

# KINGS NORTON GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

October 2017

## Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

What an amazingly positive start to the year we made as our GCSE results smashed all time records. The performance tables out last week put KNKS in the top three of any school in the region including the local grammars, for our progress from KS2. 96.4% of students gained a grade 4 (grade C) or above in English! That is a stunning achievement which we should all be very proud of gaining together. I cannot over emphasise how important your support is, of your child and the school, in bringing about not just great outcomes but also the very tangible ethos of community and care which is the hallmark of KNKS.

Our Sixth Form has got off to a great start with Tara and Toby our Head Girl and Head Boy taking a very strong lead and already making a very significant impact. A recent survey of Year 12 said that they felt very welcomed into the Sixth Form and we can tell that they are settling in well and rising to the challenge of their A Level studies. The Sixth Form continues to grow in popularity and I am pleased to note we now have 39 boys studying their A Levels here.

No matter how stretched for time or whatever the pressures, the keenness to offer that bit more is ever present as you will note from reading this newsletter. Please make sure your child is taking every opportunity to get involved.

Every best wish for a successful year.

Gill Fox - Headteacher



### EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

A timetable of extra curricular activities for the school year is available on the school website at [www.knks.co.uk/extra-curricular](http://www.knks.co.uk/extra-curricular).

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 11 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November** – 'Meet the Sixth Form' & Careers Event (open to all prospective internal & external students), 3.30pm - 5.30pm
- ◆ **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** – GCSE Certificate Presentation, 9am - 11am **LATE START FOR STUDENTS, 11am ARRIVAL**
- ◆ **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** – Sixth Form Parents Evening, 4pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November** - Staff Training Day - **SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS**
- ◆ **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** - Year 11 Mock Exams
- ◆ **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** - Sixth Form Formal Assessments
- ◆ **Monday 18th December** - Christmas Concert, 7pm
- ◆ **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** – last day of term - **EARLY CLOSURE FOR ALL STUDENTS, 12.20pm FINISH**
- ◆ **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** – A Level Certificate Presentation, 1pm - 2.30pm

## IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING PARKING

Following the receipt of a **number of complaints** from our local residents, St Joseph's and other road users, please can we firmly ask all parents/carers who drop off and pick up students to park considerately and pay attention to the road markings around the school gates.

Please can we ask that you **DO NOT stop or park/wait on the zig zag lines or pull onto the school drive.**

These road marking are in place to safeguard students and it is an offence to park on them.

Please can we ask that you also park with consideration for our neighbours by **not blocking their driveways or access to their properties.** We would also ask you to not use **the driveway of St Joseph's Primary School to reverse or turn around.**

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

### ARTS FACULTY SHINE

#### Summer Showcase & Music Tour

The summer term of 2017 was one to remember for the Arts Faculty.

The music department collaborated in a **performance project with St. Francis School** Year 5 students. They visited every week for one half term and performed at the summer showcase matinee in front of an audience of other primary school children.

The **Arts Faculty Summer Showcase** proved to be very popular with students, teachers and parents alike. It was a real representation of the talented and hard working students that aspire to achieve in the arts and everyone involved should be very proud of themselves.



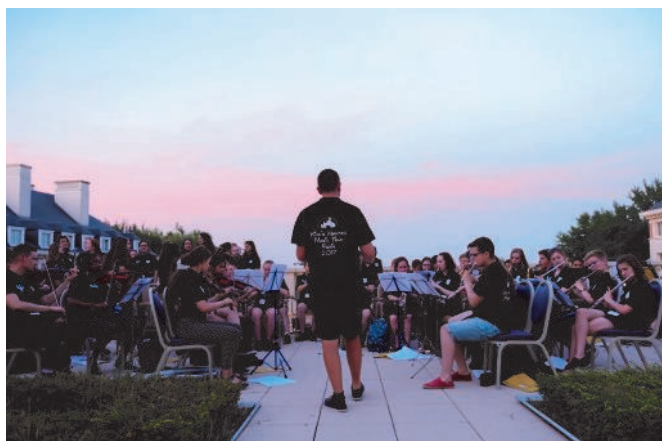
The collaboration with KNBS music department is still going strong and in July we took 80 students to **Paris on a whistle-stop 4 day concert tour.** The weather was beautiful the entire time and as the majority of our concerts were outdoors this was fantastic. We played in a beautiful picturesque park in the centre of Paris and also on the youth arts Disney Stage in Euro Disney.

Of course the students and staff took full advantage of exploring the park afterwards! Thank you again to all involved especially to

those staff who took time away from their busy schedule to organise it, and of course to the parents for supporting the trip.



We are planning another fantastic music tour for 2018 and information will be available shortly.



**Opening a World of Opportunities**



## COCOMAD

### KNGS Take Part in Community Festival

KNGS were thrilled to be part of CoCoMAD once again this year, with the school hosting a stall at the annual Cotteridge Park Community Music, Art and Dance Festival.

The stall, which the students help to run on the day, promoted the school and also had a number of items for sale - all of which had been made by the students. Year 8 students worked alongside Mrs Walsh, Ms Townsend and Miss Welch to make delicious lemon drizzle muffins during their Food and



Nutrition lessons and the Ceramics

Club worked with Mrs Everson and Ms Wilcox to design and make a range of beautiful hanging ceramics and plant pot markers. Students in the Learning Hub also worked alongside Mrs Edwards to create a range of greetings cards and bookmarks to sell too.

A massive well done and thank you to all the students that helped both making items to sell and to those that attended on the day to help out. A total of £170 was raised which will go into School Fund.



## BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

### Year 9 Geography Field Trip

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 67 Year 9 geographers ventured to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. There were 3 classes who were all on a different timetable of activities. One of the activities involved a taught classroom session on rainforests. The girls learnt all about their location, climatic conditions and the wide variety of uses of the rainforest. The girls' particularly enjoyed the tactile session, getting to know and actively learn about various ways that rainforests are used by man from rare spices to previously unknown unusual medicines. The girls also enjoyed independently finding out and mapping the other 3 biomes found in their glass houses. We were blessed with good weather on the day and the girls enjoyed a picnic together on the green outside. The views were lovely and it added to the enjoyment of the day.



After lunch, to develop map skills needed for GCSE geography, the girls competed in the Botanical Garden's orienteering. The first group back were deserved winners and to end the day the group looked at the butterfly exhibition, focusing on animal adaptations. The girls were a credit to the school, which the Botanical Gardens wrote to tell us. Now in Year 10, the groups have laid foundations to begin their academic journey at geography GCSE. A great day was had by staff and students alike; thank you to the staff that supported and to the girls for representing the school with such maturity.

*Mrs Warwood*



## YEAR 8 RESIDENTIAL TRIP

### Pioneer Centre, Shropshire

The Pioneer trip was an amazing success! Year 8 students were able to take part in a range of activities which really pushed them beyond their comfort zones... and they took part with such confidence and determination. They had challenges in which they had to think 'outside the box' and really committed to their choices. We were in awe of the level of support they gave each other and their resilience was beyond expectations.

The Pioneer staff were very impressed with our students and commented on their exceptional behaviour. They demonstrated independence and working as part of a team with ease.

Staff thoroughly enjoyed their time at the Pioneer too... Mr Willis took his drone and captured amazing images from way up high! We are very proud of our students and have certainly been honoured to be part of their experiences and forming life long memories.



## WHAT LIES BENEATH

### Year 7 Science Club

As part of the extra curricular activities in Science the Year 7 Science club, along with some of the newly appointed Science ambassadors studied the life in the school ponds and used the organisms that we found as living indicators to assess the health of our school ponds.

Year 7 students arrived on an overcast July afternoon in Sc4 where Miss Crewe and Mrs Parmer were waiting to take them out to the ponds and wildlife gardens. The ponds were created in 1996 and have been a haven for wildlife ever since. The girls were assisted by our wonderful new ambassadors as they took nets and scooped out animals and plants to examine in the lab. The girls were extremely curious and found all manner of life in our ponds, the organisms were all returned to the ponds unharmed.



**Science Clubs run throughout the year and all Year 7's are welcome to apply to attend.**



## AUTHOR VISIT

### Year 7 Meet Robin Stevens

On Friday 6th October 2017 we were invited to take eleven Year 7 pupils to see the author Robin Stevens. She has written numerous novels including the very popular Murder Most Unladylike Series and The Guggenheim Mystery, the sequel to Siobhan Dowd's The London Eye Mystery. It was a very entertaining afternoon and the pupils stated afterwards that 'it was really fun', 'Robin Stevens was really nice' and that they had 'thoroughly enjoyed the visit to see Robin Stevens. She is a very inspiring person'. The girls were also able to purchase a copy of her books and have them personally signed by Robin.



## HARRY POTTER STUDIO TOUR

### Magical School Trip for Year 8

Year 8 visited the Harry Potter Studio Tour in September where they tasted butter beer, learnt film secrets about Hogwarts and looked at costumes used in the film franchise. All of the students had a magical time. Mischief managed!

*Miss Walker*



## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

### Activities Run by MFL Ambassadors

KNGS celebrated the European Day of Languages on 26th September with a range of activities run by our excellent team of Modern Language Ambassadors. The ambassadors made and sold cakes decorated with different European flags and also organised a 'guess the food' activity, where volunteers were blind-folded and had to guess which European food they were tasting. Specialities such as camembert and mozzarella were on offer and this enabled students who may never have previously tasted these foods to know what the flavours were and make an association with the country.

Quizzes were also completed by a number of students in French, German and Spanish to give them the opportunity to win a certificate. Finally a 'Just Dance' competition was run by other members of our Modern Language Ambassador team. This entailed students listening to European music and watching the dancing to learn how to dance in that style.

The event attracted almost 50 students from within the school and its success was due to the commitment of our Modern Language Ambassadors and the students who attended. Well done, everyone!

## BIRMINGHAM ART GALLERIES TRIP

### Year 11 Visit

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 36 Year 11 Art students visited Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and the IKON gallery.

They enjoyed seeing a diverse range of work from the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood at BMAG through to Käthe Kollwitz at the IKON, providing a great deal of inspiration for their own work. The girls were a credit to the school and a pleasure to take. A special thank you goes to Mrs Holbeche and Miss Randell for their help and support.



*Mrs Everson*

### Opening a World of Opportunities

## PUPIL & PARENT VOICE GROUPS

### New Groups Launch at KNGS

In the Summer term the Inclusion Department set up several Pupil and Parent Voice groups. June and July saw the first meetings in school of our new Dyslexia Pupil Voice Group and Autism Pupil Voice Group. The Dyslexia Parent Voice Group also met for the first time at Bournville Community Hub.

Our initial meetings were an opportunity to find out what currently works well at KNGS for pupils working with Dyslexia or Autism and to find out what further support would be helpful. Both groups provided a wealth of useful suggestions. Many of these have been adopted into the KNGS 'essentials' for staff to follow. The next step was to present this information to all staff at the start of September. We also met with a Dyslexia expert from a Further Education college who provided us with an insight into assistive technologies and inspired us to participate in the recent Dyslexia Awareness Week. 14 pupils from the

Dyslexia Pupil Voice Group shared their views on Dyslexia with other students and staff and participated in running a variety of events during the week (pictured left).

These groups have provided a positive space for pupils to link with others in the school community who face similar challenges. It has been confidence building for pupils and inspiring for me to work with them. Parents have also benefitted from meeting other parents who share some common experiences. We look forward to working with the Autism Pupil and Parent Voice groups later in the year to look at ways of raising awareness of 'invisible' disabilities within the school community.



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## PURITY SOFT DRINK BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

### Year 11 Workshop

Katie Wong, Sales Development Manager from Purity Soft Drinks Ltd, visited school to deliver workshops to Year 11 Business Studies students. Katie explained her career pathway and gave students advice on choosing the right career and how to approach employers for jobs. She then introduced students to the 7C's model which helped students develop their critical thinking skills. Students were then challenged to produce a presentation to the Board of Directors explaining how Purity could improve sales and profit based on the 7C's model. Students then had time to interview Katie and collect research for their controlled assessments.



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## YEAR 5 MATHS TEAM COMPETITION

### KNGS Welcome Local Primary Schools

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, KNGS welcomed teams of Year 5 mathematicians from five local primary schools to compete in our team maths challenge. With rounds including quick-fire questions, mathematical problem solving, logic, and a relay running questions and answers across the hall, the pupils engaged with outstanding enthusiasm.

Year 12 mathematicians welcomed and supervised the teams, and also formed a corresponding teams working on the Senior Maths Team Challenge, with scores going towards their primary school.

Competition was strong, with scores close each round, but the final runners up were St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, and winners were Kings Norton Junior School.



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## LANGUAGES IN ACTION

### Year 8 Trip to Boulogne-Sur-Mer

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 121 excited Year 8's set off early to catch the Eurotunnel and spent the day in Boulogne-Sur-Mer. The sun shone and it was a very warm autumn day. All girls joined in a range of activities: castle and



cathedral visit, walk around the old and new town, buying food and

souvenirs, ordering drinks and food in a café. We were extremely impressed by the enthusiasm of the girls, their willingness to speak French and their behaviour. Bravo Year 8s.



Year 13 French students also came along and were able to work in Boulogne's media centre to collect authentic sources for their individual research projects, part of their A Level examination. It was

a pleasure to witness them conversing in French.

May I take this opportunity to thank again all the staff who came along.

*Mrs M Housley*

## DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK

### KNGS Raise Awareness Across School



- This week we participated in Dyslexia Awareness week for the first time. The main theme for the week was #positivedyslexia.
- The Form Time focus for all pupils for the week was understanding Dyslexia. All pupils found out about Tali's story and thought about challenges in their own lives.
- The new Dyslexia Pupil Voice Group created a slideshow presentation about their experiences of Dyslexia, which ran all week on the TV screen in the canteen.
- The Dyslexia Pupil Voice Group kindly prepared and presented a Thursday Morning training session for staff about how their dyslexia affects them in school, what support is most helpful and the positives about having Dyslexia.
- Year 7-9 were invited to take part in a competition to create a fact-file about a famous person and their positive experiences of Dyslexia.
- Dyslexic staff and pupils shared their experiences with other staff and pupils.
- The school was praised by the British Dyslexia Association as a great example of pupil involvement and participation.



I was so proud of the 14 girls from our new Dyslexia Pupil Voice Group who took part in these events, especially those who prepared the staff training session. They were an absolute pleasure to work with and a credit to their families. They proved that working with Dyslexia is no barrier to creativity, passion, hard work and enthusiasm. Thanks also to the many parents who supported these activities and encouraged their daughters to speak out and make their voices heard.

*Mrs Vaughan (Inclusion)*

## NATIONAL POETRY DAY

### Amnesty Group Launch Competition

To mark National Poetry Day 2017, the KNGS Amnesty group launched a competition for students to create their own poems inspired by 'freedom'. 'Freedom', the theme of this year's National Poetry Day, can be interpreted in many ways; students in the Amnesty group discussed ideas such as love, peace, understanding, equality and freedom of speech. Niamh Franklin and Zainab Iqbal, Year 10, worked to plan and promote the competition, and all Amnesty group members will be involved in judging the poems. Winners and runners-up will be published in our forthcoming 'We Are Writers' book.



S. O'Mahony

## YEAR 11 HISTORY TRIP

### Visit to Hardwick Hall

On the 14th September, 70 approx. Year 11 history students visited Hardwick Hall, the home of Bess of Hardwick, as part of our study of Elizabethan England. The visit really helped to bring this part of the course to life. We went on a guided tour of both the outside and the inside of the magnificent hall. The girls made intensive notes and asked thoughtful questions all the way round.

One student remarked that "she didn't realise how you can get so much history from one building" until this visit which showed how useful the visit was.



## SUCCESSES

### OUTSTANDING RESULTS

#### KNGS Celebrates Success

We are delighted to be celebrating another year of outstanding exam successes, marking another year of excellent academic and personal achievements for students at the school.

Provisional results show that our GCSE results smashed the national pass rate at the highest new GCSE grade 9, with English Language at 11% vs. national at 3.3% and maths at 3.7% vs. national 2.9%. In addition, 39% of grades at A\*-A – **KNGS' highest ever** and 85% of pupils achieving/



exceeding the National benchmark grade 4 in English & maths (English being 15% higher and maths 16% higher than national).

A-Level results for 2017 also saw students exceed national pass rates and surpass their targets to attain 17.33% of A Level grades at A\*-A. Particularly pleasing were the successes in English, which saw students across the board exceeding national average by more than half a grade.

A huge congratulations to all our students who received their exam results - your hard work to gain success really did pay off!



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## CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS

### Annual Awards Ceremony

On Friday 7th July we held our Annual KNGS Award Ceremony. It was great to see so many parents in attendance and we were delighted to receive lots of positive comments about the event - there was a lot to celebrate

Thank you to **Maddie Caetano, Amalia Schnier & Katie Riley** (Year 9) for their '14 Strings' performance and also to **Lucy Doerry** (Year 10) for her performance 'Ilse Jahn'. A massive well done to **Edie Davies** (Year 7) for her poetry reading 'Our Inspirations'. Many thanks also for the encouraging words given by Governor Mrs Jane Wright.

With almost 150 awards presented a very big well done to each recipient; we know that these accolades are achieved through hard work and determination.



## BRITISH TUMBLING & TRAMPOLINING CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Congratulations Lucy!!

A massive well done to **Lucy Attrill (K8)** who recently competed at British Tumbling and Trampolining Championships in Liverpool.

Lucy is part of Revolution Gymnastics Club's elite tumbling squad and an official member of the Great Britain National Squad for 2017. Lucy successfully gained entrance to compete at the 2017 British National Championships, which took place at the ECHO Arena in Liverpool on the weekend of 23rd and 24th September.

Lucy was placed 6<sup>th</sup> in her category (women's 13-14 category) which is an outstanding achievement. Congratulations Lucy we are all super proud of you!



*Lucy (left) pictured with her teammates*

## VALERIE EVANS SCIENCE AWARD

### KNGS Student Receives Award

During the academic year 2016-17 the Science department at KNGS worked with Birmingham Soroptimists. The Soroptimists are a group which are dedicated to ensuring all women are protected and reach their potential.



The Valerie Evans Science Award was this year awarded to **Gabrielle Dickson (K1)** for an expressive article on neuroscientist May Britt Moser, a Norwegian scientist who embodied the ideals of teamwork and community spirit. Gabrielle won the Valerie Evans Rose bowl trophy which was awarded to Soroptimist Valerie Evans before her death, it can be seen on display in the foyer. Each entrant received a certificate and gift voucher with the aim of them using the voucher to further their studies in science. The runners up were **Isabel Ledgister (S4)**, **Sophie Hatton (N6)** and **Molly Richards (K3)**.

We hope to work with the Soroptimist group on the competition for Year 10 girls again this year. Look out for more details in future newsletters.

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## DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK

### Competition Winners

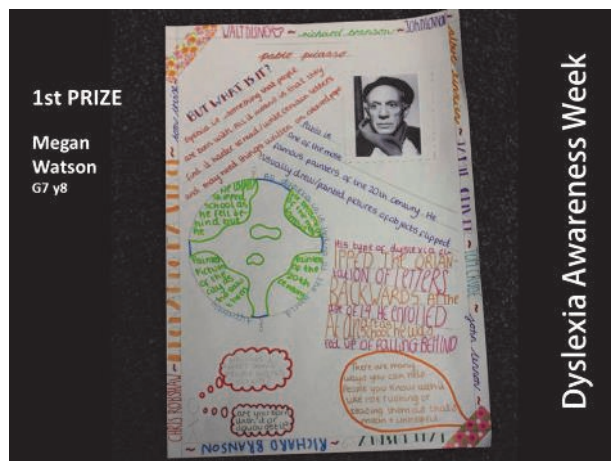
As part of Dyslexia Awareness Week students were invited to enter a competition to produce a fact file on a famous person who is dyslexic and who has achieved amazing things

Congratulations to the winners:

1st Prize - Megan Watson (G7) Year 8

2nd Prize - Lucy Corcoran (G5) Year 10, Beatrice Ledgister (S5) Year 7 & Claudia Everson (K7) Year 8

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - Matilda Johnston (K2) Year 8 & Cacie Clark (N4) Year 7



Dyslexia Awareness Week

## SPORTING SUCCESS

### Cross Country South Birmingham Championships

Congratulations to the following girls' who were an absolute credit to the school and finished as follows at the Championships held at Shenley Academy:

Year 7: Belle Skidmore (3rd), Eve Godsal (5th), Lilly Skidmore (7th) & Rose Frost (18th). Year 8/9: Thea Smith (2nd), Esme Abrahams (4th), Matilda McGuigan (16th), Olivia Cole (31st) & Megan Recardo (32nd). Year 10/11: Gabby Dickson (6th)

As a result 5 of our girls' were selected to run for South Birmingham at the County Trials at Sutton Park on Sat 14th October. Well done to:

Year 7: Belle Skidmore (18th) & Lilly Skidmore (41st). Year 8/9: Thea Smith (6th) & Esme Abraham (19th). Year 10/11: Gabby Dickson (22nd). In addition, well done to Thea on her selection for the West Midlands Team to represent West Midlands Schools at the Inter Counties race on 25th November.



### Birmingham School Games

Congratulations to all the girls who qualified and represented KNKS in Year 7-10, in netball, trampolining, rounders and athletics.

We had lots of very happy students, staff and fancy medals!!

Netball (Year 7/8) - 3rd place

Netball (Year 9/10) - 1st place

Rounders (Year 9/10) - 2nd place

Trampolining (Year 7/8) - 2nd place

Athletics (Year 8) - 2nd place.

Well done girls!

### Extra Curricular

Team sports, individual events, fitness...we have something for everyone! Come and join in the fun!



The PE department offer various after school clubs for different year groups from Monday to Thursday.

Please check the PE noticeboard for the timetable and further details.

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## MATHS TEAM CHALLENGE

### Year 9 Compete

The morning of 4<sup>th</sup> July saw a top team of six Year 9 KNGS mathematicians head to Bishop Challoner Catholic College to take part in the South Area Network Year 9 Maths Team Challenge.

Following training and selection, the team consisted of Laura Bell (K2), Isabel Catling (N1), Zhixin Chen (S8), Abby Nolan (G8), Hannah Pulford (K5), and Libby Styles (G1). We are also grateful to our equally brilliant reserve team members Kathryn Cooper Smith (G1) and Jodie Carreon (N3).

The team did KNGS proud, achieving a fantastic third place over all! In fact, in the tiebreaker for the top two places between Camp Hill boys and girls, KNGS's Libby beat both of them to the answer! Libby was nominated as the star of the team for her lead in teamwork and resilience.

Congratulations on a wonderful result for KNGS glory, some lovely maths, logic and collaboration.

*Mrs Statter*

## NEW 'WE ARE WRITERS' PUBLICATION

### English Ambassadors Begin Work

Following the great success of our 'We Are Writers' book last year, the English Ambassadors have begun the process of putting together our next KNGS anthology. Printed by Scholastic Press, the new book will be published to coincide with World Book Day next spring, and will feature creative writing from students across the range of year groups. The material we have collected so far spans an impressive range of themes and genres; in particular, some very inventive poetry has been submitted by Year 8 students who were involved in last term's poetry slam. The English Ambassadors will be taking a leading role in preparing the book for publication; as well as inspiring students to contribute their work, they will be selecting, organising and proofreading submissions, developing their teamwork as well as their literacy skills and gaining valuable insights into the publishing industry. Pictured are Y8 Ambassadors Milly Owen, Athina Ayubi and Adnana Ailenii along with Tirion Gallagher, who is proudly displaying the beautiful original artwork that she was commissioned to produce for the front cover. The book promises to be another impressive showcase of the literary talents of KNGS students.

*Mrs O'Mahony*



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

### NEW STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP

I have recently appointed a new Student Leadership group and our first meeting took place on the 5th October. From the applications it is evident that we have a very enthusiastic group of pupils and I look forward to an exciting year ahead. Members of our new group have already taken part in a consultation with the catering company, and interviewed some ex-pupils during their visit to the school. We are currently finalising our impact week for next half-term which is set to be a success.

I look forward to sharing our successes with you throughout the year.

*Miss Cawley*

## COMPANIONS HELP YEAR 7 SETTLE INTO KNGS LIFE

Launched this term and led by Y11 student Gracie-Mae Hicks, the KNGS Companions are a team of 21 prefects whose aim is to support other students. All of the Companions have taken part in a training programme led by our Inclusion and Intervention Manager Miss Macaulay, equipping them with the skills to listen to, mentor and befriend peers across the school. Recognisable on the corridors by their orange badges, the Companions have

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been proactive in helping Year 7s settle into life at KNKS, assisting with typical transition worries such as navigating the school building and managing homework. The team give up their time to run drop-in sessions in Room 19 every break and lunchtime, so are always available to students who may want support with a particular issue or just a sociable chat with approachable peers. They recently held a 'Welcome Party' for Year 7 students, hosting forty guests who all enjoyed the chance to share party food and pick up advice on making the most of the opportunities on offer at KNKS. We are proud of the professionalism and commitment shown by the Companions, and the positive contribution they are making to the wellbeing of our school community.

*Mrs O'Mahony*



## HOUSE NEWS

### SPORTS DAY



Not only were we blessed with great weather on Sports Day back in July but the talent the students demonstrated was inspiring. Staff supported their tutor groups and the PE department. It was an amazing atmosphere. **Sharman House** won overall but we strongly believe that everyone who took part was a winner - we saw students really push themselves beyond their limits. Students wore their House colours and made banners in support for their peers. Well done everyone!

### PROM

Last years prom took place at the Edgbaston Cricket Ground. Students looked stunning in their gowns and had photos taken on arrival. We were very impressed with the limos and hummers booked by their parents for the evening. Students had a three course meal and lots of music from the DJ to dance to on the dance floor. The view from the balconies was amazing and students took full benefit of this and took great pictures to capture their memories. Well done to Miss Bromley for organising an exceptional evening!



### FETE

The atmosphere for Fete was one of a true community. Students and staff supported each other to set up their stalls with great enthusiasm. Thanks to Mrs Warwood's stall, we all had some glitter face painting to have an amazing festival feeling. We had a range of stalls to engage everyone; hook a duck, pin the cake on Mary Berry, raffles, chocolate inspired stalls, popcorn, samosas... and when we needed to burn some of this off... we had a fierce water slide and a playful bouncy castle! The BBQ was provided by

Aspens and was a true treat! A massive thank you to everyone for helping and supporting this successful day!

### NEW YEAR

What a fantastic start to the year! We have had an amazing Year 7 come and join us at KNKS and have come with many talents and a passion to learn. We have also been very fortunate to have our new gifted tutors joining our House teams...a warm welcome to Mr Houston, Miss Rai, Mr Mackereth and Mr Pearson. We opened this year with our Induction Day, during which students took part in a range of activities to welcome Year 7's. To build on their community spirit they carried out a team building activity where they had to build a landmark using small balloons, a fantastic activity to watch students take part in and work together. Students had their school photos taken and took part in their House assemblies. Overall, this day was designed to make expectations clear for all students and make sure they all start on the right foot.

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## SIXTH FORM NEWS

### SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS

The admissions for Year 12 September 2017 entries this year have been at an all-time high! 297 students applied to Kings Norton Sixth Form, and 122 have successfully enrolled into Year 12 subject to meeting entrance requirements.

32 of our external students are boys, and 10 of them are girls, who have come from a range of secondary schools, including Kings Norton Boys', Bournville, and Turves Green. All of our students are settling in very well, and are making the smooth transition from GCSE to A Level that we would have hoped.

Applications are currently open for our 2018-19 intake with an **application deadline of 26th January, 2018**. We would prefer **internal applications by 1st December, 2017** in order to prioritise internal student interviews and offers. Please join us at our **'Meet the Sixth Form' & Careers Fair on Wednesday 15th November from 3.30pm - 5.30pm** to find out more about studying A Levels at Kings Norton Sixth Form.

### PARENTS AS PARTNERS

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September we hosted a Parents as Partners evening for the parents/carers of our Year 12 students. The focus of the evening was to introduce the Sixth Form Team as to who we are, and what we do, and to inform parents/carer of the processes of the Sixth Form such as attendance, formal assessments, as well as to sign-post where students can access support for anxiety. Thank you to all of those parents/carers who attended – we hope you found the evening beneficial and informative.

### YEAR 13 LEAVERS DESTINATIONS

In August our Year 13 collected their A Level results, and although we were sad to see them leave we were elated at their results and their achievements of getting into University! Out of the 69 students, 59 of them gained a University place – a huge 86%! 20% of which were places at a Russell Group University.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our students the best of luck in their future endeavours! To celebrate the end of their studies with us, in June was the Year 13 Leavers Ball. This year it took place at the NEC. It was a wonderful event which students and staff thoroughly enjoyed!

### PROJECT TRUST

Since returning in September, Year 13 had an assembly delivered by Project Trust outlining the opportunity to volunteer abroad and the value of it. If students wish to take a gap year after completing their studies, Project Trust is an excellent opportunity to gain skills, increase confidence, and boost communication skills.

### UNIFROG

Unifrog has been launched with Year 12 in order for them to begin thinking about what they would like to do post-18. The search engine allows students to find Universities and Apprenticeships, and filter them based on preference or what they are looking to gain out of their University experience. It is a valuable tool for those who are unsure, or those who would like to have more information on and/or choices regarding what they want to do.

### EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION SHOWCASE TO GOVERNORS

Sixth Form students have the opportunity to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) in addition to their A Level subjects. The EPQ allows students to produce a piece of coursework on a subject of their own choice. Students have to carry out research, plan their project and then either write a 500 word essay or produce a written report and artefact. The qualification allows students to take responsibility for their own outcomes, manage their time effectively to meet deadlines and become independent learners.



In the summer term, Year 12 students took the opportunity to present their work to Governors to show the variety of different projects being studied. Students explained their project titles, research carried out and main findings as well as explaining how the EPQ had developed their study skills. Students producing artefacts displayed their work and explained their research and investigations. Work on show included art work, photograph portfolios, special effects

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horror make overs, a monologue, a model of an eco building and a book inspired by the work of Tolkein. The Governors were very impressed with the in depth knowledge students had on their projects. Students enjoyed the opportunity to explain their projects and show their hard work.

## YEAR 13 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 11 Year 13 geography students headed to Pembrokeshire for their field trip aimed to support their independent investigation which account for 20% of their final A Level grade. After a long drive, students were introduced to their area of study; Tenby, before working upon their independent titles in the evening.

Day 2 and 3 were spent practising data collection methods. A lovely sunny day was spent in Saundersfoot Bay, evaluating the impacts affecting the coastal system. Students also investigated if regeneration processes had an impact on the identity of Haverfordwest. In the evenings students used GIS to present and analyse the data they had collected from the field and planned their methodologies ready for their day of data collection. Methodologies were tailored to their independent title and skills learnt earlier in the week, were put into practise on Thursday. The team were divided with some focussing on coastal processes down in Tenby bay and others collecting data on regeneration in the town centre. Methods included environmental quality assessments, semi-structured questionnaires and interviews, beach profiles and cliff instability assessments. Students conducted their methods maturely, skilfully and with great enthusiasm and independence. In the evening students collated their data and began statistical analysis. Tenby was a beautiful back drop for what was an excellent field trip filled with many an ice cream and stunning photo opportunity.

The students came away with an excellent basis for their independent investigations and were a credit to the school start to finish. The next step is now the write up of their independent investigation where they will analyse, conclude and evaluate their findings. If you would like to find out more about the field trip, and other geography field trips like it, please follow this link to watch our adventure <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9R6TAWXQgWI&feature=youtu.be>



## YEAR 12 BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

On 19th July Miss Crewe, Mrs Caswell, Miss Rickard and Mrs Bhangal (Bains) took our Year 12 students to Slapton Leys Field Course centre in Devon. The aim of the visit was to support their A-level work that the students had done on ecology at school and to give them a hands on experience of conducting biological experiments in a different environment, and in unfamiliar contexts.

We left KNGS early on Wednesday morning and by 1pm we were on Slapton beach studying succession on the coast. All of the activities counted towards the girls getting a practical endorsement for their A Level Biology. On Thursday we visited East Prawle where we studied the distribution of organisms on the rocky shore line, we saw all manner of organisms living there and could see at first-hand how the different organisms were adapted to survive in different conditions. The data we collected and our observations contributed to larger experiments that the field course centre are conducting by monitoring any invasive species. Friday morning was spent studying the invertebrate life in rivers. All of the data we collected throughout the three days was subjected to statistical tests to allow the girls to increase their data-handling skills and draw conclusions based on their own observations and their own data. The trip was excellent fun, beneficial and enjoyable. The girls who attended would have liked to have stayed longer and completed more field work, whilst there their confidence in speaking about Biology and their work improved, girls who had been quiet were gaining confidence and it allowed them to think of what life will be like when they attend university.

The Biology field trip will be open to the students studying A Level Biology in the first instance but is suitable for students studying any subject to which they need to apply statistical testing. We have begun the planning for our return visit to Slapton Ley in summer 2018 and are looking forward to taking the next cohort already.





## MATHS UPDATE

In the Maths department we had a busy summer making significant changes to the curriculum in light of the new GCSE.

Having watched the media over the past few weeks, I am sure that you will be aware that the new Mathematics GCSE was harder. The balance to this was that Grade boundaries were lower. On the higher paper a Grade 7 (the old Grade A) was awarded for achieving just 52%. A Grade 4 (the old Grade C and new standard pass) was awarded for attaining just 17%! On the foundation paper that same Grade 4 was awarded for just 51%. The difficulty of the paper combined with the lower grade boundaries make it essential that students have complete mastery of the earlier topics on the paper. To support the students in this, we will, this year be following the Edexcel exam board which has a more structured approach to its paper. We have also changed the curriculum significantly. In the past, pupils have explored various aspects of a topic over a period of a half term. Beginning in Year 9 students will now work through Stages of content, moving on to the next stage once they have mastered the previous. Across KS4 all maths books will have an up to date list of the topics being addressed so you and the pupils know what they should be working on.

As a department we purchase subscriptions to three online resources; Mathswatch, MyMaths and the PiXL maths app. Teachers across the department will use these to set homework, but they can also be used by pupils independently to enhance their own progress. Students are aware of their login for each site, and have a sticker inside their planner with those details. Every topic on the stage checklists can be found across all three sites.

We are grateful to any support you can offer when discussing Maths with your daughter. In particular avoiding passing on any fears of Maths you have and promoting a can-do attitude. Our new curriculum means that every Maths lesson is designed to support students at whatever level they are working. This is most effective with students who demonstrate a willingness to try everything and do not worry if they get an answer wrong at first.

The Maths department enjoyed excellent results this summer and we hope that through these changes and with your support we can push on to even greater heights.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

*Mr Currie - Mathematics Faculty Leader*

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### NEW BIOMETRIC CASHLESS SYSTEM

#### Coming soon...

Following the successful mobilisation of our new caterers, we are delighted to announce that the school is about to implement a new biometric cashless system for all purchases of food and drink.

This will significantly enhance the dining room experience for students, reducing queues and increasing security by dispensing with the need for students to bring cash to school.

When we go live **towards the end of November**, cash will only be taken in the Sixth Form Café. **All other food and drink must be paid for through our existing ParentPay system**, which will be expanded to allow you to set daily spending limits and review purchases by your child on a daily basis. Students in receipt of free school meals will have the free school meal value applied automatically every day.



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**Step 1:** Go to your app store

**Step 2:** Search for My Ed

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**If you haven't already returned your consent form please do so through the school app (search for "MyEd" on the app store) or return the reply slip attached to the letter which was sent home recently.**

Please note that for FAQs regarding the BioStore system you can visit <https://goo.gl/zuzkbk>

## SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS

A massive thank you to everyone who donated Sainsbury's Active Kid vouchers to us - we collected over 10,000 vouchers and as a result were able to purchase a range of new items for Food & Nutrition - including new blenders, bowls and spatula's.



## REMINDER TO STAY SAFE

As we approach the half-term break and the upcoming Halloween/Bonfire Night activities, we wanted to remind students to please take sensible precautions into the run up to Halloween and Bonfire night to make sure they have fun, stay safe and away from danger as well as being considerate to others.

Please be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep valuables such as phones out of public view whenever possible.

Information about firework safety is available at [www.saferfireworks.com](http://www.saferfireworks.com)

## CBSO YOUTH CHORUS

On Thursday 30th November, three KNGS students will take part in the performance of Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols at the Symphony Hall as members of the CBSO Youth Choir. The post-concert performance is a non-ticketed event open to the public. The prior concert is already sold-out - therefore it is recommend anyone wanting to attend should arrive early.



This concert opens the Youth Chorus 17/18 season and marks their very first performance with the extraordinary new music director, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, performing Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*.

Well done to Millie Fisher, Antje-Maren White and Elizabeth Thompson - we wish you the best of luck in your performance.

For further information please visit: [www.cbsoco.uk/event/beethovens-pastoral](http://www.cbsoco.uk/event/beethovens-pastoral)

## VACANCY - CLEANER & LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR

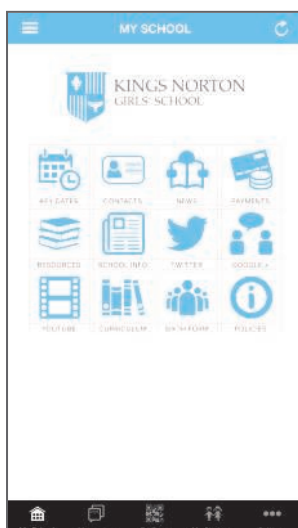
We currently have a vacancy for a cleaner/lunchtime supervisor.

**Duties include:** cleaning classrooms, offices and public spaces within the school buildings, each member of the team being normally assigned to a particular area of the school. In addition you will be part of the lunchtime team supervising and monitoring students during lunch break.

**Hours** are 19.5 hours per week, all year round. **Pay:** £7.68 per hour. **Closing date:** 12 noon, Friday 27th October.

For further information or to apply please send your CV to Anne Maguire: [amaguire@kngs.co.uk](mailto:amaguire@kngs.co.uk) or call 0121 675 1305.

## NEW SCHOOL APP - MY ED



To further improve communication with parents/carers we have recently launched a new KNGS App that you can download on to your mobile devices which shows up to date information about your child along with key school information and key dates.

**Please make sure that you keep us up to date with any changes to your mobile phone number and email address** to ensure that we can communicate with you effectively through this app. Any changes to your contact details can be emailed to [enquiry@kngs.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@kngs.co.uk) or by calling 0121 675 1305.

