



King's Academy  
Brune Park

# Parent Newsletter

## Friday 7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had an amazing start to this half term and it has been so pleasing to see so many of our students returning to school determined to get it right in lessons and around the school site. It has been fantastic to host so many visitors to our school this week and hear the positive feedback.

I have visited many lessons this week and was joined by the Chief Executive Nick Cross on one of my learning walks. It was pleasing to demonstrate the improvements we continue to make in our classroom practice which included students engaged in learning, behaving well and meeting expectations. We are now considering how to increase the challenge in lessons to stretch students and ensure they make even more progress in every lesson. In addition to this focus, we have also been focused upon inclusive classrooms, with training for all staff to support them in ensuring that barriers to learning are removed - read more about this later in our newsletter.

Whilst the weather continues to be mild the rain and wintery conditions are on their way. It is imperative that all students have a suitable and waterproof outdoor coat with them. Our expectation is that coats are worn over the top of blazers and removed on entry into classrooms. Any other outdoor clothing for example gloves or hats are expected to be removed as students enter buildings.

For those of you attending the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on Sunday I look forward to seeing you there, it is always such a privilege to represent the school and see so many of our students participating in local groups on parade. As a school we will come together to honor and remember the sacrifice of Armed Forces members across the UK and Commonwealth. Details of our school service can be found in our newsletter.

Kind regards,  
Kerry Payne  
Headteacher



# Remembrance Day Arrangements :

On Tuesday 11th of November, our school community will come together for a short **Remembrance Ceremony** during Period 2.

## Order of Events:

- **10:40** – Any students in their Cadet uniform are invited to gather on the Main Concourse.
- **10:45–10:55** – All other students make their way to the Concourse for the ceremony.
- **10:57** – The Exhortation – Lily Jenkins (Year 11)
- **10:59** – The Last Post – Max Stocks (Year 8)
- **11:00** – Two minutes of silence
- **11:02** – Reveille – Max Stocks (Year 8)
- **11:03** – In Flanders Fields – Oscar Munns (Year 11)
- **11:05** – Ceremony ends; break begins

We are always proud of how respectfully our students take part in this important moment of reflection and remembrance.



# Attendance :

## **Focusing on Attendance: Every Day Counts!**

We are delighted to share some fantastic news regarding student attendance!

We continue to maintain a strong focus on the importance of coming to school, as we know that **every day counts** and being present in lessons truly makes a difference to pupil outcomes.

We are incredibly proud of the positive start to this half term. Our pupils have been coming to school every day, ready to learn and fully immerse themselves in all their lessons. This dedication is reflected in our data:

- We have seen a **2% improvement** in overall attendance year-on-year.
- We've achieved a significant **reduction** in the number of pupils who are persistently absent.
- Over **630 pupils** have attended school over 95% of the time.
- Over **240 pupils** are attending school over 90% of the time.

## **The 'Attendance Mission' is Underway!**

We continue to celebrate all progress in attendance. Our new '**Attendance Mission**' has begun, with **156 pupils** invited to take part in an exciting challenge this half term. We will provide updates on their progress in the coming weeks!

## **Celebrating Attendance Superstars!**

We are thrilled to shine a spotlight on students who have made significant strides in their attendance this year!

We know that getting to school every day can sometimes present challenges, but we firmly believe that **improvement and effort deserve recognition** .

To celebrate this progress, we've asked each Year Office to nominate **two pupils per week** who have demonstrated a real commitment to improving their attendance.

I have had the pleasure of visiting these nominated pupils every Friday to personally congratulate and reward them. It has been a fantastic experience and so lovely to catch up with students who are putting in the hard work to be in school and ready to learn.

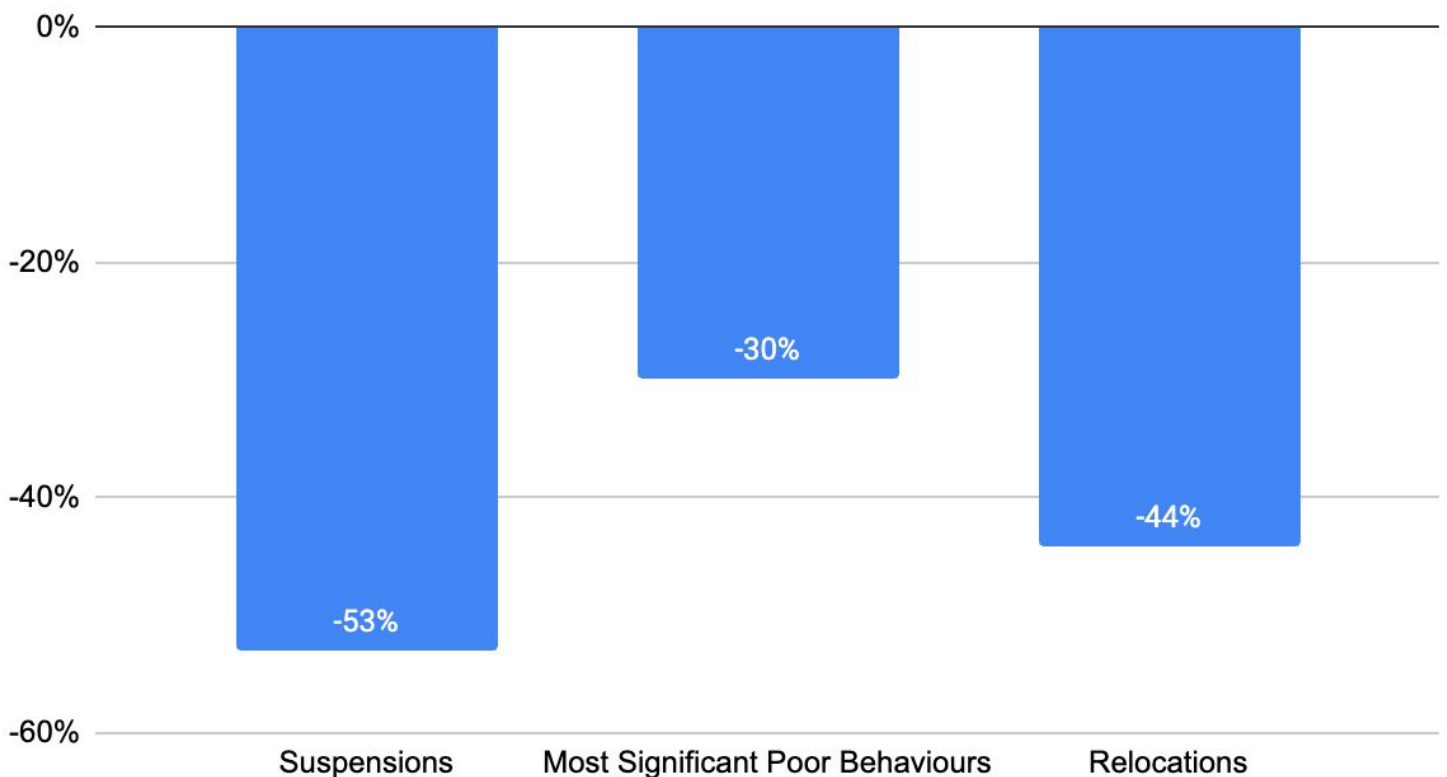
We look forward to continuing these weekly visits and celebrating many more of our dedicated students!

As always, we sincerely thank you for supporting your child(ren) to attend school each day. We remain committed to working closely with our community to identify and manage any challenges that may affect attendance.

## Behaviour:

Our students continue to show real growth in honesty, faith and courage, and this is reflected in the significant improvements in behaviour across the school. Compared with the same point last year, suspensions have reduced by 53 percent, our most significant poor behaviours are down by 30 percent, and relocations have fallen by 44 percent. These improvements represent thousands of moments where students have made better choices, shown integrity in challenging situations, and demonstrated the courage to meet our expectations. We are incredibly proud of the direction our community is moving in and grateful for the partnership with families that helps make this progress possible.

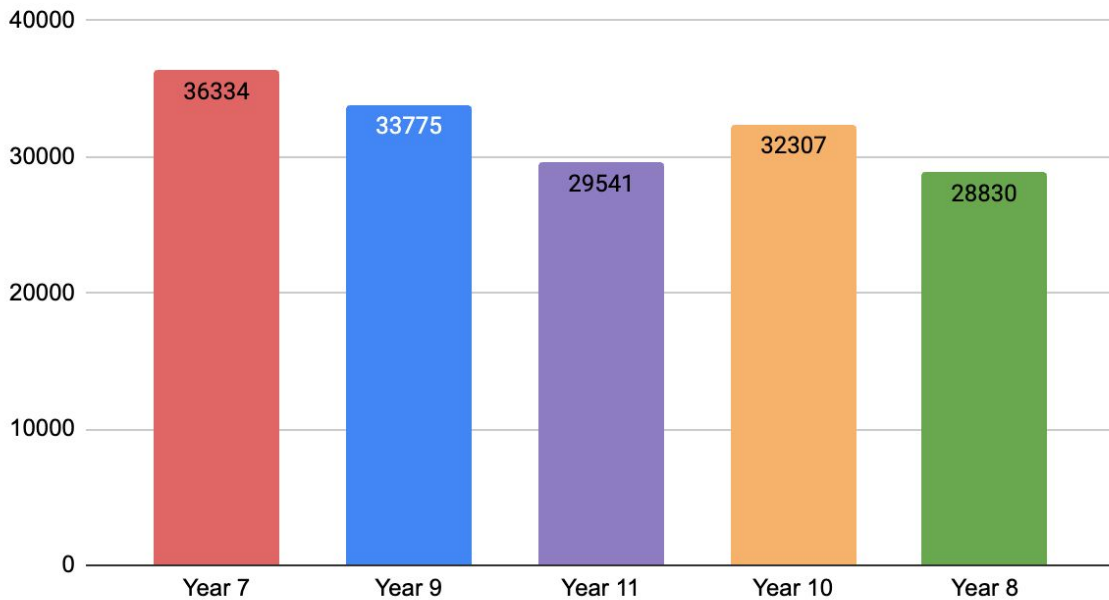
Percentage Change in Behaviours



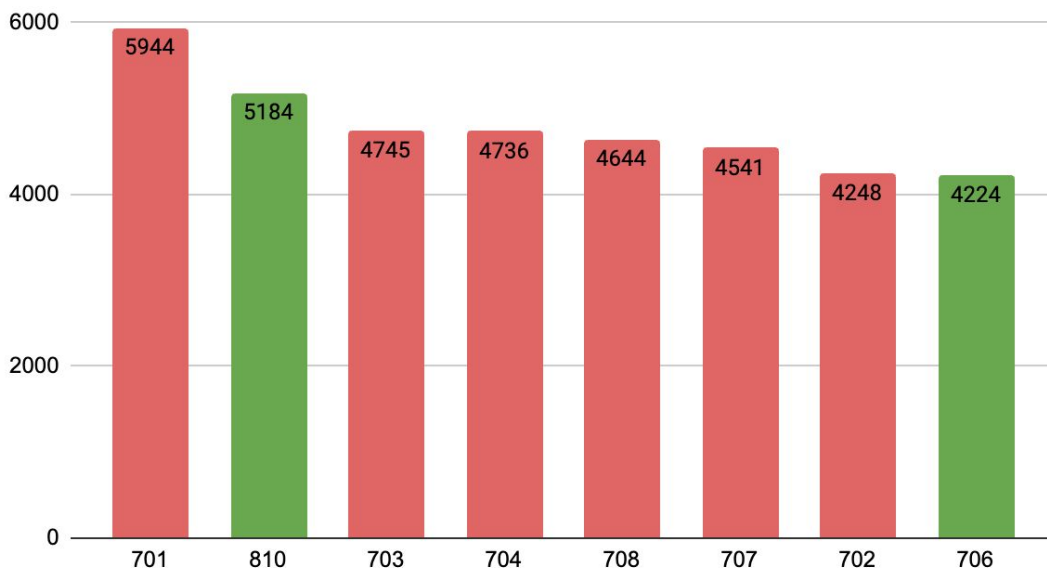
# Behaviour :

Our students have shown real honesty, faith and courage in their learning this week, and this shines through in our positive points. We have now reached an impressive total of 160,787 points for the year. Year 7 remain in the lead with 36,334 points, closely followed by Year 9 with 33,775 and Year 10 with 32,307. Our top tutor groups are 701 with a remarkable 5,944 points, followed by 810 on 5,184. A special well done to our top students this week: Fatoumatta Krubally (334 points), Aali Huntingford (299), Lucas Knight (273), Kitty Calderwood (268) and Alexander Owen (264). These achievements reflect the positive choices our students are making every day and the values we are so proud to promote.

### Positive points per Year Group



### Positive point by Tutor Group



# Bikes at School

## **Pedaling Towards a Healthy Future!**

We love seeing so many of our students choosing to cycle to school! It's an excellent way to start the day—not only does it promote physical health and mental well-being, but it also helps our students arrive energized and ready to learn.

To ensure every cycling student has a safe journey and their bike remains secure, we have two important reminders:

### **Safety First: Always Wear a Helmet**

Please ensure your child wears a correctly fitted cycle helmet on every ride. This simple step is vital for protecting their safety on the road.

### **Secure Parking: Use Our Dedicated Bike Sheds**

When arriving at school, please remind students to always lock their bikes inside one of our secure bike sheds.

- **For Safety:** The bike sheds are the safest designated area for parking, keeping bikes tidy and away from footpaths and staff parking areas.
- **For Security:** Bikes locked within the sheds are protected by our school security measures and are insured against theft. Leaving a bike chained to a fence, railings, or anywhere outside the sheds means it is not covered by the school's insurance and is at a higher risk of theft or damage.



King's Academy  
Brune Park

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR  
BIKE ON THE STAFF CARPARK FENCE**



**PLEASE USE THE BIKE SHEDS PROVIDED**



**Thank you for your cooperation.**

# Uniform :

We would like to continue to celebrate the effort our students are making in presenting themselves so professionally every day. We are incredibly proud of the overwhelming majority who arrive wearing their uniform correctly, demonstrating respect for themselves and our school community.

The difference this makes is clear to everyone. When our students look smart, they feel smart, and they act smart.

## **Socks: Plain Black**

The uniform policy states that socks must be plain black.

To help students stay in class and support them when they occasionally forget, our staff has been providing plain black replacement socks. While we are always committed to supporting our students, the cost of this measure has become significant. We know you would prefer that we dedicate our school funds to enriching your child's education and resources!

Moving forward, we kindly ask for your full support in ensuring your child is wearing plain black socks every day. This simple check at home will make a real difference to our budget and ensure money is spent directly on educational priorities. Thank you for helping us with this.

## **Jewellery: Simple and Safe**

For safety and consistency, we kindly remind you of the rules regarding jewellery:

**Earrings:** Students may wear one pair of small, plain gold or silver studs (no stones). Only one stud is permitted in the lobe of each ear.

**Watches:** One plain, non-fashion watch is allowed.

**Other Jewellery:** All other jewellery is inappropriate for school-wear and must not be worn.

**Nose Studs:** Nose studs are not permitted. A discreet, transparent retainer is allowed.

Your support in adhering to these guidelines is greatly appreciated as it helps us maintain a safe and focused learning environment for all students.



# Safeguarding

As we start the new term, we want to reassure all parents and carers that the safety and wellbeing of our students remains our top priority at King's Academy Brune Park.

Our staff are committed to maintaining a positive safeguarding culture, which includes monitoring student welfare, reporting any concerns promptly, and working closely with families and external agencies where needed.

We encourage all parents and carers to communicate openly with the school if you have any worries or information about your child's wellbeing. Together, we create a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where every student can thrive.



# Teaching & Learning :



## Staff Spotlight: Fostering Hard Thinking in Every Lesson!

We are delighted to share an update on the valuable **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** our staff engaged in this week. Our twilight session focused on continuing our work to create truly **inclusive classrooms** where every child is challenged and supported to think hard and learn hard.

### **The Focus: Inclusive Classrooms and Maximising Engagement**

Our teachers dedicated their time to developing strategies that ensure every single student, regardless of their starting point or specific needs, is highly engaged and working at the very limit of their capability. This commitment to inclusivity is at the heart of our teaching philosophy.

### **Key Strategy: Support - Check - Challenge**

The main focus of the CPD was on refining our use of the '**Support - Check - Challenge**' framework within lesson planning. This framework is a dynamic approach that helps teachers to:

- **Support:** Provide the necessary scaffolding, resources, or guidance to help students access challenging content and begin their learning journey. This ensures no student is left behind or feels overwhelmed.
- **Check:** Consistently and effectively check for understanding throughout the lesson. This allows teachers to quickly identify who is grasping the material and who requires further support or a greater challenge. This responsive teaching is vital for progress.
- **Challenge:** Ensure that once a student has demonstrated understanding, they are immediately moved on to a deeper line of questioning to stretch their thinking. This prevents boredom and ensures that all students are continually making progress and achieving their full potential.

By applying this framework rigorously, our teachers are ensuring that lessons are precisely planned to remove barriers to learning and guarantee that **every child is thinking hard and learning hard**. This dedicated CPD time reflects our ongoing commitment to providing the highest quality education for your children.

# Teaching & Learning :

## **Tassomai - Hard Work Pays Off!**


Our pupils' fantastic commitment to **Tassomai** has placed us among the **top 5 % of schools using Tassomai in the country** — and we're rewarding their success in style!


We're delighted to share some brilliant news about our pupils' achievements on Tassomai. Thanks to their hard work — and your encouragement at home — our school has been ranked among the **top 5% of schools nationally for overall engagement** , the **top 14% for pupil engagement** , and the **top 9% for parent engagement** .


This is an incredible achievement and a real reflection of the dedication our pupils, families, and staff have shown in supporting independent learning. A huge well done to everyone involved!

To celebrate and build on this success, we're putting an extra focus on **rewards and recognition** this half term. In assemblies this week, we've been sharing how pupils can get involved and be rewarded for their efforts:

 **Weekly Tassomai Leaderboard** — reviewed in assemblies each week, with **half-termly prizes** for top users

 **Rewards and Recognition** — pupils will earn **positive behaviour points** for completing Tassomai goals or extra effort with homework, which can be traded for **fast passes** and **sweet treats**

 **The Pod** — will soon open once a week for pupils to **cash in 'tokens'** awarded by teachers for extra effort

 **Champions Hour** — launching next week after school! Pupils can drop in for **10, 15, 20 minutes, or up to an hour** to complete homework or daily Tassomai goals in Jade Block. Chromebooks will be available, and Champion's Hour is open to all pupils at 3.15 pm, Tuesday - Friday.

We're so proud of how our pupils are engaging with Tassomai, and we look forward to celebrating even more success throughout the year. Thank you for continuing to support your child in their learning journey!



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# Meet the Tutor Evening

(For all Year 7's)

**Thursday 27th November**  
**4pm - 7pm**

- Chance to meet your child's Tutor, in person, to discuss how they have settled to life at King's Academy Brune Park.
- Year Office staff will be available for a chat.
- An evening meal will be provided free for all visitors to support families to attend.

## Year 7 News :

Year 7 has had a great start to the new Half term. Attendance remains a focus – well done to everyone for their commitment. We are aiming for 95% by Christmas, and if we achieve this, Mr Cole will be dressing up again!

This Thursday our Year 7 Boys team played King's Academy Bay House. They were not victorious, however a good time was had by all.

Basketball fixtures start next week, all those interested please speak to the PE department

Thank you for your continued support in helping Year 7 continue to be brilliant. If you do have any issues or concerns please contact the year team via the year team in box year-7-year-office@kgabrunepark

Mr Cole, Miss Townend and Miss Demuth

## Year 8 News:

After a much earned break for all of our young learners it has been great to see them all again raring to go.

As you may all be aware, we are undertaking a reading programme as part of our tutor time. This is a literacy incentive which the vast majority of Year 8 students are engaging with. In Mr Powell's tutor group (801) they have been reading Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah and Megan Bibu has offered to submit a review midway through the book:

What has happened so far? When Adeline was born, her mother died and from then on her family thinks she's bad luck. Her stepmother 'Niang' doesn't like her stepchildren and treats them harshly, but from the five children Adeline is the one that is treated the most harshly and is hated by her siblings too. Grandfather Yeye and Aunt Baba are the only ones that love her. Mr and Mrs Huang came to visit their family and brought everyone gifts. They bought ducklings and from then on the duckling was Adeline's best friend.

Are there any cliff-hangers you're looking forward to? They have a dog called 'Jackie' and the author is showing Jackie as aggressive. The author is showing PLT (Adeline's duckling) as small and helpless. Maybe later on in the story Jackie might attack PLT.

We look forward to finding out what does happen! 801 certainly seem to be enjoying this book.

## **Year 9 News:**

Welcome back after the half-term break! It has been wonderful to see Year 9 returning to school with such positivity, focus, and enthusiasm for learning. The year group have settled quickly back into routines, and it's clear that many students are ready to build on the great progress they made earlier in the year.

I'm particularly pleased to share that Year 9 have achieved higher attendance than Year 7 on a couple of occasions this week — a fantastic milestone and a real testament to their growing maturity and commitment. It's brilliant to see so many students recognising the importance of good attendance and showing pride in being part of our school community.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support in encouraging your children to attend regularly and make the most of every opportunity. With this positive start to the half term, I'm confident that Year 9 will continue to go from strength to strength.

## **Year 10 News:**

Welcome back, Year 10. We commend the students for maintaining excellent motivation and engagement in their GCSE classes, even as we navigate what I feel is a tricky return following the clock change and winter's approach.

Many subjects are now in full swing with initial coursework due to be submitted. We encourage you to speak with your child and be curious about what they are learning and what they have completed so far. If your child is concerned about direction or completion deadlines for coursework please urge them to speak with their class teachers as they are best positioned to offer guidance.

Tassomai leaderboards are being shared in assembly each week for the top 10 students in each subject. Positive points and prizes are being rewarded for those in the Top spot each week. Chromebooks are an essential piece of your child's equipment they are required for Tassomai during tutor time and for coursework completion in many classes. Please ensure your child is bringing a fully charged chromebook to school every day. School stock is limited and we cannot guarantee loans for all students.

Miss Bailey, our Careers Advisor, is continuing her sessions during tutor time to assist with any work experience queries. A comprehensive guide is available below.

Please find attached the ultimate guide on how to contact employers this has been emailed to all students and Parents/guardians -

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/IdxQqL\\_gsDrLJ677oUfTVbMXvVgBGXmfepUUF00i6oXs/edit?tab=t.0](https://docs.google.com/document/d/IdxQqL_gsDrLJ677oUfTVbMXvVgBGXmfepUUF00i6oXs/edit?tab=t.0)

## Year 11 News:

It was lovely to see our year 11s ready and refreshed on the next part of the educational journey with us. Mocks for the moment are completed, however we still have plenty of time to ensure that those grades go above and beyond their expectations. Revision, Tassomai and coming to school each and every day support this, so your support and working together is important, so thank you in advance for this.

This week we were delighted to have Portsmouth College join us in our assembly. It was wonderful to see our students engaged with the local community and looking ahead for their futures. Students are able to review messages and important open dates on the year group google classroom. Throughout the academic year, we will be hosting a variety of assemblies for Post 16.

May I recommend that you encourage our students to ensure that their applications are sent in good time. Students are able to apply for more than one college. If you feel that support is required, please contact the tutor in the first instance.



## Post 16 Support:

For any post 16 information please refer to this link [here](#).

Advice on how to support your children to chat about Post 16 choices and where to start.

## Important decisions

Please see the link below to an infinite guide on how to support students from Year 9 choosing options, Year 10 with Work Experience and Year 11 with exams and Post 16 choices all the way to University, what do the grades mean?

- What does Level 2 or Level 3 mean?
- What's an apprenticeship?
- Who provides apprenticeships?
- What are UCAS points?

Everything you need to know about Post 16 options is in here

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/okfun/czdo/#p=1>

Step by step video on the whole apprenticeship process:

<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Step-by-step-guide-to-applying-1.pdf>

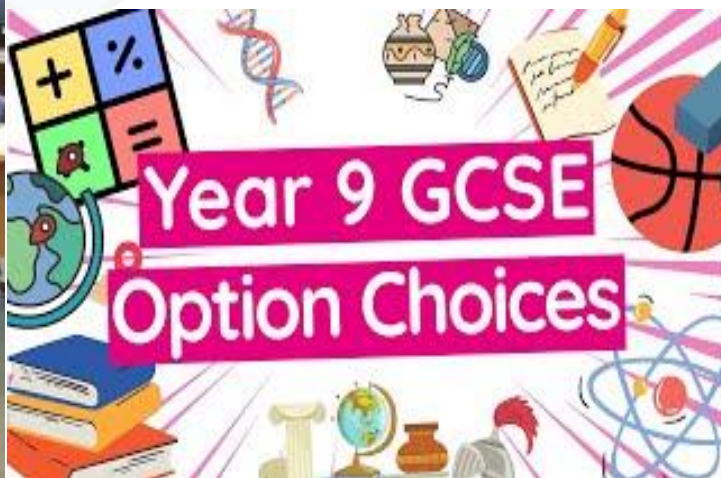
Year 9 - Choosing options support -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrjh92p#zjr8s82>

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/gcses/choosing-your-gcses>

<https://www.cvk.org/blog/year-9-options-2026/>

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/parent-zone/all-questions/how-can-i-help-my-child-make-their-option-choices-in-year-9-some-schools-make-option-choices-in-y8>



# Library visit :

We look forward to welcoming Chris Bradford back to King's Academy Brune Park. Students in Years 7 and 8 will have the chance to hear him speak about his books and his experience as an author.

Year 7s will have the opportunity to see him Period 1 on Friday the 14th November, and the Year 8s will have the opportunity to see him Period 2.

## WHAT'S ON

in the

# LIBRARY

**AUTHOR VISIT**



### CHRIS BRADFORD

FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER

We're thrilled to announce that **Chris Bradford**, the top ten bestselling author of the **Young Samurai, Bodyguard, Gamer, and Soul Hunters series**, will be visiting our school on **Friday 14th November** for an exciting **author event!**

Year 7 and Year 8 will have the opportunity to experience **Chris's action-packed Bodyguard show** – a thrilling blend of storytelling, suspense, and real-life action inspiration.

After the event, if you purchase one of Chris's books, you'll be able to **meet the author in person** and have your **copy signed!**

Don't miss this chance to meet one of the UK's most dynamic and engaging writers!

BODYGUARD  
HOSTAGE



### CHRIS SAYS...



"I write the type of books I'd want to read – books filled with relentless action, believable characters and a plot that twists and turn through the pages!"

- 📍 Meet Chris Bradford and Get Your Books Signed!
  - 🌟 Pre-order your books from [www.burningcandle.co.uk](http://www.burningcandle.co.uk) and they'll be sent straight to school – ready for signing on the big day!
  - 📖 Or grab Chris Bradford's books from Amazon (or any shop) and bring them along to get them signed in person!
- Get ready for an awesome book-signing experience – it's going to be epic!

### CHRIS BRADFORD BOOKS

BLOCKBUSTER SERIES STARTERS!



YOUNG SAMURAI  
The original Karate Kid!



BODYGUARD  
A Young Jack Reacher!



SOUL HUNTERS  
Lara Croft vs Terminator

SUPER-READABLE ILLUSTRATED BOOKS!



GAMER  
Like Fortnite? Love Gamer!



SPEAR  
Bodyguard meets Marvel



YASUKE  
Ninja Graphic Novel

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