

# STUDENT — VOICE —

Welcome to the first published newspaper of the Student Voice. We report the latest events in our school to keep everyone up-to-date with recent games and activities in which students participate. We hope you enjoy the paper and if you have any stories you want to report on, join us Tuesday lunchtimes in room 17 and write your own!

## SCHOOL GAMES SUCCESS

OUR SCHOOL has participated in many extra-curricular sporting events this term, including The Birmingham Schools' games. Overall, KNGS Fotsul (indoor football) team came in 5<sup>th</sup> place. They were 3<sup>rd</sup> in their section therefore, sadly just missing out on qualifying for the semi-finals. Moreover, KNGS Basketball team had qualified 2<sup>nd</sup>, putting them against the 1<sup>st</sup> place from the other heat (round). They successfully won the game, which put them through to the final. The final was intense but the other team pulled away with only a few minutes to go - this left the team with a happy silver medal. We would like to congratulate both the fotsull and basketball teams with their strong perseverance and dedication to their sports. Well done!

-By Charlotte Pickup

## AMAZING AUTHOR ADVICE :

Her Top Tips And Tricks To Start Writing.

Author Jo Cotterill paid KNGS a visit on the 27th of February and gave the girls some quality advice. She began by explaining about her books and her inspiration behind them. For many of her books, she asked if she could visit certain places such as a strawberry farm and an electrical power source building. She was fascinated by the atmosphere and the possible plots for stories that could be set there. She also watched a practice session for the GB synchronized swimming team to gain inspiration for her book 'Deep Water'. Jo said that she based her books for a younger audience of around 8/9 to late teens. She states this is because of her love for reading children's books even till this day.

As a year group we asked Jo some questions:

### Who is your favourite author?

Jonathan Stroud

### Who inspires you?

I have a lot of inspirations but probably Laura Bates



### What is your favourite book?

Well my favourite adult book is Good Omens but my favourite child book is The Darkness Rising.

### What is your favourite book you wrote?

Probably Electrigirl

### Who is your celebrity crush?

Ha-ha! Probably David Tennant but I do have a little thing for Robert Downey Jr.

### And finally, what advice do you have for budding writers?

Well, to be a writer you have to be passionate and you have to write all the time and ask others how to improve your work but you should also read a lot. That also helps. Jo wishes you the best of luck!

- by Charlotte Pickup & Amy Lerrigo

## OPTIONS ARTICLE:

Choosing your options is a process that takes place in year 9, which determines what lessons you have in year 10 and what you take for GCSE. This is important because it will impact your future career. Here, we'll give you an idea of what to expect when you choose your options.

You first get an assembly briefly explaining the options process and at the end, you all get given an option booklet, explaining all the different components of GCSE for the different subjects you can take. A year 9 student exclaims that 'the options booklet was useful because it gave me information that was not otherwise provided,' However another student stated that 'it wasn't very helpful because after reading it, some information was quite unclear.' The options booklet mainly had a positive impact and gave valid information to help you with your choices for GCSE.

The next event that will support you with your choices is Challenge Day, this happens in the month of February. You and your PSHE group rotate round different activities giving you different opinions of careers and what to take for GCSE. The first component is speed dating with the year 11's and 6<sup>th</sup> formers, you get exactly 3 minutes to ask them as many questions as you can, like what's the coursework like or whether it's enjoyable. The next part to the day was talking to the employers, similar to the year 11's, you had 3 minutes with each of them, asking questions which help you explore the range of jobs you can go into. One student exclaimed that 'the employer talks were very useful and definitely helped me, however I think the speed dating wasn't very good as they didn't have much to talk about.' This day overall is something you should pay attention to.

Parents as partners evening is an event that your parents and yourself can attend to get more information into what the options are like, and the opportunity to speak with those specific teachers. Every house has a different appointment time to hear about the options form and what you can do post 16 in the Learning Hub. A few year 9 students had the opinion of the fact that 'the talk was very informative and [their] parents benefited a lot from it.' Although the talk was useful, 'the talks with the teachers took a long time as they were disorganised.' This is an event that you should attend, especially if

you're struggling with what to choose.

During the options process, like other years you will have a parents evening, in which you and your parents discuss your progress throughout the year so far. Additionally, your subject teacher will briefly mention the subject as an option block, and guide you to the possibilities of choosing that specific subject. One parent stated that 'the evening was very informative, and handouts were of immense value. However, whether from parents or teaching staff, timing of the night can be frustrating.'

The option forms are what you hand in around March which determines what you are doing for GCSE. First, you must choose whether you want to do French, German or Spanish, depending on whether you do a second language or not, you're also allowed to do both languages if you put one as one of your two options. Similarly, you need to pick either Geography or History but you can put one as your option. You have two option choices to make and one reserve which you will get if your main ones are too full, fortunately that is very unlikely. The first option you put down will be something you will do for GCSE. There are certain options that you can't do both of. For example, you cannot do both Art and Photography or Art and Textiles as they are part of the same GCSE and you would only get one GCSE out of it. You will still be doing your core subjects: Science, Maths and English, and you will still do 2 hours of PE a week even if you didn't pick Physical Education. These are the options you must choose out of: Art and Design, Photography, Textiles, Business Studies, Child Development, Computing, Drama, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Graphics, Health and Social Care, Media Studies, Second language, Music, PE, RE, Geography, History and Sociology. The options process should not be stressful in any way, if you feel scared or stressed go to a family member or even someone who's already gone through this process. Good luck!

By Olivia Dent and Megan Cornelius