



June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

## Year 12 Step Up Term and Preparation for Year 13

As students progress into Year 13, we would like to make you aware of our **Step-Up Term**, which takes place during Term 6. The Year 12 to Year 13 Step-Up programme is intended to ensure academic continuity, prepare students for the increased demands of Year 13 study, develop independent learning skills, and maximise achievement in final examinations and post-18 destinations.

The rationale for the Step-Up programme is to:

- **Bridge the academic gap** - Year 13 content is typically more demanding and synoptic in nature.
- **Maintain momentum** - The programme keeps students academically engaged and helps reduce Summer learning loss.
- **Develop independent study skills** - Year 13 requires greater self-management, research, wider reading and independent learning.
- **Improve Year 13 outcomes** - Early exposure to Year 13 material can increase confidence and attainment in the final examination year. Students can identify gaps in their Year 12 knowledge before they become barriers to progress.
- **Support post-18 progression** - Students begin preparing for university, apprenticeships, gap years and employment opportunities.
- **Establish expectations** - The programme marks the transition from Year 12 to Year 13, with greater responsibility and leadership opportunities within the Sixth Form.

### Post-18 Pathways

A key focus of the Step-Up Term is supporting students with their post-18 destinations. Tutor time and assemblies will be used to provide guidance on:

- UCAS applications
- Personal statements
- Student finance
- Apprenticeship opportunities
- Gap year opportunities
- CV writing and covering letters
- Choosing appropriate university courses
- Work experience preparation

This focus reflects feedback gathered from Year 12 students, where the most requested areas of support included personal statements, gap year opportunities, university applications and student finance. Students will also receive dedicated tutor support throughout the term to review progress and prepare effectively for Year 13 and beyond.

### Enrichment Programme

Wednesday Period 5 enrichment sessions will continue throughout Term 6, although these sessions will now focus on the Step-Up programme, and will include guest speakers, careers-focused sessions, VESPA activities (Vision, Effort, Systems, Practice, Attitude).

### Review Meeting

All students will have a Step-Up meeting with either their Tutor, a member of the Sixth Form Team, or Miss Beacham. Where appropriate, parents/carers may also be invited to attend.

These meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss:

A: Kings Academy, Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3AQ

E: [office@kowessex.co.uk](mailto:office@kowessex.co.uk) | W: [www.kowessex.co.uk](http://www.kowessex.co.uk) | T: 01934 742608



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**POSITIVITY**



**RESPECT**



**INTEGRITY**



**DEMOCRACY**



**EQUALITY**



- Academic progress and attainment
- Attendance and punctuality
- Preparation for Year 13
- Post-18 pathways, including university, apprenticeships, employment or gap year plans
- Student wellbeing and any support that may be required

The purpose of these meetings is to ensure that every student is well-prepared for the transition into Year 13 and has a clear plan in place to support both their academic success and future aspirations.

### **Bath Spa University Visit – Thursday 9 July 2026**

Finally, we are delighted to offer Year 12 students the opportunity to visit **Bath Spa University**. Although the trip is not an integral part of any individual course, it provides a valuable insight into higher education and university life, supporting students as they consider their future options. We expect all students to attend this day.

Travel will be by coach from Kings Academy, departing at **9.00am** and returning at approximately **3.00pm**. Students will require a packed lunch, although there may be opportunities to purchase refreshments during the visit.

The total cost of the educational visit is **£15.00**.

Payment for this trip must be made using the My Child at School App. The trip will be available to book from 8.00am on Friday 12 June 2026 and places are offered on a first come first serve basis. The My Child at School App will automatically create a waiting list, so there is no requirement to contact the office. Please ensure that we have your up-to-date emergency contact details and any relevant medical information for your child, as this information is taken from our school database. Payments are non-refundable. If your child withdraws from the trip, we are only able to offer a refund if their place can be filled by another student. The deadline for the deposit is Monday 22 June 2026. Please note that students must not make their own way to Bath Spa and must arrive by bus.

### **The visit will be covered by the Academy Insurance Policy. Please be aware that:**

- Except for visits abroad, insurance arrangements are the same as those for students in the Academy, i.e. only provides cover if negligence is proven or accepted by the Academy and/or its employees.
- You should consider making your own insurance arrangements for personal accident cover for your son/daughter for Academy activities in the UK.
- As parent/carer you have fully understood and are satisfied with the details supplied about the above-mentioned activities. You agree to your son/daughter taking part in it and know of no medical reason why he/she should not participate.

As with all Academy trips, students will be expected to uphold the reputation of the Academy and, therefore, exceptional behaviour is expected at all times throughout the trip and in the lead up to the trip. All enrichment activities have a short student meeting prior to the date of travel. The date and time of the meeting is circulated via Tutors. It is essential all students attend. If you have any queries about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy on 01934 742608 or [office@kowessex.co.uk](mailto:office@kowessex.co.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Arabella Beacham**

Assistant Headteacher – Kings Sixth Form

A: Kings Academy, Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3AQ  
E: [office@kowessex.co.uk](mailto:office@kowessex.co.uk) | W: [www.kowessex.co.uk](http://www.kowessex.co.uk) | T: 01934 742608



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