



Kings Education Trust Termly Newsletter Spring Term 2026

Shaping Futures Together: Autonomy with a Shared Purpose

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governance members,

As we come to the end of a busy and uplifting term across Kings Education Trust, it is a pleasure to reflect on the many successes taking place in our schools. Classrooms have been alive with curiosity, creativity and ambition; staff have continued to demonstrate exceptional dedication; and our pupils have embraced every opportunity to grow—academically, socially and personally.

Across the Trust, collaboration remains one of our greatest strengths. Our commitment to *Shaping Futures Together – Autonomy with a Shared Purpose* continues to guide our work, ensuring each academy maintains its individuality while benefitting from shared expertise and support. This term's achievements across our schools are a testament to that collective effort.

Celebrating Trust Developments

We are proud to reflect on the continued growth and strengthening of Kings Education Trust. Over recent years, Ivingswood Academy and Waterside Primary Academy formally joined

our MAT in March 2022, becoming part of a shared journey rooted in collaboration, support and improved opportunities for pupils and staff. Additionally, the Trust expanded further with Hughenden Primary School joining in July 2024, broadening the reach of our shared vision for excellence and enriching our family of schools. This term our SENCOs and Deputy Headteachers / Teaching and Learning leaders have met to work collaboratively on reviewing the provision in each school and share effective practice for the benefit of all pupils and staff across Kings Education Trust.

The government's new Schools White Paper, *Every Child Achieving and Thriving*, sets out plans to improve education for all children. It aims for every school to be part of a multi-academy trust in the future, though there is no deadline. New national standards for trusts will focus on high expectations, inclusion, transparency and value for money. The government also plans to recruit more teachers, and reduce the disadvantage gap. Schools will be asked to monitor pupils' sense of belonging, strengthen support for SEND training, and improve communication and engagement with parents. We will be looking more closely at this over the coming months as we understand more about the intention from government.

Our academies continue to develop positively and receive regular visits from our 2 school improvement advisors who note strong improvements in behaviour, attitudes and curriculum development—reflecting the school's dedication to high standards and the Trust's shared commitment to positive change.

Understanding the Role of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees plays a vital strategic role in ensuring that every child within the Trust receives a world-class education. Their responsibilities include:

- **Setting strategic direction** and ensuring our vision and values guide long-term planning.
- **Holding leaders to account** for educational performance, financial stewardship and safeguarding.
- **Ensuring transparency and compliance**, operating under the requirements of our Articles of Association and the Academy Trust Handbook.
- **Overseeing sustainable growth**, ensuring that expansions—such as schools joining the Trust—are beneficial, well-managed and in the best interests of pupils and communities.

Our trustees bring diverse expertise and a shared moral purpose, working closely with school leaders to maintain high standards across all academies. Their leadership ensures that every decision is rooted in what will best support our pupils now and in the future.

This term has demonstrated once again that *together, we are stronger*. Thank you for your continued support, partnership and belief in our Trust. We look forward to building on this momentum as we move into the next term with optimism and ambition.

Joanne Garlick

Chief Executive Officer

Kings Education Trust

Great Kingshill CE Combined School



Spring Term Highlights

Curriculum Enrichment

The Spring Term has been action-packed at GKCS! We have been really lucky to welcome our therapy dog, Freddie, to school, and he has really enjoyed reading with some of our pupils. Key Stage 1 were treated to an amazing assembly from the New Mozart Orchestra, and Year 1 even got to take part in their own violin workshop – we think we have a few budding musicians on our hands! We also held our own version of ‘The Masked Singer’ (The Masked Reader!) to help us celebrate World Book Day!

Outside of the classroom, our Year 6 girls’ and Year 5 boys’ football teams have had success, with the boys successfully through to the next round of the cup.

Preschool have been learning all about people who help us, and were lucky to have a visit from a dental nurse, who taught them all about how to keep their teeth clean. Reception have had visitors as well – the police turned up to make sure they were all behaving! The children also celebrated the Lunar New Year with a Chinese Dragon workshop, and made masks of the Chinese zodiac animals.

Not to be outdone, Key Stage 1 have been really busy, too! Year 1 popped out to a gymnastics festival, and also tested their culinary skills by making sweet potato boats. Year 2 have also been getting creative by making a range of sculptures in their art lessons, and they also celebrated Great Fire of London day by making and burning their own houses!

Year 3 headed out on a trip to the Science Centre in Oxford to support their learning from the classroom, where they have become experts at identifying and sorting different types of rocks. Year 4 have also been getting scientific – they headed to the Science Museum in London at the start of the term! They also led the school's Collective Worship all about Lent and had the audience licking their lips at the prospect of pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. To end the half term, Year 4 welcomed Spirit of the Wild to Great Kingshill, and the children had the chance to meet and hold a whole host of exotic animals including skunks, snakes and even a Golden Eagle!

Anglo-Saxon and Viking Day was the highlight of the term for Year 5, and the children looked fearsome and ferocious in their Viking attire. And although there were no visits out for science, Year 5 had an amazing morning when the Space Dome visited, and they put their creativity to the test by making their own planets of our solar system. Year 6 have been learning all about life across the pond with their presentations on US states, and they have also been planning, cooking and of course, tasting that most-loved American delicacy – burgers! As we head towards the end of the term, it's all eyes north, as our Year 6's venture to Norfolk for their residential trip.









The Hughenden Dragon

Have you heard of the legend of the Hughenden dragon? A local girl visited a pond and what should jump out but an enormous dragon! Our pupils were amazed when they heard it and were desperate to write their own version of the tale.

Children throughout the school, from our tiny tots in Foundation class to our budding writers in Year 6, put pen to paper and created some scary descriptions and plots as well as some dragon art to go with them. We love that they have embraced this local folklore with such vigour and we encourage other local residents to look the tale up and do the same!

The creativity and enthusiasm our pupils showed whilst exploring this legend has been truly inspiring. From Foundation class children drawing colourful dragon scales and creating clay models, to Year 6 pupils crafting atmospheric story openings with vivid vocabulary and suspenseful plot twists, every child found their own way to bring the dragon to life. Their work demonstrates not only their developing writing skills but also their deep connection to our local community and its rich history. We're proud to see how this project has sparked conversations between pupils and their families about local heritage, with many children

reporting that they've been sharing the legend at home and even visiting the pond with their parents and carers.

We're delighted to showcase a sample of this wonderful work in our library area, where you can see the children's imaginative stories and vibrant artwork on display. The range of talent and effort is truly remarkable – from beautifully illustrated dragon portraits to gripping narrative adventures that would make any author proud. Please do pop in to have a look when you're next in school. Well done to all our budding authors and artists!





Solving the Perfect Crime: Year 1-6 CSI Workshop

On Friday 6th March, pupils in Years 1-6 had the exciting opportunity to become forensic scientists for the day with Giant Journey's CSI workshop. The children were tasked with solving the mysterious disappearance of the world-famous Venus Diamond, putting their detective skills to the test in this hands-on science experience.

Throughout the workshop, pupils learned about real forensic science techniques including DNA analysis, fingerprint identification, footprint examination and fibre analysis. Working collaboratively in teams, they investigated a crime scene, carefully collected evidence and used their problem-solving skills to identify the guilty suspect. This engaging STEM activity brought science to life, demonstrating how scientific knowledge is applied in real-world situations.

The workshop was a huge success, with pupils thoroughly engaged throughout. One parent shared: "My Year 4 child thoroughly enjoyed the experience today. He enthusiastically explained it all to us on the way home. I appreciate the team organising the activity – it's a great way to make learning fun and memorable for the kids."

We're delighted that our pupils had such a positive and memorable learning experience, and we're grateful to the team at Giant Journey for delivering such an inspiring workshop.





Residential Adventures

Year 5 had an amazing time at Woodrow High House at the end of February, where they spent a fun-filled few days taking part in adventurous activities. The children participated in a wide range of exciting challenges, including night line, climbing, and conquering the leap of faith.

Through these activities, the children developed essential skills including teamwork, resilience, confidence, and problem-solving – all whilst making memories for a lifetime.

Year 6 are now looking forward to their Norfolk Lakes residential, and we're excited to see the pupils from Waterside and Great Kingshill schools on their upcoming visits too.

A special thank you to the staff members who are involved with organising and running these trips – both those who accompanied Year 5 to Woodrow High House, and those who are currently packing for the upcoming week away. We truly value your commitment and dedication to providing these enriching experiences for our pupils.





Ivingswood Academy

Spring Term Highlights



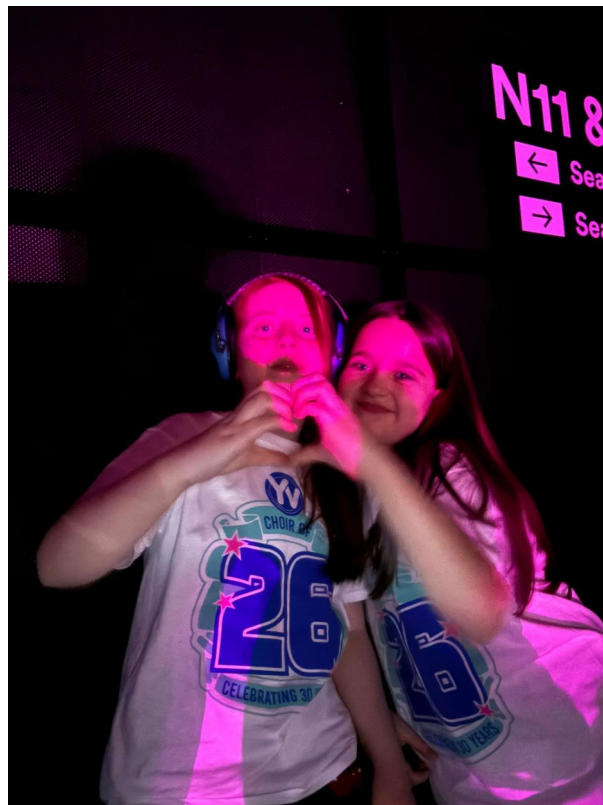
Ivingswood Academy have had another busy term. Our annual Keeping Safe Week was an excellent opportunity for our pupils to learn about internet safety including the use of AI, road safety, sun safety and water safety. Parents and Carers enjoyed coming to view our learning from the whole week.

Year 5 - Young Voices

On Wednesday 4th February, Year 5 took part in Young Voices concert at Wembley Arena. It was the first time that Ivingswood had taken part in such a fantastic opportunity. The months of practising the songs were well worth it. After our maths lesson, we walked to Chesham station to catch the train to Wembley. The journey was so easy as we didn't have to change trains. We enjoyed eating snacks and playing Mrs Twyman's game, 'Strike a Pose' when the train doors were open. Once we arrived at Wembley, we were ready for our lunch! Luckily the rain held off and we were able to eat outside in the fresh air. When we arrived at the OVO Arena, we were surprised to see so many other children and so many seats. We found our places and Mrs Flynn was delighted with the view.

The rehearsal allowed us to practice the songs, and dance moves and learn about musicians. After some (a lot) of waiting, we had our picnic dinner. Soon it was 'Show Time' and we were so excited! The lights went off, our torches went on and the music started!

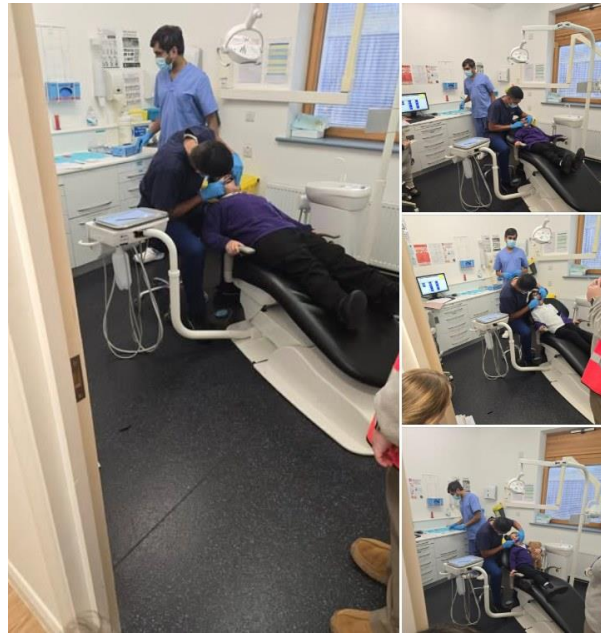
It felt amazing to be part of the choir that night. The music and dancing was fabulous – the grown-ups were having the best time! It was a night to remember and we are excited to try and go again next year. Thank you to Mr O'Callaghan, Mrs Twyman, Miss Walker, Mrs Gomm and Mrs Flynn for accompanying us to Young Voices.





Dentist Time

Every child at Ivingwood Academy has visited The Chesham Dentist this term. The children were very well behaved and loved learning about how to keep their teeth clean and healthy. It was a great opportunity to have a walk in the local area, and each class were competitive on who could climb Greenway hill the quickest! For those who had signed permission, a quick examination and fluoride coating were given. Each child then received a written report on their teeth with advice for future treatment. Thank you, Chesham Dentist for hosting us and thank you, Mrs Twyman for organising.





Chiltern Rangers

This term, two groups of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils have had the opportunity to take part in work experience day with Chiltern Rangers. One group travelled to Amersham to help plant a hedgerow with a team of 6 volunteers. The children were hard working and were rewarded with some hot chocolate and biscuits. We love working outdoors with Chiltern Rangers and are excited to see what happens next.





World Book Day

World Book Day is always a highlight of the Spring Term. We love taking time to enjoy reading new stories, books, magazines, newspapers and poems. Thank you to all our parents and carers who came to read with us in the morning. Sharing a book is special time.

Our whole school fashion show was enjoyed by all. An opportunity to show off costumes and guess the book character. It was a lot of fun! Please check out our X or Facebook pages for more information.

Mrs Flynn took the opportunity to be 'The Hungry Caterpillar' for the morning. This consisted of visiting each class for a snack before transforming into a butterfly for the afternoon and revisiting each class.

Ivingswood Academy hosted a Scholastics Book Fair for a week as a chance for pupils to purchase books or to raise money for school books. Thank you to Miss Race for organising.





Science Week

The week beginning 9th March was Science Week. As a school we enjoyed taking part in the BBC live lesson alongside our regular science lesson from the week. The highlight was Friday 13th March when Oxford University visited us for the day. Each class got to take part in a science workshop and a special mission. Thank you to Miss Daley for organizing this experience for our pupils.



Waterside Primary Academy



✨ Inspiring Visit from Steve Frew! ✨

We were absolutely delighted to welcome Commonwealth Gold Medal gymnast, Steve Frew, to Waterside this term.

The children took part in fast-paced and exciting exercise circuits with him — the hall was buzzing with energy, enthusiasm and determination! Beyond the physical challenge, the children gained something even more powerful: real lessons about endurance, resilience and having the courage to give things a go.

It was incredibly inspiring to hear first-hand from someone who nearly gave up and who didn't always win the first time. Steve spoke honestly about failure, setbacks and the feeling of letting people down — reminding us that these emotions are completely normal. What truly matters, he explained, is how we respond, how we rise after challenges and how we continue to push ourselves. Through hard work, determination and resilience, he achieved his life goal — and he told our children, "If I can do it, you can do it."

His message of *never giving up* is one we will carry with us.

We are also thrilled to share that together we raised an incredible £2,286!

We will be working with the School Council to decide how to spend this money on new sports equipment, and we are very excited to further enhance our sports provision at Waterside.

A huge thank you to all the families and friends who supported the children. Your encouragement created real excitement and community spirit and just look what we have achieved together!



A Huge Thank You to Our PTA and Families!

We would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful PTA and all of our families who have supported the Christmas fairs, bake sales and coffee mornings. Thanks to your generosity and community spirit, the PTA has raised an incredible £2,500 to support the school.

This funding will go towards installing thermoplastic playground markings on both the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds. The school will be matching the PTA contribution using part of our PE

and Sport Premium funding to ensure we can create a wide range of fun and engaging activities for the children.

The new markings will include games such as hopscotch, four square, What's the Time Mr Wolf? and activity trails, giving children exciting opportunities to be active, imaginative and social during break and lunchtime.

Our thermoplastic playground trail markings are designed to help develop and improve a range of fitness skills while incorporating fun and engaging designs that spark imagination and creativity.

Just like in the classroom, we know that outdoor learning and play should be fun. These additions will enhance children's educational journeys, promote teamwork, resilience and social skills, and contribute to a well-rounded school experience.

Thank you once again for your continued support, together we are making a real difference for our children at Waterside.





Number Day Buzz!

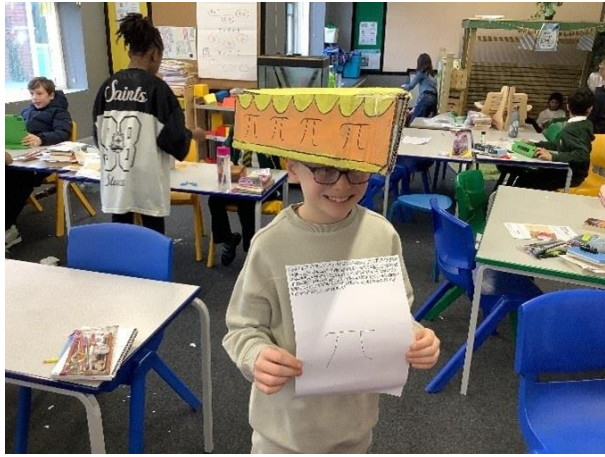
There was a real buzz around the school as we celebrated Number Day! From the moment the children arrived, excitement could be felt in every classroom, corridor and playground as pupils and staff alike embraced the joy of maths.

The day was packed with creative number exploration, including games, problem-solving challenges, practical investigations, and collaborative activities. Children were thinking, calculating, reasoning and having fun — showing that maths isn't just about numbers on a page, it's about curiosity, discovery and teamwork.

One of the highlights of the day was the amazing costumes! Every class got involved, with children dressing up to represent numbers, patterns, shapes and mathematical ideas. The imagination and effort that went into each outfit was truly inspiring, and it created a wonderful atmosphere of colour, creativity and celebration across the school.

In assembly, the children proudly showcased their costumes, sharing their ideas and explaining the mathematical concepts behind them. It was brilliant to see pupils praising and supporting one another, celebrating each other's creativity and learning together as a community. The joy, confidence and pride on display was a real testament to their enthusiasm and engagement with learning.

Number Day reminded us all that maths can be fun, inspiring and everywhere around us, from the games we play, to the patterns we spot, to the creativity we bring to our learning. A huge thank you to all the children, staff and families who helped make this day such a success. It was a wonderful celebration of learning, imagination and the magic of numbers!







Year of Reading at Waterside

We have launched our Year of Reading with real energy and purpose, and what a fantastic start it has been!


Our Storytelling Week set the tone beautifully, culminating in brilliant performances from every class. The confidence, creativity and enthusiasm on show were wonderful to see and truly reflected the joy of sharing stories.

Thanks to the generosity of Restore Hope, every child was gifted an annual to enjoy and complete activities from. The buzz around school was incredible, children were excitedly sharing quizzes, facts and stories with one another, and it was inspiring to see them so engaged.

We fully embraced World Book Day with a range of activities and book-based experiences throughout the day, ending with a hugely successful book swap. It was a joy to see children recommending books to one another and leaving with something new to treasure.

Our partnership with Chesham Library continues to grow stronger. Every class will be visiting the library over the course of this term to further develop children's love of reading and understanding of how to access books within the community. Many of our pupils also took part in a competition tailored specifically for Waterside, which created great excitement and pride. We strongly encourage more families to become library members and make the most of this wonderful local resource.

We are also thrilled to welcome our reading dog, Pickles, for weekly visits. He motivates children to read aloud with confidence and develop a love of storytelling and some families even travelled to Beaconsfield Library over half term to see him there!

Books and reading are truly at the heart of Waterside, and we are so proud of the culture we are building together. 





✿ Waterside Primary's Travel Plan Success! ✿

We're excited to share that Waterside Primary now has an official Travel Plan and has achieved 1st Level accreditation through the Modeshift Stars program! Our goal is to reach the Good Level award by the end of March.

With a new policy in place, our School Council and Eco Council are eager to get involved in promoting sustainable travel. The recently installed bike and scooter racks have been a huge success, and we're already seeing more children cycling and scooting to school.

Our school travel survey provided lots of valuable insights, helping us plan even more ways to support safe, healthy, and environmentally friendly journeys to school. Watch this space for exciting initiatives coming soon!



What an incredible term it has been at Waterside, full of exciting events, achievements, and wonderful moments across our school! We are so proud of everything our children, staff, and families have contributed, and we can't wait to see what the next term brings. Here's to more learning, fun, and inspiration ahead!