



Summer

NEWSLETTER 2026

Issue 138



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HEAD'S WELCOME



Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

As we come to the end of another busy and successful academic year at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the many achievements, opportunities and memorable moments that have taken place across our school community over the past year.

This newsletter provides just a snapshot of the fantastic experiences our students have enjoyed, from educational visits and residentials, sporting success, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, creative and performing arts activities, work experience placements, university visits, leadership opportunities and CET Trust-wide events. Throughout all of these experiences, our students have continued to demonstrate our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience, and I could not be prouder of them.

I would like to congratulate all of our students on their efforts and achievements this year. Whether excelling in the classroom, representing the school in sport, contributing to the wider community, supporting one another, or simply striving to be the very best version of themselves each day, our students continue to impress us with their talent, character and determination. They are excellent ambassadors for KSGS and should be incredibly proud of all they have accomplished.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. The partnership between home and school is incredibly important, and we are grateful for the encouragement, trust and support you provide to both your children and our staff. Working together enables us to provide the very best opportunities and outcomes for our young people.

My thanks also go to our dedicated staff, LAB members, volunteers, local businesses and community partners who continue to give so much of their time, energy and expertise to support the school. The opportunities featured throughout this newsletter simply would not be possible without their commitment and generosity.

Before the summer break begins, I would also like to wish all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students the very best of luck as they await their examination results. I look forward to welcoming students, parents and carers into school on A Level Results Day, Thursday 13th August, and GCSE Results Day, Thursday 20th August, when we will have the opportunity to celebrate the hard work, dedication and achievements of our young people and support them with their exciting next steps.

As we head into the summer holidays, I hope all of our students, families and staff have the opportunity to rest, relax and enjoy some well-earned time together. We look forward to welcoming students back in September, refreshed, re-energised and ready for another exciting year at KSGS.

Thank you once again for your support throughout the academic year. Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing many of you on Results Days and then again in September.

Kind regards,

Miss N Tweddle

Head of School

KSGS AWARD WINNERS

Some of our Summer Term Award Winners:

Individual and Form Winners (for Attendance and Achievement Points) and Learner of the Lesson Awards. Also including, Sparx Maths Leaderboard Heroes, CET Student Leadership Event, Be The Best You Can Be Week, Achievement point auction winners, Duke of Edinburgh Award Achievers and other winners from KSGS competitions and events.



Achievement Points - Congratulations to our first Gold Award Winners

(750+ points)



Sixth Form Students Visit Newcastle University

Twenty-six of our Year 12 students made the trip to Newcastle to explore the courses on offer and the facilities at both Northumbria's Coach Lane Campus and City Campus.

Students attended talks on Health & Social Care, Midwifery, Nursing and Primary Teaching before returning to the City Campus.

They explored both the historic and modern buildings, attended subject talks and a presentation on the Partners Scheme, and also had the opportunity to look at some of the student accommodation.

The students all benefited from the day and will hopefully visit many more open days before making their final choices.



Year 11 Prom

Year 11 students enjoyed a fabulous evening at the Roundthorn Hotel for their Prom on Tuesday 30th June.

Everyone looked amazing in their suits and dresses. Although the early photographs had to be taken indoors due to the rain, we were able to capture the traditional group photo outside later in the evening.

Students enjoyed a mocktail reception followed by a delicious three-course meal before taking to the dance floor for an evening of laughter, dancing and celebration. The photo booth and decorated sunglasses provided plenty of opportunities for some fantastic photos throughout the event.

It was a wonderful evening spent celebrating a fantastic group of young people.

We will miss you, Year 11!

From all the staff at KSGS



Year 13 Prom

Sixth Form students enjoyed an evening of celebration at The Morritt Arms.

Students were praised by the Sixth Form staff for their resilience and perseverance throughout their A Level courses, as well as their success in securing exciting next steps. For example, Head Boy Nic will be starting a Civil Engineering degree apprenticeship with Breedon Mining Company. Senior student Will has accepted an offer from Durham University to study Maths and Physics, while Charlotte is going on to study Astrophysics and Jacob will be training as a paramedic. Many other students are also looking forward to beginning a wide range of university courses, apprenticeships and careers.

Mrs Steels, Director of Learning for Key Stage 5, congratulated the students on achieving their individual pathways and thanked them for the sense of community, kindness and tolerance they have shown throughout their time in the Sixth Form.

Year 12 Chemists Explore the Future of Science at Lancaster University

On 8th May, our Year 12 Chemistry students travelled to Lancaster University to take part in an exciting Chemistry Masterclass exploring how modern technology is transforming scientific research.

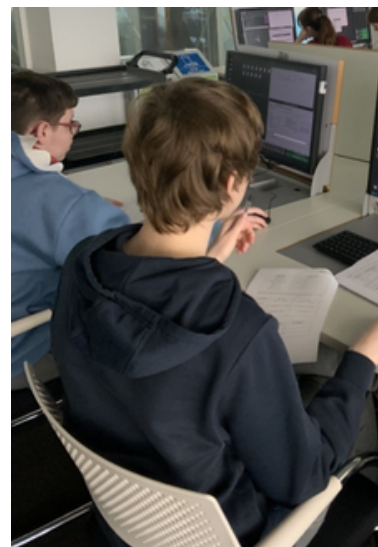
The day began with a fascinating introduction to computational chemistry, where students discovered how scientists use powerful computer simulations and quantum mechanics to investigate chemical processes that would otherwise be impossible to observe directly. Using specialist software, students compared the energy released during the combustion of methane, a common fossil fuel, with more sustainable alternatives such as methanol and hydrogen. By analysing simulation data, they identified trends that closely matched real experimental results, gaining an insight into how computational modelling is helping researchers develop cleaner energy solutions for the future.

Students then explored the use of infrared spectroscopy alongside computer simulations to tackle one of today's major environmental challenges: plastic waste. Working with spectroscopy data, they investigated how different polymers can be identified and separated from mixed plastic waste streams. This enabled them to determine which plastics could potentially be recycled back into oil, demonstrating how chemistry can contribute to creating a more sustainable, circular economy.

The visit also included a thought-provoking lecture entitled How Can Superfoods Be Made More Super? Students learned about current research into enhancing the nutritional value and health benefits of foods through chemistry and biotechnology, highlighting the important role science plays in improving human health and wellbeing.

The masterclass provided an excellent opportunity for students to experience university-level chemistry, deepen their understanding of cutting-edge scientific techniques, and gain an insight into the diverse careers and research opportunities available within the chemical sciences.

A huge thank you to the staff and researchers at Lancaster University for delivering such an engaging and inspiring day. Our students represented the school exceptionally well and were a credit to KSGS throughout the visit.



Spanish Trip to Málaga

In March 2026, 43 students embarked on an unforgettable cultural adventure to Málaga, Spain. After departing in the early hours of Monday morning, the group arrived to glorious sunshine – a perfect start to what would be a fantastic week.

Our first full day set the tone for the trip, beginning with a visit to the breathtaking Nerja Caves, where students were able to appreciate one of Spain's most impressive natural landmarks. This was followed by a lively flamenco lesson, where students embraced the opportunity to experience Spanish culture first-hand. The boys in particular impressed staff with their enthusiasm and flair, showing real confidence and energy in their performances!

On day three, the group explored Málaga city centre, immersing themselves in the rich history and culture of the region. Highlights included a visit to the magnificent Málaga Cathedral, the Roman theatre ruins, the Picasso Museum, and the iconic bullring. Students engaged thoughtfully with the history and demonstrated excellent curiosity throughout the day.

The fourth day took us to Benalmádena, where students visited a beautiful butterfly sanctuary before enjoying time in Paloma Park. A traditional tapas lunch allowed students to taste a variety of Spanish dishes, followed by beach games which were enjoyed in the sunshine.

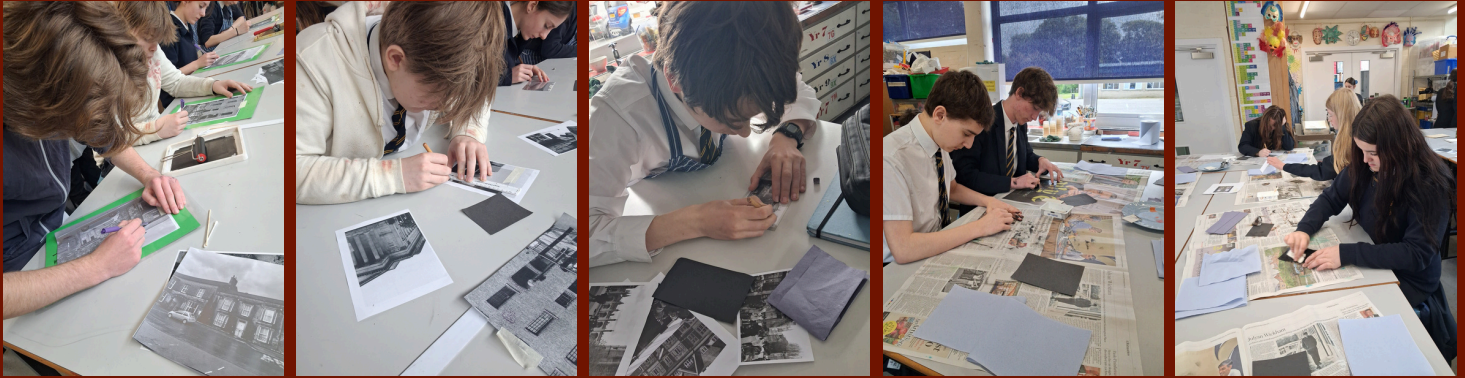
Our final day included a visit to the Sea Life Centre in Benalmádena with some hands on experiences, along with some time for souvenir shopping – always a popular activity! Students showed great responsibility and independence throughout.

After a busy and enriching week, the group returned home tired but full of wonderful memories. The trip provided a wide range of cultural experiences, helping to bring language learning to life in a meaningful and inspiring way.

We are incredibly proud of all 43 students, who represented the school brilliantly and were regularly complimented on their great behaviour. Their enthusiasm and willingness to embrace new experiences made this a truly special trip.

Year 10 Artists Explore the World of Printmaking

This term, our Year 10 GCSE Art students explored a range of printmaking techniques during a dedicated workshop designed to enhance their coursework. Students experimented with mono-printing and drypoint etching, developing new skills and producing some outstanding outcomes. Well done, Year 10!



Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

19 Year 9 students completed their Bronze DofE Award Expedition over the weekend of 27/28th June, walking about 25km from Coniston to Ambleside over two days, camping in the beautiful Langdale Valley.



Thankfully, the weather was slightly cooler than the week leading up to the expedition, the three groups heading off taking different routes through stunning scenery. DofE Expeditions are 'remotely supervised' meaning that groups are walking unaccompanied for large parts for the day, managing their own navigation and route finding, and carrying everything for the weekend. The supervisors are all volunteers from Kirkby Stephen Mountain Rescue Team and KSGS are very grateful for their support, without which the award simply wouldn't be possible

We camped near Chapel Style in the Langdale Valley, which has some of the most stunning mountains surrounding the campsite. A pleasant evening was enjoyed by everyone, and the students even had the energy to play some games, do cartwheels, and watch the first half of the England football match (We don't normally allow this sort of entertainment, but made an exception as it was the World Cup!).



The weather was good most of the time, but we did have some heavy overnight rain which didn't clear until after we'd packed up the very wet tents unfortunately. Soon after setting off for day 2 though, the sun came out and the low 20-degree temperatures were just right for walking.

All the groups finished at Langdale Mountain Rescue base in Ambleside without any drama, any minor navigational errors mostly sorted out by the groups themselves without any input from the supervisors, which is all part of the expedition experience.

Creative writers Continue to Impress!

It's been a busy and successful summer term for Creative Writing Club!

Seven of our talented writers have had their poems published in the I Have a Dream Anthology. Their entries explore dreams of all kinds – from visiting 80 countries and attending a Taylor Swift concert to imagining an upside-down world! Our young writers have drawn inspiration from the world around them to create imaginative and thoughtful poetry.

We also have nine writers eagerly awaiting publication in the Stranger Sagas anthology, where they were challenged to write a mysterious story in fewer than 100 words. Week after week, our club members continue to impress us with their enthusiasm, creativity and genuine love of writing.

Earlier this term, Creative Writing Club also teamed up with Dave and Ellen from Penrith Writers as part of the My Name is Eden project.

The workshop took inspiration from Mayburgh Henge, an impressive Neolithic monument made from thousands of pebbles gathered from the nearby river. Students spent the afternoon talking to rocks, free writing and creating wonderfully bonkers acrostic poems!

They also had the opportunity to ask Dave and Ellen – both published writers – about their experiences of creative writing and journalism, gaining a valuable insight into the world of professional writing.

It was a fantastic afternoon celebrating creativity and sharing the many reasons we write. The workshop left our young writers feeling inspired, full of ideas and excited to keep writing.

Following the workshop, we were delighted to receive a copy of the published anthology from the My Name is Eden project. Inspired by some of English Heritage's free-to-access sites across our region and the stories they hold, the anthology is a wonderful celebration of local history and creativity. Although the publication deadline meant there wasn't time for our students' work to be included this time, we hope to work with Penrith Writers on future projects and look forward to seeing our students' writing featured in the years to come.

There's even more to look forward to! Keep an eye out for the very first edition of the KSGS Creative Writing Anthology. The anthology will showcase a fantastic collection of poetry, short stories and other creative pieces written by our talented students. We're incredibly proud of everything they have achieved this year and can't wait to celebrate their work in print once again!



Yr 8 Investigate Limestone Landscapes at Malham

On the 18th and 19th of June, our Year 8 geographers ventured to the stunning landscape of Malhamdale to experience geography in action.

During the visit, students carried out a range of fieldwork activities to explore the distinctive features of limestone landscapes and the natural processes that shape them. They also examined how these environments provide opportunities for people, alongside the environmental and economic impacts of tourism in the area. A key focus was understanding how the Yorkshire Dales National Park works to manage tourism sustainably and protect this unique environment.

With favourable weather on their side, students walked to the base of Malham Cove, where they observed a rich variety of birds and wildlife, as well as the many visitors drawn to the area. They also watched experienced climbers tackling the impressive rock face.

The group then made the climb up the many steps to the top of the Cove, where they were rewarded with breathtaking views and the famous limestone pavements and dry valleys—recognisable from the penultimate Harry Potter film. While the ascent required some determination, all agreed that the views were well worth the effort!

To round off the trip, students enjoyed a well-earned treat from a local shop in the village of Malham.

Mrs Thompson

CET Innovate 2026

Congratulations to three of our talented Year 8 students – Emily, Grace and Jessica – who represented the school at the CET Innovate Trust Wide Final and achieved an outstanding 3rd place overall in the Secondary Competition.

Working together with dedication and creativity, the girls developed an innovative idea for a recycling bin with a built-in shredder, designed to speed up the composting process by reducing the size of recyclable material. Their invention has the potential to save both time and space, making composting more efficient and accessible.

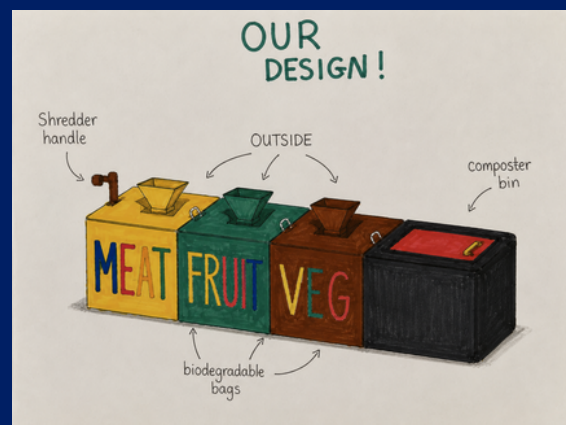
To bring their idea to life, the team worked tirelessly to produce a professional presentation, a full-scale prototype, a working model and an informative display. Their presentation impressed the judges with its clarity, confidence and depth of knowledge, demonstrating the hard work and commitment they had invested throughout the project.

Reaching the finals was a fantastic achievement in itself, and securing 3rd place is a testament to the girls' teamwork, innovation and perseverance.

Mrs Walker said, "I am incredibly proud of Emily, Grace and Jessica. Their enthusiasm, creativity and determination throughout this project have been exceptional, and they thoroughly deserved their success. They are fantastic ambassadors for our school."

Well done to all three students on this remarkable achievement!

Mrs Walker



Year 10 Geography Fieldwork - River Studies at Threlkeld

On 10th June, our Year 10 geographers travelled to the Blencathra Field Study Centre in Threlkeld for a hands-on fieldwork experience in the beautiful surroundings of the Lake District.

During the visit, students investigated the Glenderaterra Beck, collecting their own primary data to explore how rivers change downstream. Their enquiry focused on whether river discharge increases with distance, a key concept in understanding river processes.

Students applied their classroom knowledge in a real-world setting, using a range of fieldwork techniques. This included selecting appropriate sampling methods, considering the accuracy and reliability of their measurements, and carrying out risk assessments to ensure safe working practices in and around the river. They also deepened their understanding of river landscape processes by observing features directly within the channel.

The day was a great success, with students fully engaged in the practical work and demonstrating excellent teamwork and resilience. Although the fieldwork did result in a few damp socks by the end of the day, spirits remained high and the experience proved both enjoyable and invaluable in supporting their GCSE studies.



Well done to all students and staff for their positive attitude and enthusiasm throughout the day.

Year 10 Work Experience Success

Our Year 10 students enjoyed an extremely successful week of work experience, gaining valuable insight into the world of work and developing important employability skills. Throughout the week, students demonstrated professionalism, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn as they worked alongside employers across a wide range of industries.

The feedback from employers has been overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on our students' maturity, confidence and excellent work ethic. Students have returned with a greater understanding of workplace expectations, improved communication and teamwork skills, and a clearer idea of their future career aspirations.

We are particularly delighted that a number of students impressed their employers so much that they were offered part-time employment opportunities following their placements – a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work and dedication.

We would like to thank all of the employers who supported our students and provided such valuable experiences. The week has been a great success and will undoubtedly help our students as they prepare for their future education and career pathways.

Mrs Bell

Four Year 10 students recently took part in an additional work experience opportunity with the Army, where they challenged themselves both physically and mentally throughout the week.

With 6:00am starts each day, the students quickly learned the importance of discipline, teamwork and resilience. Activities included marching practice, attack and defence drills, shelter building, CPR training and using a virtual shooting range. They also developed valuable communication and leadership skills while working together to complete a variety of tasks.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, particularly the opportunity to try new activities, push themselves outside their comfort zones and sample some excellent Army catering! The week provided a fascinating insight into military life and helped the students develop confidence, responsibility and problem-solving skills that will benefit them in the future.

We are incredibly proud of how they represented the school and embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and determination.



From Museums to Musicals: Year 10's Unforgettable London Adventure

Our Year 10 students recently enjoyed an unforgettable residential visit to London, packed with exciting learning opportunities, cultural experiences and plenty of memorable moments.

The trip began at the Natural History Museum, where students took part in a fascinating Rocks and Minerals Workshop led by Mrs Rose Want. They had the rare opportunity to handle specimens that are not normally available to the public before exploring the museum's world-famous galleries. The day concluded with a meal together and an outstanding performance of Matilda in London's West End, with interval ice creams proving especially popular during the hot weather. Despite a very warm first night, students were up bright and early for breakfast before beginning another busy day. The morning was spent at the Imperial War Museum, where they participated in the Holocaust Learning Experience. This thought-provoking visit encouraged reflection and discussion, and staff at the museum praised our students for the maturity, respect and sensitivity they demonstrated throughout.

Following lunch, the group visited Tate Modern, where they explored a range of contemporary artworks and shared thoughtful discussions about modern art. A walk along the Thames gave students the opportunity to take in some of London's most iconic landmarks before an entertaining visit to the London Dungeon. The day ended with dinner and a spectacular performance of Moulin Rouge! in the West End. The production captivated everyone with its incredible music, choreography and breathtaking staging. Members of the public also took the time to compliment our students on their excellent theatre etiquette, something of which we are immensely proud.

On the final day, students enjoyed an inspiring behind-the-scenes tour of the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, learning about the history of the theatre, technical theatre terminology and even its famous ghost stories. One particularly lucky group even spotted Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber visiting the theatre with his dog.

After some free time exploring the shops and markets of Covent Garden, the group travelled to the Warner Bros. Studio Tour – The Making of Harry Potter. Students explored the famous sets, costumes, props and special effects, with many enjoying the opportunity to ride a broomstick and recreate some iconic scenes. The traditional group photograph with the giant wizard chess pieces provided a fitting finale before the journey home.

Throughout the visit, our students were outstanding ambassadors for the school. At every venue, staff and members of the public commented on their politeness, respect and exemplary behaviour. They represented both themselves and our school with maturity and kindness, and every member of staff was incredibly proud of what they achieved during the trip.

Our sincere thanks go to Mrs Sayers, Mr Wealleans, Mrs Want and Mr Cloke for giving their time and enthusiasm to make this fantastic experience possible, and to Mrs White for her invaluable support with organising the visit.

The London residential was a wonderful opportunity for students to broaden their horizons, develop new experiences and create lasting memories with their friends. It was a truly successful trip and one that will be remembered for years to come.

Mrs Wealleans



EXTRA-CURRICULAR NEWS

Golden Moments: Celebrating DofE Success at Buckingham Palace

Former KSGS students Jonathan Keetley and James White marked achieving their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards recently when they attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

In his welcome, **HRH the Duke of Edinburgh** congratulated everyone, adding that they should all be incredibly proud of what they had accomplished, showing passion and self-belief which would stand them in good stead for wherever the future takes them. In addition to HRH, other inspirational speakers included **Olympian Dame Kelly Holmes**; **Sara Davies MBE** (Dragons' Den); TV celebrities **Molly Rainford** and **Tyler West**; Entrepreneur and DJ **Vikram Barn**; TV/Radio Presenter **Jaz Singh** and former Arsenal and England goalkeeper **David Seaman MBE**.

Commenting on the day Jonny said "Going to Buckingham Palace was a really cool experience and it's a day I'll always remember. Seeing thousands of people there was a real eye opener as to how popular Gold D of E really is. Being able to share that experience with my best mate and our families was amazing"

Celebrating its 70th Anniversary Year, the Duke of Edinburgh Award is continuing to help young people develop and thrive, with Jonny and James able to undertake their Bronze and Gold Awards whilst studying at KSGS. Although some of the activities were impacted by the Covid pandemic, James commented on "the many great memories made island hopping on my bike in the Hebrides during the Qualifying Expedition.....and the resilience and determination I developed in pushing through all elements of the Award."

They would both like to thank staff at KSGS involved with DofE, Mike Sunderland, Adrian Cottrell, members of KS Mountain Rescue Team, in addition to their families, for the fantastic support throughout their DofE journey.

We love celebrating the achievements of our KSGS students, both in and out of school! If your child has enjoyed success in sport, music, the arts, volunteering or any other activity, we'd love to hear about it. Please send a few details and any photos to admin@ksgs.cumbria.sch.uk if you would like their achievement to be featured in a future school newsletter.



A Super Day for Finley at Durham Cricket!

Congratulations to Finley on an outstanding day representing Durham Super 4s, the Durham County Under-12 pathway programme.

Finley recently played at Durham Cricket's stadium, where his team enjoyed a fantastic day, winning both of their matches. Playing as wicketkeeper in both games, Finley also made a big impact with the bat. Opening the batting in the first match, he finished as his team's top scorer, earning a well-deserved place on the stadium scoreboard.

To make an already memorable day even more special, the players had the opportunity to meet former England captain Ben Stokes and England Test opener Emilio Gay.

Well done, Finley, on your fantastic achievements and for representing Durham Super 4s with such skill and determination!



FUNDRAISING

Support the KSGS Kitchen Garden



sign up



Our Kitchen Garden continues to thrive, thanks to the generosity of our local community. We are extremely grateful to the team at **The Pennine View Camping & Caravan Site** in Kirkby Stephen for kindly making and donating a beautiful wooden bench, which has already become a favourite spot for our students. The children are looking forward to making the most of it with a special afternoon tea in the garden, featuring homemade blackberry jam made from our own harvest.

The garden itself is flourishing, with courgettes now in flower and the borage growing exceptionally well. Students are enjoying learning how to care for the plants and discovering the many uses for the herbs and produce they are growing.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to **JT Atkinson** for their continued support. Their generous donation of all the soil and stone needed for the project has helped transform the space into a wonderful outdoor learning environment. We are incredibly fortunate to have such supportive local businesses helping our Kitchen Garden grow.

DofE Students Supported by Local Businesses

Local businesses have stepped in to help fund the costs of Kirkby Stephen Grammar School's Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

KSGS has always tried to ensure that the DofE Award should be available to all, and that cost should not be a factor, so to avoid passing on the cost of the licence to students, local businesses were approached seeking sponsorship.

The response was overwhelming, with four local companies happy to share the cost and offer their support for the next three years.

- Westmorland Family
- Out of Eden
- Stables-Thompson-Briscoe
- Kirkby Stephen Business Park

Representatives of all four companies attended the school to meet the Head of School, Nic Tweddle, students currently completing their Bronze Award, and members of Kirkby Stephen Mountain Rescue Team, who run the expedition section of the Award on behalf of the school.

Ms Tweddle thanked the attendees for their commitment, saying 'without your help, the school would really struggle to offer the DofE Award to our students. The Award builds essential life skills like resilience, teamwork, and independence. It is highly regarded by universities and employers, provides a structured way to give back to the community through volunteering, and boosts mental and physical wellbeing'.



WESTMORLAND
FAMILY



ST & B
STABLES THOMPSON & BRISCOE



OUT OF EDEN

Kirkby Stephen
Business Park

Summer Time – Bring on the Athletics!

Kirkby Stephen Grammar School athletes achieved significant success at the Eden District Athletics Competition at QEGS Penrith, with multiple students selected for Team Eden to compete at the county championships, at Carlisle's Sheep Mount. The squad, featuring strong performances from both the Years 8 & 9 (Juniors) and Years 10 & 11 (Intermediate) teams, demonstrated impressive depth across track and field events.

Building on that momentum at the County Championships, the selected KSGS athletes excelled further by smashing their personal bests (PBs) across multiple track and field events.

Huge congratulations to all our incredible athletes for their dedication, hard work, and outstanding sportsmanship throughout the entire athletics season! You have represented Kirkby Stephen Grammar School with immense pride, and the entire school community is incredibly proud of your achievements.

Record-Breaking Number of KSGS Athletes Storm Through to Regional Finals at Hexham!

Students from KSGS achieved a record-breaking performance this season, with a large contingent qualifying for the Regional Finals at Hexham Athletics Stadium after dominating the Eden District Athletics Championships and performing strongly at the County Finals at Sheep mount, Carlisle. Notably, five athletes secured **Cumbria vests** for finishing 1st or 2nd in their events.

Regional Highlights from Hexham Stadium:

- Tabitha: Regional Champion in Triple Jump, earning a gold certificate.
- Sean: Bronze Certificate in Long Jump.
- Harry: Bronze Certificate in Discus.
- Milo: Competed in the 200m sprint final.
- Kathryn: Competed in the Hammer Throw.



KSGS Athletics History Made: Tabitha and Harry Head to National Finals!

Never has KSGS sent two athletes simultaneously to the National Athletics Finals, making this an unprecedented milestone for our PE department. Having advanced past elite regional competition, Tabitha Paul and Harry Allison will proudly wear their Cumbria vests as they step onto the historic track and field at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham to face the absolute best athletes in the country.

Tabitha returns to the National Finals for her second consecutive year. In an incredible display of versatile athletic talent, she qualifies this year in a completely new discipline, transitioning from the High Jump last year to the Triple Jump this year.

Harry joins her on the national stage, competing in the Discus. Harry earned his spot in style by spectacularly smashing right through the strict National Qualifying Standard during the selection rounds.

Competing at Alexander Stadium is a monumental honour. This venue has hosted global athletic royalty and witnessed legendary, gold-medal performances during the Commonwealth Games. For Tabitha and Harry, competing in a stadium of this scale is a testament to their hard work, grit, and natural talent. Mrs Paul will also travel with the athletes as a selected team manager and is very excited to march out with both students at the prestigious ceremonial parade.



Track, Field, and Team Spirit: KSGS Celebrates Sports Day 2026!

On a fantastic summer day, the entire school community came together for our highly anticipated annual KSGS Sports Day 2026. The school grounds were alive with energy, team spirit, and vibrant house colours as students from all year groups prepared to showcase their athletic talents.

The track events delivered massive excitement this year. Spectators erupted into cheers during the high stakes 100m and 200m sprints, where students pushed for personal bests. The determination was equally palpable over on the field, with fantastic displays of technique and power in the long jump, shot put, discus and javelin.

A core highlight of the day was seeing our transition into the school values of respect, responsibility and resilience shine through, with every competitor demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship, resilience, and respect.

The finale—the classic house relay races—saw incredible noise from the sidelines as runners fought for those final, crucial points. Lets not also forget the closely fought staff v 6th formers relay ran. After adding up all the scores from an incredibly close day of competition, Wharton was officially crowned the overall champions for 2026!

A massive thank you goes to the PE department, our dedicated staff who managed the events, the outstanding 6th formers, and every student who ran, jumped, threw, or cheered. You all made it a day to remember!



History was made on the field this year, as various students delivered a truly legendary performance, smashing school records that had stood unbroken since 1971.

A massive well done to all our record breakers:

- Milo - 100/200m
- Jamie - High Jump
- Harry - Discus & javelin
- Ewan - 100m
- Ada - High jump
- Dexter - 100m
- Year 8 boys 4x100m relay - Tyler, Lewis, Dexter & Zac
- Year 8 girls 4 x 100m relay - Henrietta, Olivia, Lyra & Caitlin
- Year 10 boys 4 x 100m relay - Evan, Ewan, Sean & Gus

In an extraordinary display of versatility, the prestigious Janette McWhirter Trophy for the overall supreme athlete of the day was shared between two outstanding all-round athletes, both scoring maximum points by winning all five of their individual events. Huge congratulations go to Year 10 student Nancy, and to Year 8 student Henrietta, who brilliantly followed in her sister's record-breaking footsteps.

Amazing achievement, well done ladies!



It's a wrap!

As the final whistle blows on the academic year, we look back with immense pride at what has been a wonderful sporting year for Kirkby Stephen Grammar School. From frosty winter mornings on the pitches to the sun-drenched tracks of our recent Sports Day, our students have consistently demonstrated passion, resilience.

This elite level of performance reflects the incredible sportsmanship, dedication, and teamwork we have witnessed across all sports, fixtures, and tournaments over the past twelve months. Whether representing KSGS at nationals' events or pushing their boundaries in PE lessons, every single student has contributed to a vibrant culture of physical achievement.

We wish everyone a wonderful, active summer break — rest up, stay healthy, and come back refreshed and ready to continue our brilliant sporting success next term!

Mrs Paul

EDEN VALLEY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP NEWS

It has been an incredibly busy year for Eden Valley Sports Partnership. We have organised, hosted and taken part in over 40 events. Many of these events have been supported by Sports Leaders from Kirkby Stephen Grammar School. The events KSGS have been involved in are: Cross Country Event, High5 Netball, Girls Football, Basic Moves Festival, Come & Try Kinball, Tag Rugby, Indoor Cricket, Dodgeball, Quicksticks Hockey, Multi Sport Festivals, Come & Try Lacrosse, and Boccia.

Kirkby Stephen Grammar School pupils have been a huge part in the success of many of these events, either as competitors or supporting the events as young sports leaders. We have had so much positive feedback from teachers, parents and participating pupils. It's wonderful to see the sports leaders always giving encouragement, positive advice and a friendly smile.

Well Done to you all! We look forward to seeing you in September when we start another busy year of activities!





EduLink Updates:

We hope that new features added to EduLink, including Behaviour and Noticeboard, are making it even easier for you to stay informed about your child's progress and school life.

EduLink provides access to a wide range of important information, all in one place. You can view attendance, reports, homework, and now behaviour updates and key school dates, directly through the app or [EduLink website](#). The app can be downloaded from the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

Please note that **Parents' Evenings** will now be arranged exclusively through the **parent log-in** of EduLink. You will need to log in to book appointments when events are released.

If you are still struggling to get started with EduLink or need help accessing your account, please get in touch - we are happy to support you via admin@ksgs.cumbria.sch.uk

Staffing Updates:

We are pleased to share some staffing updates with our school community.

Joining KSGS in September

- Elle Mitchell-Webb will be joining KSGS as Assistant Headteacher (Learning Provision).
- Claire Pullen will be joining KSGS as Teacher of Maths.
- Elliot Blake will be joining KSGS as Teacher of PE.
- Bryony Richardson will be joining KSGS as Attendance Administrator.

Staff Changes from September

- Oli Luke will be moving from his role with the Eden Valley Sports Partnership (EVSP) to become Year Group Manager (Years 9-11).
- Louis Randall-West will be moving from his current position as a Teaching Assistant to join the Eden Valley Sports Partnership.
- Sarah Newstead will continue in her role as Assistant Headteacher (Teaching & Learning).

We look forward to welcoming our new colleagues and wish everyone every success in their new and continuing roles.



Join the KSGS Local Advisory Board and make a real difference!

Volunteering as a school governor offers a rewarding opportunity to make a significant impact on the education and development of young people. You do not need to have a background in education; we seek governors from all walks of life. Your unique experience and perspective can bring valuable insights to a school. We believe that being a governor is for everyone.

Make a difference today.

[READ MORE](#)



Click on the Recruitment Pack for more information

SUPPORT DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

While the summer holidays provide a well-earned opportunity for young people to relax and recharge, some may find the change from the structure and support of school more challenging.

To help during the break, we have compiled a list of organisations and services that offer advice, guidance and support should it be needed.

HAF:

The HAF Programme, funded by the Department for Education, provides free holiday provision for eligible children and young people. This includes:

- Fun, enriching activities
- Opportunities to socialise and build confidence
- Nutritious meals provided each day

HAF activities can be booked via the website link:

[HAF Booking System](#)

Are you or someone you know struggling with your wellbeing?

IF THE ANSWER IS YES, THERE ARE LOTS OF PLACES YOU CAN TURN TO

- SAFEGUARDING TEAM**
Contact the Safeguarding team
admin@ksqs.cumbria.sch.uk
- kooth**
Get free, safe and anonymous support
www.kooth.com
- YOUNG MINDS**
You are not alone and we are here to help
www.youngminds.org.uk
- SAFA**
Self harm awareness for all
safa-selfharm.com
- CHILDLINE - REPORT AND REMOVE**
Confidentially report sexual images and videos and remove them from the internet.
www.childline.org.uk
- NSPCC**
Call if you need help on 0808 800 5000
www.nspcc.org.uk
- mind**
Supporting your mental health
www.mind.org.uk
- Every life matters**
Action against suicide in Cumbria
www.every-life-matters.org.uk
- PAPYRUS**
Prevention of young suicide
www.papyrus-uk.org
- hopeagain**
For young people living with loss
www.hopeagain.org.uk
- PROUD Trust**
Resources for LGBT+ young people
www.theproudtrust.org
- THE MIX**
Essential support for under 25s
www.themix.org.uk

JOIN OUR TEAM

We are looking for talented individuals to join Kirkby Stephen Grammar School.

Explore the roles through the link below and apply today! Join a forward-thinking trust, full of growth and excellent professional development opportunities.

Can't find a suitable job right now? Join our Talent Pool and be alerted as soon as the role you are looking for becomes available!

KEY TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2026

INSET days	Tues 1 st - Weds 2 nd Sept
Autumn Term begins	Thursday 3 rd September
Half Term	Mon 26 th - Fri 30 th Oct
Autumn Term ends	Friday 18 th December

You can view further term dates, and each year up until 2028-2029 on our website.

[OUR CURRENT VACANCIES](#)

[TERM DATES](#)

Have a great

SUMMER

We hope you have a fantastic Summer Break.
We look forward to welcoming all students
back to start the new school year on
Thursday 3rd September 2026