



KINGS NORTON GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

July 2019

Newsletter

Kings Norton Girls' School & Sixth Form

Ofsted 'Outstanding'

July 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

What an amazing year we have had at Kings Norton Girls' School and Sixth Form. You will have read about the numerous visits and enrichment activities that have taken place that have stretched and challenged our students and developed them academically and socially, the ski trip, Duke of Edinburgh, Year 8 and 10 residential, Year 10 and 12 work experience, textiles, photography, music, and arts projects, maths challenge, poetry slam, spelling bee, dyslexia and autism student voice groups, a wide range of sports teams competing successfully and national representation at the service of remembrance; the list goes on and on. All this and more, alongside excellent academic achievement.



As Headteacher I have very much enjoyed my first year and am very proud of the staff and students and all their achievements. One thing has really stood out for me, I am most proud of is the culture within school and how it has and is developing. We have very high expectations of each other, staff and students alike, but these expectations are within a rapidly developing culture focused on respect and wellbeing, a genuine care and regard for each other and self and a pride of being part of the KNGS community. The democratic choice of our core values "demonstrating **Respect** and **Courage** in order to **Flourish** " highlighted this change and showed that we are all striving to achieve the same. Along the way we have had some key events which have shown this culture at its best. At the end of the spring term the cyber-attack presented a significant disruption for several weeks to our normal way of working, the response from staff, students, parent and carers was calm and supportive. This demonstrated the resilience to just get on and ensure that there was no impact on students' learning. Students have been extremely proactive and enthusiastic in their leadership this year as subject ambassadors, prefects and companions and through the Student Leadership Group, but also in taking the initiative in standing up for their beliefs and fighting for the rights of others through the Amnesty International group and in setting up their own environmental group to drive awareness and change in school and beyond.

And then OFSTED arrived, they completely agreed with our assessment of the school. I am proud to report that Kings Norton Girls' School & Sixth Form is now Ofsted 'Outstanding'. Our full report can be found at: <https://www.kngs.co.uk/kngs-rated-ofsted-outstanding/> There are many positive comments, our school community did amazingly well. The inspectors complemented us on the calm, caring and pleasant atmosphere round school, our wonderful students, their exemplary behaviour and their fantastic leadership skills, how well-mannered, confident, attentive and articulate they are and their pride in the school, exceptional progress as a result of outstanding teaching, learning and assessment, making the experience a really positive end to an outstanding school year.

Looking forward to next year, the new Sixth Form Centre will be completed by December signifying the growing strength of our Sixth Form socially and academically and, to further improve communication between home and school, we will be launching the SIMS Parent app; more information can be found on the on the back page.

Thank you for your support this year and I wish you a safe and happy summer break.

Nicola Raggett - Headteacher

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Friday 19th July** - End of Term - Students finish at 12.30pm
- ◆ **Thursday 15th August** - **A Level Results Day**
- ◆ **Thursday 22nd August** - **GCSE Results Day PLUS Sixth Form Enrolment:** KNGS/KNBS students 8.00am - 10.30am and external students 11.30am - 1.00pm
- ◆ **Wednesday 4th September** - School opens for Autumn Term for all students
- ◆ **Monday 16th September** - Whole School Open Evening for new Year 7 & Year 12 intake September 2019, 5pm - 8pm
- ◆ **Tuesday 17th September** - Whole School Open Morning, 9am - 11am
- ◆ **Monday 23rd September** - Year 12 Parents as Partners, 6pm - 8pm
- ◆ **Thursday 3rd October** - Year 10 Parents as Partners, 6pm - 8pm
- ◆ **Thursday 10th October** - Whole School Open Morning, 9am - 11am
- ◆ **Monday 14th October** - Year 7 Parents as Partners, 4pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Friday 25th October** - Break up for Half Term

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

TRIP TO TWYXCROSS ZOO

Year 8 Learn About Biodiversity & Conservation

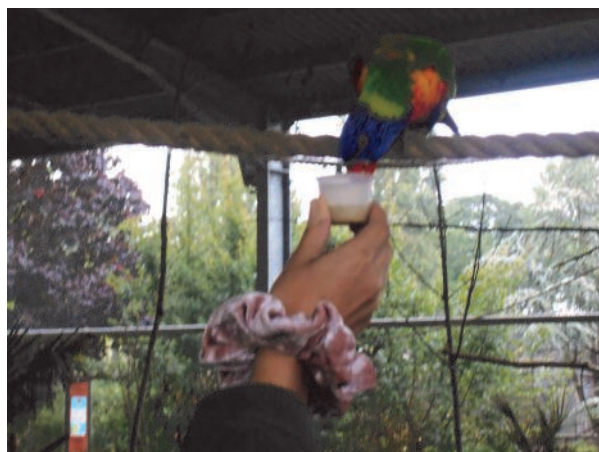
Extinction and habitat destruction caused by human activities are putting the biodiversity on our planet at risk. In contrast, other human activities, such as the conservation projects organised at Twycross Zoo, are helping to protect the vulnerable creatures all over the world. Our Year 8's had an inspiring day learning about biodiversity and conservation at Twycross Zoo. They attended an engaging talk on biodiversity and conservation and were given the opportunity to meet Clyde the tortoise and a charming hissing cockroach from Madagascar. Many of the organisms at the zoo are endangered in the wild and this talk reinforced what our students can do to help protect these vulnerable creatures, including reducing palm oil use and being an informed consumer and buying products made from sustainable resources..

The threatening rain clouds kindly held back while we were at the zoo but they didn't dampen spirits. The bonobos showed their tender side when they were cuddling their young, Siamang the You-tube star gibbon put on a sensational display of spinning and acrobatics, the Lorikeets will need to go on a diet after the amount of nectar our students fed them, and the Amur leopard was on the prowl and the newest member of the zoo, a critically endangered black rhino showed off her might.

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

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 used to display the talent that our students have at KNGS.

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



PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP

Year 10's Visit Worcestershire

This year the Year 10 Photography trip took us to Worcestershire. We visited Stourport and Bewdley. Enjoying one of the few dry days in a very wet June the students were able to explore both towns. The funfair at Stourport provided some excellent opportunities for the students to create interesting images for their "Details" topic. We were also due to visit Clent but a last-minute decision found us at some stunning poppy fields just outside Bewdley. The sight was truly breath-taking and it provided us with some amazing photographic opportunities. Mrs Wilson and Mr Bell (who discovered his hitherto undiscovered photographic talents) very kindly gave up their time to accompany the trip. It was agreed by all that this was a very satisfactory and worthwhile trip.



WHITACRE FARM

Food Preparation and Nutrition Trip

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, beans and rapeseed. After lunch we were able to feed the farms rare breed Tamworth pigs and meet their working and rescue horses. We were also excited to see the baby peacocks, quails and turkeys. 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.



POETRY SLAM

Year 7 Inter-House Competition

The annual Inter-house Year 7 Poetry Slam took place on Friday 28th June 2019. Preliminary rounds took place beforehand during library lessons and sixteen pupils (four from each house) were chosen to compete in the final.

The poems were based on themes from 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' which they have been studying in their English lessons.

The overall winner was Sophie Watley with her poem entitled 'Land of Delight'. In second place was Nabila Ahmed with her poem 'Good Magic, Bad Magic' and the House that won overall was **Goodall** with **Nightingale** coming a close second.

Well done everyone for taking part.



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LANGUAGES IN ACTION

It has been a real pleasure to work in partnership with two of our feeder Primary Schools over the last month.

KNGS Language Ambassadors Visit Bournville Village Primary School

On Monday 10th June, 5 of our Year 10 Language Ambassadors (Aeryn Adamson, Niamh Cassidy, Olivia Cole, Jessica Reeves-Taylor, Madeleine Spray) visited Year 3 pupils at Bournville Village Primary School.

The girls prepared a set of fun and engaging activities on a range of topics such as numbers, greetings, days of the week, celebrations and classroom instructions. They lead a carousel of 10-minute activities, working with groups of 5 to 7 children.

Year 12 French Students Help Lead French Day at St Lawrence Junior School

St Lawrence Junior School hosted their annual French Day on Thursday 27th June this year. Stripy t-shirts and berets were on show for pupils and staff. Our Year 12 French group had the opportunity to lead some activities for the morning.

Elsbeth MacGuigan and Laila Khan ran the traditional game of 'boules', Jemima Simson lead a game called 'le facteur' involving singing and...running while Amarinda Smith played the guitar and sang 'Sur le Pont d'Avignon' with another group of students. Izzy Brooks, Claudia Hughes and Annie Noble served brioche, croissant and grenadine in the café. Bon appétit!

It was a pleasure to see their language skills and leaderships skills in action! Well done girls and merci.

Mrs M. Housley.

UKMT PRIMARY SCHOOL MATHS CHALLENGE 2019



This year a record 10 teams competed in the Challenge (thanks largely to our collaboration with Bournville Junior School).

The "Institute of Mathematics and its Applications" supported the event which enabled us to secure a bespoke trophy, splendid resources and prizes for the day. The room was buzzing as the teams competed over 5 rounds, developing their team working skills and getting stuck into some lovely juicy maths problems.

This year we introduced two individual challenges

where students had to estimate the capacity of a tea pot and the mass of an orange which certainly got them thinking. Our A Level maths students were fantastic ambassadors for the School, on hand to help present, facilitate, mark and score. 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 Colmore Junior School as the winners.

We'd like to say a big thank you to the schools who took part as we know their days are very busy. We shall be hosting another challenge in July 2020 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



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, showcased and sold a range of beautiful hanging ceramics and plant pot markers which the Art Ambassadors worked hard to design and make in Ceramics Club.

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



PUPIL VOICE RELAXATION WORKSHOPS

In April, pupils from Key Stage 3-5 were invited to attend a Relaxation Skills Workshop in preparation for their end of year exams.

Many pupils and parents had commented on how anxiety levels can rise during the exam period and can be especially apparent at home! Lynette Fryer, a specialist who has been popular with pupils at KNKS for several years, came in to run sessions focussed on emotional well-being and relaxation skills to help deal with the busy examination period.

FORWARD THINKING PROGRAMME

Year 8 Students Visit Birmingham University

On Monday 24th June 6 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 and events over the next four years designed to prepare them for give them an insight into the benefits offered by a university education.

Alongside other Birmingham schools Year 8 students they enjoyed a series of tasks, including the unforgettable spaghetti and marshmallow tower building exercise followed by a tour of the campus. Joined later by their parents and carers, they were treated to a buffet and to an inspirational talk by Action Jackson. Suitably motivated, they are looking forward to the subject taster day at the university in September. Thanks to Mr Charlett who accompanied the students for the afternoon.



SHAKESPEARE TRIP

Year 7 & 8 Students Visit Stratford-upon-Avon

Recently many of our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils had an immersive tour of William Shakespeare's house and related sites in Stratford-upon-Avon to help gain a better understanding of the life and times of William Shakespeare.

The students were treated to a tour of Shakespeare's birth place and also saw some live Shakespeare in the gardens. A thoroughly good time was had by all, many facts were learnt and we didn't lose any pupils to the plague!

AUTISM PUPIL VOICE GROUP

Drama Workshops

We have been delighted to welcome Jess from Constellations Drama back into school over the last two weeks to work with the Autism Pupil Voice group. Seven pupils from Years 7-13 participated. The sessions were truly joyful and inspiring. The group worked on communications skills, stepped right out of their comfort zones and really bonded as a group.

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LEICESTER SPACE CENTRE

Year 7 Have a Blast!

In June, 137 of our Year 7's 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.



SUCCESSSES

NATIONAL SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING COMPETITION

Double Celebrations

A massive well done to Lilly and Belle Skidmore who both competed in a National Synchronised Swimming Competition, Combo Cup Event on Saturday July 6th at the London Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park London.

Lilly (K7) swam in a team of 10 and they gained a Gold medal.

Belle (K6) swam in a team of 7 and they gained a Bronze medal.

Congratulations ladies, we are very proud of your hard work and determination!



NATIONAL COUNTY TEN PIN BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Well Done Leah!

Huge congratulations to Year 9 student Leah Hindmarch-Knight (K5) who took part in the National County Ten Pin Bowling Championship at Dunstable on Saturday 27th April. Leah was part of the Under 16's Girls Team, achieving her place in the team by qualifying in top place at trials that were held earlier in the year. Leah and her team went on to win the Bronze Medal for Warwickshire Girls.

Well done on all your hard work and determination Leah, we are super proud of you!

EXPLORE LEARNING WRITERS' AWARDS 2019

Regional Finalist Success

All of the students in Year 8 took part in the Explore Learning Writers' competition this year. During a library lesson they were invited to write a story of no more than 500 words about changing the world. The subject could be about anything as long as it changed the world in some way. A great variety of stories were submitted, including ones about climate change, inventions, magic spells and life changing medicines which changed the world. Once the competition had been judged we then received

the exciting news that **Madeleine Carman (S4)** had been selected as the Regional Finalist for her story about showing kindness and compassion to a homeless man. This was a great accomplishment and her success was celebrated when a representative from Explore Learning visited the school to present Madeleine with her trophy.



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INNOCENT SMOOTHIE BIG KNIT

Thank you!

We would like to say a massive thank you to all of the students, staff and family members who have contributed to our collection of beautiful knitted hats for the Innocent Smoothie Big Knit and who have helped us smash our original target of 100 hats by knitting over 500 hats!!

The campaign started in February when a Year 7 student, **Cheona-Daria Nash (S6)** brought in details of the Big Knit and asked us if it would be possible for us to advertise the campaign around school and see if we could collect 100 hats. Students were soon knitting in the Learning Hub at lunchtimes and lots of students successfully encouraged their family members to get involved. Hats, of all shapes and designs, including a unicorn, shark and water melons, soon started pouring in to the Learning Hub. We really appreciate the time and support all the knitters have given to this campaign. It would not have been a success without you all.



CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS

Annual Awards Ceremony

On Friday 5th 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 **Sianne Parmar & Priya Bargota (Year 10)** for their performance of 'Never Enough' from *The Greatest Showman*, to **Mary Glasby, Betty Thompson, Abigail Pyper & Jess Schofield (Year 10-13)** along with **Mrs Raggett** performing 'Polka' as a Woodwind Quartet and to **Lydia Saunders (Year 7)** for reciting her own work 'Contentment'.

Many thanks also for the encouraging words given by our Governor, **Mrs Donna Gillman**.

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.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

PREFECTS

This year we are excited to welcome 90 new prefects to the team, including over 30 companions. They look forward to helping people around school and providing support to our school community. Both prefects and companions have already started to prepare for duties by having a training session, this included looking at the importance of presentation and communication as well as the need to be organised for their duties. Companions will also undergo safeguarding training to ensure that they can carry out the best support to help others in the school. For the past few weeks our new prefects have shadowed current Year 11's to get a feel of the day to day duties in the role.

Here's what some of our prefects thought:

“I found the training session useful as it prepared us for real scenarios we might face.”

“I hope that taking on this job will help improve my self-confidence.”

“I look forward to becoming a prefect as I would like to take on a role of responsibility.”

We can't wait to see how our prefects embrace their new role and work as a team to make a positive impact on our school community.

By Jennifer Pastrana Dix and Mae Busby

COMPANIONS

KNGS companions, located in room 19, are a group of specially trained prefects who are friendly, compassionate and trustworthy. These caring Year 11's are here to help with all problems, like homework issues, friendship issues, or if someone just wants to have a nice chat.

Companions also run a variety of interesting clubs for you to attend in room 19. Come along on Monday lunch to the drama studio to learn friendship resolution, as well as drama skills. Do you want to relax and colour in? Colouring Club, on Tuesday lunch in room 19, is the way to go, as there's relaxing music and a peaceful atmosphere! No need to struggle with dull homework: Homework Club, on Wednesday lunch in room 19, will save your day. Are you a fan of classic board games? Come along on Friday lunch in room 19 to challenge some Year 11's with some exciting games.

We would like to give a big thank you Dr O'Mahony as well as Miss Macaulay for the wonderful help!

The KNGS companions are very excited to support the new Year 7's in September, but all are welcome to come along to room 19 – we can't wait to see you there!

KNGS Companions



SPORTING UPDATE

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL GAMES

Congratulations to all the 50 students who took part and represented KNGS at the recent Secondary Birmingham School Games - well done everybody!

Year 7/8 Rounders – 4th

Year 9/10 Rounders – 3rd

Year 7/8 Netball – 3rd

Year 9/10 Netball – 4th

Year 7 – 4th

Year 8 – 5th



ATHLETICS

19 girls participated in a variety of track and field events at the South Birmingham Trials in May 2019. It was a really enjoyable afternoon where girls were able to compete against students from other local schools and improve on their personal best's. Six girls qualified to compete in the West Midlands Schools Athletics Championships on Saturday 8th June and experienced the next level of competition. Well done to all girls involved:

- **Eve Godsal** – high jump
- **Megan Recardo** – 100m, relay
- **Keira Valentine** – 200m, relay, long jump
- **Nadia Parker** – discus
- **Kelis Farrell** – 100m, relay
- **Belle Skidmore** – 1500m

Following the West Midlands Schools Athletics Championship, two girls qualified to represent West Midlands Schools at the Mason Trophy Inter County event on Saturday 15th June. Congratulations to both Eve Godsal and Nadia Parker (pictured right) on their recent success: Eve Godsal - Junior Girls 75m Hurdles - 12th and Nadia Parker - Junior Girls Discus - 10th.

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FINAL 2019 UPDATE

2019 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.

2019 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 and much more!

Activities that have been undertaken as part of the awards volunteering section included helping in charity shops, working with the elderly, support 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 fifth 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 Lockett, Mr Lynch, Mr Goddard, Mr Page, Mr Cutler, Mr Steele and Mr Piotrowski.

The selection for next year will begin in September - and I look forward to another successful cohort.

Have a restful and relaxing summer break.

Mr Willis

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AMNESTY YOUTH GROUP

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS COMPETITION

The Amnesty Youth Group has been running a competition this half term to create a fictitious human rights defender. You can see the winning entry to the right.

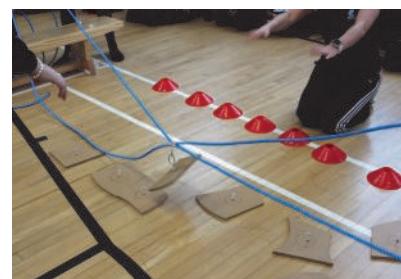
Huge congratulations to the winner, Charlotte Pickup, for her creative entry. Runners up were Lily Skidmore and Esther Okawa.



NETTLE is a graffiti artist based in an undisclosed village in Africa. Yet, in the last few years her works have come up in South America and other countries, where activists have been fighting against the establishment. Her works have begun to show up containing the Amnesty International logo leading many to believe she has partnered up with this famous organisation. Her real identity has not yet been disclosed.

HOUSE NEWS

What an amazing year this has been... we have had a fantastic term full of exciting new opportunities, proud farewells and fantastic additions to our harmonious community! We have had a year of fabulous and thrilling Gauntlet Games... competitors have participated in a challenging jigsaw puzzle whereby students have had to race against both the clock and other competitors. Students displayed outstanding levels of team work and communication to be successful. We have had tears and very proud moments in bidding farewell to our Year 11's. We are confident that they have built the skills and knowledge that will help them to succeed in life after KNGS. We are so very proud of the young individuals they have blossomed into. We are certain without a doubt that this has a lot to do with all the support you have given them...so a massive thank you from all of us. Saying goodbyes has come hand in hand with huge warm welcomes ... we have just finished our primary school visits and have met the most amazing Year 6's that will be joining our community in September. What a privilege!



We have an upcoming event within the next academic year that we would like your daughters' support with...which is 'Fun in the Sun'. This is an event we are running as a part of our community charity work. We will be donating all



money raised to charities that will be chosen by students at the beginning of the new academic year. This is going to be an amazing evening of fun and games as well as delicious food for the students... and us! Talking of charities... Lloyds Banking Group have match funded the money raised during our last charity event (code breaking assault course) for Alzheimer's Society to raise £339.84p. As a school community we have also raised £261 for Cancer Research and £179.90p for Birmingham Children's Hospital. Thank you for all your support. We are so proud of the work and effort the KNGS community put into supporting others but we are equally proud in the way they plan and support our school Fete. The Fete was held on the 12th July this year...we had great weather, lots of community spirit and amazing talents from students who took part in Kings Norton's got Talent! Stalls varied from International delicacies...selfie stand...splat the teacher and many more to raise a huge sum of £1011.12 for School Fund.

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

KELLER HOUSE: Jessica Parmar (K4), Miriam Shpanin (K2), Megan Abbott (K1), Allannah Gardiner (K5), Delilah Mullis (K5), Soraya Lungila (K2), Leah Hindmarsh-Knight (K5), Ellie Blackmore (K4), Charlotte Pickup (K6), Keira Valentine (K1), Lucy Jones (K3) & Molly McCarron (K5).

NIGHTINGALE HOUSE: Elan O'Toole (N7), Lois Tromans (N1) Mary Holcombe (N2), Poppy-Jo Harrison (N3), Grace Derry (N1), Megan Recardo (N7) & the whole of N1.

GOODALL HOUSE: Grace O'Leary (G7), Ellie Conroy (G5), Poppy Brayne (G5), Isabella Brighton (G3), Nadia Parker (G6) & Nabila Ahmed (G8).

SHARMAN HOUSE: Lucy Drinkwater (S2), Rujul Farmah (S4), Lina Mansur (S6), Shariya Patel (S4), Amelia Bunn (S2), Roopinder Bains (S2), Eve Godsal (S5), Lucy Houlders (S6) and Anya Dasgin (S6).

From the Heads of House...we hope you all have a restful and enjoyable summer!

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UCAS



The process of the **UCAS** application was launched to Year 12 students on Monday 3rd 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.

UCAS held their annual exhibition on Monday 24th 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.

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, are 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 Tuesday 9th 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

Year 12 Work Experience has taken place during Monday 15th July to Friday 19th 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 have been in school during this week where they have participated in a number of workshops.

Year 12 Transition

The Year 12 transition this year was another huge success. We had a busy footfall of around 130 students who all participated in taster sessions, workshops and informative assemblies during Monday 1st July and Tuesday 2nd July.

Year 13 Leavers' Ball - Wednesday 3rd July

The ball took place at the Botanical Gardens 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.

South Area Network Art Exhibition

Congratulations to Year 13 A Level Art and Photography students whose work was displayed as part of the annual South Area Network exhibition at Birmingham City University, School of Art. The event has grown over the last couple of years and we saw a record number of visitors attend the private view on Monday 24th June. We received many compliments about the show and the diverse range of work from KNGS. We are extremely proud of how our artists and photographers have presented their ideas and creativity through sophisticated outcomes, demonstrating a breadth of skills and talent. It has been our pleasure to see them flourish during their time KNGS.

We look forward to next year's show.



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UPDATE ON SIXTH FORM BUILD...

Work on our new Sixth form Building is certainly starting to take shape.

The brick work to first floor height is progressing well, in spite of the rain since the last update! The first roof layer is on the first floor single-storey part of the building and the main roof has started. Windows have been ordered and will start to be fitted during the summer and, once watertight, the first fixes will begin with the new power supply being installed mid-August.



NEW SIMS PARENT APP - LAUNCHING SOON!!

In September we are launching a new Parent app which we will be using to share key information with you. We will let you know in September once the app is launched and how you can download and access our parent app and/or website, this will be accessible from devices such as a smartphone, tablet or PC – anytime, anywhere.

It is essential that you install this app as this is how we will send home key documents such as your child school report – no paper copies will be sent home next academic year.

Information you will be able to access in the SIMS Parent app includes:

- Important information such as attendance (other aspects such as praise and behaviour will be introduced during the year).
- School term, inset dates and contact details available at the click of a button.
- Access your child's school reports and interim reviews.
- Receive notifications to remind you about important information such as key dates for your diary.
- Access to update your contact details, so we always have the most up-to-date information in case of emergency.
- If you have more than one child at school, you'll have access to information for all your children, from the same app.

The information that you receive through the app will help you to stay up-to-date with your child's school life as well as support your child's development and progress.

Once launched in September we will send you an activation email with full details on how to register and set the app up.

GIVING MACHINE

You can help the school to generate additional income to put to good use for our students, with very little effort! Please sign up at the Giving Machine and choose KNGS as your cause.

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

CAMERA DONATION REQUEST

If any of you have an old point and shoot digital camera that you no longer use and you fancy donating it to the school rather than letting it moulder in a drawer, Mr Abelson and the KS3 students in the Photography Club would be most grateful. A number of cameras have recently come to the end of their useful life. Please don't worry if you don't have the memory cards.

We could also give a good home to any film cameras that you may no longer need.

Any donations would be gratefully received. Many thanks in advance.



Giver

- You join for free and choose up to four causes to support.
- You generate commissions by shopping online (we work with over 1,500 retailers including Amazon, Play.com, John Lewis, eBay, Sainsbury's and Next).
- We convert your commissions into donations for your chosen causes. You're raising funds for free!