Welcome to the KHS Newsletter Summer 2025



Dear Parent/Carer.

As we reach the end of the school year, I would like to wish all our families a wonderful summer. We continue to improve school each day and I am delighted to share our celebrations and successes. I hope you enjoy reading about all the opportunities that our students have embraced this year to maximise their potential.



My thanks as always goes to the whole staff body for their continued passion, hard work and commitment. They continue to provide our young people with a varied curriculum within lessons. Students have been offered many extra-curricular activities such as our amazing production of Oliver, sporting finals in football, student leadership opportunities as well as many charity events. The vast majority of our students have also attended a school visit such as revision trips to PGL and Dolly Hall as well as trips to local colleges, Salou in Spain, Chester Zoo, Manchester Airport and even Westminster!

Students continue to embrace our Kirkby Child values of Respect, Resilience, Aspiration, Kindness and Confidence. We have awarded 74,000 stickers this academic year and students have subsequently received a variety of prizes ranging from books to gift vouchers, and even school trips. We have also introduced badges to represent our values and we are proud of each student that has received an award.

As always at this time of year, it is always sad to say goodbye to members of our school community. We thank those colleagues who are leaving us for their commitment to Kirkby High School. We also wish our Year I I students the best of luck for their futures. At the same time, we look forward to September when we welcome new staff members and Year 7 students as they join our Kirkby High School family.

I am so proud of what we continue to achieve. Have a restful summer

Mrs A Dobson

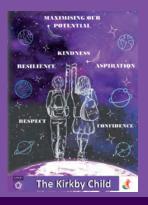
Headteacher





Our ever popular Kirkby Child rewards strategy has seen over 800 students rewarded this academic year.

Based on student voice, we have awarded gift vouchers, pizza parties, cinema trips, and the Blackpool trip! We have also been able to introduce a book vending machine to reward students for following our Kirkby Child values. This year has also seen us launch our popular Kirkby Child badges. When a student achieves 25 stickers for one of our values, they are awarded with a bar badge for that value to wear with pride on their blazer. Once a student has all six bar badges, Mrs Dobson awards them with a Kirkby Child badge. Over 1000 badges have been awarded to our students so far, as well as two Kirkby Child badges. Well done everyone!



OUR VISION

A community driven by high expectations and mutual respect providing all individuals with the belief and opportunities to succeed now and in the future.



We are incredibly proud of the journey our Year 7 students have made during their first year at Kirkby High School. It's been a year full of growth, learning, and opportunity — and throughout it all, our students have shown what it means to be a Kirkby Child, living our values of respect, confidence, resilience, kindness, and aspiration every step of the way.

One of the highlights of the year was our Team Building Days, where Year 7 worked together through fun, interactive challenges designed to build trust, cooperation and communication. It was fantastic to see our students encouraging one another, stepping outside of their comfort zones, and showing real confidence and kindness toward their peers.

Our Spring term trip to Chester Zoo gave students the chance to explore wildlife conservation in action. They asked brilliant questions, showed genuine curiosity, and represented the school with pride. It was a day filled with excitement and wonder and a perfect example of our students' aspiration to learn and grow outside the classroom.

A special mention goes to our Transition Leaders, who have volunteered to support the incoming Year 6 students as they prepare to join us in September. Their respect, maturity, and leadership have been outstanding, and we know they will be a huge help in making our newest students feel welcomed and supported.

There's still lots to look forward to including our much-anticipated end of year trip to Blackpool! It will be a fantastic way to celebrate everything Year 7 has achieved this year. From rides and laughter to beach games and fish & chips, we cannot wait to make some unforgettable memories together.

Thank you to all our families for your ongoing support. We're proud of every single one of our Year 7 students — they truly reflect the best of what it means to be a Kirkby Child. It has been a pleasure being their Head of Year this year. Good luck next year as you start your Year 8 journey.

ENGLISH

KS4 Theatre Trip: Blood Brothers

Our Year 10 students attended a vibrant performance of Blood Brothers at the local theatre. It was a powerful experience - blending music, drama, and social themes — sparking great class discussions the next day. Students returned inspired by the staging and performances!

KS3 Museum & Library Visit

Year 7–9 students enjoyed a captivating morning exploring Liverpool's World Museum, followed by reading and research time in the town library. They explored exhibits on local heritage, handled real artefacts, and chose books for their upcoming project work. Enthusiastic learning all round!

World Book Day Celebrations

To mark World Book Day, teachers dressed up as characters from favourite novels. Special themed lessons invited students to engage creatively. Literacy quizzes, poetry readings, and live storytelling brought stories to life. It was amazing to see everyone's outfits—quite the literary parade!

KS4 Exam Prep & Revision Support

Year II and Year IO have access to structured before and after-school revision sessions

After-school session took place on a Tuesday with a lots of food to keep the energy levels up

Lunch time and breakfast sessions offered a calm start to afternoon sessions or nutritious start to their day

These supportive spaces offer homework help and quiet time — perfect for preparing for exams or catching up on reading.

We also offered this recently to our Year 9 students and we were overjoyed with how many took the opportunity to study for their summer exams.

Annual Book Fair

The much-loved Book Fair returned with a free book voucher for all children to use in school or local book stores

Hundreds of new titles for all ages, priced £1-£15

A portion of every sale boosts the school's library collection

GIVEAWAY: every student received a token towards a free book!

Year 8 have had a fantastic year!

This year to date we have had 97,076 points! I have given out over 100 badges this year to students in assembly. Students have been receiving badges for Resilience, Respect, Aspiration, Confidence, Kindness and Excellent Attendance. I am so proud of all the reward points and badges received this year and I am very excited to see what can be achieved next year in Year 9.

Well done Year 8 and thank you to all the parents and carers that have supported this year. Year 9 will be an important year for option choices. Have a lovely summer and I will look forward to seeing you in September.



Year 8 boys won their semi-final earlier this month and are in the finals against All Saints!

We are very hopeful they will bring the trophy home! Mr Mottram has been working very hard with the team during training. We are also very proud to say the boys have a new kit for their final with thanks to Mrs Flynn.



Mrs Talbot took some of our Year 8 girls on a fantastic STEM trip!

The girls were commended on their fantastic behaviour, effort and achievements by all staff on the day!



Year 8 have been making an array of delicious foods in Food Technology including pizza pinwheels, chicken curry, scones and cupcakes! I personally tested a lot of the creations and they have blown me away with their food technology skills.









Year 9 shine through a year of growth, leadership and inspiration

An incredible year for students full of unforgettable experiences, amazing achievements, and growing leadership.

This academic year has been one of exceptional growth and opportunity for Year 9 students, who have embraced every chance to learn, lead, and make a positive impact both in and out of school.

Academic aspiration was a key focus this year, as students took part in informative visits to Carmel College, LIPA, West Lancs College, and Winstanley College. These trips gave Year 9s a valuable insight into life after school, helping them make informed choices about their future pathways. College staff commented on how engaged and thoughtful the students were, reflecting a mature outlook on their next steps.

As the school year draws to a close, it's clear that Year 9 have not only achieved a great deal but have also grown as individuals and as a community. We are excited for challenges ahead in Year 10 as they get ready to start their GCSEs.

Well done, Year 9 - you've truly made this year one to remember.

In the spirit of leadership, a group of students proudly stepped into the role of Respect Ambassadors, visiting local primary schools to promote the Kirkby child value of respect.

Acting as role models, they delivered engaging sessions to younger students, earning praise from staff and students alike for their maturity and enthusiasm. Students had the opportunity to visit West Lancs College, University of Liverpool and Edge Hill University, where they had the opportunity to take part in lectures and receive leadership training.

Kirkby Child

A massive total of 113,855 achievement points have been awarded to Year 9 students for consistently demonstrating the Kirkby Child values, highlighting their dedication to respect, resilience, ambition, confidence and kindness. These points reflect the positive attitude and behaviour shown across the school. One standout student has gone above and beyond by earning 25 stickers in each of the Kirkby Child values, a significant accomplishment that earned them the prestigious Bronze Kirkby Child badge.



A group of Resilient Rockstars worked closely with Liverpool FC as part of the She Inspires programme.

This initiative encouraged young women to step into leadership roles, build confidence, and recognise their own potential. The partnership with such a prestigious football club added an inspiring dimension, reinforcing the importance of resilience and ambition. They were also extremely lucky to visit Anfield.

Students are showing remarkable confidence by proudly representing their school in the netball and football teams.

With each match and training session, they demonstrate strong commitment, teamwork, and belief in their abilities. Many of them are returning players, using their experience to lead by example and motivate their teammates. Their willingness to step up, face tough opponents, and perform under pressure reflects their growth both on and off the field. This confidence not only boosts team spirit but also inspires the wider school community to support and celebrate their achievements.

One of the most memorable moments came with the much-anticipated residential trip to Dolly Hall in Wales.

Set against the stunning Welsh countryside, students took part in a variety of activities where they built strong friendships, and created lasting memories. From ghost stories to campfire

and an outing to Barmouth beach, the trip was a powerful opportunity for build new friendships showing kindness to each other and make life long memories.

In an exciting collaboration with the LFC Foundation, four groups of Year 9 students completed a sports leadership qualification, showcasing their teamwork, communication, and coaching skills.

The programme concluded with a special session led by former Liverpool and England goalkeeper Chris Kirkland, who shared personal stories and valuable advice. His visit was an inspiring highlight that left a lasting impression on all who took part. Some of the boys involved have also recently become our Attendance Attackers, a project where they have taken the role of mentors and are working with a group of Year 7s to support them at school and compete against each other to see how many of them can be a zero hero. Some students were lucky enough to visit Anfield and have a Q&A session with Jamie Webster.

Maximising our Potential . . .

We are pleased to report that Year 10 students have made an excellent start to Key Stage 4, embracing their option choices with focus and enthusiasm.

Careers education and work experience has been a key focus, with a successful visit to Knowsley Community College helping students explore future pathways. In form time, all groups delivered assemblies promoting the Kirkby Child values, demonstrating confidence and teamwork.

Our Year 10 Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) we trained by Merseyside Youth Association (MYA). Our students have delivered powerful sessions to Year 8 students, addressing knife crime, peer pressure, and stereotypes. Their work culminated in a graduation at St George's Hall and has helped foster a culture of respect and inclusivity.

A special mention goes to Sasha M, the first student to earn all Kirkby Child badges-a remarkable achievement. We also had a large number of student leadership applicants, many of whom were successfully appointed. Leadership development continues with upcoming prefect training and a planned trip to Parliament.

Candidates for Head Boy and Head Girl showed impressive maturity during interviews, and members of the leadership team collaborated with the Merseyside Youth Association to produce a film on the pressures young people face—an excellent example of youth voice in action.

Finally, students are being well-prepared for mock exams and the transition into Year 11, with a strong focus on revision strategies and academic resilience.

We are proud of Year 10 students' progress and look forward to seeing them continue to grow as confident, capable young people.



In September, the students collected food items to donate to Knowsley food bank for Harvest.

In November, the students held a raffle to raise money for Children In Need.

In April, our Ethical Ambassadors took part in the 'Walk for Autism', which was an inclusive walk bringing neurotypical and neurodiverse students and staff together.

One of our Ethical Ambassadors, Poppy W suggested the project for June which was Cystic Fibrosis awareness. Again, the Ethical Ambassadors sold raffle tickets for an array of yellow prizes. They also did a 'guess the amount of sweets in the jar' competition.





Year IIs' Unforgettable Journey

As the academic year draws to a close, it's time to look back on what has been an eventful and memorable year for our Year 11 students. From the intense build-up to GCSEs to unforgettable trips and a glamorous prom night, this year has truly marked a turning point in their educational journey. Year 11 began with focus and determination. With GCSEs looming, students put hard work and effort into their studies, supported by teachers and staff every step of the way. From revision sessions to mock exams, their hard work and resilience have been clear throughout. It hasn't always been easy, but the maturity and responsibility they've shown have made us so proud.

As thoughts turned to life after school, students had the chance to visit a number of local colleges.

These trips provided invaluable insight into the wide variety of courses and pathways available—from A-levels and apprenticeships to vocational qualifications. Students asked questions, toured campuses, and began picturing what the next stage of their lives might look like.

The year culminated in the long-anticipated Year II Prom, a night that truly did not disappoint.

Students arrived dressed to impress, stepping out of cars with style and confidence. The evening was filled with music, dancing, photos, laughter, and even a few tears as everyone celebrated the end of an era. It was more than just a sing and a dance—it was a celebration of friendships, achievements, and the incredible journey they've shared.

Maths staff took a group of Year II students to Newby Wiske Hall PGL offering a unique opportunity to combine GCSE maths revision with adventure-based team building.

Students studied on Saturday morning and then took part in a zipline, archery tag and scaled a climbing wall. In the evening, they had a silent disco. Further revision was completed before returning to school on Sunday afternoon.

A revision trip went to Dolly Hall, where staff from English and maths gave extra support to our students. Students also had fun at Barmouth Beach and enjoyed sharing some ghost stories.



On the team were Head Boy and Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl, six senior prefects with responsibilities and links with Gifted, Able and Talented, PE/PD and wellbeing, careers, rewards, creative and cultural capital and an inclusion representative. This resulted in the team being one of the biggest student leadership team there has ever been. Students in September were invited to West Lancs College to receive some training on "what makes a good leader". This training allowed students to share their expertise with other, younger school leaders in school



ALUMNI JACK MCLOUGHLIN CLASS OF 2014



Jack is an award-winning film director and writer from Kirkby. He attended Kirkby Sports College when it transitioned into Kirkby High School from 2009-2014.

What advice would you give to students?

If you're interested in film, then follow your passion and work hard. You will get knocked back and rejected many times, but show resilience and keep going – don't give up!

What did you do after KHS?

I went to LMA where I learnt about film making but I was making films in school, self-taught. I learnt how to direct actors who weren't my friends! I started out on LA Productions with work experience, working with Jimmy McGovern as a runner. Work experience was very important, it helped me understand how many jobs and different roles there are in production.

Aspirations

Bay TV – work experience, gave me the opportunity to work with others and as I was very shy it gave me the necessary people skills to interview them.

I went to university at Edge Hill, I was proactive in looking for jobs on sets. When Peaky Blinders came to Liverpool, I took the job as a runner and worked voluntary for 3 days then was offered a job. I was polite and helpful, which helped me gain employment. I learnt so much more on set.

Do you think there's anything students could be doing now to get into the world of film?

Work experience is a good place to start to gain an understanding of the industry. Then start making movies, even on your phone, you learn by doing. Film making is a practical skill, you need to just do it!

Jack McLoughlin was named Best Writer at the BFI Future Film Festival



At Kirkby High School, we are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to maximise the potential of the students in our community.

We have enjoyed inviting parents to school to celebrate student achievement at our Progress and Aspiration Evenings, as well as at our SEND Celebration Evening, GCSE Awards Evening and at our music events and Oliver production.

We have been delighted by the commitment shown at our Gifted and Talented Evening, Literacy and Numeracy Intervention Evening and Work Experience Information Evenings where parents and staff have worked together to support our students in achieving the very best.

As a symbol of our commitment to working in partnership with parents and carers, we are making excellent progress in our reaccreditation of the Leading Parent Partnership Award.



Walk for Autism

In April Inclusion and Mrs Maloret worked together to facilitate our Walk for Autism. This is to increase awareness and understanding of the needs of others and show support to our school community.

Many students participated in the walk, alongside many members of staff. Students were able to wear or bring something green for the walk. It was fantastic to see so many students walking alongside their peers, talking and sharing their experiences of having autism or being friends with someone who has autism. Students demonstrated kindness and confidence throughout the day.



SEND Celebration Evening

Inclusion hosted our annual SEND Celebration Evening. We opened our doors to many of our students and their families. It was a fantastic evening showcasing our students' work and celebrating their achievements. The evening was filled with quizzes, food, music, and prizes. All students who attended received a certificate for our Kirkby Child values of Respect, Confidence, Resilience, Aspiration and Kindness.



School prom and leavers assembly

There was a fantastic turnout for prom in June. With a high percentage of SEN students in attendance, alongside staff who have supported them on their journey through KHS. Students had a fantastic evening, memories were made.

Our Year I Is attended their leavers assembly with teachers and support staff. It was a wonderfully fitting way to celebrate the end of their KHS journey.

Our KS4 students are preparing for life outside of school. With community trips, walks, visits to colleges and work experience.

This year, our students across all year groups have shown amazing confidence and aspiration in getting involved in our wide ranging extra curricular offer.

As well as our fantastic sports offer, we have seen new clubs such as Culture Club with Miss Baker and Warhammer Club with Mr Shaw become very popular in our students, with Miss Baker's culture club helping to deliver Kirkby High School's first culture week, celebrating our rich and diverse community.

As well as our extra curricular offer, our staff have worked hard to provide a wider variety of trips and visits to inspire our students and build their aspirations. Our Year 7s spent a day at Chester zoo to build their understanding in Geography and Science, our Year 10s had a wonderful taster day at Knowsley Community College, our Year 11s have been to PGL for Maths revision weekends and our Year 9 students have enjoyed their trips to Dolly Hall.

As always, our students have been a credit to the school with their respect, resilience, and kindness on all of these visits.

This has been a busy and successful year for Drama at Kirkby High School.

We've focused on improving literacy through performance, building confidence, and developing key performing skills. Students have flourished, and the number opting for GCSE Drama continues to rise.

Our Christmas production of 'Oliver!' was a huge success, showcasing the talent and commitment of our students both on stage and behind the scenes. Careers in the arts have also been a key focus, with visiting actors and technicians giving students a valuable insight into the industry.

In June, our students will perform in the school's Celebration of Creative Arts, and we're also looking forward to our visit to LIPA, which will support students interested in further education in the performing arts.

Our lunchtime drama club has proved popular with KS3 and KS4 students, giving many the chance to develop skills, build confidence, and enjoy drama in an inclusive setting.

Drama continues to thrive at Kirkby High School, with students showing real creativity, commitment, and ambition.





During an unforgettable school trip to Salou, students participated in intensive netball and football training sessions, followed by thrilling tournaments that showcased their skills and teamwork.

Throughout the week, the students demonstrated remarkable confidence on and off the pitch, pushing themselves to their limits.

Their resilience in the face of challenges was truly inspiring. The trip also provided a fantastic opportunity to embed our school's Capital Culture values, with students embracing the Spanish language when in Barcelona as well as the boys playing against a local Spanish team. The energy, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship displayed by all made the trip not only a valuable learning experience but also a massive success that will be remembered for years to come.



SALOU





Stretch and challenge of our students continues to be a priority within the MFL department and, as a result of this, it has continued to be an area of strength amongst our teachers.

We continue to push on the delivery of grammar in lessons in KS3, alongside the key words for the topics covered. We started the academic year with a stand-alone lesson to raise the profile of languages across all year groups, highlighting to our students the importance of knowing a second language and where this could take them in the future. We deliver half-termly careers sessions, signposting students to a variety of jobs where knowing another language would be a benefit. Student voice feedback from this has been most positive and suggestions were put forward as to how the department can further support language learning.

The current Year 11 have just sat their GCSE Spanish exams. Students attended weekly lunchtime and after school intervention to improve their speaking skills, as well as revision sessions during February half-term, Spring break and May half-term. We also had several of our EAL students being entered for GCSE French, Polish, Portuguese and Turkish exams. These students were provided with bespoke intervention by Miss Baker and Miss Suthers throughout the academic year. The current Year 10s are studying GCSE Spanish and have recently completed their Spanish GCSE mock exams.



This year, the Culture Club embarked on an exciting journey of language learning and cultural exchange.

Students had the opportunity to teach and learn languages from each other. The languages taught were Mandarin, Arabic, Portuguese, Polish, Japanese and Turkish.



Students have been rising to weekly key verb challenges, helping them to master essential verbs and build confidence in holding basic conversations in French. To celebrate their hard work and progress, students will enjoy a continental breakfast together to round off the year.

Primary transition

Miss Suthers delivered a Spanish session for the gifted and talented students from our feeder primary schools in January 2025. Miss Baker also worked throughout the year with the primary schools, creating bespoke Spanish lessons depending on the requirements of each school.



This year, Kirkby High School celebrated the diversity of our community with a

vibrant Culture Week and a special celebration of World Cultural Diversity Day on 21 May 2025.

During the week, form groups participated in an interactive 'Kirkby Cultural

Quilt' challenge. Students worked together to recognise the flags, name the country they belonged to, and learn how to say "hello" in the twenty-three languages spoken at Kirkby High School.

Faculties across the school also took part in Culture Week. Science students explored the ground breaking work of famous scientists from Poland and Portugal. The English faculty took students on a literary journey by studying poetry from around the world. The MFL faculty investigated the roots of language

by learning how the languages we speak at school are all linked by word groups and RE students embraced cultures from Africa with Year 10 taking part in a question-and-answer session with Mr Saif on the topic of religion and culture.





In Personal Development, we have been busy continuing to prepare young people for life as active members of their communities in Modern Britain.

Year 7 have looked at AI & fake news, radicalisation and extremism, and money, jobs & careers. Year 10 prepared for and reflected on Work Experience, before tackling topics such as taxes & mortgages and the effects of gambling. Meanwhile, whole school sessions were delivered on the themes of Hillsborough, Deepfakes & 'brain rot' and diversity & British Values (supporting the whole school Culture Week programme)

During their weekly transition lessons, primary students have visited KHS and developed their understanding of life in a high school, as well as responding to the Razzle Dazzle flags by Sir Peter Blake by creating their own self-portraits in his

style.

Rainbow Club members celebrated Pride month by designing their own bunting and completed a music quiz, whilst the school celebrated being successful in applying for the Quality Careers Award and lots of evidence from the PD curriculum was used to showcase the excellent practice going on. Club members even took part in a quiz about gender stereotyping, deciding which careers were more suited to which genders and the assessors were very impressed by their ideas!

We also supported the English faculty by decorating our doors for World Book Day, choosing the excellent 'Pies and Prejudice' by Stuart Maconie due to its title and content!

PERSONAL

DEVELOPMENT

Peter Blake Flags

Tate Liverpool have given Kirkby High School a 'dazzling' pop art makeover after donating a series of flags designed by Sir Peter Blake







This academic year has been both enriching and actionpacked for the Mathematics Faculty.

We have continued to deliver high-quality teaching and learning, foster mathematical curiosity, and provide a wide range of opportunities for students to engage beyond the classroom. Our commitment to both academic achievement and enrichment has resulted in excellent participation and enthusiasm from students across all year groups.

The faculty has maintained a strong focus on curriculum delivery, with targeted intervention and extension activities across all key stages. Year I I students benefited from structured after-school revision sessions, while form-time numeracy and Sparx Maths homework have helped reinforce key skills for students in Years 7 to 10.

Students in Years 7 and 8 took part in UKMT (UK Mathematics Trust) Junior Challenge national competition, showcasing problem-solving skills and resilience. We are proud of the number of Bronze, Silver, and Gold certificates achieved this year. Out of the twenty students that participated we had eight bronze awards, five silver awards and one gold award. All of the participants were rewarded with a pizza party.

Weekly maths lunch clubs continued to offer additional help and enrichment opportunities, while after-school revision and holiday masterclasses supported GCSE students in preparing for assessments.

Kirkby High School are delighted with the number of families we have been able to support this year.

With the support of MCKS Charitable Foundation UK, we are able to continue with the Kirkby High School Pantry Cupboard. The aim is to provide our families with store cupboard essentials at no cost at all. We have supplied families with items such as cereals, cereal bars, biscuits, long-life milk, part-baked bread, tinned items,

noodles, pasta, pasta sauce and toiletries.



The pantry cupboard runs each Thursday from 3.30pm—4.30pm

If you are on low income and unable to afford furniture or white goods, there are a number of ways that we can support. We have additional support that we can access if you need new beds or bedding.



Contact Mrs Rigby for further information 0151 477 8710 admin@kirkbyhighschool.net

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