

Special School - Primary PRU - Secondary PRU - Hospital Medical



A message of thanks from our governors

It has been a challenging year for everyone in education and The Kingsmead School has negotiated this complex time alongside a period of restructuring.

We are constantly looking to reshape ourselves to meet the needs of families and schools in the city and beyond. With this in mind, we have weathered, and plan to keep weathering, the considerable pressures facing schools.

And so, against this backdrop we have:

- Delivered the best set of Year 11 outcomes ever
- Improved attendance across the board
- Reduced suspensions
- Reduced NEET figures
- Planned for numerous extra-curricular opportunities including residentials
- Extended our vocational provision
- Done our best to keep our sites COVID safe
- Developed with the LA / SEMH strategy a way forward for our provision
- Secured a good Ofsted inspection result at the Special School

All schools and academies have varying governance arrangements and at Kingsmead we have one board which fulfils the purpose of a governing board for the Special School and a Management Committee for the two PRUs.

The Full Governing Board meets every term and the two committees – Standards and Resources meet every half term. Meetings are on a Monday 4.30-6.30pm, and currently these are via Teams. Our clerk is Sharon Barker, who can be contacted by email at clerk@kingsmead.derby.sch.uk

Finally, our thanks go to everyone at Kingsmead, including our children, for all your unstinting hard work and professionalism.

Chair of governors, Sandra Fletcher

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He's behind you...

This term, 26 students from the Special School went to Derby Arena to see the panto Aladdin. We had an absolutely fantastic time and all students behaved impeccably. Both staff and students danced and sang along. Thank you to Arena staff for putting on a brilliant performance, we can't wait to see the 2023 panto!



The curtain goes up on cultural treats for students

A group of students have been taking part in a project linked to Derby Theatre exploring mental health. During the final session of the project they shared a track they created with Baby People, had a backstage tour of the theatre and watched the production of Jekyll and Hyde. Everyone involved gained so much from the experience.

Meanwhile, students from the Special School went on a visit to The Northern Lights Cinema, in Wirksworth, to see Clifford. They had a fantastic time and were very grateful to Into Films who gave them the opportunity. They also made some microwave popcorn as a little treat. It was a fantastic little cinema and they will definitely be going again.



Above: Students waiting for the film to start at The Northern Lights Cinema in Wirksworth.

Below: The production of Jekyll and Hyde at Derby Theatre was thoroughly enjoyed by our pupils, who also took a look behind the scenes.



Christmas delights at COSMO Restaurant



STAFF, parents and pupils from Castle enjoyed a global feast from around the world when they enjoyed a Christmas visit to buffet restaurant COSMO, based in London Road.

The restaurant is ideal for our pupils as they can choose what they want to eat from a range of cuisine and a great time was had by all.



Award ceremony to celebrate top readers

The Special School has been celebrating pupils and their love of reading with a prize-giving ceremony.

Young people were commended for their efforts as the awards scheme returned following a three-year absence due to COVID.

Parents, carers, staff and governors came together to celebrate the achievements of pupils, who were handed awards in five categories; consistent improvement in reading over three years, most improved, consistent improvement in reading, hardest effort in reading and excellent start to reading for Year 7 pupils. They each received a special book on how to write a story, with tips on how to transfer their love of reading into their writing.

The names of all winners were then placed into a hat, where school Governor Will Broderick and executive head teacher Mike Pride selected pupils to receive Amazon vouchers for the top prizes.

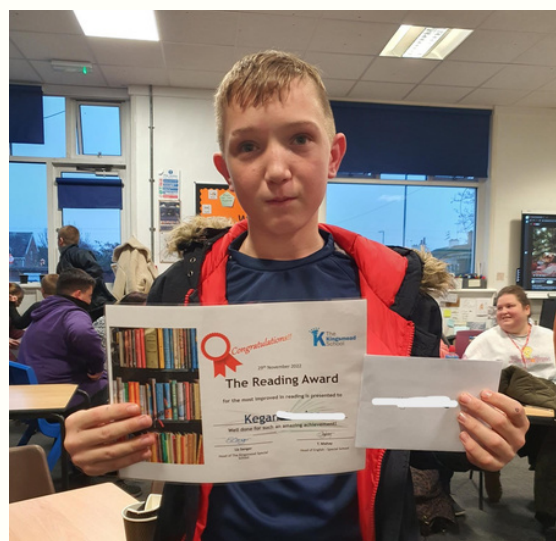
Mr Pride said: "It's great that we can come together as a community and celebrate a love of learning. Reading is such a valuable skill to have and it is important that we commend those who have made progress.

"Our staff have worked tremendously hard over the past five years to improve Kingsmead School, often giving up their own time for events such as the reading awards and for that I'd like to say a huge thank you."

Fourteen-year-old Kegan Davies received an award from Taj Mahay, head of english at Kingsmead Special School. She said: "I have been so impressed with Kegan and the progress he has made. It was a pleasure to hand him his award and, hopefully, we can host more celebration events in the future to recognise the pupils' hard work and progress."

Football fan Kegan – who supports Coventry City – has enjoyed reading about the life of ex-England international turned TV pundit, Gary Lineker.

He said: "I enjoy football – I play locally for Allenton United – and enjoyed reading about Gary Lineker. Dad says he has noticed a difference in me at home."



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR OUR KINGSMEAD FAMILIES

We were able to create 33 hampers for our pupils and their families. Thanks to Enlightenment Education for donating the food and supporting Kingsmead staff to create these much-needed Christmas gifts.



Pupils' artistic endeavours are celebrated in school



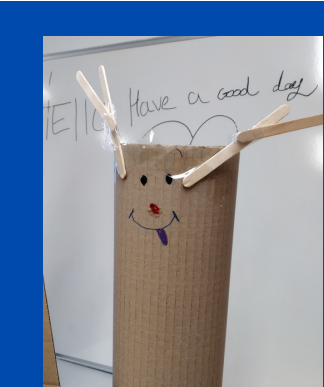
Our Year 10 class showcased their artwork this term with an open classroom with drinks and cheese on offer for guests. This was to show off the work that they have been busy creating in the style of the Japanese artist Hokusai. Their work is extremely impressive - we're sure you'll agree?



HANDS-ON IN OUR NEW FOREST SCHOOL

Students from Bridge Street were at the cutting edge of tool-making and created their own wooden mallets.

After completing a scavenger hunt in different areas of Darley Park, pupils also compared flora looking for differences and similarities in plant life. With many trees having lost their leaves, they also did a spot of bird watching.



GINGERBREAD TREAT FOR HOUSEBUILDERS

We had a visit from Inspirative Arts which challenged pupils to work as a team to build a house' big enough for someone to sit in using scrap cardboard. Their reward was to collaboratively make (and then eat) an actual gingerbread house!

