

Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Almost 10 years have passed since I first arrived at KNGS and, I know it's a cliché, but it's passed in the blink of an eye! Perhaps that's the nature of the job, always some new challenge to get stuck into in an ever changing education landscape, and the school has changed quite a bit as well.

Gaining the Headship was a very proud moment and I am even more proud now of the school, what we have achieved and what we have become. KNGS and Sixth Form is exceptional, and there are several reasons for this.

First and foremost for me, is the feel of the school community as a whole. There is a calm and appropriate sense of purpose which is invariably commented on by visitors.

The built environment contributes to this and as a historian I have fiercely preserved as much of the old as possible whilst recognising the need to refresh so the school is fit for learning in a modern world.

Our core values are also traditional, those of respect and caring for others; they permeate all we do. The vertical tutoring and house system were introduced 4 years ago now, so we could capture the huge potential of students to work together and support one another. Through these students demonstrate our values on a daily basis; the difference is tangible. I have truly never met in all my time teaching, which includes selective schools, students who are more determined, confident and creative. Their immense passion and care for others is unusual.

The staff also are an amazing team of professionals working tirelessly to do their best for students, whatever their role, and never stinting of their time for enrichment activities. Despite the last 2 years of turbulence in education with new specifications and assessment regimes to grapple with, staff have none the less given even more, providing almost 100 trips and visits and over 80 clubs and activities this year. The National 3 Peaks Challenge at the end of June was a superhuman effort, and in record temperatures. I am so proud of what staff achieved both personally, for us and for Mrs P.... but this is what staff do at KNGS.

I have Governors to thank for their absolute faith in me and the challenges they have provided to set the bar ever higher. We would not be where we are without them. And finally, no school can thrive without the support of its community and parents. You keep us on our toes, not afraid to tell us when we have not quite got it right but also quick to praise when we deserve it. Thank you.

I leave the school in what I believe is the best place possible, results have never been higher, the demand for places is growing year by year and the first footings for our new sixth form build will shortly be in place. OFSTED were truly impressed on 4th July, and we are smiling broadly. Most important of all however for me, the school feels a very happy place to be.

May I take this opportunity to wish Mrs Raggett and the school every continued future success.

Gill Fox - Headteacher

Opening a World of Opportunities



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ♦ **Friday 20th July** - End of Term - Students finish at 12 noon
- ♦ **Thursday 16th August** - **A Level Results Day**
- ♦ **Thursday 23rd August** - **GCSE Results Day PLUS Sixth Form Enrolment:** KNGS/KNBS students 8.00am - 10.30am and external students 11.30am - 1.00pm
- ♦ **Wednesday 5th September** - School opens for Autumn Term for all students
- ♦ **Monday 17th September** - Whole School Open Evening for new Year 7 & Year 12 intake September 2019, 5pm - 8pm
- ♦ **Tuesday 18th September** - Whole School Open Morning, 9am - 11am
- ♦ **Monday 24th September** - Year 12 Parents as Partners, 6pm - 8pm
- ♦ **Thursday 4th October** - Year 10 Parents as Partners, 6pm - 8pm
- ♦ **Thursday 11th October** - Whole School Open Morning, 9am - 11am
- ♦ **Monday 15th October** - Year 7 Parents as Partners, 4pm - 6pm
- ♦ **Friday 26th October** - Break up for Half Term

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Year 7 RE Trip

We started our day as normal. We had form and then first period when we learnt more in depth about our trip. Two 7UP RE classes went and met outside the school gates where our Green Bus picked us up.

First we arrived at the Shree Geeta Bhawan Hindu Mandir where we were kindly welcomed in by the friendly hosts. We had to take off our shoes as it was considered respectful. We were given a tour and then



we had time to take a few photos and to walk around and witness what it's like inside. We listened to a prayer and then we were offered a range of fruits like bananas, apples and pears.

We then headed back to the bus to go to our next destination, the Bebe Nanaki Gurdwara. We had to cover our head and take off our shoes to be respectful. We entered the main prayer hall where we then told about the history and rules of the building. They welcomed us into their langar

(charity kitchen) where we were offered delicious samosas and some refreshments.

We hopped back onto the bus and headed to our last destination, the Darul Barakaat Mosque. We had to take off our shoes and were given a tour in both the men's and women's prayer rooms. We ate our lunches in the hall, and some delicious cupcakes given to us by the hosts, before getting back onto the bus and returning to school. Overall it was a very informative trip and I would do it all over again.

Written by Maia Brown (G5)

Opening a World of Opportunities



LEICESTER SPACE CENTRE

Year 7 Have a Blast!

In June, 131 of our Year 7s ventured forth to explore galaxies beyond our own when they visited the National Space Centre in Leicester. The day was packed with engaging and interactive activities, including an award-winning show in the Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium, where students experienced life as an astronaut and enjoyed a virtual space walk.

Despite the summer heat, many of our students managed to climb to the top of the jaw-dropping rocket tower. There were also a number of exuberant performances when students 'back on Earth' tested their weather presenting skills in front of the green screen. Students who stayed at KNGS completed a space project examining how we explore space and the challenges of colonising a new planet. They produced some fantastic work and should be proud of their achievements. We were delighted by our students' enthusiasm and eagerness to learn, and hope that with space tourism and manned missions to Mars on the horizon, the sky will no longer be the limit for our budding physicists. Many thanks to all staff, from a variety of different departments, who helped to make the experience possible.



FORWARD THINKING PROGRAMME

Students Visit UOB

On Thursday 14th June 5 Year 8 students, who have been selected as participants in the University of Birmingham's 'Forward Thinking' programme, visited the university for the first of what will be a series of visits over the next 4 years, designed to give them an insight into the benefits offered by a university education. Alongside other Birmingham Year 8 students they enjoyed a series of tasks, including the infamous spaghetti and marshmallow tower building exercise followed by a tour of the campus. Joined later by their parents and carers, they were treated to an inspirational talk. Suitably motivated, they are looking forward to the subject taster day at the university in September.



SOUTH AREA NETWORK EXHIBITION

KNGS Celebrates Creative Talent

The Art and Photography Department took part in the annual South Area Network exhibition to celebrate the work of students from across the region. The private view took place on Monday 25th June at Birmingham City University, School of Art, where a record number of visitors endured the heat wave to attend. We are extremely proud of all the A Level students whose work was on display; it was a show case of the immense talent and breadth of skills that our students have developed during their time at Sixth Form.

Members of the public were extremely complimentary and kind words were sent the following day by Artist Jake Lever MA FRSA, "I wanted to say a huge CONGRATULATIONS, I thought the work from your students was really dynamic, sensitive and highly individual. You must feel very proud indeed."

Here's to another bountiful year of creativity!



Opening a World of Opportunities

WORKING WITH DYSLEXIA

'Dyslexia Voices' Event

On a hot afternoon in late June we were delighted to welcome alumna Kendra Doherty back into school to speak to the school Dyslexia Voice Group. Kendra has successfully made the transition from school to studying and working as a trainee veterinary nurse. She spoke engagingly to the pupils about the challenges of negotiating the world of work with dyslexia. She also explained how having dyslexia can be a positive and can help her to see problems differently and come up with creative solutions. In addition pupils and parents enjoyed hearing from teachers and senior pupils, who shared their stories and passed on their advice on succeeding with dyslexia at school and beyond.



FRENCH CULTURE

Year 7 Visit Boulogne-Sur-Mer

On Friday 8th June, 143 excited Year 7 gathered outside school in the very early hours of the morning, carrying rucksacks and bags filled with food supplies to last for our long day of travelling.

At 5am, we were off!

We drove to Folkestone to catch the Eurotunnel shuttle. It was a new experience for many of the girls, who enjoyed seeing our coaches board the shuttle train to then travel through the tunnel and cross the Channel to arrive in Calais, France in just 30 minutes.

We were greeted by warm sunshine and started the 30-minute drive to Boulogne-Sur-Mer spotting differences between France and England: road signs and speed limits, driving on the right hand side of the road, town names, colour of the letter boxes, shutters on houses, names of shops.

Once in Boulogne, the girls were able to enjoy a wide range of activities: visiting the old town and the fortified walls and castle, strolling the old cobbled streets, discovering the cathedral and its recently renovated crypt. We also had time to sit at a café or brasserie and enjoy a drink or some food while writing our postcards. Some groups even made it to the beach this year!

We were very impressed by the girl's confidence in having a go at ordering in French and how they used their best French to buy baguettes and patisseries, souvenirs, postcards and stamps. Well done girls!

Finally, may I take this opportunity to, once again, thank all accompanying staff without whom the trip would not have happen. The Boulogne trip continues to be a very popular trip among staff: a special thank you to Mrs Weatherup who has been going on the trip for 13 consecutive years (many of these which she organised herself) and to Mr Willis (10 years) and 6 for Mr Millward!

See you next year Boulogne!



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My favourite part of the trip was getting to talk to French people and buy souvenirs with my own money.

Liberty McBride

I really enjoyed group task 1 when we bought items from the bakery and tried all of them. I also loved spending time at the beach with my friends.

Millie Scully

I would recommend this trip because it was a great experience that helped me know what France is really like.

Sophie Reeves

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AMNESTY GROUP

KNGS Support Campaigns

On Wednesday 6th May KNGS Amnesty Group held an event in support of several current Amnesty campaigns. The Campaigns were:

Ali Aarrass was extradited from Spain to Morocco to face terrorism charges in 2008. He is currently in prison in Morocco on terrorism charges based on evidence extracted under torture. He is held in solitary confinement and has one hour per day out of his cell in a courtyard where he can just see the sky when he looks up. We drew pictures of things that give us hope and courage and sent messages of hope and support to him. They have now been sent to Ali in prison and school has received a message of thanks from AIUK.

Ahmed H is in prison in Hungary. He was living in Cyprus with his family but left Cyprus to help his parents and other relatives to find safety in Europe when they were forced to flee from the war in Syria. On September 15th he and his family arrived at the border to Hungary with hundreds of other refugees. They found that Hungary had built a fence to stop refugees entering. Many refugees tried to climb the fence. The Hungarian police replied with water cannons and tear gas and many were injured. Some refugees, including Ahmed, threw stones but Ahmed stopped and used a megaphone to call others to stop throwing stones and to be calm. Ahmed has been sentenced to ten years imprisonment on charges which include "acts of terror." Ahmed's wife and children are still in Cyprus. We drew pictures of places that make us feel safe which have been sent to Ahmed in prison. For the summer fete we have drawn a house because this is a place that we feel safe. To support us we would like you to colour in a brick or leave a message for Ahmed H. School has received a letter of thanks from AIUK.



Toxic Twitter – an online Amnesty petition was signed objecting to the vile Twitter entries against women, which are allowed to remain on the site. The campaign demands that the CEO of Twitter, Jack Dorsey must take action to make it a safe and decent platform for everyone.

Death Penalty – an awareness raising campaign on the use of the death penalty across the world was held. Amnesty is still campaigning to have the death penalty abolished everywhere in the world. Each year several countries abolish the death penalty in their own country. Amnesty wants this to continue and speed up.

The photo shows some of the pictures sent to AIUK for the Ahmed H campaign.

HEAT TRANSFER WORKSHOP

Year 9 Textiles Visit to Birmingham City University

As part of the Birmingham Schools Art Showcase event, eight Year 9 Textile students had the opportunity to participate in a Textile Heat Transfer workshop held at the Birmingham City University School of Art on Wednesday 27th June.



They were able to experiment with a range of techniques including; marbling, stencilling, collage and masking in order to create two stunning final pieces; a scarf and a drawstring bag, both printed using the

Heat transfer method. Students were then able to have a tour of the Art facilities available at the university and see the exhibition of the students work.



DOWN ON THE FARM

Food Preparation & Nutrition Trip to Whitacre Farm

This term Year 10 Food Prep & Nutrition students visited Whitacre Farm in Coleshill, which specialises in arable farming. Students had the opportunity to gain information first hand from the farmers Carl



and Teresa, about how crops are grown, harvested and processed; all whilst walking amongst the crops of wheat, barley and rapeseed.

Before lunch we were able to feed the farms rare breed

Tamworth pigs and meet their working and rescue horses. The afternoon involved learning about environmental stewardship whilst walking through the woodland and pool areas. Overall it was a very enjoyable and informative day, in preparation for their GCSE'S.



QUALITY OF LIFE IN URBAN AREAS

Year 10 Geography Fieldwork

On Wednesday 27th June, 77 Year 10 geography students conducted their first fieldwork into how quality of life varies across an urban area of their choice; Birmingham. To compare variations in quality of life across Birmingham, we visited 3 contrasting areas to carry out a range of different fieldwork techniques; Bournville, Selly Oak and Nechells. We gathered data on the environmental quality, traffic levels, services and interviewed local people to find out what it was like to live in these areas.

Using this data and then secondary research back at school, the girls were able to both describe and explain the changes we observed across their city. Data was collected to a very high standard and this will support their exam well in Year 11. The sun was shining all day and the girls came away with an excellent understanding of how quality of life varies. The girls were a credit to the school and many members of the public commented on the students' mature and polite approach to their fieldwork. A very proud teacher moment was had by staff accompanying the trip. Thank you those staff members that came and for the girls' excellent attitude on the day.



Mrs Warwood

OXFORD THROUGH THE EYE OF A LENSE

Year 10 Photography Trip

A group of 20 Year 10 GCSE Photography students accompanied by Mr Abelson and Mrs Wilson went to Oxford on 20th June. The students enjoyed a very enjoyable and inspiring day. The girls spent the day exploring the many sights of Oxford, both the colleges and the city, and took some very creative photos building on their topics they have worked on over Year 10, such as 'Looking Through' and 'Monochrome'. In addition to the wonderful college buildings, there were many other things to see including 'trashing', a tradition when the Oxford students celebrating the end of their exams with foam and 'crazy string'. Opinion was divided as to whether this would be a suitable way to celebrate the end of our GCSEs! The students were very grateful for the trip and for the visual opportunities that it has given them and for ideas for their future photographs.



Opening a World of Opportunities

ANIMAL CONSERVATION

Year 8 Visit to Twycross Zoo

On the 24th May the Science Department took many excited Year 8 students to Twycross Zoo. As part of the zoo's conservation programmes the girls got to choose from various engaging talks, from learning about evolution to the complexities in conducting scientific investigations.

As usual, the KNGS students were fantastic ambassadors for the school. They were polite to the public and showed a lot of respect for the



wellbeing of the animals. As the students travelled around the zoo they were able to walk with the lemurs, hand feed the lorikeets, have butterflies land on them or observe the chimpanzee's in their brand new enclosure.

Students that stayed at KNGS completed outstanding research projects on animal conservation. They researched a variety of endangered organisms and the challenges that they face. They used their research to create impressive posters which will proudly be displayed.

Thank you to all staff and students that made the trip such a great event.



'MAKE YOUR FUTURE PROJECT'

Students work alongside Artist Silversmith - Theresa Nguyen

We have been extremely fortunate to have been successful in our school application to join the Crafts Council sponsored 'Make Your Future Project'. This has resulted in seven staff training CPD sessions held at the Birmingham School of Jewellery for two members of staff, Mrs Garcia and Mrs Everson, culminating in four inspirational and creative full day workshops with over sixty of our Year 9 students participating. We have worked alongside an outstanding Artist Silversmith, Theresa Nguyen who has taught our students skills in saw piercing copper, patination techniques to colour and oxidise metals, embossing pewter and metal scrim sheets with the ultimate aim of exhibiting their pieces at the Birmingham School of Jewellery from July 9th until 11th August. We have also invited parents and teachers to join in the workshop with a very successful day of drop in sessions, where parents and teachers were inspired and taught not only by Theresa, the practising silversmith, but also by their daughters and their students, who were able to pass on the skills that they had learned from their workshop experience.



As well as the practical metal working skills which students can build upon at KS4 in their Art and Textiles projects, the experience has also given students a valuable insight into possible artistic career options and working with a local, successful designer was a true inspiration. In this age of instant results and fast paced technology it was refreshing to see students persevere with some very complex designs, equipped with quite basic tools and their hands, they demonstrated huge skills in resilience which will equip them well for the future.

This also emphasises the importance of STEAM subject collaboration (Science Technology Engineering Art and Maths). The school has benefitted by being able to keep all of the tools used so that we can develop some of the skills gained in future projects.

Opening a World of Opportunities

INTER-HOUSE POETRY SLAM

Year 7 Showcase Creativity

The Learning Hub recently hosted the annual KNGS Inter-house Poetry Slam, a lively and enjoyable event which showcased the creativity of our Year 7 students. In their English lessons, students each prepared a poem for performance, using old photographs as inspiration. The most impressive performers from across the year group were selected to represent their houses in the Grand Final, receiving specialist coaching to develop their use of voice and body language. The lunchtime event was managed by English Ambassadors from Years 8 and 9 and was well attended by students and staff alike: as the competitors took turns to engage the audience with their spoken word performances, we audience members were impressed by their confidence and skill. The Ambassadors had a difficult task in selecting three winners, but ultimately the most impressive performers were judged to be Freya Dempsey of Keller, who came third, Eve Godsall of Sharman, who was awarded second prize, and Belle Skidmore of Keller, who came first. Keller were the highest-scoring house overall. Well done to all competitors!



S. O'Mahony (English)

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student Leadership Group have been extremely busy this term with various projects and initiatives. Students took part in a sponsored skip to raise money for the local mental health charity Caring Minds. They managed to raise over £100, all of which will go directly into helping people in the local community with mental health problems. This project was completed in conjunction with Swanshurst School, and both schools attended a meeting at the Uffculme Centre to present the money to the head of the charity. They also had the chance to meet Dr. Patel, a Junior Doctor from the Birmingham area who specialises in Psychiatry. She spoke to the students about the different avenues into the mental healthcare profession, and the ways in which they can start to make a difference now.



On Saturday 7th July, 5 students helped out at the CoCoMAD Festival in Cotteridge Park, helping to sell ceramics and cakes, which KNGS students had made in various extra-curricular clubs, all money raised has been added to the School Fund.

KNGS Companions Prepare to Welcome New Year 7 Students

At Companions, preparations are well underway for next year. Firstly, a new cohort of 26 girls have been chosen. Many applications were read, and interviews took place in order to recruit the best students to fulfil the role. Out of these girls, 5 Senior Companions were selected to make sure everything runs smoothly. We are still continuing our relation colouring in club on Tuesdays and Homework Management Clinic on Wednesdays next year, but will also be starting a Journal Writing Club and a Confidence Through Drama Club for the new Year 7's we are looking forward to welcoming in September. We are also currently working on a Peer Mentoring Scheme for next year to support those who may need extra help, especially new Year 7's who may find it difficult to settle into a new school. By next year, we will have chosen a new Companions logo from our logo competition which has just come to an end, and this will be appearing on all of our posters and around school. We are all very excited to be working with all the new Year 7 students who are starting at KNGS in September, and we hope they are excited too.



Abby Nolan Y10, Senior Companion

SUCCESSES

THE NATIONAL THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE

In Aid of Macmillan & in Remembrance of Mrs Sharon Piotrowska

At 6am on 29th June a team of 8 staff and two drivers set off for Fort William in Scotland to begin their ascent of Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the UK. Spirits were high amongst our team: Mr McLelland, Mr Ahmed, Mr Macereth, Miss Prentice, Mrs Housely, Mrs Woodward, Miss Stone and Miss Perks. Our drivers Mr White and Mr Willis, who had given up their weekends to drive us between the peaks with very little sleep, kept the team going with music and good humour, and lots of encouragement and praise. They had their own challenge of driving over 1000 miles in a packed mini-bus and the pressure of getting the team between the mountains in the shortest possible time.



In temperatures of 29 degrees, we started our ascent of Nevis, having heard that a walker had been airlifted off with heat exhaustion the day before. We passed other teams who were flagging from the heat and the exertion but we soldiered on with all of us having our emotional and physical highs and lows. The heat was relentless but we summited at a height of 1345 meters with clear blue skies and superb views, exhausted and suffering from the effects of the excruciating weather. Spurred on by our achievement we got down Nevis with renewed energy (10.5 miles up and down) and were soon on the bus on the way to Scafell in the Lake District.

Mr White drove us through the night to arrive at Wasdale in the Lake District at 6am and the team were prompted into action. Not much sleep, if any had been had. At 6.15am and with the heat of the day beginning we climbed Scafell and reached Scafell Pike at 978 metres in an epic time. The sun was again beating down on us on the way down, but we did an amazing time of four hours twenty total and a distance of 6 miles of mountain, and then it was on the road again heading for Snowdon.

Arriving at Snowdon in North Wales at 4pm on Saturday 30th June, we once again refuelled on water and electrolytes and set off up the Pyg Track, still smiling, although some could call it grimacing, at 4.15pm. The teamwork was second to none on our final mountain, but we summited at 7pm to the most amazing views. The feeling of achievement and camaraderie amongst the team was unequivocal. We had fought exhaustion, aching calves and thighs, sickness, headaches and the sun, had very little sleep, and no chance to stretch out. However, we had all reached within ourselves to find that hidden strength which keeps us going when things get really tough and this had kept ourselves and our team going. Our final ascent of 1085 meters had been accomplished and a total of 7 miles of mountain later we were greeted at the bottom of the Miners track by Mr White and Mr Willis – a very welcome sight. It was very emotional arriving back at KNGS at just gone 1am on Sunday morning, exhausted and exhilarated at the same time.



Mrs Piotrowska had guided us every step of the way on that mountain and being able to do this challenge to support her chosen charity has been a privilege. The KNGS Three Peaks team and drivers have been amazing and represent the strength and spirit of the KNGS community. We have raised almost £6k so far and there is still time to donate, just go to www.justgiving.com/KNGSThreePeaks.

Thanks go to our Headteacher Ms Fox for her support in the event, the teaching and support staff and students of KNGS for their good wishes, donations and messages, as well as to parents and relatives for their generous donations and messages. Working as one big team we have raised money for this very important cause in a truly memorable way.

MUSIC EXAMS

Music Theatre Vocal Exams

A massive well done to all of the students who recently sat their Music Theatre Vocal Exams and congratulations on a superb set of results, with being the first exam for many of the students - well done all!

- **Isabella Driscoll** - Grade 5 - Distinction
- **Freya Nankivell-Dalton** - Grade 5 - Distinction
- **Milly Owen** - Grade 5 - Distinction
- **Abigail Hughes** - Grade 3 - Distinction
- **Mariah Tooke** - Grade 5 - Merit
- **Hope Mellor** - Grade 5 - Merit
- **Hazel Smith** - Grade 5 - Merit
- **Georgia Ellis** - Grade 3 - Merit
- **Grace Lasky** - Grade 3 - Merit
- **Leah Haddock** - Grade 3 - Merit
- **Aeryn Adamson** - Grade 2 - Merit
- **Darcey Williams** - Grade 3 Music Theatre - Merit
- **Eden Woodhams** - Grade 3 - Pass
- **Isabella Byrne** - Grade 2 - Pass

STAND UP TO CANCER

Students Raise Money for Charity

We would like to recognise a group of Year 8 KNGS students who took it upon themselves to give up time to raise money for the charity 'Stand Up To Cancer' during a recent school holiday.

Ria Jenks, Jaimee-Lei Presleton, Amy Lerrigo, Charlotte Pickup, Lucy Houlders and Mathilda Cannon organised and held a cake sale



in the staff room at Cadbury World. The girls spent a whole day baking and decorating cakes, and then spent the following day selling them to staff.

The group raised a whopping £372, which included Cadbury World very generously match funding the total amount they raised! Many thanks to the support that Cadbury World showed to the students!

We are told that the students "behaviour was impeccable and I feel that they are a real credit to the school". Well done girls, we are super proud of you - once again that KNGS spirit shines through!



CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS

Annual Awards Ceremony

On Friday 6th July we held our Annual KNGS Award Ceremony. It was great to see so many parents in attendance and we were delighted to receive lots of positive comments about the event - there was a lot to celebrate

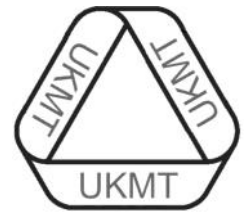
Thank you to **Olivia Hedges (Year 7)** for her performance of Ava Maria on the viola, to **Jessica Randford (Year 10)** for her vocal performance of 'I Dreamed a Dream' from Les Misérables and also to **Liberty Willis (Year 7)** for her poetry reading of 'The Road to Success'. Many thanks also for the encouraging words given by our Chair of Governors, Mr David Green.

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

Opening a World of Opportunities



UKMT JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE



KNGS Students win Awards

On 26 April, 123 of our Years 7 and 8 girls took part in the UKMT Junior 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 scooped 41 awards in total (35 last year) which were 23 bronze, 13 silver and 5 gold as follows:

Bronze:

Halima Azam, Darcy Burrows, Susie Catling, Hannah Couperthwaite, Daisy Deeley, Tirion Gallagher, Talliah Graver, Lucy Hardy, Megan Hopwood, Mansha Hussain, Matilda McGuigan, Zoe Nolan, Esther OKey, Ines Patrick, Charlotte Pickup, Sophie Reeves, Kitty Roberts, Iptisam Salim, Daljit Sambhi, Olga Scholes, Isabelle Thompson, Esme Trevallion and Jenna Williams.

Silver:

Esme Abraham, Jeannie Birkett, Amelia Boehm, Amy Cockcroft, Sarah Coffey, Eve Godsal, Poppy Harris-Bloomer, Grace McCormick, Isobel Meara, Gurjit Sambhi, Keira Valentine, Maya Walters Haigh & Emilia Weeks.

Gold:

Edie Ballard, Edie Davies, Bethan Ramsay, Leah Watkin-Adams & Isabel Watley.

In addition **Edie Davies, Isabel Watley and Edie Ballard qualified for the International Kangaroo round**. The top 25% of scorers received a Certificate of Merit. This time round our students didn't make it into the top quartile but they still scored very highly, and of course they did amazingly well to get this far. They shall receive a Certificate of Distinction (and key ring). **Congratulations from everybody in the Maths Department.**

COCOMAD

KNGS Take Part in Community Festival

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

The stall, which the students helped to run on the day, promoted the school and also had a number of items for sale - all of which had been made by the students including delicious lemon drizzle muffins and the Ceramics Club worked hard to design and make a range of beautiful hanging ceramics and plant pot markers.

A massive well done and thank you to all the students that helped both making items to sell and to those that attended on the day to help out.

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL GAMES

Well done to all the students who qualified and represented KNGS in the finals of the Birmingham School Games.

Huge congratulations to the Year 7 & 8 Trampoline Team who took 2nd place along with the Year 9 & 10 Trampoline Team who also took 2nd place!



FINAL 2018 UPDATE

2018 has been a fantastic year for the Duke of Edinburgh Award at KNGS! Below are a few updates and photos that will be of interest.

2018 Expeditions and Awards

This years cohort have just finished their final assessment weekend in Cannock Chase. The entire group passed their assessments with comments from the assessor such as, "this is one of the nicest groups I've ever had to pleasure of working with" and "it is always a pleasure to work with KNGS".

There have been many highlights across this expedition year, not least the evening campfires, toasting marshmallows, American football and much more!

Activities that have been undertaken as part of the awards volunteering section included helping in charity shops, working with the elderly, supporting people in the local community with disabilities, supporting play groups and coaching children in a leadership role.

Physical activities undertaken were equally as wide ranging including ballet, fitness, trampolining, cycling and swimming. The final element prior to the expedition was skills based with our girls showing a wide range of skills including learning to play an instrument, horse riding, photography, maths skills and dance workshops.

All our girls have completed all four sections of their awards and have been submitted to the DofE charity for approval. This will be the fourth year with a 100% completion rate - well done girls!

A Message of Thanks

It goes without saying that this years awards would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of KNGS staff providing the opportunities for students to take part - I would like to personally extend my thanks to the following members of staff who helped me to run the expeditions as well as any other staff who helped support the girls through clubs or activities for the three sections prior to the expedition.

Expedition staff: Mrs Caswell, Mr Goddard, Mr White, Mr Cutler, Ms Stone and Mr Abelson.

Year 9 have now begun the process of selection for next year - and I look forward to another successful cohort.

Have a restful and relaxing summer break.
Mr Willis



HOUSE NEWS

OSMINGTON BAY

Osmington Bay PGL was a great success with 45 Year 10 students having a wonderful time in the sunshine bonding over a variety of new activities in a beautiful setting.

They all got stuck in and had an unforgettable trip. A highlight was definitely soaking Mr Gunn on the last night!

All in all a very successful trip!



YEAR 11 PROM

On the 22nd June we said goodbye to our Year 11 class of 2018. The night was a glamorous and sparkling occasion; both staff and students looked fabulous. Everyone who attended the event thoroughly enjoyed themselves and celebrated in style. It was a very memorable occasion, which rounded off their Kings Norton Girls 'School journey. All students represented the school well and were a true credit to themselves and the school. All their hard work paid off!

PICNIC & SPORTS DAY

In true Kings Norton spirit Friday 6th July was a truly memorable occasion for a variety of reasons. Lunch time included a very special whole school picnic in memory of our beloved Mrs P and to raise money for a charity very close to our hearts; Macmillan. This picnic bought the whole school community together on the back field in the blistering sunshine. It involved lots of fun, laughter and food of different varieties, and the image of Mr Steele basking in the sunshine with his feet in his little paddling pool will remain in our memories for a long time!



beaten!! The atmosphere was electric, with supporters battling it out to be the loudest in order to cheer their house on to victory. All performers excelled in their field and did their houses proud; it was a real team effort. Well done to all houses and special congratulations to **Nightingale House** who were overall winners on the day!



Sports day followed the picnic and luckily our students clearly didn't indulge in the yummy food as much as some of the staff as some incredible performances were executed. School records were broken and personal bests were



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' over the Summer term:

KELLER HOUSE: Amelia Andrews (K2), Megan Hopwood (K6), Amber Williams (K1), Janay Edwards (K3), Ayesha Gitay (K2), Haalah Sultan (K2), Caitlin Harte (K4) & Kate Noble (K8)

NIGHTINGALE HOUSE: Precious Huilar (N8), Eleanor Heath (N8), Mercie Manzi (N7), Anna Underwood (N1), Jathavika Vickramasingam (N1), Hala El-Batagi (N8) & Poppy-Jo Harrison (N3)

GOODALL HOUSE: Poppy Styles (G1), Lucy Burdett (G1), Abigail Brown (G5), Maisy Wilby (G5), Yusur Farah (G6) & Poppy Brayne (G5)

SHARMAN HOUSE: Roopinder Bains (S2), Esther O'Key (S7), Faith Page (S7), Liberty Seadon (S3), Hannah Silk (S4) & Rachel Silk (S7)



SIXTH FORM NEWS

UCAS

The process of the **UCAS** application was launched to Year 12 students on Monday 11th June. With many Universities now hosting their open days it is important for Year 12 to begin exploring their options post-18.



They have all been given a log-in and a 'buzzword' to get them started with their application, and the deadlines for personal statements to form tutors, medicine applications, and all other applications has been outlined.

ACCESS TO BIRMINGHAM

Access to Birmingham is a scheme designed by University of Birmingham, and an assembly was delivered on Tuesday 12th June to students to outline the possibility of reduced offers from this Russell Group University provided that certain criteria are met.

Access to Birmingham (A2B)



For students wanting to aim high and be aspirational, university is still an option regardless of their background and the aim of the A2B assembly was to highlight this. Students who are interested in applying to University of Birmingham can download the A2B form from the website: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/teachers/pupil-opportunities/post-16/access-to-birmingham.aspx>

Students should fill in the form alongside the A2B lead (Head of Sixth Form).

UCAS EXHIBITION

UCAS held their annual exhibition on Monday 25th June at the NEC. Universities and Apprenticeships all attended to give advice and guidance to students on entry requirements, courses available to study, and general student life.

The exhibition is valuable to our students as it gives them the opportunity to make informed decisions on where they want to go post-18.



INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES

Universities are now interviewing students for courses more than ever before, and we want to ensure that students are ready to tackle those tricky interview questions head on! Having interview practise is essential to calm nerves and ensure that students are able to perform at their best. Whether they plan on going to university, applying for an apprenticeship, or entering the world of work, all students will at some point be interviewed.



Therefore, we arranged for **Lloyds Bank** to carry out interviews with all Year 12 students on Wednesday 11th July. Each student was given a 15 minute time slot where they experienced an 8-10 minute interview including the kinds of questions they would be asked about themselves. 5 minutes was allocated for feedback.

The aim is to further equip our students with employability skills, by helping them to grow their soft skills.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Work Experience is taking place between Monday 16th July to Friday 20th July. Students have been able to secure work experience in a variety of different settings related to what they would like to pursue. Those who have not been able to are expected to be in school during this week where they will participate in a number of workshops and a virtual work experience programme.

YEAR 12 TRANSITION

The Year 12 transition this year was another huge success. We had a busy footfall of around 140 students who all participated in taster sessions, workshops, and informative assemblies during Monday 2nd July and Tuesday 3rd July. The transition culminated with a trip to Drayton Manor on Wednesday 4th July where students were able to experience the community we have at Kings Norton Sixth Form.

HEAD BOY & HEAD GIRL

Following a series of presentations to lower school, and a rigorous interview process we would like to say massive congratulations to our newly appointed Head Girl, Chloe Aggrey, and our newly appointed Head Boy, Andrew Wade! Madison Kilgallon is appointed as Senior Student and will work closely with the Head Girl and Head Boy. They presented themselves incredibly well, and we look forward to working with them in their roles in September. Well done!



YEAR 13 LEAVERS' BALL - FRIDAY 6TH JULY

The ball took place at the ICC this year and was a fabulous event! It was lovely to see many of the Year 13 students there since they have left Sixth Form, and it was great to celebrate with them. We would like to take this opportunity to wish them the best of luck on A Level results day.

A LEVEL RESULTS DAY - THURSDAY 16TH AUGUST

Results day will take place this year on Thursday 16th August. Students will be able to collect their results from the Common Room from 8.30am until 10am. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Year 13 the best of luck for their exam results. They have all worked incredibly hard and deserve every success! It will be bittersweet to see them leave, but they are ready for the next steps, whether that be university, an apprenticeship, or employment.

GCSE RESULTS DAY/ENROLMENT - THURSDAY 23RD AUGUST

Year 11 students will be able to collect their GCSE results from the Common Room from 8am. Enrolment into Year 12 for KNKS and KNBS will take place in the Learning Hub from 8am. All students who attended the transition in July will have received an enrolment pack which must be completed and brought with them on the day for successful enrolment. Those who were unable to attend the transition will have their packs posted out to them before the holidays along with any transition homework which is to be completed over the summer and returned their first lesson back. We look forward to being able to welcome our new Year 12 cohort.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

STOP PRESS!! **KNGS School Library Achieves the GOLD SLS-UK Award**

This is an amazing testament that the Learning Hub is being used as a fabulous whole school resource!

PARKING & IDLING ENGINES

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.

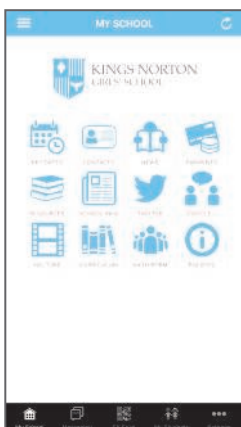
We remind you that it is illegal to **stop or park/wait on the zig zag lines**. These road marking are in place to safeguard students. Please avoid these when collecting your child.

We have also received **complaints from our neighbours relating to idling engines**. Whilst waiting for students please can you support local residents and school in protecting the environment by **turning your engines off whilst waiting to collect students**.

Please also remember that, excepting for those with restricted mobility, we do not allow cars down the school drive to drop off or pick up students. This puts others at risk.

Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

KNGS SCHOOL APP - MY ED



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

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



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 having to leave 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!