

Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

Exam time is upon us again with Year 9 exams now complete and Year 12 Formal Assessments about to take place. There is no doubt that the specifications are a real challenge but we have done a significant amount of intelligence gathering with our networks and through direct exam board training, and we are as confident as we can be with the preparations we have made.

As normal at KNGS students are studying hard to learn and retain much more information than they have had to do in the past so good strategies in this area will pay dividends. Also techniques in tackling the actual exam papers will make a difference, so, if they have 5 minutes to prepare themselves before the exam starts - what exactly are they going to do in that time? Are they going to highlight key words in the question? What are they going to do if they meet a question which seems at first glance, impossible? Whatever happens on the day we are extremely proud of our students and what they have achieved so far and we absolutely know they deserve the very best outcomes for their future.

I hope that you enjoy this bumper edition of our newsletter and please note the important information on the back page.



Gill Fox - Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Monday 30th April - Friday 4th May** - Year 12 Form Formal Assessments and Study Leave
- ◆ **Thursday 3rd May** - Year 7 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Thursday 8th March** - Year 9 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Monday 7th May** - Bank Holiday
- ◆ **Monday 14th - Thursday 24th May** - Year 10 Exams
- ◆ **Wednesday 16th - Friday 18th May** - Year 7 & 8 Exams
- ◆ **Friday 25th May** - Staff Training - **SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS**
- ◆ **Monday 25th & Tuesday 26th June** - Whole School Open Mornings, 9am - 11am
- ◆ **Week commencing 2nd July** - Year 12 Transition Week for the new Sixth Form Students
- ◆ **Friday 6th July** - Sports Day
- ◆ **Friday 13th July** - School Fete - parents and public are welcome, starting at 1.15pm
- ◆ **Friday 20th July** - End of Term - Students finish at 12 noon

FUNDING FOR A NEW SIXTH FORM BUILDING

We were very excited by the news late last term, that we have been successful in achieving our funding bid for our proposed new build which will provide the superb accommodation our Sixth Form students so richly deserve.



The new build will have six new classrooms, a large dedicated study space, new toilet block, Sixth Form office and a flexible outdoor area. As you can see from the images, the build will be in keeping with the architectural character of the older building, signaling proud traditions as well as looking forward to a great future for the school.

Work will start on the build this summer.

Gill Fox - Headteacher

ANTI BULLYING QUALITY MARK

During this academic year, Kings Norton Girls' School & Sixth Form are working towards achieving the Anti-Bullying Quality Mark (ABQM) Bronze award. Mr Gunn (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Wilks (Student Support) are the designated members of staff who are pro-actively working with staff and students to promote the school's anti-bullying ethos and values. The named Governor involved in our work is Spencer Roberts.

Last term students were encouraged to enter a competition to design a logo which could be used around school to highlight our work on anti-bullying. Well done to Eve Godsall (S5) who was the winner of the competition, we look forward to seeing your logo around school! The work completed so far involves the establishment of a steering group and an updated Anti-Bullying policy which will shortly be available on the school website. An Anti-Bullying showcase event took place last term which was very well attended and staff were able to gain the views of students. The establishment and development of our LGBT group further supports our anti-bullying work.

KNGS staff have completed an online survey on anti-bullying and within the coming weeks and students will also be asked to complete a survey online. During the Summer Term, the steering group will lead on organising an event which will further promote our Anti-Bullying work. Parents, carers and families will be invited to attend to see first-hand the work being carried out within school.



We would also like parents/carers to be involved in the Anti-Bullying steering group. If you feel that you could commit a small amount of time to support our work, please contact Mrs Wilks on 0121 675 1305 or at awilks@knqs.co.uk.

Opening a World of Opportunities

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

KNGS SKI VISIT

Year 8 Trip to Switzerland

A total of 103 pupils and 11 staff from 4 different schools took part in the Birmingham Consortium 2018 Ski Visit to Torgon, Switzerland. This included 30 of our Year 8 students, Mrs Currie, Mr Steele and Miss Wattison. We arrived to huge amounts of snow and beautiful skiing conditions. Girls took part in 5 days of skiing as well as the evening activities of a climbing wall, torchlight walk and a roller disco. All skiing groups



made determined efforts to progress and make it to being able to ski in France and go on the 4 person chair lift to the top of the Portes du Soleil ski area, with girls amazed at the breath-taking views from the top. It was lovely to see huge amounts of collaboration and support across the schools and lots of smiley faces after a hard days skiing each day. Girls were asked what they were most proud of and what they would remember at the end of the week:



"The thing I am most proud of this week is that I had resilience and never gave up."

"I am proud of my confidence to try new things and just have a go at every opportunity."

"I am proud that I pushed myself to keep trying and my confidence to meet and speak to new people."

"I am proud of being able to make new friends from different schools."

"I am proud of the new skills that I have learnt such as independence and organisation."

"I am most proud of overcoming my fears like of heights and falling, I am also proud of being determined and motivated."

"That I could make friends without the need of phones all the time, I will be less reliant on my devices."

"I am proud of being able to be so far away from my family for such a long time."

"I am going to remember the view from the top and the feeling of going fast down the mountain the most, like flying."

"It was a beautiful experience with jaw dropping views and I got to go on the chair lifts up to the top of the mountain."



Along with a whole lot of skiing, we saw kindness, support, friendship, determination, perseverance, emotional development, resilience, organisation, motivation, responsibility, independence, I could go on – a brilliant brilliant week, well done all, you should be incredibly proud of yourselves for your achievements throughout the week!

HAPPY VALENTINES!

Year 7 Science Club

Our Year 7 Science Club explored real hearts in preparation for Valentine's day. The club started with Miss Crewe dissecting a gigantic ox heart. The Year 7's were inquisitive, asked some superb questions and were keen to get to dissect a heart themselves. After the demonstration they conducted their own dissections with the care and maturity that our KNGS students always impress us with. Our more senior students in the school, Year 10 - Year 12 students shared their knowledge with the Year 7's and did a wonderful job supporting with the dissection. Miss Davies and Miss Crewe were very impressed with all of the girls who took part in the science club; they are a very talented bunch.



CELEBRATION OF WORLD BOOK DAY

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday, 1 March 2018 and to highlight the importance of 'reading for pleasure' across the school various book related events were held throughout the week.

Jo Cotterill Author Visit

On Tuesday, 27th February 2018, the author Jo Cotterill visited the school to talk to all the students in Year 7 and Year 8. She gave a very lively, inspiring talk and detailed the importance of completing extensive research before beginning to write. The pupils asked Jo some great questions, which they had thought about before as they had produced some fantastic posters about her during half-term. The author was really impressed with the school and the pupils and emailed saying that 'It was such a joy to visit a school where books and reading are so valued!'.



KNGS Book Character Fancy Dress Day

Due to the snow the KNGS Book Character Fancy Dress Day did not take place until Friday, 9 March 2018. Nevertheless, both staff and student put a massive amount of effort into their costumes, and it was very entertaining seeing all of the different 'characters' teaching and walking around school. Outfits included Mary Poppins, Frozen Charlotte, Gangster Granny and Harry Potter Characters. Judging took place during lunchtime in the Learning Hub. The winning members of staff were the Science Department who were magnificently dressed as characters from



Alice in Wonderland and Mrs Twyford who dressed as Mary Poppins. The winning pupils were a group of students who dressed as characters from Harry Potter and a student who dressed as Mary Poppins as well.

Scholastic Book Fair

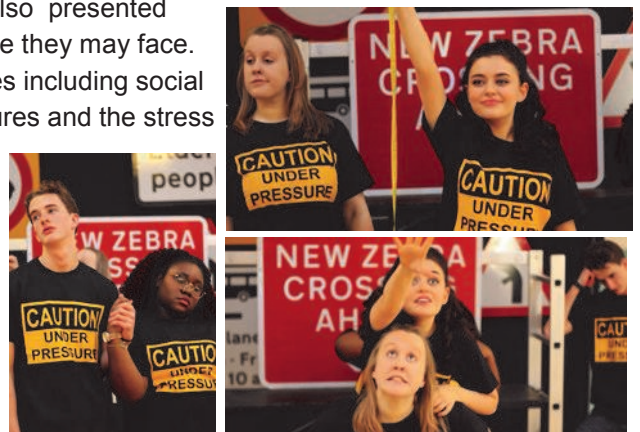
Between Thursday, 1 March 2018 and Tuesday, 6th March 2018 the Learning Hub hosted a Scholastic Book Fair. Many thanks to everyone who supported us, as the school library received 60% of the sales to spend on Scholastic books and resources. Overall, including the sales from the 'We are Writers' book, a massive £362.06 was raised.



COMIN' AT YA!

RPA Perform to Year 10

Last half term we welcomed RPA back to perform to Year 10. They brought their new piece of Documentary theatre, 'Comin' at ya!' which focused on the very relevant topics of pressure and stress. Their performance, as ever, brought humour, music, high energy, and interaction with the audience, creativity, great sketches and thought provoking moments. While presenting examples of stress and pressure it also presented ways that students could potentially deal with stress and pressure they may face. Examples they brought took into account lots of potential stresses including social pressures, the feeling of wanting to belong and academic pressures and the stress of exams. Although they dealt with a relevant but difficult topic, it certainly was a performance you could go away from certainly entertained, but hopefully also feeling up lifted. It reiterated lots of PSHE sessions we have with students when looking at stress, pressure, exams and how to deal with these and hopefully they again took the message away that they don't face these things alone, there is certainly always help and support available in school.



Opening a World of Opportunities

A SPANISH EXPERIENCE

KNGS Students Visit Madrid

Twenty one KNGS girls from Years 10, 11 and 13 boarded a flight from Heathrow on 26 March to start their Spanish experience in Madrid. The aim of the trip was to enable students to hear, read and speak Spanish in a native Spanish environment and also to improve their cultural awareness about the history of Madrid.

On arrival at the hostel, which was located within easy walking distance of the main attractions, the girls excitedly settled into their dormitories before sampling a Spanish buffet at a local restaurant.



We were greeted with blue skies and sunshine on the Tuesday, which stayed with us for the remainder of the trip. A walking tour around the historic parts of Madrid with a Spanish speaking guide enabled the girls to practise their listening skills and interpret to one another what he was saying. The history of the Palacio Real and the Spanish inquisition was particularly informative and a quiz was held later in the week to see how much the students had remembered. Prior to a visit into the Palacio Real itself in the afternoon, we had lunch in the Plaza Mayor where several girls sampled the local bocadillos.

The following day we walked round several of the beautiful parks in Madrid, going back to visit the extensive palace gardens before

lunching by the river. A visit to El museo Reina Sofia enabled the girls to appreciate the works of Picasso, including the Guernica, amongst other artists, prior to a quick look at the tropical rainforest within the Atocha station.

The students excelled themselves on the final day, when we set them a challenge of shopping in two teams for their own lunches and making them back at the hostel. A picnic in the palace grounds in the ongoing sunshine was enjoyed by all before the girls had free time for shopping.

Our last evening in a Venezuelan restaurant was a happy experience for everybody before returning to the UK. The students were a real credit to KNGS and the trip was thoroughly enjoyed by staff and students alike.

Miss Cawley/Miss Perks

AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK

Last term we were excited to participate in World Autism Awareness Week for the first time. There were events and competitions running throughout the week:

- Nearly 100 pupils took part in an 'About Autism' Scavenger Hunt around school. They found large Autism Awareness ribbons, collected information and claimed chocolate prizes!



- We had a very popular **cake sale to raise funds for the National Autistic Society**. So far we have raised almost £50.
- The new Autism Pupil Voice Group created a **slideshow presentation** about their experiences of Autism for the TV screen in the canteen.
- Pupils took part in a **Logo Design Competition** on the theme, 'Be kind. Be yourself. Include others'. There was also a **Short Writing Competition** about barriers and overcoming personal challenges.

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The winners of the logo competition were: 1st - Charley Cook (N6), joint 2nd - Poppy Brayne (G5) and Nadia Parker (G6), 3rd: Priya Bargota (K4) and Highly Commended - Kyra-Lea Black (S6). The winners of the Writing Competition were: 1st - Tammy Moore (S2), 2nd - Maleeha Sami (S5), 3rd - Sofia Papettas (N2) and Highly Commended: Hanifah Saleh (K7). Well done to all who entered.

- Before the week kicked off, we had a **staff training session** about Autism and best practice for supporting pupils. We shared views from the Autism Pupil Voice Group and the Autism Parent Voice Group with staff.
- This term, there will be a follow-up **Form Time focus** on understanding Autism. All pupils will watch the 'Do you know someone with Autism?' video by the National Autistic Society. They will be challenged to think about invisible disabilities and how to approach and understand new people that they meet.

I have been very proud of the girls from our new Autism Pupil Voice Group who took part in planning and organising these events. They challenged themselves to share their views and their voice. They have been a pleasure to work with. We have all been delighted by how many pupils got involved in finding out more about this invisible disability. Thanks also go to the Dyslexia Pupil Voice Group for supporting by running the cake sale, the Inclusion dream team who assisted with the Scavenger Hunt and the many pupils, parents and staff who donated amazing cakes. A final thanks to the Autism Parent Voice Group who supported us and encouraged their daughters to make their voices heard.

Mrs Vaughan (Inclusion)

GERMAN AND HISTORY EXCHANGE

KNGS Students Visit Melle

Sixteen students from Year 11 and 13 set off to Melle in Lower Saxony on 8th March. During our stay we attended school on two mornings to get a taste of German school life. Things are so different – teachers in jeans, a very gentle bell ring between lessons; all lessons are doubles, i.e. two lessons of 45 minutes in a block with a five minute break in the middle. We had a German or history workshop on the last



afternoon where we were able to practise for our GCSE and A Level

German speaking exams with our partners or get an overview of German history. We enjoyed a day visiting Bremen where we learnt a lot about the city and its history on a treasure hunt. We also spent a lot of time with our German partners in groups in the evening and at the weekend – shopping, bowling, watching films or handball matches, eating, a wind band concert and more! We had such a huge learning experience with a lot of fun along the way. Several of the partners are already arranging to meet up again in the summer – lifelong friendships have developed!

(Pictured right) Here's another statue to the famous fairy tale characters. Have you read this story?



The whole group in Bremen - Can you see the Bremer Stadtmusikanten (town musicians) behind the group?

INTER-HOUSE PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

The Year 7 Inter-House Public Speaking Competition was held on Friday 16th March 2018. The preliminary rounds had taken place in the Learning Hub, as part of regular Year 7 library lessons, where pupils had been asked to write and deliver a one minute speech on their free Bookbuzz book, which they had received before Christmas. Sixteen pupils were then invited to take part in the Public Speaking Competition to compete both individually and for their house. For the competition pupils were asked to prepare and deliver a speech about an event or activity which had had an impact on their life. The event was very successful and the presentations were delivered with enthusiasm and confidence and with brave and interesting content. The winner of the individual prize was Nadia Parker and the Keller team won for their house.



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GET CREATIVE. BE INSPIRED.

British Science Week 2018



British Science Week ran from 9th - 18th March 2018 and schools, universities and scientific institutions across the UK worked in association with the **British Science Association** to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. To celebrate the event at KNGS we ran a variety of events including the **2nd Annual Year 7 Drone Race**, **the Wonder Room**, **Science Ambassadors Challenge** and the **5th Annual Big Science Quiz**, where Sixth Form students went head-to-head with KNGS staff.

The **Year 7 Drone Races** saw teams representing the four houses face off. Teams competed to guide the drone around a complex obstacle course in the shortest possible time. All of the teams that took part showed excellent enthusiasm but there could only be one champion. Team Goodall, composed of Abigail Hughes, Elizabeth Niclasen, Alisha Merali were victorious on the day with Nightingale coming in second and Keller coming in third place. Houses also competed in the Science Ambassadors Quiz and Goodall topped the tables again, Sharman in second place with Keller only 1 point behind and Nightingale were not far off the mark in 4th place.



At lunch-time **Wonder Rooms** opened again. The room was filled with dazzling demonstrations such as turning copper to gold, dragon fire, heart dissection and the electrifying Van de Graaff created a buzz of awe and excitement. The rooms were full of engaged students and the Science Ambassadors were vital to supporting the event.

Mr Todd, the legendary quizmaster and fountain of all knowledge, took to the stage again and put together the most challenging quiz to date. For the first time in Big Quiz History, teacher teams were not victorious, in fact, Sixth Form teams dominated the day and were all superb. The glory of first place went to O'Mell Scott, Mackenzie Vaughan, and Lewis Powell who demonstrated exceptional knowledge and problem solving skills.

Thank you to all staff members and science ambassadors for all of the hard work and enthusiasm that they put into making this year's British Science Week so successful.

UNIVERSITY LIFE TRIP

Year 9 Forward Thinking, University of Birmingham

In late March six Year 9 students enjoyed another experience day as part of their on-going Forward Thinking Programme giving valuable insights into life at university. The day was designed to show what the social and non-academic life of an undergraduate involves and they took part in a sporting activity, had a tour of the university and also student accommodation. The day finished with a session at The Hollywood Bowl in Rubery and all agreed it had been a most enjoyable and informative day. Next year these students will benefit from mentoring sessions in school with a second year student from the University of Birmingham.

CELEBRATION OF READING

Event to Celebrate a Love of Reading

As part of an on-going initiative to raise the status of literacy across the school, we invited students to a special event in the Learning Hub on the last day of term. Students showed their appreciation for all things reading with food, games and puzzles, with the chance to win plenty of Easter chocolate! And, as a bonus, anyone who had completed a Book Report and handed it in to the Learning Hub was automatically entered into a raffle with some fantastic prizes. The students' enthusiasm for reading really shone through and made the day a great success. We hope they're all looking forward to the next one as much as we are!



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FARADAY ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

Year 8 Compete in National Challenge

In February, 2 teams of Year 8 students spent a very enjoyable day at Camp Hill Girls' School competing in the national Faraday Challenge. It is a STEM competition designed to inspire students to take up careers in science, technology, engineering and maths. The challenge was to design a new ride that is going for Thorpe Park, and then to build a component of that park, evaluate their work, keep the project within budget and present the project to the other competitors and judges. Both of our teams of 6 did superbly. They showed great teamwork, enthusiasm and ingenuity. The materials supplied were limited, but our students thought outside the box to create a moving sidewalk that actually worked and would take students through a Cluedo style ride and the other group engineered a car that would take could be driven by children and adults alike. The competing teams from Swanshurst and Camp Hill Girls' were fantastic as well; but the confidence and enthusiasm that our students demonstrated were second to none. Congratulations to all of the students involved, Camp Hill took the honours of the day, but that didn't stop all of you from shining like stars.



HEALTH DAYS

Each year group has again had a Health Day, whether in December or more recently in February and we were delighted to welcome back many familiar faces including RPA and Loudmouth who contributed again to our events. Year groups looked at a range of topics that are important and interesting to consider.



Loudmouth delivered thought provoking and educational performances and followed their performances up with some interactive workshops, where students had the opportunity to find out more about the characters in performances through hot seating and well directed discussions with Loudmouth facilitators.

RPA led some interactive workshops focusing on friendship and equality. We also had the benefit of Lynwen our relationship and sexual health consultant who delivered very informative sessions where students can feel confident and comfortable to ask questions about topics

that typically some can find embarrassing to discuss.

Lynette provided some very much needed sessions on dealing with stress by giving Year 10 and 11 students lots of relaxation techniques to take away and put into practice over their exam periods. Perhaps some families have been able to benefit from our Year 10 and 11's going home and sharing some of these techniques, I know our staff enjoyed these sessions! We also focussed on health and safety with St John's Ambulance



delivering sessions on bleeding and the recovery position. Banardos also led sessions on child sexual exploitation and domestic violence.

KNGS staff also played a pivotal role by again delivering sessions on a range of topics including healthy relationships, parenting and mental health. Other topics throughout the days included healthy lifestyles, fire safety, FGM, forced marriage. Our health days continue to provide a vital opportunity to add to our PSHE provision within school.

Thank you to all who were involved in delivering these days.



INSIGHT INTO MEDICINE

Year 10 Visit to University of Birmingham

On Wednesday 21st March ten aspiring doctors from Year 10 visited the University of Birmingham Medical School to take part in an 'Insight into Medicine' day.

The students enjoyed a tour of the Medical School and the wider campus, and attended inspirational talks about **Life as a Medical Student** and **Being a Doctor**. The students also participated in workshops, learning about basic life support and clinical skills.

The day gave students an insight into the various disciplines that underpin medicine and healthcare, and motivated the students to pursue a career in the health sector.



AMNESTY YOUTH GROUP NEWS



The Amnesty Youth Group has had another busy half term. We supported the school's International Women's Day event. We organised the signing of letters of support for Azza Soliman an Egyptian lawyer who has worked supporting women's rights in Egypt for years. Azza now faces trumped up charges from the government and if found guilty will be imprisoned. Extreme measures to silence her and stop her work! Lots of students signed the letters which have been posted to Azza. We have also sent a letter to the Egyptian government asking them to reconsider Azza's case and those of other women in a similar position.

Planning for our next events is well underway with a campaign to stop toxic messages on Twitter, and action card campaign for Ali Aarrass, a Belgian-Moroccan, who Spain forcibly returned to Morocco illegally. Ali is serving a 12 month prison sentence after an unfair trial based on "confession" extracted under torture. Year 10 will be running a campaign in support of LGBT rights in Finland. There will also be campaigns against the death penalty and supporting Ahmed H who is in prison in Hungary on terrorism charges after using a megaphone to call for people to be calm during clashes between police and refugees on the Hungarian border. He had fled Syria with his family in 2015. The campaigns will take place on Wednesday, 9th May in ICT3. All students are welcome to come along and support them.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Student Leadership group has had a busy and exciting half term. They were heavily involved with International Women's Day preparations and held a fantastic event in collaboration with Amnesty and the History ambassadors. There were a series of activities available for the pupils to take part in including taking "selfies" and creating bunting with positive messages for gender equality. Some of our members also interviewed some high profile women including our own Headteacher, and the interviews were shown as part of the event. As well as the event the Sixth Form members of the group created the resources for Theme of the Week to be used in tutor time, which included some thought provoking debate ideas, and they also led the assemblies for that week which were both informative and uplifting. It was wonderful to see SLG celebrating women's rights and taking a proactive role in spreading messages of gender equality. It was also great to see the Sixth Form involved including some of our boys who played an active part in the preparations.





In addition to the international Women's day event our collaboration with Swanshurst School continued. Five of our members; Phoebe Farrington, Lyra Mentoer-Wallace, Maariyah Chaudhury, Abbie McDonald and Milly Owen, collaborated with five Sixth Form students from Swanshurst to create a morning of workshops for 30 Year 5 pupils from St Francis Primary School. The workshops were based around healthy minds and teaching them some simple strategies to overcome nervousness. The workshops took place at our school in the Learning Hub and were really successful. The event culminated in the primary students making a video that they can take back and

share in their assembly. Now all 3 schools will be raising money for a local charity 'Caring Minds' based in Moseley. This project has been a great success and is a credit to our pupils; they led sessions with real confidence and maturity. We look forward to seeing how much money we can raise together.

COMPANIONS UPDATE

Kings Norton Girls' School is a community tied together by the foundations of friendship and support provided by both staff and students. However, as at every school, pupils may sometimes face uncertainties, trials and tribulations, and this is when a companion may be needed. The new cohort of KNGS Companions have just been recruited. They are a group of twenty-seven Year 10 pupils who extend a hand of friendship and guidance to all students. Applicants were hand picked through rigorous interviews held by the current Year 11 Companions. Over the past year, this scheme has been extremely successful, and the current Companions have provided the new team with valuable insight into the role and passed on their expertise and knowledge.

Becoming a Companion is a great responsibility which now lies upon the shoulders of the new team. However, each of us attends a training programme headed by Miss Macaulay. We have already covered confidentiality and safeguarding and will soon be attending workshops on listening skills, assertiveness, anxiety and other relevant topics. These provide the building blocks of the role and allow us to develop and shape our skills.



As Companions we feel that the role provides an opportunity to 'give back to the school' for the help it has given us over the past four years. Companions hope to use the opportunity to gain experience to help others as the school has always helped them.

On the whole, we hope to provide support; enabling all students to feel as welcome and happy here at KNGS as we have during these past years. As we all know, the hardest barriers are those that we face alone. This initiative ensures no students have to feel isolated - instead they are embraced with the support of an extended family: the Companions.

Jessica Ranford, Y10 Companion

SUCCESSES

KNGS STUDENT WINS PRIZE AT PRESTIGIOUS PHOTO COMPETITION

Congratulations Libby!

Congratulations to Year 10 student, Libby Styles on winning a prize in a prestigious, national photography competition, for an image which captures her vision of life in 2018.

The photograph which shows a father who appears to be too engrossed in his phone to notice his son pointing at something, won first prize in the category of 'Age of innovation' in the Economic and Social Research Council's 'The Bigger Picture' competition.

Libby collected her £100 prize back in March at a special awards ceremony held at the Espacio Gallery, Shoreditch, London. Libby's photograph was displayed at the Espacio Gallery in a special exhibition, which ran until 25th March.

The photographic competition is the fourth to be run by the ESRC. This year's competition tasked young people from across the UK to explore how social science is relevant to their lives – with a picture encapsulating how the world is changing and how it affects them, their families, friends and communities as a whole. Libby says of her image 'The Modern Family': "Does it represent the negative side of the rise in social media and our addiction to our phones? While technology can be a positive thing, can it also change the dynamics of the modern family?"

More than 550 images were sent in by students from 75 schools, across 118 places in the UK. They shared a vast range of inspiring and thought-provoking images, taken not only with their cameras, but smartphones and tablets. Well done Libby - we are really proud of your achievement and the recognition you have received!



HAIRSPRAY

KNGS Students Rock the House

At the end of last term KNGS students put on quite a show as they rocked the hall over four nights with their fantastic performance of Hairspray.

A lot of hard work went into the production with weeks of rehearsals and set preparation as well as lots of work behind the scenes - thank you to all the staff and students that supported with this both in

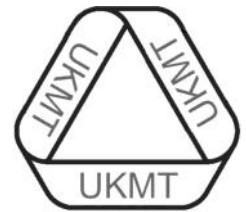


advance and helping out front of house and behind the scenes on show nights. We would like to thank all the many companies that supported us through advertising and donating raffle prizes, also helping to make the show a success. And finally an enormous thanks to the cast and band. They showed excellent commitment and enthusiasm throughout the rehearsal process and made the whole experience a real joy!

Well done to all of you!

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UKMT INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE



KNGS Students win Awards

On 1 February, 170 of our Year 9,10 and 11 girls took part in the UKMT Intermediate Challenge, a National mathematical competition.

They had to answer 25 multiple choice questions which tested their problem-solving skills. Questions later in the paper were worth more marks but also marks were lost for questions answered incorrectly!

Thousands of students took part around the UK and we are very pleased to announce that many of our students won awards as follows:

Gold Award: Jennifer Hwang (Best in Year), Kylene Santos, Xinge Zhang, Leah-Rose Parris (Best in Year), Hazel Smith and Isis Walker-Bailey (Best in Year).

Silver Award: Georgia Jepson, Annie Noble, Rachel Vail, Poppy Ellis, Avika Korrin, Isobel Brookes, Jade Channer, Abby Nolan, Zhixin Chen, Kathryn Cooper Smith, Laura Bell, Beth Iley, Isabel Catling, Georgia Darling, Sophie Flowers, Mary Glasby, Holly Whittall, Alice Goodman, Lucy Attrill, Gwen Duncan, Abbie Okey, Mae Busby, Faye Nugent, Kitty Ballard and Kate Noble.

Bronze: Kyanna Harney, Olivia Meunier, Intisar Salim, Hannah Carnall, Emily Cull, Anna Underwood, Candice Russell, Angelina Shakespeare, Brooke Clarke, Malaikah Ali, Olivia Hyde, Mia Hinds, Annie Dhinsacraven, Maryam Ahmed, Freya Nankivell, Verity Allen, Jessica Bice, Jodie Carreon, Libby Styles, Lucy Wilson, Natasha Johnson, Faith Page, Evie Fleming, Elliemay Harrison, Ellen Attrill, Jessica Reeves-Taylor, Thea Smith, Betty Thompson, Meghane Lawrence, Prity Islam, Aimee Woodhams, Prathiks Kumar, Jessica Bann, Melissa Sword, Sataara Jawad and Lucy Burdett.

In addition 5 of our students performed extremely well and got through to the next International round when they competed against students from over 50 countries. These students were Jennifer Hwang, Kylene Santos, Leah-Rose Parris, Isis Walker-Bailey and Mary Glasby. We are now excitedly awaiting these results, but whatever the outcome these girls have made us very proud.

Maths Department

CELEBRATORY LAUNCH EVENT

'We Are Writers' Book

To celebrate the launch of our school's 2018 'We Are Writers' book, student authors from all year groups and proud parents gathered in the Learning Hub for a selection of readings. Over £600 worth of books were sold, and we are very grateful to the students and families who supported us by buying a copy. The English Ambassadors worked hard with Dr O'Mahony to make 'We Are Writers' a reality - proofreading the book and organising the event, and we are very proud of the publication's success. Thank you, everyone!

Eve Connor, Y9 English Ambassador



SPORTS UPDATE

Year 8 & 9 Basketball

Congratulations to all the girls who represented KNKS basketball team at the Birmingham School games. The girls played extremely well, achieving 2nd place after a closely fought final with KE Handsworth. Well done!

Netball

Throughout March our Netball Teams played in the end of season Kings Norton Netball League tournaments - well done to all who took part!



Results as follows: Year 7 – 2nd place, Year 9 – 2nd place and Seniors – 1st place.

Sports Relief 2018

This year, KNKS staff and students were set the challenge to 'row' the English Channel. The event took place in the main entrance and it was lovely to see such enthusiasm and teamwork from all participants from Year 7 to Sixth Form, to staff. A big thank you to everyone for their donations, support and to those who participated. We managed to raise £888! Thank you KNKS!



ALSO a huge well done to Jaya Gohil (K4) and family who

carried out their own fundraising for Sports Relief and Macmillan, donating an additional £100 to be split between the two charities.

The winners were:

Year 7- **Nightingale**, Year 8- **Nightingale**, Year 9- **Sharman**, Year 10- **Sharman**, Year 11- **Goodall**, Sixth Form and staff - **Nightingale** and **OVERALL- Sharman**



HOUSE NEWS

We are wishing **Miss Bi (Head of Keller)** lots of love and luck for her maternity leave. We hope you enjoy your maternity leave. We wish you all the best and we can't wait to see your sweet "bundle of joy". Take very good care of yourself and we look forward to having you back in January 2019.

We welcome Miss Cawley as Head of Keller House whilst Miss Bi is on maternity leave. Welcome to the team!

Gauntlet Games have started! We have had our first lot of benchball competitions! We are hoping to have a great Summer Term of competitions and challenges... watch this space!

We would like to wish our students lots of luck for their exams...especially our Year 11's!

STARDOM

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' last half term:**

KELLER HOUSE: Amelia Andrews (K2), Matilda Johnson (K2), Hope Plant (K2), Leah Haddock (K1), Halaah Sullan (K2), Mary Gasby (K7) & Leah Knight (K5)

NIGHTINGALE HOUSE: Phoebe Preston (N3), Elan O'Toole (N7), Ankita Ganji (N6), Trinity Donnelly (N1) & Mae Busby (N1)

GOODALL HOUSE: Daisy Williams (G7), Isobel Watson (G3), Olivia Long (G6), Alisha Merali (G7), Libby Styles (G1) & Poppy Ellis (G3)

SHARMAN HOUSE: Harriet Lees-Lowe (S5), Eve Wheeler (S8), Megan Miller (S8), Larrisa Mucklow (S2), Pheobe Foxall (S5) & Evelyn Smart (S1)



SIXTH FORM NEWS

SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS 2018

Kings Norton Sixth Form have had a phenomenal amount of applications this year for the September 2018 Intake. The total number of applications is currently at 270, which includes internal students and external ones, and we have offered 229 provisional places.

Due to the vast amount of applicants, the first round of interviews was held on Monday 12th February, and the second rounds were held on Wednesday 28th March and Thursday 29th March.

Applicants were incredibly positive about our Sixth Form, and we look forward to welcoming our new Year 12's in September!

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Total number of University places offered for September 2018 intake is 71. Due to the amazing personal statements and references provided by teachers, the number of unconditional University offers is at 11.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 13's the very best of luck in their examinations in the summer. We sincerely hope they achieve the results we know they are so capable of, and secure their first choice place at University.

EXAMINATIONS

With exam season approaching Year 12 are currently preparing for their formal assessments and Year 13 are preparing for their final exams.

Both Year 12 and 13 have been going through revision techniques with their form tutor to help aid with preparation, and we wish them all the best of luck.

YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE

The **Work Experience programme has been launched on Monday 26th March**. In the assembly, students were given information on the deadlines they must meet. Year 12 must have their work experience confirmed on, or ideally before, **Friday 11th May**. Work experience is valuable in that it enables students to build their soft skills, their employability skills, and be more confident in their choices post-18.

Students are expected to, where they can, carry out work experience in the field they wish to enter into either after A Levels, or after University. A list of company contacts is currently displayed in the Sixth Form Common Room for students to use and contact.

Support will be given from the Sixth Form Team if students are struggling to find work experience.

YEAR 12 HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT VISIT

On the 28th February, thirty-six year twelve Politics and History students set off with three members of staff: Ms Thatcher, Mrs Shakespeare and Mr Mccloughlin to visit the wonderful Houses of Parliament. Despite the cold weather, the students were enthusiastic and interested throughout the whole day. The students were fascinated on the tour around Parliament both with the architecture and the fantastic history of the two chambers of the Houses of Parliament. On the tour around Parliament the students were given an informative and unique insight into the workings of Parliament and the role it plays in Britain. In addition to this we were very fortunate to see an engaging debate taking place in each of the two chambers. One of the students said it was "fantastic and very informative to see the House of Commons when a real debate was taking place".



Following this we enjoyed a very entertaining workshop on representation and voting, in which the students were able to put forward their manifestos for ruling the country. Finally we were extremely lucky to have a question and answer session with the Selly Oak MP – Mr McCabe.

It was a thoroughly inspiring day and the students came away enthused and informed about the complex and diverse structure of Britain's national government.

Mr Mccloughlin

GEOGRAPHY MASTERCLASS

On Wednesday 14th March 2018, Year 12 geography students attended Aberystwyth University's masterclasses at the Midland Arts Centre (MAC), in Birmingham. A team of talented university lecturers from Aberystwyth University led the dynamic and interactive sessions on; 'Climate change: impact and adaptation' and a 'shrinking world for migrants?' The masterclasses were designed to enhance students' knowledge gained from the curriculum and provide a taste of how geography can be developed further within Higher Education. The topics link perfectly with their A Level course as the themes run throughout Y12 and Y13. Beyond learning new concepts on and ideas around

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climate change and migration, students got to experience the reality of a degree pitched lecture. Staff at the University were very welcoming and the lectures themselves, were very informative. The geography students thoroughly enjoyed their day and found the experience beneficial to their studies and development. It was noted students representing KNGS, were a credit to the school; behaving in a mature and exemplary way. They also displayed excellent learning skills and many volunteered ideas within the sessions. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all and Mrs Warwood was very proud of all geographers involved.



ICAEW BASE COMPETITION 2018

This term Year 12 Business Studies students have taken part in a National Business and Accounting competition for schools. The competition is designed to develop students' employability skills and explore the role of a Chartered Accountant. For round one, students completed a short, online business related game individually. From their performance a report was generated identifying their areas of strengths and areas to develop. From the results of the report two teams were identified based on characteristics identified from the first round. Students then went on to complete a team challenge. The challenge involved scenarios that a Chartered Accountant would face within the work place and students used their original thinking skills to solve problems and offer advice. The competition has provided students with a unique and exciting experience, to apply their business knowledge and develop key employability skills.

ROME TRIP

In February, 44 photography, art and RE/philosophy students accompanied by Mr Abelson, Miss Randell, Mr Ahmedi and Miss Rai went to Rome.

We spent a very busy four days visiting many of Rome's iconic sights, including St Peter's and the Sistine Chapel, The Coliseum and Forum, Maxxi Art Gallery, The Catacombs and the Trevi Fountain where many students tossed in some coins ensuring that they will return one day. We were lucky enough



to get tickets for the weekly Papal Audience and two students, Ester Lee and Izzy Mason were fortunate enough to meet Pope Francis in person! Plenty of pasta and pizza was consumed and all returned at the end of the week to KNGS tired but inspired by the experience.

YEAR 13 A LEVEL GRADE BOOSTER WORKSHOP

A group of Year 13 Business Students took part in an intensive revision day with other schools at Star City. The day was designed to provide essential revision support to AQA Business students as they complete their preparation for their final exams. It provided an excellent opportunity for students to revise key concepts and theories essential for success in A Level and increase their understanding of examination technique.

PHOTOGRAPHY VISIT TO COVENTRY UNI

In late March six Year 12 Photography students visited a series of exhibitions organised by the second year Photography BA students. This is the third year of an on-going link with Coventry University and provides our students with a valuable insight into what degree level work looks like. The students were very taken with the images which were displayed in the offices of The Coventry Evening Telegraph. They were interested not only in seeing the photography but also the wide variety of ways in which it could be displayed. They were also very impressed by the power of the photographic image to convey the depth of human emotions, feelings and identities and came away with plenty of inspiration for their own work.



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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

Is your daughter's bedroom cluttered with school uniform (including PE uniform and coats) that is:

- Too small?
- In a good condition?
- Looking for a new home?

If so, we would be glad to take it off your hands. It will be used to support our new Year 7 students and raise money for this years' school charity, MacMillan Cancer Support.

Any uniform donations please:

- Wash, dry and iron if possible
- Place in a bag labelled 'uniform sales'
- Hand into reception by June 15th

GDPR AT KNGS

As we are sure you will have heard, the General Data Protection Regulations will be in force from the 25th May 2018. The staff at KNGS have been working hard over the last few months to ensure that all the new requirements are in place to keep personal data that we store, use and share is secure and that everyone understands the new regulations coming into force.

It is important that the information we hold on our systems about your child, and also yourself, is up to date and we can only do this with your support. Please advise us of any change of address, phone number, email, medical conditions so that we hold accurate, up to date information only.

In light of the new GDPR, we have updated our Privacy Notice which tells you how we use student information. This can be found on our website under 'About Us' and in the 'Policies' section. It includes details on what categories of information we collect, why we collect it, the lawful basis for using it, how we store it, who we share it with and why we share it. It also details how students can access their personal data and gives contact details for our Data Protection Officer, Clare Skinner.

For more information on the GDPR please see the Information Commissioner's Office website <https://ico.org.uk/>

Our Data Management Policy is being updated and will be ratified by the Governing Body soon. Once agreed, this will be on our website under the 'Policies' section in the 'About Us' area.

Finally, could we ask that, if you haven't already done so, you provide us with your email address. It means that we are able to communicate effectively with you and don't forget to add our app onto your smart phone – again we can use this to get information out to you quickly.

HELP US RAISE MONEY WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR SOFA!



We have exciting fundraising news! You can now help raise donations for Kings Norton Girls' School & Sixth Form school fund without you even leaving your sofa. And it doesn't cost you a penny!

Kings Norton Girls' School on **TheGivingMachine** :

<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/kings-norton-girls-school>

TheGivingMachine is a fundraising charity setup to help other charitable causes raise money online. By signing up and shopping online via TheGivingMachine you will generate a free cash donation for us. With over 2,000 of your favourite retailers, including Amazon, Ebay, M&S, NEXT, Tesco, Sainsbury, John Lewis and Ocado, you are bound to find what you need and generate a donation.

In order to start raising free donations please go to

<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/kings-norton-girls-school>

and JOIN – it's that easy.

Make sure you never miss a donation and download the Shop&Give application.

<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/shop-and-give/>

It takes just a few minutes to install on your web browser and means that every time you click onto a retailer that supports this scheme you will get a prompt asking you to donate. Thank you in advance for your support!