



Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a very busy year so far with teachers preparing for their new GCSE and A Level specifications and the new Key Stage 3 assessment progress path taking shape. Confidence is high and we have taken every opportunity for collaboration with our local schools both primary and secondary to share practice and make sure we are getting it right for all. Could I also thank you for your feedback at parents' evening and other events. We have used this to inform our plans for next year and will give you a full report in the next newsletter.

In light of this, it is amazing that the richness of extra-curricular opportunities for students continues to rise, no small testament to the dedication of staff who go that extra mile to make a difference. I know you will enjoy reading about these in this edition.

The students have also made significant contributions, none more so than in the area of leadership. We are now in transition as our Year 11 and Year 13 move into the examination period and our new apprentices step up to the roles of prefects, subject ambassadors and Sixth Form leaders. I would like to thank our Headgirl Maya Jackson Hobbs and Deputy Headgirl Gabriella Joseph for their sterling representation of the school at public and internal events. Also thanks to the prefects who have worked so well as a team to support each other and the staff, and to our subject ambassadors and members of the student leadership team who have also made a real difference. I know the high standards they have set have set a challenge for our newcomers. I wish everyone the success they truly deserve in their examinations.

Many of you will be aware of the recent post 16 review which has been carried out by the national government – Birmingham was one of the first LA's to undergo this. Whilst recommendations affect college rather than school sixth forms, we need to be aware of the potential changing local scene. Birmingham carried out its own city wide school sixth form review and I am pleased to note that our results are amongst the very highest and our curriculum offer one of the broadest of any in the city. Over the next few months we will be seeking to create an even closer alliance with Kings Norton Boys' School to ensure that our already strong and successful Sixth Form partnership continues to provide the best offer possible in years to come.

Gill Fox - Headteacher



Vacancy

Invigilators required to help oversee our examinations. Please contact the Exam Secretary, Karen Williams (kwilliams@kngs.co.uk) for further details.

Dates for your Diary

- ◆ **Monday 16th May - Friday 10th June** - Year 12 Study Leave
- ◆ **Monday 23rd - Friday 27th June** - Year 7 & 8 Exams
- ◆ **Friday 27th May** - Sixth Form Leavers Assembly
- ◆ **Friday 27th May** - Year 11 & Year 13 Study Leave
- ◆ **Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June** - Half Term Break
- ◆ **Monday 27th June & Tuesday 28th June** - Whole School Open Mornings (9 - 11am)
- ◆ **Thursday 30th June** - Sixth Form Leavers Ball
- ◆ **Monday 4th July** - Year 12 Transition Week
- ◆ **Monday 11th July** - Early Closure - 1pm
- ◆ **Tuesday 12th July** - Sports Day
- ◆ **Friday 15th July** - School Fete
- ◆ **Friday 15th July** - Year 7,8 & 9 School Reports
- ◆ **Monday 18th - Friday 22nd July** - Year 10 Work Experience
- ◆ **Friday 22nd July** - School Closes for Summer
- ◆ **Exam Results:** 18th August - A-Level Results Day & 25th August - GCSE Results Day

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

VISIT TO FRENCH CAPITAL

Sixth Formers Enjoy Educational Visit to Paris

Thirty Sixth Form students studying Art, Photography, Textiles or French took part in an educational visit to Paris in February. The four day excursion was crammed full of visits to galleries, museums and notable landmarks including the Eiffel tower, Montparnasse, Sacré-Cœur and the Arc de Triomphe.



An enjoyable and productive time was had by all despite tired feet from copious amounts of walking, sight-seeing and soaking up the French culture. Students gathered invaluable research and resources from the visit, directly informing their current coursework.

The tour company representative and coach driver were impressed by the maturity and well-mannered nature of our students; a credit to our Sixth Form.

YEAR 8 SKI TRIP

Visit to Torgon

33 of our girls and 3 staff endured the 20+ hour coach journey to Torgon Switzerland, and then all went 'downhill' from there - quite literally!

We had the best snow week of the season with beautiful mountains covered in powdery snow. Most of our girls (from Year 8) were skiing beginners, their first time skiing on snow, but the instructors were amazed at how quickly they learned. By day two most were off to a different valley where they progressed to ski on blue slopes (ski slopes are colour coded for their level of difficulty). The staff were very proud to witness the improvement of KNGS girls with some mastering red slopes by day 4. Whilst 5 hour lessons a day was physically tiring they loved the experience and were keen to ski again. The evening entertainment included roller disco, climbing wall and a night walk/snow swim!

Thanks to Miss Bridgett & Miss Wattison for a fantastic week, and to Mrs Curry for her organisation pre-trip. One of the highlights for me was seeing the groups social interaction and not miss their phones!

Well done on your impeccable behaviour and brilliant ski progress.

Mr Steele



I had a fantastic and memorable time on the ski trip this week. I learnt and did things that I thought I could never do.

Opening a World of Opportunities

STUDY TRIP TO KENYA

Mrs O'Connor Visits Nairobi

As part of our work with TIDE Global Learning and the 'Young People on the Global Stage' Project I was lucky enough to take part in a study visit to Nairobi over half time. The project is focused on raising awareness and understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals and how to educate young people and raise participation.



The project was a collaboration between educators in the UK, Spain, Kenya and the Gambia meaning I got the chance to learn not just about the SDGs but also about teaching and learning approaches from different countries. The main aim of the study visit was to exchange ideas, share experiences and knowledge on sustainable development Issues and to hold a workshop towards resource development and a final communiqué by the young people.

The first half of the week was jam-packed with field visits to schools, charities and other organisations working towards sustainability. The second part focused on working as an inter-cultural team to develop resources and ideas for teaching in our different countries.

Too many highlights to mention; the inspirational 'Environment Group' at Lenana school who gave us lots of ideas for how we can practically engage our students; the Giraffe Centre who introduced us to their work with disadvantaged children and a visit to Tumaini School in Kibera – the largest informal settlement in Africa who are changing the lives of the young people they educate. There's still much follow up work to be done, but the week was an incredible and unforgettable experience which I hope will impact our students for some time to come.

Mrs O'Connor

AMNESTY YOUTH GROUP

Supports Women in Burkino Faso

Just before the Easter holidays our Amnesty Youth Group got busy preparing triangles which will be made into bunting and sent to brighten up women's refuges in Burkino Faso. Women in Burkino Faso are often forced into marriage by their families. Young girls can be forced to marry men much older than themselves. Some women manage to escape these marriages by running away, some walking over 100 miles to seek safety. Over 30 triangles have been decorated with message of support for these women and will be sewn into bunting with triangles from other groups around the UK before being sent to Burkino Faso to bring some cheer to the women who have suffered so much.



In late December the Burkina Faso authorities adopted a national strategy and three-year action plan to prevent and eliminate child marriage in Burkina Faso. This is fantastic news, but there is still much work to be done to ensure girls don't end up forced into marriage in the future. From April 18th to July 18th this year the Department for International Development (DfID) will be doubling money raised by Amnesty to support a project to prevent cases of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Early Forced Marriage (EFM) in Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone. KNGS Amnesty Youth Group will therefore be organising some fundraising events to support this campaign. We hope you will support us!

The Amnesty Youth Group meets in room 21 at lunchtime on Fridays - new members are always welcome.

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AMNESTY YOUTH GROUP WINS COMPETITION

Hand Up for The Human Rights Act Campaign

The KNGS Amnesty Youth Group has just won a competition held by Amnesty UK for running a successful "Hands Up For The Human Rights Act" campaign. Amnesty UK is now using a photograph of the banner that was produced by KNGS during the campaign to highlight the need to keep a robust Human Rights Act as their lead photo in their bulletins for the next stage of the campaign. Well done, girls!



SIXTH FORM RS TRIP

When in Rome...

“ The Year 12 and 13 RS trip in March to Rome was undoubtedly a fantastic experience. Few cities can rival Rome's astonishing artistic and cultural heritage and it was great to catch an insight whilst visiting the capital. In Italy you find more than half of the works of art and sights of the entire world which is one of the reasons for an excellent trip.

We arrived at St Peters Square for the Papal audience on the first day with it being difficult to not get swept up by the excitement of attending.



The Audience with the Pope consisted of small teachings and readings mainly in Italian but also in English, French, German, Spanish, Polish and Portuguese.

Following this we had a self-guided visit of the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel and St Peters Basilica. In the evening, we visited the Trevi Fountain, which is said to be fantastic in the evening time and this did not disappoint. We tossed our coins into the fountain over our left shoulders in hope that Mr Ahmedi will book Rome again for next year's RS trip. Coins are purportedly meant to be thrown using the right hand over the left shoulder which is said to ensure a return visit to Rome in the future. We learnt that an estimated 3,000 Euros are thrown into the fountain each day and the money is donated to Caritas, a catholic charity, which uses the money to provide services for needy families in Rome.

The following days we visited the Piazza Navona, the Pantheon and the Spanish steps. We had a self-guided tour of the Colosseum, the Palatine Hill and the Roman Forum. We concluded our trip at the Catacombs.

Reflecting on the trip, it was truly a great and humorous experience with a jam packed itinerary. On behalf of both Year 12 and 13, we would like to thank the RS department for organising the trip. With a big thanks to Mrs Paul and Mr Ahmedi.



By Lucy Roe K6-2

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10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Exchange with Gymnasium Melle

In February we set off on a very special exchange to celebrate 10 years of friendship with Gymnasium Melle, we were delighted Ms Fox was able to join the group for the first three days. Our students had a taste of life in a German school, attending lessons with their German partner on 3 mornings.

We also enjoyed a huge Kaffee und Kuchen celebration for our special anniversary where we could try out lots of delicious German home-made cakes. The Mayor of Melle joined us along with some German staff and students who have taken part over the last 10 years. There was a special “memory tree” which will be planted in the school grounds later. On the trip we were invited to sign Melle’s “Golden Book” at the town hall which marks special occasions in the town.

As part of the visit we travelled to Berlin with our German partners. Over 2 days we visited many places including the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag building (seat of the German government), the Holocaust memorial, saw remnants of the Berlin Wall and visited landmark Alexander Turm, an iconic East German building from the era of divided Berlin. A thorough work out for our historians!

We would also like to give a very special thank you this year to Frau Steffi Neumann who has run the exchange in Germany since it began 10 years ago. She has worked tirelessly to keep the exchange running smoothly over the years. She is now standing down from the exchange team and letting younger staff take the strain. Many, many thanks.

Another big thank you to Miss Magné who has been an invaluable help in the organisation of the exchange on 6 of the 10 exchanges. We now look forward to the next 10 years of intercultural exchange!



YEAR 11 DEBATE THE BIG QUESTIONS

In the first ever KNKS RS Conference

The RE department organised an exciting Religious Studies conference for all Year 11 students on Thursday 17th March. The aim of the conference was to help girls build upon their knowledge, understanding and skills and to prepare for their forthcoming GCSE examinations.

The event was run by Candle Conferences, an internationally renowned leader in RS student conferences, with the main presenter being Dr Peter Vardy, a well-known academic, philosopher and author.

During the conference, girls were able to engage with a range of ethical issues, including abortion, euthanasia/assisted dying, IVF and genetic engineering. They were made to think hard (and staff too!) about various moral dilemmas, but rose to the challenge and really impressed our guest speaker with how well they articulated their points and participated in the discussions - the highlight being a debate about human genetic engineering when so many of them participated with great enthusiasm and shared very carefully considered views on a difficult topic. They did KNKS proud!

The girls got a great deal out of the conference with many of them saying they were further inspired to take up A level RS.

The RE department is very grateful to anyone and everyone who contributed in any way, especially the site team (Kevin/Lee), ICT/catering (Chris/Chloe), TAs and teachers who helped to supervise.

Mr W Ahmedi, Head of RE



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PSHE

Health Days

This year we have been fortunate to have some great visitors in school as well as having some interesting PSHE sessions with KNGS staff. Each year group has had a health day, either in December or February. Students looked at a range of topics that are important and interesting to consider. Our health days provide a vital opportunity to add to our PSHE provision within school.

Several year groups started their day watching the Riverside Performing Arts (RPA) performance 'It's Complicated' which focused on navigating relationships, friendship and social networks. RPA followed up their performances with interactive workshops to Year 8 and 9.

We welcomed a new visitor into school this year, Adellah, who held the unwavering attention of Year 10 and 11's for an hour as she shared her life story. Adellah explained how she ended up a very young mum and how she developed a drug habit and the difficulties she has faced. She was very honest and open with students. The most striking part of her sharing was how inspirational she was and how passionate she was about empowering and motivating our

students to make the most of all of their opportunities. One of student feedback, **"I learnt that you can change your future by changing your actions. She was quite honest and inspirational because she has gone through so much but still has a positive mindset"**.



"It's Complicated" performance by RPA

We also welcomed back Lynwen who is a SRE consultant. She led sessions with Year 8 and 11. Lynwen delivers sex education in a warm, safe and honest forum. Miss Davies from our KNGS Science Department also provided sex education to Year 7. The girls always share that they feel comfortable and learn so much from these sessions, 'Sex education was very helpful and I learnt new things and questions were answered'.



We also benefitted from the expertise of St Johns who led 2 different practical sessions on the recovery position and bleeding. These were interactive and girls had great opportunity to practise some vital first aid skills, **"we got to use proper bandages and practise the real thing"**.

With Year 10 and 11 in particularly facing some pressure and stress from GCSE studies, we wanted to provide space and guidance on learning relaxation techniques that might support them in dealing with stress when they face it. We welcomed back Lynette who led a session on relaxation with Year 10, particularly focusing on

massage techniques. I know several staff benefitted from being her guinea pig as she demonstrated massage techniques to students! Mrs Tattersfield also provided her expertise in relaxation techniques with Year 11. It was definitely the most tranquil and chilled out room in school that day as many students were led into slumber!

Year 10 took a practical approach to looking at different kinds of exercise classes they may look into especially when they leave school, I hope many enjoyed Mrs Hawksworth's Abba music!

Women's aid again delivered thought through workshops with Year 8 on grooming and domestic violence with year 11. **"Women's aid taught me about signs of abuse in a relationship and what to do if it happened"**.

Other topics studied throughout the day included healthy lifestyles, fire safety, friendships, parenting, FGM and forced marriage.



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CAREERS WORKSHOPS - FEEDING BRIATIN'S FUTURES

Future First & Institute of Grocery Distribution

Students in Year 9 and the Sixth Form took part in two workshops that provided an invaluable insight into the world of work, and also supported students in understanding how their skills and strengths relate to the world of work.

Delivered by the institute of Grocery Distribution in conjunction with the Alumni Charity Future First, the workshops gave students the chance to work with a range of business people including volunteers from Sainsbury's,



Brakes, Allied Bakeries and Purity Soft Drinks.

The Year 9 workshop looked at 'How subjects relate to jobs' whilst Sixth Formers discussed 'The hidden job market: networking and career pathways'. The feedback from the students who attended these workshop was extremely positive, in particular being given the opportunity to talk to senior people in business and openly ask them questions about their own career pathways.

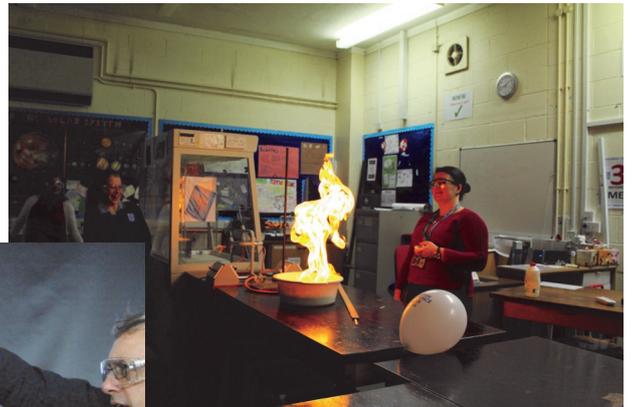


BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

The Wonder Room

To celebrate British Science Week (14th– 18th March) the Science Department opened up the 'Wonder Room' during the Wednesday lunchtime where there was a circus of explosive chemistry, gooey biology and fascinating physics showcased by the staff.

The event was really well attended and the girls enjoyed the range of demonstrations and activities on display!



The Big Science Quiz: Teachers vs. Sixth Form

The Sixth Form took on the Science Department staff for the 'Big Science Quiz' during the Friday lunchtime. Two Teams of Sixth Formers battled it out against staff.

Whilst the staff took the lead the Sixth Form teams did themselves extremely proud coming in a close second and certainly gave the staff a run for their money!

Well done to all involved!



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SCIENCE CLUB

Valentine Special

Our Year 7 Science club was invited to dissect real hearts for Valentine's Day. The club began with Miss Crewe showing them an Ox's heart before the students watched a short video about some of the structures that they may find when they conduct their own dissections.

Some girls were apprehensive at first but soon all of the students were involved and dissected the hearts with care and maturity. Well done to all of the girls who took part in the Science club and a big thank you to our Year 10 Science Ambassadors who supported Miss Crewe and Mr Rohman at the club.



'EQUALITY STREET'

Performance for Years 8 & 9



Year 8 and 9 spent the morning on Tuesday 23rd February watching a performance by Riverside Performing Arts called 'Equality Street'. This piece of documentary theatre was engaging, interactive, humorous and really quite thought provoking.

The performance focused on the theme of equality and looked at issues like respect, diversity, racism, tolerance and acceptance. The performance explored ways in which people can be treated with inequality, how it can make people feel and questioned what treating others equally looks like? The performance was emotive and there was at times an audible reaction by the girls towards characters and storylines, whether it was shock, amusement or empathy and compassion.

YEAR 12 PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP

Coventry University

In February, 8 Year 12 Photography students were invited by Coventry University Photography Department to view an exhibition called 'Semi-Natural' staged by the 2nd Year students. They then did a workshop together inspired by the images they had seen.

The university students were most impressed by the quality of our work produced. We were made to feel really welcome and were impressed by the passion and standard of the university students' work. We were also shown around the Photography Department and were most jealous particularly of their high quality resources, especially the darkroom. Many enthusiastic tweets followed, and we hope to welcome some university students here to KNGS before the end of the SummerTerm. **"A really inspirational and memorable day"** said one KNGS student echoing the opinions of all. As a result of this trip there is a plan to stage a pop-up exhibition too. Watch this space!



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CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

Easter Celebrations

Members of the KNGS Creative Writing Club recently celebrated their achievements throughout the Spring Term with a lively Easter party. The club meets every week, providing a friendly, welcoming environment in which keen writers from any year group can develop their skills and give free rein to their imaginations.

We are currently preparing entries for an anthology of pupil writing, with our Year 10 English Ambassadors mentoring younger students and proofreading their work. Our club members are showing real commitment and enthusiasm; among the faces in this photo could be the bestselling authors of the future!



Dr Sarah O'Mahony

OTHELLO

Birmingham School of Acting Visit

Our Year 12 English Literature students took part in an 'Othello' workshop with the Birmingham School of Acting. The actors had recently starred in a production of 'Othello' at the Birmingham Hippodrome and shared some advice on how to interpret the characters using the play text.



The students enjoyed performing the ending of 'Othello' along with the actors. They especially enjoyed thinking about the effects of Shakespeare's stagecraft and how stagecraft can heighten the tragedy of the play. The workshop stimulated some exciting discussion in class about the staging of Shakespeare's play. We would like to thank the Birmingham School of Acting for giving up their time to help us. Check out their website to see what's on and book tickets for their future shows: www.bcu.ac.uk/acting/whats-on

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Bronze Awards

A massive congratulations to our last cohort of D of E students who completed their bronze award over the last academic year. Much hard work and determination was needed to succeed. A huge range of activities were used to complete their awards from charity shop jobs, fitness club, photography, baking and even knitting! This year sees a 100% completion rate of awards. Well done Year 11 on setting the standard for future year groups!



Over the next term, Year 10 will be completing their expeditions for their bronze awards. I am sure you will all join me in wishing them luck and keep your fingers crossed for some good weather!

A massive thank you to all the staff who support D of E either on expedition or behind the scenes to ensure the smooth operation of the award. Finally, we are very much looking forward to our visit to Buckingham Palace Gardens for the Gold Award Presentation on Monday 16th May. More in the next issue...

Mr Willis

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STUDENT LEADERSHIP

STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP



Student Leadership Group Feedback

Last half term SLG members ran assemblies to feed back to their houses about the positive impacts achieved since the start of the year. These included;

- Construction of a new canopy near the Sixth Form block
- Paper recycling in classrooms and cans/bottles in the canteen
- New fans and UV odour controllers in the toilets

Our next focus is the canteen; SLG members are canvassing views and will meet with the catering team soon.

Recycling Scheme

As mentioned above, one SLG victory has been making sure we have recycling bags in every classroom and office. Students have started to run a rota to empty these bags regularly. If your daughter would like to help keep the school tidy and to lessen environmental impacts, please encourage her to sign up to be a recycling rep.

Swanshurst Student Leadership Conference



On Tuesday 22nd March a group of Year 10 Student Leaders spent a day developing their leadership skills and understanding at Swanshurst School. Young leaders from 5 local schools attended and were treated to a keynote speech from Satnam Rana who talked about her experiences of leadership in her role within the media and at The BBC and encouraged young women to assert themselves and be confident in what they could offer. The girls then took part in a carousel activity with professionals from a variety of careers and work environments to help understand what skills and attributes helped get people to the top of challenging professions. Next was an Apprentice-style creative task where teams were challenged to design the marketing and

brand strategy for a follow up conference with the winners having their ideas developed professionally. After a fantastic lunch, with a chance to mingle with other schools, we went in to the final afternoon sessions which focused on different aspects of school leadership. The team was buzzing with excitement and ideas at the end of the day and we're now thinking of how we can feed the lessons of the conference into our leadership work.

"Thanks so much for today, really worthwhile" - Lucy Wilkes

Prefects

Our fantastic Year 11 prefect team have contributed so much to the school this year and have supported staff wonderfully. As one team moves on, another is appointed and after a very intense period of applications, shortlisting and interviews we are delighted to announce our new team. After training by the current team they have already begun their duties. Congratulations to all those appointed, and many thanks to those who are moving on.



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INCLUSION DEPARTMENT

Ambassadors

Congratulations to the following girls who have been appointed as subject ambassadors for the Inclusion Department:

- Fizzah Ali
- Kansah Asif
- Israel Beckford Armstrong
- Yusur Farah
- Anna McFadzean
- Julia Moody
- Anjani Parmar
- Hannah Watkins



So far this year, the girls have raised money for Comic Relief by running a Cake Sale. At Easter they organised a popular Easter Egg Design Competition for pupils – congratulations to the winner, Sophie Linforth (Yr 8) and runner-up, Precious Huilar (Yr 8). In addition, they design fabulous monthly awareness raising posters about a range of Special Educational Needs and Disability issues, which are distributed to all forms. Well done to the girls for such an enthusiastic, active start to the year. We are excited about seeing you developing your skills, and look forward to more of your initiatives as the year progresses.

SUCCESSES

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL GAMES

Gymnastics Competition

On Tuesday 15th March, Kings Norton Girls from Years 7, 8 and 9 went to the Munrow Sports Centre at the University of Birmingham to compete at the Birmingham Schools Gymnastics Competition. During the competition the girls had to perform a floor routine and two vaults against many different schools.

The results were:

Year 7 – Team

1st place

Year 7 - Vault

1st – Amelia Lane

2nd – Scarlett Ryley

3rd – Erin Field

Year 7 - Floor

1st – Amelia Lane & Chloe Ashmore (joint winners)

2nd – Erin Field

3rd – Scarlett Ryley

4th – Lucy Attrill

Year 7 - Overall Individuals

1st – Amelia Lane

2nd – Erin Field

3rd – Scarlett Ryley

Special mentions

To Amelia Lane who won 4/4 GOLD MEDALS!

BIG Thank you to Miss Wattison for being the mini bus driver, routine maker and the best coach ever!



INTERMEDIATE MATHS TRUST CHALLENGE



128 Students Take Part

On 4 February, 128 of our Years 9,10 and 11 girls took part in the UKMT Intermediate Challenge, a national mathematical competition.

They had to answer 25 multiple choice questions which tested their problem-solving skills. Questions later in the paper were worth more marks but also marks were lost for questions answered incorrectly!

Thousands of students took part around the UK and we are proud to announce that these students won awards as listed on the right.

In addition, Charlotte and Candice qualified to compete in the pink and the grey Kangaroo rounds which are international competitions. BRILLIANT!

Congratulations from everybody in the Maths Department

GOLD

Year 10 Charlotte Bice

SILVER

Year 10 Emily Brook

Year 9 Mia Gray

Year 10 Zoe Harfield

Year 10 Kate Haxhia

Year 10 Emily Humphreys

Year 10 Katie Powell

Year 9 Candice Russell

Year 10 Emilie Yates

BRONZE

Year 11 Claire Angus

Year 10 Beth Brenchley

Year 11 Jess Davies

Year 11 Elisha Gretton

Year 10 Carmel Hayes

Year 9 Jennifer Hwang

Year 10 Holly Leach

Year 11 Georgia O'Connor

Year 9 Anna Underwood

VALERIE EVANS SCIENCE AWARD



Launched at KNGS with a Year 10 Competition

KNGS and Birmingham Soroptimists are delighted to be collaborating on the launch of the inaugural Valerie Evans Science Award.

Valerie Evans was awarded the National Association of Women's Organisations (NAWO) Elder Award on 25 June 2015. Sadly Valerie passed away before she could receive it, however her family has asked that the Soroptimist International Central Birmingham (SICB) use her award for a project linked to encouraging girls to study scientific and technological subjects in her memory. Kings Norton Girls' School are delighted to have been approached to work in partnership to launch the award.

In the very first event, **Year 10 Girls are being invited to write an essay about an inspirational female scientist and her research.** The scientists chosen by the girls may be current and influential with their research.

The essay should be between 1000 and 1500 words and be **submitted to Miss Crewe by email by 20th May.** The winning girls will receive a prize to spend on furthering their science education and all girls who participate will receive a certificate.

POETRY BY HEART CENTRAL WEST FINALIST

Well done Emily!



Emily Sandford and the other 40 county competition winners and their teachers gathered at Homerton College on Thursday 17th March for the Poetry by Heart final. In addition to watching fellow competitors recite, Emily enjoyed a range of activities including tours of Cambridge, creative writing workshops, guided relaxation sessions and talks on applying to Cambridge University.

Emily achieved outstanding success by winning the Birmingham & West Midlands country contest and competing in an extremely strong field in the Central West regional semi-final. She went on to win the Regional heat and represented the Central West as one of the eight finalists to

recite in front of a distinguished panel of judges from the world of poetry including Andrew Motion, Jean Sprackland, Daljit Nagra, Patience Agbabi, Glyn Maxwell and Tim Dee.

It was a remarkable event and Emily's performance of Mary Borden's 'Song of the Mud' was very moving and made her a deserved winner!

Opening a World of Opportunities

MATHS, GLORIOUS MATHS!

Year 10 Maths Feast

On the 11th February, four KNGS mathematicians headed to the University of Birmingham. Competing as one of 20 teams from the Birmingham region in the Further Maths Support Programme's Year 10 Maths Feast, Charlotte Bice (K4), Zoe Harfield (N4), Kate Haxhia (S1) and Alex Whittall (N3) did themselves and KNGS proud. In a strongly competitive environment, they put into practice the strong problem-solving, questioning and investigative skills developed in KNGS maths lessons. The girls' applied themselves to understanding and manipulating complex numbers (A-Level Further Maths): a comprehension task at which our girls showed great resilience, while other teams' confidence crumbled!

Having out-performed all the other non-selective schools in the area, and some of the grammar teams, our girls finished in a very close fourth place, just half a point behind third. Congratulations to the team – and an honourable mention to the selected reserve team member, Emilie Yates (K6), who also trained with dedication in the months preceding the competition.

The Year 10 girls were swiftly followed by a team of KS3 pupils for the regional final of the UKMT Mathematics Team Challenge, in March. Our fab foursome Kylene Santos (G7), Jennifer Hwang (S7), Hannah Pulford (K5) and Mary Glasby (K7), enjoyed the challenge immensely, despite being disappointed in their final ranking, 13 out of 26 teams. They are all looking forward to the possible team competitions they could be a part of next year, and to the lunch time maths puzzle club which the Year 10 Maths Feast team have now launched. I was very proud to take these girls on the trip, as teachers present from other schools noted the KNGS students' team spirit, enthusiasm and genuine gratitude. A real credit to themselves, their families and the school.

Mrs Statter



KINGS NORTON ROTARY CLUB COMPETITION

KNGS Winners



The Art Department are proud to announce that three Year 12 Art students were awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in senior category of the Kings Norton Rotary Club 'Art on a Postcard' Competition. They competed against students representing secondary schools and Sixth Form colleges from across the region. The Rotary Club Chairman, Mr Colin Guy, acknowledged that the standard was extremely high, making judging the competition difficult. We are so proud of all the students that took part.

- Brittany Foster 1st place: 'The Fallen', graphite (pictured right)
- Hannah Gordon 2nd place: Paris street study, ink and stick
- Emily Fisher 3rd place: 'Claustrophobia', Mono-type print (pictured left)



CRUFTS PERFORMANCE

Jasmine Aitken & Woody

Huge congratulations to Jasmine Aitken (N7) and her pet dog Woody who were selected for the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Gold Team to display at Crufts back in March.

Jasmine put a lot of hard work into training Woody to gold standard and to be selected for the display team. As a result Jasmine and the team performed in the main arena at the competition. Those in charge of the display commented on how "mature and reliable Jasmine was, and a credit to Kings Norton Girls' School as well as herself."

Jasmine was the only young girl on the team, which makes her achievement all the greater - well done Jasmine!

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OUR LEARNING HUB

WORLD BOOK WEEK

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday, 3 March 2016 and to highlight the importance of 'reading for pleasure' the Learning Hub and English Department held a whole week of different book related events.

The first event was the KNGS **Book Character Fancy Dress Day** which was held on Friday, 26 February 2016. Both staff and pupils were invited to dress up as any character from a book. There was a wide selection of 'characters' on the day, including 'Fantastic Mr Fox' and 'Lady Macbeth'. Judging took place during lunchtime in the Learning Hub. The winning



members of staff were two of the lunchtime supervisors who made a massive effort and dressed as Oompa Loompa's. The winning pupil was Nicola Linforth who dressed up as Gangster Granny.



This fantastic event was then followed by a busy weekend of baking as pupils took part in the next event the **Great Book Cake Off**. Ms Fox was invited to judge the cakes and after a very difficult decision an Alice in Wonderland themed cake baked and decorated by Phoebe Collins, Libby Styles and Hannah Nixon from Year 8 was chosen. I would like to congratulate everyone who took part because all the cakes really were fantastic and could have been made by professional cake decorators.

We also held a **Literary Quiz for Year 9 pupils**. The initial rounds took place during English lessons. Teams of four pupils from the four houses were then chosen to compete in the final. All four teams took part in the first round, which was the buzzer round. The most successful two teams then went ahead to battle it out in the final round. Both teams were neck and neck and extra questions need to be asked in order to decide a winner. In the end Nightingale triumphed.

On Wednesday, Year 8 took part in '**Drop Everything and Read**'. Teachers chose reading material which was relevant to their subject, this included material from books, newspaper articles and magazines. This was a really successful event which demonstrated the importance of reading across the curriculum.

And finally on Thursday 3rd March, years 7 and 8 were lucky enough to have a special **visit from the author, David Massey**.

Amy Pagnam & Hannah Taheem – Year 8 wrote:

"He has written two awe-inspiring novels – Torn and Taken. As well as giving a presentation about his books and how and why he has chosen to become an author. He also ran a creative writing workshop with the pupils from Ms O'Mahony's creative writing club. This was about how to create and develop characters. It was a great workshop and we all really loved the opportunity to work with the author. We feel that we have learnt a great deal about creating our own characters. We thank Mrs Edwards and Ms O'Mahony for organising this event."



TEA, CAKE & LITERARY DISCUSSION GROUP

The Year 7 pupil and parent 'Tea Cake and Literary Discussion' Group held their second meeting on Tuesday, 22 March 2016. Miss Walker, Second in English, gave a talk about the importance of poetry in the new English curriculum. She demonstrated how pupils and parents could analyse poetry together and techniques to learn poetry by heart. Mrs Edwards, Head of Library and Research, then introduced the Carnegie Shadowing Scheme which members of the group were invited to take part in.

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SIXTH FORM NEWS

CHALLENGE DAY UNI VISITS



The University of
Nottingham

Challenge day took place on Thursday 11th February. Our Year 12's were divided into two groups and visited either Nottingham or Bristol University. The trip was a valuable one to give our students, who are deciding on their options post-18, an insight into University life and all that it entails! Taster lectures were given on the day, tours of the specific campus, and information about accommodation.

Our Year 13's took part in the Health Day mentioned in an earlier article.

PERIOD 6 STUDY SESSIONS

The whole of the Sixth Form team have been impressed with the turn out to these study sessions that took place after school. They ran from February until April with the aim of supporting students in preparing for their summer examinations by using past papers and mark schemes.

Teaching staff were incredibly supportive and helpful by supplying students with this material, and we would like to thank parents for their support during that time also.

UCAS APPLICATIONS

In total there are 69 students currently in receipt of conditional or unconditional offers for university. With courses reading from Medicine to Product Design, we know that our students will be working towards achieving their future goals and we wish them all the very best.

When Year 12 return we will be embarking on their UCAS process.

CAPGEMINI WORKSHOP

In March our Year 12 students who study Science, Maths, Business Studies or Information Technology at A Level were invited to attend a valuable and interactive workshop about women entering into careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Students were given a scenario of a business and were asked to present a marketing pitch on how they would improve it to a panel of judges. It was an exciting, nerve-wracking, fun experience. Students reported that they found it very insightful and it made them think of careers that they had not initially.



The winning team will be visiting Capgemini offices and have a luxury meal! Well done!

YEAR 12 & 13 TO REVISE

A reminder for Year 12 and 13 to revise and prepare for their internal and external examinations using post-it notes and revision tips. They have been given revision tips and guidance hand-outs during their form time in the mornings to encourage interactive and worthwhile revision!

We would like to wish all our students good luck in their upcoming exams!

WORK EXPERIENCE

A reminder to all Year 12 about the importance of gaining work experience over the summer holidays. Particularly important for personal statements and interviews where this can be invaluable in helping to secure a place in a competitive post-18 environment.

REMINDERS

Sixth Formers have now been presented with lanyards in the colour of their houses to wear. These lanyards are attached to plastic wallets which hold the students pass in. It is very important that students remember to wear their lanyards as it is a security measure and enables individuals to identify them as being a part of the school.

Furthermore, we would like to remind parents and students about the importance of **business wear** in the Sixth form. Now that the summer is fast approaching we expect students to be mindful of this.

The following are not acceptable: jeans, shorts, trainers and crop tops.

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HOUSE NEWS

SPELLING BEE

Inter-House Competition

A buzz was in the air on the 21st of March as the Inter-house Spelling Bee returned to the Learning Hub. Each house was represented by a team of four pupils from Years 7 and 8, who put their spelling skills to the test in front of an enthusiastic and supportive audience.

Our Year 10 English Ambassadors helped to run the competition, with Amal Umar and Chloe Aggrey pronouncing the words. All sixteen competitors performed confidently, managing to spell some challenging words; as the level of difficulty increased and the tension mounted, audience members provided excellent support for their house teams. Up for grabs were prizes for both the individual winners and the highest-scoring house team. The bronze medallist was Jessica Bann, of Nightingale House, while Ellie-May Finlay-Harrison, of Goodall, secured silver; Ellen Attrill, of Keller, put in an impressive performance which won her the gold medal and a huge round of well-deserved applause. Competition for the house trophy was close, with the Keller team taking second place after spelling a total of fifteen words correctly, and Goodall lifting the trophy – previously held by Nightingale - with a total of seventeen words. Look out for the return of the Spelling Bee in the summer term!

Dr O'Mahony



SPORTS RELIEF 2016

Inter-House Competition

Students and staff in true tradition rose to the **Sports Relief Challenge** again this year. The challenge set was to *ROW* to the top of Everest the Earth's highest mountain!

Each form group selected 5 students, one student per year group to take on the challenge of reaching the peak - 8,848m above sea level! These students alongside other members of their house and staff competed in the team challenge.



As well as completing the 8,848m distance there was also the task of being the first House to reach the top!

A massive well done to all those involved and to all those who turned out to support the challenge! Congratulations to **Nightingale** on rowing to the top in the fastest time!

And a HUGE well done to everybody at KNGS for raising a grand total £713



THE GAUNTLET GAMES

A HUGE well done to **Goodall House** for accruing the most amount of points in the Inter-House Gauntlet Games Challenge last term. The Challenges are proving to be very popular on Friday lunchtimes, attracting quite a crowd of spectators. This terms Gauntlet Challenges have already kicked off with a T-shirt Challenge and a Dance Off Challenge.

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