



# NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Carer,

Again, the full onslaught of exams is upon us. I know the pressures both you and your daughters, as well as staff, face at this time of year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making the difference which will lead to a sea of smiling faces in August.



We have not neglected fun however. Our production of Grease saw record audiences and was met with real enthusiasm and delight. I was particularly pleased that so many of our girls were involved, and the boys in the band and production contributed to a highly professional performance.

In visiting Boulogne – Sur – Mer, I saw our Year 7 at their best, and the green shoots of their passion to have a go, that is such a characteristic of Kings Norton girls, undaunted even by the cultural and language barriers. I felt very proud.

I hope you enjoy reading about the other events and successes in our newsletter as half term approaches.

## Goodbye and every best wish

Julia Rosenbaum Year 11 RAL and Teacher of English will be leaving us at half term to take up another post. We wish her every success and thank her wholeheartedly for everything she has given to the school and the girls during her 12 years at the school.

We also say farewell and best wishes to Kim Ekste, our Marketing Manager who has been with us for a year, and a big thank you to Anna Adjei-Kwertang who has covered in Science since September.

Gill Fox

## Dates for your diary

2nd June - Year 7 visit to Leicester Space Centre

15th June - D of E Bronze Expedition

22nd/23rd June - Open Mornings

29th June - 1st July - Year 12 Induction

30th June - Prospective Year 12 Parents Evening

7th July - Annual Awards - lessons start for all not involved at 11:20am

7th July - Sports Day (afternoon)

10th July - School Fete 1:15pm - 3:15pm all welcome

17th July - Last day of term - school ends at 12:30pm

12th August - A Level Results Day

18th August - GCSE Results Day



The annual School Fete will be held on Friday 10th July between 1:15pm and 3:15pm and once again we would like to extend a warm welcome to parents and relatives.

We have a limited number of places available for parents who are interested in taking a stall. If you are interested then please contact Jane Wright on 0121 675 1305.



# TES Awards Nomination

**KNGS staff shortlisted for Maths Team of the Year at the TES School Awards 2015.**

The awards recognise the outstanding contribution to education made by teams and individuals both inside and outside schools.

KNGS is one of just eight to be shortlisted in this category and the only school in Birmingham to receive a nomination in any category.

Faculty Leader for Maths, Tom Francome said, "It's great for the KNGS Maths team to be recognised but ultimately we aim to do our best for the students. As a subject leader I am grateful for the efforts both of our pupils and of the maths team who work so hard to support students in developing as mathematicians."



"At Kings Norton Girls' we believe that everyone can develop as a mathematician through effort and we're constantly trying to improve our teaching so there are interesting and varied opportunities to do so."

And the pupils agree with this sentiment. Year 9 pupil, SivaPriya Thirugnanarajah, a regular attendee at the school's Maths Clinic said, "The Maths department have really helped us to enjoy maths. The teachers always make sure everyone really understands the work and maths clinics are really useful too, especially when preparing for exams."

Year 13 student Ikraan Hersi, studying A Level Maths agrees, "The Maths team have always been there to lend a helping hand; maths clinic was literally the main reason for my success at GCSE and AS Level."

The winners will be announced at the TES School Awards ceremony, which will take place at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London's Park Lane on June 19th 2015.

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## Young People on the Global Stage

**KNGS are one of 8 local schools taking part in 'Young People on the Global Stage' an exciting opportunity from Tide Global Learning.**

This EU funded project brings together young people from the UK, Germany, Spain, Kenya and The Gambia to reflect on the Millennium Goals on poverty and hunger. For KNGS, this will involve a group of Year 9 students working to organise and host a conference for Midlands' schools later in this year. From this we will launch our 'Manifesto for Sustainable Living' and the girls will be involved in lobbying at a local, national and regional level as a follow up to the conference.



To find out more about the project please visit [www.kngs.co.uk/Latest-News](http://www.kngs.co.uk/Latest-News)

## “A wop-baba-lu-mop, ahh-wop-bam-boom!”

This year the Arts Faculty worked in collaboration to bring to you the fabulous 'High School Musical', Grease.

The show took place over four nights in April in the school hall at KNGS and was a huge success with attendance totalling 650! It was wonderful to see so many students involved in the show both on stage and back stage. Their hard work really paid off and they should be very proud of their efforts. It was also great to see so many parents attend the show; we would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their continued support of the arts faculty.

Many parents have ordered photographs and goody bags from the show, these will be distributed after half term.



For lots more stunning photos from the production please visit [www.kngs.co.uk/Performances-and-Shows](http://www.kngs.co.uk/Performances-and-Shows).



## Duke of Edinburgh Update

Year 10 students have recently completed their day walk and first overnight expedition in preparation for their qualifying expedition in June.

The team have been hard at work volunteering, building skills and improving their physical fitness. Students were a real credit to KNGS, we look forward to a successful assessment weekend in June. Well done to all!

For more photos from Blackwell please visit [www.kngs.co.uk/Community-Outreach](http://www.kngs.co.uk/Community-Outreach)

# Year 7 Day Trip to Boulonge - sur - Mer

On Friday 24th April, a group of 120 Year 7 girls and 15 staff embarked on day trip to Boulogne-sur-Mer, in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region, a 30-minute drive south from the tunnel at Calais.



The group set off early, taking the shuttle under the Channel. For some girls, it was their first experience of travelling under the sea in the tunnel.

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

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

We would also like to express a warm thank you to all staff accompanying the trip as such a trip would not be possible without their help. A particular thank you to Head of Year 7, Miss Prentice, for all her support.

For lots more photos of our day in Boulogne please visit [www.kngs.co.uk/International-School](http://www.kngs.co.uk/International-School).

# GCSE Geography Fieldtrip

Year 10 Geographers have been collecting data for their GCSE Controlled Assessments.

The group are investigating the land use changes along a city transect, and spent Wednesday 13th May hopping on and off the Cross City Train Line collecting data, land use mapping and taking all the photos that they will need to complete their GCSE Controlled Assessments

They will also investigate the historical changes in this area, with a specific focus on the massive changes that Longbridge has witnessed over the last decade. We'd love to hear from you if you have any experience of the decline in manufacturing in this part of Birmingham, if you think you could help us, please contact Mrs Strong by email.



# Junior Maths Challenge

120 girls from year 7 and year 8 sat the Junior Maths Challenge on Thursday the 30th of April.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in this event. The following girls have achieved a certificate which they will receive next half term:

## Year 8

Claudia Hughes, Elizabeth Agathangelou, Brigid Vincent, Intisar Salim, Jennifer Hwang, Mya Bains, Kylene Santos, Evelyn Smart, Annie Noble, Jasmine Aitken  
Elodie Kang, Georgia Jepson, Poppy Ellis, Nicola Thomas, Olivia Meunier, Adele Savage, Isabella Ivory, Jade Channer, Sanam Khan, Eloise Bates.

## Year 7

Hannah Pulford, Sophie Flowers, Freya Nankivell-Dalton, Sophie Williams, Leahrose Parris, Georgia Darling, Madalena Caetana, Hazel Smith, Aiyana Mulraing, Jessica Bice, Kathryn Cooper-Smith, Evie Fleming

# West Midlands Wheelchair Basketball Regional Schools Competition

Six Year 7 pupils were selected to participate in a regional competition for wheelchair basketball hosted by the University of Worcester.

Even though the following girls had never played this sport before they did extremely well and had an enjoyable experience. Well done to the following pupils for an excellent effort, Precious Huilar, Emily Hitchmough, Fatima Kendawi, Wajeeha Abid, Yusur Farah, Leah-rose Parris.



# Birmingham Schools Gymnastics Competition

Gymnasts from a range of year groups represented KNGS at the Birmingham Schools Gymnastics Competition.



They had to perform a floor routine and a vault. The standard of the competition was exceptionally high signifying just how well the girls performed to achieve medals and certificates. The following girls definitely deserve recognition for all their hard work and achievements.

## Under 12's - achieved an overall 3rd place

Teona Caney, Aimee McCaffery, Sofia El-Menshawy, Jodie Carreon, Sophie Williams, Magdalene Caetano, Hazel Smith

## Under 14's

Clare Stock, Julia Stock, Elspeth McGuigan, Zarin Vandriwala – achieved 4th place on floor

## Over 14's - achieved 3rd place overall

Catherine Rooney – achieved 4th place on vault, 3rd place on floor and 3rd place overall as an individual, Emily Bagnall and Ashley Delaney

# Netball Results

A big thank you to all students who have been committed to netball training this year! Netball training will be up and running again in September.

## Competitive Results:

### Year 7

League: 2nd place  
Tournament: A Team – group stage / B Team – group stage  
Well done to all girls involved – a very good first season, see you in September!

### Year 8

League: 1st place  
Tournament: A Team – 1st place / B Team – group stage  
An outstanding season - well done girls!

### Year 9

League: 2nd place  
Tournament: Group stage  
A very good season with excellent results against St Georges, Bishop Challoner and Shenley Academy. Well done girls.

## Seniors

League: 6th place  
Well done girls - a tough season. Thank you for your commitment.





## Good Luck 6th Form

The sixth form team would like to wish all of our Year 12 and 13 students luck for their impending examinations.

A Levels are a challenge and we are proud of their efforts and know that our girls are preparing thoroughly.

Our Year 13 girls will embark on many different routes once the A2 exams are over and this year we have seen applications to a variety of university courses and apprenticeships ranging from Anthropology to Zoology. We think our girls are the best and we know that whether it's university or the world of work they will do brilliantly.



## Leavers' Ball

It's always a sad time of year when we say goodbye to our Year 13 girls.

On Friday 22nd May we held our Leavers' Assembly with a theme of old school uniform. There were fantastic performances from Divya Sharma and Rosie Morgan. The end of the A2 examinations will culminate with the Leavers' Ball at the International Convention Centre which will see both KNGS and KNBS students in all their finery. A well-deserved, sophisticated culmination to their 6th Form studies.



## 6th Form Transition

We are looking forward to meeting our prospective Year 12 students and their parents during our Sixth Form Transition commencing 29th June.

The week will give an insight into Post -16 studies and ensure that our girls are given a head start to make that transition from GCSE to A Level. It is great to know that so many of our Year 11 girls are staying with us and the sixth form team are looking forward to working with them over the next two years. We would also like to wish all our year 11 girls the very best of luck in their GCSE exams.

## UCAS Higher Education Fair

As part of their preparation for future plans, as we do every year, all Year 12 students will attend the UCAS Higher Education Fair at Aston University on Thursday 25th June.

This is a fantastic opportunity for girls to get first hand information from most universities in the country as well as careers advice.

## Guest Speakers

We have several guest speakers coming in to speak to Year 12 students next half term.

We have Kim Chadwick from Newman University informing students about university applications and personal statements, Julia Kingston from University of Birmingham to explain the A2B scheme and provide a timeline for applications and Adele Oliver from "Projects Abroad", giving students information about the scheme and the various opportunities available.



## Former pupil awarded MBE

Mrs Joan Stoker, a former pupil of Kings Norton Girls' School in the 1930's, was recently invested with the MBE, awarded in honour of services to the Birmingham community over more than 70 years.

Mrs Stoker is now 92 years old and she remembers her time at KNGS with great affection. After leaving the school, she worked at Cadbury and then in a factory during World War 2 before becoming a non-qualified teacher and school secretary. Her service to the community took many forms; watching for fires caused by enemy raids during WW2, Guiding, serving on the National Trust committee, serving as a school governor and organising lunch clubs. Mostly recently, well into her 90s, Mrs Stoker was the Chair of her residents' association and a volunteer at Woodlands Hospital.

Speaking just before the investiture at Buckingham Palace, where she met HRH Prince Charles, Mrs Stoker said, "I've enjoyed everything I've done. I believe you should do what you can to make things better".

Our congratulations to Mrs Stoker for this tremendous honour.

## Former Head Girl Returns to KNGS

On Friday 15th May we welcomed former Head Girl, Jill Smith (nee Sutton), back to KNGS for a tour of the school and a chance to revisit and share memories with current pupils.

A pupil at KNGS from 1961 to 1968, Ms Smith served as Head Girl in 1968, moving to Hertfordshire over 35 years ago where she became a primary school teacher. Having only returned to Birmingham on several occasions since, she was delighted to revisit her old school and observe many familiar scenes, as well as the many changes. Ms Smith was given a tour of the school by Year 9 pupils Charlotte and Emily, and took time to chat with our current Head Girl Abbie about KNGS then and now and plans for the future. Ms Smith was also kind enough to bring with her some fascinating documents including a school report and a newspaper article about the creation of a Christmas mural. Copies will be added to our school archive.



"It was lovely to see many things were still the same, walking down the corridors brought it all back and it was great to see the two trees still standing on the field.

Compared to the 60's there is a really diverse curriculum on offer, which is really encouraging. If I were a local parent today I would happily send my daughter to KNGS. The girls who showed me round, Charlotte and Emily, were delightful and I felt truly welcomed by everyone on my visit. I left school feeling very confident and positive about myself, having met the girls today it is clear this is something still nurtured by the school."

# Important Information about how your daughter will receive notices received during form time – improvements after half term.

In preparation of moving to a vertical tutoring system in September, we are changing the way we give out notices to students in form time from 15th June 2015.

This will reduce paper, time and also encourage our students to be more self organised. The new method will be electronic and notices will still be shared during form time. We are also making it easier for your daughter to take responsibility to check for notices that affect her on occasions that she misses her form time, e.g. due to illness.

On any day where a form time is missed, students must visit 'Form Notices' found in the student share area of the school network (students will be shown how to access this during form). This is also accessible from home via the remote access. A copy of the notices will also be pinned on a central notice board. Students will no longer rely on their form tutor to pass on notices after an absence has occurred. Your daughter is now responsible for being informed and up to date with any notices issued.

I would be grateful if you could remind your daughter(s) of the above responsibilities on her, on any occasion that she is absent from form time.



## Head of House Appointed

We welcome Mr Abdur Rohman, who will join us after half term as the new Head of Sharman House.

"I am really looking forward to joining this outstanding school as Head of Sharman House and as a member of the incredible Science team. I have been teaching for 18 years and have a wealth of experience but there is always more to learn and I look forward to doing so at KNKS

I am a big superhero fan, and I love Erasure - maybe one for the parents rather than the girls!

I look forward to working with everyone and meeting you in due course."

## Maths Parents Puzzle

One of the best ways to support your daughter in thinking mathematically is to work on a puzzle together.

Asking them to explain their thinking is important as it develops flexibility and reasoning as well as the idea that you can try out different strategies and learn from the ones that don't work. Communicating and explaining are key mathematical processes. This problem could be tackled in many ways; the explanation is the important part.

There are two men on camels, The Narrator and one called "The Man Who Counted" and they come across a man who has escaped an attack by desert nomads and is starving - and he asks for some food. The Narrator has three loaves of bread and the Man Who Counted has five. So they share the bread out and the starving man says he is a wealthy sheik and will repay them when they reach the city. When they reach the town the wealthy sheik meets his vizer and gives 8 gold coins to the pair, in return for their bread. He says that these should be given - 3 to The Narrator and 5 to The Man Who Counted... But The Man Who Counted says they should be given - 1 to The Narrator and 7 to The Man Who Counted.....

*From The Man Who Counted by Júlio César de Mello e Souza*

Once again, you can attempt this brainteaser for pure pleasure or submit your solution to the front office to win a prize for your daughter.

Submit solutions to Mr. Francome by Friday 5th June. Winner will be the first correct solution drawn at random. ☺

