

KINGS NORTON GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

December 2017

Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of 2017, it is with a real pride that I reflect on the significant successes of this year. I would like to thank staff who have worked tirelessly to get to grips with the demands of the new A Levels and GCSEs and supported our students through thick and thin. You may have noticed a difference in what is expected, with a much greater emphasis on knowledge acquisition and retention. As usual the students are rising to the challenge and signs are good that we may have a repeat of the outstanding results achieved this summer, with one of the highest progress scores in the county. I would like to thank you for supporting them.

The Sixth Form is stronger and more aspirational than ever. The numbers who have chosen to remain at the school to do their A Levels in 2017 is a testament to the confidence in what we offer and the excellent relationships they have with staff. I would like to thank Lloyds Banking Group who have provided outstanding mentoring for the Sixth Form in this second year of our partnership and who are always looking for new ways to inspire students. Also, a big thank you to all our other partners through Business in the Community who provide guidance, advice and support throughout the year.



STOP PRESS!!

We are delighted to be welcoming Kings Norton Girls' School Alumna the **Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Anne Underwood** as our Guest of Honour at the A Level Certificate Presentation on Friday 22nd December - look out for the event write up and photos in the next parent newsletter...

Finally, I would like to thank our amazing students, about whom we invariably receive fulsome praise from outsiders they encounter be it on trips, participation in competitions, working within the community or with students in other schools. They are a real credit to us and to you: it is no surprise that the school is the success it is.

Every best wish for an enjoyable Christmas holiday and a very happy and prosperous new year.

Gill Fox - Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ♦ **Monday 25th December - Friday 5th January** - Christmas Break
- ♦ **Monday 8th January** - Review Day - **Please note students in school for review appointments only.**
- ♦ **Year 11 - Maths Study Day & Year 10/11 Separate Scientists, RS Workshop.** (See letter sent home)
- ♦ **Tuesday 9th January** - Lessons as normal
- ♦ **Tuesday 16th January** - Year 11 Parents as Partners, 4.30pm - 6.30pm
- ♦ **Thursday 1st February** - Year 10 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6pm
- ♦ **Tuesday 6th February** - Year 8 Parents as Partners, 4.30pm - 5.30pm
- ♦ **Wednesday 7th February** - Staff Training - **EARLY CLOSURE FOR ALL STUDENTS, 12 noon FINISH**
- ♦ **Tuesday 13th February** - Year 12 & 13 Parents as Partners, Invitees only
- ♦ **Monday 19th - Friday 23rd February** - Half Term Break

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Alumni Re-Visit KNKS

Nine 'old girls' walked the corridors of Kings Norton Girls' School once again as part of their annual alumni get together on Wednesday 11th October. In addition to a tour of the school the group were treated to a school dinner and were able to see how lessons had changed since they were pupils at the school.

The group of school friends, many of whom started at KNKS back in 1947, travelled from all parts of the country to re-visit their old school. The group were not only able to enjoy walking

around the original building but also experienced how the school had grown and developed over the years. In addition, the 'old girls' were briefly invited into an art and photography lesson. The group were also served a school dinner, followed by bowls of fruit crumble and jugs of custard in the school canteen.



Members of the KNKS Student Leadership Group, along with the Head Girl and Head Boy spent time with the visitors talking to them about how school life differed today whilst looking through the school archives and sharing stories.

Highlights from the interviews included:

"We asked them what had changed in the classrooms, to which one of the ladies replied "the desks once had a lid which was used to store our school supplies", they explained that unlike us they stayed in one room, with different

teachers moving to their classroom throughout the day. The student prefect would then be responsible for carrying books required into the classroom." **Olivia White (Year 8)**

*"The 'Old Girls' said they liked their teachers as they were quite kind but some of them were a little too strict! They said that they would get detentions for not wearing **all** of their uniform ... even after school on their way home!"* **Anais Morris & Lucy Jones (Year 8)**

Ms Fox, Headteacher commented: "It was lovely to see different generations mixing, sharing memories and experiences. A fantastic afternoon."

Old girl and organiser Valerie Hale said "We had a great day revisiting the school and meeting all the staff and pupils. It was great to sit in the hall again, enjoy a school dinner and also relive our days in the grounds where we once played tennis, rounders, netball and hockey. We were treated like royalty at every step we took. Many thanks go to all the staff and pupils who worked hard to give us such a fabulous day."



Kings Norton Girls School works with the charity Future First to help get back in touch with former students and would welcome any former students to get involved by signing up to the KNKS alumni database at www.networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/kingsnortongirls By signing up to the database we keep our alumni up to date with KNKS news and promote ways to get involved and support current KNKS students.

Opening a World of Opportunities

GERMAN & HISTORY EXCHANGE

KNGS Student Host German Partners

Eighteen students and two teachers arrived at Kings Norton station on Monday, 16th October, 2017 to visit KNGS students in Year 11 and Year 13.

They spent two days in school with their partners - one attending lessons and one experiencing House Day. On Wednesday the German group visited Bourneville and Cadbury World where they had lots of fun! On Friday, English and German partners spent a day in Stratford. KNGS students led a guided tour of the town which was followed by a talk on Shakespeare



at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and a visit to the Birthplace House. Finally, we were treated to live performances of sections of well-known Shakespeare scenes in the gardens – the weather held out and there were smiles all round as students from KNGS and Melle got involved in acting out some of the scenes. The weekend was spent with families and then there was a tearful farewell at the airport on Sunday, 22nd October.

Huge congratulations go to the KNGS students for hosting their partners so well. Everyone had such a positive experience we are really looking forward to our return trip to Melle in March.

HEALTHCARE SCIENCE SCHOOLS' TASTER DAY

Sandwell & Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust

Five Year 10 students and 4 Year 12 students attended a Healthcare Science Schools' Taster Day at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust in order to find out more about science related jobs in hospitals.

The day began with a 'Science Speed Dating' event where the students were able to talk to staff from nine different hospital departments for 10 mins each. During the break the students were then able to choose three departments to go and visit during the afternoon.

The Year 10 students chose to visit the Pharmacy, where they were able to see the dispensary robot at work, Neurophysiology and Pathology.

The Year 12 chose to visit Cardiology, Radiopharmacy and Medical Engineering. It was a very informative day, where students were able to gain an insight into the many different types of work which are available in hospitals.



Opening a World of Opportunities



On Friday 1st December 2017, a group of eleven Year 8 girls were given the opportunity to visit Microsoft Headquarters in Reading for a worldwide event called “Digigirlz”. The event is aimed at dispelling the myths that girls cannot code computer programs, work within the IT industry and 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 solution to the issue of road safety outside our school by coding BBC Microbits – and as expected the creative juices got flowing immediately – eventually bringing together a selection of designs from our three groups which involved robotic barriers, getting Microbits to communicate over Bluetooth to each other and even making use of a full digital camera to represent a speed camera.

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.

For more pictures of the day check out the Computer Science Department on Twitter @kngscompsci



INDIAN PARTITION

Student Take Part in Workshops

12 students from Years 8 & 9 participated in a project to learn about and commemorate Indian Partition on its 70th anniversary. The project was funded by HLF and involved three drama workshops (run by Sampad) which led to a student drama based presentation for all Year 9's.



The presentation was really moving and encouraged the Year 9s to think about what partition meant for the individuals and families involved.

The girls were then invited to participate in the Birmingham City commemoration of partition. This included presenting a section from their presentation, listening and watching other schools' presentations and creating a rangoli design in the Victoria Square. The students then participated in a final event in Birmingham Council House. The students excelled themselves at all parts of this process and were outstanding ambassadors for the History department.



INTERFAITH FORUM & GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES SESSION



On Tuesday 14th November, the Religious Studies department marked the annual National Interfaith Week for the fourth time with an enlightening forum involving a panel of Birmingham religious leaders.

The event contributes towards the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, and also reflects the school's active promotion of "British values", particularly mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Around 130 girls from Years 10 and 11 took part in the forum which provided an opportunity to ask questions to the faith representatives and hear answers from their respective traditions. Questions ranged from issues related to equality and relationships to the relevance of holy texts today and beliefs about the afterlife. The panel was:



Rev Mat Wilson – Ordained Baptist Minister & Senior Pastor, Pavilion Christian Community

Dr Sophia Anwar – Islamic Education Secretary, Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association

Gen Kelsang Leksang - Resident Teacher, Kadampa Buddhist Centre

Rabbi Dr Margaret Jacobi – Rabbi, Birmingham Progressive Synagogue

The students were struck by how much the faiths had in common, while learning about some notable differences.

The panel also recorded an inspiring short video message as part of the school's 'Prevent Bullying' theme which was played during PSHE lessons across the school the following week.



Rabbi Dr. Jacobi

There was a new feature added this year with a special forum for around 100 GCSE Religious Studies students, including 30 from Kings Norton Boys' School, as part of their new examination course exploring Christianity and Islam in depth. Rev Mat Wilson and Dr Sophia Anwar both delivered excellent presentations about key beliefs and teachings from these religions, before an open Q&A session. This was a massive success and proved to be very beneficial for the students.

You can see tweets about how we have been marking Interfaith Week by using the hashtag #kngsinterfaith.

Mr W Ahmedi (Head of Religious Studies)

NATIONAL TREE WEEK

Gardening Club Do Their Bit

To celebrate National Tree Week on 27th November, students for the Gardening Club planted tree saplings on the front field, along with our very own green fingers Site Manager Mr Simms.

The trees were kindly donated to us by Woodland Trust, Sainsbury's, Yorkshire Tea and the Peoples Postcode lottery.

Well done girls - you did a great job!



Opening a World of Opportunities

YEAR 7 BOOK CLUB

Parents & Students Enjoy Reading Together

Our first book club meeting took place in October where a small group of Year 7s and their parents came along to discuss 'One' by Sarah Crossan.

Liberty said: "It was the first book I have read this year. I really enjoyed it and it's made me excited about reading again!"

As you can see, the girls really enjoyed their first book and have started to read 'A Monster Calls' for our next meeting.

Miss Walker



WRITE FOR RIGHTS

Amnesty Campaign

The KNGS Amnesty Group organised a Write for Rights event on Friday, 8th December as part of the national AI campaign. What a compassionate lot the students and staff of KNGS are! In spite of the school being in the midst of a snow storm and about to close early, over 80 people came along to make a difference to someone else's life and send a message of hope.



Here is a summary of the four cases the Amnesty Youth Group chose to support this year:

Shackelia Jackson in Jamaica is trying to get justice for her brother who was shot dead unlawfully by police in 2014 although he was unarmed.

Xulhaz Mannan and Mahbub Rabbi Tonoy - on 25th April 2016, LGBTIQ activists Xulhaz Mannan and Mahbub Rabbi Tonoy were killed by members of the armed group Ansar al-Islam, which is linked to Al Qaeda. The pair helped to set up and run Bangladesh's first and only LGBTIQ magazine. No

one has been formally charged. Although same-sex relations are illegal in Bangladesh, LGBTIQ campaigners were beginning to change people's attitudes.

Azza Soliman, a women's rights lawyer in Egypt, defends victims of torture, domestic abuse and rape. She has been charged with three trumped up charges. If found guilty she faces imprisonment.

The Istanbul 10 - Ten Amnesty staff in Istanbul have been imprisoned and are under investigation for terror-related crimes which is intended to silence their human rights work.

The Amnesty group says a huge "**THANK YOU**" to everyone who came to support the campaigns. Every card, every message makes a difference.

WHEELS FOR ALL

Cycling Fun!

For two Tuesdays in November Precious Huilar and Yusur Farah attended 1 hour long adapted cycling sessions at Small Heath Wellbeing Centre as part of the Wheels for All programme which caters for all cycling needs.

The girls had fun and got some exercise! Thanks to Ms Bi for driving the minibus.

Katy Holbeche, Inclusion Dept.



Opening a World of Opportunities

YEAR 7 RE TRIP

Gives Plenty of Food For Thought

On Wednesday 22nd November, 52 girls from Year 7 and three members of staff embarked on a visit to four places of worship as part of their 'Sacred Buildings' project. We set out on a mission to understand what makes a space 'sacred', what features are essential to worship and what other uses these buildings have for believers.

First stop was Bebe Nanaki Gurudwara (Sikhism) in Handsworth where the girls learnt about various rules and rituals as part of worship, and the way in which their holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib, is treated by Sikhs. Here everyone was treated to delicious refreshments including fried bread, samosas and Coca Cola!



Next we went to the Shree Geeta Bhawan Mandir (Hinduism) in Lozells to observe the morning arti ceremony involving a priest making offerings to various murtis (deities). The girls were fascinated by the many different shrines dedicated to particular gods and goddesses and their significance.

The third venue was Darul Barakaat Mosque (Islam) in Bordesley Green where the girls had lunch before being given a tour of the men's and ladies prayer halls and observing the early afternoon prayers to see how Muslims worship in congregation, particularly their facing Makkah and standing shoulder to shoulder to demonstrate unity and equality.

The fourth and final stop was Birmingham Central Synagogue (Judaism) where the girls were given detailed information about the Jewish faith by a rabbi and were also able to get close to the sacred Torah scrolls in the ark.

Throughout the trip, the girls asked many deep and interesting questions which greatly impressed our hosts. Everyone on the trip took away lots from the day and has set the girls up well for their next task which is to design a multi-faith building.

Well done Year 7 for being a great credit to the school, and thanks Mrs Currie and Mr White for your much needed help and support. Here are some comments from some of the girls:

"I enjoyed seeing the different ways that religions respect their gods." – Lillia Hall G3

"I liked hearing the prayer bells in the mandir and being in the centre of the action." – Alice Griffiths G2

"I liked visiting the different buildings because I wouldn't normally get to visit them. I liked learning about people's beliefs." – Rebekah Hurst N6

Mr W Ahmed, Head of Religious Studies

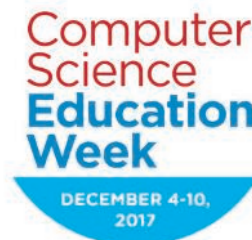
AIMING HIGH

Year 11 Students Visit Oxford

In October, 10 high achieving 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 and student life. They experienced two fascinating academic sessions, a history session on revolting peasants and computer science lesson where they learned so interesting insights into cyber security. 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 university experiences, both academic and social. They returned to Birmingham fully motivated to aim high.



Opening a World of Opportunities



On Monday 4th December 2017, KNGS participated in one of the flagship events as part of Computer Science Education Week. Hour of Code is a worldwide event aimed at getting children and adults alike coding for fun. Our Computer Science subject ambassadors led the event and were on hand to provide support to students and staff who all came to have a go at coding, including Minecraft, Star Wars and other exciting scenarios, some even tried their hand at creating music using code.

All students got a certificate to celebrate their participation in the event and they were given some home learning to carry out which aimed to get them teaching a parent/ grandparent/neighbor to code and spread the excitement of getting a computer to do something cool for the first time.

If you are interested in trying out some coding either for yourself or with your daughter, you can visit the hour of code website all year round – check out <https://hourofcode.com/uk/learn> for more information.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM FORWARD THINKING

Year 11 Celebration Event

On Thursday December 14th the journey that began in Year 8 for selected students ended with a celebration event in The Great Hall of The University of Birmingham. Now in Year 11 there was a final university session culminating in a celebration event with parents in The Aston Webb Hall where they were treated to a fascinating motivational talk by 'Action' Jackson. 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. Everybody left feeling motivated to 'be the best that they can be'!



KIOKO ROCK KNGS

Band Treat Staff & Students to a Private Performance

Back in October Kings Norton Girls enjoyed the musical delights of local band **KIOKO**.

Many of the band members met while studying A Levels at Kings Norton Sixth Form and have been making music together ever since. In the run up to their homecoming gig at the O2 Academy, the lads returned to the school and treated staff and pupils to a private performance!



It is safe to say that the performance was very well received. A great time was had by all!

"What an amazing set from @KiokoMusicUK performing @KNGSlife today. Talk of the school! You guys rocked! #kioko #music" — Mr Willis @ KNGS (@kngscompsci)

Opening a World of Opportunities

PREPERATIONS BEGIN!

School Production of 'Hairspray'

As the KNGS cast prepare and rehearse for the upcoming School Production of Hairspray, they were able to enjoy a break from their hard work and enjoy a trip to the theatre on 11th October to watch the UK Production of the show at the Birmingham Hippodrome. Everyone really enjoyed the performance and it was a great afternoon.

"The cast was incredible and it was great to see the roles we will all be playing in April." Lexi Coley

"The atmosphere was amazing and it was great to go with the people we are performing with." Annie Bacon

"One of the best theatre shows I have seen, would really recommend." Holly Collins

The KNGS School production of 'Hairspray' will be taking place between 26th –29th March, 2018 and tickets will go on sale in January, 2018. Further information on Ticket Sales will be sent home in January.

There are also **business advertising opportunities available in the Production Programme** - for further information please email Andrea Law at alaw@kngs.co.uk



SPOOK-TACULAR

Halloween Science Club

Science club was a spook-tacular!! Fifty Year 7 students bravely witnessed screaming jelly babies, jack-o'-lantern with explosive brains and 2 metre high sparkling flames. They taught statically charged ghosts and created some eerie glow-in-the-dark goo. There were a few screams when our young scientists reached into the sense boxes to deduce what heart-stopping body parts were inside. A big thank you goes to our Year 9 and 10 Science Ambassadors, who did a wonderful job transforming two of our science labs into spooky haunts and helping run the event, they were fantastic role models. All of the students that attended showed great enthusiasm and confidence around the lab. Thank you to everyone involved and we look forward to seeing you back at upcoming science events such as: Winter Festival Science Club, Valentines Science Club, Year 7 Drone Races, British Science Week Wonder Rooms and the What Lies Beneath Science Club.



SPELLING BEE

Year 7 Put Their Spelling Skills to the Test!

Students in Year 7 recently took part in the Inter-house Spelling Bee, which was run by a team of English Ambassadors from Years 8 and 9. Representing their houses in teams of four, sixteen competitors bravely put their spelling skills to the test, supported by a very enthusiastic audience. All of the competitors did very well, with every girl managing to spell some challenging words correctly, undaunted by the pressures of being on stage. The audience members played a valuable role in the contest as they created a

fantastic atmosphere, alternating quiet concentration with celebratory clapping. As the competition progressed, the words became trickier and the tension began to build; in a nailbiting finale, the gold medal was ultimately taken by Eve Godsal of Sharman, with Emma Davies of Keller awarded silver and Evie MacFadzean of Goodall achieving bronze. Points were also counted for the house teams. Keller were the highest-scoring house overall, spelling twenty words correctly; it was a close finish, however, with Nightingale tallying up eighteen words. Sharman placed third with sixteen words, and Goodall fourth with thirteen. The English Ambassadors presented each winner with a trophy to commemorate their win.



Dr. S. O'Mahony

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Geography in Action

It's the most wonderful time of year. For a couple of weeks every year the world takes on a magic glow, people seem merrier and even winter somehow feels cosy. If you are celebrating Christmas this year you're sure to have your own selection of rituals or customs that make the holiday season special to you and your family. Many countries all over the world celebrate Christmas but you might be surprised how differently they do it.

In Austria a beast-like demon creature called Krampus roams city streets frightening kids and punishing the bad ones! In Austria, St. Nicholas rewards nice little boys and girls, while Krampus is said to capture the naughtiest children and whisk them away in his sack. In the first week of December, young men dress up as the Krampus, frightening children with clattering chains and bells.



Meanwhile, over in Japan they are tucking into Christmas dinner...but it's not the traditional one you are thinking of! Over recent years, thanks to the power of advertising a new quirky "tradition" has emerged – a Christmas Day feast of the Colonel's very own Kentucky Fried Chicken.



Every Christmas season an estimated 3.6 million Japanese families treat themselves to fried chicken from the American fast-food chain, in what has become a nationwide tradition. December is a busy month for KFC in Japan – getting the KFC special Christmas dinner often requires ordering it weeks in advance, and those who didn't will wait in line, sometimes for hours.

There are so many other weird and wonderful ways different countries celebrate Christmas – well worth a bit of research to impress family and friends around the dinner table. However you chose to celebrate the holidays the KNKS geography department hopes you have a, fun festive and enjoyable one!

SUCCESSSES

GCSE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Year 11 Class of 2017

Thursday 23rd November saw the return of many of our **Year 11 - Class of 2017**, for a celebratory event, where the students were individually presented with their GCSE certificates. We also welcomed Mrs Vicky Mansueto from Lloyds Banking Group as our guest speaker, who gave an inspirational speech, about her involvement with KNKS through the Business Class Partnership between KNKS and Lloyds.

In addition to the GCSE Certificate Presentation there were a number of individual student prizes awarded - the new Lloyds Art Award, which was presented to **Sachini Pattiya Gardi Hewage** and in addition the 'Artists Artist Award' was presented to **Freya Stephenson**, The Richard Rogers Prize for "Philosophy of Religion" was awarded to **Chloe Aggrey**, The Eileen Daines Prize for "English Literature" was awarded to **Nate Callanan**, the South & City College Principal's Award Scheme was awarded to **Zarin Vandriwala, Julia Moody & Megan Blackmore** and the Headteacher's Prize was awarded to **Lucy Wilkes**. Well done Class of 2017!



SPORTING UPDATE - NETBALL FIXTURES

A massive well done the KNKS Netball Teams on their fixtures this term!

Senior Division One (Year 10 & 11)

KNKS vs. KE Camphill - Wed 1st Nov	Won 27-15
KNKS vs. EHS B - Tues 21st Nov	Won 25-7
KNKS vs. KE Five Ways - Tues 28th Nov	Won 17-14

Year 8 Division 1

KNKS vs. KE Five Ways - Wed 8th Nov	Won 11-9
-------------------------------------	----------

Year 9 Division 1

KNKS vs. KE Camphill - Wed 1st Nov	Lost 13-22
KNKS vs. KE Five Ways - Tues 28th Nov	Won 13-9

Year 7 Division 1

KNKS vs. Swanshurst (Friendly) - Wed 15th Nov	Won 14-0
KNKS vs. EHS A - Tues 21st Nov	Lost 4-18
KNKS vs. Bishop Challoner	Lost 7-13

[Opening a World of Opportunities](#)

JINGLE BELL, JINGLE BELL, JINGLE BELL JOG!

On a very wet Sunday in December, alongside 700 other joggers, the English department (with very little running experience!) donned our Santa suits and took part in the 'Jingle Bell Jog' to raise money for our local St Mary's Hospice.

After...



Thank-you so much to everyone who sponsored us; you will have made such a difference to so many people's lives in our community. We are really pleased to announce that we raised just under £670.



'WE ARE WRITERS'

English Ambassadors Showcase KNGS writing Talent in New Book!

The KNGS English Ambassadors have been working closely with Dr O'Mahony to compile the school's second 'We Are Writers' book. It will feature student writing from across the school, sought out by an Ambassador-run competition that resulted in over a hundred entries! The book will be published by Scholastic Press in February. So far, the book project has received great feedback from students; Niamh Cassidy, Year 9, described it as, "incredibly exciting," adding that "I can't wait to see my writing in print." Before publication, the hard job of planning and proofreading must be completed, with the English Ambassadors taking a key role in selecting and preparing work.

Eve Connor, Y9 (English Ambassador)

Book Cover Credit: created by English Ambassadors using original artwork by Tirion Gallagher (Year 8)



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our student Leadership group have worked hard this half term on an event which they organised as a collaboration between the Student Leadership group and the Student Support team. An anti-bullying arts showcase was organised and was a real success, with many entries of a very high standard. Students from all year groups were invited to design artwork which could be used around the school to promote our work on anti-bullying. During the showcase event, students were able to look at all of the entries and choose their favourite piece of artwork. A winner and two runners up were chosen and their designs will be on display within school. We look forward to holding more anti-bullying events in the future.

This half term we have also seen an increase in the number of subject ambassadors this year, which is very pleasing with many of them interested in accreditation.



On Wednesday 29th November 5 of our Student Leadership group went to Swanshurst School for the morning to begin planning a student leadership project. The morning was spent working with 5 year 12 students from Swanshurst planning an event to promote positive thinking. The morning was a great success and I look forward to sharing the outcomes of this project with you later in the year.

Miss Cawley

KNGS COMPANIONS LAUNCH LUNCHTIME CLUBS

Launched this year, the KNGS Companions are a group of specially trained prefects who are dedicated to supporting other students and improving the wellbeing of our school community. Based in Room 19, the Companions are available every break and lunchtime to talk to students wishing to drop in for a chat, and this service has been extremely popular. Grace, a Y7 pupil visiting the room, said 'the Companions are great! They help us calm down if we feel stressed, and they're always there if we need them.'



In addition to their popular drop-in sessions, the Companions have demonstrated their initiative by setting up two weekly lunchtime clubs, assisted by Y10 students who hope to become Companions next year and are keen to gain experience. Relaxation Colouring-in Club, run by Kyanna Harney, Candice Russell, Beth Iley and Fatima Kendawi, provides students with a calm and relaxing environment in which to unwind. Homework Management Clinic, run by Angelina Shakespeare, Jess Coley, Aiyana Mulrain-Gobbinsingh, Viktoria Nicklin and Natasha Johnson, is designed to provide support for students who may be struggling with the organisation of their homework. Drawing on their own experiences, the Companions provide practical strategies for managing homework and avoiding stress. Pupils in Y7, for whom secondary-style homework can initially be a daunting prospect, have found these sessions reassuring and beneficial.

With their professionalism and commitment, the Companions are making a very positive contribution to KNGS life as well as developing valuable skills for the future. In the words of Jess Coley, Y11, 'being a Companion is a great experience, it is so rewarding helping people with problems that you yourself have had to face when you were lower down in the school; it is also very satisfying seeing how the project has developed and grown throughout the year, and exciting to think about how it will help students in the future.' Aspiring Companion Natasha Johnson, Y10, said, 'to me the role of a Companion is more than a badge or a fancy title, but a chance to have a positive influence on the community of KNGS. It's an opportunity to work as part of a team, and to help with my development as a student as well'.

The team's leadership skills will soon be put to good use as they take responsibility for selecting and training the new cohort of Companions next term, and there are also exciting plans to expand the project into the Sixth Form.

Dr S. O'Mahony

HOUSE NEWS

HOUSE DAY

This year, our House Day was themed 'skilled up'. On Thursday 19th October we ran different sessions throughout the day which enabled students to learn new skills in areas of interest. The students also enjoyed 'team building' sessions in which they competed in a number of games/challenges, thanks to a very enthusiastic Mr Steele and Miss Wattison!

We had visitors deliver some of the sessions such as 'Self Defence' and 'Emotional First Aid' by Baljit from the Oaks Trust...Thank you Baljit! Both sessions were received well and we even put in a small 'soil free' gardening session for our avid gardeners and 'nourishing' our amateur gardeners... a massive thank you to Ms Holbeche for supporting us to organise this.



A little finance session was added to 'round up' the day. We had students think about the importance of different bank accounts and develop a little understanding of the systems which banks use to meet the needs of new customers.

Tutors were actively supporting on the day and took part in activities too. Thank you Tutors, we could not have done this without you! It was a fantastic day and all our visitors were most impressed with our students. Watch this space for next year's House Day!

[Opening a World of Opportunities](#)

CHILDREN IN NEED

Children in Need this year was celebrated with true KNKS spirit. Students really stepped up and raised a tremendous (drum roll...) £1454.81!!!!

They raised money by competing with staff. Staff/students added money to a coin line which filled our foyer. Students/staff bought in their old pound coins too. It became a maze of amazement!

Grace Lasky, Ayesha Mills, Priya Bargota and Madison Palethorpe organised a 'Riff Off' which was inspirational to see. Students sang their hearts out and raised an outstanding amount of money! Well done girls!

We had a fantastic cake sale. Thank you to the students who helped on the day (Tori Samuels, Tianna Harris, Isobel Westwood, Tiffany Coyle, Xena Meksem and Storm Scott Slue) and all those who donated cakes to the 'Cause'!

Individual students raised money in unique ways... students did a sponsored silence, dancing, running and much more! KNKS have an amazing community spirit! Go KNKS!



STARDOM

At KNKS we believe in building a harmonious community where all develop the resilience and confidence to excel as learners and leaders. To assist us in achieving this the concept of STARDOM runs through everything we do:



The STARDOM of KNKS

S- Standards: setting the highest standards of behaviour for yourself as a member of our highly aspirational, tolerant and harmonious school community.

T-Take part: get involved in lessons and take full advantage of all opportunities to excel as a learner or leader and to develop confidence.

A-Achieve: build on learning in lessons and homework to achieve your best.

R- Ready to learn: Show good learning habits at all times, being punctual, having the right equipment, actively listening.

D-Determined: be ready to overcome any obstacle with grit and invincibility.

O-Original thinking: expect to create new solutions to any problem.

M-Mindset: be prepared and willing to put in the effort to be outstanding.

As part of our celebration of STARDOM and achievement amongst our students **we would like to congratulate all of the students that have received 'Student of the Week Award' this half term:**

KELLER HOUSE: Gracie Mae Hicks (K6), Maddie Caetano (K3), Jessica Reeves Taylor (K4), Whole of K1, Amber Williams (K1), Cahrlotte Pickup (K6), Jamie Lee Prestleton (K6) & Leah Knight (K5)

NIGHTINGALE HOUSE: Mollie Griffin (N1), Amber Mear (N3), Bethany Warwick (N1), Maddie Roger Yates (N6), Mya Harvey-Whervin (N2), Evie Harding (N3), Maaira Shabbir (N3), Aliya Shabbir (N3), Poppy Evans (N6) & Maha Sadat (N3)

GOODALL HOUSE: Thea Smith (G3), Poppy Brayne (G5), Abigail Brown (G5), Lucy Burdett (G1), Kylene Santos (G7), Yusur Farah (G6), Lucy Corcoran (G5) & Lauren Reed (G2)

SHARMAN HOUSE: Ava Gretton (S3), Mya Bains (S3), Roopinder Bains (S2), Molly Tayor (S8), Maddison Palethorpe (S3), Sianne Parmer (S1), Mathilda Cannon (S7), Evelyn Smart (S1) & Evie Roe (S5)

Opening a World of Opportunities

SIXTH FORM NEWS

CAREERS FAIR/OPEN EVENING

Our annual Careers Fair on 15th 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.

YEAR 11 INTERVIEWS

Internal Year 11 interviews took place on Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th December. It was great to receive over 110 applications internally and we look forward to welcoming our current Year 11 into the Sixth Form.

LLOYDS BANK MENTORING

Students are engaging incredibly well with the mentoring, as well as their mentors, and are getting valuable information from it. Year 12 have completed three weekly sessions, and will recommence their mentoring in the New Year, along with Year 13.



UCAS APPLICATIONS

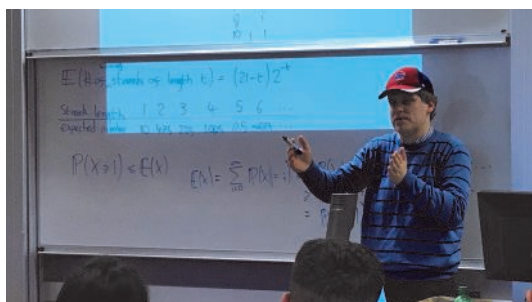
Many UCAS applications have already been sent off to a range of Universities and courses. To ensure all applications go to UCAS on time the **internal deadline is Friday 12th January, 2018.**

PARENTS EVENING

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.

MYEd APP

The MyEd school app can easily be downloaded by following this link: <https://www.myedschoolapp.com/>. The app gives access to a variety of aspects relating to your son/daughter's time at Sixth Form. For example, you can access their timetable, exam timetable, behavior, attendance, as well other important school information. It is quick and easy to sign up, but you must ensure that in order to activate your registration effectively to the MyEd app your mobile number that you enter matches the contact number we have for you on our system.



MATHEMATICAL ANALYSIS OF SPORT

Students attended a lecture at Birmingham University with A Level maths students from other schools around the city. Dr Richard Mycroft discussed many issues surrounding sport such as using the Markov property to analyse the existence of form in sport and a Poisson process to model the progression of a football game to determine the optimum time to commit a foul. We considered the 2010 Luis Suarez red card. We then calculated the time into the game that a player should risk a red card to stop a goal, depending on the probabilities of goals being scored after that point in specific situations. We also considered permutations of teams to decide if a certain 'unlucky' draw is rigged. Finally, we discussed Elo ratings and how these can be easily found for players online to statistically determine the probability of outcomes of matches.

In summary, students saw how even complicated systems with many outcomes, such as football games, can be modeled with anything from only a coin flip to an exponential distribution.

UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE

On 7 November 11 of our keenest 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 original thinking. 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 5 of these students earned awards (and points for their houses) as follows:



Charlotte Bice SILVER, Mia Barlow BRONZE, Alex Whittall BRONZE, Jess Schofield BRONZE, Emily Humphreys BRONZE.

In addition, On the 22nd November **Alex Whittall, Charlotte Bice, Jessica Davies & Elisha Gretton** took part in the UKMT Senior maths challenge at Solihull College. After taking part in a series of extremely challenging mathematics problems, amongst them a mathematics crossword, they came a very creditable 11th. The members of the Year 12 team are already planning training sessions to get themselves “match fit” for next year’s challenge.”

Well done from all in the Maths Department!

SIXTH FORM LONDON GALLERY TRIP

It was a long but worthwhile day when the Year 12 and 13 artists and photographers ventured to London on 17th November accompanied by Mrs Everson and Mr Abelson to visit various London art galleries. On a day that started early and finished late they visited four galleries, Tate Britain, The National Gallery, The National Portrait Gallery, where they visited the recently opened Taylor Wessing 2017 Portrait Competition exhibition, and The Saatchi Gallery where there was an eye-opening exhibition of Russian modern art. It was agreed that over the course of the day they had all seen some interesting work, some of which they liked more than others but all agreed that they had been engaged by their intense day of capital culture and we returned tired but inspired to Birmingham.



YEAR 13 DRAMA STUDENTS SUPPORT LOCAL SCHOOL

In November Year 13 Drama students joined Year 6 at St Francis Primary School to work together again. This year we had the opportunity to support Year 6 in preparing for their class assembly on Children in Need.

Year 13 rose to the challenge with researching, planning, developing and scripting a performance that they then went in to St Francis to direct - they created a mini version of the televised CiN show we see each year. We were thrilled that St Francis wanted us to join them for their assembly to see the outcome of the hard work of Year 13 and Year 6. Year 6 did fantastically! They had all learnt their lines and were very confident in presenting their performance. The Drama department are really proud of Year 13 for the responsibility and enthusiasm they have shown in this project. Well done Year 13!

CAREERS ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Students from Year 7 through to Year 13 receive targeted careers advice and guidance through PSHE on off timetabled days and through employer engagement events. The following outlines the areas which are covered in each year group.

YEAR 7: An introduction to careers and employability skills. At what age can you work?

YEAR 8: Introduction to **Uexplore**. Different careers and the skills needed for these. How different subjects related to careers. Banking and Budgeting. **Off timetable activities:** Next Generation Award Scheme – optional

YEAR 9: Higher education. Pay scales. Deductions to salaries. Options and the KS4 curriculum. **Off timetable activities:** Challenge day which looks at Options at KS4, employer engagement, post 16 choices. Community outreach. Opportunities to work with Lloyds banking group, Purity drinks, Microsoft, IGD, Future first, Careers Fair.

[Opening a World of Opportunities](#)

YEAR 10: Work experience. The skills needed in workplace. How to make that important phone call. Letter writing for work. Interview technique. **Off timetable activities:** CIAG day which looks at Transition and future options (post 16 and 18). Work experience and interviews. Small group careers interviews. Opportunities to work with employers, Lloyds (Finance talk), Purity drinks. Careers Fair.

YEAR 11: Unifrog - introduction. Post 16 choices. Developing CV's. Developing interview techniques. **Off timetable activities:** Targeted post 16 talks and visits. Careers fair. 1:1 independent careers interview. Careers Fair.

YEAR 12 & 13: Unifrog – in preparation for university and apprenticeship applications. Visiting university talks. University finance talks (External provider). UCAS application process (including Oxbridge). Apprenticeship talks.

Enrichment activities: Lloyds mentoring. Visits to a range of universities. UCAS higher education fair. Virtual work experience. Work experience. 1:1 careers interviews as required. Careers Fair.

Several students and parents have recently asked about how to dig deeper into a range of careers. As a school we buy into two specific careers packages U-Explore and Unifrog and encourage students to explore various free online careers packages.

Links relating to careers, apprenticeships, university and other pathways can be found on the careers page of our website. **Two free careers websites of particular use are:** Careerspilot <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/> and National careers service : <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/home>

At Kings Norton Girls' School we buy into two specific online careers tools—Unifrog and U-Explore:

Unifrog <https://www.unifrog.org/>

Students will receive logins for Unifrog in Year 11, 12 and 13. The website provides an easy way for students to choose the best Universities and Apprenticeships for them, and for teachers to track their progress. The site compares courses and vacancies by lots of different factors including distance from home, social life and salary. Apprenticeship vacancies are live applications.

The image shows two steps of the U-Explore registration process. Step 1, 'Your Establishment', has three dropdown menus: 'County' set to 'West Midlands', 'Town' set to 'Birmingham', and 'Establishment' set to 'Kings Norton Girls' School'. Step 2, 'Your Registration Code', has a 'Registering at' dropdown set to 'Kings Norton Girls' School', a 'Are you a...' section with 'Student?', 'Parent?' (checked), and 'Teacher?' options, and a 'Registration Code' field containing 'KINGSNORTON'. Both steps have a 'NEXT STEP >' button.

U-Explore - As parents you can access this website and support your daughter or son in researching a wide range of careers and apprenticeships. Search for U-Explore and select “**Register with us**” then enter the details on the left . Once you are logged in a good place to start is:



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

TOROGON SKI VISIT - IMPORTANT DATES REMINDER

- **Ackers Dri-Ski slope sessions** for pupils on the Ski visit are on **Wednesday 10th and Wednesday 17th January** after school.
- The **Parents Information Evening** is on **Wednesday 24th of January** starting at 5.30pm.

Mrs Currie

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.**

In addition please DO NOT pull onto/come down the school drive to drop your child off, doing so puts students at serious risk.

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.

[Opening a World of Opportunities](#)