



Welcome to the Kirkby High School Summer Newsletter 2026



As we reach the end of another successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our entire school community for their continued support and to celebrate the many achievements of our students. We are incredibly proud of the way our young people have continued to **maximise their potential** throughout 2025–2026, consistently demonstrating our Kirkby Child values of **Resilience, Kindness, Aspiration, Confidence and Respect**.

This year has been filled with opportunities for students to learn, develop and thrive both in and beyond the classroom. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our committed staff. Students have enjoyed a wide range of visits and experiences including trips to Dolly Hall, Blackpool, Chester Zoo and Quarry Bank Mill, alongside the many clubs, enrichment activities and events that take place throughout the year.

Each year group has embraced opportunities. Our Year 7 students played an important role in welcoming our new Year 6 students into the Kirkby High School family. Year 8 students have shown tremendous determination through their 8 for 8 Challenge, whilst Year 9 students enjoyed an aspirational visit to Manchester Airport, helping them to explore future career pathways. Our comprehensive careers programme has provided students with valuable experiences to help prepare them for their futures. Highlights have included Year 7 students participating in Steps into the NHS, Year 8 students taking part in the Discover Chemical Engineering Challenge Day, Year 9 students attending a STEM Festival, and Year 10 students completing their work experience placements and visiting local colleges. We were particularly pleased to receive excellent feedback from college staff regarding the maturity, conduct and ambition displayed by our students.



Our students continue to embody the values that make our school community so special. Our value of respect has been celebrated through our Personal Development curriculum and events such as our International Day of Cultural Diversity. Resilience has been evident throughout the year as students successfully navigated GCSE examinations, KS3 assessments and mock examinations. Kindness has been demonstrated through initiatives such as our Walk for Autism. Confidence has been showcased through many achievements, particularly in sport. Congratulations to our Year 8 boys' football team for winning the Knowsley tournament and to our Year 7 team for reaching the Knowsley final. A particular highlight of teaching and learning this year has been the successful implementation of our Purple Zone. Students have embraced this dedicated time in lessons to practise, consolidate and strengthen new learning, helping them to develop greater independence and confidence in their studies.

As we come to the end of the year, we also say goodbye to several members of staff. On behalf of the entire school community, I would like to thank them for their commitment, dedication and contribution to our school. We wish them every success and happiness in the future. I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge our fantastic Year 11 students. Throughout their final year, they have demonstrated aspiration and resilience in preparing for and completing their GCSE examinations. It was wonderful to celebrate with them at their school prom, and whilst they will be greatly missed, we look forward to welcoming them back on results day and hearing about their future successes.

Finally, I would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support of the high expectations we have for our students. As we look ahead to September, please ensure you have read the recent letter containing important information about the new academic year, including uniform expectations and the introduction of Yondr pouches, which will support our commitment to being a phone-free school.

Thank you for a wonderful year. I wish all students, families and staff a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Mrs A Dobson
Headteacher

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

As the academic year draws to a close, our Year 7 students are reaching the end of their first full year in secondary school. They have shown tremendous growth in confidence and resilience, embracing new challenges and opportunities along the way. As their year team, Mrs Butler, Miss Ellis and I are incredibly proud of all they have achieved during this important transition year.

As Year 7 move into their final weeks, a range of exciting opportunities awaits them. Students are gearing up for their first **Celebration of Sport**, looking forward to the upcoming **trip to Blackpool**, and preparing to apply for roles as **transition leaders** as they step into their second year of secondary school.

So, as we celebrate the end of a successful first year, we look forward to hosting our graduation assembly for Year 7 students. It is an opportunity to reward our students for such an amazing first year settling in at Kirkby High School. We know they will continue to thrive as they move into Year 8 becoming excellent role models as we wish our new Year 7 students a warm welcome to the school community.

WORLD EARTH DAY

One highlight of the summer term was the trip to Anfield to mark World Earth Day. Students took part in activities focused on sustainability and environmental responsibility, learning about the positive actions we can all take to protect our planet.

The visit was both educational and rewarding, encouraging students to think about their role in creating a greener future.

PRIMARY TRANSITION

A select group of students have played an important part in welcoming the next generation of students during our recent Transition Evening and Transition Day.

They demonstrated maturity and kindness as they helped incoming Year 6 students experience life at secondary school, sharing their own experiences and helping to ease any worries about the move in September.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

It has been another busy year in personal development here at KHS, as we continue to develop a curriculum that young people need to succeed in the future.

Year 7 students have been learning about how to spot fake news and echo chambers online, plus financial security & money management, jobs & careers. They looked at making the right choices and how to deal with peer pressure to commit crimes via new Merseyside Police sessions and a resource entitled 'Grassing or Grooming'.

Year 10 looked at controlling behaviour and coercive control within relationships, then prepared for and reflected on their Work Experience placements, before tackling topics such as taxes & mortgages and the effects of gambling.



Maximising our Potential...

YEAR 8

Year 8 have had a fantastic year, demonstrating maturity, enthusiasm and a real commitment to their learning. Throughout the year, students have explored important themes including gratitude, human rights, tolerance, remembrance, kindness, values and hope, while developing their understanding of the world around them.



Students have worked hard across all areas of the curriculum, engaging positively in lessons and making valuable contributions in class. Their commitment has also extended beyond the classroom, with Year 8 being the best-attended year group for enrichment sports activities. We were especially proud of the Year 8 boys for winning their Knowsley football tournament!



A highlight of the year was the opportunity to take part in a Chemical Engineering experience, where pupils learned how engineers use creativity, collaboration and innovation to solve real-world problems and develop sustainable solutions. Their excellent behaviour and engagement were praised by the event organisers.

Year 8 have also shown fantastic dedication to completing their 8 for 8 challenges, displaying resilience, independence and a willingness to challenge themselves. Their hard work has been rewarded through a number of well-deserved treats, including school cinema experiences and Domino's rewards.



Meanwhile, other whole school sessions were delivered on the themes of taking risks with money, British Values (with a focus on democracy & elections) and cultural diversity within our community.

Also, Rainbow Club members celebrated Pride month by making friendship bracelets and discussing the things we are most proud of. We also designed a banner on the themes of identity and diversity that was displayed as part of the Good Law Project in London.



REWARDS

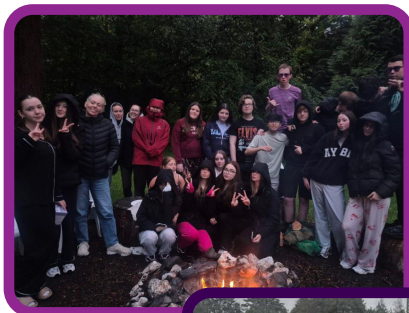
Our Kirkby Child Rewards strategy has seen over 900 students rewarded this academic year. Based on student voice, we have been awarded gift vouchers, pizza parties, cinema trips, and the Blackpool trip!

We have also been able to introduce a book vending machine to reward students for following our Kirkby Child values. This year has seen a record number of Kirkby Child badges awarded to our students.

YEAR 9

It has been a fantastic term for our Year 9 students. They have enjoyed many trips and new experiences such as LIPA and Dolly Hall. Well done to Archie E who won the honour, across the whole of the North West to have his artwork displayed in the Walker Art Gallery.

We are incredibly proud of everything Year 9 have achieved this year and look forward to seeing their continued success in Year 10.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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 and our ever popular culture club and Warhammer club, this year has seen the launch of several new clubs including Mr Harvey's chess club, Miss Shippides' book club, Ms Leung's crochet and crafts club and the jigsaw 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. Our Year 7s spent a day at Chester Zoo to build their understanding in Geography and Science, our Year 8s experienced life in the Industrial Revolution by visiting Quarry Bank Mill, our Year 10s had a wonderful taster day at Knowsley Community College, our Year 11s and 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.



Maximising our Potential...

YEAR 10

ASPIRATION

Year 10 have not only launched into their GCSE studies with confidence and maturity — they've have taken major steps toward planning their futures.

This term, students visited several local further-education providers, including West Lancashire College, Winstanley College, and Kirkby College (KCC), gaining first-hand insight into the opportunities awaiting them after Year 11. One of the standout successes this year has been the incredible 93,798 points earned collectively by the year group. This achievement reflects their hard work, positive behaviour and determination to succeed. Tutor groups have been competing in a friendly rivalry to climb the leaderboard, motivating students to stay focused, support one another, and celebrate each win together.

The Year 10 Student Leadership Team have been taking responsibility for a range of duties across the school. They are also continuing to contribute to our ongoing work toward achieving the Healthy Schools Award.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students were invited to take part in a youth summit on the topic of Artificial Intelligence ran by the Liverpool Combined City Region.

The students took part in various activities based around A.I, its uses, discussing hopes and fears of using A.I in the city and the LCR went over its plans of how it's investing into A.I and its plans for future projects.

GEOGRAPHY

The geography department has created many opportunities for our KS3 and KS4 students. For the Year 7 students, we planned a cross-curricular trip with Science to Chester Zoo. The students had a fun-filled day exploring the different ecosystems and attending an educational workshop.

Year 10 students had the opportunity to take part in a Human Fieldwork trip to Kirkby Town Centre. The students experienced a great day at Kirkby where they were able to investigate the regeneration of the area and interview local people.

To encourage participation, our 'Winning Streak' initiative rewarded students who attended the highest number of revision sessions each week. This helped to motivate students, whilst recognising their hard work and dedication to achieving their best

Kindness

YEAR 11

Our Year 11 students have worked incredibly hard throughout their final term at Kirkby High School, showing determination, resilience and maturity as they prepared for their GCSE examinations and began planning their next steps beyond school.

REVISION SESSIONS

Form times have been hives of activity, with students taking part in sessions focused on effective revision techniques, study skills and mental wellbeing.

These opportunities have helped students to manage the pressures of the examination period while developing valuable skills for the future.

Revision sessions were extremely well attended throughout the examination period, with students showing real commitment to their studies.



As their time at Kirkby High draws to a close, it has been wonderful to celebrate their achievements and memories. Festivities culminated in a fantastic Leavers' Assembly, where students reflected on their journey through school, followed by a memorable Prom at Aintree Racecourse.

Both events provided fitting opportunities to recognise the hard work, friendships and successes of this exceptional year group.

MFL

The MFL department continued with the success of our primary transition programme, with several of our feeder schools joining us each week for engaging Spanish lessons. These sessions were designed to introduce students to language learning in a fun and interactive way.

Westvale Primary School students learnt about the topic of pets. Meanwhile, students from Eastcroft Park Primary School, Kirkby C of E Primary School, and Northwood Community Primary School all focused on food and drink.

Through these sessions, children learnt how to name a range of common food and drink, express likes and dislikes, and take part in role-play activities.

MANCHESTER AIRPORT TRIP

Year 9 enjoyed an aspirational trip to Manchester airport back in September 2025 to experience a variety of careers in aviation that are available on their doorstep. Students experienced being airport traffic control to ground staff and cabin crew.



Maximising our Potential...

LFC FOUNDATION

One of the most exciting highlights of the year has been the school's ongoing partnership with the LFC Foundation, which has opened doors to unforgettable opportunities.

Year 10 were thrilled to welcome Joe Gomez to school as part of a special Match of the Day feature. Deputy Head Boy Emmanuel was then invited to the AXA Training Centre, where he had the honour of presenting Joe Gomez with the PFA Community Champion Award.



Year 9 have continued to work closely with Greg on the On-Side programme, developing confidence, leadership, and teamwork skills. Several students were even given the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play at Anfield, creating memories they will never forget.

The Year 9 girls had an exciting opportunity to visit Anfield as part of the We Empower Project, a programme focused on Female Empowerment and raising aspirations.

Year 8 girls have been taking part in the She Inspires Programme, a sport-based initiative designed to strengthen their resilience, confidence, and leadership skills.

Well done to our year 7 boys' team getting to the Knowsley boys final, our amazing basketball team playing their first game against Prescott and our Year 8 boys winning their Knowsley football tournament!

They have shown aspiration by striving to achieve their personal best, while showing resilience throughout.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

On 21 May 2026, we celebrated International Day of Cultural Diversity. Students shared greetings in their native languages, and we enjoyed food from around the world at lunchtime in the canteen. Thank you to Laura and the team for the superb tasting buffet!

CULTURE CLUB

It has been another successful year in Culture Club! Students have been on an exciting journey around the world, exploring Korean, Japanese, Turkish and German languages through a variety of activities. From mastering greetings to practising simple conversations, everyone has developed confidence and curiosity about different cultures and languages.

ALUMNI

Liam Balmer has had an incredible year of football. He played for Liverpool in Japan, for England in the Middle East and has now transferred to Leeds United FC on a 3-year contract. We are pleased to report that he intends to continue studying Spanish - Muy Bien Liam!

We wish him all the very best for a successful career and future.



Respect

INCLUSION

THE SENSORY HIVE

The Sensory Hive have been working with some of our students to create an individualised sensory profile. These sensory profiles provide tools for students to utilise in order to meet their sensory needs in school.

Hayley from the Hive spent time with students in school in small group interventions around their sensory needs. Students then visited The Sensory Hive to use the equipment and access the rooms that met the identified sensory needs of the students. All students really enjoyed their visit with one student saying they felt they had been 'treated like royalty'.



LIFE SKILLS

Some of our Year 11 students participated in Life skills intervention. We created career paths, route planning for college, budgeting and food and nutrition.

Utilising the Eatwell guide to make healthy swaps or additions to our favourite meals and snacks, the students researched recipes, made healthy substitutions, planned their method and made their food to share with each other and home. All students worked well together, tried new foods, included vegetables they don't usually eat and produced a plate of food they were proud of.

FRIDAY NOMINATIONS

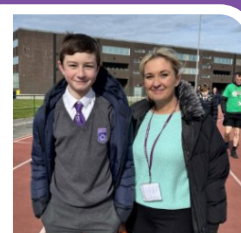
On Friday we celebrate students' attendance and achievement. We nominate students to pick a song they would like to play during lunchtime.

This is a really lovely end to our week in inclusion, we use the time to talk about their successes, achievements and what they're looking forward to the following week.

RE

In March, we held our annual Walk for Autism with inclusion and Mrs Maloret. This year we walked with some of our lovely neighbours from Bluebell. As always, our students showed great enthusiasm and welcomed our neighbours with kindness and warmth.

SEND Celebration evening concluded our day following our Walk for Autism. We played games. Students won amazing raffle prizes and they all left with an easter egg. All students received a certificate for demonstrating our Kirkby child values.



At the end of June, a group of Year 9 students who had picked RE at GCSE visited Liverpool Anglican cathedral and Al-Rahma mosque.

This was a great way to explore cultural values in our own city. All students showed the Kirkby child values of respect and aspiration.

Maximising our Potential...

CAREERS

YEAR 7 STEPS IN TO NHS

Year 7 students showed excellent creativity and dedication throughout the project, demonstrating the Kirkby Child values as they explored over 350 NHS career opportunities.

They engaged enthusiastically with the livestream activities and career journeys, producing imaginative and engaging job advertisements that reflected their learning.



Y8 - CHEMGEN

Year 8 students thoroughly enjoyed the DiscoverChemEngLIVE Challenge Day, showing excellent engagement, asking thoughtful questions, and working collaboratively throughout the interactive activities.

They demonstrated the Kirkby Child values by exploring real-life chemical, biochemical, and process engineering careers, meeting industry professionals, and gaining valuable insight into engineering pathways and the important role engineers play in creating sustainable solutions for the future.



Y9 - STEM FESTIVAL

Year 9 students had an excellent day at the STEM Festival at West Lancashire College, taking part in a wide range of engaging, hands-on activities that sparked curiosity and introduced them to the many exciting career opportunities within STEM.

Their outstanding behaviour received positive feedback from everyone they interacted with, with staff praising the students for bringing great energy, enthusiasm, and full engagement to every activity while demonstrating the Kirkby Child values throughout the day.



Y10 - WORK EXPERIENCE

Year 10 students have had an incredibly busy and rewarding year of aspiration opportunities, including work experience, a wide range of educational visits, and full-year-group taster days at two local colleges.

Alongside a variety of tailored gifted and talented experiences, these opportunities have encouraged students to explore their strengths, broaden their career aspirations, and begin making informed decisions about their post-16 pathways.



Y11 - NEXT STEPS

Year 11 students have had an exceptionally busy year as they prepared for both their GCSE examinations and their next steps beyond school.

Through mock interviews, personalised careers guidance meetings, post-16 application support, and drop-in sessions with higher education providers, students have been well supported to make informed decisions about their future, ensuring they leave school with strong foundations and clear pathways towards further education, training, or employment.

We wish them nothing but success in their future endeavours.

Aspiration

ENGLISH

This year's World Book Day celebrations at KHS were our most exciting and ambitious yet, creating a real buzz of enthusiasm for reading across the whole school.

Throughout the week, students were captivated by a thrilling mystery story revealed in daily installments, building suspense and sparking conversations in every corridor. We were delighted to give away an incredible 600 books, ensuring that even more students could discover the joy of reading beyond the classroom. Staff fully embraced the spirit of the day by dressing up as beloved book characters, bringing stories vividly to life and inspiring students in a fun and memorable way.

In English lessons, a supernatural theme added an extra layer of excitement, with students exploring gripping extracts from *Twilight* and *Dracula*. Altogether, it was our biggest and most brilliant World Book Day yet, celebrating literature in a truly unforgettable style.

The English faculty is delighted to offer a range of opportunities for students to enjoy reading, develop their imagination, and receive additional academic support.

CONGRATULATIONS

Bridget C (10IFL) and Lottie M (8HPE) entered the 'I Have A Dream' poetry competition and their poems have been selected to be published in the 2026 collection.

On sale in all good bookshops.

D&D CLUB

Dungeons & Dragons Club continues to run at both lunchtimes and after school, providing students with a fantastic opportunity to build creativity, teamwork, problem-solving skills and confidence through collaborative storytelling and adventure.

READING ZONE

Our Reading Zone is open every lunchtime, offering a welcoming and relaxed space where students can enjoy a book, discover new authors, and share their love of reading with others.

QUIET REVISION

For our Year 11 students, we also provide a quiet revision space at lunchtime, giving students a calm environment to study, complete independent work, and prepare for their examinations with support from the English team where needed.

DRAMA

Our GCSE Drama students have worked exceptionally hard this year and successfully completed their Component 3 examination.

Students brought their selected scripts to life through engaging and committed performances, showcasing the skills they have developed throughout the course. We are incredibly proud of them.



Our Year 9 students recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to Shakespeare North, where they took part in interactive workshops led by industry professionals and current students.

The experience gave them a valuable insight into careers in the performing arts while developing their confidence, creativity, and cultural capital.

Maximising our Potential...

MATHS

It has been an incredibly busy and successful term in the maths Department, with students across all year groups taking part in a wide range of opportunities to challenge themselves and develop their confidence.

Year 10 students enjoyed a visit to Liverpool John Moores University where they took part in three university style lectures. This visit offered students a taste of university level learning, strengthening both their mathematical confidence and their aspirations for future study.



Students from Years 7 to 9 have proudly represented the school in two UKMT Maths Challenges. We are incredibly proud of the effort they put into preparing for and completing these challenging events. It was wonderful to see their hard work recognised with a well-deserved pizza party reward.

We have enjoyed an exciting partnership with Liverpool John Moores University this year. Through this collaboration, a group of Year 8 students have been building their confidence through a series of engaging murder mystery investigations. They have also shown fantastic commitment to their learning by competing in a Sparx Maths Homework League.

Our Year 11 cohort have demonstrated exceptional commitment to their GCSE preparation. This year, students have broken all records for the number of practice papers completed, showing real determination to succeed.

We are extremely proud of the students who have consistently gone above and beyond with their homework.

Year 7: Ana-Maria I and Enoch O

Year 8: Patricia P and Junior M

Year 9: Madison M and Leonard I

Year 10: Maia S and Emmanuel O

As part of our commitment to developing cultural capital and raising aspirations, our Year 9 students enjoyed educational visits to LIPA (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts).

The experience provided students with valuable insight into the performing arts industry and gave them the opportunity to participate in practical workshops led by industry professionals.



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

We are proud to have been re-awarded the Leading Parent Partnership Award this year for our commitment to working together with parents and carers.

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 Creative Arts Celebration Evening, Gifted and Talented Evening, Literacy and Numeracy Intervention Evening and Work Experience Information Evenings where parents and staff have worked together to support our young people in maximising their potential.

Confidence

Purple Zone

Teachers across the school have continued to support all students to maximise their potential with the introduction of two very exciting strategies for learning. The first strategy has been Purple Zone. This focuses on providing students with dedicated time in lessons to practise the new learning.

Purple Zone takes place every lesson, for at least 15 minutes. Through student voice, it is clear it is having an impact on our students' learning. They feel it makes them think more and supports building their confidence and resilience.

How will it work?

- It will take place in the second half of every lesson for 15 minutes
- Your child will work independently for 10 minutes
- The teacher will circulate but not give feedback
- After 10 minutes, the teacher will stop the class and give some whole class feedback
- Your child will then have the remaining 5 minutes to correct any misconceptions and complete the work



Based on Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development.

The closer you get to the centre, the more effective your learning.

SMART SYSTEM

In addition to Purple Zone, this year we have also launched the SMART System. This is a strategy we have introduced to support all students when completing assessments and examinations. The system supports students to answer questions with confidence.

One of the great challenges students face when completing assessments and examinations is how to start answers. The system helps students to overcome this as there are clear steps students follow when they begin their questions. By using this in lessons and as part of revision, students are building good routines and habits which will support them to perform better in any assessment or examination.

S.M.A.R.T

- S**CAN AND CIRCLE THE QUESTION
- M**AIN INFORMATION - UNDERLINE KEY FACTS AND INFORMATION
- A**NSWER CAREFULLY - WORK THROUGH EACH LINE OF THE QUESTION
- R**EVIEW - CHECK YOUR RESPONSE MAKES SENSE
- T**ICK IT OFF - HAVE YOU DONE WHAT THE QUESTION ASKED?

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/

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

You can find more details of their opening hours and offer here: 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.theproudtrust.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 would like more information or to come along, contact Jess on **07759 707461** or JessicaG@mya.org.uk

If you need more information about these services, please contact admin@kirkbyhighschool.net for the attention of Mr Greenbank.