



# Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

The quality of learning and progress and the range of activities to enrich learning at KNGS continues to amaze me; this past half term has been no exception.

In November the whole school came together and took time to remember, reflect and commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the end World War 1. We created a public display of poppy wreathes, each petal holding the students personal reflections, thoughts and thanks for those who fought for us and the changes WW1 bought. The moving story of Harry Bibring, a Holocaust survivor, who talked to students and captivated them with stories of his early life and Lucy Attrill represented KNGS as she read her poem that won the Royal British Legion "Thank You" creative competition, at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert on the 11<sup>th</sup> November all added to our commemorations.



The talents of past students entertained us as we welcomed Kioko back for a fantastic lunch time performance. Staff and students visited from Melle in Germany and students have been on aspirational visits to Birmingham and Oxford Universities. Students have taken part in Digirlz, D of E, spelling and maths competitions and journalism events. Interfaith week gave us the opportunity to listen to and question a range of people of different faiths and beliefs, challenging our perceptions. Students have developed their leadership skills running a "Meet the Sixth Form" evening for a record number of potential Sixth Form students, equality workshops for primary school students and a KS1 & 2 Dance Festival.

At the end of this very long and busy term I would like to congratulate Years 11, 12 and 13 for all the hard work they have put into preparing for their exams and the resilience with which they have tackled these. I would like to thank all the staff whose skills, perseverance and hard work ensure that the school is so well looked after and runs smoothly, who plan and deliver ensuring the students continue to make excellent progress.

I would also like to publicly thank the Governing Body who voluntarily give much of their time to support the school, professionally supporting and challenging us in equal measure to ensure the best for all our students.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Nicola Raggett - Headteacher**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ♦ **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January** - Christmas Break
- ♦ **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January** - Review Day - **Please note ALL students are required to be in school between 8.50am - 10.50am**. Some students will be required to stay for Period 3 but will be notified by individual letters.
- ♦ **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January** - Lessons as normal
- ♦ **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January** - Year 11 Parents as Partners, Invitees only, 4.30pm - 6.30pm
- ♦ **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January** - Year 7 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6pm
- ♦ **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** - Year 8 Ski Trip - Parent Information Evening, 5.30pm - 6.45pm
- ♦ **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January** - Year 10 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6pm
- ♦ **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February** - Year 8 Parents as Partners, Invitees only, 4.30pm - 5.30pm
- ♦ **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February** - Staff Training - **EARLY CLOSURE FOR ALL STUDENTS, 12 noon FINISH**
- ♦ **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** - Half Term Break

## EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

### GERMAN EXCHANGE

#### Students from Melle visit KNKS

“ The German Exchange is a fantastic opportunity to take part in. Not only do you get to advance your German skills and get to experience German culture, but you also get to make a friend for life. The days out during the exchange are amazing and I think it's great to spend a week with a completely new person because it helps to develop your confidence. As well as helping academically, the exchange helps socially because you mix with people in your year that you wouldn't normally mix with. I am so glad that I chose to take part in the exchange because I now have a friend that I will continue to be friends with, hopefully for life. I can't wait to go to Germany and I think it is a wonderful opportunity and I urge you to do it, if you get the chance. ”

*Written by Hannah Pulford (Year 11)*

“ In mid-October a group of students studying German or History from KNKS began the start of their German exchange visit. On October 16th the German students from Gymnasium Melle arrived in England and all partners were finally able to meet their exchange students. The German students spent a week with their partners, providing them with an experience of an English students life by joining in with lessons throughout the day. The German exchange students also learnt about England's past and Shakespeare during a day trip to Stratford. The partners had all previously been in contact before October allowing each pair to get to know each other a bit before hand. During the week the friendship between the exchange partners grew and large activities were organised by the students and their families for after the school week. After school on Friday the exchange students spent a fun evening together bowling together with lots of chocolate and sweets involved. During the weekend some partners went to London, others stayed at home and went shopping at the Bullring or introduced their partner to places such as the Cotswolds. By Monday when the English students had to send their partners back home to Germany, many hugs and well wishes were shared between not only partners but other students. Each was very sad to say goodbye to their partner but all the students are excitedly waiting to meet again later in the school year, when the KNKS students visit their exchange partners in Germany. ”

Many moments in the week were highlights for the students. Some say the time spent together with all the exchange students from both schools was the most enjoyable, others say the opportunity to practice another language with a person their age and being able to show them their culture was the best part. Despite the different ideas on what was the best part of the exchange was all the students believe that they have met life long friends in their exchange partners and fondly look forward to seeing each other again. ”

*Written by Hazel Smith (Year 11)*

### SSAT CONFERENCE

#### Food Prep Students Contribute to the Student Enterprise

Our amazing Food Prep students were given the opportunity to participate in the SSAT National Conference 2018. As part of a student enterprise, GCSE Food students baked, decorated and packaged over 100 traditional fruit Christmas cakes.



On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, three Year 10 students: Elizabeth Dewes, Maisy Wilby and Ella James attended the conference to represent the school and to sell the cakes to other attendees. The students set up and sold the cakes and overall did an outstanding job of representing the school. All profits are to be reinvested in the Food Department.

Unfortunately our Year 11 students were unable to attend due to their mock exams, but without them we wouldn't have had such high quality cakes. A huge thanks to Amy Pagnam and Laura Bell.

*Mrs Walsh*





### Year 8 Students Visit Microsoft Headquarters

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018, a group of eight Year 8 girls were given the opportunity to visit Microsoft Headquarters in Reading for an worldwide event called "DigiGirlz". The event is aimed at removing the stereotype that girls cannot code computer programs, work within the IT industry and to dispel the myth that big companies like Microsoft, Google, etc. only want boys to work in the sector. We were one of only 20 schools in the UK to visit.



An early start at 6am was needed to get ready for the day's events which included a guided tour of the campus, hands on displays, live technology demonstrations, careers advice, Q&A with Microsoft CEO Cindy Rose and the opportunity to ask a female intern and apprentice questions about what they do, why they enjoy it and lots more!



The main activity during the day was to design a new device for an everyday task by coding BBC Microbits – and as expected the creative juices got flowing immediately – eventually bringing together a selection of designs from our three groups which involved robotic barriers, getting Microbits to communicate over Bluetooth to each other and even making use of a full digital camera to represent a speed camera.



A huge well done to all our girls and to Mr Willis for organising the trip and for Mr Cutler for his support on the day.

For more pictures of the day check out the Computer Science Department on Twitter @kngscompsci

## EXPLORING UNIVERSITY LIFE

### Year 10 Students Visit Oxford University

In November, 12 high achieving Year 10 students, accompanied by Mr Abelson and Mr Charlett spent a day at Oxford University exploring all aspects of university life. The students learnt about what courses were available, the application process, student life and the importance of getting good GCSE results. They experienced a fascinating session in the Computer Science Department where they learned some interesting insights into the internet and were also introduced to an app that rewarded them for spending less time on their smartphones!

We were hosted by Keble College. The students had a tour of the college and were treated to lunch. They also participated in a treasure hunt around Oxford. The girls agreed it was a really useful insight into seeing what life as an Oxford undergraduate was like and especially liked hearing from the undergraduates themselves about their university experiences, both academic and social. They returned to Birmingham fully motivated to aim high.



## HOLOCAUST TALK

### Holocaust Survivor Talks to KNGS Students

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, Harry Bibring, a Holocaust survivor came into talk to the Year 10-13 History students. He spoke to the students for almost 3 hours, recalling his experiences growing up in Nazi occupied Austria, before his move to Britain on the kindertransport. He spoke of his last ever contact with his parents who were killed in concentration camps and showed the last letters that he and his mum had exchanged. At the end, he spoke of his wish for equality and an end to racism and discrimination in all forms.

His message is going to form the basis of our commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day in 2019.

After his moving talk, the students were given an opportunity to ask questions. The questions they asked were mature and inquisitive, demonstrating their passion for the subject. Many students stayed on to speak to Harry and he wrote after of their enthusiasm and interest, saying it had made his long journey from London worthwhile.



## NCS

### Programme Launches at KNGS

Year 11 have recently been invited to take part in the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme. This programme is run completely independently of school but we fully support its aims and have a history of wide participation with our Year 11 students.



This is a truly wonderful programme designed to build self-esteem and confidence in young people, as well as encouraging them to make a positive contribution to their local community. It runs for three weeks over the summer and there are various start dates to choose from, beginning shortly after the end of the GCSE exams. The programme is divided into three phases:

**Phase 1:** Adventure - Feel the freedom of the outside world during five days away from home, taking on adrenaline-fuelled activities like rock climbing, canoeing and archery.

**Phase 2:** Discovery - Living independently, you'll learn essential life skills from local business leaders and charities, gain confidence in public speaking, communications skills and budgeting.

**Phase 3:** Social Action - Devise a community project based on an issue you and your team feel passionate about.

Full details have been given to students and are available via the website: [www.ncsyes.co.uk](http://www.ncsyes.co.uk)

## READING FOR PLEASURE

### Celebration Event

November 28<sup>th</sup> saw the most recent instalment of the school's half-termly 'Reading Celebration' event. As a reward for being avid readers, students from Years 7, 8 and 9 had the opportunity to celebrate their passion for reading with food, games and plenty of prizes!

This was also an opportunity to congratulate all of those that took part in the Creative Writing Club's Horror Story Competition and the "Mr Bell's Book Reports" initiative. Well done to all the students who took part!

## KIOKO ROCKS KNGS AGAIN!

For the second year in a row local band KIOKO returned to KNGS to perform for staff and students ahead of their gig at the O2 Institute in November. Many of the band members met whilst studying at Kings Norton Sixth Form and have been making music together ever since! It was great to welcome the lads back and have them entertain students and staff alike, including a rendition of 'Happy Birthday' for Mr Steele!

Opening a World of Opportunities





## INTERFAITH WEEK

**Monday 12th - Friday 16th November**



For the sixth consecutive year, the RE department marked National Interfaith Week with a range of events to help students and staff develop a greater understanding and appreciation of different faiths; to celebrate the religious and spiritual diversity within the school; and to provide both students and staff with an opportunity to explore and share their own beliefs.

Interfaith Week contributes towards the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, and also reflects the school's active promotion of "British values", particularly mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The features of the week included:

- **Faiths Forum** with a panel of religious representatives who answered questions from Year 7, 10 and 11 pupils. Questions included the speakers' beliefs about creation, gender equality, why there is suffering and life after death. The faith leaders were:

**Rev Andrew Lomas** - Permanent Deacon, Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham

**Maulana Aqeel Kang** - Imam, Baitul Ghafoor Mosque (Ahmadiyya Muslim Community)

**Gen Kelsang Leksang** - Resident Teacher, Samantabhadra Kadampa Buddhist Centre

**Douglas Sembuize** - Youth and Communities Minister, Rowheath Pavilion.

- **GCSE Faiths Forum** for our Year 10 and 11 GCSE RS students, alongside Year 10 GCSE RS students from Kings Norton Boys School, to further develop their knowledge of Christianity and Islam.
- **Meditation Room** organised and led by the RE Ambassadors, creating a reflective and calm space for students to take part in a meditation session.
- **Rolling slideshow** about Interfaith Week on plasma screens.
- **Tweets** from @KNGSlife and a hashtag #kngsinterfaith to raise awareness and share experiences on social media.

A big thank you to all staff for their help, support and cooperation, and to our fabulous RE Ambassadors for making it a huge success again.



Mr W Ahmedi and Miss Rai

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GROUP

### Open House Event

“ This November, our Amnesty International Group held an Open House event, designed to give students a flavour of the activities we get involved in. We promoted our current campaign, which is a petition to lower the high cost of applications for British citizenship for young people.

Visitors enjoyed a colouring activity where we made bunting flags expressing our feelings on what it means to be British. There were also refreshments for those who participated. Many students attended and were interested in joining our weekly meetings. Those of us who are in Amnesty and helped to host the event thought it had gone very well, and we were pleased to have got more signatures on our petition.

Written by Isabelle Thompson and Ifat Salim, Year 8

## A BUZZ IN THE LEARNING HUB

### Inter-House Spelling Bee

Students in Year 7 recently took part in the Inter-house Spelling Bee. Representing their houses in teams of four, sixteen competitors bravely put their spelling skills to the test, supported by a very enthusiastic audience. Students also helped to organise and run the event, with our dedicated team of English Ambassadors taking on the important job of pronouncing the words and recording scores, and Year 7 pupils creating bunting flags with supportive messages for their house teams. The audience members played a valuable role in the contest as they created a fantastic atmosphere, alternating quiet concentration with celebratory clapping.



All of the competitors did very well, with every girl managing to spell some challenging words correctly, undaunted by the pressures of being on stage. As the competition progressed, the words became trickier and the tension began to build; in a nail biting finale, the gold medal was ultimately taken by Nabila Ahmed of Goodall house, with Alara Kaya, of Nightingale, awarded silver and Isabelle Carruthers, of Keller, achieving bronze. Keller took the prize for the highest-scoring house overall, with a team total of twenty-two words spelled correctly. Well done to all involved!

*S. O'Mahony, English Teacher*



<b><u>Year 7 (Juniors):</u></b> Betty Curtis Jaspreet Kaur Paige Tierney Holly Jones Nagaad Yussuf <b>Jessica-Rose Samuels</b> Caitlin Hopwood	<b><u>Year 8 (Juniors):</u></b> Susie Catling Sophie Cole Edie Ballard Amy Cockcroft Esther O'Key Amy Hemming Madeleine Thompson Millie Scully
<b><u>Year 9 (Intermediate):</u></b> Iptisam Salim Matilda Johnston Lily-Anna Finlay-Harrison Lucy Hardy Poppy Harris-Bloomer Jeannie Birkett Bethan Ramsay Amy Lerrigo Isabel Watley <b>Charlotte Pickup</b> Sarah Coffey Keira Valentine Evie Roe Daisy Armstrong-Smith	<b><u>Year 10 (Seniors):</u></b> <b>Holly Whittall</b> Trinity Donnelly Alice Goodman Shraiya Patel Antje-Maren White
	<b><u>Year 12:</u></b> <b>Felicity Ivory</b>

In the first 2 weeks back after half term all of our KS3 and KS4/KS5 option students took part in the UK Bebras Challenge which required them to apply computational thinking skills in an online test for 40 minutes.

Over 200,000 students took part across the UK and the students listed on the left came **in the top 10% nationally** and have been invited to take part in the next online challenge in March 2019.

I would like to congratulate the following students as they have shown a real skill to solve problems and apply logic to abstract situations. The students highlighted in green were the highest in their age range.

Well done and good luck in the next round in March!

*Mr Willis*





## NUMERACY RELAY

### Inter-House Challenge

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, the Sixth Form Numeracy Mentors organised a whole school Inter-House Numeracy Relay. House teams consisted of 8 participants from Year 7 to Sixth Form including a teacher. Rounds included; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. These included some really challenging word problems! The Hall was buzzing with excitement with the audience cheering their houses on! Sharman and Keller came in third and fourth place, respectively. It was head to head with Goodall and Nightingale until the very end, with Nightingale managing to snatch the victory.



A special thank you to the Sixth Formers; Sachini Pattiya, Luke Delaney, Fatimah Akbar, Intisar Salim, Zac Marshall, Brigid Vincent, Jasmine Aitken and Victoria Landjova, who organised such a fantastic event and are a credit to the school.

---

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

### 2018 Update

Well done to Year 10 students who are doing lots of really valuable work in the community as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award sections. Students have been taking part in charities, playgroups, dance classes as well as learning a range of new skills including map reading, photography, cooking and much more! Their most recent achievement was completing their "Outdoor First Aid" award ready for their upcoming expeditions. All girls did KNGS proud and comments from the course leaders commended their mature and measured approach towards the important life skill of first aid.

Students will be going on expeditions in May and June, I'd like to wish them good luck and a special mention should go to all staff and external adults that will have or are currently supporting students during this year to date and have acted as assessors for the various skills girls were advancing in their own time.

*Mr Willis*

---

## AUTHOR VISIT

### Students Meet Chris Bradford

On Wednesday 21st November 2018 the first ten students to achieve the bronze 'Reading for Pleasure' Award were invited to King Edwards Camp Hill Boys to see the author Chris Bradford. He is the author of the award winning Young Samurai series and the Bodyguard series. He is a true believer in 'practicing what you preach' as he is trained in samurai swordsmanship and is a qualified bodyguard. His talk was therefore extremely entertaining as he wielded a sword and taught the students some bodyguard moves. The students also really enjoyed the opportunity to be able to purchase books and spend time talking to the author whilst they got their books signed.

*Mrs Edwards*



---

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT



### Festive Showcase of Talent

The students at KNGS worked really hard to put on an amazing Christmas concert which was a great way to end the term on a musical high. There were performances from a variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles, all showing a high degree of musicality and confidence in performance. On behalf of all of the students that took part I would like to thank the Music Service and Music Service staff for their tireless support and time. It makes such a difference to the musical outcomes of our students. May I also take the time to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

*Mr Gell*

## SUCCESSES

### GCSE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

#### Year 11 Class of 2018

Thursday 29th November saw the return of many of our **Year 11 - Class of 2018**, for a celebratory event, where the students were individually presented with their GCSE certificates. We also welcomed Mrs Fleur Sexton, her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant of West Midlands as our guest speaker, who gave an inspirational speech and lots of great advice to the students receiving their certificates.

In addition to the GCSE Certificate Presentation there were a number of individual student prizes awarded - the new Lloyds Art Award, which was presented to **Gabrielle Dickson**, The Richard Rogers Prize for "Philosophy of Religion" was awarded to **Erin Harte**, The Eileen Daines Prize for "English Literature" was awarded to **Ruby Enwonwu**, the South & City College Principal's Award Scheme was awarded to **Henna Ahmed, Malaika Ali & Jess Coley** and the Headteacher's Prize was awarded to **Izzy Brookes**. Well done Class of 2018!



### REPRESENTING ENGLAND

#### Congratulations Mary!

Congratulations to Mary Glasby (Year 10) who was selected to represent England in the Indoor Cricket World Series for the Under 17's Girls team in September. The tournament was hosted in New Zealand. The competition was extremely tough, with England competing against, South Africa, Australia and two New Zealand teams. Although they didn't medal, Team England did very well and overall, it was an amazing experience for Mary!



Well done Mary, you should be very proud of your achievements - we certainly are!

### 'WOMEN WHO DARED TO DREAM'

#### KNGS Student Involved in Book Launch

A massive well done to Eve Connor (Year 10) who was involved with shortlisting the final 30 entries for the book 'Women Who Dared to Dream'. The book was commissioned by Birmingham City Council in collaboration with Sparks Young Writers and the Emma Press to celebrate the centenary of women's suffrage.

Eve made a written contribution about the importance of the project and gave a reading at the book launch at the REP Theatre in Birmingham to an audience of 300 as part of Birmingham's Literature Festival.

Great work Eve!



### JINGLE BELL JOG

#### English Department Dust Off Their Santa Suits!

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> the English Department donned their Santa suits and took part in the 'Jingle Bell' jog in memory of a dear member of our team, Sharon Piotrowska (Ms P).

We are pleased to report that we all made it to the finish line (some quicker than others!) and we managed to raise £240 for St Mary's Hospice.

*The English Department*





## CREATIVE WRITING AWARD

### Congratulations Millie!

A massive congratulations to Mille Battye (Year 9) on being announced winner of the British Dyslexia Association Creative Writing Award as part of Dyslexia Awareness Week. Millie won the age category 12-17 and the theme of the competition was '21st Century Dyslexia'. Millie wrote a piece of creative writing from the viewpoint of 'Claroread' a piece of computer software that helps people with dyslexia.

Well done Millie, we are super proud of you!



---

## FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

### KNGS Student Moves the Nation

Kings Norton Girls' School student, Lucy Attrill, moved the audience at The Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November as she recited for poem 'Thank You' in front of members of the Royal Family and Prime Minister at the Royal Albert Hall.



Photo Credit: British Royal Legion

Lucy's poem was written in a Learning Hub lesson where students were required to write a poem which could be entered into The Royal British Legion Creative Writing 'Thank You' Competition, to honour the entire First World War generation who served, sacrificed and changed our world. From over a thousand entries Lucy's submission won overall and therefore was selected to be recited.

Lucy's poem moved the audience at the Royal Albert Hall, as she read her poem 'Thank You' which summed up the gratitude of the nation: "If you hadn't given your life in France, If you hadn't stepped on that Train, Your boys might have had a father, but our world would not be the same."

Headteacher Nicola Raggett said "We are extremely proud of Lucy for her confident and heart moving recital of her beautiful and poignant poem. It was a real privilege for one of our students to be able to represent the sentiment and gratitude of the nation at such a prestigious event as we remembered those who gave their lives 100 years on".

We would also like to congratulate **Sophia Wigley** and **Megan Cornelius** for achieving 2nd and 3rd place within their age category in the competition - well done to both of you!

---

## CHARITY FUNDRAISING

### Well Done Grace!

A massive well done to student Grace Lasky (Year 10) on her amazing fundraising efforts for the Little Princess Trust and Macmillan Cancer Support.

On 1<sup>st</sup> November Grace cut her hair for charity and donated it to the Little Princess Trust. The charity will use Grace's hair to make wigs for children suffering with hair loss as a result of cancer treatment.

Through her fantastic fundraising efforts Grace raised over £730 (plus gift aid) for the Little Princess Trust and over £165 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

This is a fantastic achievement and a brilliant amount of money raised for two very worthy charities - congratulations Grace we are really proud of you!



### Opening a World of Opportunities

## SPORTING UPDATE

### SOUTH BIRMINGHAM CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Year 7 girls Ela Ozdemir and Isabelle Carruthers represented South Birmingham Schools at the West Midlands Schools Cross Country Trials at Sutton Park on Saturday 20th October, where they competed against athletes from the whole of the West Midlands area. This race acts as a selection race for the Inter County fixture in Cheshire in December. Ela finished the 2.6k race in 41st position in 12m22s, and Isabelle finished 52nd in 13m22s, in what was their first attempt at racing cross-country at county level. Well done to both of them!

### NETBALL

Well done to all KNGS Netball Teams who have who have had fixtures this term - a fantastic set of results!

#### Senior Division (Years 10 & 11):

Swanshurst, 24th Oct (H) - Won 9-7

KE Camphill, 27th Nov (A) - Lost 36-14

#### Year 8 Division 1:

EHS, 23rd Oct (H) - Lost 4-13

KE Five Ways, 7th Nov (A) - Won 11-9

Turves Green, 22nd Nov (A) - Won 14-7

Bishop Challoner, 6th Dec (A) - Won 18-9

#### Year 9 Division 1:

Bishop Challoner, 6th Dec (A) - Lost 6-20

#### Year 7 Division 1:

EHS, 23rd Oct (H) - Lost 4-12

UOB, 6th Nov (H) - Won 10-3

KE Five Ways (A) - Won 9-5

KE Camphill (A) - Lost 4-25

### BASKETBALL

Well done to all KNGS Basketball Teams who have had fixtures this term too - again another set of great results!

- Cockshut Hill, 13th Nov (A) Yr 10 - Won 23-13
- King Edwards VI Sheldon Heath, 21st Nov (A) Yr 10 - Won 19-16
- Yardleys, 21st Nov (H) Yr 9 - Lost 18-30
- Four Dwellings, 4th Dec (H) Yr 7 - Won 24-12

### FOOTBALL

On Tuesday 6th November KNGS entered a Year 7 and a joint Year 8 /9 team into a local 5-a-side football tournament at the Ark Kings Academy. It was very pleasing to see our Year 7 girls enjoy themselves and having a good go for their first competitive trip out. Year 7 achieved third place and Year 8/9 achieved first place and have gained a place in the Birmingham School Games finals. Well done to all students who took part, they were an absolute credit to the school!

## HOUSE NEWS

### CHILDREN IN NEED

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November KNGS students raised money for Children in Need by donating £1 to dress down for the day. There were even a few homemade Pudsey hairbands on display around the school which were lovely to see. The Heads of House ran a bake sale at break time and all the cakes disappeared within minutes! All in all, KNGS managed to raise over £1000 for Children in Need which is a fantastic result.



### ODD SOCKS DAY

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, KNGS held an Odd Socks Day in support of the Anti-Bullying Alliance. Many staff and students were spotted roaming the halls wearing their odd socks with pride. Odd Socks Day is an opportunity for people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes everyone unique. It was great to see so many people take part for this worthy cause.



### ARMISTICE DAY

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November, KNGS students spent Period 1 reflecting on the end of World War 1 and its implications on our lives since the war ended in a house assembly. They also worked together to create an art piece commemorating the day. Students each created a poppy, writing down messages to those lost in the war and to their loved ones now, and these were added to a form wreath. These wreaths were then displayed at the front of the school for the community to see and were a fitting tribute to the day itself.



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student leadership have been working hard this half term on a celebration event to commemorate 70 years of the Declaration of Human Rights. This is a vital document that outlines the basic necessities that every human is entitled to. They have created an amazing range of games and activities for other students to take part in, teaching them about what their human rights are and why they are so important in the modern world. Next half term they will be collaborating with other groups in school to focus on well-being, with the aim of teaching well-being strategies to their peers and creating an environment in school where every student can achieve their potential.

## SIXTH FORM NEWS

### Careers Fair/Open Evening

Our annual Careers fair on 21<sup>st</sup> November was a huge success with many exhibitors from universities, apprenticeships, and employers all attending to contribute and showcase what they have to offer our students post-16 and post-18. Thank you to our students from Year 9 to Year 13 for behaving in such a mature fashion when having conversations about their future.

During the Open Evening we had many prospective students visit our school to see the Sixth Form and speak to our students about what it is like to study A Levels. Again, a huge thank you to those students who took part in the evening, and contributed to its success.



### UCAS Applications

39 UCAS applications have now been sent off to a range of Universities and courses. The applications are coming in thick and fast!

### Parents Evening

Thank you to those who were able to attend the evening, and were able to gain feedback regarding how their son/daughter is progressing in his/her studies. We hope you found the evening an informative and positive experience.

### COMING UP...

#### Year 11 Interviews

Year 11 interviews are set to take place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Letters have gone out to individual students regarding the time of their appointment. Thank you for your application, and we look forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form. **Applications for Sixth Form for external students and remaining internal students close on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Applications can found online at [www.kngs.co.uk/sixth-form/admissions](http://www.kngs.co.uk/sixth-form/admissions)**

#### A Level Presentation

Our Year 13 cohort from 2016-2018 will return to school on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December to celebrate their A Level achievements and be presented with their certificates from 1pm-2pm.

### GLOBAL INNOVATION CENTRE VISIT

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 39 year Chemistry and Physics A Level students, accompanied by Miss Davies & Mrs Hill, went the Global Innovation Centre in Didcot, Oxford, to visit the company 'Element 6 Group'.

The Element Six Group is a synthetic diamond super materials group, which are used in applications such as cutting, grinding, drilling, shearing and polishing, but also in optics, power transmission, water treatment, semi-conductors and sensors. The students were introduced to many scientists at the Centre; from those with PHD in a different sector, such as microbiology, to those having done an engineering degree and to those completing apprentices at the Centre rather than attend university. From here the group took part in an experiment to determine the thermal conductivity of diamond; they got to hold and cut ice with a disc of diamond worth £150,000! They also got a tour of the development and testing area, as well as observing an experiment demonstrating the importance of diamond in our electrical devices as a heat control element.

We hope the students felt inspired to go into science and engineering careers in the future.

#### Opening a World of Opportunities

## REQUEST FOR HELP

### DO YOU WORK IN A SCIENCE RELATED JOB?

British Science Week is an annual celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths run by the British Science Association. The theme for 2019 is 'journeys' and at Kings Norton Girls' School & Sixth Form we would like to reflect this through exploring the journeys that our family and friends have undertaken in scientific careers.



**We are looking therefore for parents/carers/friends of KNGS who work in a science related job who would be willing to share their career paths with us.** This will involve a short interview with our Year 10 Science Ambassadors. The information will then be used by the Ambassadors to lead an assembly during British Science Week in March 2019.

**If you work in a Science related job and would like to get involved please contact Vicki Miller, Head of Science Faculty: [vmiller@kngs.co.uk](mailto:vmiller@kngs.co.uk)**

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

Kings Norton Girls' School and Sixth Form is committed to reducing unsustainable modes of transport among staff and students and we are currently investigating how our staff and students get to and from the school each day.

We are all aware of the impact of transport on the local, national and global environment and would like to take this opportunity to point out how you can support the staff and students at KNGS to reduce its carbon footprint.

By reducing the number of car journeys to and from KNGS we can have a positive impact not only on the environment but also on the health and wellbeing of our students:

- walking to school with friends can provide our students with fantastic opportunities to catch up face to face rather than via social media
- it gives students the opportunity to discuss school work and events
- research has shown that it can help students to arrive at school in a calmer frame of mind and ready to cope with the school day
- walking or cycling to school enables young people to develop independence and road safety skills

There are also benefits for parents:

- no more hassle of trying to find a parking space near the school gates
- 20% of rush hour traffic is made up of people doing the school run so removing this makes the walk/cycle to school safer for your child
- parking a reasonable distance from the school and walking the rest of the way is good for you as well as your child

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Speed limits immediately surround the school are 20mph to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists
- All roads around the school are well lit residential roads with commercial areas close by also being well lit
- We have storage for around 20 bikes at the school
- KNGS is only a 15 minute walk from either Kings Norton or Bournville train stations. These stations are serviced by the Cross Country line operation between Four Oaks and Longbridge with peak services operating every ten minutes
- Our nearest bus stop is only 500m away on Northfield Road and is served by the number 18 bus
- Other bus routes servicing KNGS are the 11a, 11c, 19, 38, 45 and 47 all of which have bus stops within a 100m walk from the school

If you have any comments or suggestions on things that we could do to improve the amount of sustainable travel to and from school then please contact the school via [enquiry@kngs.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@kngs.co.uk) putting KNGS Travel in the subject header.

**Opening a World of Opportunities**