



news from

King's Lynn Academy

KING'S LYNN ACADEMY

Friday 17th July 2026

A message from the Principal:

So, it is my final day as Principal of King's Lynn Academy, after a decade of leading this very special community. Thank you for all the congratulations and good wishes I have received from parents and students as I move on to a role leading a trust of 8 schools from September. I have loved leading KLA, and I remain very proud of the work that my incredible staff team have done to transform it, and of our amazing, funny, articulate, lovely students. I have also been extremely lucky to benefit from the trust and support of almost all parents over the years, and I am very grateful.

I will miss being here very, very much, and although I am excited at the professional challenge that lies ahead, today is a sad one for me as I say goodbye. I wish Ms Robson every success as she takes over KLA from September and I know that KLA now has the secure foundations ready to support yet more improvement in the coming years.

Alan Fletcher

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 3rd September - School reopens

Communication Chart:

	Who should I contact?	When will I get a response	What should I do if I don't hear back?
My child will be absent from the academy	studentabsence@kla.eastern-mat.co.uk 01553602874	The absence will be added to Arbor, no response is needed	
My child has an upcoming appointment	Head of Year Firstname.surname@kla.eastern-mat.co.uk	The appointment will be added to Arbor, no response is needed	
There is an issue that I would like to discuss	Head of Year KLA reception – 01553 774671	Within 48 hours	Contact the Pastoral Manager Debbie.germaney@kla.eastern-mat.co.uk and KLA reception
I need to speak to the school urgently (same day)	KLA reception – stating that a response if required on the same day. This request will be passed on to the most relevant team member 01553 774671	Within 24 hours	KLA reception Kla.safeguarding@kla.eastern-mat.co.uk

Please be aware that we are not able to see you if you arrive at the academy without an appointment

Requesting time off in term time:

In the exceptional circumstance you need to request time off in term time, please complete an application for pupil leave of absence from school during term time, as soon as possible and return it to the attendance department or email it to studentabsence@kla.eastern-mat.co.uk. The form can be downloaded from our school website or collected from the school reception. Requests can only be actioned if submitted on this form, you will be notified via email of the decision. Please note requests will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

We are recruiting:

We have some fantastic opportunities to become a member of our esteemed team here at KLA. Please follow the link below to see our latest vacancies.

[Eastern Academy Trust - Vacancies and Careers \(eastern-mat.co.uk\)](#)

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SKIN BETTING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

'Skin betting' is the term used when players gamble using virtual in-game items, such as weapon 'skins' or character cosmetics. Although these items appear purely decorative, some can hold significant real-world value. Research suggests that children as young as 13 have engaged in this type of betting, often on sites with limited age checks or safeguards, blurring the line between gaming and gambling.

UNREGULATED PLATFORMS

Skin gambling typically takes place on third-party websites that are not licensed or regulated. These platforms often lack age verification, making them easily accessible to children. By linking their gaming accounts, users can deposit skins, place bets, and withdraw winnings as cash or higher-value items – often without adults being aware these activities are happening.

REAL-WORLD VALUE

Skins may look like simple cosmetic upgrades to in-game items and characters, but some are worth hundreds or even thousands of pounds. They can be traded or sold on online marketplaces, meaning they function much like real money. When young people bet with skins, they are risking items of genuine financial value, even if no physical cash is exchanged directly.

INFLUENCER PROMOTION

Some gaming influencers and streamers have promoted skin betting sites in their content. This can make the behaviour appear normal or even desirable, potentially encouraging younger audiences to engage in these activities without fully understanding the risks involved.

SOCIAL STATUS PRESSURE

In games such as Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) and Fortnite, rare skins can act as status symbols. Young players may feel the pressure to own high-value items to fit in with peers. This can lead them to take risks – such as using gambling sites – to obtain desirable skins, similar to how branded goods can influence behaviour offline.

LIMITED OVERSIGHT

Skin betting can take place both in-game and on external websites that parents and educators may not be familiar with. Because skin betting does not always resemble traditional gambling, it can go unnoticed until significant losses have occurred, in both items or money.

GATEWAY BEHAVIOURS

Skin betting mirrors many aspects of traditional gambling, including chance-based outcomes, reward systems and excitement. Early exposure to these mechanics can normalise betting behaviours before children and young people even reach legal gambling age. Research indicates that this may increase the likelihood of developing unhealthy habits later, particularly if early wins create a false sense of control or skill.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UNDERSTAND IN-GAME ITEMS

Familiarise yourself with the games young people are playing and learn whether they include tradable or sellable items. Titles like CS:GO and Rust are known for skin marketplaces, but similar systems are increasingly common across games.

DISCUSS VALUE AND RISK

Help children and young people understand that cosmetic items like skins can carry real-world value. Explain that losing them through betting is comparable to losing money, therefore reinforcing the connection between in-game actions and real financial consequences.

LOOK FOR WARNING SIGNS

Be alert to changes in behaviour, such as secrecy around gaming, a strong focus on acquiring specific skins, or a sudden loss of in-game items. These could indicate involvement in skin gambling and provide an opportunity to start a conversation about it.

USE CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS

Make use of parental controls and platform settings to restrict trading, purchases, and access to external websites. Where possible, disable marketplace features on games and monitor young people's account activity to reduce the risk of unauthorised transactions.

Meet Our Expert

Nathan David is Head of Foundation and Programme Lead for Esports Coaching at the University Campus of Esports.

Bubba Gaeddert is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Events at the University Campus of Esports, as well as President and Co-Founder of the Videogames and Esports Foundation.



The National College®

See full reference list on our website

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Did you know?



An important part of teenage life should be relaxation. It is an essential part of maintaining health and wellbeing and being able to calmly deal with stress and pressure which, as we know, can be quite intense during the school years and especially being an adolescent.

Research shows that young people face many different kinds of stress, worry, anxiety and can feel overwhelmed for various reasons. Relaxation has been defined as a 'state of being free from tension and anxiety'. We often forget to switch off as adults but it is important that we do that in order to help children learn important skills.

Many studies highlight the benefits of relaxation and here are a few:

- Slows the heart and breathing rate
- Improves concentration and mood
- Reduces anger and frustration
- Reduces the activity of stress hormones
- Improves digestion
- Increases blood flow to the muscles
- Relaxes the muscles
- Improves sleep quality



What can you do?

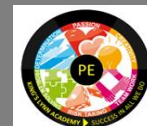
One of the simplest relaxation techniques is to practice breathing. Teach your child to take deep slow breaths when they are feeling anxious. Just a few deep breaths can provide an instant calming effect that can help reduce stress. Look out for mindfulness apps or video resources on YouTube that offer example breathing exercises, such as Headspace or Calm.

Learning to relax is something that you can do together as a family. Try having a go at Yoga or a relaxing activity together. Yoga will improve flexibility, posture and give you and your child a sense of inner calm. Encourage your child to go to a local class or

follow a simple Yoga session on YouTube. Other things could be having quiet time to read, going for a walk, listening to music or watching a feel-good film.

Another technique for your child to try is 'imagery', having a vision about a happy place so their brains can take a break. Ask them to write down a description of their happy place which includes how it looks, feels, smells and sounds. When they are stressed out, ask them to close their eyes and to think about it. Just like new skills, relaxation techniques require practice so keep prompting them to find out what works for them.

PE Weekly Sports Bulletin:



PE Department – End of term

What a fantastic year it has been in PE! We have enjoyed a wide range of exciting trips, competitive fixtures and engaging lessons throughout the year. Despite the challenges of the ongoing building works, our pupils have continued to show enthusiasm, resilience and excellent sportsmanship, making it another successful year for the department. We would like to thank all of our students and families for their continued support, and we are already looking forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of PE and school sport.

As we prepare for the new academic year, please ensure your child is ready for September with the correct PE uniform. Please refer to the letter that was sent to parents outlining the PE kit requirements.

A reminder that football boots are a compulsory part of the PE kit, particularly as the weather begins to change. This is an important health and safety requirement to ensure pupils can participate safely in outdoor lessons.

We wish all of our families a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing everyone in September, ready for another fantastic year of sport and physical activity.

Year 7 Round Up – Compiled by Mrs Mann:



This is me. I am that squirrel!!!!!!

Wow, we have made it but my goodness, where has the year gone. Congratulations to all my year 7's on such a fantastic first year with us at KLA. They have all worked incredibly hard and I hope they continue to do so in year 8. I hope being in academic based sets will help to push them all that bit more! They are a fab bunch and I'm super proud of them all.

This week we saw the rewards assemblies take place. Many awards were given out such as blazer badge certificates, Endeavour awards, Head of Year awards, top 20 golden envelopes and the Head of House award too. I swear some students had half a tree there were that many! As always we gave out our Head of Year awards and here are mine for this term.

Riga – **Phoebe Bensley**

La Rochelle – **Leyton Nicholls-Catterall**

Hamburg – **Zeke Raynor**

Stargard – **Gracie Fish**

A huge congratulations to everyone.

Being year 7 meant that it was my turn once again to award one of my students with a very special award - The Charlie Turner Memorial Trophy. Charlie was an incredible student that we saw through his 5 years at KLA, along with his younger siblings. Sadly in 2020, Charlie passed away. Devastating news for all that knew him and as a school, we wanted to honour Charlie. We want to never forget Charlie. This is when his memorial trophy was established. Along with this award, we have a memorial bench and blossom tree out on out in our north quad muster area. This award always goes to a student that has joined us from West Winch Primary to honour Charlie and his family as they all attended and mum is a member of staff there.

This was an easy decision for me as this young man has had a fantastic first year. I was proud to award **Noah Huggins** with this special award. Noah has been part of CUB since starting and has already started to transition into mainstream. His confidence grows daily, any worries he has are talked through and he is supported.

Noah, I am so proud of you, well done. You should be very proud of yourself too.



Dates to remember

Thursday 3rd September – All year groups return to school

I look forward to seeing my year 8's back in September, but for now I hope you all have the best summer holiday, stay safe and take care.

Mrs Mann.

Year 8 Round Up – Compiled by Mrs Lockey:



Year 8 we did it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Where has this year gone with you all! Looking forward to next year and the exciting challenges we face together with options and college choices.

This week we celebrated achievements in the Academy with our house assemblies:

Endeavour Award went to **Yosra Yousufi**, she has been totally fabulous since joining us at the start of year 8.

Riga was on Monday and the Head of Year Award went to **Dexter Cann**, for all the progress he has made over the past few months.

Tuesday saw us celebrate rewards with **La Rochelle** and the Head of Year Award went to **Phoebe Metcalfe**, well done Phoebe.

Hamburg's assembly was Wednesday and the Head of Year award went to **David Strauts**, for really trying hard over the past few months.

Stargards bonanza assembly was on Thursday and the Head of Year Award was awarded to **Willow Crouch**, who always tries her best in all she does.

What a year it's been!

Have a wonderful summer holiday, come back to us safe and sound.

A final farewell to Mr Fletcher, we wish him all the best from us all in year 8, we will miss you loads.

Mrs Lockey.

Year 9 Round Up – Compiled by Mrs West:

We have made it!! Congratulations to the students and yourselves for helping to navigate and support them throughout year 9. As I have mentioned in previous bulletins, year 10 will be another fantastic opportunity for all the students to achieve and succeed within KLA.

★ ★ ★ I am going to break the rules this week and I have several students of the week. I was extremely proud on Saturday to be able to take my own son to watch our year 9 boys take part in the yearly Wootton's tournament. **James Bell, Kenny Schade, Rudy Mayes** and **Connor Younger** all represented their teams with pride and a great attitude. There were golden goals and penalties all of which had me hiding behind my son at times! An extra congratulations to James Bell as he was part of the winning team. ★ ★ ★

I cannot thank you all enough for your support throughout this school year. It has been a privilege to be a part of all of your young people's lives. I get to spend so much time with your children when school is open and I could not be prouder of each and every one of them. I will be here waiting for them on the first day of next term and we will complete another amazing year together.

I hope you get to use the summer to relax and spend some time together. I hope we do not run out of sun and that it stays with us for the whole of August. Take care and stay safe.

Any questions or queries my email is sam.west@kla.eastern-mat.co.uk

Take care

Mrs West.

Year 10 Round Up compiled by Miss Fountain:

Well, what a year! Year 10 you have been a blast!

I feel incredibly privileged to be your child's head of year and have loved watching them go through so many changes leading up to the very last year of their school lives. It makes me emotional even writing that, which as you probably know, doesn't take much!

The reward assemblies have been lovely this week, although reminding me these were the last summer reward assemblies for them as next year they will have left already 😊 But we still had lots of fun and enjoyed it, nonetheless.

Just a reminder that if your child requires a toilet pass because of medical needs, as already discussed, I will need proof for September, or it will not be issued.

Uniform expectations for the new school year are nothing new but will be enforced from the first day back. Please remember hair colour needs to be natural, as does make-up, with any facial piercings either out or with a plastic retainer in instead and no false nails. The whole list of expectations will be sent out to you within the next couple of days.

The end of year 10 TOP 10 achievement points are:

Student	Year 10 total
Mycock, Jacob	1133
Rutter, Freya	1078
Tann, Nancy	962
Strauts, Kevin	942
Watts, Samuel	936
Dey, Millie	921
Goodbourn, Ella	904
Miller, Albie	904
Horner, Charlie	903
Bussey, Lily	882
Ebbens, Rosie	871

Absolutely amazing, so, so proud of them all, and in fact, all of my students.

I just wanted to say thank you all for your support over the year and I look forward to what the next year has in store for us all.

Take care, stay safe.

Miss Fountain.

Year 11 Round Up compiled by Mrs Laws:

Year 11 Prom

Thursday 9th July, we had the delights of prom at the King's Lynn Corn Exchange.

We started setting up the event at around 9am, a huge thank you to Mrs Fox, Mrs Goodson and Mrs Phoenix who came and helped with the set up. The room was decorated in the theme of Hollywood & the Oscars.

We decked the room in black and gold decorations.



From 5.30pm we had a variety of modes of transport such as fancy cars, motorbikes, Scooby Doo Van, tractor, work vans and a beautiful horse drawn carriage arriving bringing the former year 11's to their special night.

Van Pelt butchers supplied us with a glorious hog roast and all the trimmings, and the school canteen made us some old-style school cakes such as cornflake tart, toffee tart and brownies as the puddings.

There was a photobooth which loads of students got snaps from.



William Parsons for his Scooby doo transport and Dominyka Kaciuceviciute received best dressed (closely followed in 2nd place by Mr Herring and me in 3rd place). The students partied until gone 11pm until we finally kicked them out of the venue.

I have to say the students carried themselves impeccably during the whole evening. I hope they will cherish the memory of their final hurrah as much as I will. My time as Head of Year 11 has now finally come to an end so I wish them all the best in their future and will see them again on results day in August.

Jacqui Laws

Year 11 Round Up continued...

When we come back in September, we will arrange for you all to see the professional prom pictures taken by Kevin Fawkes but for the moment here is a sneak preview.....

