



KRATOS
the future is in our hands



the children in care council

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🎄 Christmas Party 🎄

So yeah... the **Christmas Party** was actually *amazing*. Like, not boring-at-all amazing.

When we got there, there were **elves** walking around like it was totally normal, **Christmas music blasting**, and **balloons everywhere**. Straight away it felt fun. There were loads of activities, so no one was just standing around awkwardly.



We played **Pin the Carrot on the Snowman** (harder than it sounds), and **ball darts on Santa**, which was hilarious. There were **colouring stations**, **card making**, **bauble decorating**, and my favourite part — **decorating reindeer cakes**. Some of them looked cute, some looked terrifying, but they all tasted good.

There were snacks, obviously, but let's talk about the **pizza**. There was *so much* pizza. I'm pretty sure **everyone had at least three slices each**, maybe more. No regrets.

We just kept playing, eating, laughing, and hanging out for hours and it never got boring. Then, just when we thought it couldn't get better, **Santa showed up**. Like, actual Santa. He gave everyone a **gift**, which made everyone lose their minds (in a good way).

Honestly, it was one of the best Christmas parties ever. We had fun, we ate loads, we laughed a lot, and it was just a really good time being together. **10/10 party. Would definitely go again.**

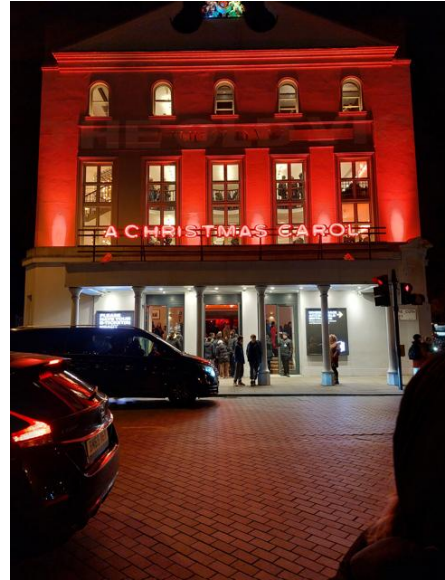


🎭 Trip to the Old Vic Theatre 🎭

On the **30th of December**, we went to the **Old Vic Theatre** to watch “**A Christmas Carol**” and it was **soo cool!**

Before we went to the theatre, we **wandered around Southbank** and saw some **really cool views**. We were **right by the water**, which looked amazing, but it was **freezing cold** and I could feel it in my face.

When we got to the theatre, there was **fake snow** and **lots of lights** and it made everything feel really magical. The **actors kept coming into the crowd**, and sometimes they were really close to us, which was exciting.



The show was so good that I want to **go again**, but next time I want **better seats** because we were sat **right in the corner** and I couldn't see the whole stage properly.

Even though it was cold and our seats weren't the best, it was still a **really fun day** and I'm glad we went!



Kratos on the Interview Panel

Recently, I had the chance to sit on the interview panel with Kratos for the new Director of Social Care, and honestly, it was such a cool experience and something I never thought I'd get to be part of at my age.

We started the day with lunch, which definitely helped calm the nerves. We had M&S sandwiches and they were actually really nice. It was good to sit together, eat, and talk before getting into the serious stuff.

After lunch, we went to the Bond Room, where we met Suzanne Rowson, the Head of the Virtual School. She explained what the interview process was going to look like and what would be expected from us. She made everything really clear and made us feel comfortable, which helped a lot.

We then went through the interview questions together. While doing this, I decided to add my own question, which was:

“What are your core values and how have you embedded them into your role?”

I spoke about this question with the other interviewers, and they all agreed it was a really good question. That made me feel quite confident and proud. We also talked about the question criteria, how we would score the answers, how we would evaluate them, and what kind of responses we were hoping to hear. Everyone then chose which question or questions they wanted to ask.

Once we felt ready and prepared, the candidates came in. There were three candidates, and we interviewed them one at a time. While they were answering the questions, we wrote down their responses in the feedback section so we could remember everything clearly.

After all three interviews were finished, we discussed each candidate's answers together and scored them out of five. Once we added up the scores, it became pretty clear who the successful candidate was. We were all in agreement and felt strongly that they answered the questions the best and were the right person for the role.

By the end of the day, we all walked away feeling really happy and excited. It felt amazing to know that we had been part of such an important decision, and I'm really looking forward to seeing what the new Director of Social Care will bring in the future.

Oxford University Visit

Today we got the chance to visit Oxford University – St Peter’s College, and it was honestly a really nice experience.

We met current students who told us what university life is really like. They talked about lectures, workload, tutor support, and also the out-of-education side like activities, clubs, and societies you can join. It made university feel a lot less scary and more exciting.

We also spoke to a student support person who explained what support we can get as care leavers. You can get a **£3,500 bursary** which you don’t have to pay back, and you can get **up to £6,000 extra support**. You can even ask for financial support to go abroad, as long as it links to an educational experience, which I thought was really interesting.

We got a tour of the campus and the town, and we also explored a museum nearby. After that we had lunch on site and there were loads of options like Indian food, jacket potato, lentil soup, jam cake and custard, crisps, and yoghurt. I would give the lunch a **9/10!**

I was especially excited to visit Oxford because last year I visited Cambridge University and I wanted to compare them. Personally, I prefer Cambridge because the town felt more endearing and there was more going on. Also, in Cambridge you can get **over £8,000 bursary** if you are a care-experienced young person.

Overall, today was a real eye-opener and I really enjoyed meeting new people who are in the same boat as me.



Stubbers Residential Trip – February 16th–19th 2026

Written by a Year 9 student

From the 16th–19th of February, 18 of us went on a residential trip to Stubbers and honestly it was one of the best and funniest trips ever. We stayed for two nights and 3 days and it felt like ages because we packed so much into it. In my room there were five of us girls and it was such a laugh. We were constantly talking, joking and trying to stay awake as long as possible. The boys on the other hand were SO loud. We could hear them through the walls at night shouting and laughing even after they got told off more than once. I honestly don't even want to imagine what their room must have looked like by the end — probably chaos.

But wait, let me take you back to the beginning... On the **first day** we arrived and everyone was excited and a bit hyper from the journey. Once we got there, we did an icebreaker to get to know each other better, which actually worked because by the end everyone was talking and we got to know each other better. At that point, I knew who I wanted to share rooms with!



After that we went straight into our first activity which was team building. It was actually really fun because we had to work together and figure things out instead of just doing things on our own. There was a tyre challenge where we had to move tyres without messing up, a balancing challenge that had everyone wobbling and laughing, and a stick challenge where we had to use sticks together to rescue a ball stuck in a space. It took us ages but when we finally got it everyone cheered like we'd won something massive.

Then came dinner and honestly the food at Stubbers deserves its own mention because it was actually so good. We had pizza, salad, yoghurt and cake and everyone was starving so it disappeared really fast. Some people even tried to go back for seconds.

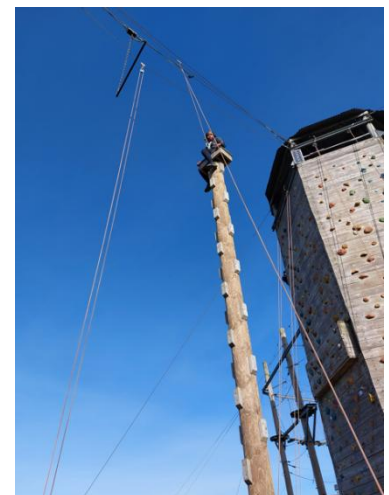
After dinner we did archery which started off as a complete disaster for me. My arrows were going everywhere except the target and at one point I nearly hit the grass right in front of me which everyone found hilarious. But after a while something just clicked and I finally hit the target properly which felt amazing. By the end we had a team competition and everyone got really competitive. My team actually won and we celebrated like we'd just won the Olympics.



Later we had chill time in the games room which was one of the best parts because everyone relaxed and just had fun together. We played cards, hangman and random made-up games and there was so much laughing. When we finally went to bed, we could still hear the boys messing around and being so loud in their rooms, until they got told off (a few times) and suddenly everything went quiet.

The next morning, we woke up for breakfast at 8am and it was a full English — eggs, bacon, sausages, hash browns, beans and toast. It was honestly banging and definitely gave us energy for the day.

Day two was the busiest and probably the best. We did high ropes and the Leap of Faith which was honestly terrifying. You had to climb this really tall tower and when you got near the top the whole thing started wobbling which made it even worse. Looking down was a big mistake because it made everything feel even higher. When it was finally my turn to jump my legs were literally shaking but everyone was cheering from below which helped. Jumping off felt like your stomach dropped but afterwards it was actually such a good feeling because you'd done something really scary.



Lunch was mac and cheese pasta with salad and flapjack which everyone demolished because we were so hungry.



After lunch we did caving which might have been the most fun activity of the whole trip. It was dark the whole time and we had to use our torches to see. Some parts were really tight so we had to crawl and squeeze through and help each other out. At one point someone got stuck for a few seconds and everyone started laughing while trying to help. By the end we were covered in dirt but nobody cared because it was so fun.

Dinner that night was chicken and rice with cake and yoghurt. I had strawberry yoghurt which was really nice and it felt good to sit down after such a busy day.

In the evening we did a night walk around the Stubbers grounds which was actually really cool. It was so dark you could barely see in front of you and everyone kept joking about ghosts and trying to scare each other. The best part was looking up at the sky because there were so many stars which you don't usually see at home. It felt really calm after such a busy day.

That night everyone was exhausted and funnily enough the boys didn't make any noise at all — they must have fallen asleep straight away for once.

On the **last day**, we had breakfast at 8am again and it was another full English which nobody complained about.

Then we did bell boating which was so much fun and probably the funniest activity. It's kind of like canoeing but bigger. All the girls were in one boat and the boys were in another. At first we were splashing them and messing around and everyone was laughing. We did some practice and then had a race back. We actually started off faster and thought we were definitely going to win but somehow the boys



caught up right near the end and beat us which was really annoying.



Lunch was sandwiches — I had a tuna sandwich and yoghurt — and then we learned how to light a fire using flint and wood. It looked really easy when the instructor did it but when we tried it was actually so hard, especially because the wood was damp. A few people managed tiny sparks but hardly anyone got a proper flame.

At the end we went back to the rooms where we had to strip the bedsheets, clean everything up and pack our bags which nobody wanted to do because it meant the trip was ending.

Overall, it was such an amazing trip and probably one of the best experiences we've had. Everyone got closer, we laughed loads and tried things we'd never done before. If we ever get the chance to go again, every single one of us would say yes straight away.

Our Amazing Trip to Cambridge University

On Wednesday 5th March, I went on a super exciting trip to Gonville and Caius College at University of Cambridge, and it was so cool.

First, we all met at Everyman Cinema Barnet. There were other virtual schools there too, like Barnet, and I got to meet lots of new people. At first it was a bit nerve-wracking, but everyone was really friendly. Then we all got on a big coach and drove to Cambridge. I was so excited I could barely sit still!



When we arrived, the university grounds looked like something straight out of Harry Potter. The buildings were huge and old with beautiful stone walls and big wooden doors. There were massive green lawns (we weren't allowed to step on some of them!) and it honestly felt like we had travelled back in time. I kept expecting a wizard to walk past.



We met some people who told us all about Cambridge University and what you can study there. You can study so many things, like science, history, medicine, law and even archaeology. It made me think about what I might want to be when I'm older.

After that, we got to draw our dream university. I drew mine with a giant library, a swimming pool, and a café that gives free cookies to students (very important). It was really fun seeing everyone's different ideas.

Then we met some current students, and we got to ask them ANYTHING! People asked questions like:

- “What do you study?”
- “Was it hard getting into Cambridge?”
- “What activities are there to do?”
- “Do you share rooms with other people?”

They were really honest and said it takes hard work to get in, but they also said there are loads of clubs and activities, like sports, music and drama. They told us that some students share spaces but usually have their own rooms. I liked hearing about what their normal day is like.

Next, the students gave us a tour around the college grounds. We saw the library, which was full of enormous old books. We also walked around the different courts (which are like big squares with grass in the middle surrounded by buildings). We even did a scavenger hunt around the grounds, which made it feel like an adventure. Our team tried really hard to find all the clues!



After all that exploring, we went back and had lunch in the big dining hall. It looked like a grand hall from a movie, with long tables and high ceilings. The food was delicious — we

had beef, vegetables and apple crumble for dessert. The apple crumble was my favourite part!

In the afternoon, we visited the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. We had a tour and learned about archaeology and anthropology. Archaeology is about studying objects from the past, and anthropology is about studying people and cultures.

We saw amazing objects like ancient tools, pottery, and even objects from thousands of years ago. Some of the artefacts showed how people used to hunt, cook and live. I thought it was so cool that one small object can tell you a whole story about someone's life from the past.



Overall, it was an unforgettable day. It made me realise that university isn't just about studying, it's about meeting new people, exploring big ideas and maybe even walking through places that feel a little bit magical.

I really hope I can go back there one day as a student!

A day I'll Never Forget – Our Trip to the Lyceum Theatre

By a 13-year-old explorer

On Wednesday 1st April 2026, I had one of the best experiences of my life - a trip to the Lyceum Theatre in London's West End to watch *The Lion King*!

It all started at Enfield Town rail station, where the group met up. There were nine of us in total, including two adults. At first, I didn't know everyone, but that quickly changed. I got to meet so many new people, all with completely different personalities, and somehow, we all got on really well!

We then took the train into central London. For some of the group, it was their very first time on a train, which made it even more exciting. You could really feel the buzz — everyone chatting, laughing, and looking out the windows as we got closer to the city. And funnily enough, it was *all* of our first time going to a theatre!

When we arrived at the Lyceum Theatre... WOW. That's the only word for it. The building itself was amazing, but nothing could prepare us for what was inside.

We went to see *The Lion King*, and from the very beginning, we were completely blown away. One of the most unforgettable moments was right at the start when animals came through the aisles. There were huge elephants walking right beside us towards the stage - it felt like we were actually part of the show! Everyone around me just sat there with their jaws dropped.

The creativity was on another level. The costumes were incredible, the way the performers wore them and moved made it look exactly like real animals. You could see how much skill and effort went into every single movement. It was like art in motion.

My favourite part was definitely "*Circle of Life*" at the beginning. The music gave me goosebumps, and seeing all the animals come together on stage was magical. Another moment I loved was "*Hakuna Matata*" because it was so fun and energetic – everyone was laughing.

Every scene was so detailed, from the lighting to the set changes, and it really made you feel like you were in the African savanna. I've never seen anything like it before.

I honestly can't wait to do something like this again. Now I really want to go to another theatre show just to see if anything could ever beat this experience... but I think *The Lion King* might be hard to top!

It was a day I'll never forget!



Trip to *Romeo & Juliet* at the Harold Pinter Theatre

By a Year 9 student

On the 22nd of May 2026, we went on a school trip to see *Romeo & Juliet* at the Harold Pinter Theatre in London, and honestly, it was one of the best trips we've had this year.

The play is based on Shakespeare's famous story about two teenagers who fall in love even though their families are enemies, and it all ends really sadly. But this version wasn't boring like you might expect. It was actually really modern, and it made the story feel much more real. The show is directed by Robert Icke, and it's meant to be a fresh and powerful take on the classic.

The main actors were amazing. Romeo was played by Noah Jupe and Juliet was played by Sadie Sink (who some people recognised from *Stranger Things*). They were both really convincing, and you could actually believe they were in love, which made the sad parts hit even harder.

The theatre itself was quite small and felt really close to the stage, which made everything more intense. The play lasted almost 3 hours with an interval, but it didn't feel that long because there was always something happening. There were also cool effects like lighting and modern staging that kept it interesting.

One of the most shocking moments (that everyone is still talking about) was when a character did a moonie on stage and we literally saw his bum. We all screamed because we were NOT expecting that at all. It was so random and funny that it kind of broke the tension for a moment, and loads of people were laughing after the shock wore off.

Even though the story is a tragedy with themes like fighting, revenge, and death, it didn't feel boring or too heavy. Instead, it felt dramatic and emotional in a good way, and loads of us were actually really into it by the end.

Everyone I spoke to said they enjoyed it, even people who don't normally like theatre. It was a really fun experience, and it made us see Shakespeare in a completely different way.

We'd definitely recommend more trips like this in future!



Fun Day at the Easter Egg Trail! 🐣 🌸

By Me T.T (Age 12)

On the 2nd of April 2026, I went to the Easter Egg Trail at Capel Manor Gardens. There were 13 of us altogether, and our group had kids from age 4 all the way up to 16, which made it really fun because everyone got involved in different ways and we got to meet different people.

When we first got there, we started following the Easter trail on our maps, exploring all the different gardens. There were clues to find and loads of fun things to do along the way. There were also games and activities dotted around, so it wasn't just walking—we were always doing something exciting.

One of the funniest parts of the day was when we went to the section in the gardens that had lots of different “front gardens” and “back gardens” set up. They looked like real houses, with doors, windows, and little garden areas, so of course we all started knocking on the doors. Some of the younger kids actually stood there waiting, thinking someone might answer, which made the rest of us laugh (in a nice way!). The older ones knew it wasn't real because if you looked from the side, you could see it was just a wall with doors and windows attached. It was still really fun though, and it felt a bit like being on a movie set or in a pretend neighbourhood!



After finishing the trail, we had a picnic in the manor gardens, which was really nice because the weather was good and we could all sit together, eat, and chat before the next activity. We had loads of snacks like pancakes, chocolate croissants, cakes, crisps, chocolates, Fruit Shoots, and water - it felt like a big sugar feast! Everyone was sharing and chatting, and it was a really nice, relaxed moment before we carried on.

Then it was time for the Easter egg hunt, which was probably the most competitive part of the day! As soon as it started, everyone ran off in different directions trying to collect as many eggs as possible. It was chaos—but the fun kind. L.T (16) absolutely smashed it and collected 24 eggs, which meant she won! Her prize was a Maltesers Easter Egg,

which left one younger child crying because he wanted the egg - we all tried to motivate him and make him feel better by saying there are more activities and prizes to be won ahead and he soon stopped crying! The best part is that every single egg had a prize inside, so nobody left empty-handed. In mine, I got a ring and a little bouncy ball, and I was really happy with that.

After that, we went to the maze, which was hilarious. Everyone had different strategies—some people teamed up in groups to try and figure it out, while others went solo and just hoped for the best. First, we had to try and get to the centre, and then once everyone made it, it was a race to get out again! People were running everywhere and getting completely lost.



In the end, we had two winners: J.L (6) and M.O (8). They both managed to escape first and won large Easter eggs, and they were SO happy.

To finish off the day, we visited the mini zoo, where we saw lots of animals like alpacas, goats, sheep, reptiles, owls, something that looked like a meercat even turtles. We also spotted some ponies in the distance, which was really cool.

Overall, it was such a fun day. There was so much to do, everyone got involved, and it felt like a proper adventure. I would definitely go again!



Kratos Young People Shine in Outstanding West End Performance

By a 17-year-old Kratos participant who played Romeo

I still can't quite believe I'm writing this, but just a few days ago (29th May 2026) I stood on a West End stage, under the lights, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in front of a live audience, as Romeo.



At the start of half term, I wasn't thinking about the West End at all. I just signed up for the Kratos programme, hoping it might be something a bit different. What we got was so much more. Over four days, working alongside the Coram Shakespeare Schools Foundation and Enfield Virtual School, everything changed for me.

For three days, we rehearsed at St Anne's Catholic High School in Enfield. At first, taking on Romeo felt intimidating. He's such a big character, emotional, impulsive, completely driven by love. I wasn't sure if I could do him justice. But with the support of the directors, I started to really understand him, not just as a Shakespeare character, but as a teenager who feels everything intensely. That clicked with me.

What made the experience even better was the group. There were eight of us from Kratos, and we became close really quickly. Everyone brought something different, and we supported each other constantly, whether it was remembering lines, building confidence, or just making each other laugh during breaks. It didn't feel like school, it felt like we were creating something together.



Then came the final day at the Criterion Theatre. Walking into a real West End venue was surreal. It suddenly felt very real, this wasn't just a workshop anymore. We worked with professional technicians, had a full dress rehearsal, and learned how much effort goes into a proper production. Standing backstage, waiting to go on, I was nervous in a way I've never felt before, but also excited.

When we finally performed, everything just came together. Playing Romeo in front of an audience was intense. You could feel every moment, especially the emotional scenes, and hear how the audience reacted. It made me realise how powerful theatre can be, how it connects people in real time.

Looking back, what we achieved in just four days feels incredible. We didn't just put on a play, we built confidence, formed friendships, and created something we can all be proud of. Performing on a West End stage is something most people never get the chance to do, and I'll never forget it.

This experience has genuinely changed how I see myself. Before, I wouldn't have imagined standing on that kind of stage, let alone playing a lead role. Now I know what's possible when you push yourself and have the right support around you.

For me, this wasn't just *Romeo and Juliet*. It was proof that opportunities like this can completely shift your confidence and open doors you didn't even know were there.

Shining Stars

We are incredibly proud to celebrate some of our amazing young people who have gone above and beyond. Your hard work, determination and positive attitude do not go unnoticed, keep shining bright!

A.K.R, Year 6

Adil has shown a fantastic thirst for knowledge and continues to demonstrate what it means to be a truly hardworking young person. His dedication and eagerness to learn are inspiring to everyone around him. Well done, Adil, keep it up!

C.W, Year 11

Cyanna was awarded *Star of the Month* at her youth club, a brilliant achievement recognising her excellent efforts, achievements and for being outstanding. This is a huge accomplishment and shows the positive impact she is making. Congratulations, Cyanna!

J.J-F, Year 6

Jasmina received the *Headteacher's Shout Out* on 13 February 2026 for her increased participation in lessons. This is a wonderful example of growing confidence and engagement in learning. Brilliant work, Jasmina, we're proud of you!

✨ Keep pushing yourselves and celebrating your successes. You are all doing amazing things!