

KINGS NORTON GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

February 2020

Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

This half term has been packed with a significant number of student and staff successes and exciting school developments. We are delighted that several students took the courage to apply to be representatives on the Birmingham Council's SEND Youth Forum, following interviews four have been selected. At a time of change for Birmingham Council in this area, I have no doubt that their input will have a significant effect on the provision for students across the city.



The new Sixth Form Centre is now completed, we are extremely pleased with this light, modern and spacious building. A Level lessons are now being taught in there and the students are benefiting from the large study room which is exclusively for their private study. Over the next few weeks students from Years 7-11 will be given a tour of the new build and we look forward to showing parents round. The area in front of the new build will be seeded later in the spring and by this time next year should be ready for us to use again. The official opening of the build will take place later in the term.

Congratulations to 27 Year 8 and 9 students who were selected by staff for this half term's Headteacher Praise Awards (pictured above) for their continuous hard work and effort and for demonstrating respect and courage and ensuring they have flourished over the year. I am also very proud of Year 11 and 13 who are showing great maturity and resilience in the lead up to their GCSE and A Level exams, there is a calm determination from all of them, we will continue to give them all the support they need over the next few months and wish them all the very best.

At Kings Norton Girls' School we value the input of our parents and the support we receive. We currently have an exciting opportunity for two parents to become parent governors. The Governing Board are specifically looking to increase the diversity of our trustees to reflect our school community and wider society. Further information can be found on page 2 of this newsletter and on our website www.kngs.co.uk/about-us/governance/governor-vacancies/

I would like to wish you all a fantastic half term break.

Nicola Raggett - Headteacher

ROAD CLOSURE - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please be aware that Selly Oak Road will be closed from Monday 24th - Wednesday 26th February due to scheduled tree works. Please note school will be open as normal. The work is likely to impact on school drop offs and pick ups from outside the school gates. An email was sent home on the 13th February with further details of the road closure.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February** - Half Term Break
- ◆ **Monday 24th February** - Start of Term
- ◆ **Tuesday 25th February** - Year 9 Parents as Partners, 6pm - 8pm
- ◆ **Tuesday 3rd March** - Year 12 & 13 Interim Results Issued - **PARENTS WILL NEED THE SIMS PARENT APP TO ACCESS - NO PAPER COPIES ARE BEING SENT HOME**
- ◆ **Thursday 5th March** - Year 9 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Tuesday 24th March** - Year 11 & Year 13 Parents as Partners, 6pm - 8pm
- ◆ **Friday 27th March** - Year 8 & Year 10 Interim Reports Issued - **PARENTS WILL NEED THE SIMS PARENT APP TO ACCESS - NO PAPER COPIES ARE BEING SENT HOME**
- ◆ **Monday 30th March** - Year 7 & Year 9 Interim Reports Issued - **PARENTS WILL NEED THE SIMS PARENT APP TO ACCESS - NO PAPER COPIES ARE BEING SENT HOME**
- ◆ **Thursday 2nd April** - Year 8 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Monday 6th - Friday 17th April** - Easter Break

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCIES

I would like to invite parents/carers to stand for election as a parent trustee governor, or nominate another parent to do so. We currently have vacancies for two parent governors at KNGS. This is a voluntary role and an exciting opportunity to have a positive input into the life of Kings Norton Girls' School and Sixth Form and in ensuring the highest quality of outcomes for all of our students. Our governing body are a very welcoming and supportive group.

The board of trustees, with the headteacher, has overall responsibility for the running of the school. The board of trustees have three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Parent governors need no special qualifications, experience or knowledge, they do need to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the board of trustee's work. However, to fulfil our duties effectively, our Governing Body needs a balance and diversity of skills, experience, backgrounds and perspectives, we would therefore welcome nominations from parents with legal, human resources or change management experience.

We are also keen to increase the diversity of our board of trustees to reflect our school community and wider society and would particularly welcome applications from ethnic minorities. Training is available for all trustees and our governing body has an expectation that those new to being a governor attend free induction training. Appointed parent trustees must also undertake an enhanced DBS check in order to be able to take up their post.

Nominations must be from parents or individuals exercising parental responsibility, of a child at Kings Norton Girls' School and Sixth Form. Please refer to page 7 and 8 of the Parent Governor Recruitment Pack: www.kngs.co.uk/about-us/governance/governor-vacancies/ as there are a few circumstances under which someone cannot serve as a parent trustee. If you have any questions or would like to talk the role through with a current governor, please contact Denise Wilson, Clerk to the Governors via email: dwilson@kngs.co.uk and she will put you in touch with one of our governors.

If you would like to stand for election please complete the nomination form and return it to the school no later than **9.00 am on Monday 2nd March 2020**. www.kngs.co.uk/about-us/governance/governor-vacancies/ You should also include a short personal statement to support your nomination, which should be no longer than 250 words. Self-nominations will be accepted but if you are nominating another parent, please seek their prior consent. If there are more nominations than vacancies, the election will be by secret ballot. If that is necessary, voting papers will be sent to all parents together with details of the ballot procedure after the closing date for nominations.

Mrs Nicola Raggett - Headteacher

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

DEBATING CLUB

Compete at Oxford

The debating club recently went to Oxford Union for the International Competition for Young Debaters. This was a regional round of a prestigious international contest, and the KNKS team was up against schools from all over the Midlands. Over the course of 3 debates, the students acquitted themselves really well, but weren't quite able to make the final. However, it was an enjoyable experience for the team and they are looking forward to next year!



YEAR 7 SACRED BUILDINGS VISIT

"On Wednesday 22nd January, Poppy Westwood and my fellow class mate Elsie Harrison went on the Year 7 Sacred Buildings trip.

We first travelled to the Bebe Nanaki Gurudwara. The hosts of the visit welcomed us politely as we encountered the spectacular interior of the Gurdwara. Firstly, we took our shoes off to show respect and placed them on a shoe rack. Then we were led upstairs heading into the main prayer room where there were multiple interesting features. The ceiling was gold, shiny, rectangular shaped with a light dangling downwards. In front of us was a raised platform and inside was a white, large bed with curtains



around the sides where the Guru Granth Sahib (the holy scripture for Sikhs) was laid. There stood a host delicately waving a chauri (white fluffy feather like brush) over the bed. Elsie and I learnt that the building is also used for marriages, baptisms and eating! We were kindly offered samosas in the Langar (kitchen) by our hosts.

We then left the Gurdwara and travelled to the Shree Geeta Bhawan Mandir. As we entered, it was different because everything was within one room. The hall had a carpeted floor and the five murtis (gods) around the room, so people (both visitors and hosts) could observe and pray to them. We learnt that Hindus believe in reincarnation and one of the models also known as 'the goddess mother' has eight hands which each represents different things!

The final visit, to Darul Barakaat Mosque, was our personal favourite because it had an intriguing impact and made us keen to learn more. Muslims have two different prayer rooms, which were both very plain so they can focus on praying, one is for women and the other for men. The Imam led the prayer in the men's section. We had a question and answer session where we were able to ask more questions to help with our research.

The visits we made have helped us to consider various features of sacred buildings in preparation for our project on multi-faith buildings. We had a great time on our tremendous trip!"

Written by Poppy Westwood (G-4) and Elsie Harrison (S-5)



I enjoyed the meal at the Gurudwara and the chocolate brownies at the Mosque. I also enjoyed seeing the special features at the Mandir. *Megan Nightingale, N-6*

I enjoyed how welcoming and informative the guides were. *Fatima Mohammad K-4*

I enjoyed the interesting facts and the hospitality because it was interesting and made me feel more welcome. *Mia Harrison, N-5*

I enjoyed listening to all the stories they told us about their religions. *Megan R, N-7*

I enjoyed watching how people pray - it was fascinating. *Millie White, N-6*



A huge thanks to Mr Charlett, Mrs Paull, Mrs Currie, Mr Hill, Mr Bailey, Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Holbeche for accompanying the girls on the trip, and to the whole of Year 7 for being so well behaved, respectful and a credit to the school!

Mr Ahmedi, Head of RS

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SUCCESSSES

A LEVEL CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Year 13 Class of 2019

Friday 20th December saw the return of many of our **Year 13 - Class of 2019**, for a celebratory event where the students were individually presented with A Level certificates. We were also very honoured to have our Co-Chair of Governors, Mr David Green as our Guest of Honour.

In addition to words of congratulations, inspiration, as well as advice for the future from Mrs Raggett and Mr Green, we also enjoyed a fantastic musical performance from Year 12 Sixth Form student, Elliot Carr.

It was a wonderful event and lovely to see the students come back together to celebrate their individual successes, as well as our best even set of A Level results on record.



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM FORWARD THINKING

Year 11 Celebration Event



After a four year journey five of our Year 11 students attended the celebration event, along with their parents and guardians, to celebrate them completing the University of Birmingham 'Forward Thinking' Programme. Before they received their certificates in the Aston Webb Hall they were treated to an inspirational motivational talk encouraging everybody to say "I am outstanding", delivered by 'Action' Jackson.

After some excellent refreshments their proud parents, guardians and Mr Abelson watched the students collect their certificates for completing the 'Forward Thinking' Programme. Congratulations to all of the students on their fantastic achievement.

BIRMINGHAM SEND YOUTH FORUM

KNGS Students Selected

BIRMINGHAM SEND
YOUTH FORUM

A number of students have successfully applied and been selected to take part in the Birmingham SEND Youth Forum. Being part of the forum is a chance for students to contribute to how we change the way we support special educational needs and disabilities in Birmingham schools.

At this point we would like to say a big congratulations to Mathilda Cannon, Gracie Brandon Oddy, Grace Lasky and Millie White on their success. We know that they have spent lots of time on their application and preparing for the interview. Well done!

KNGS STUDENT HELPS DESIGN COMMONWEALTH GAMES BATON

Congratulations Jessica

We are super proud of Year 7 KNGS student, Jessica Locke, who successfully entered a competition whilst in her final year at Colmore Junior School. The competition was run by 'The Daily Mile' and 'Sport Birmingham', to design a Commonwealth Games baton which highlights Birmingham landmarks and culture, for primary schools across the region to run with in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games. Jessica's part of the final baton design was the Selfridges discs. Jessica is pictured with Dom Cunningham, Commonwealth gymnast holding the winning design, Jessica was also being featured on BBC Midlands Today.

Congratulations Jessica!

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STAFF SUCCESSES

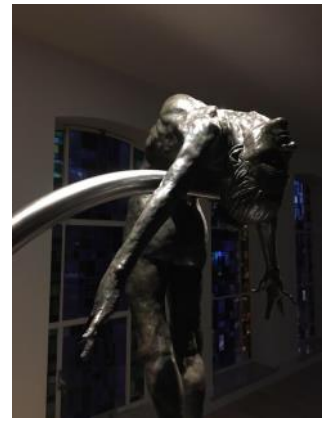
Congratulations Ms Wells!



Congratulations to Ms Wells, our DT Technician, who recently had a sculpture item shown in the final scene of the BBC 1 series Dracula.

The sculpture is a life size bronze female figure bending backwards over an arc of stainless steel and is entitled "I Spirit".

Amazing work Ms Wells!



NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP SERVICE

KNGS Receives Bronze Award

We have recently been awarded the National Citizenship Service (NCS) Bronze Award for participation in their programme. This means that a third of last year's Year 11 students took part in the life-changing programme; a statistic we are very proud of.

This year's scheme has recently been launched with current Year 11 students. It is a truly wonderful programme designed to build self-esteem and confidence in young people, as well encouraging them to make a positive contribution to their local community. The programme runs for three weeks over the summer and there are various start dates to choose from, beginning shortly after the end of the GCSE exams.

Full details have been given to students and are available via the website: www.wearencs.com The cost of the programme is £50. This is heavily subsidised by the government and NCS can further subsidise the cost through their bursary scheme if you request it. Again, contact details can be found on their website for further information. I do hope you and your child consider taking advantage of this unique opportunity.



HOUSE NEWS

Top of the Mocks

"Thank you" and "Yum" were the most spoken words during our 'Top of the Mocks' celebration. Students who received certificates for high achievement or super progress in their mock exams enjoyed the pizza and drinks provided as a well done. It was lovely to see them enjoying the atmosphere and their appreciation was evident.

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: Kiyanna-Grace Davis (K1), Emily Tipton (K7), Susie Lee (K3) & Matilda Johnston (K2).

NIGHTINGALE HOUSE: Eva Williams (N4), Alexandra Adjei-Kwarteng (N2), Rowan Ingrid (N8) & Elyn Carreon (N6).

GOODALL HOUSE: Gabriella Balderson-Higgins (G2), Jessica Locke (G8), Amy Carnall (G6) & Amelia McTiernan (G5).

SHARMAN HOUSE: Beatrice Ledgister (S5), Lily Mole (S6), Alexandra Mason (S8) & Rhianna McCallion (S8).

Headteacher's Praise Prize Draw

Congratulations to the students who were selected by their teachers and entered into the Headteacher's Praise Prize Draw this term for their hard work and demonstration of our school values: **Respect, Courage & Flourish**.

Well done to the following students: **Roopinder Bains** (S2), **Lila Mae Fernandes-Joyce** (S3), **Amira Kelly** (S6), **Rhianna McCallion** (S8), **Georgia-May Moore** (G1), **Felicity Davis** (G1), **Isabel Parker** (G4), **Betty Curtis** (G5), **Gabrielle Meunier** (G6), **Alisha Merali** (G7), **Maya Lama** (K3), **Emma Davies** (K5), **Myley Patterson** (N3), **Louisa Deane** (N4), **Alara Kaya** (N6), **Kyra Whitehead** (N6), **Sophia Azadi** (G2), **Hilda Baker** (S7), **Caitlin Hopwood** (K7), **Lily Mole** (S6), **Jasmin Rigby** (N1), **Lily Skidmore** (K7), **Maddy Salkeld** (K5), **Maddie Taylor** (N8), **Isabelle Voogt** (N7) & **Aaliyah Valentin** (S7).

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STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Student Leadership Group (SLG) have been involved in running a new project for next half term, which centres around celebrating LGBTQ+ authors and artists that have contributed to culture over the years. During the second week of half term, they will run a writing competition and a treasure hunt. They are also going to be creating the theme of the week materials and running house assemblies. All of these activities are based around one of the KNBS core ideas: respect. We aim to be an inclusive school, and the SLG are committed to making sure that we respect all of our students.

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Sixth Form Centre Open for Business!



On Monday 3rd February we opened the doors of our new Sixth Form Centre to our students and staff for the first time. Sixth Form lessons are now being taught in the state of the art classrooms and the Study Room is popular and being well used by Sixth Form students.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from students and staff alike who love the new space and facilities on offer! We can't wait to show you all round!

Admissions

For September 2020 we have received in total **291** applications – this includes both internal (**110**) and external (**181**) students.



Applications from external student have been received from a variety of schools including KNBS, Bournville, Turves Green Girls' & Boys', Kings Edwards, Queensbridge, and The University of Birmingham School.

Out of all the students we have interviewed so far, both internal and external, **214** of them are saying we are their first choice sixth form. We look forward to welcoming our potential new students for September 2020!

Challenge Day

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

Year 13 took part in a Health Day with workshops focused on sexual health, alcohol, finances, exam health and relaxation.

Art, Photography & Textiles London Gallery Visit

In December, straight after mock exams, art, photography and textiles students from both Years 12 & 13. The students had a very full and strenuous day (we walked over 20,00 steps!) but it was worth it.

We visited five galleries and eight exhibitions, The Wellcome Collection, The Victoria and Albert Museum, The Photographers' Gallery, The National Gallery and The National Portrait Gallery. The exhibition at the V&A by Tim Walker of his fantasy fashion photographs was particular popular. All the exhibitions we visited have provided plenty of creative inspiration for the students and we look forward to seeing the work inspired by the trip in the forthcoming weeks.

We arrived back in Birmingham, later than anticipated due to railway problems, exhausted but culturally satisfied.



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Photobook Workshop led by Coventry University

In early January, Emma Lambert, a photography tutor from Coventry University, visited KNGS to run a one-day photobook workshop for both Year 12 and Year 13 photography students.



She started by sharing her extensive collection of photobooks which the students found both fascinating and inspirational. This collection even included a photobook made

from teabags. The second half of the workshop was a 'hands-on' photobook making session where everybody had the satisfying sensation creating their own book. This will, no doubt, prove to be a very useful skill for the students to use when presenting their final images.



PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOL

IT IS ILLEGAL TO PARK ON ZIG ZAG LINES

It is illegal for anyone to stop, park/wait, drop off or collect students on the zig zag lines outside of school at anytime. These road marking are in place to safeguard students.

We firmly ask all parents/carers who drop off and pick up students to park legally with consideration for other road users, local residents and access for emergency services. **Please do not double park.**



Whilst waiting to collect students please can you also support the school and local residents in protecting the environment by turning off your engines.

Please also remember that, excepting for those with restricted mobility, we do not allow cars down the school drive to drop off or pick up students. This puts others at risk.

Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.



PARENTPAY

SETTING UP ALERTS

Could all parents please ensure that their maintain a balance on their ParentPay account for the school's catering provision. If you child does not have sufficient funds on their account then they may be refused service. You can set an alert on your ParentPay account so that you receive a free email when your child's balance goes below a certain amount (It's a good idea to set this at £3 as then you know they will always have enough for a hot meal). You can do this by following the steps below:



- Log into your ParentPay account
- Click on Communication at the top of the page
- Click on Alert Settings on the left hand side of the page
- Scroll down to Balance Alerts
- Enter the amount you want to be alerted at
- Tick the email box
- Scroll down and click on Save

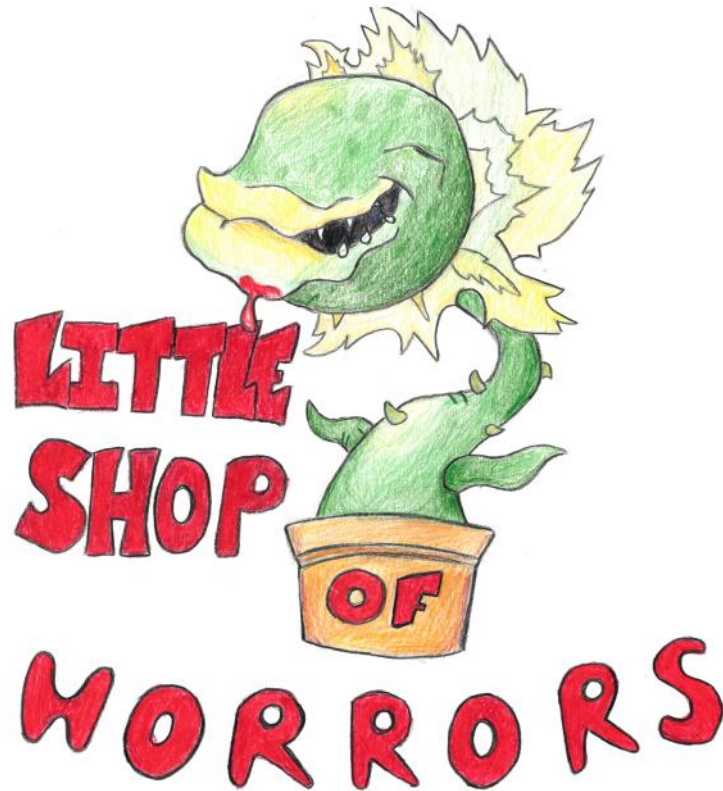
You should then get an email to confirm that you have made those changes and your child will not run out of funds on their account again.

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KINGS NORTON
GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

“On the twenty first day of the month of September, in an early year of a decade, not too long before our own the human race suddenly encountered a deadly threat to its very existence, and this terrifying enemy surfaced, as such enemies often do, in the seemingly most innocent and unlikely of places...”



Performances on

MONDAY 30TH MARCH – WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL 2020

7.00pm at Kings Norton Girls' School & Sixth Form

Tickets are on sale from 24th February & can be purchased through ParentPay.

Tickets cost £5. All seats will be numbered and allocated on a first come first served basis. Once tickets have been purchased they will be placed in student pigeon holes by Friday 27th March.

Tickets WILL NOT be available on the night.

Book and Lyrics by Howard Ashman. Music by Alan Menken.

Based on film by Roger Corman, screenplay by Charles Griffith. Originally produced by the WPA Theatre (Kyle Renick, Producing Director). Originally produced at the Orpheum Theatre, New York by the WPA. Theatre, David Geffen, Cameron Mackintosh and the Shubert Organisation. This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe). All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe www.mtishows.co.uk

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