



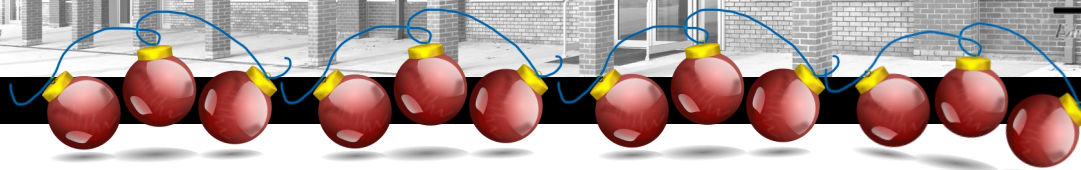
NEWSletter



KING EDWARD VI
NORTHFIELD
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Educational excellence for our City

AUTUMN 2025



As we reach the end of this long term, we can reflect on a term in which we can celebrate lots of successes as well as some challenges.

Summer Exam Results

It was wonderful to start the academic year with the news that our leavers had secured fantastic grades in the summer exams. The percentage of pupils gaining 4+ in English and Maths was 68.1%, 4.2% higher than the Birmingham average and easily surpassing the national average. Similarly a significantly higher percentage of our leavers secured 5+ in both English and Maths than across Birmingham and nationally.

Across subjects the percentage of Grade 4 or better was remarkable (French 89.2%, Geography 80.6%, Art 76.7%, Food Science 64.9%, Graphics 100%, Textiles 75%, Health and Social Care 94.2%, Dance 100%, Sport 85.7%, Science 77.5%, Computer Science 70%)

These results were fantastic primarily because they enabled our leavers to secure their chosen college and sixth form place, but also because they highlighted that as a school our teaching and ethos is having an overwhelmingly positive impact and we are on the right track for helping our pupils secure even greater success in the years ahead.



Year 10 Parents' Evening

It was great to see so many families of our Year 10s at Parents' Evening in December. We changed our

organisation for this event to have the vast majority of staff based in the Sports Hall. Feedback from parents/carers on the evening was that this was better than visiting Teachers in classrooms and so we will be implementing this change for all Parents' Evening going forward.

Enrichment Day

Providing an enlightenment day for an entire school is no mean feat. Involving liaising with a number of coach companies and with a number of destinations, managing significant paperwork around risk assessments and medical needs and coordinating dozens of staff. Our Finance Clerk, Mrs Bowen and Assistant Head Mr Smedley, along with the various trip leaders, did a superb job.

High School Musical

In early December, I had the pleasure of watching the school's High School Musical Performance. What was evident was the amount of hard work that the cast had put in, but also how well the young people had worked together and how much fun they had had. I was also very mindful of the work put in to support the performance, particularly by Miss Harding, Miss Clarke and Miss Adey.



Extracurricular Clubs

After-school clubs and activities remain a huge strength of our small school. Some weeks this term we have seen over 800 attendances at after-school / weekend activities. This represents a really impressive participation rate. I would like to thank parents/carers for facilitating their child's attendance and the 100% commitment of our teaching staff and the many support staff who help to run these activities in addition to their paid duties. Science Club, run by

Mrs Harrison, remains a particularly vibrant and exciting example of how much fun and learning can take place in a well-planned club.

Year 11 Mocks

Year 11s have now received their mock results. Our analysis suggests that the current Year 11 are firmly on track to secure superb results – the strongest that the school has seen. This great news reinvigorates our staff and should also inspire our Year 11s to maintain their superb and dedicated approach in the months ahead.

Attendance

For the bulk of the term our school's overall attendance stood well above national average. However, in the last 2-3 weeks we have seen a surge in a number of different illnesses, a trend reflected across Birmingham and particularly in other local schools. We put a number of measures in place (a deep clean of the school over a weekend, additional surface cleaning throughout the day, the temporary suspension of practical food lessons among other others, as advised by Public Health Authorities). Because we know that absence leads to lost learning, gaps in knowledge, greater difficulty in maintaining friendships and less of a sense of belonging. Therefore, we will be working hard with families in the new year to increase attendance levels, with a particular focus on children missing odd days.

In closing I would like to wish all our children and their families a relaxing and happy holiday, and we look forward to seeing everyone, fresh and raring to go, in January.

Mr N Jones
Headteacher



King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls

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CAREERS

Mrs Miles

Year 9 – 11 Career Fair

King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls was delighted to host our annual School Career Fair this October, an inspiring event that connected pupils with a wide range of future opportunities. With more than 35 colleges, universities, and employers in attendance, the fair offered an exciting platform for pupils to explore potential pathways and gain valuable insights into the world of work.

Throughout the morning, pupils engaged with representatives from a variety of sectors, including Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), as well as construction, hair and beauty, childcare, sports, banking and finance, transport, and consultancy. This breadth of industries ensured that every pupil, whatever their interests had

access to meaningful conversations and information.

In addition to speaking with employers, pupils had the opportunity to meet with universities and further education colleges to learn more about post-16 and post-18 options, helping them make informed decisions about their next steps.

We were incredibly proud to receive such positive feedback from exhibitors, who praised our pupils for their thoughtful questions, maturity, and polite conduct throughout the event. Their engagement and curiosity truly reflected the values of our school community.

A huge thank you to all staff, pupils, and visiting organisations who made the

event such a success.

We look forward to building on this momentum as we continue to support our pupils' aspirations and future careers.

If you are interested or know of any employers who would be interested in exhibiting at the Career Fair in October 2026 to speak to pupils about career opportunities, please email Mrs Miles.

s.miles@nsg.kevibham.org to indicate your interest in supporting this important school event.

Mock Interview Day

Year 11 pupils recently took part in a mock interview day, giving them the chance to put into practice what they have been learning in their PSHE lessons about job applications and interview techniques. The event offered a valuable



opportunity for pupils to experience a realistic interview setting, with a mixture of competence-based and general interview questions designed to challenge and prepare them for the world of work.

During the interviews, pupils received personalised feedback on the quality of their responses, their body language and presentation,



and the individual strengths they demonstrated. For many, this was their first experience of a formal interview, and it proved to be a highly positive and confidence-building milestone.

Understanding the interview process is an essential part of preparing pupils for future careers, and we are incredibly grateful to the team of 14 volunteer interviewers who generously gave their time to support the day. Their guidance and expertise played a huge role in making the experience both meaningful and impactful for our Year 11s.

If you would be interested in volunteering as an interviewer for the next round of mock interviews in October 2025, please contact Sarah Miles at s.miles@nsg.kevibham.org to express your interest. Your support helps make this important event possible.



Year 8 Smart Cities Challenge

Year 8 pupils recently took part in the Smart City Challenge 2025, an inspiring and future-focused programme designed to spark creativity, innovation, and teamwork. This national initiative was set up to encourage pupils to explore how technology can shape healthier, more sustainable, and more connected cities starting with their very own hometown.

Throughout the challenge, pupils developed valuable presentation, entrepreneurial, teamwork, and communication skills, while also

deepening their understanding of the ways technology impacts everyday life. From smart transport solutions to eco-friendly city planning, the programme empowered pupils to imagine the cities of tomorrow. Pupils worked in teams and were supported by volunteers from Netcompany to respond to a smart city design brief focusing on health, sustainability, transport. At the end of the session, teams presented their ideas to a judging panel formed by the volunteers, who selected a winning team.



T-Level Tour Bus

We recently hosted the T-Level Bus, an original American school bus that was transformed into an inspiring mobile hub for careers exploration and hands-on learning.

Inside the bus, pupils engaged with interactive technology from

the Fab Lab, giving them space to explore, experiment, and experience the exciting possibilities that T-Levels and future careers can offer. During the visit, pupils took part in interactive workshops designed to help them:

- Discover different career pathways
- Learn how T-Levels can support their ambitions
- Get hands-on

with innovative tools and technology. This was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to broaden their horizons and be inspired about their futures.



GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

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 collected the most generous

donations from all our pupils and staff. The initiative, led by Miss Sheppard and supported by pupils, aimed to bring joy and comfort to those in need during the festive season. From essential toiletries and cozy

acorns
Your local children's hospice

Acorns, were extremely grateful to receive these thoughtful gifts as a reminder that they are valued and supported by a caring community. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Your generosity has made a meaningful impact, and together, we have made a positive difference in the lives of others.

Miss Sheppard

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



Are you smarter than a Year 8?

This half-term, our Year 8s have been busy trying to reunite Miss Clarke with her beloved travel mug. As they put on their deerstalker hat and grab their magnifying glass (they are reading a Sherlock Holmes mystery, The Sign of Four, in English after all), they must solve

a series of riddles left behind by the fiendish thief. They will need all their powers of deduction, observation, as well as vast amounts of knowledge to catch the criminal!

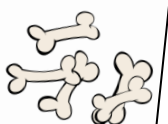
Will Miss Clarke be able to have a coffee

again before Christmas? And can you figure out which of our wonderful teachers these two riddles point to?

Mx Johnsen

1	2	3	4	$x^2 - 2x + 1 = 0$
5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	Male offspring

Allons!



Blackwell Adventure

Year 9 visited Blackwell Adventure on an Aspire trip, the aim of this visit was to build their resilience and develop team working skills. Some of the Year 9 pupils really challenged themselves with abseiling down a free-standing tower. Despite several not being confident to step backwards over the edge initially, all completed the challenge successfully.



team controlling the ropes to keep their peers safe by 'belaying' the ropes while crate-stacking. Meanwhile the other session required some pupils to face their fear of heights. These pupils zip-wiring were soon running back up the hill for another go and loved going downhill simultaneously with a friend on two parallel zip lines. Everyone enjoyed themselves and experienced the benefits of pushing themselves beyond their usual comfort zone and the sense of achievement gained as a result.



Miss Hufton

Year 8 visited Blackwell the following week and enjoyed crate-stacking and zip-wiring. One group worked as a

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

Several pupils from each art class visited Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery as a joint Art/Aspire trip. They explored an exhibition called 'The Elephant in the Room'. This is because in Art lessons they are thinking about objects, collections, and cultures. The 'Elephant in the Room' in this context was considering how Museums and Galleries have displayed items in ways that may have been culturally insensitive or sometimes artefacts taken from other countries without their consent often, as a result of colonialism. Items they saw included a 22-foot-long Inuit kayak made of seal skins and carvings made out of ivory from elephant tusks.

They considered what Museums are doing now to address these issues such as talking to the communities where these items have come from to ensure they display them respectfully. Also, some objects are being 'repatriated', (sent back to their communities,) if they were taken without consent. All pupils involved took a keen interest in the exhibits and then chose one artefact to sit and draw and investigate in more detail, there were some excellent drawings done.

In addition, some of the pupils then presented their findings to the rest of Year 8 in their assembly. Well done to everyone involved.

Miss Hufton



Remembrance Sunday

This November, our Year 9 Pupils have been taking part in a cross-curricular project on remembrance. In English, pupils explore the GCSE set poem *Poppies*, examining its themes of memory, loss, and love. To deepen their understanding, the Textiles department taught tucks, darts, and pleats, techniques referenced in the poem which helps pupils connect its imagery to real practical skills.

In Art, Pupils have been creating striking poppy designs using a wide range of materials, from layered paper to fabric and mixed media. Their work complemented lessons in History and Religious Education, where classes reflected on the significance of remembrance and the many ways communities honour those affected by conflict.

This is the second year the project has ran and we hope to make it an annual event. The project has encouraged thoughtful discussion, creativity, and collaboration across subjects. We are incredibly proud of the effort, sensitivity, and imagination Year 9 have shown throughout their remembrance work.

Mr Beech



Poppy Appeal

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

£109.38

Mrs Smith in reception crocheted some beautiful poppies and the canteen made some delicious cakes all were sold to add to our donations.



King Edward VI Foundation Schools Unite for Inspiring Dance Performance Honouring the Legacy of the 6888th Battalion

We are proud to announce a remarkable Trust-wide dance performance taking place at the **Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, King Edward's School on Friday 13th February 2026.**

This unique event brings together pupils from eight Foundation schools: King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls, King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls, King Edward VI Sheldon Heath Academy, King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy, King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys, King Edward VI Balaam Wood Academy, King Edward VI King's Norton School for Boys, and King Edward VI Lordwood School for Girls.

The performance is inspired by the extraordinary story of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, an all-Black, all-female unit of the U.S. Army during World War II. The battalion was stationed at King Edward's School, creating a historic link to the Foundation. Their mission and resilience were recently highlighted in Tyler Perry's acclaimed film *The Six Triple Eight*, which sparked the vision for this project.

Miss Adey, Head of Dance at King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls, and the driving force behind the initiative, shared

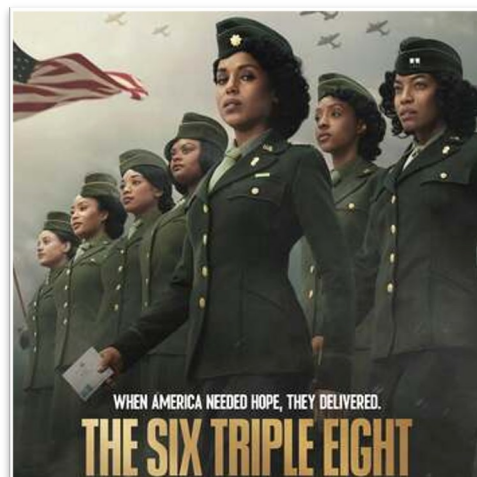
"The story of the 6888th is both remarkable and deeply inspiring, and I felt compelled to create something that would honour their legacy. Given my passion for dance, I felt that the creative arts offered a meaningful way to celebrate their achievements. I also believed it was important for this to be a Trust-wide project, enabling us to share the story of the 6888th more broadly so that both pupils and staff can learn about this significant part of the Foundation's history."

In addition to the dance performance, the event will feature:

An art exhibition showcasing creative responses to the battalion's story

A dedicated PSHE lesson developed for use across the Foundation, ensuring every pupil learns about this inspiring chapter of history

The project boasts an exceptional creative team led by **Clare Palethorpe**, Creative Director, renowned for delivering high-impact arts projects.



Joining her are talented dance artists **Jade Barnes, Tori Drew, Marcia Edwards**, and Clare herself, alongside spoken word artist **Kurly**, who will bring powerful narratives to life.

This event is more than a performance it is a celebration of courage, resilience, and creativity, connecting past and present through the arts.

Miss Adey

More Than Chocolate – A Season for Kindness!

When many of us hear the word *Advent*, we think of Advent calendars and the chocolate behind each door. While these treats are part of the fun of December, our recent Advent assembly explored a deeper meaning. Advent is not just about receiving, it is a time for preparing, reflecting, and thinking about how we can bring something positive into the world. In Christianity, Advent is the four weeks leading up to Christmas, a period in the Christian calendar of waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus. Christians often mark this time with traditions such as lighting Advent candles, using wreaths, or opening calendars to reflect on themes of **hope, peace, joy, and love**. As we discussed in assembly, these ideas are valuable for everyone, helping us to slow down, focus on what matters, and think beyond ourselves.

Mr Lartey

Christmas Card Competition



chocolate and the outstanding letter 'A', designed by Grace won a £10 voucher.

Congratulations to Megan Year 10, Freya, Caitlin, Miah-Mae, Rosie, Sophia Year 7 and Grace, Ayisha, YuQing, Abigail, Eva, Daisy and Savannah whose letters were selected.

Mrs Smith

We switched our Christmas competition up, this year so more of our talented pupils work is shown by spelling out the word 'Merry Christmas'.

Letters were given out to design or colour. The entries were exceptional and made it very difficult to decide. Each entry received a certificate and





"If you're into it, read into it."

The Government are asking the nation to **Go All In** on their passions and see how reading can unlock more of what you already love – be that music, baking, family time, films, sci-fi, or anything.

The National Year of Reading 2026 has a simple but ambitious vision: to re-connect people of all ages with reading as a meaningful, modern, and social activity.

Reading is not only a skill for school or work but a practice that brings relevance and joy to everyday life, connecting people with stories and ideas that reflect their cultures, interests, and needs.

GO
ALL
IN.

Mrs Dunnaker is once again a panel judge for the 11+ fiction category for the Spark Book Awards 2026 and has been busy reading through 40+ titles to help contribute to the longlisted 12 Books of Christmas.

The pupil judges had their first meeting this half term and are incredibly excited to embark on this journey of reading to help decide the winner this year. We have had record numbers sign up for

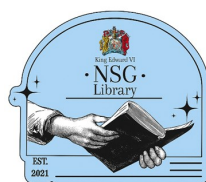
the pupil panel, with 34 pupils across all year groups wanting to be involved!

Our pupil judges will be reading through the **12 Books of Christmas** with the intention of deciding on just four titles to shortlist.

Whether you are a pupil judge or not, you are still welcome to enter any of the competitions in collaboration with Spark! Keep your eyes peeled next term for the first of the competitions!



We asked for your requests at the beginning of the new year. Over 100 new books have been added to the library



Library Key Dates:

24th December 2025 – Jolabokaflod
23rd January 2026 – SPARK! Shortlists Announced
24th January 2026 – SPARK! Poetry Competition
5th March 2026 – World Book Day 2026

TRACK MY READ FORM COMPETITION

TOP KS3 FORMS:

7P 8P 9W

AUTUMN 2025 TOTAL MINUTES READ

665,225 MINUTES

All pupils who have contributed to their forms winning reading times will be invited to a film and popcorn afternoon!

JOLABOKAFLOD

A unique and cherished tradition in Iceland, celebrated on Christmas Eve. This tradition involves giving and receiving new books, but its essence lies in the joy of reading them together.



Hello Xello!

Say hello to Xello! (New online career programme, launching in the new year 2026)

We will be introducing Year 7 - 11 pupils to a new career's website, our school has acquired to help your child prepare for academic, career, and future success.

Xello is an engaging online program that helps pupils build the skills, knowledge and plans to be future ready. The program uses an investigative, discovery-based learning process, to help pupils better understand themselves, their future career options, and the 21st century skills they'll need to succeed.

The pupil experience: With Xello your child will:

Build self-knowledge Define their interests, skills, preferences, and aspirations so they can explore the opportunities right for them.

Explore options

Learn about career possibilities and educational pathways by exploring rich, engaging content and lessons.

Create a plan

Your child can create dynamic actionable plans that outline the steps needed to achieve school, career, and life goals.

Learn & Reassess

Interactive lessons help your child develop age appropriate skills and knowledge for success in school and beyond.

Parent Involvement: You're encouraged to explore Xello with your child by logging in together. Your child can log into her account via desktop or mobile device to share what they've learned about themselves, the world of work, and their future options. Available from January. 2026.



Science Club



We've had a fantastic start to Science Clubs this term, with an average of more than 40 pupils attending each week across our four different clubs an amazing achievement! Mrs Kennedy and Miss Haywood would like to say a huge thank-you to all the pupils who have taken part so far.

Monday's Science Club has been especially popular, offering a new and exciting practical activity for pupils to try every week. Highlights this term have included investigating non-Newtonian fluids, making "snowballs" with fake snow, and creating our very own pH rainbows.

Our new Gardening Club, held every Tuesday, has also been a great success. Pupils have enjoyed sowing seeds, growing their own oak trees, and designing personalised succulent gardens. Many have taken their plants home to watch them grow, and some have even made beautiful gifts for loved ones this festive season.

Eco Club, which runs every Thursday, gives pupils the chance to get creative while learning about the local environment. Activities have included dissecting owl pellets to identify bones, crafting

sustainable Christmas decorations, and making wildlife figurines.

For our KS4 pupils, Medical Ethics Club has provided a valuable opportunity to develop debate skills by exploring a different medical dilemma each week. This club is particularly beneficial for those considering a future career in medicine.

This term has also seen the launch of our new Science Club Reward's Scheme. Pupils earn rewards as they reach attendance milestones. Mrs Kennedy has already handed out 15 chocolate bars to those who have attended more than 10 sessions! To round off the term, we'll be hosting a Science film and popcorn event as a well-deserved treat for our regular attendees. Mrs Kennedy is especially looking forward to the popcorn!

Mrs Harrison



HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Shines on Stage

On 26th and 27th of November, the school hall was transformed into a vibrant and energetic theatre as pupils from Years 7 to 11 brought High School Musical to life. What the audience saw was the result of months of dedication, rehearsals, and teamwork, culminating in a performance of truly high quality.

From the very first number to the final bow, the cast demonstrated confidence, commitment, and an infectious enthusiasm. Countless after-school rehearsals, and weekends spent perfecting songs, choreography, and scenes paid off in a production that was polished and professional.

In addition to evening performances, the show was also performed for local primary schools, giving younger pupils the opportunity to experience live theatre and be inspired by the talent on display. The visiting audiences were full of smiles and many staff commented on how engaging and accessible the performance was.

The success of High School Musical was not only due to the performers on stage but also the excellent work backstage.

Overall, the production was a fantastic achievement for everyone involved. It showcased not just talent, but perseverance, teamwork, and pride in doing something well. Congratulations to the cast, crew, and staff who helped make High School Musical such a memorable event for performers and audiences alike.

Miss Clarke



FOOTBALL

A huge well done to our Year 7 and 8 football team, who have represented the school brilliantly in their recent competitions.

Their first outing was the KEVI Tournament, where the girls needed a little time to settle in and gel as a newly formed team. Once they found their rhythm, they showed great promise, teamwork and determination - giving us plenty to be excited about for the season ahead.

Their next challenge came on a very cold day in November at a city-wide competition involving 10 other schools. The girls played an incredible nine matches, winning seven, drawing one and losing just one. Their fantastic performance earned them an impressive third-

place finish - only one point behind second place!

We are incredibly proud of every player for their hard work, resilience and sportsmanship. Thank you for representing KEVI NSG so positively. A special thank you also goes to Maisie in Year 10 for her superb support to both the team and staff throughout the day.

Well done, girls!
Miss Ryan



Conservatoire Visit

On Thursday 4th December, a group of 30 Year 9 pupils had the exciting opportunity to attend the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Open Day. This visit offered a unique glimpse into one of the UK's leading institutions for music education and performance.

Pupils had a guided tour of the Conservatoire's state-of-the-art facilities, including its impressive concert halls, recording studios, and practice rooms. Pupils were amazed by the professional environment and the resources available to aspiring musicians.

One of the highlights of the trip was watching live performances by talented Conservatoire pupils and staff. The day started with a performance of the Conservatoire's Folk Ensemble, the performances showcased an incredible level of skill and artistry, inspiring our pupils and giving them a taste of what a future in Music could look like.



The visit not only broadened pupils' understanding of Music careers but also sparked conversations about pathways into higher education in the Arts. Many pupils left feeling motivated and excited about the possibilities ahead.

A huge thank you to the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire for welcoming us and providing such an enriching experience. We look forward to more opportunities like this in the future!

Miss Harding

STAFF/NEWS

We welcome the following staff
Mr Alexander Cheffers - Cover Supervisor, Miss Stephanie Collins and Miss Sharon Mackenzie - Cleaners. We

sadly say goodbye to Mr Simon Farrin teacher of Science who will be retiring at the end of term.

First Aid Fortnight

While mock exams took over our sports hall, the PE department delivered our annual first aid training to all pupils.



Pupils took part in lessons covering the primary survey, CPR, how to treat minor injuries, and how to call an ambulance effectively.

Through a mix of practical activities and role-play scenarios, pupils demonstrated excellent focus, maturity and teamwork. We are extremely proud of how they approached this important part of the curriculum and the vital life-saving skills they have developed.

Miss Ryan

THIS GIRL CAN

This term we were proud to launch our new 'This Girl Can' PE curriculum, designed specifically to support girls as they move through

adolescence and to promote confidence, enjoyment and lifelong engagement in physical activity.

A key part of the curriculum is our 'This Girl Can' Pledge, which every pupil has explored and reflected upon this term. We are already seeing girls *living out* the pledge - supporting friends who feel nervous, volunteering for leadership roles, and challenging themselves to step outside their comfort zone.

Teachers have been incredibly proud of the way pupils have shown kindness, confidence and courage in lessons. Whether improving fitness, mastering new skills, or attending clubs for the first time, our pupils are demonstrating what it truly means to be active, empowered young women.



We look forward to building on this fantastic start as the year continues and celebrating even more moments of progress across the department.

Miss Ryan