

# Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of another year I have taken the opportunity to reflect on what makes KNGS and Sixth Form so special. It is of course the excellent outcomes, outstanding teaching and learning, high expectations in all aspects of school life, student's engagement in their learning in lessons and beyond the classroom and student and staff's resilience and determination to achieve their very best.

However, what has stood out this year is student's respect, care and consideration for each other. With a growing school population this has become even more evident as I observe daily acts of kindness, helpfulness and support around the corridors, in classrooms and in the community. Therefore, to celebrate our school values, I am awarding 12 termly awards, one award to each house for Respect, Courage and Flourish. I look forward to seeing the following recipients of this term's awards wearing them with pride: Elizabeth Dewes, Molly Curtis, Idres Ahmed, Ella Daniel, Miriam Shpanin, Loren Cope, Alicia Field, Anya Dasgin, Leah Efuna, Oliver Fisher, Grace Lasky and Kathleen Salter.

As always, this newsletter is packed with some of the many opportunities students have been involved in, numerous visits and clubs, as well as developing leadership roles through the environmental group and election debates alongside many personal achievements.

Wishing you and your family a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Nicola Raggett - Headteacher



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ♦ **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** - Christmas Break
- ♦ **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January** - Start of term - **Please note ALL students are required to be in school as normal**
- ♦ **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January** - Year 11 Mock Exam Results Issued - **PARENTS WILL NEED THE SIMS PARENT APP TO ACCESS - NO PAPER COPIES ARE BEING SENT HOME**
- ♦ **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January** - Year 12 & 13 Formal Assessment Results Issued - **PARENTS WILL NEED THE SIMS PARENT APP TO ACCESS - NO PAPER COPIES ARE BEING SENT HOME**
- ♦ **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January** - Year 7 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6pm
- ♦ **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January** - Year 10 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6pm
- ♦ **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January** - Year 11 Reports Issued - **PARENTS WILL NEED THE SIMS PARENT APP TO ACCESS - NO PAPER COPIES ARE BEING SENT HOME**
- ♦ **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February** - Year 8 Parents as Partners, Invitees only, 4.30pm - 5.30pm
- ♦ **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February** - Staff Training - **EARLY CLOSURE FOR ALL STUDENTS, 12 noon FINISH**
- ♦ **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February** - Year 12 & 13 Interim Reports Issued - **PARENTS WILL NEED THE SIMS PARENT APP TO ACCESS - NO PAPER COPIES ARE BEING SENT HOME**
- ♦ **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February** - Half Term Break

## EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

### SPOOKY GOINGS ON

#### Halloween Science Club

Eerie glow-in-the-dark goo, screaming jelly babies, a jack-o'-lantern oozing brains, heart-stopping sense boxes, and 2-metre-high balls of fire thrilled over 30 of our Year 7 Science students at our Halloween Science Club. Our Year 10 Science Ambassadors did a wonderful job transforming two of our science labs into spooky haunts and then they were excellent role models as they supported our Year 7s in their quest to make glow-in-the-dark goo, and to survive the creepy sense boxes. All of the students that attended showed great enthusiasm, and were eager to learn and explore. Thank you to everyone involved and we look forward to seeing you at Science events in the future.



### CONSTELLATIONS DRAMA WORKSHOPS

#### Dyslexia & Autism Pupil Voice Groups

This term KNGS again welcomed **Jess Hakin**, Drama Facilitator from *Constellations Drama* to lead a series of Drama workshops with some of our students.

The focus of these sessions was largely around building social skills but also to explore the theme of 'Empowerment' which was the theme this year for the National Dyslexia Awareness week. The students engaged well in the sessions and it was wonderful to see them developing their skills.

*Inclusion Department*



### CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

#### Update on Progress

The Climate Change Group are working hard to make KNGS more environmentally friendly. So far this academic year they have facilitated the installation of more efficient hand dryers in the toilets and arranged for all printers cartridges in school to be recycled.

They are looking to further increase recycling at KNGS and, in the New Year, they will be reviewing our current recycling facilities with Mrs Skinner, Business Manager, and potential waste carriers. Before we are able to offer better recycling facilities in the school, the Climate Change Group are asking that students take the rubbish from their packed lunch home with them. Household recycling is far better than what we can currently offer. We will keep you updated on the progress and appreciate your support in the meantime!



### EXTRA CURRICULAR FAIR

#### Showcase of Clubs on Offer

In October extracurricular clubs were showcased at the Extracurricular Fair. This event was a chance for clubs to showcase the exciting activities that they get up to and help them to recruit new members to their club. There was a great turn-out to the event. Club leaders and members worked hard to put together exciting interactive stalls and they were excellent ambassadors for their club. Thank you to everyone who took part. It is never too late to sign up for a club. If you're looking to start a new club, please see the extracurricular timetable on the school website and it is also displayed on the canteen TVs.

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#### Get Involved in a Club at KNGS!

|              | Monday                            | Tuesday                                 | Wednesday                               | Thursday                 | Friday                           |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Break        |                                   | Flute Ensemble<br>Music Room            |   |                          | Guitar Ensemble<br>Music         |
| Lunch        | Chess Club<br>Room 5              | KS3 Debate Club<br>Room 14              | KS3 Medieval Club<br>Room 17            | Chess Club<br>Room 5     | KS3/4 Journalism<br>Club Room 12 |
|              | Drama Club<br>Drama Studio        | Ukulele Ensemble<br>Room 29             | KS3 Reading Club<br>Room 18             | String Ensemble<br>Music | Just Dance Club<br>Dance Studio  |
|              | Y8 Pop<br>Ensemble<br>Music Room  | Choir<br>Music Room                     | Jazz band<br>Music Room                 | Amnesty<br>Room 23       | LGBTQ+<br>Room 17                |
|              | Environmental<br>Group<br>Room 12 | Companions<br>Colouring Club<br>Room 19 |   | Current Affairs<br>Sx2   | Board Game Club<br>Room 19       |
| After School |                                   | Year 7 Pop<br>Ensemble – Music<br>Room  | Photography Club<br>Photography<br>Room |                          | Orchestra<br>music room          |
|              |                                   | Art<br>Art 2                            | Maths Puzzle Club<br>- Rm 5 3:10-4:00   |                          |                                  |
|              |                                   | Ceramics<br>Art 1                       |   |                          |                                  |

## INTERFAITH FORUM



As part of National Interfaith Week, on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, the Religious Studies department organised another highly successful Faiths Forum with a panel of religious representatives from local communities. The special visitors came in especially to answer questions from Year 7 pupils, with Year 10 and 11 pupils also being part of the main audience. The faith leaders were:

**Kelsang Lhasang** - Resident Teacher, Kadampa Buddhist Centre

**Rabbi Dr Margaret Jacobi** - Rabbi, Birmingham Progressive Synagogue

**Imam Humayon Jahangeerkhan** - Imam, Baitul Muqet Mosque (Ahmadiyya Muslim Community)

**Douglas Sembuuze** - Youth and Communities Minister, Rowheath Pavilion Church

Questions included what the speakers' beliefs are, about a range of topics ranging from the afterlife and marriage, to poverty and mental health.

There was also a separate session organised for Year 10 and 11 GCSE Religious Studies with the Christian and Muslim speakers, to further develop their knowledge of Christianity and Islam, the two faiths that they need to study as part of their assessed course.



This is the seventh time the RS department has organised the event, which contributes richly towards the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, and also reflects the school's active promotion of "British values", particularly mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The faith leaders were greatly impressed with and full of praise for our girls, particularly our Year 10 subject ambassadors who led the forum superbly.

*"Thank you again for inviting me, it was a pleasure to attend. I thought the ambassadors and the girls in general were a credit to their school and teachers. The ambassadors were well presented, clear and confident spokeswomen. It was also clear that a lot of thought had gone into the selected panel questions provided. Thank you for the opportunity to answer using the wisdom taught by my kind teacher Venerable Gesh-la."* – Kelsang Lhasang

*"It was a pleasure and honour to be able to speak to you all and share our ideas. I had a very enjoyable time meeting you all and speaking to the children. The children asked very deep, philosophical questions which was incredible to be a part of."* – Imam Humayon Jahangeerkhan

*"It was a joy and real privilege. I enjoyed hearing the responses of all the panellists - thank you for bringing us all together. The ambassadors were great, the audience was superb and the hospitality was exceptional. We/ I felt a part of the team and the school from start to finish. The welcome from the Headteacher and the Head of RS was particularly of a generous nature, as together with the ambassadors, they were able to facilitate not only a warm reception but also a generosity of time to care and support us as we prepared to deliver our responses. Many Blessings."* – Douglas Sembuuze

*"I really enjoyed it. The questions were very thoughtful and I also learnt a lot from my fellow participants."* – Dr Margaret Jacobi

You can see tweets from @KNGSlife and a hashtag #kngsinterfaith for more about our interfaith initiative.

A big thank you to all staff too for their help, support and cooperation, to our fabulous RE ambassadors (Hannah Ashraf, Gracie Brandon-Oddy, Mathilda Cannon, Bethan Harland, Charlotte Pickup and Liberty Seadon) for making it a huge success again, and to all our pupils for being so well behaved, attentive and respectful throughout.



## Year 8 Visit to Microsoft HQ

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019, a group of eight Year 8 girls were given the opportunity to visit Microsoft Headquarters in Reading for a worldwide event called "DigiGirlz". The event is aimed at removing the stereotype that girls cannot code computer programs, work within the IT industry and to dispel the myth that big companies like Microsoft, Google, etc. only want boys to work in the sector. We were one of only 20 schools in the UK to visit.



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

The main activity during the day was to design a new device for tackling sustainability of our environment by coding BBC Microbits – and as expected the creative juices got flowing immediately – eventually bringing together a selection of designs from our two groups which involved smart bins and other cool ideas to solve waste issues in our schools.

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

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

## MOCK GENERAL ELECTION

### Students Have Their Say

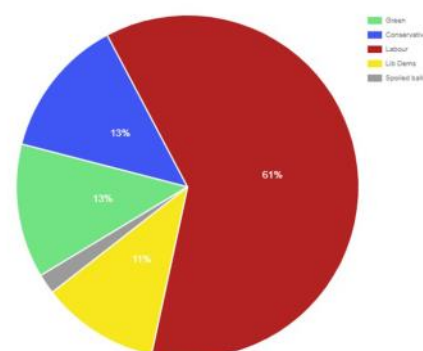
After weeks of discussion in Form Time and even a 'Debate Club: Election Special' we held our mock election on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December as the rest of the country went to the polls. Only four parties were placed on the ballot paper in an attempt to represent a range of views and policies, without baffling

students! Sixth Form students had submitted their postal votes beforehand due to mock exams. The exercise has enabled students to reflect on the importance of democratic participation.

The results were as follows:

Conservative 13%, Greens 13%, Labour 61%, Liberal Democrat 11% and spoiled papers 2%.

KNGS TOTAL



### Overall Result

| Party            | Number of votes | % share | Ranking |
|------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Conservative     | 112             | 13      | 2       |
| Green            | 107             | 13      | 3       |
| Labour           | 518             | 61      | 1       |
| Liberal Democrat | 94              | 11      | 4       |
| Spoiled paper    | 16              | 2       | 5       |

## CAREERS FORUM

### Students put their Questions to a Panel

On the 20<sup>th</sup> November we held our first ever 'Careers Forum'. This replicated a 'Question Time' style format with pre-submitted questions being posed to a panel representing a range of careers and professions. Years 9-12 listened to workplace insights from an Auditor, Nurse (ex-student), Solicitor, Police Officers, Film-Maker and a Senior Manager from our partner's Lloyd's Banking Group. The questions included, 'do you get a good work-life balance?' and, 'what qualities, skills and experience give you the edge in your career?' Our guests commented that our students are 'the best behaved' they had ever seen. We are sure that they all went away informed and, more importantly, inspired about what could lie ahead.

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## CHRSTMAS CONCERT

### Students Put on a Festive Showcase

The Music Department has been very busy this term, ending with a wonderfully festive Christmas Concert. I would like to thank all of the students and all of the instrumental and vocal staff for their hard work and commitment and to everyone else who was involved in the organisation, setting-up and preparation.

As always, the students did themselves proud, showing what a rich and diverse pool of musical talent we have here at KNGS.

*Mr Gell*

## PARENT VOICE GROUPS

We were delighted to welcome parents from the Dyslexia Parent Voice and Autism Parent Voice groups into school this half term. We shared information about our provision for pupils with additional needs, alongside short films of what this has looked like in practice for our pupils over the last year. It was a lovely opportunity to discuss what is currently working well for our pupils with additional needs and celebrate the hard work of the Pupil Voice Groups.



It was also an opportunity to discuss what further support pupils and parents would value. Following these discussions, touch typing sessions will be introduced in January as will additional homework and study support sessions for Key Stage 4 pupils. These group meetings have been a great opportunity to exchange ideas and strategies between home and school as well as for parents to meet each other.



## LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

### School Production

We are very excited to announce that we are working hard on a musical production ready for the end of March. 'Little Shop of Horrors' will be coming to KNGS on the evenings of 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. Main characters have already been cast, rehearsals are underway and **tickets will go on sale in the new year! Further details on how to purchase tickets will be sent out in the New Year.**



## SUCCESSES

### CHARITY SKY DIVE

#### Head Girl Raises Money for Charity

“ On the 31st of October 2019 I sky dived from 10,000 feet, however, it wasn't nearly as terrifying as standing in front of one thousand students and teachers to deliver a heartfelt speech about mental health awareness. I partook in both of these events to raise money for the charity MIND, but also to achieve a self-set aim of pushing myself out of my comfort zone, and encouraging my peers to do the same.

Thank you to every person that has contributed as we have managed to raise £560.’

*Gabby Dickson*



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## BRONZE MEDAL IN WORLD TUMBLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Congratulations Alicia!

We are extremely proud of Year 7 student Alicia Field on her amazing success at the recent World Tumbling Championships held in Tokyo.



| AG1 - Women's Tumbling Final |     |                          |
|------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| Results                      |     |                          |
| 1                            | GBR | JEFFERS Jaeda-Lei 32.200 |
| 2                            | GBR | CLARKE Lottie 31.500     |
| 3                            | GBR | FIELD Alicia 31.500      |
| 4                            | GBR | CAMPBELL Sophie 31.000   |
| 5                            | BEL | SPIESSENS Lani 30.100    |
| 6                            | BEL | HOREMANS Nona 30.000     |
| 7                            | AUS | NORTHMORE Caitlin 29.800 |
| 8                            | BEL | DE LIL Amy 25.800        |

Representing Great Britain, Alicia finished 3rd in the world in the finals earning her a very well deserved bronze medal!! Alicia competed in the age 11/12 group, meaning she was one of the youngest competitors - well done Alicia we are all so proud of you, your hard work and what you have achieved!



## GCSE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

### Year 11 Class of 2019

Thursday 28th November saw the return of many of our **Year 11 - Class of 2019**, for a celebratory event, where the students were individually presented with their GCSE certificates. We also welcomed KNGS Alumna and Commonwealth Gold Medallist, England Netball, **Ama Agbeze MBE** as our guest speaker, who gave

an inspirational speech and lots of great advice to the students receiving their certificates. Ama also kindly spent time after the awards ceremony taking part in a Q&A Session with the KNGS netball teams!



In addition, to receiving GCSE certificates there were a number of individual student prizes awarded - the new Lloyds Art Award, which was presented to **Lucy Wilson**, The Richard Rogers Prize for "Philosophy of Religion" was awarded to **Libby Styles**, The Eileen Daines Prize for "English Literature" was

awarded to **Izzy Timmins**, the South & City College Principal's Award Scheme was awarded to **Lois Taylor, Amber Williams & Anna-Marie Miroslavljevic** and the Headteacher's Prize was awarded to **Amy Pagnam**.

Well done Class of 2019!



## ROUTES INTO LANGUAGES

### Christmas Card Competition



At the end of November, Year 7's entered a Christmas Card Competition for Routes Into Languages. The objectives were to design a Christmas card which would be used by Routes into Languages for their Christmas greetings this year and to research and learn about Christmas traditions in a different country.

The competition was an amazing success this year with a final total of 2502 entries from 92 schools. The competition was fierce so there were no winning entries from KNGS.

Well done to all our Year 7 who entered! Their cards were beautifully presented and showed that a lot of effort had gone into researching traditions of the country.

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## HOUSE NEWS

### Children In Need

Thank you for all your contributions. We raised £1344. A massive thank you to all staff and students for contributing and supporting the 'Duck Race'. **Anaya Dasgin (S6)** was amazing in organising and leading on the 'Just Dance' event. Well done all!

### Christmas Charity

This year KNKS teamed up with Bromsgrove District Housing Trust & Hollywood Christian Life Centre. Together they have identified local (South Birmingham) residents who are in need of support. Our students, staff (and parents) responded brilliantly by bringing in food items as well as toys for Christmas. These are being arranged into hampers which have been so well received.

We were able to help a local family with some food and toys; sharing their response testifies to the difference you have made: "You have helped me more than you can ever imagine. Thank you from the bottom of my heart".

Thank you to all who contributed to this year's Charity.



### 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:** Tammy Lunnon (K7), Eva Gater (K2), Hanifah Saleh (K7), Allannah Gradiner (K7), Jess Reeves-Taylor (K4), & Ayishah Gitay (K2).

**NIGHTINGALE HOUSE:** Madeleine Taylor (N8), Maisy Saunders (N7), Esme Riley (N4), Megan Recardo (N7), Sophie Watley (N1), Susie Catling (N3) & Kelis Farrell (N6).

**GOODALL HOUSE:** Grace Varley (G1), Gabrielle Meunier (G6), Lauren Reed (G2), Isabella Brighton (G3), Abi Heyes (G4), Phoebe Glover (G3) & Kaitlin Fletcher (G7).

**SHARMAN HOUSE:** Gracie Brandon Oddy (S7), Ava Eustace (S1), Charlotte Bunn (S1), Anya Dasgin (S6), Millie Tustin (S1) Takieyah Broughton (S5).

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The SLG ran a successful campaign focused around climate change. They organised a quiz for the teachers, games for the students, and even a march around the school! Over 100 students took part in the lunchtime event and the feedback was encouraging.

After the feedback from the students, gleaned through an online questionnaire, our project next term will be focused around LGBTQ+. The students will work in conjunction with the existing LGBTQ+ groups within school to plan and run a series of events for the students to take part in.

## SPORTING UPDATE

### NETBALL

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

#### Seniors

Lordswood vs. KNKS - Won 21-8

#### Year 9

KECHGS vs. KNKS - Won 13-7

KEFW vs. KNKS - Won 11-8

EHA vs. KNKS - Lost 18-24

#### Year 8

Lordswood vs. KNKS - Lost 4-9

KECHGS vs. KNKS - Lost 4-9

#### Year 7

KEFW vs. KNKS - Won 21-8

EHS A vs. KNKS - Won 11-8

UOB vs. KNKS - Won 19-2

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## SIXTH FORM NEWS

### UCAS Applications

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

### Parents Evening

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

### Year 11 Interviews

Year 11 interviews took place on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Offer letters will be sent out in the New Year. Thank you for your applications, and we look forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form.

### A Level Certificate Presentation

Our Year 13 cohort from 2017-2019 will return to school on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December to celebrate their A Level achievements and be presented with their certificates from 1pm - 2pm.

### Sixth Form Build Update

The new Sixth Form Centre and hard landscaping is very nearly completed. Staff and students will be moving in early in the new year. As you can see from the pictures, we have created a bright, light, modern learning space

which complements our current build. We look forward to showing you around!



### Year 12 Young Enterprise Company Programme

Year 12 Young Enterprise Students organised a bake sale to raise money to fund their new business initiative. In total they raised £130. This will be used to develop a product prototype and allow them to buy stock. They have set up a company called Revizwiz and are planning to sell revision stationary packs to students and local schools. The students are being mentored by two members of staff from HSBC Bank.



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### CONSENT FOR ACTIVITIES & TRIPS

In an effort to reduce the amount of paper produced by the school, we will be asking for consent for trips to be provided via ParentPay from January.

By providing consent you will be confirming all your understanding of student, staff and your own responsibilities outlined in the trip/event letter, you will be confirming that medical support can be given to your child and that you have checked all personal details are up to date via the SIMS App.

You will not be able to pay for the trip/event until you have checked this consent box on ParentPay. This way you do not have to return a slip to the school so will ease household admin as well!

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