

# HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

February 2026

## Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy half term and welcome to our Spring Newsletter.

As we reach the midpoint of the spring term, it is a pleasure to reflect on what has been an exceptionally busy and successful few weeks at KEVIGS. The energy, commitment and sense of community across the school have been evident in so many ways, and I am delighted to share some of our recent highlights with you.

### **Matilda the Musical – A True Showcase of Talent**

First and foremost, I would like to commend the staff and students who were involved in our outstanding production of Matilda the Musical, performed at the Riverhead Theatre last week. As Headteacher, I am always immensely proud of the achievements of all our students, but this production was a real highlight of my headship so far. I was truly blown away by the incredible talent, creativity and professionalism on display.

From the performers on stage to the technical crew behind the scenes, every student involved demonstrated dedication, resilience and teamwork. Their hard work and commitment over many months clearly paid off, resulting in a polished, joyful and memorable production that was enjoyed by all who attended.

Productions of this scale are only possible due to the generosity and dedication of staff who give up so much of their own time. My sincere thanks go in particular to Mrs Wood, Mr Baker, Miss Parrish, Mr Spring, Mr Tallon, Mrs Hall and Miss Newton and the rest of the Matilda team, for their leadership, support and tireless commitment to our students and the show.

### **Darts Competition – Skill and Sportsmanship**

Last week also saw the final of our much enjoyed darts competition. Thank you to Mr Bennett for organising the event and for creating such a positive and competitive atmosphere throughout. Congratulations to Oscar on his excellent performance and well-deserved win, becoming a two-time champion is no small achievement. Congratulations also go to Mr Hancock, our staff winner. The final was extremely tense and closely contested, and it was fantastic to see such enthusiasm and sportsmanship from everyone involved.

# Headteacher's Welcome

## **Sporting Success Across the School**

We have also celebrated a number of sporting successes this term. Our Year 8 Rugby team, brilliantly coached by Mr Todd, were crowned District Champions, a fantastic achievement that reflects their teamwork, discipline and determination.

In Cross Country, our Year 7 students travelled to Skegness Grammar School to compete in the Superzone competition and finished overall winners, which is a superb result. In Athletics, we had eight students finish in the top 25, demonstrating both individual excellence and a strong collective performance. These achievements are a credit not only to the students but also to the staff who support and encourage them to strive for their best.

## **Parental Engagement and Community Involvement**

We held our second parent coffee morning of the term, focusing on the theme of assessment. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity for open discussion, and we are grateful to parents for sharing their thoughts and feedback so constructively. Over the coming months we will use this feedback to help shape future developments and ensure our approach continue to support students' academic progress.

We also held our first fundraising committee meeting, attended by both parents and staff. A wide range of exciting ideas were discussed, and it was encouraging to see such enthusiasm and willingness to support the school. We look forward to sharing more information about these initiatives in due course. Watch this space.

## **Supporting Our Year 11 Students**

This term we also held our Year 11 PCE face-to-face meetings. These meetings are an important opportunity to strengthen communication between home and school, and we were pleased to receive very positive feedback from parents. As our Year 11 students move closer to their examinations, we remain fully committed to supporting them academically and pastorally during this crucial period.

As we move forward through the spring term, it is important to take time to reflect on what we have achieved together and to be proud of our school community. The successes outlined above are a testament to the hard work of students, staff and families alike, and they provide a strong foundation for the months ahead.

I hope you all enjoy a well earned break with family and friends, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the next part of the term.

With best wishes,

**Mrs Cassidy**  
Headteacher

# MATILDA THE MUSICAL JR.

King Edward VI Grammar School was delighted to celebrate the hugely successful opening night of Matilda The Musical JR at the Riverhead Theatre. Performing to a completely sold-out audience, our talented students delivered an outstanding show that captivated students, staff, families and members of the wider community.

Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical JR, with a book by Dennis Kelly and music and lyrics by Tim Minchin, tells the story of a courageous and intelligent young girl who uses her imagination and determination to overcome adversity. Featuring much-loved songs such as Naughty and Revolting Children, the production was packed with energy, confidence and exceptional performances throughout.

A massive well done to all of the students involved – both on stage and behind the scenes. You were phenomenal. Your commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism truly shone through and made this production such a memorable success.

Thank you to Mrs Wood, Mr Baker, Miss Parrish, and all the other staff involved in supporting and delivering the production. Your dedication, hard work and countless hours of preparation ensured the show was of an incredibly high standard.

We are immensely proud of everyone involved in continuing King Edward VI Grammar School's proud tradition of staging high-quality performances for our school and the wider community.



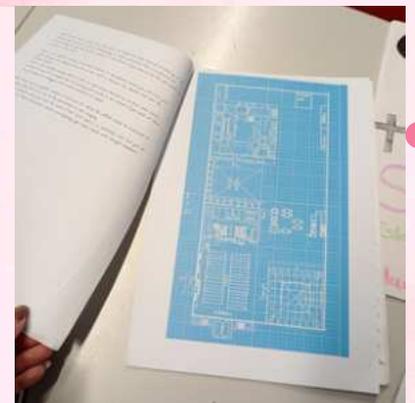
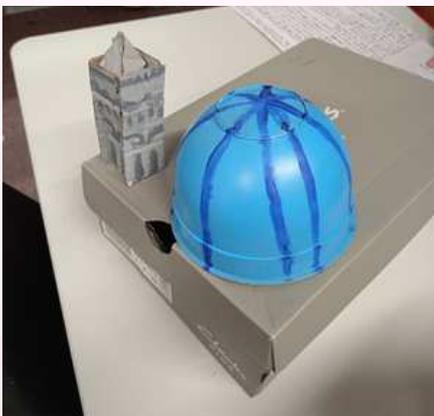
# RELIGION AND WORLDVIEW

## Year 8 Multi-Faith Space Projects

This half term, Year 8 students have been working incredibly hard on their Multi-Faith Space projects in RW, and the results have been truly exceptional.

Students produced a wide range of high quality work, including detailed models, engaging videos, informative PowerPoints, creative drawings and thoughtful written reports. The variety of outcomes demonstrated not only a strong understanding of the topic, but also impressive creativity, effort and dedication.

Miss Burman and the Religion and Worldview team are extremely proud of the standard of work produced and greatly appreciate the commitment shown by all students. Well done, Year 8. You should be very proud of your achievements!



# HISTORY

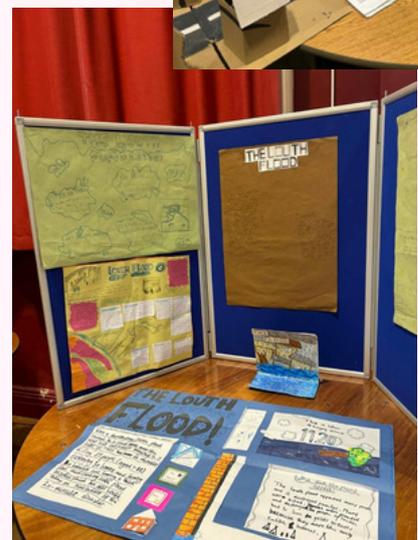
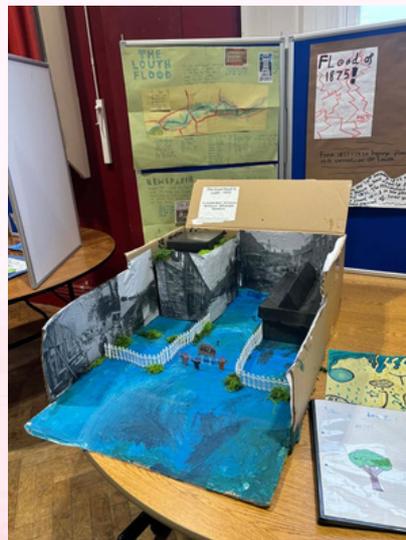
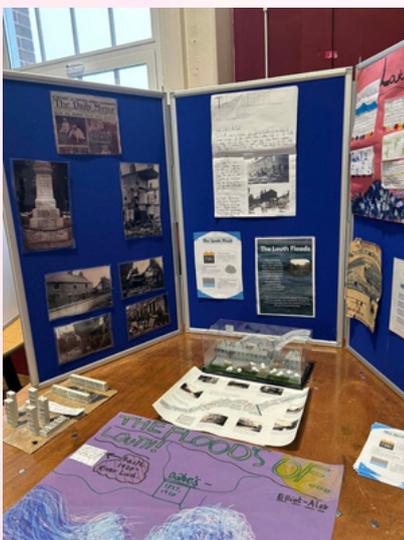
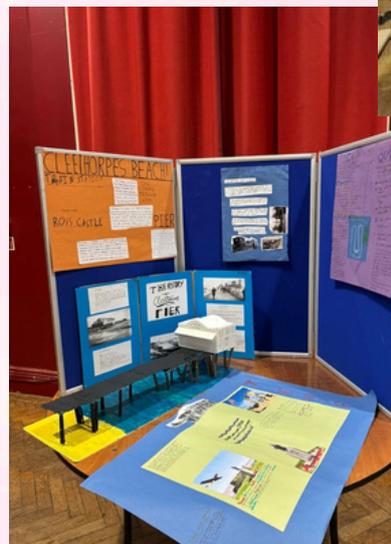
## Year 7 Local History

Year 7 have worked incredibly hard on their local history projects this term. They have been busy researching, designing and presenting a wide range of fascinating topics linked to our local area.

Projects included studies of the Louth Flood, the development of Grimsby Docks, the history of Cleethorpes Pier, and life in Louth during the First and Second World Wars.

The students demonstrated great curiosity, effort and creativity in putting their projects together. It was wonderful to see the pride they took in their work, and it was lovely to welcome so many parents and staff who came to look around and celebrate their hard work.

Well done, Year 7!



# KEVIGS CCF

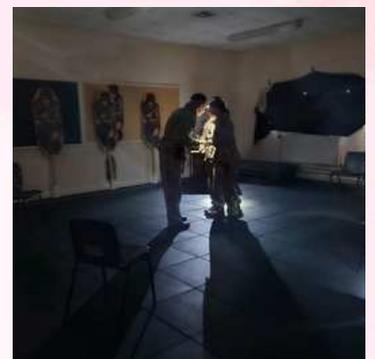
## CCF Update

The RAF section recently attended the Central & East region RAST (Royal Air Squadron Trophy) competition at RAF Honington. They did the KEVIGS CCF contingent proud, placing 12th in the whole region and coming 8th specifically in shooting. We are so proud of the attendees' discipline and conduct throughout the day, demonstrating the very best of KEVIGS CCF.

The Army section seniors have spent the last few weeks preparing for their own version of regional competition called Combat Cadet. At this competition, they will partake in a range of activities including: rifles training, building clearance, drill and lots of fieldcraft. We wish the team of nine cadets lots of luck for next half term which is when they head to Beckingham training camp to complete Combat Cadet and show off what KEVIGS CCF has to offer!

The junior RAF cadets have spent the last two weeks working with our contingent commander Lt Col. Hayday achieving their essential first aid qualification. These skills are so valuable to the cadets not only just within the contingent but in a wider context as they now understand and know any immediate action they should take if they ever must act as a first aider.

Finally, the Army section junior cadets have spent this half term working towards familiarising themselves with the cadet general purpose rifle (the L98A2). In this last week they have all passed their weapons handling test, certifying them on the GP rifle for the next six months. This is such a significant achievement for them progressing as Army cadets. They now have lots of weapons cleaning training to complete to understand how to maintain their rifles and keep them in top condition.



# STARLIGHT CHOIR COMPETITION

This half term, KEVIGS Music Department entered the school choir into a prestigious competition 'I am the Starlight', offering an exciting opportunity as its prize. The winning choir will be invited to perform on the West End stage in London alongside the cast of Starlight Express. As part of the competition, students worked diligently to learn and perfect the title song *Starlight Express* from the musical. Once rehearsals were complete, the choir took part in a recording session to produce a video audition which was submitted to the judging panel. The panel comprises members of the West End cast of Starlight Express, the show's producers, and representatives from Young Voices. We now await confirmation from the judging panel as to whether the KEVIGS choir has been successful.

## VALENTINE'S DISCO

Our recent Valentine's Disco was a wonderful success, with students enjoying a fun-filled evening of music, dancing and time with friends. The atmosphere was fantastic, and it was lovely to see so many students smiling and making great memories together.

Thank you to everyone who came along and danced their hearts out. Your energy made the night so special!

A big thank you as well to the staff who generously volunteered their time to support the event. We are incredibly grateful for your help in making the evening run so smoothly.

Our next fundraiser is Easter Bingo, which is open to all families and members of the community. Please take a moment to read the details attached to this email. We look forward to seeing you there! 🍩🎉



# SPORTS

## Football

### **Year 8 Football Team County Cup R2**

The Year 8 girls' Football team battled through tough weather and heavy pitch conditions to secure a convincing 4-0 win over Bourne Academy on Friday last week. The girls' resilience through this game was fantastic and they finished with a big smile on their faces.



### **Year 7 Badminton Team**

The Year 7 Badminton team achieved a victory in their first tournament representing KEVIGS. The girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves and they played really well, showing great teamwork and determination. Their dedication at lunchtime badminton training clearly paid off.



### **Year 7 Indoor Athletics**

A big well done to our Year 7 Indoor Athletics team who came first overall out of six schools in the Coastal and Wolds District Indoor Athletics Championships. They competed brilliantly and were very happy to be taking home their first sporting medal.



# KEY DATES

## Spring Term Key Dates

As we move into the second half of the Spring Term, please find below a list of important upcoming dates for your diary.

### February

Monday 23rd February

- Whole School Returns
- Year 13 Mock Examinations Begin

Tuesday 24th February

- Year 9 GCSE Options Deadline
- Sixth Form Geography Field Trip Parent Meeting – 6:30pm (Online)
- Year 9 Box Clever “Hate” Play

### March

Tuesday 3rd March

- Year 8 Parents’ Evening (Online)

Friday 6th March

- Year 13 Mock Examinations End

Tuesday 10th March

- Year 11 & 12 Maths Inspire Trip

Thursday 12th March

- Year 11 English and Maths Mock Examinations Begin

Saturday 14th March

- Fundraising Easter Bingo

Monday 16th – Wednesday 18th March

- Sixth Form Geography Field Trip

Wednesday 18th March

- Arts Award Evening

Friday 20th March

- Red Nose Day (Non-Uniform Day)

Wednesday 25th March

- Key Stage 3 Careers Fair

Thursday 26th March

- Parent Coffee Morning (Mental Health and Wellbeing)
- Year 12 & 13 Parents’ Evening

KEVIGS

# EASTER BINGO

**SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**Doors open at 3.30pm, eyes down at 4pm**

**King Edward VI Grammar School**

**Newton Hall**

**£1 per game or £5 for 6 games (paid on the day)**

We are happy to announce our first ever Easter Bingo! An evening of fun, 6 games of Bingo (with Easter Chocolate prizes), a raffle, refreshments and tuck shop and a delicious fish and chip supper (if required).

### **Fish and Chip Supper Instructions:**

The fish and chip supper will be supplied by 'Fish and Chik', Louth  
Meals need to be ordered and paid for in advance (Last orders by 9am Friday 28<sup>th</sup>  
February please)

Fish and Chips £8.00

Battered sausage and chips £6.00

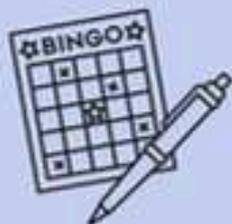
Fishcake and chips £6.00

Sides: Curry, mushy peas, gravy or beans £1.25

#### **Payment:**

If your child has an IpayImpact account then please pay for your food options on there under the 'Bingo' Sections.

If don't have an IpayImpact account then please email [events@kevigs.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:events@kevigs.lincs.sch.uk) to book and pay for your meals.



RAISING MONEY FOR SPORT AT KEVIGS

# KEVIGS

FAMILY AND FRIENDS GOLF DAY

29 MARCH 2026

LOUTH GOLF CLUB

AFTERNOON TEA TIMES

EMAIL TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

[ROBERT.JEFFERY@KEVIGS.LINCS.SCH.UK](mailto:ROBERT.JEFFERY@KEVIGS.LINCS.SCH.UK)



18 HOLES - 4 PERSON TEAM STABLEFORD - 2 SCORES COUNTING ON EACH HOLE, ALL FOUR SCORES COUNTING ON HOLES 9 AND 18

£35 ADULT NON-MEMBERS

£25 JUNIOR NON-MEMBERS

£10 ADULT AND JUNIOR MEMBERS

INCLUDES TEA/COFFEE, BACON ROLL AND PRIZES

OFFICIAL HANDICAPS NOT REQUIRED (HOWEVER MAY BE INELIGIBLE FOR SOME PRIZES)

# KEVIGS INTERACT

KEVIGS Interact is a student-led charity organisation, linked to and supported by Louth Rotary. It aims to bring about change in the school, local, and global community.

It is an amazing opportunity to develop teamwork and leadership skills, and looks great on applications. It can also be used for volunteering for DofE!



*'I joined interact because I believe that it is such a rewarding opportunity. It allows me to develop skills that I wouldn't elsewhere and help those in need.'*



If you are interested or have any queries, please contact:

[evienewton@kevigs.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:evienewton@kevigs.lincs.sch.uk)

Rotary  
Club of Louth



Interact  
Rotary Sponsored Club



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence has seen significant development over the recent months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat). One form of AI that has become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot. There are now numerous 'virtual friend' apps available, with other successful platforms likely to adopt it soon.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. As a result, there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

### REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could possibly hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

### LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

### UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour. As many chatbots originate from the USA or UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview. This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours if they interact with the AI consistently.

### COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, their creativity and their ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

### PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts warn that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (for instance, the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties).

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If a child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, then a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with children and perhaps do your own research to ensure that you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit and explore the range of AI chatbots together.

### CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If a child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

### FIND A BALANCE

Walk alongside children to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate, it's important to make sure that children still get plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

### TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps children can download and interact with. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

### RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to them. Emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something inaccurate or skewed by bias.

### Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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# UNDERSTANDING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

**Anti-social behaviour (ASB) can affect people and communities in different ways. Understanding what ASB means helps us recognise when someone may need support and work together to keep our community safe, welcoming, and connected.**

## **What is Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)?**

### **Examples of ASB can include:**

- Intimidation and/or threatening behaviour
- Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles
- Using or dealing drugs
- Street drinking
- Rowdy behaviour in public
- Arson

## **What is NOT Anti-Social Behaviour?**

- Young people playing in parks and gardens
- Disagreements between members of individual households.
- Inconsiderate parking
- Disputes over property and boundaries
- Business activities
- Private use of CCTV and Smart Doorbells e.g. Ring Doorbell

**For more information visit**

**<https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/article/6123/Anti-Social-Behaviour>**

## **Why should we care about ASB?**

ASB affects the wellbeing, safety, and confidence of everyone in the community. It can make people—especially children and vulnerable individuals—feel unsafe in the places they live, learn, and play. Small issues can quickly escalate into more serious problems if they aren't addressed early, and the impact can be long-lasting, from damaged community spaces to increased anxiety and reduced quality of life.

## **Working Together as a Community**

Anti-social behaviour is best tackled when families, schools, services, and communities work together.

**Anti-social behaviour isn't always caused by children and young people, but providing positive opportunities, safe spaces, and meaningful activities can play an important role in preventing issues before they arise. The Beyond Project is currently in Louth and has put together a packed timetable of free activities for young people aged 9-18, offering safe spaces, fun sessions, and plenty of chances to get involved in their community.**

**Join us for 8 sessions and you will win a free rewards trip! Trips could include Wild Pines, Go Karting or Cinema TBC**

**(These sessions will not take place during February Half Term 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> of Feb)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Day &amp; Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Beyond Dodgeball	Tuesdays 5pm - 6.30pm	Eastgate Union Church Hall
Beyond Football	Tuesdays 7.30pm-8.30pm	London Road Sports Pavilion
Beyond Youth Club	Wednesdays 4pm - 5.30pm	Generations Church
Beyond Multisports	Thursdays 4.30pm - 5.30pm	Eastgate Union Church
Beyond Football	Thursdays 6.30pm-7.30pm	Louth Youth Centre
Beyond Football	Fridays 4.30pm-5.30pm	London Road Sports Pavilion
Beyond Multisports	Fridays 6.30pm-8pm	Meridian Leisure Centre