



# Welcome to the KHS Newsletter Autumn 2025



As we reach the end of 2025, I would like to wish all our families a very special festive season. We are so proud of all the successes of our wonderful young people. 400 of them have already earned a Kirkby Child badge. Our new Year 7 students have been welcomed into our Kirkby High School family by the whole school community and have settled in well, showing great confidence and resilience in their team-building Forest School experience. Year 8s have enjoyed a trip to Quarry Bank Mill and were praised for their exemplary, respectful behaviour. Many of them have also embarked on the 8 for 8 challenge. I have particularly enjoyed all the Year 9 celebrations this term shared weekly in forms. In Year 10, students have shown great maturity as they start their GCSE courses and I am looking forward to working with our new Student Leadership Team. Aspiration is a value that Year 11s are displaying on a daily basis, especially those students who are on a winning streak attending expert lessons at lunchtime and after school. Another highlight was certainly our school production of Elf! The Musical. It has been a very busy start to the year!

I would like to thank our committed staff for continuing to offer many different opportunities for our young people. In addition to visits to Dolly Hall, the Vitality Netball International Series, an AI workshop and Manchester Airport, we have offered various clubs such as rainbow club, culture club and even Warhammer club! Students have also supported each other in our oracy champions workshops. Our personal development curriculum continues to support our students to explore new themes and prepare them for a positive future. They have also enjoyed many activities through our comprehensive careers programme, including our vibrant careers fair and workshops with Shaping Futures. Thank you staff – our students are very lucky to have you!



We are very proud to have been re-awarded the nationally recognised Learning Parent Partnership Award, which emphasises our continued commitment to working with our wonderful community. The report highlighted the positive relationships between staff, students and all parents and carers who work together to maximise our students' potential. Community is important to us and I would also like to thank our ethical ambassadors who kindly collected food as part of our Harvest celebrations. Donations doubled from last year!

I would like to thank the vast majority of parents and carers who support the high standards and expectations we have at Kirkby High School. All young people respond more positively when they are given clear boundaries and when all the adults in their lives are on the same page. The majority of our students continue to display our Kirkby Child values every day. Please ensure you read the recent letter from Mrs Turner so your child is ready to return to learning in January. It is important that all students return with their school bag, homework folder and planner. They will receive their new term's Knowledge Organiser booklet on the first day. Please continue to ensure your child Maximises their Potential by attending on time every day. Missing lessons means missing vital learning.

Happy Christmas,  
Mrs A Dobson

Headteacher



We are very proud of our students who showed our Kirkby Child value of kindness by helping a member of the community call a taxi and waiting with her until she was collected.

#kindness #kirkbychild

## 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.

# YEAR 7

**Starting secondary school is a big step, and our Year 7 students have embraced the challenge with energy, curiosity and resilience. From the very first week, they've shown that they are ready to grow, learn and thrive in their new school.**

One of the highlights of their transition has been the team-building activities at Forest School. Surrounded by nature, students worked together to solve challenges and develop trust in one another in their forms. These experiences not only strengthened friendships but also encouraged problem-solving, communication and confidence—skills that will serve them well throughout their school journey.

The transition into secondary school has been smooth and positive. With supportive staff, welcoming peers and opportunities to explore new subjects, Year 7 have quickly settled into routines and discovered the excitement of learning at a higher level. Their enthusiasm for both academic and extracurricular activities has set the tone for a successful year ahead.

It's clear that Year 7 are not just starting secondary school—they are building a strong foundation for the future. With teamwork, resilience and a spirit of adventure, they are already proving that this is going to be a year to remember.

## PRIMARY TRANSITION

This half term Mrs Humphreys has worked with Eastcroft Primary School, where the students worked on how to read music and learnt how to play a song on the keyboard. They were able to all perform independently showing the Kirkby Child value of confidence.

Mrs Humphreys also got to work with Kirkby Church of England school to prepare them for their Christmas concert, where they have learnt to play Jingle Bells on the Glockenspiels. They are due to perform in St Chad's Church on 17th December. It was a pleasure teaching both classes.

## REWARDS

Our ever popular Kirkby Child rewards strategy has seen over 600 students rewarded this term. Based on student voice we have provided gift vouchers, doughnuts and our festive cinema rewards trip.

As well as wider rewards over 400 students have earned a Kirkby Child badge to wear with pride for their commitment to our Kirkby Child values.

## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Year 7 have made a great start to their life studying PD at Kirkby High School, enjoying lessons on getting to know each other, healthy & unhealthy lifestyles, and the positives of intervening in bullying situations.**

Meanwhile, Year 8 & 9 have experienced sessions on careers & options choices, knife crime, and neurodiversity, whilst Year 10 looked at legal & illegal drugs then Work Experience preparing them for next May. Year 11 have been learning about various topics, including drugs & the law, exploitative relationships and the history of protest.

Out of lessons, Merseyside Police came into school in September to deliver their very powerful Operation Prospect workshop to Years 9 & 10, and students from all year groups have attended weekly Rainbow Club sessions, getting to know each other and how our brains can work differently!

# Maximising our Potential ...

# YEAR 8

**Year 8 have made a truly fantastic start to the year, demonstrating maturity, enthusiasm and a real commitment to their learning.**

This half term in form, students have explored a wide range of important themes including gratitude, human rights, tolerance, remembrance, kindness, values, hope and anti-social behaviour. During our Remembrance activities, Year 8 took part in the national minute's silence with great respect, showing real understanding of its significance.

Alongside this, students have continued to work hard across all areas of the curriculum, engaging positively with lessons and contributing thoughtfully in class.

A special mention goes to Mrs Frodsham's Year 8 maths class, who have shown excellent focus, resilience and teamwork—she has been genuinely impressed with their effort and progress this term.



A highlight of the term was the Year 8 trip. Students recently enjoyed an enriching visit to Quarry Bank Mill, an iconic industrial mill with origins dating back to the 1750s. During their tour, students explored the historic machinery, working spaces and living conditions that shaped life during the Industrial Revolution.

Not only were students fascinated by the hands-on learning experience, but their behaviour throughout the day was exemplary, reflecting both their enthusiasm and maturity.

The trip proved to be a memorable blend of education and conduct worthy of celebration.



## 8 FOR 8 CHALLENGES

Students have shown fantastic dedication to complete their 8 for 8 challenges, demonstrating commitment, independence and a willingness to push themselves both in and out of the classroom.

Additionally, well done to all students who regularly represent the school in sport, including those in the football team and the students who took part in the badminton competition.



# YEAR 9

It has been an extraordinary term for our Year 9 students. They have consistently demonstrated remarkable resilience, enthusiasm, and academic prowess, making the entire school community incredibly proud.

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT & ENGAGEMENT

The commitment of Year 9 to their studies has been outstanding. Teachers across all departments have noted the high level of engagement in lessons and the depth of critical thinking displayed. Students are challenging themselves, asking insightful questions and collaborating effectively on complex projects.

Their proactive approach to learning bodes well for their future academic success as they continue their transition into the upper school years.



## EXTRA CURRICULAR

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 excellent engagement to our other enrichment activities including Miss Baker's Culture Club and Mr Shaw's Warhammer Club.

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.

## NETBALL TRIP

Miss Nicolson, Miss Paul, and Mrs Butler accompanied students who regularly participate in extracurricular netball to the AO Arena for the Vitality Netball International Series.

The group had the exciting opportunity to watch the England Vitality Roses compete against New Zealand's Silver Ferns.



## DOLLY HALL

Year 11 travelled to Dolly Hall in October for an English and Maths revision weekend.

The students and staff mixed their time studying and relaxing at the beach in Barmouth.

# Maximising our Potential ...

# MATHS



As we approach the festive season, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and share some exciting updates from the Maths faculty.

## YEAR 11 AFTER SCHOOL REVISION

To support our Year 11 students in preparation for their GCSE exams, we have been running after-school revision sessions every Wednesday from 3:10 pm to 4:10 pm.

These sessions focus on key topics and exam techniques to help students maximise their potential.

## HOMEWORK CLUB TUESDAY LUNCHTIME

For any student who needs extra help or a quiet space to complete their homework, our Homework Club runs every Tuesday during lunchtime in Room CM2.

Staff will be available to provide guidance and support.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT WITH NCETM MATHS HUBS

This year we are excited to be working with Maths Hubs and the Kirkby Collaborative again with the years 5-8 continuity programme.

The Kirkby primary and secondary schools are working together to develop consistent approaches to teaching certain topics so that our students all learn 'The Kirkby Way'.

## SPARX MATHS HOMEWORK

We are delighted to see so many students engaging with Sparx Maths. This platform is a fantastic way to consolidate learning at home. Please encourage your child to complete their weekly homework, as it plays a vital role in building confidence and fluency in mathematics.

### Top classes for homework

Year 7: 7H1 Miss O'Toole's class  
Standout students: Enoch D. Cattlea M, Christianah I, Akwale M.

Year 8: A tie between 8H1 Mrs Frodsham's and 8K2 Mr Frodsham's classes  
Standout students: Junior M & Maisie G

Year 9: 9K1 Ms Gee's class  
Standout students: Matteo P, Fernando A & Lucy D

Year 10: 10y3 Mrs Frodsham's class  
Standout students: Maia S & Isabelle B

Year 11: 11y3 Mrs Frodsham's class  
Standout students: Ava M, Millie F & Jamie R

## NUMERACY INTERVENTIONS

Some of our KS3 students have begun numeracy intervention, helping them to build upon skills such as visual memory, comparing numbers and using number facts.

The intervention aims to help overcome barriers to learning, anxiety and provides targeted support. You can support at home by playing memory games, ensuring your child can tell the time, use bus and train timetables and estimate the total of a shopping bill including change.

# YEAR 10

## ASPIRATION

Year 10 have embraced the transition into their GCSE curriculum with real maturity. They have shown a great attitude to learning in lessons and are already demonstrating independence. Classrooms across all subjects are filled with students eager to contribute, asking questions and pushing themselves to achieve their very best.

We are also incredibly proud to announce that several Year 10 students have successfully applied and been selected to join the Student Leadership Team.

The application process was competitive, with students demonstrating excellent communication skills, commitment to the school community and a willingness to take on responsibility. Our new leaders will play an important role in representing student voice, supporting school events and acting as positive role models for younger years.

A huge congratulations to all those who applied and to those who were appointed—your hard work and initiative have truly shone through.

As we move deeper into the GCSE year, we are excited to continue supporting Year 10 on their academic and personal development journeys. With the momentum they have already built, we are confident this will be a year full of progress, achievement and pride.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

Our Year 10 Computer Science students had an exciting opportunity this term as they visited The Spine in Liverpool to explore the rapidly evolving world of AI technology. Throughout the day, students took part in a range of aspirational and intellectually challenging workshops that showcased cutting-edge innovations and encouraged them to think deeply about the future of computing.

The sessions pushed students to consider how artificial intelligence is shaping global industries, healthcare, education, and everyday life. They engaged brilliantly with hands-on activities, asked thoughtful questions and represented the school with maturity and curiosity. This inspiring experience not only broadened students' understanding of AI but also encouraged them to think ambitiously about their own future pathways in technology.

We are incredibly proud of their efforts and look forward to seeing how this experience fuels their passion for Computer Science.



## WORK EXPERIENCE

Meetings with all Year 10 students are now underway to support them in securing meaningful, career-focused work experience placements, guided closely by the school's careers advisors.

Through personalised discussions, careers fairs and targeted school assemblies, students are being helped to explore sectors that match their interests and ambitions.

Many students are already demonstrating key employability skills such as growing confidence, clear communication and rising aspiration which will prepare them well for successful and purposeful placements that enhance their understanding of the world of work.

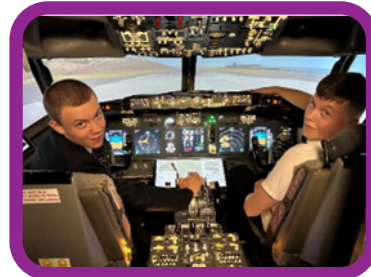
# Maximising our Potential ...

## TRIPS AND VISITS

Our Year 9 students embarked on an exciting aviation trip to the Manchester Flight Simulation Centre. During the trip, they had the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of piloting three different aircrafts using state-of-the-art simulators.

The sessions were led by industry professionals—a British Airways Captain and a First Officer from Ryanair—who shared their expertise and real-world insights into the world of aviation. Students practised essential flight skills, explored cockpit controls, and gained a deeper understanding of what it takes to operate commercial aircraft.

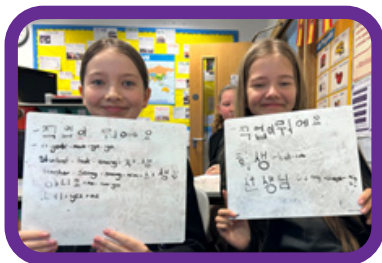
The trip inspired many of our students to consider future careers in the airline industry.



## YEAR 9 CAREERS TRIP TO MANCHESTER AIRPORT

Our Year 9 students recently visited Manchester Airport for an inspiring careers-focused trip. The day highlighted the wide range of opportunities available within the aviation industry.

A key theme of the visit was the importance of languages in different careers. Students discovered how multilingual skills can open doors to roles in customer service, air traffic control, cabin crew, and international business operations. They learned that effective communication across cultures is essential in a global industry like aviation. This experience gave students a real insight into how language learning can enhance employability.



## CULTURE CLUB

This year, the Culture Club embarked on an exciting journey of language learning and cultural exchange. Students have had the opportunity to teach and learn languages from each other.

The language this term has been Korean, next half term we will be learning German.





# YEAR 11



Well done to Year 11 for working incredibly hard in preparation for their mock exams and college applications. Your dedication is truly paying off, and we are so proud of the effort you continue to show each day. A special well done to all students who have attended revision sessions and taken part in being a #WinningStreak winner!

Huge congratulations to those who have attended three or more revision sessions each week — a fantastic show of commitment!

## STUDENT PREFECT TRAINING DAY

Our Student Prefect Training Day at West Lancs College was a great success!

Students explored what it means to be a positive role model and the key attributes that make a prefect truly impactful.

## YEAR 11 PROM 2026 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

It's that exciting time of year when we begin planning the Year 11 Prom, a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to celebrate achievements and say farewell.

We are delighted to announce that this year's prom will take place:

- Aintree Racecourse – Papillon Suite
- Thursday 25th June 2026
- 7pm–11pm

### A Final Message

Keep working hard throughout the remainder of Year 11 — well done!



## ASPIRATION

All Year 11 students have received dedicated Career Information, Advice and Guidance sessions with the school's careers advisors, ensuring every pupil has explored and prepared for at least three post-16 options. Students have considered a broad range of routes, including apprenticeships, sixth forms, colleges and specialist training providers.

All learners are now underway with their applications and have been supported through personalised 1:1 guidance as well as drop-in application sessions delivered by further education providers, ensuring they feel confident, informed and ready for their next steps beyond school.

# Maximising our Potential ...



# SHAPING FUTURES



Over the past term, students in Years 8, 10, and 11 have taken part in a series of inspiring aspiration-raising workshops delivered in partnership with Shaping Futures. These engaging sessions introduced learners to the world of higher education, encouraged them to think ambitiously about their futures and challenged them through dynamic problem-solving activities.

Through hands-on tasks and expert guidance, students developed confidence, resilience, and a clearer understanding of the exciting pathways available to them. We are proud of the enthusiasm they showed and look forward to building on this momentum in future opportunities.

## CAREERS FAIR

This term, our school hosted a vibrant and highly successful Whole School Careers Fair, welcoming more than 35 companies, employers, training providers and further education organisations. The event offered students a unique opportunity to explore a wide range of career paths, discover new sectors and gain valuable insights into the world of work.

Throughout the day, students from all year groups engaged confidently with exhibitors, asking thoughtful and aspirational questions about future opportunities, qualifications and the skills needed to succeed. Their enthusiasm, maturity and curiosity were praised by visitors, who commented on how exceptionally well our students presented themselves.

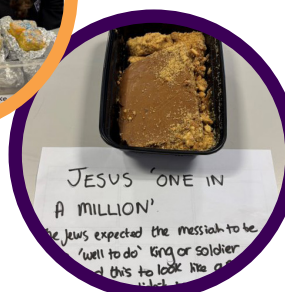
The Careers Fair encouraged learners to reflect on their future ambitions, broaden their horizons, and consider the many pathways open to them, whether through university, apprenticeships, vocational training, or emerging industries. We are incredibly proud of how our students embraced the experience and look forward to supporting them as they continue to shape their future goals



## R.E - BAKE OFF

Well done to the GCSE RE students who successfully took part in an RE 'Bake off' to help them remember some of the key concepts in their GCSE.

All participants baked delicious items and showed confidence and aspiration by taking part.



# ENGLISH

**This year has seen the introduction of our Reading Club within the Reading Zone. Reading Club is open to all students in years 7 to 10, Monday to Thursday.**

Students from each year group have made fantastic use of this quiet space and have shown excellent levels of aspiration in their reading. There are so many benefits to reading both inside and outside of school, and we would love to see more students attending. There will be prizes available to students who have shown dedication to their reading and regularly attend Reading Club. If you haven't attended yet, ask your English teacher for a pass!

Year 11 have made a great start to their revision and practice in preparation for their GCSEs and have been attending lunch revision sessions in EN1 every Wednesday and Thursday. It's a quiet place to revise, reflect and discuss. English resources are available for students to use. Get passes from your English teacher or see Mrs Dahl in EN1.

## 'ORACY IN FORM TIME'

**Our Oracy Champions attended a spoken language workshop last year and have been working hard to share their skills with a number of different form groups.**

This term, students have focussed on skills such as eye contact, speaking in detail and avoiding filler words in order to develop in to clear, confident speakers.

All Year 8 and 9 form groups will have experienced four different workshops lead by our very own oracy champions, where they will have the opportunity to learn about why oracy is so important and to put these skills in to practice. Well done Oracy Champions - keep up the hard work!

## NATIONAL POETRY DAY 2025

**In October, our students joined in the celebration of National Poetry Day by creating their own blackout poems.**

Every pupil in Key Stage 3 took part, transforming pages from damaged books into striking new works of poetry. Their creativity and imagination were truly inspiring!

## PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

**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 GCSE Awards Evening, Literacy and Numeracy Intervention Evening and Work Experience Information Evening 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 have been reaccredited with the Leading Parent Partnership Award for the next three years.

# Maximising our Potential ...



# DRAMA

This term has been an exciting and rewarding one in the Drama department, with students demonstrating exceptional creativity and commitment throughout their work.

Year 10 explored *Our Day Out* by Willy Russell, focusing particularly on the powerful and emotional relationship between Carol and Mr. Briggs. Students have explored this tense and dramatic moment with real maturity, examining the characters' motivations and conflicting perspectives. Their performances have shown impressive sensitivity, depth and understanding.



Year 11 have also created outstanding devised pieces for their GCSE assessment, tackling challenging topics such as World War II, 9/11, bullying, family issues and homelessness. Their teamwork and imagination have resulted in moving, thought-provoking performances that showcase their growing theatrical skill. Across Key Stage 3, students have focused on script work, characterisation and symbolism, developing confidence and strong foundations in performance. Their enthusiasm has brought energy and creativity into every lesson.



Finally, the whole school was thrilled as we prepared for our production of *Elf! The Musical*. Rehearsals were filled with festive spirit as we brought the magical world of New York and the joyful adventures of Buddy the Elf to Kirkby High School.

With music, laughter and plenty of Christmas sparkle, it proved to be a truly magical show!

## KIRKBY HIGH HARVEST 2025

Thank you to our Ethical Ambassadors who collected food as part of Harvest.

We had nearly double the donations from the previous year. This helped families in the local area who were in need.

Thanks to all who donated.





## PERSONAL SAFETY

### Look confident

You are less likely to be targeted if you look confident. Move with purpose and try to be aware of your surroundings.

### Know where you're going

Plan your route and think about what to take with you, especially if you're going somewhere you haven't been before. Keep to busy, well-lit streets, walkways and paths which are more likely to be covered by CCTV. Only take licensed taxis or minicabs booked by phone or a mobile phone app.

### Keep your distance

When walking behind someone, particularly at night, try to leave a good amount of distance between yourself and the person ahead of you. Remember that the closer you are, the more threatening you might seem.

### Cross the road

Somebody running up behind you, particularly at night, can be frightening. If you're out for an evening run, or walk, and see someone walking ahead, cross the road, call out to let them know you're about to run by them or make sure to leave a good amount of space when you pass them.

### Keep comments to yourself

What you might think of as just a bit of fun, or flattery, can be insulting, upsetting or even scary to someone else. Keep any comments or opinions to yourself.

### Keep your friends in line

If you're in a group of people where someone is harassing another person on the street, try to calm the situation. They may just need to be told that they're behaving inappropriately.

### Protect your mobile phones:

- Don't leave your phone, iPad, tablet or camera unattended, out of your sight, or left on a table. Thieves can grab a phone from a table in seconds.
- Be aware of your surroundings and only use your mobile when it feels safe to.
- When you've finished using it, put it away.
- Secure your phone
- Use your phone's security features to stop someone using your phone if it's stolen. Choose a strong PIN, passcode, password or pattern.
- Get your IMEI number
- Get your phone's IMEI number by typing \*#06# on your phone keypad. Keep a note of it somewhere other than on your phone. The IMEI can help track the phone down if it's lost or stolen.

### Use a tracking app

Set up a tracking app on your phone so you can see where it is from another device like a laptop. Use it as soon as possible, before thieves have a chance to disable it.

### Advice and Support for parents and carers of LGBTQ+ young people

If you'd like support with a young person who is LGBTQ+, **YPAS Liverpool** offer 1:1 support for 10-25 year old LGBTQ+ children and young people from Merseyside. Referral pathway: [www.ypas.org.uk/get-support/](http://www.ypas.org.uk/get-support/)

They also have LGBTQ+ youth group access that requires no referral. Young people just need to turn up at the Liverpool City Centre hub.

**Tuesdays: GYRO LGBTQ+ Youth (11 - 16 Years old)**  
**16:30 - 18:00**

**Wednesdays: TAYgender diverse young people**  
**(secondary school age) 16:30- 18:00 Thursdays:**  
**GYRO LGBTQ+ Youth (16-25 years old) 17:30-19:00**

Please be mindful that they have a bit of a festive shut down going on over the next few weeks so there is a reduced offer until January, when they open back up fully.

You can find more details of their opening hours and offer here: [www.ypas.org.uk/whats-on/](http://www.ypas.org.uk/whats-on/) and on social media- Instagram @gyroliverpool

The Proud Trust also offers a wide range of services and support groups. You can see their guidance and advice here: [www.theprouddtrust.org](http://www.theprouddtrust.org)

THiNK (Teenage Health in Knowsley) is offering a safe space for young people aged 11-19 (up to 25 with SEND) to meet, connect with their community and co-design projects and programmes.

Sessions alternate weekly between Huyton and Kirkby. Contact them if you would like more information or to come along, contact Jess on 07759 707461 or [JessicaG@mya.org.uk](mailto:JessicaG@mya.org.uk)

If you need more information about these services, please contact [admin@kirkbyhighschool.net](mailto:admin@kirkbyhighschool.net) for the attention of Mr Greenbank