



Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

A busy term is reaching its conclusion but the run up to Christmas is more hectic than ever with Year 11 exams, fund raising events, concert preparation as well as the normal round of activities.

We were delighted to hear on 18th November that 2016's GCSE results put us in the top 10% of all schools nationally for progress. Particular congratulations must go to English who were in the top 2% and science in the top 6%.

We have had significant success this year so far in securing a very successful transition into the Sixth Form from Year 11 through the new skills programme. Also in supporting Year 12 students to achieve their goals through the truly inspirational mentoring programme which employees from Lloyds Bank our new Business Link are leading. Both of these are showing an impact on readiness for A Level and on achievement. Sixth Form students for the first time led the November open evening for those wishing to join our Sixth Form next year; I have to agree with the feedback, they were very impressive! They have also been challenging themselves to go that step beyond by throwing their all into the Lord Mayor's Quiz, Sixth Form maths competitions and Business Enterprise Challenges.

Thank you for your continued support for your children and the school, none of this would be possible without it.

I hope you have managed to secure a copy of our book "We are Writers" to snuggle up with, in those rare moments you may snatch for yourself over the hols! I was stunned by the quality of the writing and the creativity of the pieces chosen.

Finally, whatever else you do this Christmas, I wish you and your family a very happy and peaceful time together.

Gill Fox - Headteacher



Dates for your Diary

- ◆ **Monday 19th - Friday 30th December** - Christmas Break
- ◆ **Monday 2nd January** - Bank Holiday
- ◆ **Tuesday 3rd January** - Review Day. **Please note students in school for Review appointments only (Parents are welcome) No lessons EXCEPT Year 11 RS Sessions** (9-11.30am and 12.30-3pm)
- ◆ **Wednesday 4th January** - Lessons as normal
- ◆ **Wednesday 4th January - Friday 13th January** - Year 12 & 13 Formal Assessments
- ◆ **Tuesday 10th January** - Year 11 Parents as Partners, 4.30pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Thursday 26th January** - Year 10 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Thursday 31st January** - Year 8 Parents as Partners, Invitees only
- ◆ **Tuesday 7th February** - Year 12 & 13 Parents as Partners, Invitees only
- ◆ **Wednesday 8th February** - Staff Training, **EARLY CLOSURE FOR ALL STUDENTS, 12 noon FINISH**
- ◆ **Monday 20th - Friday 24th February** - Half Term Break

Anti-Bullying Week Survey

Thank you for your feedback on your recent survey during Bullying Awareness Week at the end of November. Your comments will inform our work whose aim is to eliminate this from our school community. I note that some of you are unaware of our Anti Bullying Policy or how to report bullying. The policy is on our website under "About Us/ Policies". You will also find our Communications Chart under Policies which helps you to find out who best to contact for whatever situation. In the case of a bullying concern the Form Tutor would be the first point of contact followed by the Head of House.

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

KNGS STUDENTS BECOME PUBLISHED AUTHORS

Creative Writing Club Showcase Talent

Over the past year, members of our KNKS Creative Writing Club have been producing stories and poems which reflect their diverse interests and writing styles. Their hard work and passion for writing has led to the publication of a fantastic book, professionally printed by Scholastic Press, with the contents ranging from poems and short stories to extracts from ambitious novels. Spanning genres from terrifying horror to inventive fantasy and everyday realism, our budding writers have covered it all! Our anthology, which truly contains something for everyone, was launched on December 6th. Parents were invited to celebrate their children's success at a sophisticated evening of readings and entertainment planned especially for their enjoyment by members of the Creative Writing Club.

By Amal Umar and Chloe Aggrey, Year 11 English Ambassadors



YEAR 8 TRIP TO MICROSOFT HEADQUARTERS

Worldwide Digigirlz Event

On Friday 18th November, a small group of Year 8 girls were given the opportunity to visit Microsoft Headquarters in Reading for an worldwide event called "Digigirlz". The event is aimed at removing the stereotype that girls cannot code computer programs, work within the IT industry and to dispel the myth that big companies like Microsoft, Google, etc. only want boys to work in the sector. We were one of only 20 schools in the UK to visit.

An early start at 6am was needed to get ready for the day's events which included a guided tour of the campus, hands on displays, live technology demonstrations, careers advice, Q&A with Microsoft CEO Cindy Rose and the opportunity to ask a female intern and apprentice staff questions about what they do, why they enjoy it and lots more!

The main activity during the day was to design a new Windows 10 app around a given sector – our girls were given "food and drink" – and as expected the creative juices got flowing immediately – eventually bringing together a brand-new design for their app called "School Dinners" – including ways for students to have a say in their canteen



choices as well as encouraging healthy eating and rewarding good conduct. This was presented in a video presentation to judges, along with promotional materials and screen designs drawn out on the day.

The day was rounded off with a live dance competition using an Xbox One, Kinect and a theatre full of about 180 students. The atmosphere was electric!

A huge well done to all our girls and to Mr Willis for organising the trip and for Mr White for his support on the day.



Opening a World of Opportunities

GCSE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Year 11 Class of 2016

Thursday 24th November saw the return of many of our **Year 11 - Class of 2016**, for a celebratory event, where the students were individually presented with their GCSE certificates. We also welcomed Mrs Fabiana Rushforth from Lloyds Banking Group as our guest speaker, who gave an inspirational speech, about her journey and experiences that have got her to where she is now.



In addition to the GCSE Certificate Presentation there were a number of individual student prizes awarded - The Richard Rogers Prize for "Philosophy of Religion" was awarded to **Mia Rose Yates**, The Eileen Daines Prize for "English Literature" was awarded

to **Esther Lee**, the South & City College Principal's Award Scheme was awarded to **Eva Miletic, Susie Babington & Noormobeen Tariq** and the Headteacher's Prize was awarded to **Susan Zheng**.

It was a wonderful event and lovely to see the students coming back together to celebrate their individual successes in front of their families.



YEAR 8 GO ON A FRENCH ADVENTURE

Trip to Boulogne

On Friday 7th October 2016, 121 Year 8 pupils and 13 members of staff embarked on an exciting day trip to Boulogne-Sur-Mer in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region, a 30-minute drive south from the tunnel at Calais. We set off early and travelled taking the shuttle under the Channel. For some girls, it was their first experience of travelling under the sea in the tunnel.

In Boulogne, the girls walked around the old town, discovering landmarks of the town, such as the cathedral, the castle, the old walls, sat in a restaurant or café and ordered food and drinks. They also bought a baguette, a croissant, a pain au chocolat, postcards and stamps and a magazine as a group. Some groups took time to visit the newly refurbished cathedral crypt. There was also enough time for the girls to do their own shopping and buy a few souvenirs.



The girls were impeccably behaved, keen to practise their French and a real credit to the school. Well done, girls!

We would also like to express a warm thank you to all staff accompanying the trip as such a trip would not be possible without their help. A particular thank you to Miss Prentice too, for her support with all administrative tasks.



Mrs Housley and Mrs Weatherup.



INTERVIEW WITH REV MAT WILSON

Year 10 Guest Talk & Interview

On Tuesday 18th November Year 10 GCSE RS students had their usual period 6 lesson replaced by a guest talk from Mat Wilson, a minister with whom the school has strong links. The RE department believes that it is vitally important that our students have the opportunity to meet with and learn from people of different faiths and none. Mat gave a fascinating and personal talk about the nature and importance of the Trinity in Christian belief, a key concept in the new GCSE. Year 10 students responded positively to the session and several commented that Mat had helped them understand the Trinity in a deeper way. After the talk, GCSE students Sophie Hatton and Isobel Westwood interviewed Mat on what faith means to him, ably assisted by Poppy Ellis.



Mat said his faith was the most important thing in life to him but faith isn't easy because life is hard. For Mat, faith is about trusting God but also pursuing evidence for what is true. He considers the Bible to be a historical document that records the life of Jesus. The Bible describes faith as having confidence in what is hoped for and assurance about things we do not see (Hebrews 11:1). For Mat this means putting trust in God. Life is not always straightforward. You can believe in something or believe in nothing but whatever your opinion there is still an element of faith and trust in your perspective. Mat's faith is in God who he believes promises to make hope a reality.

We also spoke about Interfaith Week and Birmingham's 'Week of Kindness' inspired by the 'Love your neighbour' campaign. Mat thinks interfaith week is essential because it recognises that people have different perspectives and diversity is to be celebrated. When we learn about one another then it brings people together. Mat thinks it is powerful to say 'I affirm you as a person, whatever your belief' and particularly special for Birmingham as we are rich in diversity. Mat supports the LOVEYOURNEIGHBOUR promotion because it offers a reminder to people to think well of others.

Interviewers Sophie Hatton, Isobel Westwood

HALOWEEN SCIENCE CLUB

Spooky Goings On

Science club was a blast!! Forty Year 7 students turned up to witness screaming jelly babies, jack-o'-lantern with explosive brains and 2 metre high balls of fire. They created some eerie glow-in-the-dark goo and taught statically charged ghosts how to dance. Our young scientists showed their bravery as they reaching into the heart-stopping sense boxes to deduce



what heart-stopping body parts were inside. Our Year 10 Science Ambassadors did a wonderful job transforming two of our science labs into spooky haunts and then they were excellent role models as they supported our Year 7's. All of the students that attended showed great enthusiasm and confidence. Thank you to everyone involved and we look forward sharing pictures from our Christmas Science Club in the next Newsletter!



NATIONAL INTERFAITH WEEK & BIRMINGHAM'S 'WEEK OF KINDNESS'

'Love Your Neighbour' Week

This year we marked national Interfaith Week by taking part in the #loveyourneighbour campaign, a grassroots movement begun in Birmingham to encourage us to live out the 'golden rule' of treating others as you'd wish to be treated. Year 9 students were most involved as their ethics unit has recently focused on the golden rule as students from 9X describe below.



“ The week beginning 13th of November this year was both national Anti Bullying Week and Interfaith Week. In addition, it was also 'loveyourneighbour' week. This is all about promoting a 'Week of Kindness' where groups and individuals were encouraged to be generous to others and get to know their neighbours better. It is hoped that this will build bridges for the diverse groups that live here.



The 'loveyourneighbour' movement began in Birmingham, a city with a huge diversity of people, in the aftermath of Brexit, when divisions within the city and society were intensified, and there were huge rises in hate crimes, division and abuse. Over many years people have made the UK their home, but even if they aren't from the UK, we cannot take our diversity for granted. It is no good sharing a street or a suburb with people from different backgrounds if we do not know them. Many people have no choice but to travel to another country, sometimes even half way around the world, to escape from poverty, warfare or violence. A huge amount of these people have come from these environments, and resided in our city. Even if they aren't from England, and despite their backgrounds, they are your neighbours, and 'loveyourneighbour' week was all about building friendships that cement our society together, crossing differences that can become barriers such as age, social background, ethnicity, sexuality, gender and faith.



In Year 9 RE classes, we have been creating campaigns to advertise the #loveyourneighbour movement. We took part in practical actions, with a homework of carrying out deliberate acts of kindness. Students have organised a photo competition and one group secretly posted motivational quotes to other students to help spread happiness. We have created social media campaigns, presentations, posters, role plays and leaflets to publicise the importance of the 'loveyourneighbour' campaign, and we hope that our input helped to emphasise the significance of the campaign and that it helps to draw people together.



YEAR 10 STEM EVENT

Interactive Workshops at Bishop Challoner

On 13th October, a group of students from Year 10 attended a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) event at Bishop Challoner School. The aim of the event, which was attended by students from schools throughout Birmingham, was to raise awareness of the applications of mathematics and physics in the 'real world'.

Two interactive workshops were held in the morning, one focusing on how matrices are used by Google to improve the quality of internet searches, and how mathematics can be utilised in the development of lighting effects and collision detection in video games. The other session looked at the concepts of wave-particle duality and quantum physics. During this workshop, students constructed their own spectrometers from a cardboard template and a CD, using them to analyse the distinctive spectral 'fingerprints' of different chemical elements.

The afternoon was based around STEM-related careers, with ambassadors from a wide range of jobs and backgrounds talking to students about their experiences. The organisers of the event reserved particular praise for our girls, and the friendly, mature and co-operative way in which they participated in the session.

Opening a World of Opportunities

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Festive Evening of Musical Talent

The Music Department has been very busy this term with numerous ensemble rehearsals taking place at break, lunchtimes and after school in preparation for the Christmas Concert. This year the performances were as exciting and varied as always, with KNGS collaborating again successfully with the boys' school. The combined orchestra and choir performed pieces they are preparing for a tour to Paris in summer 2017, including a possible performance on the Disney stage at Euro Disney! We'll keep our fingers crossed for them and hope that the audition goes well!



YEAR 11 STUDENTS COMPLETE FORWARD THINKING PROGRAMME

Celebrations & Motivational Talk

On Monday November 21st the journey that began in Year 8 for four selected students ended with a celebration event in The Great Hall of The University of Birmingham. Now in Year 11 they attended the event along with their parents where they were treated to a fascinating motivational talk by 'The Man in the Orange Tie'. After some excellent refreshments their proud parents, guardians and Mr Abelson watched them collect their certificates which they received for completing 'The Forward Thinking' Programme.



YEAR 7 SHOW OFF THEIR SPELLING SKILLS

Inter - House Spelling Bee

The first round of the KNGS Inter-house Spelling Bee competition is underway, with Year 7 pupils competing in their English lessons to secure a place in the grand final. Taking place in the Learning Hub on December 8th, the final will see house teams compete against each other to prove their spelling prowess. So far, students from Goodall, Keller, Sharman and Nightingale have all excelled in the classroom round, so it is impossible to predict a winning house: tension could be running high at the final! Those not competing will still play an important part in proceedings, supporting their houses as audience members.

The English teachers have been impressed by the enthusiasm and team spirit of the Year 7s, and we are all looking forward to cheering on the finalists at what promises to be a memorable event.

S. O'Mahony



FORWARD THINKING PROGRAMME

Year 9 Visit University of Birmingham

In October six Year 9 students visited The University of Birmingham as part of the Forward Thinking Programme designed to give targeted students an insight into university life. They attended (and assisted in) a chemical engineering lecture where the process of ice cream was demonstrated. They got to taste the end product too. Then it was off to a session where they learnt some Chinese phrases and characters. To finish the day off they experienced a Biology lecture, after which it was time to grab a lunch bag and get back to school in time for lesson 5!



AMNESTY YOUTH GROUP

“Write for Rights” Campaign

The group is currently preparing for the annual, national "Write for Rights" campaign. The group has chosen to support 5 cases and students from all years are invited to support these people on Tuesday 13th December in Room 1. The actions will take the form of signing cards of support and/or writing messages of support. Members of the group will also write to governments in the countries concerned to call them to account over these human rights abuses.

- Annie Alfred - an 11 year old girl suffering from albinism in Malawi. She is at risk of abduction, mutilation or death due to erroneous beliefs and suspicions.
- "Shawkan" - held in prison in Egypt without charge against Egyptian law for over three years for taking photographs of a demonstration against the government.
- Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe - charity worker arrested at the airport in Iran after a visit to her parents and sentenced to 5 years in prison when neither she nor her lawyers knew what the charge against her was. Her two year old daughter's passport was confiscated at the same time so she cannot return to England to be with her father.
- Johan Teterissa - a teacher, has been in prison in Indonesia for many years for waving a local flag in front of the president in a peaceful demonstration for independence for his region in East Indonesia.
- Eren Kesken - a human rights lawyer in Turkey, she has been subjected to death threats, physical attacks and judicial harassment for her work upholding the human rights of others.

YEAR 10 WORK WITH PURITY SOFT DRINKS

Healthy Soft Drink Project

This term Year 10 Business Studies students have been taking part in a competition that involves designing and marketing a healthy soft drink. To support the project, Purity Soft Drinks Ltd has been working with the students to provide real business experiences to help apply theory learnt in the classroom.

The first part of the project involved carrying out market research. The students designed and carried out questionnaires and completed a marketing mapping exercise. Emma Billinge, Marketing Director from Purity visited school to deliver a marketing workshop to 10A. She explained to the students how Purity carry out research and market their brands FireFly and Juice Burst. The students also received feedback on their ideas and discussed their target market and research.

Students in 10C were invited to visit Purity Soft Drinks Ltd in Wednesbury to find out how soft drinks are produced. Following a presentation from Richard Proctor, Operations Director, on the importance of stock control and meeting customer demand, they had a tour of the factory and saw the automated production line in operation. The students were surprised by the speed of the process and how few staff were needed to operate the machinery.

Finally Sarah Whitmore, Technical Manager at Purity delivered a workshop to 10C. They were given a design brief and had to make a soft drink with predominantly orange flavour and no added sugar. The girls enjoyed mixing and tasting different ingredients to create their own unique drink.



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VISIT TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Exploring University Life

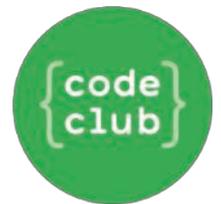
In October, 10 academically more able Year 11 students, accompanied by Mr Abelson and Mrs Edwards, spent a day at Oxford University exploring all aspects of university life. The students learnt about what courses were available, the application process, student life and also experienced a fascinating computer science lesson where they learnt some coding. We were also treated to lunch in the dining hall at Keble College. The girls agreed it was a really useful insight into seeing what life as an Oxford undergraduate was like and especially liked hearing from the undergraduates themselves about their experiences.



CODE CLUB

Coding & Creative Projects

This November saw the first weekly meeting of our KNGS Code Club – running weekly in ICT3 on Monday lunchtimes. This gives students the chance to learn coding skills and get involved in creative projects outside their normal lesson time. So far, we've had Scratch projects, some creative art in Python and using Sphero robots to navigate a course by code!



OUR LEARNING HUB



AUTHOR VISIT

Year 7 Meet Jonathan Stroud

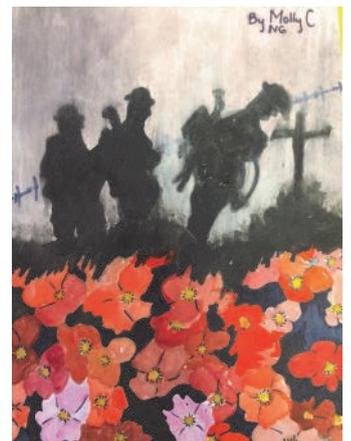
Ten Year 7 students were thrilled to be chosen to attend an author visit at King Edward VI Camp Hill School to see Jonathan Stroud. Jonathan has written several books but is best known for his Bartimaeus Series and his Lockwood & Co Series. The talk inspired some of the girls to continue to read the rest of his series or to read a new genre.

REMEMBRANCE SILHOUETTE COMPETITION

To Mark Armistice Day

In November the Learning Hub ran a Remembrance Silhouette Competition to mark Armistice Day on the 11 November.

Pupils were asked to create their own silhouettes depicting what remembrance meant to them. Molly Curtis in Year 8 was the winner with this wonderful silhouette of soldiers standing over another soldier's grave on a field of poppies.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Student Leadership Group, led by Milly Owen in Year 7, organised a Riddle Hunt to help raise money for Children in Need.

40 students took part, competing against the clock to solve as many riddles as they could, which eventually lead them back to the start line. The individual winner was Abbie McDonald, well done Abbie!!

We raised over £40 for Children in Need, alongside the £924.87 from the whole school non-uniform day - making a **grand total of £964.87 raised!** Well done everybody!



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SUCCESSSES

STUDENT EXHIBITS AT BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Friction Arts Exhibition

Year 9 student Antonia Creavin Jerwood (N5) who is part of Friction Arts 'Art Club' recently took part in a prestigious exhibition at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.



The Exhibition 'Yesterday's Dreams' was given an 'Outstanding' project award by the Heritage Lottery Routes to Roots campaign which encourages young people to discover their personal heritage. Antonia's project and artwork was based on the life of her Grandad.

The exhibition was showcased over the summer months at BM&AG and more recently Antonia's work was showcased in the KNGS reception area. Antonia also presented in the [Nightingale House](#) Assembly talking to pupils about her exhibition piece and the story behind it. A massive well done Antonia!

'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' PRODUCTION

Well Done Jessica!

We are delighted to celebrate the achievement of Year 9 Student Jessica Ranford (K8) on being cast as Martha in the production of 'A Christmas Carol' at the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham.

The production ran between 3rd - 17th December and was a huge success.

Well done Jessica!



COMPUTER SCIENCE PODCAST

Coming soon...

Our Computer Science subject ambassadors are hard at work recording and producing a podcast for the first term of the year.

Topics include technology news, history segments as well as common technical support issues for students. The students will edit and upload their work to the internet soon so keep your eyes peeled on the school twitter feed (@kngslife) as well as the Computer Science feed (@kngscompsci) for links and more information.

Mr Willis

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Year 7 & 8

Year 7 students have recently enjoyed learning about religious buildings and during Interfaith Week they took on the challenge of designing their own multi-faith buildings. The highlight of the task was a 'junk modelling' challenge where students tried to turn their ambitious plans into reality and learnt some valuable lessons about teamwork.



Year 8 students have been learning about human rights and exploring how far religious teachings can lead us to fight for the rights of others. As part of their case study work students researched the lives and impact of an individual who has fought for human rights. Here, Nicola Linforth (pictured left) shows her excellent piece on Martin Luther King.

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KNGS CHRISTMAS CARD

Creative Talent Showcased

This years KNKS Christmas Card proudly showcases the artistic talent of one of our Year 11 students - Freya Stephenson (S6).

The A2 acrylic painting of rosehips was a painting study of natural forms and makes up part of Freya's GCSE portfolio.

Well done Freya!



HELP ELODIE!



Form G5 Sponsor a Child

In G-5 we are helping the country of Burkina Faso by sponsoring a child desperately in need. She is 11 years old and lives with her parents in a small village 90 miles away from the capital: Ouagadougou. In contrast to our amazing education system, easy access to water, and other vital resources, Elodie and her family struggle to live day to day. Elodie's parents are both peasant farmers and she attends the local primary school which takes her 45 minutes to reach.

Life expectancy in Burkina Faso is about 58 years old and the median age of the population is just 17. We are sponsoring Elodie with Plan UK, an organisation which allows us to make contact with Elodie through letters and pictures. We hope to send her small gifts on her birthday and at Christmas to give her some of the things that we take for granted.

Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world with one of the worst literacy rates. More than 80% of children under 5 suffer from anaemia. For all these reasons, students in G5 are sponsoring Elodie by giving £1 a month but if you would also like to help us to help Elodie and her family through difficult times, we would gratefully accept donations of any amount.

Clara Sorge and Maisy Wilby, G5

HOUSE NEWS

HOUSE DAY

On the 18th October, we had our House Day!!!! Students took part in activities based on 'The Apprentice' and took on different roles to support their tutor groups such as Project Managers and design teams.



They designed fundraisers to support their charities and made posters and newsletters. They also had a go at filming a TV advert and we were all in awe of the amazing work they created as a team. The students demonstrated amazing leadership, thinking outside the box and real quality community spirit.



This year the students have chosen to support the following charities: Birmingham Children's Hospital, Make A Wish, Water Aid and Cancer Research. So watch this space as the students plan and hold fundraising events over the coming months!

GAUNTLET CHALLENGES



It is that time again when students will be challenging peers to 'gauntlet challenges'! Students have selected a wide range of challenges this year from synchronised dancing, treasure hunt, creating recycled garment etc...

We have had our first challenge last week which was the T-shirt challenge...well done to **Nightingale House** for coming first and a big well done to all who found a variety of T-shirts so their teams could take part in the challenge... Students demonstrated enthusiasm and true team spirit. Watch this space for further news!



WELCOME TO MISS BROMLEY

We would like to say a big welcome to Laura Bromley who is our new Head of **Nightingale House**!

“ Hi Everyone, my name is Laura Bromley, I am the new Head of Nightingale House. I am really excited to be taking on this role and feel privileged to be given the opportunity to work in such an excellent school with a great reputation. Everybody has been extremely friendly and welcoming and I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know you. I join KNGS from Lindsworth School where I supported students with challenging behaviour, I learnt a lot from working within this environment and hope to transfer these skills into my new role. I have met some of my House and I am confident we will achieve great things together! ”



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SIXTH FORM NEWS

UCAS HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

On Thursday 13th October, all Year 13 students attended the UCAS Higher Education Fair at Edgbaston Cricket Ground. Students found the fair informative, and helped them gain a wider understanding of the options available to them post-18.



CAREERS FAIR & MEET THE SIXTH FORM EVENING

Our annual Careers Fair on 16th November was a huge success with many exhibitors from Universities, Apprenticeships, and Employers all attending to contribute and showcase what they have to offer our students post-16 and post-18.

Thank you to our students from Year 7 to Year 13 for behaving in such a mature fashion when having conversations about their future.

During the Open Evening we had many prospective students visit our school to see the Sixth Form and speak to our students about what it is like to study A Levels. Again, a huge thank you to those students who took part in the evening, and contributed to its success.



LORD MAYOR'S QUIZ

On Thursday 3rd November, Year 12 students took part in the Lord Mayor's Quiz at University of Birmingham's Great Hall.

Three teams took part in the challenge and ranked 17th, 19th and 31st out of 38 teams! We are incredibly proud of our students who brushed up on their knowledge on a range of topics with the help of Mr Covington!



Well done to all involved!

YEAR 12 THEATRE TRIP

The Warwick Arts Centre

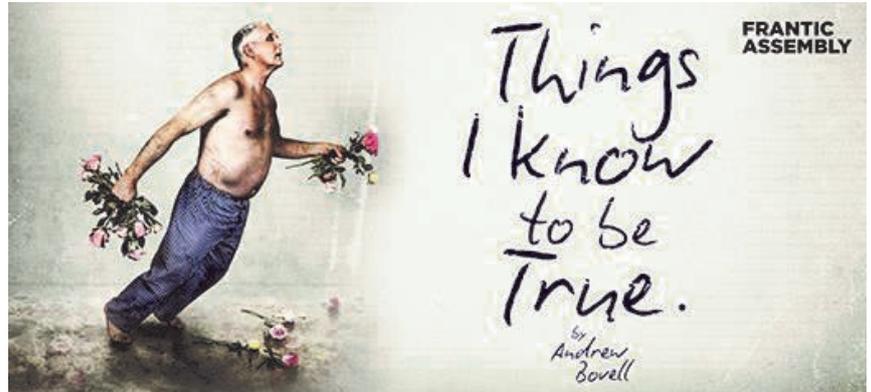
Earlier this term the Year 12 drama group went to see an outstanding production at The Warwick Arts Centre.

Frantic Assembly presented *Things I Know To Be True*. A new play by Andrew Bovell.

The play tells the story of a family and marriage through the eyes of four grown siblings struggling to define themselves beyond their parents' love and expectations.

The production explored the mechanics of a family that is both poetic and brutally frank through physical theatre.

Students were mesmerized and enthused by the production. They are looking forward to exploring the piece further for their written examination.



CLIMATE CHANGE MASTERCLASS

Year 12 Geographers attend University of Birmingham

On Wednesday 9th November, Year 12 geography students attended the University of Birmingham for a masterclass on climate change. The topic links perfectly with their A Level as the theme runs throughout Year 12 and Year 13.

Beyond learning new concepts on and ideas around climate change, students got to experience life on campus and the reality of a degree pitched lecture. Staff at the University were very welcoming and the lecture itself very informative. The geography students thoroughly enjoyed their day and found the experience beneficial to their studies and development. It was noted students representing KNGS, were a credit to the school; behaving in a mature and exemplary way throughout. They also displayed excellent learning skills.

A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all and Miss Taylor was very proud of all geographers involved.



GUEST FROM LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

Sixth Form Maths Group

On Wednesday 19th October we were visited by Dr Simon Goodwin from the University of Birmingham's School of Mathematics. Dr Goodwin ran a workshop for our Sixth Form mathematicians as part of the London Mathematical Society's Holgate Workshop Scheme.

They were introduced to the wonders of number theory including the infinitude of the primes, Diophantine equations and Fermat's Last Theorem. The Year 12 and 13 students left the session fully inspired to go out and find the next prime number or maybe, just maybe, to prove the Riemann Hypothesis!

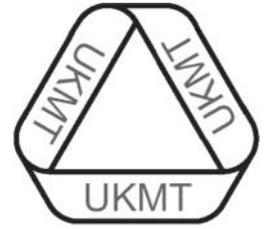


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UK MATHS TRUST CHALLENGE

Sixth Formers Earn Awards

On 8th November our Sixth Formers studying A-Level Maths took part in the UK Mathematics Trust Challenge. 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 were very happy to be informed that 11 of our students earned awards (and points for their houses) as follows:



- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| ◆ Yaxin Luo SILVER | (Keller House) | ◆ Elisha Gretton BRONZE | (Sharman House) |
| ◆ Jessica Davies SILVER | (Nightingale House) | ◆ Iman Mohammed BRONZE | (Keller House) |
| ◆ Fardowsa Ahmed BRONZE | (Goodall House) | ◆ Fei Moorcroft BRONZE | (Keller House) |
| ◆ Lydia Airey BRONZE | (Sharman House) | ◆ Sam Toney BRONZE | (Goodall House) |
| ◆ Grace Carnall BRONZE | (Goodall House) | ◆ Lucy Williams BRONZE | (Keller House) |
| ◆ Emma Gould BRONZE | (Goodall House) | | |

Congratulations from the Maths Department!

BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Year 12 Fundraise for St. Mary's Hospice

Year 12 Business Studies students have been challenged by the staff at St Mary's Hospice to raise money.



The students have split in to two business teams and are planning and coordinating a range of activities to raise as much money as possible. The two business teams are called 'Team Ambition' and 'Team Unlimited'. The students in each team have allocated job roles based on their skills and experiences. Each team had to present their fundraising ideas to a panel of four business judges who gave them feedback and then decided whether they would invest in their projects. The judges were Oliver Hiscoe and Pamela Hodgetts from St Mary's Hospice, Simon

Greenfield, Director of Colourcubed and Tony Hall, Branch Manager, Handelsbanken. Both teams were successful with their proposals and received the maximum amount of £100 each. 'Team Ambition' has used this funding to purchase doughnuts and have been busy selling them in school. The profit raised will go



towards hosting a community day in January with live music. 'Team Unlimited' are organising a Year 7 and 8 school disco with the proceeds going towards the planning and organising of a community fun day in February. Both teams are determined to be successful and raise as much money possible for St Mary's.

Opening a World of Opportunities

LLOYDS BANKING GROUP MENTORING

We are currently into the second set of mentoring sessions with Lloyds Banking Group, which are focusing on budgeting finances and how to prioritise. Students are engaging incredibly well with the mentoring, as well as their mentors, and are getting valuable information from it. We have received some really positive feedback...



“

I'm really glad I've taken part in the Lloyds Mentoring as it's preparing me for my future and allowing me to learn my own skill set. It's good for real life situations and things that I will experience, such as saving.

Tara Smith - Year 12

”



LLOYDS BANK



“

I'm happy to be taking part in the Mentoring as it's allowing me to gain life skills and giving me that opportunity. It has been helpful to learn about my personality and what kind of learner I am. It is helping me with revision and I am now revising using flash cards as I have learnt I am a visual learner.

Toby Stubbs - Year 12

”

UCAS APPLICATIONS

14 UCAS applications have now been sent off to a range of Universities and courses. The applications are coming in thick and fast!

PARENTS EVENING AT KINGS NORTON BOYS SCHOOL

This year the Sixth Form Parents Evening was held at Kings Norton Boys' School. Thank you to those who were able to attend the evening, and were able to gain feedback regarding how their son/daughter is progressing in his/her studies. We hope you found the evening an informative and positive experience.

YEAR 11 INTERVIEWS

Year 11 interviews took place on **Monday 12th December** for internal KNKS students.

Thank you for your applications, we received over 90 internal applications and we look forward to welcoming many of you into the Sixth Form.

COMING UP...

A LEVEL CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Our Year 13 cohort from 2014-2016 will be returning to school on Friday 16th December along with their families to celebrate their A Level achievements and be presented with their certificates. The presentation will take place from 1pm-2pm and we are very much looking forward to welcoming them back and celebrating with them.

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REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

YEAR 9 CHALLENGE DAY

As part of their Careers education Year 9 Challenge Day supports students in researching a range of careers in preparation for their option choices.

This is always a valuable day for the girls particularly the opportunity to talk to employees from a range of professions, this has been greatly enhanced in the past by the support of several parents. If you can spare a few hours of your time on the **Tuesday 14th February between 12.15pm and 3pm** to talk to and answer questions from small groups of girls about your career or current employment – whatever it is, and whichever year group your daughter/son is in – please **contact Mrs Raggett by email (nraggett@kngs.co.uk).**

Thank you for your support.

SCHOOL DROP OFFS AND PICK UPS

A POLITE REQUEST

As we mentioned in our last newsletter please can we ask that if you drop off or collect your daughter from school that you **don't stop or park/wait on the zig zag lines or pull on to the school drive - this is illegal.**

Please can we also ask that you **do not use the drive way into St Joseph's Primary school to reverse or turn around** - doing so is compromising the safety of the Primary School pupils going into school.

We have received a number of complaints about this in recent months from St Josephs, our neighbours and other road users.

Again we thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

MICROSOFT OFFER FOR STUDENTS

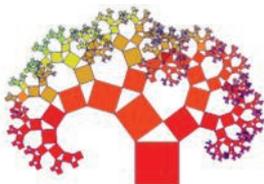
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Get free Office just for being a student at KNGS!

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Learn more and get started here. <http://www.office.com/GetOffice365>

MATHS PARENT PUZZLE

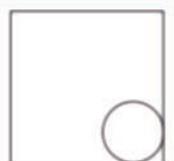


For those parents and carers out there who want to check they have "still got it" here is a question from the paper for you to try:

The diagram shows a circle with radius 1 that rolls without slipping around the inside of a square with sides of length 5.

The circle rolls once around the square, returning to its starting point.

What distance does the centre of the circle travel?



A $16 - 2\pi$ B 12 C $6 + \pi$ D $20 - 2\pi$ E 20

Solution to be handed in at reception FAO: Mr Cogan for a modest prize.

Remember NO calculators are allowed. Happy Puzzling!

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