

Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,


At KNGS we have had a fantastic start to the year. There is a relaxed, purposeful and determined atmosphere in school and from talking to students and staff and visiting them in their lessons I can confirm that they have settled in well, are working hard, taking pride in their work and learning. Thank you for continuing to support and encourage your children in all aspects of school life.

This half term students have extended their learning outside the classroom with two geography field trips, history students have visited the Globe Theatre in London and enrichment activities have taken place with Birmingham University. Sporting events have started well with successes in the South Birmingham Cross Country Championships and several netball competitions. In school Dyslexia Awareness Week engaged us in a variety of exciting and informative activities and we are delighted to have welcomed German exchange students from Melle, we all learn so much from these cultural exchanges.



Particular congratulations to KS4 Food Preparation and Nutrition students who have been selected to exhibit at the National SSAT (Specialist, Schools and Academies Trust) conference in December. I am also delighted to announce that we have been recognised, as a school by The Society of Authors for our commitment to reading for pleasure.

This academic year we have a record number of extra-curricular and enrichment activities taking place and to ensure everyone has an opportunity to take part, we are running an Extra-Curricular Fair in the Hall at lunchtime on Friday 16th November - please encourage your child to go along to see which extra-curricular clubs and activities are on offer for them to sign up to.

As you are aware our GCSE and A Level results in 2018 were excellent (see page 8) and we can now confirm that the GCSE results put us in the top 3% of all schools nationally (top 4% in 2017). We now have a record number of 220 Sixth Form students on role, 54 of whom are now boys, we are very much looking forward to seeing the start of the Sixth Form building construction. I will be writing to you with full details as soon as these are confirmed and will continue to provide weekly updates of activity to you and our neighbours via the website and on Twitter  @KNGSlife.

If your child is in Year 11, please do attend our "Meet the Sixth Form" Event on 21st November, this is a fantastic opportunity to talk to students about the A Level subjects they are studying, sixth form life and the support and careers advice available for all future pathways (apprenticeships, University, bespoke OXBRIDGE course, employment and gap years) as well as an opportunity to look more closely at plans for the new Sixth Form building.

Nicola Raggett - Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Friday 29th October - Friday 2nd November** - Half Term Break
- ◆ **Thursday 15th November** - Year 11 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Wednesday 21st November** - Meet the Sixth Form Event, 3.30pm - 5pm
- ◆ **Thursday 29th November** - GCSE Certificate Presentation - **LATE START FOR STUDENTS 11am ARRIVAL**
- ◆ **Thursday 29th November** - Sixth Form Parents Evening, 4pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Friday 30th November** - Staff Training Day - **SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS**
- ◆ **Monday 3rd - Friday 7th December** - Year 11 Mock Exams
- ◆ **Monday 10th - Friday 14th December** - Sixth Form Formal Assessments
- ◆ **Monday 17th December** - Internal Year 11 Interviews for Sixth Form Intake (2019)
- ◆ **Monday 17th December** - Christmas Concert, 7pm
- ◆ **Friday 21st December** – last day of term - **EARLY CLOSURE FOR ALL STUDENTS, 12.20pm FINISH**
- ◆ **Friday 21st December** – A Level Certificate Presentation, 1pm - 2.30pm

KNGS RANKS IN TOP 3% OF COUNTRY

With National School Performance Tables published last week, Kings Norton Girls' School is delighted to confirm it is ranked in the top 3% of all schools in the country.

The Performance Tables included the 'Progress 8' measure which looks at the progress each student makes from Year 7 through to Year 11. Our 'Progress 8' Score of 0.73 places us at 183rd out of 6530 school nationally and 6th across the city. These numbers include selective schools.

KNGS is also positioned in the top 5% for Attainment 8 (a measure of overall attainment) with a score of 57.1 positioning us significantly above Birmingham and national averages of 45.7 and 44.3 respectively.

In relation to the schools performance measure of EBacc average point score, at 5.26 we again exceeded local authority averages of 3.98 and national average of 3.83, again putting KNGS in the top 5% of schools in the country for this measure. The EBacc score measures the average grade of students across English, Maths, Science, a Modern Foreign Language and Humanities subject.

Following on from an outstanding set of exam results in the summer, these performance measures continue to confirm the achievements of students at Kings Norton Girls' School.

A Level results were also excellent with 25% of all A Level grades at A* - A, exceeding our target of 17.5 %. In addition, 55% of all A Level grades were A* - B and an average A Level Grade B-. All students continued on their chosen pathways with 35% of those going to university attending Russell Group Universities.

We are extremely proud of these results and I believe they are a reflection of the hard work, resilience and determination of our students and staff. A huge thank you to all staff for their care, support and for instilling the self-belief which I believe is a significant factor in the success at KNGS.

Mrs Raggett - Headteacher



YEAR 11 INVITED TO 'WEAR IT SMART'

WEDNESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

On Wednesday 21st November Year 11 students are invited to 'wear it smart' for the day. This means they are allowed to attend school in business dress as if they are in our Sixth Form. Normal school uniform can be worn as normal if preferred.



KINGS NORTON
SIXTH FORM

Careers Fair

During the day there will be a Careers Fair for them to attend and in addition from 3.30pm until 5pm they are invited to 'Meet the Sixth Form' to find out more about the impressive range of A Level courses directly from current students and teachers at Kings Norton Sixth Form.

New Sixth Form Building

It's a really exciting time for our Sixth Form. Following excellent results in 2018 we are about to start building our brand new Sixth Form Centre. It is scheduled to be ready for the Autumn Term, meaning our current Year 11 will be the first to benefit from the specialist facilities for the duration of their Sixth Form life.



Applications

Applications for Sixth Form are already open. Forms are available from the Learning Hub, Sixth Form website and will also hopefully be available soon as on on-line form.

The deadline for applications is 25th January, with a **preferred deadline of 29th November for Internal KNKS Applicants.**

We look forward to Year 11 'wearing it smart' on 21st November and applying to Kings Norton Sixth Form.

ANTI BULLYING

Our Progress Towards Gaining an Anti-Bullying Quality Mark

In the May newsletter we shared the winning anti-bullying logo design by Eve Godsall (S-5) with you, this has now been professionally art worked and is ready to use.

In October the new anti-bullying policy was approved by Governors and will be accessible on the website after half term. Students contributed to this new policy by coming up with their definition of 'what is bullying?' N5 and N8's definition was selected, amalgamated and shared with governors for use in the new policy:



'Bullying is continuously, with purpose, hurting someone physically, verbally or mentally through face-to-face contact or online using digital devices or social media'.

The development of new internal procedures to resolve occasional issues of bullying have also been implemented in support of the new policy. At the start of term students discussed two key aspects of how bullying could be resolved. These are:

Mediation – use of a staff or peer mediator to work with all parties in conflict to agree successful resolutions.

Restorative practice – a strategy that seeks to repair relationships that have been damaged.

There were many different views on how these could work and discussions about the structure of these processes. The students' views have all been taken into account. In November students will discuss further how the new policy and procedures will operate in school.

One of the new processes to support to the target of bullying which we will be offering is self empowerment. This may also include the offer of external agency support.

There will be a number of events in school across the year to promote anti-bullying including another 'Odd Sock Day', so look out for updates on these events!

Mr Gunn

Opening a World of Opportunities

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

CHILD DEVELOPEMNT VISIT

Cotton Tails Nursery

Year 11 Child Development students visited Cotton Tails Nursery to assist with their coursework. They had the opportunity to explore different types of equipment used within the nursery for two age groups, 0-12 months and 1-5 year olds. They were able to see a range of equipment being used with the children and also equipment that would be used for different activities throughout the day.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience of making real life connections with their coursework, watching the children play and seeing how activities are organised within a nursery setting. The nursery staff commented on the exemplary behaviour and mature attitudes are our KNGS students. Well done!

Miss Randell



GEOGRAPHY FIELD-WORK

Year 11 Visit Shropshire

This term began very busily for our Year 11 GCSE Geography students who carried out their final piece of field-work for their Paper 2 exam. 77 students went to Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire on Tuesday 11th September, to study the changing river characteristics and flood risk along Ashbrook stream.

Sadly we were not blessed with good weather in the morning,

but it brightened up in the afternoon and the students did not let this affect their spirits; wellies on and waterproofs zipped up, they collected their data superbly. They waded into the stream to take key measurements on width, depth and speed and hiked up the very steep valley to find the source of the stream! The students came away with an excellent understanding of how the river channel changed as we moved down stream and also what factors can increase the risk of flooding. The students were a credit to the school and we gathered valuable data to take back to school for further analysis.



Mrs Warwood

HISTORY TRIP

GCSE Students Visit London

On the 14th September, GCSE History students went on a trip to London to deepen their understanding of Elizabethan England – a key aspect of their GCSE studies. The trip focussed on Shakespeare's Globe which is the historical site study. We had a tour and lecture at The Globe. We also visited The Golden Hinde – Francis Drake's ship. Both visits went well and the students gained a fresh insight into the topic. Unfortunately, traffic was awful due to a motorway accident, so the day was much longer than expected. The students remained really positive though and were a credit to the school.

[Opening a World of Opportunities](#)

UKMT PRIMARY SCHOOL MATHS CHALLENGE 2018

KNGS Host Event

In July the Maths Department hosted a UKMT Primary School Maths Challenge. Four of our feeder schools: Bournville, St Francis, St Joseph's and St Lawrence threw down the gauntlet and entered teams from Year 5. The schools competed passionately over 5 rounds, developing their team work and getting stuck into some lovely juicy maths problems. For 3 hours, the room was buzzing with enthusiasm and drive.

A special thank you goes to Sixth Formers Jessica Schofield and Oliver Ashfield who took the opportunity to co-present with great panache, and also to the other Sixth Formers who guided the young mathematicians through the day.



The standard of maths was amazing, our colleagues are clearly doing a sterling job developing our STEM leaders of the future. It was really close to the wire and after an exciting final relay round we congratulated Bournville Primary School as the winner. We'd like to say a big thank you to the schools who took part as we know their school days are very busy. We shall be hosting another challenge in July 2019 and so if you have a sibling or friend in Year 5 who would like to take part, tell them to speak to their Maths teacher.

Miss Whitfield

WORLD DYSLEXIA AWARENESS DAY

KNGS Goes Green

On the 4th October pupils and staff went green in celebration of World Dyslexia Awareness Day. Staff and Sixth Form led the way by dressing in green for the day. Lower school pupils were allowed to swap an item of uniform for a green equivalent.



The Dyslexia Pupils Voice Group baked cakes and made awareness ribbons and bracelets, as well as planning and running a very successful cake sale, which raised over £125 for the British Dyslexia Association. The group also ran a free Scavenger Hunt - pupils searched the school for large green ribbons, found out facts about dyslexia and won chocolate prizes.



Pupils learned more about dyslexia during the week during assemblies and form time and also enjoyed some 'No Pens' activities during lessons.

As ever, I was very proud of the girls from the Dyslexia Pupil Voice Group who took part and organised these events. They are always keen, creative and a pleasure to work with. Thanks also to the Dyslexia Parent Voice Group for their support behind the scenes.

Mrs Vaughan (Inclusion)



EGYPTIAN LUNCH

Hosted by History Ambassadors

In July 2018, the History Ambassadors organised an Egyptian themed lunch. This involved activities such as quizzes, dressing up, hieroglyphic book marks and 'Egyptian' cakes.



The ambassadors introduced the history lunches with the aim of

engaging students with areas/periods of history not covered by the curriculum and they are hoping to do another one soon. The activities were carefully planned and the lunch was well attended so was a real success. Well done to all who helped to organise.



MUSIC TOUR

KNGS & KNBS Visit Spain

In July of this year KNGS & KNBS embarked on their most ambitious music tour yet – to the Costa Brava in sunny Spain!

The tour involved three very successful concerts in Tossa de Mar, Lloret de Mar and Platja d'Aro, with excursions to Girona, Barcelona and a waterpark. Despite a very long coach journey the students all arrived at the hotel in great spirits and this really did set the tone for the entire tour. Everyone worked very hard to make each concert run smoothly and students of all ages learnt how to work as a team, setting up and checking equipment and organising themselves and their instruments.

It was an experience I will never forget and I'm sure the students will treasure the many memories that were created too. Thank you also to you as parents for your continued support and enthusiasm for music education at KNGS. We really do appreciate it!

Mr Gell



STUDENT LEADERSHIP



The Student Leadership Group have been focusing on recruitment this half term, making sure that there are representatives from each year group, form and house. Andrew Wade and Chloe Aggrey, our Head Boy and Head Girl, have been into house assemblies to encourage students to sign up. New Year 7 students have also been quick to get involved, with a number of applications having been received. The SLG are looking forward to next half term, where they will be conducting an IMPACT week event as well as continuing their on-going responsibility as a key part of the school community.

Companions Launch New Journaling Club

Year 11 Companions Neshajini Vijayalingam, Maha Sadat and Nathasha Pattiya Gardi Hewage have recently launched a Journaling Club. When joining the club, each member is issued with a personal book in which they can write or draw whatever they feel. So far the outcome has been very successful, with lots of Year 7 students attending. We put on relaxing music to make the ambience calming, and give out biscuits too! All visitors are welcome, whether they like to chat to us or just work on their journal quietly.

Companions are always on hand to chat to students about how school is going. Year 7 students have described the club as 'cool' and 'exciting', and say that they really look forward to attending every week. This is exactly what the aim of our club is, to create a fun and safe place for students to come and express their feelings in their journals.



Neshajini Vijayalingam, Y11

SUCCESSES

OFSTED

As you are aware OFSTED visited in July for a short inspection. In a short inspection the schools OFSTED category can not change and OFSTED can no longer convert to a full inspection straight away. We look forward to welcoming OFSTED for a full section 5 inspection in the near future.

I would like to share a few of the comments from our OFSTED inspectors that made me really proud of our students and staff:

“ Pupils make substantial and sustained progress and Teachers challenge pupils with effective questioning, which pushes pupils to apply their knowledge and understanding effectively.

Behaviour is impeccable and Pupils are articulate and polite.

Pupils are proud to attend this school. They say that teachers teach them well and always challenge them in lessons.

You have created a superb culture of high aspirations in which pupils can flourish and You are uncompromising in your ambition for them to achieve.

Pupils crave excellence and are determined to do well.

Pupils are full of praise for the variety of opportunities that teachers provide to improve their progress.



OFSTED very much complimented the support students give each other through vertical tutoring and the student companions.

Opening a World of Opportunities

Mrs Raggett - Headteacher

SOUTH BIRMINGHAM CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Seven of our students competed at the South Birmingham Cross Country Championships at Shenley Academy earlier in the month. The top 15 finishers are selected to represent South Birmingham schools at the West Midlands Schools County Trials event at Sutton Park at the end of October where they will compete against athletes from the whole of the West Midlands Schools area.

Our students ran superbly and were an absolute credit to the school with 4 of them (*) finishing in the top 15 places and therefore qualifying for Sutton Park.

Minor Girls Race (Year 7)

Ela Ozdemir (S3) - 2nd (*)

Isabelle Carruthers (K3) - 16th

Junior Girls Race (Years 8 & 9)

Belle Skidmore (K6) - 11th (*)

Eve Godsall (S5) - 22nd

Lily Skidmore (K7) - 30th

Inter Girls (Year 10 & 11)

Erin Molloy (S6) - 7th (*)

Thea Smith (G3) - 8th (*)

HOUSE NEWS

FETE

Fete 2018 was an event enjoyed by students, staff and the local community. The atmosphere was electric as everyone enjoyed the fun in the blistering sunshine.

The event was opened by Ms Fox and then the stage was filled with the music of a popular up and coming band **The Hara**.

Lots of talent was then seen throughout the traditional 'Talent Show' followed by students and staff taking part in lots of different fun activities.

In addition, on the last day of this half term we are looking forward to welcoming back the band **Kioko** who will be performing for students! More on this in the next newsletter!



OUR LEARNING HUB

READING FOR PLEASURE AWARD

We are delighted to announce that the author Jo Cotterill, as a member of The Society of Authors, has awarded Kings Norton Girls' School a CWIG Reading for Pleasure Award.

Jo Cotterill visited the school for World Book Day in March 2018 and gave us the award because she was so 'impressed at the effort the school makes to engage ALL students in books and reading' and also because during her visit it was clear that the 'Senior Leadership Team highly valued reading and recognised the impact it could have within a school'.



Opening a World of Opportunities

SLS SCHOOL LIBRARY AWARD - GOLD AWARD

We are also delighted to announce that the Learning Hub at KNGS has been awarded the SLS School Library Gold Award.

This award is achieved through completion of a self-assessment process conducted by the Head of Library and Research and endorsed by the Headteacher. The process involved auditing 20 key activities and providing documentation as evidence. The Gold Award is only awarded to high-achieving services as it is only awarded if over 15 of the activities are met.

SIXTH FORM STUDY SKILLS PROGRAMME

During the first seven weeks of the Autumn Term all Year 12 students have completed the Sixth Form Study Skills Programme. The programme involves five skills sessions taught by the Head of Library and Research, these include Organisation and Timekeeping, Note-taking, Research and Website

Evaluation, Critical Thinking and Academic Writing and

Referencing. It also includes two employability skills sessions which are being run by mentors from Lloyds Banking Group. All of these sessions are intended to demonstrate the importance of mastering different study techniques which they can use both in their lessons and for revision.



CHANGE

A stop to start

A left to right

Change

It's not always frightening

In fact it can be exciting

Change

Its to be embraced

Not escaped

Change

NATIONAL POETRY DAY COMPETITION

To celebrate National Poetry Day on the 4th October, students were asked to take part in a 'Flash Poetry Competition'. They were asked to write a poem, of no more than 30 words, on the subject of 'Change'.

The featured poem was awarded 1st prize and was written by Lila Mae Fernandes Joyce in Year 8.

SIXTH FORM NEWS

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Our Open Evening this year took place on Monday 17th September. Thank you to all parents and students who attended – we hope you found it an informative experience and were able to gain valuable information from staff and students alike.

SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS - SEPTEMBER 2018

102 have successfully enrolled into Year 12 subject to meeting entrance requirements.

26 of our external students are boys, and 10 of them are girls, who have come from a range of secondary schools, including Kings Norton Boys', Bournville, and Turves Green.

All of our students are settling in very well, and are making the smooth transition from GCSE to A Level that we would have hoped for.

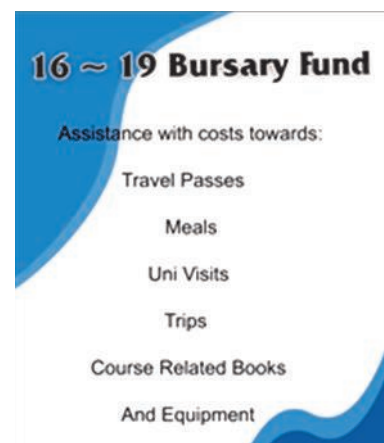
APPLICATIONS FOR SIXTH FORM

The application process to join us in September 2019 is now open. Application forms and further details are available on our website. If you have a child in Year 11 thinking about A Levels next year, then Kings Norton Sixth Form should be at the top of your list of Sixth Forms to consider. With strong pastoral support, fantastic teaching and excellent results there really is only one choice!

16-19 BURSARY FUND

The Bursary Fund is designed to help support those young people who face the greatest barriers to continuing in education or training post 16. The level of support offered may vary during the academic year and is dependent on the amount of funds available. Students will need to complete an application form and supply evidence of need or eligibility as appropriate before assistance is provided.

Additional help: Under exceptional circumstances students who are not automatically eligible for an award can also apply for help with one off course related expenses (proof of income or hardship will be asked for). Applications for additional help will be considered on an individual basis and is dependent upon available funds. Application forms are available from the Sixth Form Common Room or can be obtained by contacting Miss Zoe Nemes, Sixth Form Administrator.



DESTINATIONS & CELEBRATING SUCCESS

We are very proud of our students' achievements and every year we will celebrate with a formal A Level Certificate Presentation in December. This year has seen a fantastic number of students go on to study at University.

Of the cohort of 83 students 78% secured places at universities, of which 35% are Russell Group universities. We look forward to catching up with students on 21st December to celebrate their well-deserved successes.

To celebrate the end of their studies with us, Year 13 held their **Leaver's Ball** at the beginning of June. This year it took place at the NEC. It was a wonderful event which students and staff thoroughly enjoyed!

83 students in total

Overall University places: 65 (78%)

Russell Group: 23 (35%) of those 65 students.

Destination other than University: 18 (22%)

Apprenticeships: 2 (3%)

Armed Forces: 1 (1%)

Employment: 3 (4%)

Gap year: 10 (12%)

Ill Health: 1 (1%)

Further Education: 1 (1%)

YEAR 12 HISTORY TRIP TO BERLIN

In July 2018, the Year 12 history students visited Berlin for two days as part of their research into the causes of the Holocaust.



The trip involved visits to the Reichstag, The Wannsee Conference Centre and The Jewish Museum, as well as a walking tour of Berlin.

The trip was well worth it. The students gained new and original sources to use in their coursework and it really helped to put their research into a wider context.

SUMMER SCHOOL - UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

On the first week of the summer holidays, we attended a Microbiology and Infection Summer School at the University of Birmingham. The competitive application process meant we were selected alongside 22 other students out of 60-70 applicants from across the UK and even Australia!

The week was invaluable - not only did it open our eyes to the world of bacteria invisible to us, but it gave us a chance to learn about biology outside of the A Level specification and participate in high level tasks such as a second year practical on DNA separation. We also had a chance to take samples from our houses, allowing us to identify exactly what microorganisms are lurking in even the simplest of places such as a door knob and our phone screens. However, the focus wasn't just on the germs; we even had the opportunity to produce art pieces using fluorescent bacteria. Throughout, we were supported by lecturers and existing students who all really did push us, giving a true representation of what being a student scientist truly consists of. We would really recommend this experience to anybody that has an interest in the biological world around us.



Sachini Pattiya, Sophie McCarron, Molly Lowe, Ohemaa Donkor and Sam Ganji

GEOGRAPHY FIELD STUDY

On Sunday September 30th, 19 Year 13 students travelled to Nettlecombe Field Study Centre to collect data for their NEA investigation (worth 20% of their A Level). On day one the team set out for Watchet, a small regenerated coastal town and practiced collecting data to provide ideas on a human based field study. On day two the students got to visit the lovely seaside town of Minehead, unfortunately not to do any sunbathing, but they took part in the more exhilarating measurement of beach profiles and assessing the effectiveness of the coastal management in place. On day three the students set out to collect the data in the area of their choice based on the enquiry question that they came up with. Despite the difficult conditions and long hours that made it a somewhat challenging task, the students kept their focus and collected a range of excellent data for their study. The group were a credit to the school and we gathered valuable data to take back to school for further analysis.



Mr Lynch

YEAR 12 BIOLOGY TRIP TO DEVON

The sun shone on the biologists as they worked hard in Devon, conducting practical experiments to support their learning of A Level Biology. On the first day we headed to East Prawle, an area ideal to study the distribution of organisms on the rocky shore. Many students were experiencing their first taste of rock pooling whilst gathering their data on the iPads from the Field Study Centre. The data gathered was then mapped onto satellite images and our students conducted statistical tests on the data gathered. Day 2 saw us carrying out chromatography to identify photosynthetic pigments within the different types of seaweeds, and how they were adapted for their function and habitat, then down to Slapton Sands where we used belt transects to study the biological succession across the coastline, we were also able to compare the results to last year's data to see what the environmental impact was of Storm Emma. On our final day we were sampling in the freshwater ley, which allowed us to practice skills gathered from previous days and to use our own data for some statistical tests. The students enjoyed their trip, it gave them opportunity to apply their knowledge to unfamiliar situations and experience new things.



[Opening a World of Opportunities](#)

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 this half term:**

KELLER HOUSE: Esther Okuwa (K2), Rose Frost (K1), Esuri Bandara (K1), Indiana Curtis-Harvey (K3), Nikkita-Lee Cullen (K8) & Hannah Pulford (K5)

NIGHTINGALE HOUSE: Taiya Mitchell (N1), Sophia Hewitt (N3), Priscilla Joseph (N2) & Hazel Smith (N3)

GOODALL HOUSE: Aleksandra Trivunovic (G4), Skye-Rose Hamilton (G4), Isabella Redhead (G2), Charlotte Locke (G3), Abigail Beasley (G1) & Isobel Watson (G3)

SHARMAN HOUSE: Dalia Mustafa (S8), Esther O'Key (S4), Harpreet Kaur (S8) & Madeline Norbury (S7)



IMPORTANT MESSAGE - STAYING SAFE

DARKER NIGHTS, HAPPY & SAFE HALOWEEN/BONFIRE NIGHT

With the darker nights fast approaching, it is important that students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour. Whilst we hope they will enjoy socialising with friends and family during the half-term break and the upcoming Halloween/Bonfire Night activities, we also want to ensure they feel confident to keep themselves safe and away from danger, crime and anti-social behaviour.

In partnership with the police, we would like to remind our students about the following:-

Anti-social behavior: Halloween can be a scary time for people who don't like surprises or callers at their door. Think about how your actions and behaviour affect others; elderly and vulnerable people may be frightened by 'trick or treat' so look out for signs in windows that people do not want callers at their door.

Personal Safety: Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep valuables such as phones out of public view whenever possible.

Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances; they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour and your ability to do well at school and enjoy other interests and activities. They can also be addictive and have unpredictable side effects, including sudden death!

West Midlands Fire Service recommends that you go to an organised display; it's the smart way to stay safe. You'll see a lot more fireworks and it's a lot cheaper. Information about firework safety is available at:
www.saferfireworks.com

Weapons in public places: carrying a knife will get you a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel and job prospects. Those who carry knives are also much more likely to be injured by them.

Off-road bikes: these can only be ridden if taxed, insured and driven on private land with the landowner's permission. Don't risk your life and future prospects by illegally riding these on the road.

Remember the company you keep: if your friend breaks the law, you may also be held responsible for that crime – even if you weren't the one directly responsible.

Above all please have a great half term whilst staying safe and we look forward to seeing you back after the break.

Mr Gunn