

30<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear all

As we move into the final week of term, there's a real sense of energy and anticipation around the Academy. The sun has (finally) started to make an appearance, and with it, a packed schedule of creativity, performance, and opportunity.

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### An Unforgettable Lunchtime at KSA with Internationally Recognised Artist Shao

This week, KSA was absolutely buzzing with creativity, curiosity, and talent; most notably during a lunchtime that we won't forget in a hurry.

On Wednesday, we had the absolute privilege of welcoming internationally recognised artist **Shao**, who brought the house down with a surprise rap set in the hall, followed by a brilliant Q&A session with some of our aspiring performers.

We'll be honest - there were a few raised eyebrows when we suggested a gig at lunchtime. But our students completely surpassed our expectations. The energy, the respect, and the genuine enthusiasm was everything we could have hoped for and more.

This incredible experience was made possible by **NMPAT's Director of Ensembles and Partnerships, Iain McKnight**, and of course, Shao himself, who gave his time and talent completely free of charge. As Iain shared:

*"Your students were fantastic in the workshop Q&A, asking incredible, insightful questions. They were a credit to the school."*

A thank you, too, to our amazing staff for making it all happen.

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### A Night at the Theatre – *Brain Play* Shines

A huge thank you to all the families who joined us on Thursday evening to support our students in their stunning performance of **Brain Play**, part of this year's **National Theatre Connections** festival.

Written by **Alexis Zegerman**, Brain Play is a dynamic and thought-provoking piece that explores the **inner workings of the teenage brain**, from decision-making to emotional responses, through a creative, often surreal lens.

It was fantastic to see our students engage so boldly with this complex and original script under the expert direction of Mr Rowbotham, our Director of Performing Arts. They delivered powerful performances with creativity, maturity, and commitment.

And the journey isn't over yet. On **Monday**, our cast will perform Brain Play on the **main stage at the Royal & Derngate** in Northampton. We are all sending them lots of luck!



### **Don't Miss This Week's Dance and Cheer Showcase**

We're thrilled to invite you to this year's **KSA Dance and Cheer Showcase**, taking place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm).

With **15 incredible routines** covering a diverse range of styles and genres, this promises to be a stunning celebration of movement, creativity, and talent.



[\*\*Book your tickets via Wisepay or pay on the door.\*\*](#)



### **Careers Corner**

#### **Army Careers Pop-Up – Friday 28 March**

On Friday, students had the opportunity to chat with a recruitment officer from the **British Army** at a special lunchtime pop-up near reception. A brilliant chance to explore what a career in the Army might look like.

#### **Young Inspirers Apprenticeship Event – Inspiring Future Pathways**

Over the past two weeks, Year 10 students have taken part in a careers education programme focused on **apprenticeships**, beginning with a Personal Development session on 19 March.

That session included:

- An introduction to apprenticeships and the upcoming live event
- A Red/Amber/Green confidence check
- A short film to answer key questions
- A chance for students to prepare and submit questions for the panel

On **Wednesday 26 March**, we welcomed the **Young Inspirers** apprentice panel to KSA. Apprentices from local and national employers shared their experiences, journeys, and advice:

- **Harrison Bartlett** – Kier Group
- **Emily Hayland** – Cornerstone Kettering
- **Marie-Tress Smith** – Briggs Irrigation
- **Zak Lowe** – Zeeco, Inc.
- **Katie Skellett** – Weetabix
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Students asked thoughtful and relevant questions, including:

*How did you decide an apprenticeship was right for you?*

*What surprised you most when you started working?*

*How do you balance study and work commitments?*

The apprentices responded with honesty and insight, offering real-life perspectives on what it means to start a career through this route.




A huge thank you to our visiting apprentices and their employers, to **Clare Beevis-Shemilt, Dan Barker,** and **Julie Carter** from **The Bedford College Group**, and to the **South Midlands Careers Hub** for their support in bringing this opportunity to life.

And of course, thank you to Mr Scragg, our Assistant Principal with oversight for Careers, for organising such a meaningful and engaging experience for our students.

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### **Final Week of Term – Setting the Standard**

As we head into the final stretch, we want to remind all students of our expectations, especially around **uniform and appearance**.

-  We're still seeing too many **hoodies**, which are not part of KSA uniform.
-  With the weather set to be warmer this week, the "but it's cold" excuse won't cut it.
-  Please ensure your child is wearing the correct **KSA uniform** every day.

### **PE Kit Reminder**

In response to feedback from students and parents, we now allow pupils to wear their PE kit **on PE days only**. However, this must be **KSA-branded PE kit**.

Some of the school's past hesitation about this policy was due to concerns over quality and consistency but we know our students can rise to the occasion.

 [Click here to view our uniform expectations](#)

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### **Have Your Say – Brooke Weston Trust Annual Parent Survey**

We really value your voice. If you haven't yet completed the **Brooke Weston Trust Parent Survey**, there's still time.

### **Check edulink to complete the survey**

As we wrap up what has been a busy and brilliant term, let's work together to make the final week of term a calm, positive, and focused one, especially for our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they continue their preparations for the summer exams.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Giovannelli