

# KINGS NORTON GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

October 2019

## Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Kings Norton Girls' School and Sixth Form have had a very busy and productive start to the new academic year. The publication of our outstanding Ofsted inspection at the end of July was followed by excellent GCSE and A Level results. We are very proud of our Year 11 and 13 students, their hard work and perseverance leading up to the exams and their achievements. Year 11 achieved above national average with 38% of grades at 9-7, 75% at 5+ and 87% at 4+. Year 13 achieved our best ever A Level results with 30% A\*-A, 64% A\*-B and an average grade of a B. Unsurprisingly with such fantastic results all students went onto their chosen post 18 pathway, whether a higher or degree level apprenticeship, employment or university. 84% of Year 13 leavers started university this term, 53% of these at Russell group universities and 3 students went to Cambridge University. Congratulations to all of them.



With applications to our Sixth Form now open and the new Sixth Form Building due to open in January, we look forward to our Careers Day on 20th November, where Year 11 are invited to follow the Sixth Form business dress code and 'dress smart' for the day. In addition, Year 11 are invited to attend the 'Meet the Sixth Form' event also taking place on the 20th, giving them the opportunity to talk to Sixth Formers about life studying A Levels at KNSF.

Our new students in Year 7 and Year 12 have settled in brilliantly, as I visit their lessons I have been impressed with their confidence in explaining their new learning and their pride in their work. They really are flourishing.

In just 8 weeks an impressive range of achievements, visits and experiences have already taken place at KNGS. We welcomed 21 German students and their staff from Melle, as part of our ongoing exchange programme. Year 8 visited Boulogne on the European Day of Languages, Year 11 have completed a geography field trip, theatre visits have taken place and we are excited about the publication of our third 'We are Writers' book. There have also been a number of individual staff and student achievements in the arts and sport. I am sure you will enjoy reading about them.

Wishing you all a fantastic half term holiday.

**Nicola Raggett - Headteacher**

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION - ADMISSIONS

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR AT KINGS NORTON GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

Every seven years schools are obliged to consult on their admissions arrangements in line with the school's admissions code. KNGS are therefore consulting on their admissions criteria for September 2021. We have asked Birmingham City Council to manage this consultation for us, this will run from November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.

There is no proposal to change pupil's admission numbers (PAN). The PAN for Year 7 will remain at 160. PAN numbers in Year 12 will remain at 138 with a total of 275 students for combined Year 12 and 13.

The only changes proposed in this consultation relate to the Sixth Form academic entry criteria and oversubscription criteria and are due to increased numbers applying to Kings Norton Sixth Form.

**The full admissions criteria and processes for all year groups and details relating to the consultation will be available on the school's website from the 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ♦ **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November** - Half Term Break
- ♦ **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November** - Year 10 & 11 Interim Reports Issued - **PARENTS WILL NEED THE SIMS PARENT APP TO ACCESS - NO PAPER COPIES ARE BEING SENT HOME**
- ♦ **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November** - Year 11 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6pm
- ♦ **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November** - Meet the Sixth Form Event, 3.30pm - 5pm
- ♦ **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November** - GCSE Certificate Presentation - **LATE START FOR STUDENTS 11am ARRIVAL**
- ♦ **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November** - Sixth Form Parents Evening, 4pm - 6pm
- ♦ **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November** - Staff Training Day - **SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS**
- ♦ **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December** - Year 11 Mock Exams & Sixth Form Formal Assessments
- ♦ **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December** - Internal Year 11 Interviews for Sixth Form Intake (2020)
- ♦ **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Concert, 7pm
- ♦ **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - Year 7, 8 & 9 Interim Reports Issued - **PARENTS WILL NEED THE SIMS PARENT APP TO ACCESS - NO PAPER COPIES ARE BEING SENT HOME**
- ♦ **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – last day of term - **EARLY CLOSURE FOR ALL STUDENTS, 12.20pm FINISH**
- ♦ **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – A Level Certificate Presentation, 1pm - 2.30pm

## YEAR 11 INVITED TO 'WEAR IT SMART'

### WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

On Wednesday 20th November Year 11 students are invited to 'wear it smart' for the day. This means they are allowed to attend school in business dress as if they are in our Sixth Form. School uniform can be worn as normal if preferred.

#### Careers Forum

During period 3, Year 11 students will attend a Careers Forum where they will be able to put questions to a panel of visitors who work across a range of industries. In addition from 3.30pm until 5pm they are invited to 'Meet the Sixth Form' to find out more about the impressive range of A Level courses directly from current students at Kings Norton Sixth Form.

#### New Sixth Form Building

It's a really exciting time for our Sixth Form. Following our best ever set of A Level results in 2019, we are close to opening our brand new Sixth Form Centre. It is scheduled to be ready by the end of the year, meaning our current Year 11 will benefit from the specialist facilities for the duration of their Sixth Form life.

#### Sixth Form Applications

**Applications for Sixth Form are already open.**

On-line applications can be made at <https://kngs.applicaa.com>.

Paper forms are also available from the Learning Hub and on the Sixth Form section of the website.

The deadline for applications is 24th January 2020, with a **preferred deadline of 28th November 2019 for Internal KNGS Applicants**.

**We look forward to Year 11 'wearing it smart' on 20<sup>th</sup> November and applying to Kings Norton Sixth Form.**



## EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

### GERMAN & HISTORY EXCHANGE 2019 - 2020

#### Students From Gymnasium Melle Visit KNKS

The first leg of this year's German and history exchange took place from the 25<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019. Twenty-one students from Gymnasium Melle visited twenty-one KNKS students in Years 11 and 12.

The week was packed with activities. Students all attended lessons together on Thursday and Friday. We had a huge picnic lunch on Thursday followed by bowling in the evening. At the week-end our KNKS families organised some lovely events – shopping in Brum, trips to Liverpool and London, cinema and family events. Then, on Monday we all had a trip to Stratford-upon-Avon including a talk at and visit to Shakespeare's Birthplace. Sadly, there was no theatre outside this year as it was raining so hard!

There were tears at Bournville station as we waved our German guests goodbye on Tuesday and we are now all looking forward to our visit to Melle in March.

A huge THANKS to our KNKS students for taking such good care of their partners.



### GEOGRAPHY YEAR 11 FIELD TRIP

#### Carding Mill Valley

Eighty one Year 11 geographers and eight wonderful staff set off for Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire one week into the Autumn term, on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September to complete a river study. This was the second field trip that this group of students have participated in and forms a compulsory part of their Edexcel B GCSE course. Students were tasked with gathering primary data about a range of river channel and river valley characteristics. They were attempting to assess how well these matched the expectations they had, having studied Bradshaw's model in lessons, and what impact these characteristics might have on flood risk in the area.

The groups were split over three sites and conducted their measurements and observations at each site, alternating so that each group had a detailed data set at the end of the day. Thankfully the weather was on our side, although we did experience one or two issues with the strong wind blowing our floats back upstream at site two when we were attempting to measure the velocity of the stream! This did provide us with evaluative of the methods used when we got back to school. Students will now use their data, analysis, conclusions and evaluation to help them to complete questions in Paper 2 of their GCSE exam...don't forget to keep revising ladies!!!

### FORWARD THINKING PROGRAMME

#### Year 9 Students Visit University of Birmingham

For the first of two events following on from last year's introduction, organised by the university's Forward Thinking Programme, six Year 9 students visited the main university campus on September 20th, where they were introduced to the academic side of university life. In the chemistry department they learnt about nano technology and also visited the Lapworth Museum of Geology where they got to handle some exhibits, one of which turn out to be fossilised dinosaur poo! Despite this shock they enjoyed the visit and are looking forward to their second visit in March next year where they will find out about the social aspects of student life.

#### Opening a World of Opportunities



## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

### Year 8 Trip to Boulogne-Sur-Mer

Another school year, another day trip to Boulogne!

This year, the weather did not treat us to the usual sunshine but it did not sadden our spirits.

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 128 Year 8's set off at 4:30m early to catch the Eurotunnel and spend the day in Boulogne-Sur-Mer. All groups enjoyed a range of activities: they visited the beautiful old town with its castle and fortified wall, as well as the cathedral and its recently



renovated crypt. The new town also provided us with opportunities for shopping and buying food but also ordering drinks and food in cafés, restaurants or brasseries.

As always, our KNGS students have displayed and embraced our school values. Despite the less than



clement weather, they flourished by showing courage to speak French to order food in the restaurant, buy baguettes and viennoiseries in the boulangerie, postcards and stamps in the Maison de la Presse. We were extremely impressed by the enthusiasm of the girls, their willingness to speak French and their behaviour. Félicitations Year 8's!

May I take this opportunity to again, thank all the staff who joined me or supported me with the running of the trip, as well as, of course, parents and carers, for whom it was also a very long day.

Merci, Mrs M Housley.



## YEAR 10 RESIDENTIAL

### Visit to Colomendy, Wales

Last July saw a change of venue for the annual Year 10 residential trip when eighty of our Year 10 students and eight staff headed off, with the knowledge of a changeable weather forecast, to Wales.

The venue was remote and most activities were up in the hills and forest. Some groups got to learn about the age of the trees, origins and what you could and couldn't eat.

Most students participated in all the events with little encouragement, but a massive well done to those who pushed themselves out of their comfort zones in the high activities. One group even persuaded me to go climbing, something no group has managed in the past five years! The raft building seemed to go down well, or rather the rafts went down, although the splashing and canoe sliding seemed to entertain them more! I will not mention the, what seemed to take for ever, walk back up to the centre once we were all wet and tired. Everyone seemed to enjoy different aspects of the trip, even just being away from parents and with their friends.

The school is already looking forward to next year for the new Year 10 students, where there will be a return to PGL Osmington Bay in Dorset.



## CELEBRATION & AWARENESS RAISING

### Autism Awareness

Earlier in the year as part of Autism Awareness week, we were pleased to welcome Wendy Peel, our Communication and Autism Team worker, into school to talk to one of our Parent Voice Groups. She gave an engaging presentation about how anxiety can affect pupils on the autistic spectrum and shared valuable strategies for helping them deal with this at home and at school. Many thanks to the parents who came in to share their views and strategies too.



In addition the students had fun celebrating Autism Awareness Day. In form time, all KNGS pupils watched a film by National Autistic Society about Niall Aslam (Love Island) and his experiences of autism at school. Our amazing Autism Pupil Voice Group ran a busy cake sale at break time. They raised a fabulous £160 for the National Autistic Society by selling cakes, awareness ribbons and wristbands. At lunch time there were over 100 entries in our free 'Kindness Raffle' in which pupils were challenged to share ideas about showing kindness and understanding to others in order to enter and win goodies. Throughout the day a 'Golden Jigsaw' Treasure Hunt took place for 10 golden ribbons hidden around KNGS. Each carried views and information from the Pupil Voice Group about autism. Lucky winners claimed chocolate bars. Thanks as always to our pupil group who stepped right outside their comfort zones to provide a fun, buzzy experience around school.



### Dyslexia Awareness

On the 4<sup>th</sup> October, KNGS went 'Nuts for Doughnuts' on World Dyslexia Awareness Day. The Dyslexia Pupil Voice Group raised a fabulous £300 for the British Dyslexia Association by selling cakes and awareness merchandise. During form time all pupils learned more about how dyslexia can be a positive and powerful force in life. Then the hunt was on throughout the day around school for golden ribbons featuring powerful dyslexic role models. Jamie Oliver proved elusive, but eventually 10 lucky winners claimed their chocolate prizes. The Dyslexia Voice Group also helped Mrs Woodward (SENCO) deliver whole staff training on metacognition and dyslexia-friendly learning strategies. Thanks again to the group for running an entertaining awareness raising day and to the Parent Voice Group for their donations and ongoing support.



### Parents look out for the next Parent Voice Group meetings:

- Autism Parent Voice Group meeting: 13th November, 2019 from 9.30am - 10.15am.
- Dyslexia Parent Voice Group meeting: 27th November, 2019 from 9.30am - 10.15am.

## AMNESTY YOUTH GROUP

### Open House & Campaign

This half term the Amnesty Youth Group held an Open House event where students could find out more about the campaigning and fundraising that the Amnesty Youth group does. We have also run a campaign in support of three Iranian women, Monireh Arabshahi, Yasaman Aryani and Mojgan Keshavarz, who have been jailed for 16 or more years for peacefully campaigning against forced veil wearing in Iran. There is a growing movement of Iranian women and men who are campaigning for women to have the choice whether to wear a veil or not. The Amnesty group and our visitors filled in an online petition and wrote letters to the Iranian Ambassador in London and the head of the Iranian judiciary urging for the three women to be released.

Next half term we will be involved in the national "Write for Rights" campaign. New members are always welcome – Room 23 on Thursday lunchtime.

### Opening a World of Opportunities





## YEAR 8 RESIDENTIAL TRIP

### Pioneer Centre, Shropshire

On the 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July - 110 of our Year 8's took the 1 hour coach journey to the Pioneer Centre in Shropshire.

The weather temperatures were high but the levels of fun were even higher. It was great to see both students and staff get stuck into a whole variety of activities. These included; zip wire, abseiling, raft building, high ropes, campfire, indoor caving. The three days were marked with lots of encouragement from their peers, which for many led to them achieving well beyond their comfort zones in these outdoor adventures.



Thank you to all the staff who supported this trip. Thank you to the Year 8's for their exceptional behaviour. I hope you had as much fun as I did.

*Mr Steele*

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Student Leadership Group have been working hard on two projects since the start of term. Firstly, they created and delivered a questionnaire to the students about the quality of Aspens Catering Service in the school canteen. They then analysed the results and used these to inform a feedback conversation with the Head of Aspens. This feedback will be used to improve the quality of the food and the service provided to the students.

Secondly, the Student Leadership Group have been planning a climate change awareness event. This is planned for the 20<sup>th</sup> November and the event will take place in the Learning Hub, where other students will be able to take part in climate change based games and activities. A small group are also planning a climate change march around the school to coincide with the event – banners and all!

## SPORTING UPDATE

### NETBALL

Well done to the KNGS Netball Teams who have had fixtures this half terms with some brilliant results:

- Seniors v KE Five Ways: Lost 7-10
- Year 9 v Bishop Challoner: Won 17-3
- Year 8 v KE Five Ways: Won 13-8
- Year 8 v Bishop Challoner: Won 12-6
- Year 7 v Bishop Challoner Won: 20-1
- Seniors v Camp Hill: Lost 16-18
- Year 7 v Camp Hill: Won 14-6
- Year 8 v EHS B: Won 21-3
- Year 7 v EHS B: Won 17-3

### CROSS COUNTRY

The following students represented KNGS at the South Birmingham Cross Country Champs at Shenley Academy on 9th October. This acted as the selection race (first 15 athletes) for the West Midlands Schools County Trials on 19th October at Sutton Park.

#### Year 7

- Grace Varley (16th)
- Rosa Rimmington (15th)
- Vermilion Gloag (24th)

#### Year 8/9

- Belle Skidmore (6th)
- Lilly Skidmore (15th)
- Lois Tromans (12th)

#### Year 10

- Esme Abraham (3rd - Bronze medallist!!)

On Saturday 19th October, Belle Skidmore, Lois Tromans and Esme Abraham ran in the West Midlands School Cross Country Trials at Sutton Park:

- Junior Girls Race (Yrs 8 & 9) Belle Skidmore (36th) & Lois Tromans (47th).
- Inter Girls Race (Yr 10 & 11) Esme Abraham (15th).

The top 15 athletes in each race qualified to represent West Midlands Schools at the Inter-County race in Bridgenorth of 16th November - well done Esme! A huge well done to all the girls that have taken part in the races over that last few weeks - they were all an absolute credit to the school!

[Opening a World of Opportunities](#)

## SUCCESSSES

### 'WE ARE WRITERS'

#### Publication of the 3rd KNGS Book

Talented writers from all year groups are eagerly awaiting the publication of their work in our new 'We Are Writers' book, which is currently being printed by Scholastic Press. Pictured are Year 7 students who are looking forward to seeing their poems in print. We have been working hard for the past year to compile this book, collecting an eclectic range of fantastic creative writing by our students. The book is currently available to buy on ParentPay for £5.99; **orders close on the 8<sup>th</sup> November**, and copies will be delivered in good time for Christmas. We recommend that you join us in supporting our talented young writers and reserve your copies now!



*Dr O'Mahony, English Teacher*

### 'LENS ON LONGBRIDGE'

#### KNGS Student Wins Photography Competition

A huge congratulations to KNGS student and budding photographer, Mariah Tooke on being chosen as the winner of 'Lens On Longbridge', a new photography competition aimed at students and young people in the area.

'Lens On Longbridge' was created to encourage young people aged 13–18 to explore the Longbridge and its surrounding neighbourhoods as St. Modwen, the developer behind the area's ongoing regeneration, moves towards its second phase of development. The competition received more than 100 entries – all of which were judged by Ross Jukes, a Longbridge-born photographer who is famous for his dramatic cityscapes.

Mariah was announced as the winner after submitting a selection of images that were judged to have "captured the very essence of Longbridge" and was awarded a Nikon D3500 Digital SLR camera. Well done Mariah!



### STAFF SUCCESS

#### Congratulations to Ms Wilcox



Congratulations to Ms Wilcox, our KNGS ceramics specialist on winning an award over the summer for "Best Artisanal Interior Décor Products 2019" in the SME News: Midlands Enterprise Awards. These awards are given to those who are considered to be using 'innovative business practice' as well as for their 'outstanding overall performance'.

Further info about Ms Wilcox's ceramic collections can be found here: <https://www.emily-kriste.co.uk/ceramics>

*Photograph Credit: Yeshen Venema*





## SUCCESS AT TUMBLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Congratulations Alicia!

It's been quite a couple of months for KNGS student Alicia Field who has had success at not just one but two Tumbling Championships!



Alicia finished in 2nd place gaining a silver medal in the age 11-12

Girls Tumbling

event at the

English Tumbling Championships held in Sheffield on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> September.



Alicia then went on to finish in 5th position for the 11-12 age group at the British Tumbling Championships held at the Birmingham Arena on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September. The 4 above her were 12 year olds so making her the top placing 11 year old.

Well done Alicia - we are super proud of you!

## HOUSE NEWS



What a fabulous start to this year! It is so encouraging to hear the Year 7's comment on how they have enjoyed their start at KNGS. We are so proud on how well they have settled in. They have become more confident in finding their way around...

We have run assembly workshops on key areas to address any concerns; friendships, where to go for help and organisation. For example, they were given a checklist to put up in their work areas (see right).

Year 7's can access Form Tutors, Heads of Houses, Companions and Student Support for any extra help they may need. As Heads of Houses, we are always so grateful for your continued support; without which we could not do our work. Thank you so much.

### Student of the Week

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

**KELLER HOUSE:** Ellen Attrill (K7), Florentina Dasgupta (K8), Zahra Bibi (K2), Ria Jenks (K7), Lilly Skidmore (K7), Millicent Smith (K3), Belle Skidmore (K6) & Elizabeth Dewes (K2).

**NIGHTINGALE HOUSE:** Pricilla Joseph (N2), Taiya Mitchell (N1), Ella Coates (N1), Grace Derry (N1), Abigail Hunter (N2), Lucy Green (N6) & Eve Connor (N2).

**GOODALL HOUSE:** Abigail Heyes (G4), Isabella Harris (G1), Martha Barrington James (G3), Amy Carnall (G6), Alicia Field (G3) & Esme Abraham (G6).

**SHARMAN HOUSE:** Lina Mansur (S6), Natalia Caulder (S2), Taylor Stickley (S1), Fatema Ghanaim (S5), Scarlett Rea (S5), Ifat Salim (S4), Ela Ozdemir (S3) & Sophie Scicluna (S3).

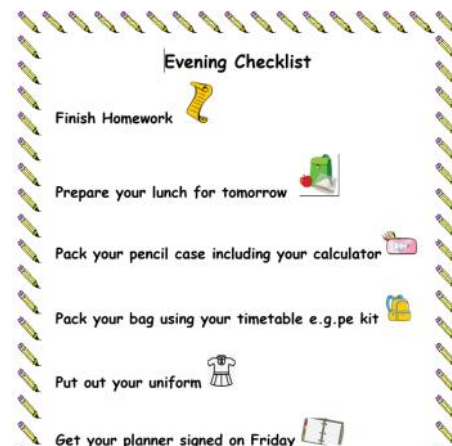
### Headteacher's Praise Prize Draw

A massive well done to the Year 7 and Year 10 students who were selected to be entered into the Praise Prize Draw and congratulated for their ongoing hard work and effort over this half term:

**Year 7:** Millie Wicker (S6), Tia Byrne (S6), Nevaeh Broughton (S4), Eleanor MacLennan (S5), Elsie Harrison (S5), Eve Cotton (K6), Vermilion Gloag (N6), Lily Mole (N2), Alexandra Pailthorpe (K7), Tilly Nathan-Fuller (K5), Nelly Mackenzie (N6), Ellie Thompson (G1), Esmer Mallard (K7) & Rosa Rimmington (K6).

**Year 10:** Iptisam Salim (S6), Lyla Peres de Melo (K1), Isobel Larkin (K7), Alicia Brown (G2), Lina Mansar (S6), Naomi Rawlings (K4), Edie Davies (S3), Lucy Hardy (G8), Gracie Brandon Oddy (S7), Gurjit Sambhi (S4), Mya Harvey Whervin (N2), Connie Hill (N7), Poppy Harris-Bloomer (S8) & Lyra Mentoor-Wallace (G5).

### Opening a World of Opportunities





# SIXTH FORM NEWS

## Sixth Form Open Evening

Our open evening this year took place on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

Thank you to all parents and students who attended – we hope you found it an informative experience and were able to gain valuable information from staff and students alike.

## Sixth Form Admissions

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

40 of our external students are boys, and 12 of them are girls, who have come from a range of secondary schools, including Kings Norton Boys', Bournville, and Turves Green.

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

## Applications for Sixth Form

The application process to join us in September 2020 is now open. Application forms and further details are available on our website. If you have a daughter or son in Year 11 thinking about A Levels next year, then Kings Norton Sixth Form should be on your list of sixth forms to consider. With strong pastoral support, fantastic teaching and excellent results there really is only one choice!

## Meet the Sixth Form Event

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November we are holding our "Meet the Sixth Form" event from 3.30pm - 5pm to find out more about the impressive range of A Level courses directly from current students and teachers at Kings Norton Sixth Form.

## 16-19 Bursary Fund

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

Application forms are available from the Sixth Form Common Room or can be obtained by contacting Miss Zoe Nelmes, Sixth Form Administrator.

## Destinations & Celebrating Success

### 113 students in total

Overall University places: 95 (84%)

Russell Group: 50 (53%) of those 95 students.

**Destination other than University:** 18 (16%)

Apprenticeships: 6 (5%)

Employment: 2 (2%)

Gap Year: 9 (8%)

Further Education: 1 (1%)

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

Of the cohort of 113 students 84% secured places at universities, of which 53% are Russell Group universities. We look forward to catching up with students on 20<sup>th</sup> December to celebrate their well-deserved successes.

To celebrate the end of their studies with us, in July was the Year 13 **Leavers Ball**. This year it took place at the Botanical Gardens. It was a wonderful event which students and staff thoroughly enjoyed!

## Opening a World of Opportunities

## UCAS Applications

The deadline for Oxbridge was 15<sup>th</sup> October and for all other applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The internal deadline for students is 29<sup>th</sup> November – this is when all students are aiming to have their UCAS completed by so that they can focus on their formal examinations.



All staff have completed student references and please do encourage your son/daughter to carry out thorough research into their options post-18. They have UCAS and Unifrog at their disposal which will provide them with lots of information concerning higher education courses, training, and apprenticeship opportunities.

If they require any more help they should speak to their form tutor in the first instance, or Mr Tom Charlett who is in charge of IAG.

## English A Level Students Visit the University of Birmingham Library

Students on the English Literature and English Language and Literature A Level courses visited the University of Birmingham Library in the summer term, in trips designed to develop students' study skills and give them a taste of university life. After receiving an introductory talk from librarians, students independently explored the library's English collections, carrying out research for their individual coursework projects. KNGS sixth formers can register to use the University of Birmingham library by bringing a letter of introduction from a teacher, and following their visit, many of our English students plan to take advantage of this fantastic resource for independent study.

*Dr. O'Mahony, English Teacher*

## Young Enterprise Company Programme

We have been fortunate to receive funding from HSBC to deliver the Young Enterprise Company Programme with Year 12 students.

The programme gives students the opportunity and experience to run their own business. We have a team of 22 students who have enrolled on the programme and are in the process of setting up their own business and developing product ideas. The students will be supported through the process by two business advisers from HSBC.

As part of the programme, six members of the team attended a launch event at HSBC Head Quarters. Students received information about how to run their business and heard from local entrepreneurs who have successfully set up their own businesses. The students attended a number of workshops where they were given advice on their business idea and product. The advice included how to market their product using digital technology, legal issue they might face, financial support and marketing.

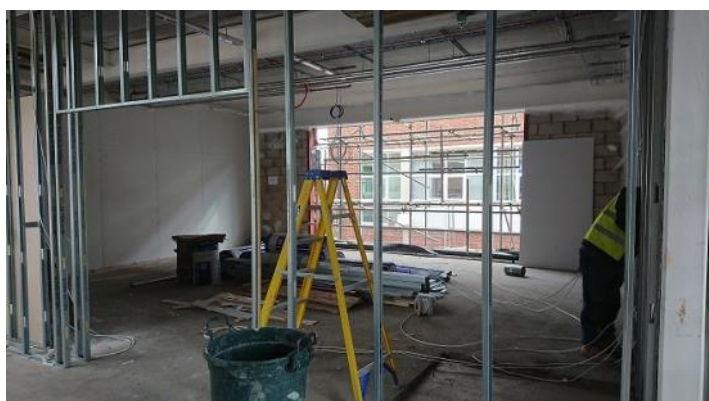
Going forward the students will hold a weekly board meeting to discuss how their business will operate and organise work to be completed. We hope to update you soon on their progress and product launch!

*Mrs Neale - Business Studies Teacher*



## Sixth Form Build update...

Our new Sixth Form Building is really starting to take shape!



Internal structures of the classrooms are being installed and the windows will be going in after the half term break! The furniture has been ordered ready for installation pre-Christmas and we are looking forward to moving into the building in the New Year!



## OCR Bursary Award

As you will know, our Year 13 students achieved a record-breaking set of A Level results this summer. Three of our students, Lucy Wilkes, Fred Thompson and Nora Bennani-Kemmoun, have now begun their studies at Cambridge University.

The OCR examination board offers an annual bursary of £3000 to students in the West Midlands who are successful at gaining a place at Cambridge. Both Fred and Nora applied for this bursary and were among thirteen local students who were awarded the prize. They will therefore receive this money for every year of their degree course.



The presentation ceremony took place at the OCR centre in Coventry on 19th September. The main speaker was Saul Nassé, Chief Executive of OCR's parent organisation, Cambridge Assessment. He said, "We feel lucky to play our small part in helping these outstanding students with their studies at Cambridge University. They won places at Cambridge, so they are all academic high flyers but they have other talents too. Many have supported other students in their schools and carried out voluntary work in their local communities. There are also gifted musicians, performing artists, sportspeople, debaters and science and maths competition winners amongst them. It has been great to meet them today, along with their families and the teachers who have inspired and supported them. I am sure they will all flourish at Cambridge University and I wish them all the best for their time in college and beyond."

Fred and Nora, who are studying Natural Sciences and Geography respectively, can be extremely proud of their achievements and provide a wonderful example to our current A Level students of the benefits of hard-work and application.

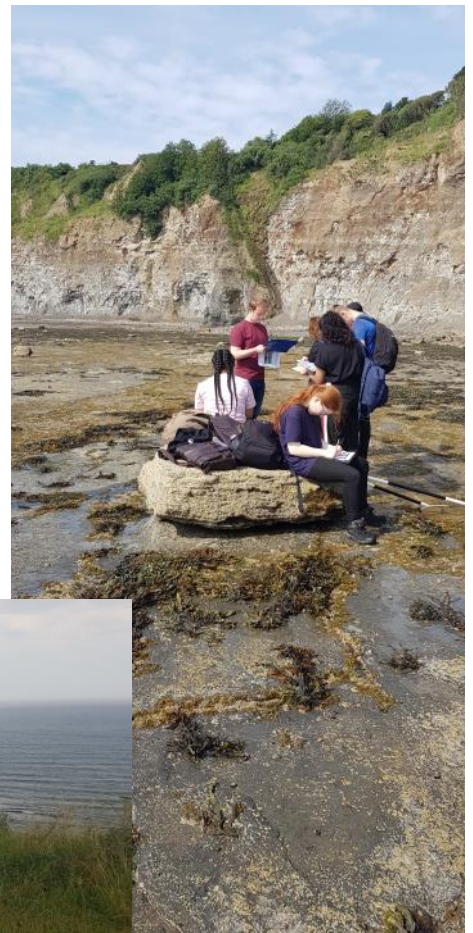
*Mr Todd - Teacher of Science*

## Geography Year 12 Field Trip to Scarborough

In the last week of the summer term as the July sun shone, Mr Lynch and Ms Welch took our Year 12 geographers up to North Yorkshire from where they completed fieldwork assessing a range of human and physical features along the coast. Each student developed their own hypothesis for investigation and the data collected by students will be used to inform their individual pieces of coursework which accounts for 20% of their A Level.

The group set off in the minibus on Monday morning and returned to school on Friday afternoon. Their field investigations took them from Scarborough up to Whitby, where they met with members of the local authority's planning department to discuss approaches to coastal management and regeneration. They stopped off at the scenic Robin Hood's Bay en route where they were able to observe and assess the impact of the area's sustainable coastal management strategy.

Despite some misgivings before the trip about whether or not they'd be able to eat the food on offer, all students (and staff) returned looking healthy and even, believe it or not, a little sun-kissed at the end of their adventures in North Yorkshire. Now it is on with the hard work of using the data gathered to produce some top quality coursework on a range of hypotheses exploring coastal management and regeneration in this beautiful part of the country...good luck Year 13!



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## NEW SIMS PARENT APP - HAVE YOU INSTALLED IT?

In September we launched the new SIMS Parent App - thank you to those of you who have installed the app already.

For those who haven't yet, you will have received a welcome email with instructions and a link to download the new app. This was sent early September.



SIMS Parent  
Education

**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 this academic year.**

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

- Important information such as attendance, praise and behaviour.
- 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. Please note **some subjects** are trialling the homework element of the app - **French will be using this for Year 7 homework after half term.**

**If you haven't yet installed the App please follow the instruction on the email sent to you. If you didn't receive an email or if you are having any issues downloading the app, please contact the school office by emailing: [enquiry@kngs.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@kngs.co.uk) or by calling 0121 675 1305.**

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE - STAYING SAFE

### DARKER NIGHTS, HAPPY & SAFE HALLOWEEN/BONFIRE NIGHT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Mr Gunn*

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