

KINGS NORTON GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

February 2019

Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Kings Norton Girls' School & Sixth Form has had a busy half term. Our School Vision of 'Opening a World of Opportunities' has been evident in so many ways. The Sixth Form build has begun, with the fencing and construction vehicles appearing. Our new webpage: www.kngs.co.uk/news/new-sixth-form-block/ will keep you fully up to date with upcoming activity and build progress along with our social media feeds.

We are delighted to let you know that we have been awarded the Anti Bullying Quality Mark Bronze Award which recognises that we have the correct policies, processes and procedures in place to prevent bullying and also support when incidents do occur.

A range of educational visits have supported student's learning across the curriculum, including a Health & Social Care visit to St Francis C of E Nursery and Year 11 attendance at Poetry Live with the English Department. Looking beyond Kings Norton Girls' School & Sixth Form our students have led workshops for primary school students through Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) and participated in the Princes Trust Enterprise Challenge event.

In school our community grows from strength to strength through collective events such as the Gauntlet Games and Inter-House Maths Challenge.

I hope that you have a fantastic half term break.

Nicola Raggett - Headteacher



ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL TIMES

Students have always been expected to be in school and going to/lining up outside their form rooms at 8.25am on hearing the first bell at 8.25am (8.45am on a Thursday). Most students independently manage this very well on a daily basis. Registers are then taken at 8.30am (8.50am on a Thursday).

To ensure all students are punctual for registration the school gates will now close at 8.25am (8.45am on a Thursday) this is at the time of the first bell.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that all students are ready for learning at the start of the day by being punctual to school.

Mr Gunn - Deputy Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Monday 18th - Friday 22nd February** - Half Term Break
- ◆ **Tuesday 26th February** - Year 9 Parents as Partners, 6pm - 8pm
- ◆ **Thursday 7th March** - Year 9 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6.00pm
- ◆ **Tuesday 12th March** - Staff Training Day - **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR ALL STUDENTS**
- ◆ **Thursday 4th April** - Year 8 Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.00pm
- ◆ **Monday 15th - Friday 26th April** - Easter Break

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

PRINCE'S TRUST ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE

Year 9 Students Showcase Entrepreneurial Skills

Over the course of two Friday mornings a group of 20 Year 9



students took part in the Prince's Trust Enterprise Challenge.

They spent 6 hours, with

mentors from Lloyds Bank, learning about business and enterprise and then applying their learning to an online team challenge. They had to make decisions about product quality, distribution methods and marketing in a bid to make profit. Although most groups made a loss when they started playing the game, by the end of the session many groups were making a profit, with one group making



over £2 million (not real money unfortunately). The groups have a few more weeks to continue playing with a place in the national finals in London up for grabs.

POETRY LIVE

Year 11 Exam Preparation



Year 11 pupils visited Birmingham Town Hall to watch GCSE Poetry Live! This was a unique opportunity to watch readings by the poets Simon Armitage, Carol Ann Duffy and Gillian Clarke. John Agard, Imtiaz Dharker, Daljit Nagra and Grace Nichols also read their work. There was an opportunity to hear from the Chief Examiner for English Literature, where they offered helpful exam techniques to students preparing for their GCSE exams.

Thank you to all students who came on the trip. We are sure that you feel better prepared for your GCSE English Literature exam now you have heard the work being performed live.

Miss Walker and Mr Houston

IFS STUDENT INVESTOR CHALLENGE

GCSE Business students in Year 10 and A Level Business students in Year 12 have taken part in a share portfolio challenge. Students were given £100,000 of virtual money to invest in shares on the stock exchange. They then had to manage their portfolios over a two month period by making investment decisions. Team CCPJ100 in Year 10 had the best performing portfolio. Well done to Jessica Reeves-Taylor, Carys Southall, Chloe Ashmore and Patience Sithole.

GENDER INEQUALITY

KNGS Students Take Part in BEP Event

On Friday 30th November, RE and History Ambassadors took part in an event organised by BEP (Birmingham Education Partnership), where they showcased their ideas about gender inequality. The girls had been working hard over the term, working with a BEP representative to take part in activities to discover their own views on gender roles in society. This led the girls to produce activities to share with students from a range of schools from Birmingham, including primary schools.

The girls were brilliant in presenting their ideas about gender inequality we face today as well as helping to run the event on the day.

The Ambassadors are now looking forward to sharing their ideas on gender inequality when celebrating 'International Women's Day' later this year.

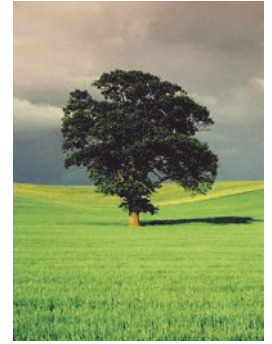
Opening a World of Opportunities



TREEMENDOUS

Woodland Trust Initiative

We have won 30 free trees from the Woodland Trust to create a copse on the school site. 30 saplings will arrive in November and planting will be carried out by any students who are enthusiastic about the natural world. Our goal is to create an outdoor classroom (in the long run) and, in the short term, to build a haven for wildlife. It should be a great opportunity to learn about growing and nurturing young trees whilst also getting creative and making bug and bee hotels and hedgehog hideaways.



All that the Woodland Trust ask is that we use our trees to benefit wildlife and people. So, if your child is interested in trees, wildlife, woods, climate change, conservation, or loves nothing more than watching episodes of Springwatch back-to-back, please ask them to see (or email) Miss Rickard and encourage them to get involved in any way they like. We will be planting silver birch, rowan and wild cherry. **Parents are most welcome to join the team.**

YEAR 11 HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE VISIT

Year 11 Health and Social Care students visited St Francis C Of E Nursery on 11th January to conduct one of their coursework tasks – completing a risk assessment of a nursery setting. St Francis, very kindly, purposely left obstacles and hazards for the students to identify. As always, our students were exemplary in their behaviour and professionalism.

Miss Randell - Health and Social Care Teacher and Co-Ordinator

YEAR 9 & 11 HEALTH DAY

On Wednesday 19th December it was Health Day for all Year 9 & 11 students. This day forms an important part of the PSHE curriculum which aims to promote healthy, responsible choices about a variety of topics. These topics ranged from healthy eating to relaxation. All students were exemplary throughout the day, engaging with both internal and external staff with enthusiasm and respect. On review of the evaluations students found the topics covered very informative, leading to a successful delivery of the day.

INTER HOUSE MATH CHALLENGE

On the 7th of February, the Sixth Form Numeracy Mentors organised the 4th Inter-house Numeracy Relay. House teams consisted of 8 participants from Year 7 to Sixth Form. Each round was based on a key numeracy skill; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The questions got harder with each round. It was a really close challenge with Sharman and Nightingale coming joint first place and Keller and Goodall in joint second place. The teams were supported by a fantastic audience who created a fantastic lively atmosphere. Well done to all the participants!



THE KNKS INNOCENT BIG KNIT

In Support of Age UK

Staff and students have been very busy knitting and crocheting little hats at KNKS. We were aiming to knit or crochet at least one 100 hats, however we smashed that target in the first three weeks and have now reset the target to 250 hats.



The challenge has been extremely successful so far and has brought together different year groups and friendships groups, as well the wider school community including friends, parents and grandparents. The initiative is run by Innocent Drinks who donate 25p to Age UK every time a hatted bottle is sold. Innocent Drinks and Age UK have both tweeted thanking us for getting



involved and called us 'a bunch of purls!'. If you would like to take part we would be really grateful. The initiative will run until June 2019 and all the details, as well as the patterns to make the hats, can be found at www.biknit.co.uk/about. **Completed hats should be given to Mrs Edwards in the Learning Hub by the end of June 2019.**

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SUCCESSES

A LEVEL CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Year 13 Class of 2018

Friday 21st December saw the return of many of our **Year 13 - Class of 2018**, for a celebratory event where the students were individually presented with A Level certificates. We were also very honoured to have Community Governor, Ms Kirsty Mack as our Guest of Honour.

In addition to words of congratulations, inspiration, as well as advice for the future from Mrs Raggett and Ms Kirsty Mack, we also enjoyed fantastic musical performance from the Sixth Form Jazz Band.

It was a wonderful event and lovely to see the students come back together to celebrate their individual successes.



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM FORWARD THINKING

Year 11 Celebration Event

On Wednesday 5th December the journey that began four years ago in Year 8 for selected students ended with a celebration event in The Great Hall of The University of Birmingham. Now in Year 11 there was a final session including a fascinating lecture on satellites and the increasing problem of space junk culminating in a celebration event in The Aston Webb Hall where they enjoyed a fascinating motivational talk by 'Action' Jackson.

After some excellent refreshments their proud parents, guardians and Mr Abelson watched them collect their certificates which they received for completing The Forward Thinking Programme. Everybody left feeling motivated to 'be the best that they can possibly be'!



SPORTING UPDATE

Good Luck Molly!

We wish the very best of luck to Molly Jobe (S3) who will be competing in Dublin on 1st March at the Irish Open for Martial Arts.

Gymnastics Competition

On Friday 1st February the KNKS Gymnastics Team attended a competition being hosted at Edgbaston High School for Girls, coming away with a brilliant set of results - well done ladies!

Under 12's

Team = Bronze

Individual All Round = Bronze, Skye Rose Hamilton

Individual Floor = Silver, Skye Rose Hamilton

Individual Vault = Bronze, Skye Rose Hamilton

Over 14's

Both teams = Silver and Bronze

Individual All Round = Silver, Lucy Attrill & Gold, Amelia Lane

Individual Vault = Bronze, Liberty Seadon & Gold Amelia Lane

Individual Floor = Bronze, Lucy Attrill, Silver, Amelia Lane & Gold, Liberty Seadon



Opening a World of Opportunities

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

SLG have been working hard on a celebration event for International Women's Day. The theme this year is #BalanceforBetter, with the focus being on gender equality for the benefit of all. The students are creating various activities for a celebration event, conducting two assemblies and creating a form time activity.



SLG have also been involved in updating the anti-bullying board outside of the dining hall. This is a crucial element of the bronze anti-bullying mark that the school successfully achieved last week!

HOUSE NEWS

Firstly, can we say a massive welcome back to Mrs Bi. Mrs Bi has been away on maternity leave and now re-joins us with a new addition to our Keller House. Welcome baby Rumi! We would like to say a massive thank you to Miss Cawley and Ms Gayton-Kay for doing an amazing job in looking after Keller House.



There has also been another big return of the much loved 'Gauntlet Games'. We have set a big challenge this year called 'Remote Jigsaw' for all Houses.

The challenge involves teamwork, a massive amount of skill, concise communication and a lot of FUN!

We would also like to celebrate and congratulate the students that have received 'Student of the Week' awards this half term:

KELLER HOUSE: Paige Tierney (K5) & Ellen Attrill (K7)

NIGHTINGALE HOUSE: Meghane Lawrence (N3), Sophie Cole (N3) & Evie Taylor (N3)

GOODALL HOUSE: Poppy Ellis (G6-2) & Lois Taylor (G2)

SHARMAN HOUSE: Taylor Maclehose (S5), Freya Snipe (S4) & whole of Form S6

EXAMINATIONS

As external exams are fast approaching for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, a useful "Candidate Handbook" can now be found on the schools website: www.kngs.co.uk/about-us/examinations and also in Student Share. It provides general information on the examination process here at KNGS and also answers some frequently asked questions that can occur during the busy exam period, such as:



- What to do if you are unwell on the day of an exam
- What stationary is required for exams
- What to do if you are scheduled 2 exams at the same time

We encourage parents to be familiar with what is expected of students during their external exams too. **Any queries please do not hesitate to contact our Examinations Officer, Miss Chloe Welch.**

Our Examinations page of the website is frequently updated with internal/external timetables, recent letters and other useful documents. There are also key student documents published by JCQ, all students should be familiar with these before they sit their exams.

KNGSlife HAS JOINED INSTAGRAM!

Follow us on our new **Instagram account - kngslife**, where we will be posting and celebrating all things Kings Norton Girls School and especially Kings Norton Sixth Form!

We also post regularly on the Kings Norton Girls' School & Sixth Form **Twitter account @KNGSlife**

So if you don't already follow us please do so to keep up to-date with day to day life at KNGS and KNSF!



SIXTH FORM NEWS

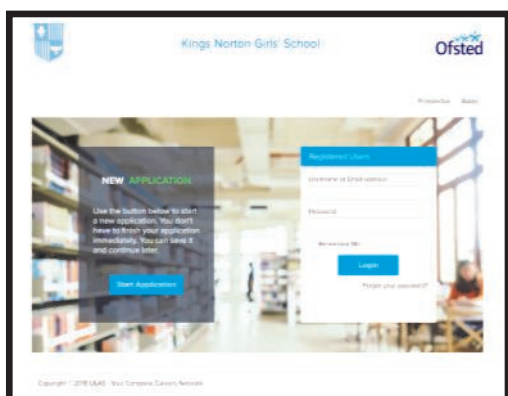
Admissions

For September 2019 we have received over 200 applications, many through our new online application form (details below), and with the start of new Sixth Form build now underway we look forward to welcoming the new students who will be joining us in September 2019!

Challenge Day

This year, Year 12 visited the University of Birmingham to gain a further understanding of Higher Education. The day was structured so that students could learn about how to begin researching a university, what student life is like, and the importance of Year 12 when it comes to laying those foundations of knowledge.

Year 13 took part in a Health Day with workshops focused on sexual health, alcohol, finances at university, and healthy relationships.



Online Application Form Now Available

A new **ONLINE APPLICATION** is now available Kings Norton Sixth Form and we have **extended the deadline to Thursday 14th February**.

To apply online visit www.kngs.ulas.co.uk or alternatively visit www.kngs.co.uk/sixth-form/admissions/ for a downloadable application form further information about Kings Norton Sixth Form.

Globalisation Webinar

Year 13 A Level Business Studies students participated in a webinar on Globalisation. The webinar involved 3 micro talks from lecturers at Queen Mary University of London, University of East Anglia Henley Business School and the University of Reading. The talks gave students an opportunity to revise their knowledge on globalisation and posed questions such as 'Is Globalisation in Retreat?' and 'Is the World really Globalised?'.

COMING UP...

Year 12 Photography Exhibition

On Thursday 21st March the 3rd Annual Photography exhibition by Year 12 Photography students will open at Artefact Café and Gallery, 1464 Pershore Road, Stirchley.

As usual there will be a reception to mark the opening from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. All are most welcome to attend and the students will be happy to see as many attend as possible. The past two openings have been very successful and we expect this year's to be no less so. The exhibition will run until 30th March. Artefact is open Wednesday to Saturday from 11:00am.

www.artefactstirchley.co.uk

UPDATE ON SIXTH FORM BUILD...

Work on our new Sixth Form building has got off to a great start with our contractors, Link Contracting, preparing the site, putting in the site road and starting to dig in preparation for the foundations going in. By the end of February it is planned the foundations will be dug out and the concrete pouring/slabs will have been carried out ready for the steel frame which is due to arrive on site in March.



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DID **YOU** ATTEND KNKS?



LETS KEEP IN TOUCH!

If you are an old Kings Norton Girls' School & Sixth Form student let us know!

We are working with the charity Future First to help us get back in touch with our former students and we would love you to get involved!

Sign up & find out about how you can support the young people sat in your old seats!

<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/signup/kingsnortongirls>



"I went to King Norton's Girls School and now I help to solve crimes by examining exhibits recovered from crime scenes."
Danielle, Forensic technician.

Start thinking Find out more Get involved

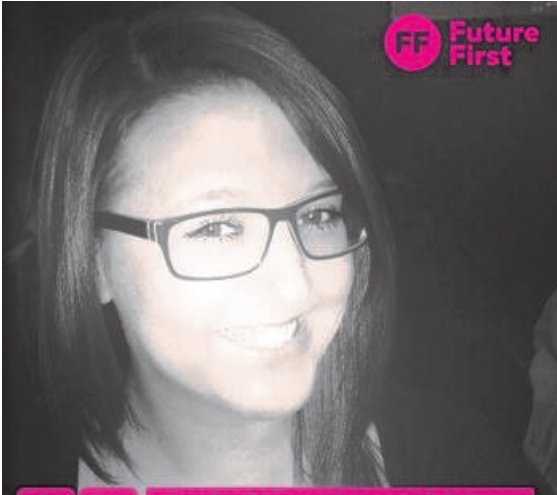

To find out more about your career options, visit
www.futurefirst.org.uk/findoutmore



"I went to Kings Norton Girls' School and now I am an award winning former journalist, using my expertise to give organisations media advice."
Emma, PR Account Director

Start thinking Find out more Get involved

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www.futurefirst.org.uk/findoutmore



"I went to Kings Norton Girls' School and now I help to make luxury homes for celebrities."
Jessica, Senior Estate Manager - Barclays Bank

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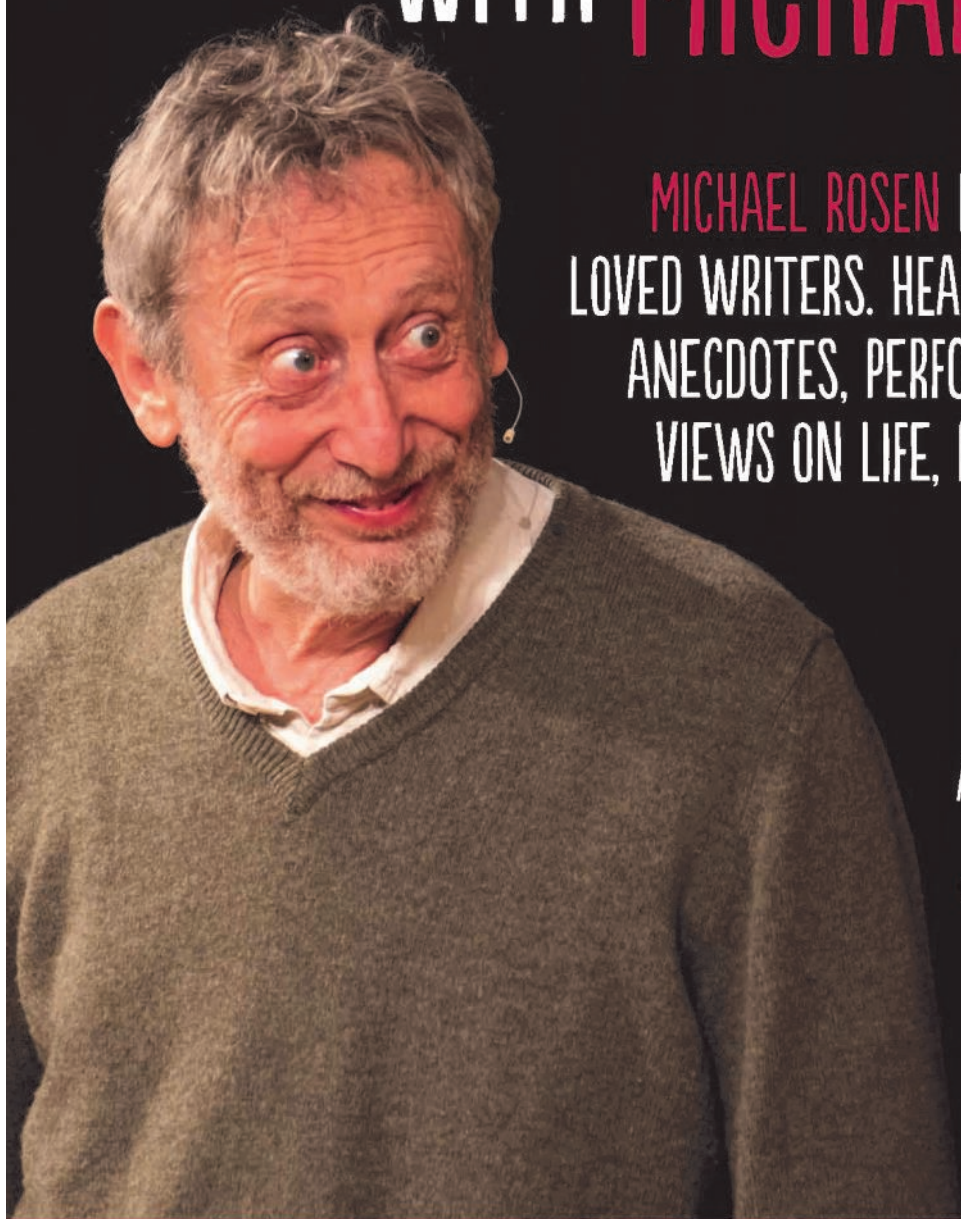


"I went to Kings Norton Girls' School and now I help others be happy and successful at work."
Becky, HR Director

Start thinking Find out more Get involved

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A GROWN-UP EVENING WITH MICHAEL ROSEN



MICHAEL ROSEN IS ONE OF BRITAIN'S BEST LOVED WRITERS. HEAR HIS STORIES, HILARIOUS ANECDOTES, PERFORMANCE POETRY AND HIS VIEWS ON LIFE, POLITICS AND EDUCATION.

ALL PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY BACK TO
BOURNVILLE
BookFest
2019

AND OUR FANTASTIC WORK
WITH CHILDREN ACROSS THE CITY!

THURSDAY 21ST MARCH 7.30PM

INTERNATIONAL POETRY DAY. TOWN HALL BIRMINGHAM.

TICKETS £12.50 AT WWW.THSH.CO.UK