



### **A note from the Principal Assistant Headteacher—Mrs Butt**

#### **The Power of Oracy for Young People: Unlocking Potential Through Effective Communication**

In a rapidly changing world where communication is key to success, the ability to express thoughts clearly, listen actively, and engage in meaningful conversations has never been more critical. For young people, developing oracy—the ability to express oneself fluently and coherently through spoken language—is not just an academic skill; it is a fundamental life skill that empowers individuals in every facet of their personal, social, and professional lives.

Oracy involves a combination of skills that include speaking, listening, presenting, and responding thoughtfully in conversations. It is more than just a tool for academic performance; it is essential for building confidence, fostering social connections, and encouraging leadership. As young people navigate their education, careers, and broader societal interactions, oracy can serve as a gateway to unlocking their full potential.



#### **School Events**

**Monday 3rd March -**

FoKLS Meeting 5.30 -  
6.30pm

**Thursday 6th March**

Y11 Subject Consultation  
Evening (Hall) - 4pm -  
7.30pm

KINGS  
LANGLEY  
SCHOOL

## The Role of Oracy in Education

Oracy plays a pivotal role in the educational journey of young people. Effective communication is vital for success in the classroom, where students are expected to contribute ideas, ask questions, and articulate their understanding of complex subjects. A well-developed oracy skill set allows students to participate in discussions, present projects with clarity, and express their opinions with confidence.

Recent research highlights that strong oracy skills are closely linked to higher academic achievement. When students engage in verbal reasoning, debate, and discussion, they not only solidify their knowledge but also develop critical thinking abilities. The process of verbally articulating ideas forces students to organise their thoughts, enhancing cognitive development and problem-solving capabilities.

Additionally, oracy fosters collaboration and teamwork. Group discussions and cooperative learning activities depend on the ability to communicate effectively with peers. Students who are proficient in oracy can engage in dialogue that is constructive, ensuring that all voices are heard and valued in the learning process. This strengthens interpersonal relationships and contributes to a positive classroom environment, where students feel empowered to share their insights and collaborate on shared goals.



## Oracy and Social Skills Development

The power of oracy extends beyond the classroom and into the social spheres of young people's lives. From friendships to family dynamics, effective communication is essential for building strong, healthy relationships. Young people who are skilled in oracy can navigate social interactions with confidence, resolving conflicts, expressing emotions, and fostering mutual understanding.

In particular, the ability to listen attentively is a core component of oracy that plays a critical role in strengthening social bonds. Active listening, which involves focusing on the speaker, interpreting their message, and responding appropriately, is essential for successful communication. This skill fosters empathy and demonstrates respect for others' perspectives, which is crucial for building trust and cooperation.

Oracy also empowers young people to advocate for themselves and others. Whether addressing a teacher, engaging with peers, or voicing opinions in public spaces, the ability to speak clearly and persuasively enables young individuals to stand up for their rights, influence decisions, and engage in social issues that matter to them.

## Building Oracy Skills: A Collective Responsibility



The development of oracy should be seen as a collective responsibility that involves educators, parents, and the wider community. At Kings Langley school, we play a vital role in providing students with opportunities to practice speaking and listening in structured and informal settings. Incorporating oracy-focused activities into the curriculum—such as debates, role-playing, and presentations—can help young people refine their communication skills while

engaging with academic content.

Parents and caregivers also have a significant role in supporting oracy development outside the classroom. Encouraging children to express their thoughts, ask open-ended questions, and engage in discussions around family activities can create a supportive environment for practicing oracy at home.

Furthermore, extracurricular programs, such as public speaking clubs, drama groups, and leadership organisations, offer young people additional platforms to develop and showcase their oracy skills. These experiences can build confidence, boost public speaking abilities, and provide valuable social opportunities.

The power of oracy for young people cannot be overstated. By developing the ability to communicate effectively, young individuals unlock a wealth of opportunities in education, social relationships, and career pathways. Oracy is not just about speaking; it is about engaging with the world in a way that is thoughtful, respectful, and impactful. As we look toward the future, fostering oracy in young people is a key to ensuring that they are equipped with the skills needed to thrive in an ever-evolving global landscape. It is a vital investment in their potential, growth, and success.

### Opportunities

- 1. The Gresham College Young Orator of the Year Competition** is designed for Year 12 students in England and Wales. The competition promotes the art of communicating complex information in a clear, concise and compelling way by inviting students to submit a five-minute presentation, answering one of six questions set by the College. Shortlisted candidates are invited to present again in person in London, and there will be three awards (including prizes for the student and their school). For more information including the six questions please visit: [gres.hm/competition](https://gres.hm/competition).



2. **MASSOLIT Video Essay Competition 2025**- open to all students in Years 10, 11 and 12 to create a “MASSOLIT-style” video lecture running at around 8-12 minutes on any academic topic. Entries open from Friday 28th February 2025 and the final deadline is 5pm Friday 27th June 2025. Please check out [our YouTube channel](#).



## Headteacher Commendations



Congratulations to Joshua (10J) who has been awarded the Athlete of the Year by his club Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers.

It has been a great year for Joshua, having competed in the District, County and National Championships. This culminated in a silver medal in the 100m at the National Championships behind the new World Record holder. Joshua continues to make real strides in both the 100m and 200m and we look forward in anticipation to another successful year.



# Headteacher Commendations

Congratulations to Risha 7J and Malika 7P for assisting in delivering the Holocaust Memorial Day assembly.



Congratulations to Hesanya 7C and Nefeli 7P for being top performers in LanuageNut, and Farrah for her involvement in the Christmas concert.



# Best at Bedrock! Spring 1

All of these names have been placed into a prize draw which will be drawn at the end of the term.

## Highest points earned in each year group

- **Mariia 7G (989 points)**
- Mia 8D (746 points)
- Elsie 9A (744 points)
- Adam 10P (902 points)
- Cameron 11A (206 points)

## Highest progress made in each year group

- Corey 7P (600%)
- Sophie 8A (755%)
- Nuha 9D (809%)
- **Beau 10J (1340%)**
- Harriet 11D (300%)



Confident voices, strong literacy





# Recognition

*Being noticed for doing something positive or achieving something*

## Students of the Week w/c 24th February

<b>English</b>	Megan 8A
Ongoing excellent effort in English	
<b>Politics</b>	James 12LIY
Going above and beyond to ensure he is able to replicate the quality of his homework essay responses in timed conditions, preparing for mock examinations. One of very few students to complete an essay fully [and to an exceptionally high standard] in his first timed essay practice.	
<b>History</b>	Ella 8J
For the effort she has put in to revising for her Year 8 assessment this week.	
<b>Music</b>	Thomas 9D
For his consistent hard work in Music, leading to some excellent drumming performances.	
<b>Graphics</b>	Tabatha 7C
Excellent perspective drawing.	
<b>Library</b>	Risha 7J
For coming up with a great competition idea for World Book Day.	
<b>Modern Foreign Languages</b>	Maxim 11C
Mr Shaw nominates Maxim for his fantastic attitude to learning.	
<b>Product Design</b>	Daniel 7C
Excellent perspective drawing.	
<b>Science</b>	Jake 11J
For demonstrating such an excellent attitude to learning in chemistry lessons and strong performance in the recent trial exams, showing significant improvement. Well done.	
<b>Year 7 Head of Year</b>	Florence 7P
Demonstrating each day the excellent qualities and high standards expected of a KLS student.	
<b>Year 8 Head of Year</b>	Esme 8J
Doing the right thing on a consistent basis. A great asset for a great year group.	

# LanguageNut

Congratulations to the following students who were top performers in January 2025.

## Year 7

Benji 7A, Hesanya 7C, Henry 7D, Sam 7G, Elliot 7J and Nefeli 7P.

## Year 8

Sofija 8A, Teagan 8C, Myiah 8D, Amie 8G, Beck 8J and Louie 8P.

## Year 9

Nuha 9A, Thomas 9C, Lucy 9D, Sam 9G, Lila 9J, Connor 9P and Freya 9T.

## Year 10 GCSE

Oliver 10C, Zain 10D, Hannah and Bethany 10P.

## Year 11 GCSE

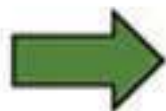
Dylan 11C, Oliver 11C, Adam 11Sp and Catherine 11Sp.



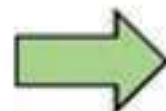


**MORE TIME IN SCHOOL =  
MORE TIME TO LEARN!**

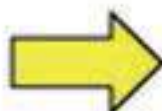
4 SCHOOL DAYS  
OFF EACH YEAR



7 SCHOOL DAYS  
OFF EACH YEAR



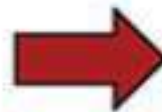
9 SCHOOL DAYS  
OFF EACH YEAR



11 SCHOOL DAYS  
OFF EACH YEAR



19 SCHOOL DAYS  
OFF EACH YEAR



2 MONTHS  
OFF EACH YEAR



Nationally, only 35% of students who miss between 10% - 20% of school go on to achieve 5 GCSEs at grade 9 to 4 (A\* - C)



KINGS LANGLEY SCHOOL MUSIC  
DEPARTMENT PRESENTS



*THE SPRING CHAMBER*  
*CONCERT*

FEATURING A VARIETY OF  
MUSICAL SMALL ENSEMBLE  
AND SOLO ITEMS

**11** TUESDAY  
MARCH 6.30PM

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Book your ticket now  
on Scopay

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# Annual Community Iftar

As many of you may be aware, the 10th of March this year marks the beginning of Ramadan, which is a very important time of year for Muslims all around the world. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims practise abstinence during daylight hours and pay particular focus to charity, community and prayer.

This year, Kings Langley school would like to hold our Annual Community iftar (the time Muslims open their fast for the day) on Thursday 13th March 2025 and everyone from the KLS community is invited.

The event will take place in the main hall from 5.00pm to 7.00pm and will include, henna painting, entertainment and of course food! Tickets cost £5 per person or £2.50 for under 5s and must be requested via Mrs. Butt so a Scopay payment can then be opened for you for the number of tickets requested. Participants may choose to fast for the day or give up something important to them for the day. Alternatively, you can just come along in the evening and enjoy! The choice is completely yours.

This is a perfect opportunity for the Kings Langley School community to get together, learn about another culture and faith whilst re-enforcing strong links within our community through a shared love of celebration and food!

Please may we ask all tickets to be bought by Friday 7th March, so we have an accurate idea of numbers for the evening? Tickets are also sold on a first come first served basis due to the popularity of the event every year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to e-mail either, Mrs. Butt or Mrs. Ashraf on the email addresses below;

butts@kls.herts.sch.uk, ashrafr@kls.herts.sch.uk

Thankyou and kind regards.

Mrs. Butt and Mrs. Ashraf





You are invited to

# KLS COMMUNITY IFTAR

*Thursday 13th March  
(5pm to 7pm)*

All are welcome. People of all backgrounds, faiths and ages to join together, share a meal and celebrate the diversity of our community.

**£5pp/ £2.50 for under 5s.**

**Please email Mrs. Butt on  
[butts@kls.herts.sch.uk](mailto:butts@kls.herts.sch.uk) with name  
and number of tickets required.  
(strictly first come first served due  
to the popularity of the event)**



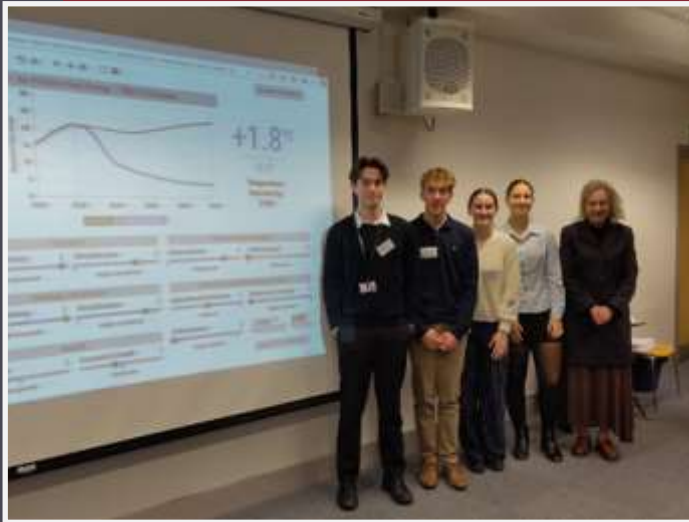
## Youthcop 2025

On Tuesday 11th February four members of the school's EnvComm attended Hertfordshire County Council's YOUTHCOP - a conference all about climate change - facilitated by Charlotte of En-roads in the first session and then a series of workshops a second session by members of Hertfordshire County Council's Climate Change and Sustainability group. Then in the afternoon there was a careers fair looking at 'Green Careers' that the students were able to tour.

The En-roads session was a role play situation where we were in 'role' as specific global 'players' at a climate conference and it was facilitated by Charlotte in her role as the Secretary-General of the United Nations. <https://www.climateinteractive.org/the-en-roads-climate-workshop/> We worked in two groups as 'Clean-Tech' and 'Industrialists', alongside students from the other 28 schools present at the conference who made up the other 6 groups in the room. The sense of co-operation in the conference hall was palpable as we tried to work together to get the climate change predictions down to 1.5°C increase with different scenarios and trade-offs, from 'business as usual': <https://en-roads.climateinteractive.org/scenario.html?v=25.2.0&p50=0.6>

Here are two of our group, Freddie and Niamh giving their top proposals on behalf of their table.





Here is the group of four Year 12 students alongside Charlotte from En-Roads with the overall result of a 1.8°C as the targeted increase, which felt hard-won, and therefore a successful outcome. (Left to Right, Matteo, Freddie, Niamh, Raquella with Charlotte.)

During the subsequent workshops we found out about the work of Hertfordshire County Council in both adapting to climate change and helping the county to mitigate against climate change. We found out that the average UK citizen produces 8.4 tonnes of carbon per year, and the global average is 6.3 tonnes of carbon. The facilitators used Mike Berners-Lee's book 'The carbon footprint of everything – How bad are bananas?' <https://howbadarebananas.com/> to help us assess the carbon footprint of different items – it transpired that bananas are much less carbon intensive than other foods! They also introduced the group to an activity created by the Financial Times – entitled 'Can you reach Net Zero by 2050?' <https://ig.ft.com/climate-game/>. Another resource that was used was the Government's Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy simulation activity - <https://my2050.energysecurity.gov.uk/?levers=1111111111111111>

After the Careers Fair in the afternoon, the event closed with an encouraging address from Professor Phil Porter of the University of Hertfordshire, to continue to work for a more sustainable future and to be alert to the good news about the environment and conservation too.

Since the YouthCOP conference, EnvComm have created some 'Just one thing' room checklists to help to reduce our use of resources in school.

Ms M Chabrel

On behalf of 'EnvComm'



# Sicily Tour

Sicily Study Tour – 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025

A group of KS4 and KS5 students thoroughly enjoyed their study tour to Sicily at the start of half-term. This was arranged through the expertise of Rayburn Tours. We hadn't anticipated that Mount Etna would be international news at the same time, however, the steady eruptions from the SW corner of the volcano didn't stop our intended itinerary, and instead made for some dramatic photographs!

Our first day included a visit to a Greek amphitheatre, which pleased our Drama students and the tourist sites of Syracuse and the Isle of Ortigia, where pizzas were sampled and enjoyed.

Our second day was an early start to the island that gave its name to all volcanoes – Vulcano (named after the Roman God of fire), we climbed up to the top of the caldera to better absorb the active fumaroles, with their sulphurous emissions! There was a grand view over the isles to the north of Vulcano, which are extinct volcanoes. We were impressed by the gas monitoring stations on the island, that keep the residents informed of any changes to the likely volcanic activity! In the afternoon we were again tourists, with a visit to Taormina, which has featured in many films and novels for its coastal beauty.

On the Monday, we met with our walking guides and walked a route up 'Etna Nord' to a collapsed lava bubble, all covered with snow, and a thin layer of ash. The walk itself was quite challenging as the snow was deep and the air pressure was low at the c.2000m altitude (875mb was measured by one of the group). It was incredible to experience the vast site that is Mount Etna, with its many craters and lava fields from the many eruptions over time, whilst being aware of a continuing eruption occurring from an active vent.

In the afternoon we weren't able to sample the refreshing waters of Alcantara Gorge, as the heavy rains over the winter had caused some flood damage to the site, however, we were able to appreciate the vertical flutes of basalt and buy some souvenirs for friends and family.

All in all, a stunning experience for students and staff alike.

With thanks to Ms Keane and Mr Sylvester for their active support and hard work on the trip.

Ms Chabrel, Subject Leader of Geography





View from hotel of Mount Etna – in active mode!



Sulphurous emissions from the fumaroles of Vulcano.



Group of staff and students on the helipad at the top of Vulcano!



Gas measuring station at the base of Vulcano.







Smoking Etna viewed from our walk on 'Etna Nord'.



Group gathered at the highest point of our trek in a collapsed lava bubble on Etna Nord.

Mount Etna in the evening, as viewed from Taormina.



# Friends of Kings Langley School News

## (FoKLS)

Our next Friends of Kings Langley School pre-loved uniform sale is on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 9am - 11am**. This is particularly timed to appeal to new parents who will have just heard that their son or daughter has a place with us at Kings Langley School in September 2025, however, we welcome customers from existing students in the school too of course. We also welcome donations of school uniform and PE kit - please leave any clean and re-sellable items for us in reception.

Anything that is beyond the regular pre-loved quality should be donated to the textiles bank at the school gate, as we do raise money from these donations too.

To access the shop, please enter the drama studio directly from the front of school, positioned just by the disabled access car parking points, beyond the bus bays.

Then, on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March**, we have a family quiz in the main hall, 7 for 7:30pm, tables of 8, £5 per person, bring your own refreshments. If you can't make up a table of 8, and you would like to meet new people, we can put you together with other people. The quiz will include a couple of rounds where knowing something about music will be an advantage, as this time the quiz is being run as a joint fundraiser between Friends of Kings Langley School and the Music Department. Mr Shephard is our quiz master, and as he is fond of saying 'at least one of the rounds will be 'Pot Luck'. The school quizzes are always an enjoyable evening with students, families and staff, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Ms Chabrel

On Behalf of Friends of Kings Langley School





# Friends of Kings Langley School Second Hand Uniform & PE Kit

**SALE**

**Blazers, Bags or  
/ Shoes £5  
All other items £2**



**Saturday 8th March  
from 9am - 11am**

**In the Drama Studio / Tea & Coffee served.**





£5 per person or £40 per table

Friends of Kings Langley School



# Family Quiz Night

FUNDRAISING FOR THE FoKLS & THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Saturday 29th March

7 for 7.30pm

hosted by Mr Shephard

Maximum of 8 people per team

Tickets available by SCOPAY

or scan the QR code

BYO refreshments



Kings Langley School  
Unlocking Potential for Life

# TOOLED UP<sup>®</sup>

BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

This Saturday marks Zero Discrimination Day 2025. Founded by the United Nations, it promotes inclusion and equality in all UN member countries, and the right of everyone to live a full and productive life.

The day highlights the need to combat inequalities of all kinds: gender, age, health status, sexual orientation, race and class.

At Tooled Up, celebrating diversity is a key part of our work with parents and schools. Our **resources** are **aimed at** encouraging acceptance and **helping children understand themselves and the different groups** in the world around them.

**If your child hears** or experiences **prejudicial language**, are they **equipped** to challenge it? We share tips in [Supporting Your Child to Step Away From and Challenge Harmful Talk in Their Peer Group](#). This resource also **includes useful advice for parents whose children are using denigrating language** towards groups of people.

For those with primary aged children, **we spoke to Vese Ahoghovbia**, founder of Philly and Friends **who explained the importance of younger children encountering diverse toys and stories** in everyday life. Listen to Vesa in this webinar [Representation in Early Years Toys and Books](#).

It is **important for children to be accepting of “non traditional” families** be that their own or that of their peers. Our activity [Fantastic Families](#) is a wonderful way to open a conversation and **explore different family types with primary aged children**.





# STEM Challenge

**This week's challenge:**

What do the letter T and an island have in common?

**Answer next week**

**Last term's answer:**

What never asks a question but gets answered all the time?

**Answer:** Your mobile phone



**YOUR  
SCHOOL  
LOTTERY**

**This week's jackpot winning number was:**

**858739**

**One of our supporters won £30.00 in the draw!**

If you haven't signed up yet visit our lottery here - [https://  
www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/kings-langley-secondary-  
school](https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/kings-langley-secondary-school)





School of  
**CHARACTER**



- New school facilities completed 2023/24, including a 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre and 3G Football Pitch.
- Continues to be a good school (Ofsted 2024)
- **Pupil's behaviour** is managed through a culture of warm and positive relationships. Behaviour around the school site is respectful (Ofsted 2024)
- Comprehensive programme to **support staff's** workload and well-being (Ofsted 2024)
- A commitment to continuing professional development
- A full programme of induction and support for all new staff

# KINGS LANGLEY SCHOOL

LOVE LANE, KINGS LANGLEY  
HERTFORDSHIRE WD4 9HN

Tel: 01923 264504

Email: [admin@kls.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kls.herts.sch.uk)

## Exam Invigilators

Pay Details: £11.44 per hour (plus holiday pay) – term time only on a flexible, variable hours contract basis.

We are seeking to appoint a number of highly motivated, reliable and flexible exam invigilators to assist with examinations at the school. Whilst school experience would be desirable, we welcome applications from enthusiastic individuals with an eye for detail, good communication skills and who are able to relate well to young people.

Candidates will need to be flexible to attend on a casual basis during examination periods.

Closing date for applications: Friday 7 March 2025.

Early application is advised, as we reserve the right to close the advert early should suitable applicants be found.

The school is committed to safeguarding children and young people. All post holders are subject to a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check



School of  
**CHARACTER**



Artsmark  
Platinum Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England





# Advertisements & Opportunities

Please contact [admin@kls.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kls.herts.sch.uk) to advertise here

## THE Mix HEROES UNLEASHED

SUNDAY 9TH MARCH 2025

**VENUE**  
Christ Church Baptist,  
The Nap, Kings Langley  
WD4 8ET

**DATE & TIME**  
Sunday 9th March 3pm - 5.30pm

**FREE ENTRY**  
For young people aged 11 - 18

Bring a friend or two!

**HIGHLIGHTS**  
Toxic Inflatable Obstacle Course  
Hero Training Academy including

- Spidey sticky hands
- Captain America dodgeball
- Captain Marvel dexterity
- Wolverine pictionary
- Antman manoeuvres
- Superhero refreshments

**TALK**  
Jesus, The Ultimate Superhero  
by Mary Purkiss



This event has kindly been sponsored by Casino UK



Photos and videos will be taken for publicity purposes. Consent will be verified at registration.

For more info see:  
[www.yahemel.co.uk](http://www.yahemel.co.uk)  
Instagram @YAHemel  
or ring Lisa on 07952 113735

