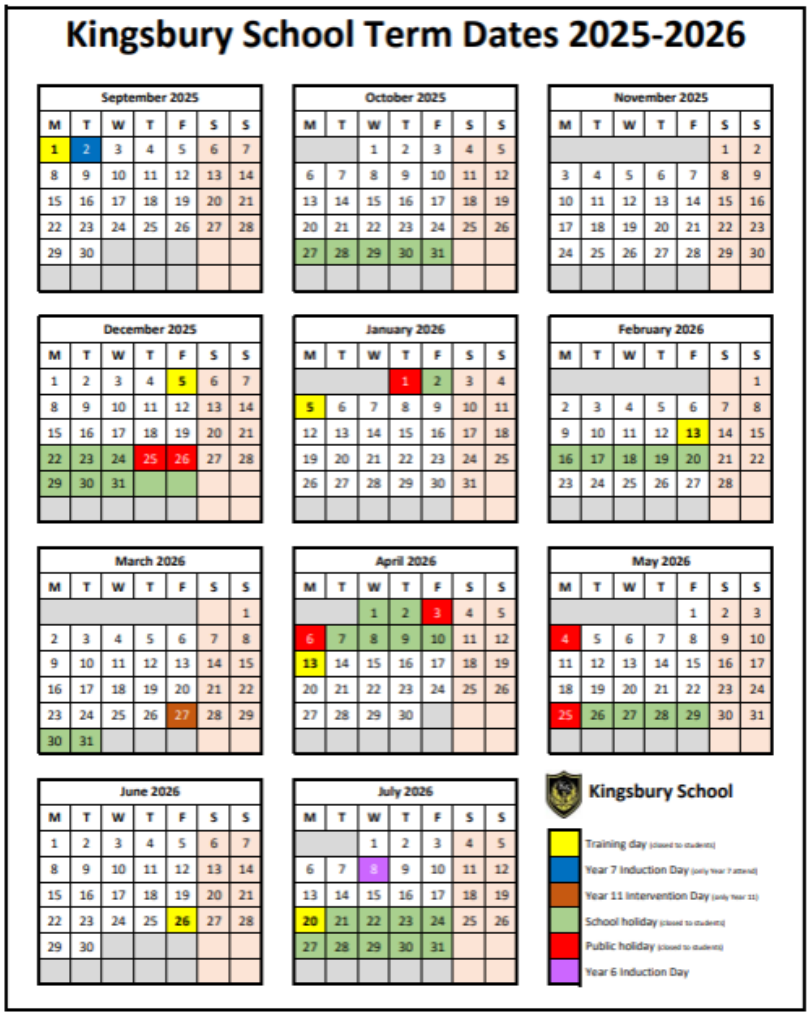
Our Core Purpose and Vision

Our core purpose is to **Enthuse**, **Aspire** and **Achieve**. Our vision will be centred on achievement; not just academic achievement, but also social and emotional achievement. We endeavour to create an ethos of pride and happiness alongside high aspirations, high motivation, high self-esteem and ultimately excellent achievement for every student. Our provision aims to be ***valuable for all and vital for our most vulnerable***.

Our Vision:

- Ensuring that our students feel **happy**, **safe**, **valued**, and **cared for**.
- Fostering **strong** and **positive relationships** by instilling a culture of **respect** and **kindness**.
- Promoting **equality** and **diversity** and preparing our students for life in modern Britain by supporting British values.
- Creating **aspirational** and **ambitious** learners who think creatively and embrace challenge.
- Developing **resilient** and **independent learners** who are prepared for life and learning after school.
- Committed to the pursuit of excellence, delivering **achievement for all** and celebrating individual successes through an ethos of **encouragement** and **praise**.
- Inspiring **confident** and **accomplished readers** and **communicators** through a **reading rich environment**
- Extending the boundaries of learning by providing a rich, relevant, **engaging** and **innovative curriculum** that is **accessible to all**.
- Through **effective communication**, work in partnership with parents and carers to provide timely and effective support, care and guidance for all our students.

Term Dates and Holidays



Kingsbury School

Tamworth Road
Kingsbury
Tamworth
B79 2LF

Phone: 01827 872316
Fax: 01827 873714

We're on the web!
www.kingsburyschool.co.uk

Enthuse I Aspire I Achieve

Why not follow us on Facebook?

www.facebook.com/Kingsbury-School

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

Please use the following means of communication to advise of a students absence.

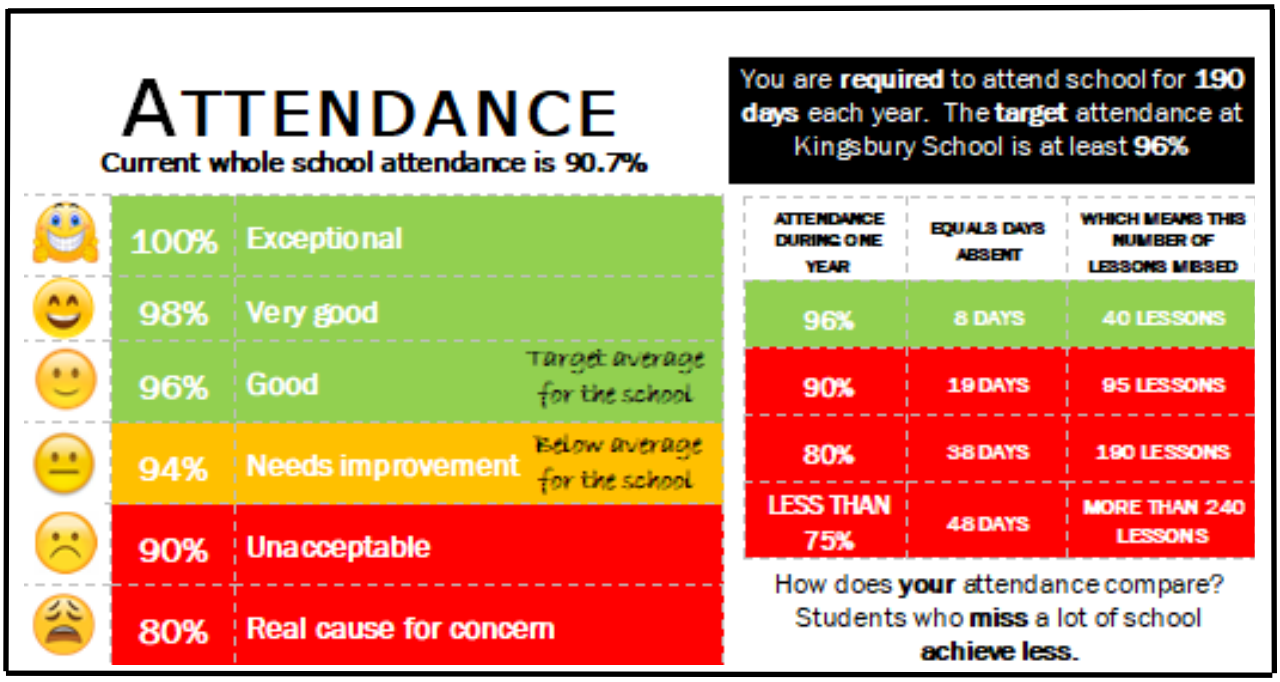
T: 01827 872316

E: kng-absence@castlephoenixtrust.org.uk

SMS: 01827 230501

Please notify us of an absence by 8.30am on each day of absence.

Attendance



To comply with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and Data Protection expectations, it is vitally important that **Kingsbury School** keeps accurate and up to date information relating to every pupil on roll.
The information we are required to record includes:

- Pupil's full legal name (and if appropriate, their preferred name).
- The name, address and contact details of every person known to the school/academy who is a parent* to the pupil with whom the pupil normally resides (this is the address that has been used to register with their GP).
- The name, address and contact details of any additional parent*.
- Any other emergency contact details.

In order to gather this information, every year we send out data collection forms. Parents are asked to complete the form with as much information as possible and then return to the school, signed and dated. We would ask that even where there are no amendments to the data collection sheet, parents return the form, signed and dated.
Kingsbury School requests that if you change your contact number, move home or there are any other circumstances which may impact your child, the school is notified as a priority.
N.B. *The Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as a). any natural parent, whether married or not, b). any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person c). any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to <u>each parent of each absent child</u>, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means <u>each</u> parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
    - <u>First Leave of Absence offence:</u> The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
    - <u>Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice):</u> The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.

- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period <u>(from the date of issue of the first penalty notice):</u> A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.