



Work Hard - Be Kind



Dear Parents and Carers,

On Wednesday we come to the end of this academic year. It has been one like no other and I would like to thank all members of our community for their commitment over the last year. In this newsletter there are examples of some of our work and achievements and I hope that you enjoy reading them. Our students, staff, parents and carers

have worked so hard and shown real resilience faced with the many changing demands made on us as a result of the pandemic. Resilience is a quality we probably don't talk about enough. It was seen in managing the switch from school based to home learning and the loss of freedom to meet up with our friends and families. For some members of the King's Oak community this year has also brought worry as they have supported those who have become unwell; very sadly some have experienced the loss of someone close and dear to them. Resilience, being able to manage a difficult situation calmly and with forbearance, is a quality that will no doubt be tested again next year, but for now be proud of how well you have all managed this year.

We have already said goodbye to our Year 11. They leave us with our best wishes for their future and we look forward to hearing from them as they progress in the next stage in their education. This week we will say farewell to some members of staff who are leaving King's Oak. We thank them for their contribution to enriching the lives of our students and wish them well.

In September we will welcome many new students and new staff to our Academy. This is our centenary year and as Year 5 moves to Year 6 in September we will be an all-through school for the first time. This is a big change for the school, one of a number we are making for the next academic year. Some things will not change though. This last year has reminded us of the need to be kind to one another especially if we see someone needs support. We also should appreciate all of those who do help us, our friends, our families and those who support us professionally. In school that means all of our staff, who are the most remarkable people, and I want to end this last newsletter with a personal thank you to them. Thank you.

K. Ogden

Katherine Ogden, Principal

English at KOA

Congratulations to the latest group of King's Oak students to become published writers. This time, a group of KS3 students has been successful in having their poems published in an anthology produced by Young Writers. The competition asked students to write a poem in which they imagined their ideal world. There were some fantastic entries and well done to all. If you'd like to read their work, you can find a copy of the anthology in the LRC.



MFL at KOA

Well done to Ellie and Joe for their amazing video that was entered for a languages competition last term. We update with good news!

They only went and won! We are waiting for St. Brendan's to come and give them their prize money. Félicitations Ellie et Joe! 😊😊



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Twitter: @kingsoakacademy

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/kingsoakacademy/>



For start of Term 1 arrangements in September please refer to our letter which is also on the KOA website.

Art at KOA

"A giant mural based on the Year 7-11 art curriculum is inspiring budding young artists at King's Oak Academy."

Kingswood Voice 10 June 2021

Mr Webber, one of KOA's Art and Design teachers spent 10 days during the Easter holidays covering corridors in the Art Department with artwork aiming to spark creativity in the students. Mr Webber said "the mural is set to inspire students for many years to come".



Science at KOA

Wow! What a year of Science!

Over the past terms KOA students have participated in many events including Earth day! They learnt about the need to protect our Earth and the risk that plastic poses to our seas. All students wrote a pledge, with a high majority pledging to reduce their plastic use and litter! Students can find these pledges on display at the bottom of Science!

Students in KCs classes in Years 7, 8 and 9, BGe classes in Year 8 and BHn classes in Year 7 have all achieved a Blue Peter Green Badge! Students committed to three pledges; reduce power use, protect plants and save water. Each class had a supersized class pledge; this ranged from growing sunflower seeds to a class litter-pick. We are very proud of the hard work that students gave to this project!

Over the last term, KS3 students participated in Asteroid day! We learnt lots; including the effect that asteroids had on dinosaurs, the benefit of asteroids to our planet and how we could prevent an asteroid hitting earth. Students created their own plans on how to protect Earth from asteroid impact and presented their thoughts as beautiful posters!

Finally, our Year 7s and 8s have been learning about Space! The Science department held a Space Competition for which we received many amazing entries. First place was awarded to Skye V who painted an excellent astronaut canvas.



Runner up was Connor L for his amazing paper-mache Jupiter, and also

Liam H who created a spectacular Shoe-box Solar System!



A big WELL DONE to all KOA scientists! We couldn't be more proud to see our scientists developing their scientific thinking and creative ability!

Have a great holiday and don't forget to see the science around you every day!

KOA Science

Follow us on twitter @KOAScience

Careers and Community Links at KOA

Year 9 students had the opportunity to meet HMRC professionals on a Teams call in June. This gave them the opportunity to find out about careers in the Public Sector/HMRC and they also gained some information and guidance on interview questions. Comments from a few students included:

'They showed you how to answer questions in an interview', by Ella L. '

It was interesting to find out how much you could earn and how old you had to be to start there and that you could start with an apprenticeship instead of going to P16 or college', by Georgina S.

ASK - Amazing Apprenticeships

Year 9 and Year 10 students have had the opportunity to attend an 'apprenticeship workshop'. The presenter was amazing, which was pertinent as he was from 'Amazing Apprenticeships' which is supported by the National



Apprenticeships. He was able to give Years 9 and 10 students lots of really useful information, advice and guidance on apprenticeships and really connected with the students.

Here is what a few students thought:

"I didn't know that you pay fees to University but apprenticeships you don't pay for, but you get paid". Finlay J;

"It would be good for him to come back to understand more about how it all works, it was quite motivational". Connor P-H.

HMRC working with Year 8 Maths students

Year 8 had a flavour of what it is like working at HMRC and sorting out tax issues for a small pizza company.



Professionals joined Year 8 Maths classes via a zoom link to introduce a real life scenario that the HMRC would deal with.

At KOA we are building links with business organisations to create opportunities for students to experience contact with business organisations and experience the 'real world'.



Year 10 Mock Interviews

HMRC conducted mock interviews with all our Year 10 students. This was an opportunity for students to experience the adrenaline sometimes experienced when talking/being questioned by an unknown person.



It was a chance for them to build confidence and realise that interviewers want us to succeed. All students benefitted from this experience and HMRC, the interviewers, were impressed by the conduct of our students.

Enterprise Week

Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 tutor groups had the opportunity to become budding entrepreneurs taking part in an enterprise activity to raise money for the Jessie May Charity. This was a whole-school approach to enterprise which allowed students to demonstrate/gain employability skills.



Activities included cake bakes, photo booth, competitions, penalty shoot out, BBQ and many more. It was an amazing week, watching students enthusiastically 'having a go', showing creativity, working in teams, demonstrating resilience and determination and so many more transferable skills. The total amount raised was a fantastic £879.00. Well done to everybody.



Drama at KOA

Kindertransport - The KOA 2021 school play

Between 1938 and the outbreak of war, almost 10,000 children, most of them Jewish, were sent by their parents from Germany



to Britain...Nine year old Eva ends up in Manchester... When Eva's parents fail to escape Germany, the child changes her name and begins the process of denial of her roots...It is only when her own daughter...discovers some old letters in the attic that Eva is forced to confront the truth about her past...The play explores the pain and passion of mother/daughter relationships...



The cast of Kindertransport have been doing a fantastic job rehearsing for the 2021 school play. Each Monday since April the Year 10 girls have been rehearsing in the Hexagon to prepare for the end of year performance. Kindertransport explores the plight of a Jewish girl who has been sent over to an English family at the start of the Second World War. It focuses on the themes of family, identity and loss and its universal themes relate to us all.

The Year 10 cast and crew of Kindertransport have been working as a team to bring this challenging play from page to stage. The play flashes back and forth between 1940 and 1980 and shows the effects on young Eva as she leaves Germany to hopefully find a safer life in England with her new UK family.

This is the first time in a while that a straight play has been produced at KOA. It requires the actors and crew to concentrate for an hour and 45 minutes in this two act play. The Year 10 girls are doing such an amazing job in focusing on their characterisation, the blocking of the play and the technical requirements needed for the success of the show.

Lucy B, Louise F and Libby T are in charge of lighting, sound and props. They have been doing a sterling job, sourcing props and music, learning how to operate the lighting board and working with me to realise the artistic vision. Their pro-active approach has been wonderful and I really appreciate their hard work.

The cast have been just as committed and hardworking and it is wonderful for me to see their performances develop as rehearsals progress. The actors are now at a stage where they will start embedding their lines into their memory in preparation for the end of year performances. They are really rising to the challenge of this script and I have been so proud of each and every one of them for their dedication in realising this important play.

I have been very lucky to have the help of Mrs Grass who is in charge of costume for the show. Mrs Grass has worked on countless musicals at KOA and her experience, eye for detail and secure knowledge of period costume, will help to give the play an authentic look as we cross-cut between 1940 and 1980.

We really hope to see as many of you as possible when we put on the show at the end of the year. The girls have been working so hard and they would love as many audience members as possible to see the amazing work they have all done. The play will run for four nights and will have a double cast. Please see the cast and crew list below:

Cast

Ratcatcher/Nazi Border Official, English Organiser/

Postman – Libby T

Eva – Anandita K

Helga – Abby B/Hannah S

Evelyn – Sydney A/Megan B

Faith – Phoebe R

Lil – Gracie M

Lighting – Lucy B

Sound – Libby T

Props and sound – Louise F

Costume – Mrs Grass

Director – Graham Low

Graham Low-Drama



Music at KOA

It has been a very busy final two terms. Musicians have been slowly coming out of their 'covid shells'!

Year 7 students have been finding out about Folk music, Years 8 and 9 have been developing their ensemble skills and Year 10 have produced a number of excellent performances and did **really well** in their Music Industry mock examination.

Miss Sibley enjoyed meeting her Year 4 and 5 classes for a music taster lesson in preparation for next year. We cannot wait for pupils from the Lower School to join with us for music lessons in the department next year. Exciting things ahead!!

Year 10 musicians have been able to attend a series of workshops at BIMM (British and Irish Institute of Modern Music) where they have practised and performed in groups in a real studio situation. Others spent the day working on high specification IMacs composing their own *drum 'n' bass* piece.

All the students gained an important insight into studying Music in a higher education organisation.



It is Kings Oak's centenary next year and we would like to produce an event in which we perform Music/Drama/Art work, etc which would represent a different decade from the one hundred years that we have been in existence. Please email Mr Warren (tim.warren@clf.uk) if you would like to be part of this event, either on or off stage, or in any capacity. I look forward to receiving your emails!!

We look forward to the many Music and Drama events planned for next year and would encourage ALL students, parents/carers and staff to join in with the many opportunities which will be publicised early in the new year. Keep practising and making music over the summer!!

We were all eagerly anticipating the visit of Rak-Su—X factor winners.....unfortunately this was cancelled at the very last minute due to covid restrictions. A number of our Year 10 musicians stood in and produced an excellent concert for all the Year 3 and 4 students, which was extremely well received.

Congratulations to Kodi A, Isabella H, Aiden C, Tyler G and Aimee W for their excellent performances—well done!!

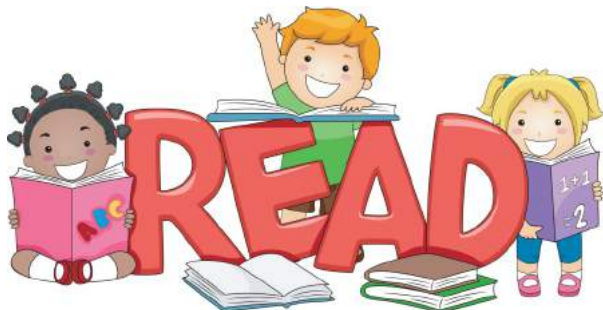
A special thanks to Lucy B and Louise F who made their debut in the technical team professionally operating the lights, etc.



Parent Voice at KOA

Parent/ carer voice is really important to us and we value the feedback that we receive from families. Therefore, we would really appreciate it if you could complete the following questionnaire to give your views on the academy: <https://forms.office.com/r/mXJeYgq7av>

LRC at KOA



Calling all Year 7s and Year 8s. Take part in the Concorde Book Awards 2021 Summer Reading List. See Local Libraries for more details.

KOA Shout out

ShoutOutKOA@clf.uk

With the holidays upon us and, for some, a daunting period of time without the reliability and consistency of the King's Oak staff around, we have set up an email address for our students to be able to contact safeguarding staff here at KOA anytime throughout the holiday period.

This email can be used by students to report any concerns, worries or whistleblowing that they need to talk to a member of staff about whilst absent from school.

Although not manned 24/7, a member of the safeguarding team will monitor this inbox daily and deal with any issues that may come in.

Please remember, although you are away from school, our KOA community are still here to help and support you.

Reception News

Reception children have had a very busy and exciting Term 6!

We have shown fantastic Emerald Power to be courageous, even with the disappointment of missing our trip to Grimsbury Farm (twice!).

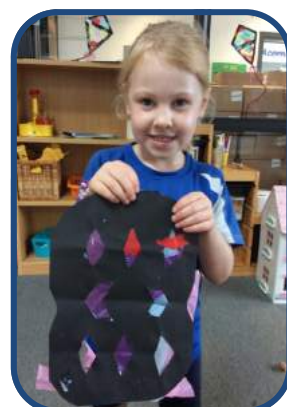
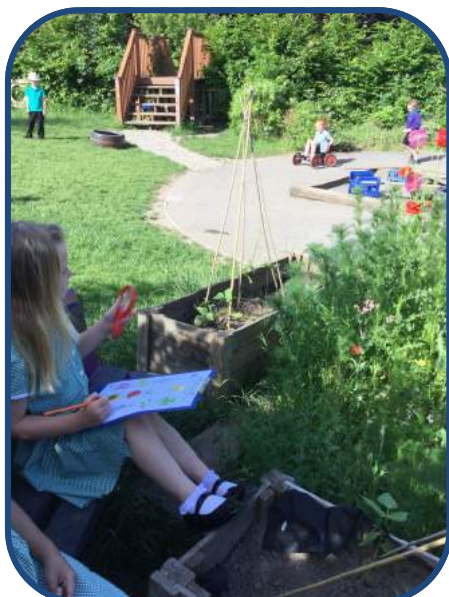
We have worked hard and been proud of our achievements at Sports Day, cheering on our friends with great energy.

In our garden, we have explored the beautiful flowers and beans that we planted earlier in the year, looking at change and learning more about lifecycles.

We have been particularly excited to use the climbing equipment this term, showing excellent balance and control when climbing safely.

Art Week has been a roaring success in Reception, with the children loving the opportunity to explore different mediums and show such care and creativity in the art that they produced.

What a year we have had!



Year 1 News

What a busy term we have had being artists, authors, scientists, historians and more!

At the beginning of term we mixed colours as artists and created poetry. We discovered plants can make their own food and explored the different parts of plants as Scientists.

We planted sunflowers during Earth Day last term and have enjoyed watching them grow taller than we are!

We loved Sports Day, cheering on our team mates and supporting reception running their races.



We also had a special visit from Adam Allsortz and helped him with his 'MAAAAAAGIC'. Just ask us how it's done!

Our team was topped off with a hot but amazing trip to the farm. We brushed donkeys, hosed down the ponies to keep them cool, cuddled the rabbits and guinea pigs, met the pigs and the day old baby goats and fed the goats and horses!



A massive thank you to all the parents for your support this year. It's been a blast!



Year 2 News

The SS Great Britain was a great success. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the ship and learning more about Isambard Kingdom Brunell.



Year 2 had a wonderful Sports Day playing Pass the Hoop and Beanbag races. They showed great team spirit and sportsmanship.



Year 3 News

What a wonderful term we have had in Year 3!

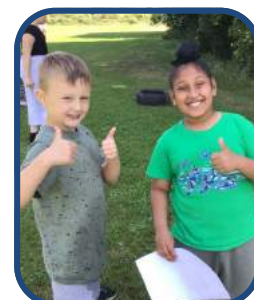
We have taken part in a circus skills workshop, sports day, arts week as well as all of our 'normal' learning! We were also lucky enough to take part in Forest school and LOVED exploring nature.

Earlier this term we had our Year 4 transition day and got to meet our new teachers Miss Roberts and Mr Warren.



Year 4 News

Here are some photos from Year 4's 'In-school Camp'. Loads of fun was had building dens, making 'food' in the mud kitchen and toasting marshmallows!



Year 5 News

Year 5 were finally able to go on residential camp to Hooke Court. We had a fab time learning all about Roman life, including cooking, dressing as Roman soldiers and building Onagers! We also did lots of problem solving team work activities and the children loved spending time outdoors.



Year 7 News

What a year to remember but we did it! As I reflect on your transition year from primary to secondary, I am filled with pride to see how well you have coped with the many changes and challenges thrown in by the current pandemic. You have matured, you have transformed. If anything, this transition year has allowed you to show how flexible, adaptable and resilient you all are.



You have embraced communicating and learning using remote technology (emails, Insight, Teams live lessons, live chat, etc.), you have also adapted really well to learning safely on school site whilst observing strict Covid-19 regulations (Catch it – Bin it – Kill it, social distancing, hand washing, using the one-way system, wearing face masks in communal areas, carrying out LFTs).



Despite many setbacks, you have maintained a very good attendance throughout the year, which allowed you to maximise learning and perform well in your recent MCQ tests. Again, it was fantastic to celebrate and praise the attainment and progress of so many good learners across all subjects. Many congratulations to our winners!

Your commitment isn't just limited to learning; we recently took part in **Enterprise Week** and I was thrilled to see how Year 7 got involved. We got the Award for being the most enterprising year group, and 3 of the 4 "budding entrepreneurs" were from Year 7! Well done Year 7 and many thanks to your Tutors for encouraging and helping you in your various enterprises and for helping raise money for our local Jessie May charity.



As we get ready for the summer holidays, I would like you to remember the various discussions and assemblies held this term. We have talked about how important it is to respect our beautiful coasts to protect the ocean, we have also learnt how to be water safe, how to protect ourselves online as well as when we are out and about. We have also revisited how to look after ourselves and our mental health. Please also remember to stay safe around Covid-19 and continue to wash your hands regularly and keep a safe distance .



Many thanks again and well done Year 7 for your hard work, your cooperation and your values this academic year. You have made us all very proud and we look forward to seeing and teaching you again next academic year.

Bonnes vacances à tous "Chicos"!

Mrs Marie-Anaïs, Head of Year 7



Year 8 News

Term 6 has been a term filled with lots of exciting opportunities for Year 8 students and they have had the chance to take part in lots of different activities to finish the year:

Step Up Week

To celebrate the move into Upper school next year the Year 8 students participated in several different events during this week to promote unity, teamwork, and enjoyment.



They had the chance to take part in an escape room. This was a live event run in computer rooms to promote team building and strategy to enable students to work together and solve clues

in order for their tutor group to be the quickest to escape. Congratulations to 8.1, Miss Sibley's group, who were the quickest to escape and all received an Amazon voucher.

Students also took part in a Push talk. This was a motivational and aspirational talk by Edinburgh Fringe Comedians who work to inspire students to increase their aspiration and drive. The students listened well and asked insightful and though provoking questions during this.

Students also got the opportunity during this week to take part in an inflatable adrenaline assault course on the school field. Here they had the opportunity to race their friends to improve their confidence and build resilience while enjoying themselves.



There was also a year group BBQ at lunchtime for the Year 8 students and their tutors. This was an opportunity to socialise and enjoy each other's company. A fantastic week to launch our

introduction in King's Oak Academy's Upper School.

Enterprise Week

This year's Enterprise Week gave the students a chance to be budding young entrepreneurs. Each tutor group had to come up with an activity to run during break and lunchtime for one day in this week. All money raised is for the Jessie May charity which is based in Kingswood.

The Year 8 students supported this brilliantly. Events that were put on consisted of knock down the cans, potluck lucky dip, paper aeroplane competition, guess the sweet to win a prize and how many screws in the jar?

Thank you to all the students who took part both in leading activities but also those donating money to take part for such a worthy cause.

The week was finished off with an opportunity for all students to wear their own sports gear for a donation. Thank you also to all of the tutors who worked so well with their students to organise, set up and deliver these events to make this week a success.



Festival of Sport

All Year 8 students took part in the CLF Big Run/Walk last term and have had the opportunity to take part in a Festival of Sport this term. Due to COVID restrictions sports day was not able to run in its usual way so the PE department adapted the activities and Year 8 students got an opportunity to take part in KOA's Festival of Sport during their PE lessons. Stand out performances are listed below:

Event	Outstanding Performers
800m	Ella S & Frankie C
200m	Olivia S & Luke S
100m	Lexi A & Connor M
Shot	Olivia S & Koen M
Long Jump	Megan D & Joe C

Year 8 News cont'd

Youth Sports Trust - Healthy Lifestyle Champions Festival

Following on from the Well-being Festival that all Year 8 students took part in last term, selected students have had the opportunity to take part in a sports club run by the Healthy Active Lifestyles Champions this term. This club has been run each week during tutor time on a Thursday. Students have had the opportunity to take part in non-traditional sports activities such as tri-golf, slackline and shadow boxing. This has developed all of the students' resilience, teamwork, and planning skills.

All of the activities have been planned and led by the Health Active Lifestyle Champions Thomas M, Ewan R, Harry H, William C, Harvey C and Liam H. Thank you to these students who have worked so hard this year to make sure this project is a success.

Tutor Challenge

Once again, we have carried on with the tutor challenge in Term 6. The final scores for this year are as follows:

- 8.1 – 335 pts
- 8.2 – 265 pts
- 8.3 – 267 pts
- 8.4 – 344 pts
- 8.5 – 273 pts

Congratulations to Mr Nathans's tutor group who are the winners for Year 8. It has been a close-run competition this year but 8.4 have just come out on top. The challenges will re-set for the start of Year 9 and we shall see if 8.4 are able to carry on their winning ways next year.

I hope you all have a fantastic break and come back for Term 1 refreshed, re-charged and ready to take part in more exciting opportunities. I shall look forward to welcoming you all back into school for the start of your Year 9 journey in September.

Mrs Holtby, Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

Bristol Bears Bright Sparks/Bear in mind

During Term 6, a group of 15 Year 9 boys have had the opportunity to participate in the Bristol Bears Bright Sparks programme. This initiative uses sport to engage with and educate students building skills and confidence to support their journey in education and increase aspirations. This is a year-long programme that runs during the school day, blending classroom and practical learning whilst developing self-esteem. So far, we have had great engagement from the group and hope that this continues in the new school year.

From September, we will also be participating in the Bristol Bears Bear in Mind programme. Bear in Mind is a health and wellbeing programme aimed at equipping girls in secondary education with the tools to build self-confidence and to cope with the wider issues faced by young women across modern society today. The programme encourages girls to not only maintain an interest in sport and physical activity but also investigate topics such as stress, resilience, self-care, body image, the impact of social media and positive relationships. This is a 12-week programme that's runs as a mixture of workshop classroom sessions as well as practical sessions.

Wellbeing Group

A number of students this term, have also participated in the Creative Youth Network wellbeing group. This group has met once a week over the past term and have worked together to improve the wellbeing of students working on self-confidence, resilience and coping strategies.

Personal Safety Assemblies

As we head in to the summer holidays, students have had a week of assemblies regarding their personal safety. These were delivered in tutor sessions and uploaded to Insight for those who were isolating. These assemblies and discussions focused on; Sexism, Water safety, Social media, Healthy/unhealthy risks and mental health. These finished with signposting showing students where to find additional support should they need this in the time that we are away from school.

Enterprise Week

We have recently taken part in Enterprise Week. This week gave students the opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills whilst raising money for a local charity. A number of interesting ideas were on display including winning sweets by knocking down a set of cricket stumps with a football and a photo booth on the last day. Well done to all of those who took part in this week that was adapted due to those isolating. We hope to run this again next year with larger numbers and raise even more money.

Options

Students have recently received their option results following the extensive process earlier in the year. A high proportion of students were able to receive their top four choices. I look forward to students having more control of their learning from September and believe this will further drive engagement as we now get to specifically pursue our interests as they move in to their GCSE years.

Covid Isolation

Finally, as a year group, we have been clearly affected by COVID isolation over the past term with two spells involving a number of Year 9 students. The work received by these students working from home showed great effort and resilience and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your determination as we move on to our summative years at King's Oak.

I look forward to welcoming all of you back in September and wish you a great summer. Please stay safe, look after yourself and have fun.

Mr Heath, Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

What a year! As I said in my letter:

I want to say well done. You will see more in our end of year assembly, but as expected, I remain so proud of all of you, and it has been a pleasure to be your Head of Year and follow you through your journey. We have been linguists, mathematicians, scientists, musicians, actors and actresses, entrepreneurs and sportspersons. Things have felt a little strange at times, our year was far from simple, but we have dealt with every obstacle and we remain on our mission.

We have had so many award winners, so many memorable experiences, and I know that we are going to be even stronger next year and work together to achieve our potential.

Finally, have a wonderful summer, I will still check my emails fairly regularly, so if you have questions, do ask them. Come back in September refreshed and ready to tackle our final year together.

Mrs Pearch, Head of Year 10

