

NEWSletter

As another very eventful term draws to an end, our school is able to reflect on many positives so far this year:

Extracurricular goes from strength to strength!

Our wide range of clubs and activities continues to grow in range and popularity across six days a week. A particular highlight for me was the Winter Performance of music last week. The commitment and talent of the performers was a testament to both Mr Dolan and Ms Harding.



External Reviews

We had a School Improvement Partner Review, an OFSTED inspection and a Birmingham Education Partnership Safeguarding Audit this term. Each of them was intense but highlighted the huge strengths of the school.

Merry Christmas

Lesley Brookes

It has also been a sad term for many of us, as we have confronted the recent death of our friend and Governor, Lesley Brookes. This has made me reflect on how precious, uncertain and finite our lives are. It has underlined the need to act with focus but also kindness and compassion throughout our lives and I have found our school motto 'work hard, be kind' to resonate deeply with me, and one I see in practice every day, as OFSTED noted: 'Pupils get along well. Positive relationships make this school a productive and inclusive place of learning.' This will be the sixteenth time we have broken up for the Christmas break since I joined this school, and eighth as Headteacher. In that time, there has been a huge amount of change and many challenges. However, the soul of the school – a small school which cares deeply for its pupils and staff, remains unchanged.



As January approaches, thoughts turn to our priorities next term:

Attendance

Attendance has slipped a little in recent weeks. This is worrying because we understand just how vital strong attendance is to the happiness and success of our pupils. Even a handful of days can have a surprising impact. We will redouble our efforts to ensure every one of our pupils has the best possible chances by working to support strong attendance.

Year 11 Mocks, Boosters and Attainment

Our early analysis of the Year 11 mock exams suggests that the current Year 11 are on track to do very well next Summer. However, the data also gives us the opportunity to review support for individuals and groups within the Year. One area where parents/carers can have most impact is ensuring your child attends boosters as often as possible. Another is supporting your child in having good routines around homework and revision. The appointment of Miss Savoy, starting in January, and the anticipated return of Mrs McAuley, will mean Year 11 pupils are closely supported in the months ahead.

Mr Jones
Headteacher

Conservatoire Visit

A group of 30 Year 9 pupils embarked on an inspiring trip to the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, where they had the unique opportunity to immerse



themselves in the world of music and performance. The visit included guided tours of the state-of-the-art facilities, including rehearsal rooms and performance spaces, which sparked excitement and curiosity among the pupils. They were fortunate to attend a live demonstration by talented musicians, showcasing various instruments and performance techniques. This first hand experience not only deepened their appreciation for

the arts but also motivated many pupils to explore their own musical interests and aspirations. As they left the conservatoire, the pupils felt invigorated and inspired to pursue their passions, realising the endless possibilities lie within the world of music.

Mr Dolan



CAREERS

Mrs Miles



King Edward VI Northfield School was delighted to host the school Career Fair in October, which brought together representatives from over 35 colleges, universities and employers. Pupils were able to learn about career opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths as well as Construction, Hair & Beauty, Childcare, Sports, Banking & Finance, Transport and Consultancy. Pupils also spoke with Universities and Further Education Colleges to find out about Post-16 and Post-18 Pathways. We were very proud to hear the lovely feedback from exhibitors regarding the

quality of questions asked by pupils, as well as their polite and mature attitude and behaviour demonstrated throughout the event. The event was supported by Department for Work & Pensions, ASK Work Pays, Reflections

Training, Thermo Fisher Scientific, CSR Scientific Training, Bright Horizons, RAF, British Army, Sport 4 Life, JLR, Royal Navy Marines, Metro Bank, GMI Construction, NHS, Reliable Contractors, The Good Comms Company, Transport for West Midlands, Arcadis Consulting, CG Reynolds, Cadbury College, University College Birmingham, Heart of

Worcestershire College, BMET College, South & City College, Halesowen College, Solihull College, Access Creative College, Aston University, University of Birmingham, Birmingham City University, University of Worcester, Newman University, University of Wolverhampton, Pathways to Property, Solihull Sixth Form College and King Edward VI College Stourbridge.

If you are interested, or know of any employers who would be interested in exhibiting at the Career Fair in October 2025 to speak to pupils about career opportunities, please email Sarah Miles s.miles@nsg.kevibham.org to indicate your interest in supporting this important school event.



Mock Interview Day



Year 11 pupils recently participated in a mock interview to put into practice what they had

learned about applying for jobs and interviews in their PSHE lessons. The mock interview offered pupils a fantastic opportunity to have a realistic job interview which included a mixture of competence based and general interview questions. Pupils received feedback on the quality of their responses, body language and individual strengths. For the majority of pupils, this was their first experience of a job interview. Experience of the interview process is an important element in helping pupils to prepare for the world of work, as well as helping them to develop their interview skills. We are incredibly grateful to the team of 18 volunteer interviewers who helped to deliver the mock interview day.

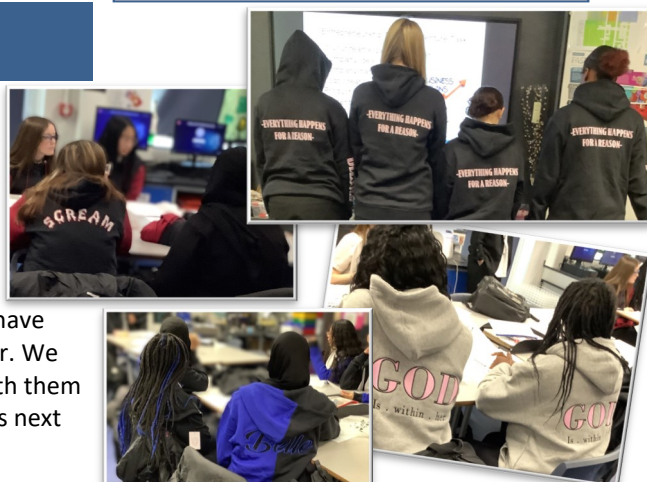
If you are interested in volunteering as a interviewer for the next round of interviews in October 2025, please email Sarah Miles s.miles@nsg.kevibham.org to indicate your interest in supporting this important school event.



Year 11 Enterprise Project

Mentors from the F2D in the Community Project, helped to run an enterprise project for Year 11 pupils. The F2D team are the co-owners of the fashion brand, F2D Clothing, as well as being qualified mentors. They have worked in the fashion industry for over a decade, working with Miley Cyrus, Dizzee Rascal, Ed Sheeran, X - Factor and ASOS. The enterprise workshops focussed on entrepreneurship, creativity and mentoring. The focus of the workshop

was to introduce pupils to entrepreneurship, and fashion design as well as encouraging them to navigate life with a positive mindset. Pupils had the opportunity to design their own hoodies, which F2D have manufactured for them to wear. We are delighted to be working with them again, with Year 9 and 10 pupils next term.



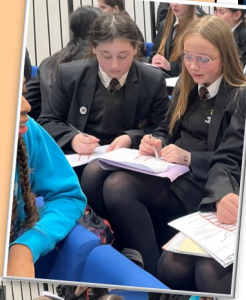
Year 7 Visualising Future Self Workshop

Year 7 pupils enjoyed a career's workshop with Aim Higher West Midlands, which focussed on visualising your future self. Pupils discussed the importance of thinking big and being aspirational. The workshop culminated in pupils, identifying goals and ambitions in the school environment. They were taught techniques to break goals into manageable and achievable steps. Student ambassadors



from University College Birmingham attended the workshop to speak to pupils about their career journey from leaving school to date. The key message to Year 7, is to dream big, don't give up and be confident in yourself and what you can achieve.

Mrs Miles



Work Experience

From the 15th – 19th July, Year 10 pupils immersed themselves in the world of work through a week of work experience. Due to the pandemic, the school had not run a work experience programme for a couple of years. It was with great enthusiasm that the school relaunched work experience as part of the curriculum offer for Year 10. Work experience is an excellent way for pupils to explore potential career paths and experience what working life is like, as well as understanding more about routes to employment. For pupils that are still unsure about what career, or industry interests them, the process of finding and completing a placement allows them to develop transferable skills and competencies that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Pupils worked in placements ranging from Childcare, Technology, Retail, Accounting, Higher Education, Hair & Beauty, Automotive, Engineering, and Healthcare. The experiences allowed them to engage in real-world tasks and responsibilities, providing insights into work place expectations that cannot be replicated in a classroom. The hands-on experience is crucial for helping young people to develop employability, personal learning, and key skills as well supporting pupils Post-16 choices. We were very proud to receive positive feedback from employers regarding

pupils conduct, behaviour and the maturity demonstrated throughout the placements.

If you are interested, or know of any employers who would be interested offering Year 10 pupils a work experience placement between Monday 14th – Friday 18th July 2025, please email Sarah Miles s.miles@nsg.kevibham.org to indicate your interest in supporting this important school event.

Mrs Miles

GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

women's aid
until women & children are safe
www.womensaid.org.uk

As the holiday season unfolds, our school has been buzzing with the spirit of giving and compassion. In an inspiring display of empathy, each form group took up the challenge to create the most heart warming shoeboxes for Women's Aid this Christmas.

The initiative, led by Miss Sheppard and supported by enthusiastic pupils, aimed to bring joy and comfort to those in need during the festive season. Pupils from all form groups eagerly embraced the opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

From essential toiletries and cozy winter accessories to handwritten cards and festive treats, the shoeboxes were carefully curated to brighten the spirits of the recipients. Women's Aid, were extremely grateful to receive these thoughtful gifts as a reminder that they are valued and supported by a caring

community. The collective effort put forth by our pupils not only demonstrates their capacity for empathy but also underscores the importance of extending a helping hand to those in need.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this wonderful cause. Your generosity has made a meaningful impact, and together, we have made a positive difference in the lives of others.

Mr Chesterman



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The annual Winter Concert took place last week and pupils were able to showcase the music they've been working on over the last four months. The evening featured a variety of captivating performances, including impressive solos that highlighted individual skills and ensemble pieces that demonstrated the power of collaboration and harmony. In addition to the musical performances, the concert also included exhibitions of class work, allowing pupils to share their artistic creations. The atmosphere was filled with joy and pride

as everyone celebrated the hard work and dedication of the pupils, making the Winter Concert a memorable highlight of the school year.

Mr Dolan





Remembrance Sunday Art Mural

These photos show a mural created by our pupils this term. It was developed from some experimental drawings our Year 10 GCSE Art pupils were doing on different surfaces around the art room - cupboard doors, windows, radiators etc. When one of them started using coloured tapes to create a poppy on the glass balustrade outside, it got us all excited about the possibility of making it into a larger piece to commemorate Remembrance Sunday. So, other Year 10s spent some of their Art lessons adding their own poppies, and pupils from other years helped out too. Staff and pupils enjoyed watching the artwork take shape over several weeks, and text was added from the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. What started off as quite spontaneous and experimental drawing work, developed into a collaborative artwork with real meaning and resonance. As one of our favourite artists, Bob & Roberta Smith says, "Art makes children powerful!". Huge well done to everyone involved.

Mrs Allen



Year 5 Art Masterclass

We welcomed some pretty wonderful Year 5 pupils from Green Meadow Primary School for an Art & Design masterclass. They developed their understanding of working with mixed media - creating a piece that involved photomontage, oil pastel monoprint, colour pencils, drawing inks & gouache paint- and were inspired by two very interesting artists:

Hannah Hoch and Takahiro Kimura. We were so impressed with their hard work, creativity and attitude! Well done everyone.

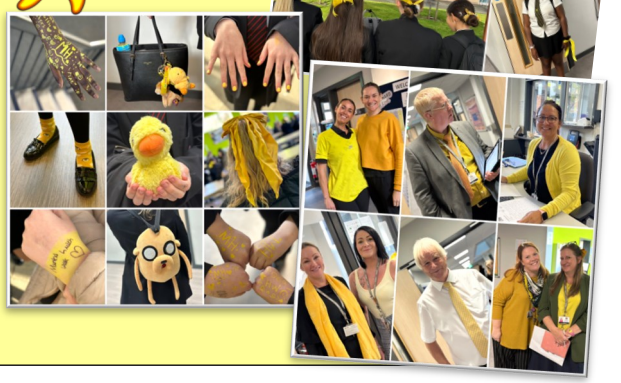
Mrs Allen



Hello Yellow Campaign

On Thursday 10th October school came together to celebrate 'Wear it Yellow Day' in support of Mental Health Awareness. The event was a vibrant and meaningful initiative aimed at spreading positivity and encouraging open conversations about mental well-being. Pupils and staff alike embraced the theme, donning yellow outfits, accessories, and even face paint to show their solidarity. The bright and cheerful

colour not only symbolises hope but also serves as a reminder of the importance of mental health in our daily lives. We continue to wear our metaphorical yellow every day by being kind, supportive, and attentive to the mental health of ourselves and others.



xP Pens

We are excited to announce that an article written by our Graphic's Department has been featured in the latest issue of D&T Magazine.



This article highlights the department's ongoing efforts to integrate new technology into pupils' creative processes and showcase innovative tools that enhance their learning experience. As part of the article, our Graphic's Department shared their trial of xP pens, which were used by a number of pupils including our Year 11 pupil Ellie in their GCSE coursework. Ellie's work with the xP pen allowed her to explore digital design techniques and create stunning visuals for her final project which appeared in the article. The trial was a success, and the department has since purchased more xP pens to be used in future lessons, ensuring that pupils have access to new technology.

The Graphic's Department is always looking for ways to incorporate the latest innovations into their curriculum, aiming to enhance pupils' skills and prepare them for the rapidly evolving world of design.

Mrs Tucker



Textiles

Miss Jennison

Key stage 3 pupils have been working hard during their Textiles lessons.

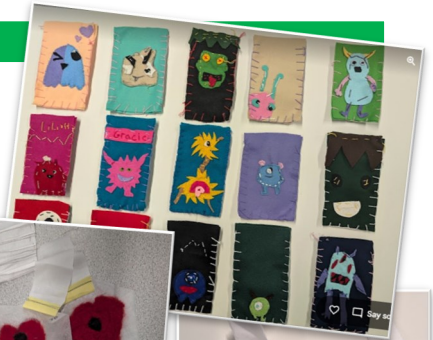
The first groups of the year have finalised their projects, and developed life skills from the subject.

Year 7s worked on 3 projects. Developing their decoration and construction skills first they learnt how to safely use a sewing machine, resist dye materials and transformed white cotton fabric into scrunchies.

Next up they worked collaboratively to produce clocks learning about timbers and mechanisms.

Finally they worked on a monster phone case pouch developing their decoration skills using hand embroidery and hand appliqué.

Meanwhile Year 8 developed their previous knowledge from Year 7, working firstly on a Morsbag and learning about the impact textiles, and plastic waste can have on the environment. They were reintroduced to the sewing machines. They then had their main project to design and make an animal tote bag. Pupils learnt how to needle felt and machine applique, add a pocket and lining to their bag.



Year 9 pupils worked on a fidget mat project.

They were asked to design and make a product suitable for a pupil with ADHD or an elderly person with Dementia. Some pupils decided to write their own contextual challenge and designed it for a child with different needs.

Pupils developed their skills in decoration and construction as well as fastening, by adding a range of components like buttons, beads, zips, mesh etc to their designs before using seams and bias binding to construct their products.

Alongside this to support their work in English, the department were asked to give pupils an opportunity to work on their poetry skills and understanding

creating physical samples of needle felted poppies, yellow binding, ornamental

stitches, pin tucks, darts and pleats. Approximately 75 pupils had the practical lesson opportunities to do this.

Celebrating Our 'Perfect Week Award'

We take pride in recognising and rewarding our pupils for their outstanding commitment and exemplary behaviour. Our Perfect Week Award is a weekly celebration of pupils who achieve 100% attendance and maintain a spotless record with 0 behaviour points.

Each week, every pupil who meets the criteria is entered into a draw to win delicious chocolate bars. It's our way of showing appreciation for their dedication and setting a great example for others.

But the excitement doesn't stop there! At the end of each term, all students who achieved a 'Perfect Week' throughout the term are entered into a grand prize draw for a £50 Amazon voucher. This special reward encourages consistent excellence and commitment across the school year.

Also this term, we added an extra sparkle to the celebrations! All eligible pupils were entered into a festive draw, and we are thrilled to announce that **Phoebe in Year 9** was the lucky winner of a **Prestige Hamper** filled with treats. Congratulations, Phoebe!

Culture club!

Pupils have taken an opportunity to work creatively on projects based on culture and textiles.

We kicked off with Black History month shoes, followed by Diwali Oil pastel designs, Thanksgiving saw the pupils working on Turkey themed cushions and currently pupils are finishing off the year with an opportunity to make Christmas decorations.



'Sew'er of the Term



Congratulations to the following pupils who were this terms 'Sew'er of the Term'

Year 7 - Pippa, Lacey, Melody and Yu Qing.

Year 8 - Erin, Amelia, Emily and Melanie.

Year 9 - Jayla, Grace, Micaiah and Lily-Maii.



We are excited to be shadowing the Spark! Book awards for a second year. Spark! are an award where the children decide the winners! Once the shortlisted books are announced in early January, it's over to schools and children to read, react and vote on the winners of the Spark! Book Awards. Mrs Dunnaker and a team of keen pupil judges have already started looking at some of the books that have been submitted, with some clear favourites already making themselves known. The Longlisted titles, the 12 Books of Christmas, which would make fantastic Christmas gifts for any pupil.

Track My Read

This academic year we introduced a new way of tracking reading in KS3. Our first target was to read for **half a million minutes** in the first term of the year. At the time of writing, we have **logged 428,180 minutes of reading!** Special mention to classes 7EN1b, who beat their class target by over 8,000 minutes, and 7EN2a who beat their target by 17,180 minutes!
Well Done Year 7!

Encourage reading in all its forms

Comic books, cereal packets, magazines or even audiobooks and podcasts can be brilliant ways to encourage even the more reluctant readers to get into a habit of reading and enjoy what they are discovering. Audiobooks and podcasts can be a great way to immerse children in the joy of books while they are on the go, which alleviates the pressure to carve out more time.

Grow a love of reading - What you are doing as parents and carers at home has a significant impact on your child. Finding time to read with your children or encouraging your less-than-enthusiastic readers at home to pick up a book can feel like a challenge. However, there are lots of simple, everyday ways you can encourage your children to grow a love of reading.



BookTrust Bookbuzz

2024 saw the Bookbuzz programme reintroduced for Year 7 pupils. Bookbuzz gives pupils the chance to choose and keep a book they'll love from a collection of 16 titles, newly selected each year by BookTrust reading experts. If you struggled to pick just one of the amazing titles on offer, the library has copies of every Bookbuzz book available for you to borrow.



What are the benefits of reading?

Reading is not just a good way to fill the time. It has important and far-reaching benefits which go beyond a love of a good book. When young people enjoy reading, they are more likely to create a habit and read more often which in turn will help to build vital reading skills and bring with it a wider range of benefits...

Reading for pleasure can help grow empathy - Enjoying books and discovering new perspectives within the pages of a story can be a great way to introduce children to a range of experiences and viewpoints. The more a child reads, the more likely they are to be exposed to new narratives which can help them develop empathy.

A love of reading can build a child's confidence - Our recent reading for pleasure research showed that 26% of children and young people who read in their free time at least once a month said it helps them to be confident.

Reading for enjoyment can spark imagination ...and provide escape as

well as inspire creativity. Even fantasy can still speak truth to a child about their place in this world.

Reading can expand horizons - A book can provide children with a way to discover new worlds, meet new people and learn about the past. Whether that's through non-fiction books and autobiographies, or books and magazines exploring historical events or figures.

Reading for pleasure can support your child's learning - Our recent research also revealed that twice as many children and young people who enjoy reading in their free time have above average reading skills than children who don't enjoy - reading skills which will support them in their school journeys and beyond.

Benefits of Reading



Eco Club Photography Competition

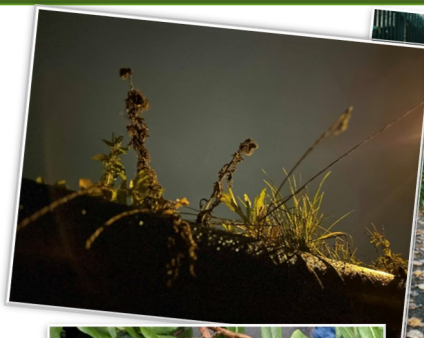


The Science Department is running a brand-new club this year called Eco Club. Each week pupils have the opportunity to do an eco-friendly activity - like making clay forest monsters, self-water plant pots and homemade bird feeders while looking after the class pets.

Eco Club members are also running a different competition during each half term for all pupils to get involved in! First up was the Autumn Wildlife Photography Competition. We had over 20 entries of wonderful autumnal photos from both pupils and staff. Eco Club members then selected the top 4 photos. Each entry received a chocolate bar and the top winning entries all received a themed craft kit; the winning entry even won an Earth Science Kit too!

Eco Club's Homemade Christmas Tree Decoration is running this half term. Pupils are invited to use their artistic skills to produce an eco-friendly bauble. Eco Club will be choosing the winner and even more prizes will be given out!

Miss A Harrison



Christmas Card Competition

A competition was held for all pupils to design a Christmas card, which has been used as our official 2024 Christmas card. The winning card has been sent out to local primary/secondary schools and the local community, designed by Alexis Year 9. Alexis received a voucher along with Veronika Year 10 and Grace Year 7 who were runners up. All entrants received a certificate and small prize. Thank you to all pupils who took the time to enter.

Mrs Smith



WINNING CARD



RUNNERS UP

Magistrates Court Visit

Year 10 Aspire pupils visited the Magistrates Court to see the justice system in action and to get an understanding of the process and the roles within the courts. First, they experienced the tight security getting in to the courts where they were scanned in an airport style body scanner. Any liquids had to be tested to checked and possible weapons even small glass lip glosses were removed. Once they had overcome this first hurdle they had a tour of the courts which are beautiful grade 1 listed Victorian red brick buildings. They had a talk on the role of the Magistracy and the Justice System and learned about the process of the Magistrates and Crown Courts. Then we sat in a court and saw the proceedings of a live court hearing and pupils were able to question two magistrates about the process. It was a really interesting day and the pupils learnt a lot and some returned inspired to enter the legal profession.

Miss Hufton



Poppy Appeal

Thank you for donations to the Poppy Appeal, King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls raised a massive:

£118.50

SOCIAL MEDIA

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date with all the exciting events



SPORTS UPDATE

NETBALL

The Year 7 netball team have had a great first season! Winning two games, drawing a third, and narrowly losing by just one goal in their fourth game. They have finished second in their division, meaning they will be promoted to division one next year. Congratulations girls!

Miss Barstow



Duke of Edinburgh Awards Evening

This term we celebrated the many successes of our current Year 10s and 11s who completed their Bronze and Silver awards last year. 12 Year 11s became the first pupils in our school to complete their Silver DofE award which is a huge achievement. We also saw 36 Year 10s complete their Bronze award, with a number of these pupils now taking on the challenge of Silver as they start Year 10. A

massive congratulations to all those involved in the Awards Evening.

Miss Barstow



CIRCUS SCHOOL

We are thrilled to have Victoria School of Dance share the wonderful news about 3 of our outstanding pupils!

Holly Year 9, Lucy and Betty Year 8.

It is with immense pride that we announce that the pupils from your school were selected 3 of 10, out of 100 pupils to train in a prestigious circus school in Canada over October half term. Their dedication, respect, and hardworking attitude had earned them the incredible opportunity.

The feedback from their teachers in Canada has been nothing short of glowing; they describe the pupils as a pleasure to teach. We believe this achievement not only reflects the pupil's talent but also the pupils' attitude towards everything they do. They are all excelling in aerial arts and all of them gaining 2 distinctions in their recent exam sessions.

We wanted the school to know what the pupils do outside of the school days and also what a pleasure it is for us to have your pupils at our dance school. Warm regards

Victoria's School of Dance



KEVI FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday the 10th of December our KS3 football team travelled to King Edwards Bartley Green in the cold and wind to take part in the KEVI Junior Football Tournament. The team was made up of a mixture of Year 7s, 8s and 9s, some pupils who had never played before. The team did brilliantly finishing in second place overall. A special shout-out to Khora in Year 9 who scored three

goals. We are excited to have now entered the Trevor Francis Cup in partnership with Birmingham City FC and we are hoping for more success for this talented team.

Miss Ryan



STAFF/NEWS

In the Autumn term, we welcomed the following staff Mrs Stephanie Coombs - Teacher of French (Maternity cover) and Mrs Iris Poon - Food Technician and in January we will be welcoming Ms Kim Ho - Teacher of Maths, Mr Lartey - Head of RE and Miss Chelsea Savoy - Teacher of Geography/Head of Year.

Sadly we have said a few goodbyes to; Mrs Amy Paull - Head of RE Mrs Inga Bolmat - Teacher of Maths Mrs Kayleigh McConnell - Cover Supervisor/Food Technician and Mr Luke Dolan - Head of Music.

We wish them every success in the future.

