

KINGS NORTON GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

April 2019

Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

As I write this article, I am reflecting on the numerous activities and achievements of the past term, looking forward to an Easter break and thinking of the students who are about to embark on their GCSE and A Level exams. As you will see from this newsletter, the ski trip, German exchange, World Book Day, gauntlet games, photography exhibition, inter-house dance competitions, Comic Relief, theatre trips, Dyslexia Awareness Day, geography trips (to name but a few) have all contributed to students' learning outside the classroom.

I am very proud of our students and staff who continue to work very hard to ensure that all students have the knowledge, skills and understanding for their exams and the strategies that they need to revise effectively and tackle their exams with confidence. Walking the school and visiting lessons, I see exceptional teaching and learning, work and progress on a daily basis; I was delighted that an external visitor recently confirmed this as he visited classes and talked to staff and students. This week I have received a letter from the Minister of State for School Standards, Rt Hon Nick Gibb congratulating us on the outstanding progress our students are making and our schools high level of GCSE language entry in 2018. He states that with a Progress 8 score of 0.69 we are amongst the top 7% of state funded mainstream schools in 2018 and thanks us for our work in continuing the drive towards higher academic standards.

Having reviewed the school vision last half term, this half term as a school (staff, students and governors), we have revised our core values. You can read about the process we used and reasoning around our choices later in the newsletter. I am confident that the core values we have chosen will help us move towards our vision of 'Opening a World of Opportunities'. Do talk to your child about their role in the process and how our new values of respect, courage, and flourish apply to them, the school and our wider community.

Wishing you a fantastic Easter Break.

Nicola Raggett - Headteacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Monday 29th - Friday 3rd May** - Year 9 Exams
- ◆ **Monday 3rd May - Friday 10th May** - Year 12 Formal Assessments
- ◆ **Monday 6th May** - Bank Holiday
- ◆ **Monday 13th - Thursday 23rd May** - Year 10 Exams
- ◆ **Friday 24th May** - Staff Training Day - **SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS**
- ◆ **Monday 27th - Friday 31st May** - Half Term Break
- ◆ **Wednesday 5th - Friday 7th June** - Year 7 & 8 Exams
- ◆ **Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th June** - Whole School Open Mornings, 9am-11am
- ◆ **Week commencing 1st July** - Year 12 Transition Week for the new Sixth Form students
- ◆ **Friday 5th July** - Sports Day
- ◆ **Friday 12th July** - School Fete
- ◆ **Monday 15th - Friday 19th July** - Year 10 & Year 12 Work Experience
- ◆ **Friday 19th July** - End of Term - Students finish at 12.30pm

OUR VISION & VALUES

“OPENING A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES”

Demonstrating **respect** and **courage** in order to **flourish**

The Purpose

Our school vision “Opening a World of Opportunities” is at the heart of everything that, as students, staff and governors, we are aiming to achieve. Through our broad curriculum, behaviours and enrichment opportunities, the aim is that every student leaves KNGS with the knowledge, skills, understanding, confidence and behaviours to be successful in whatever they put their minds to.

To decide on the three core values to support us in achieving our vision we set about a process to find values that:

- Encapsulate the fundamental beliefs of the school.
- Define the behaviours and determine that the school is on right path to fulfilling its goals.
- That are as applicable and usable for students as staff, governors and parents.
- That work across all aspects of school life and the local community.

The Process

By looking at our current values and those of other schools, the Leadership Team came up with a list of 42 words that could possibly be our core values. The list was shared with staff, students and governors, who added another 5 words.

As independent groups students, staff and governors carried out the following exercise:

Students:

- Small group discussions in tutor groups to identify their 3 core values.
- Each tutor group agreed and submitted 3 core values.
- Student Leadership Group met and agreed on two sets of core values.

Staff:

- Small group discussions to identify their 3 core values.
- Sharing of ideas across the staff.
- Staff agreed on 10 preferred values.

Governors:

- Chose 3 core values and then adapted these once they were aware of student and staff choices.

A working group made up of students, staff and governors met and the 13 most popular choices from across all three groups were put together as a starting point for discussion.

Personal behaviours	Communal behaviours	Behaviour link to outcomes
Confidence	Compassion	Achieve
Courage	Diversity	Ambition
Determination	Equality	Flourish
Resilience	Respect	Succeed
	Together	

The Outcome - Our Values

Respect:

Respect is absolutely key to the success of all the values. It represents respect for ourselves, respect for others and respect for our environment, both in school and the community. It means us being able to listen to others views and demonstrate a willingness to understand. It encourages us to promote equality and respect diversity.

Respect doesn't mean we always have to agree with each other, and we will need to show courage to express our opinions, but it does mean having a consideration and regard for the way in which we communicate and behave towards each other.

Courage:

Courage is relevant to everyone. It's inclusive because we choose whether we show it or not. To be courageous we need to be determined and resilient, we don't need to be confident to have courage but the more courageous we are the more confident we will grow. Amongst other things it means doing and saying the things that we may find really difficult.

Flourish:

Along with respect, this was one of the student's top choices. The more I consider this value, the more I like it and the deeper it's meaning becomes.

According to Aristotle it's our ultimate human purpose, the goal of life. It can be translated as 'happiness' or 'wellbeing' but it includes the fact that life contains ups and downs and that we can flourish in either of these contexts.

Flourish links well to the other two values; If we respect ourselves, others and our environment and are courageous in our actions and choices then we will flourish.

Flourish incorporates, success, achieve and ambition but its more than those. We can relate flourish to our health and well being, how we as individuals make progress at school and work, in friendships, in our enrichment activities, as well as in academic achievement.

Students in particular thought that the other three words (Behaviour column in the table on the previous page) link more to academic achievement, which are important, but flourish was much wider.

With our wider school focus on literacy the choice of two nouns and a verb caused quite a bit of discussion and we found two solutions to the communication of the three core values. And decided on:

“Opening a World of Opportunities”

Demonstrating **respect** and **courage** in order to **flourish**

After Easter students will be focusing on the three core values and how they help us achieve our school vision, I hope you will work with us in ensuring these are embedded in everything we do.

Mrs Raggett

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday, 7 March 2019 and to highlight the importance of 'reading for pleasure' across the school various book related events were held throughout the week.

Book Quest

On Monday, 4 March 2019 and Tuesday, 5 March 2019 students took part in a 'Book Quest' around school. 100 members of staff wore a badge which displayed the title of a book and the author. Students had two days to compile a list of as many of the book titles as possible. It was a really successful event as lots of students from Year 7 to Year 10 took part and it encouraged students to talk about books they recognised.

KNGS Book Character Fancy Dress Day

KNGS Book Character Fancy Dress Day took place on Wednesday, 6 March 2019. Both staff and students put a massive amount of effort into their costumes, and it was very entertaining seeing all of the different 'characters' teaching and walking around school. Outfits included the Snow Queen, Miss Trunchball, Maleficent, Winnie the Pooh and Eeyore. Judging took place during lunchtime in the Learning Hub. The winning members of staff were, for the second year running, the Science Department who were dressed as characters from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Mrs Skinner, the Business Manager, who was dressed as Lucy Westenra from Dracula. The winning pupil was Charlotte Pickup.



David Massey Author Visit

On World Book Day itself, Thursday, 7 March 2019, the author David Massey visited the school to talk to all the students in Year 7 and Year 8. He gave an inspiring talk about his books, as well as the process of writing a good story. The students asked David some great questions, which they had thought about before, as they had produced some fantastic posters about him in a previous library lesson. Following the talks David also ran two creative writing workshops with Year 7 and Year 10, where the students worked on character development. The author was really impressed with the school and the pupils and emailed saying that 'the behaviour of the students was exemplarily and we were really impressed with the level of creativity and focus in the creative writing workshops'.



SKI VISIT TO CRANS MONTANA, SWITZERLAND

2nd - 8th March, 2019

31 Year 8 KNGS pupils along with students from Swanshurst, Lordswood Girls and St Edmund Campion travelled to Switzerland for the annual Birmingham School's Consortium Ski Visit.

Arriving late at night, we were treated to the breath-taking views that the hotel had to offer early the next morning. Myself and Miss Wattison were woken by gasps of amazement going down the corridor as room by room they pulled back their curtains to the magnificent view.



5 days of skiing followed with fantastic progress being made. Longer and harder runs completed as group by group made their way higher and higher up the mountain. My favourite comment / assumption of 'Miss we skied from the top' being smashed when they realised there was much more to what they could initially see and then they actually did travel to 'the top'.

Brilliant evening activities of a torchlight walk, tennis and badminton centre sports, 'Cool Runnings' film night and celebration of chocolate evening as well as a disco complimented our skiing activities well.

Reflections from pupils at the end of the week showed just how much progress had been made, not only in skiing but in their personal, social and emotional development as well, and were a pleasure to listen to making it all worthwhile:

"I've learnt that I can ski and that's its ok to fall, as long as you get back up again and carry on. Towards the end of the week, I fell a lot but I realised that's because I was actually challenging myself. I gained confidence and definitely improved my organisation" **Karen Fossey**

"I had a fantastic time, I became really close with my friends and I've learnt new skills. My confidence has grown and I definitely pushed myself to my limit and learnt to trust myself. I will never forget this" **Megan Hopwood**
"I feel positive, confident and strong. I am leaving behind some of my anxieties and I am bringing home with me teamwork and more self-confidence" **Emma Davies**

"I have come back with some confidence as I fell over lots but I realised that I should get back up stronger and learn from my mistakes. I overcame homesickness and became more responsible" **Darcey Williams**

"I have learnt how to use my fears and worries as an advantage, using them to motivate me to overcome them. From this trip I will take more confidence in the things I do as I can overcome challenges. My advice I would tell people is enjoy every moment and its ok to come out of your comfort zone as that way you gain more memories and learn more skills" **Poppy Drummond**

They should all be very proud of themselves for their achievements and a massive thank you to all involved that make it possible.

Opening a World of Opportunities

Mrs Currie

FIESTA HISPANICA

Routes into Languages Event at Aston University

At the end of February ten Year 9 Spanish students made their way to Aston University to take part in "Routes into Languages" Fiesta Hispanica along with a number of other school from across the Midlands area.

This was an opportunity for students to use their Spanish skills and immerse themselves in Spanish culture. They were divided up into different groups to work with students from the other schools, and were asked to prepare and then present presentations in Spanish/English on 3 Hispanic cultural icons - Ernesto Che Guevara, Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Frida Kahlo.

Not only were the girls an absolute credit to the school and the perfect ambassadors, but 4 of them (Ella, Sarah, Isabel and Gurjit) actually won prizes for their presentations ("ofrenda" displays and speeches).



GERMAN & HISTORY EXCHANGE VISIT TO GYMNASIUM MELLE

12th - 18th March, 2019



What a wonderful week we had in Germany! Twelve KNKS girls travelled over to Melle to visit the German partners they had hosted here at KNKS in October. There was a real air of excitement on the flight to Hannover. Our students couldn't wait to meet their partners again. Our girls attended lessons for two days. They were grilled about the Brexit situation in the politics lesson they attended. Maths, French, English, science and computer science were also on the timetable. On Thursday afternoon we all engaged in two different workshops with our German partners. In the history workshop we looked at four periods of German history – the Hanseatic League, Thirty Years' War, Otto von Bismarck and the divided Germany of 1948 – 1990. The girls really engaged with the themes and could make lots of links when visiting Osnabrück and Bremen. German students also beavered away with their German partners preparing themselves for their German speaking exams.

On Friday we spent a very wet day in Bremen doing a treasure hunt to learn about the history of this beautiful city. The huge "Friday for Future" march could not be overlooked. Lots of German students were taking part. The weekend was spent in families and students did so many different things – trampolining, escape room, trips to the beautiful city of Cologne, family birthday parties and much more!

elled to Hannover where we had a short guided tour of Hannover's main historic buildings, did some language activities and there was still time left for shopping before heading to the airport.

Miss Magné and Mrs Weatherup would like to say a huge "THANK YOU" to all of the girls who took part. Their participation and enthusiasm for the aims of the exchange were exemplary and we know that many girls have made friends for life.

On Monday we said goodbye to our partners in the morning and trav-



GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIP

On Wednesday March 20th 79 year 10 geographers conducted their GCSE urban fieldwork. Thankfully the sun shone, as we were outside for most of the day. Students were conducting a range of environmental quality surveys and questionnaires as part of their primary research to investigate - how and why quality of life varies within Birmingham.

Back at school we are now exploring this question further using a combination of primary and secondary research methods and evaluating the benefits and challenges of each. The same group of students will be going back into the 'field' in September to conduct a river study at the Long Mynd in Carding Mill Valley...let's hope the sun shines on them then too!

AUTHOR VISIT

Year 9 Meet Holly Bourne

On Wednesday 13th March 2019 ten year 9 students attended a talk by Holly Bourne at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys.

Holly talked about her most recent book, *'Are we all lemmings and snowflakes?'* which deals with mental health, school life and relationships. Her talk was part of her Kindness is Contagious tour where she talks to young people about the importance of empathy and removing the stigma surrounding mental health as well as incorporating the importance of reading for enjoyment, the skills a writer needs and some of the PSHE curriculum.

Copies of her books were on sale on the day and there was an opportunity for students to get them signed and chat to Holly after the talk.



DYSLEXIA PUPIL VOICE GROUP

Drama Workshop

The Dyslexia Pupil Voice Group have been keen to do 'something creative' all year, so we were delighted to welcome Jess Hakin, of Constellations Drama, into KNGS earlier this month.

13 pupils from Years 7-13 ventured into school on a very rainy Training Day to take part in a full morning workshop. Jess' workshop was developed especially for the group around a theme of 'Invisible to Visible'. The sessions aim was to 'develop confidence, creativity and communication skills'. By the end of the session it was very clear these aims had been met. It was lovely to watch pupils step outside their comfort zones, get to know each other better and really bond as a group. Above all, it was great to watch them express their ideas and have fun. The feedback from the group suggests they gained a lot of confidence and would be keen to repeat this experience:



"I enjoyed working with people who I didn't really know very well and I think people were very respectful to each other's ideas."

"I didn't think that reflection on some of these feelings by exploring them physically would be so powerful."

"Made new friends that I didn't talk to previously."

"More confident and happy."

"Amazing!"

Mrs Vaughan (Inclusion)

THE HIVE

Bee Yourself Tapestry Project

Twenty Year 9 Textiles students took part in a Tapestry Workshop led by Tina Francis in collaboration with the Hive. The aim of the 'Bee Yourself' project is to bring together 1000 people from across Birmingham to craft tapestry bees for a collaborative tapestry artwork which connects Birmingham people and places, cultures, stories and heritage. These 1000 individual



bees will be stitched together into one single artwork by

needlepoint tapestry artist Tina Francis. The final artwork will be on display at the Hive in the Jewellery Quarter from July 2019.

Following on from this workshop, four Year 9 girls; Eva Williams, Mia-Abi Thornton, Faith Bowron and Paige Lewis all helped to facilitate a workshop at Meadow Green Primary School and pass on the skills that they had gained to help 45 Year 4 students create their own individual bee tapestries to add to the collaborative Bee Tapestry.



CALLING ALL KNITTERS & CROCHETERS - THE INNOCENT BIG KNIT

We were aiming to knit or crochet at least one 100 hats, however we smashed that target in the first three weeks and have now reset the target to 250 hats and would appreciate your help. The initiative is run by Innocent Drinks who donate 25p to Age UK every time a hatted bottle is sold. If you would like to take part we would be really grateful. The initiative will run until June 2019 and all the details, as well as the patterns to make the hats, can be found at www.biknit.co.uk/about. Completed hats should be given to Mrs Edwards in the Learning Hub by the end of June 2019.



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

This year we celebrated British Science Week with a range of activities with participation from students in Years 7-13.



The Year 10 Science Ambassadors had conducted interviews with family and friends of KNGS to find out about their careers in science. They did a great job of leading assemblies to address some of the myths that we have about scientists. 'The Room of Fire and Fury' gave students in KS3 and KS4 the opportunity to see some explosive scientific demonstrations, led by our senior technician, Ms Davis. Students in KS4 and KS5 were able to find out about a career in medicine from our visiting psychiatrist, Dr Patel, who gave some great insights into her career path as well as her day-to-day job. At the end of British Science Week, the annual Big Science Quiz was battled out between Sixth Form students and KNGS staff. Although the results were very close the

title returned to a staff team this year – Mrs Miller, Ms Davis and Mr Charlett. Well done to all the Sixth Formers who took part!



REDISCOVER EVENT

Nine Year 9 students spent the day at the University of Birmingham working as a team. They had to devise a digital centred business proposal and present it to schools from across the region. We worked alongside mentors from Lloyds Banking Group and each stage of the challenge was linked to curriculum subjects; showing their real world applications.

The girls were an absolute credit to the school with special mentions to Esmahan El-Baltagi and Faith Bowron who led our team's presentation. Faith even won a prize for the best social media post of the day! The day finished with a tour of the university.

Opening a World of Opportunities



SUCCESSSES

STAFF SUCCESS

Well Done Mr Abelson!

Congratulations to Mr Abelson on having his photograph (right) selected for the RBSA (Royal Birmingham Society of Artists) Photographic Prize Exhibition. The selected photograph was on display at an exhibition held at the RBSA Gallery in Birmingham during March.



TENNER CHALLENGE

Young Enterprise

Year 10 Business Ambassadors and Year 7 students are currently taking part in the Young Enterprise 'Tenner Challenge'. Students have applied for funding of £10.00 to put their business ideas in to practice. They have a four week period to run their business with the aim of making as much money as possible.

Year 10 students have set up 'Scrub a Dub' and are organising a staff car wash. In Year 7 'The Sewing Bees' are making and selling bracelets and hair scrunchies in the Learning Hub at break and lunch time. Another business 'Evibel's' are selling stationary in the Learning Hub during lunchtime. We will let you know in the next newsletter how they have got on!

SPORTING UPDATE

Basketball

The Year 10 basketball team made it through to the finals, playing Four Dwellings recently - it was an excellent match, with our girls playing some amazing zone defence, completely halting the scoring of their players. The game finished as a Four Dwellings win, with great sport-personship shown by all. Well done girls.

Year 7s played in their final on the 2nd April against St Paul's. The score was 30 - 10 to St Paul's, positioning the team runners up in their league. The team played really well, showed some lovely defence, particularly in the 3rd and 4th quarters of the match. Excellent effort and well done!



Inter-House Dance Competition

It was really pleasing to see students from Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 competing in our annual Inter-House Dance Competition. The audience really enjoyed and appreciated the variety of dance styles. Well done to all those who took part.

1st place Allannah Gardiner **Year 7 KELLER**

Joint 2nd place Evie Roe & Andrea Biju **Year 9 SHARMAN** & Leah Haddock **Year 10 KELLER**

3rd place Isabel Band **Year 7 SHARMAN**

Netball

Well done to the KNGS Netball teams on their achievements this season in the Kings Norton Netball League:

League results:

Year 7 – 4th place

Year 8 – 1st place

Year 9 – 7th place

Year 10 & 11 – 3rd place

End of season tournaments:

Year 8 – 3rd place

Year 9 – Group stage

Year 10 & 11 – 2nd place

EXAMINATIONS

Mock Examinations

Mock exam timetables have been distributed to Years 9, 10 and 12 this term. Generic timetables can be found on the schools exam page: www.kngs.co.uk/parents/examinations. Students are reminded that during their mock exams they should arrive to school ready and prepared, this includes with the correct stationery (a full list can be found on the website), a good night's sleep and a positive attitude. Copies of seating plans can be found on the Examinations Noticeboard (outside Room 6) on the day of exams.



If any students are unable to attend their mock exam due to illness/appointments, the school office would need to be notified as usual and also the Exams Officer, to rearrange any missed exams.

GCSE's & A Levels

External exams are just around the corner, revision should be well under way and students should be focussing their time on their examinations at school and at home. A reminder that the "Candidate Handbook" can be found on the school's website. This has exam information for our Year 11 and 13 students. We ask that both students and parents/carers are familiar with the schools procedures. Students will be issued with an updated timetable with their room and seating arrangements, after the Easter holidays.



GCSE's and A Level's are extremely important exams; **they are set by external examination boards and therefore cannot be rescheduled.** Students need to ensure they are prompt and prepared for all of their exams. If your child is feeling unwell on the day of their exam please contact the Exams Officer before 8:30am to discuss what options are available.

Results day letters will go out to all students next term and there will be a copy on the schools website, this will detail what to do if you are unable to collect your results personally.

- **First Day of GCSE's:** Monday 13th May
- **First Day of A Level's:** Monday 20th May
- **Year 13 Study Leave Begins:** Monday 20th May
- **Year 11 Study Leave Begins:** Monday 3rd June
- **A Level Results Day:** Thursday 15th August
- **GCSE Results Day:** Thursday 22nd August

Any queries please do not hesitate to contact our Examinations Officer, Miss Chloe Welch at 0121 675 1305 or cwelch@kngs.co.uk.

We wish all students sitting exams next term the very best of luck!

Supporting Your Child Through Exams

The Year 11 Parents as Partners Evening for Year 11 & 13 was a very successful event during which parents and carers were presented with insights, advice and practical tips for supporting their daughters and sons through forthcoming GCSE and A Level exams. The evening included:

1. **How does it feel to be a parent at this stressful time?** Insights from the experience of parenting her own children through exams, from Headteacher Mrs Raggett.
2. **What does effective revision look like?** Practical, research-based guidance on effective revision techniques, from Miss Davies.
3. **How should students avoid distractions while preparing for exams?** Identifying common distractions and advice on how to minimise or avoid them, from Mr Charlett.
4. **How much work is 'hard-work'?** Specific guidance on exactly how much work your daughter or son should be doing in the lead up to exams, from Mr Charlett.
5. **How do I protect my child's (and my own) wellbeing?** Tips on how to stay well mentally and physically during exam season, from Mrs Shakespeare.

A copy of the presentation from the evening is available on the school website at: www.kngs.co.uk/parents/parents-as-partners/ under 'Useful Resources'.

HOUSE NEWS

Comic Relief

We had an amazing Comic Relief at KNGS. We raised close to £1000. We had a staff performance by Heads of Houses and the lovely and talented Mr Willis!!!

We had an amazing cake sale which was down to a generous contribution from staff/students...thank you all! In addition, staff and students wrote jokes and these were shared with other students by posting them in their pigeon holes!

Thank you KNGS for showing great generosity and true respect by joining in and raising money for such a great cause!

Gauntlet Games

We have had a successful start to our Gauntlet Games-Remote Jigsaw! Students have really embraced the opportunity to flourish in teamwork and shown great enthusiasm as well as untapped skills! Well done all!!!

The games have been so successful that we have laid the Gauntlet to Lloyds! We are having a **KNGS staff VS Lloyds challenge** to raise money for Alzheimer's Society on Thursday 11th April at lunchtime.

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

KELLER HOUSE: Elizabeth Dewes (K2), Daisy Yorke (K8), Esuri Bandara (K1), Matilda Johnston (K2), Mia Maynard (K8) & Ayasha Mills (K4).

NIGHTINGALE HOUSE: Whole of Form N7, Jasmine Rigby (N1) Mia-Abi Thornton (N6), Priscilla Joseph (N2), Kellis Farrell (N6) & Emma-Louise Maddocks (N8).

GOODALL HOUSE: Shilo Spencer Pote (G7), Alice Cockcroft (G5), Poppy Brayne (G5), Yusur Farah (G6) & Neve Savage (G3).

SHARMAN HOUSE: Ava Gretton (S3), Stephanie Hill (S7), Liberty Seadon (S3), Lola Edwards (S3), Beatrice Ledgister (S5), Evie Flemming (S4) and Lily Mole (S6).



AMNESTY YOUTH GROUP

The Amnesty Youth Group has been very active this half term. We have led campaigns to support women whose lives are at risk because they have been standing up for other people's rights. We completed petitions for:

Amal Fathy who has been sentenced to 2 years imprisonment in Egypt for criticizing the government for not tackling sexual harassment issues in the country. She was charged with spreading fake news.

Azza Soliman, a women's rights lawyer in Egypt, who has been persecuted by the Egyptian government for standing up for women's rights in Egypt and faces imprisonment if found guilty of false charges.

A **group of women in Poland** who demonstrated against a right-wing extremist demonstration calling for a white Poland by draping a flag with the words "Stop facism" nearby were attacked by the right-wing extremists but find themselves charged for disturbing a lawful march. The investigation into the injuries they sustained in the attack has been dropped.

Then on 28th March the group organised a cake sale to raise funds for Amnesty International UK.

Thank you to all staff and students at KNGS who have supported our events.



Opening a World of Opportunities

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

SLG managed to put on another great event, this time for International Women's Day. The theme this year was #balanceforbetter and the students got involved in making a huge variety of ingenious games to promote gender equality.

The students also lead two assemblies and planned a 'Theme of the Week' activity for every form group in the school.

Looking forward to next term, we will have a focus on mental well-being within school. SLG will be helping to create and run outdoor activities to encourage students to maintain a healthy lifestyle.



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Sixth Form Admissions 2019

Kings Norton Sixth Form have had a phenomenal amount of applications this year for September 2019. The total number of applications is currently at 270, which includes internal students and external ones, and we have offered 235 provisional places.

Due to the vast amount of applicants, the first round of interviews was held on Tuesday 26th February, and the second round was held on Tuesday 12th March. Applicants were incredibly positive about our Sixth Form, and we look forward to welcoming our new Year 12's in September!

UCAS

The total number of university places offered for September 2019 intake is 92. Our students are holding offers from a wide-range of universities including a huge number from the Russell Group.

Due to the strong predicted grades, amazing personal statements and references provided by teachers, we have:

- 3 who have accepted conditional offers from Cambridge.
- 12 who have accepted unconditional offers.
- 49 who have accepted conditional offers.
- 24 still making their mind-up (with a mixture of conditional and unconditional offers).
- 7 still waiting for all their offers to come in, but who are holding offers.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 13's the very best of luck in their examinations in the summer. We sincerely hope they achieve the results we know they are so capable of, and secure their first choice place at University.

Examinations

With exam season approaching Year 12 are currently preparing for their formal assessments and Year 13 are preparing for their final exams. We wish them all the best of luck!

Year 12 Work Experience

The Work Experience programme was launched to students in October. In the assembly, students were given information on the deadlines they must meet to ensure they had enough time.

Many Year 12 students have found exciting and interesting places to carry out their work experience which they will hopefully thoroughly enjoy, and it will give them an insight into the world of work. Work experience is valuable in that it enables students to build their soft skills, their employability skills, and be more confident in their choices post-18.

Students are expected to, where they can, carry out work experience in the field they wish to enter into either after A Levels, or after University. The deadline to source work experience has passed and students must confirm their places on work experience as soon as possible.

Support will be given from the Sixth Form Team if students are struggling to find work experience.

Year 12 Coventry University Visit

This month there have been two events when the Sixth Form and Coventry University have teamed up for events. In early March, Emma Lambert a Tutor on the Coventry University BA Photography course spend a morning with both Year 12 and 13 students conducting portfolio reviews and showing them some photobooks. The students found the day inspiring and extremely helpful and some will be incorporating a photobook into their A Level submissions.

On Wednesday 20th March the Year 12 photographers visited Coventry University Photography Dept. to see several exhibitions staged by the 2nd year undergraduates and also to engage in some workshops. They had their photograph taken using a Victorian technique using a glass plate on a camera over 100 years old. They also took part in a Fashion Photography Workshop which was both great fun and inspiring.



Sembre

Five students studying Art and Textiles A Level were given a valuable opportunity to gain work experience as shop window display designers for Sember in Bournville. Sember is a small family business selling organic children's clothes, wooden toys, sustainable goods and reusable products.

An initial meeting took place in February where the students were introduced to the ethos of the shop and the products on sale. They quickly got to work on their ideas and designs before arriving at a final outcome inspired by spring for the shop's April display. Using recycled card and paper for the majority of the work, the students created props such as large scale paper flower sculptures, birds and a hand woven nest containing painterly egg sculptures. On installing the display, the students also selected products from the shop to dress the window in order to promote the season's clothes and toys. We'd like to thank Sember for giving the students experience of working to a live brief, an insight to what it would be like working as part of a design team and seeing their work in a commercial setting.



The owner of the shop was extremely pleased with the display and with the girls' effort and conduct. "It looks really inviting. It's the perfect spring Easter window. It's been a pleasure having the girls here".

We look forward to doing another display for Sember next year.

Spectroscopy in a Suitcase

On Wednesday our Year 12 chemistry students took part in the "Spectroscopy in a Suitcase" workshop that was led by Dr Mark Read, Senior Lecturer from the University of Birmingham School of Chemistry. This RSC, UoB funded programme provided an amazing opportunity for our Year 12's to use a highly sophisticated infrared Spectrometer to identify unknown materials in the same way as a forensic scientist or a research chemist.

Thank you to the UoB, the RSC and Dr Mark Read for running this workshop, which has challenged and inspired our Year 12 students.

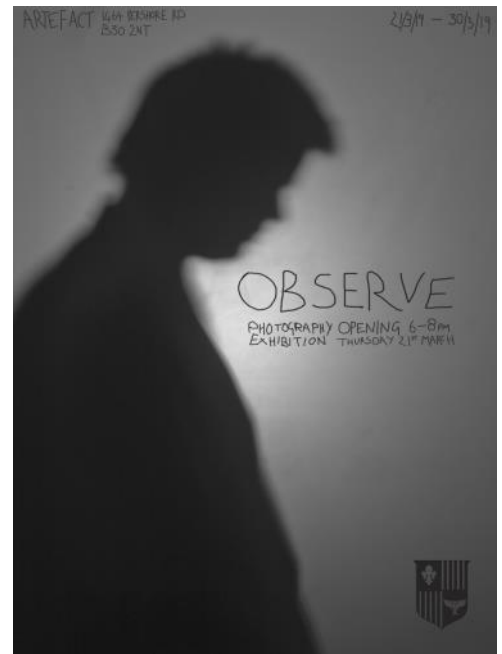


Year 12 Art Exhibition at Artefact

Now in its third year the Year 12 Photography Exhibition held at Artefact Café in Starchley is becoming a fixture in the pre-Easter calendar.

The exhibition opened with an evening reception March 21st which was well attended by students, staff and parents. The consensus was that this was the strongest showing yet. The students were happy with the outcome and it has been a most valuable experience in group co-operation and completing tasks by deadlines.

The exhibition was on for two weeks and we are looking forward to holding another next year.



Sixth Former Wins Prize at National Photographic Competition

Congratulations to Sixth Former Josie Drapkin, on winning the Judge's Favourite category of the Economic and Social Research Council 'Better Lives' competition for her photograph 'A proud embrace'.

The 'Better Lives' photo competition is the fifth to be organised by the Economic and Social Research Council, and gives young people aged 14-18 the opportunity to get creative with their cameras and smartphones, and explore the real issues that impact society. This year the competition asked students to take a photograph exploring what the phrase 'better lives' means to them. Pupils were encouraged to think about how health, relationships, education, the economy and the environment all contribute to society and people's lives.

The judges were overwhelmed by the quality of the entrants, and there were more than 506 images submitted by students from 160 schools in the UK.

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Josie's photo was chosen as the winner by judge Joanne Gallagher, a student at the University of York who was crowned winner of the competition in 2016.

Describing her photo, which shows two men jubilantly embracing at London Pride in 2018, Josie says: "The Pride event is a very important day for many LGBTQ+ people as well as their friends and family, as it marks a day of acceptance and expression. The idea of 'Better Relationships' blossoms at Pride, as strangers become friends and friends become even closer. As well as pride there can be a sense of vulnerability in allowing yourself to be seen as something that many have discriminated against for a long time. However, this photo shows the positive outcome that this vulnerability can lead to."

Josie took home a prize fund of £50 in vouchers at an awards ceremony held at Espacio Gallery in London on 26 March. Her image was displayed in a special exhibition at the gallery between 27th - 30th March.

A fantastic achievement - well done Josie!

A fantastic achievement - well done Josie!



BRAIN AWARENESS

A Psychology Trip to Leicester University - March 13th

There was a noticeable buzz in the air on the train to Leicester University and it was easy to understand why. Coming up to two years of studying A Levels, we had never been on a school trip for Psychology before. Naturally, we jumped at the chance to attend a Neuroscience Day at Leicester University. Now, you might be thinking that neuroscience is biology, not psychology (and I was even assumed to be a biology student myself by one of the researchers at the University) but your brain says a lot about who you are and more importantly, *why* you are who you are. I mean, what did you think we were doing down there in room 15? Quizzing each other about our relationship with our fathers?

When we arrived at Leicester Uni we went straight to a lecture hall and learned about new treatments for OCD, why we eat the things we eat and, of all things, locust ears. Yes. *Locust ears*. As random as it sounds, the talk proved to be quite insightful and held important implications for the way we understand human hearing and the potential auditory threats which can damage it. The other two talks deepened our understanding of biopsychology and neural explanations for mental disorders particularly well and acted as a reminder that, as complex as we human beings may be, we're still animals at the end of the day. As much as we believe we rise above our biology and that everything we do is a product of our environment, biology (especially neural biology) is hugely important.

We were provided with the most recent research into new treatments for OCD - direct brain implants which alleviate symptoms, acting almost like an on/off switch for the disorder. We also got to see how baby zebra fish with their unique ability to light up, can further a better understanding of the mechanisms underlying motor neuron disease. It was fascinating to see real examples of research and how, bit-by-bit, we are edging ever closer to being able to control disorders which are, at this moment seriously debilitating.

Talking to researchers helped to contextualise the information we have been learning in the classroom. For example, we had heard in lessons that a bug in fMRI scanning software may have invalidated thousands of previous research findings. The same bug meaning that even when you scanned something that was quite clearly not alive; it still showed patterns of brain activity. Luckily, I was able to speak to someone involved in the field of brain scanning and ask about this seemingly catastrophic oversight. He reassured me that it wasn't a big deal - this was a relief (if a little anti-climactic).

Of course, it wouldn't be psychology without a few tricks and mind-games. There were a variety of optical illusions, perception tasks and a fancy pair of glasses that made your aim all wonky. They left us frustrated, entertained and thoroughly intrigued as we walked away from Leicester Uni. Overall, it was a very productive and interesting day and well worth the two year wait. Besides, there was free cake. Everybody loves free cake.

Written by Charlotte Marston, Year 13.



UPDATE ON SIXTH FORM BUILD...

Things are really starting to take shape on site with lorry loads of concrete having been poured to create the foundations. The last week has seen the delivery and the



initial installation of the steels which is making the project feel very real!

The steels will be fully installed around Easter with the week commencing 15th April seeing the sub-floor preparation taking place, ready for the concrete slabs for the floors to be installed later in the month.



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.



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.



YEAR 11 GROUP PHOTOGRAPH

STILL AVAILABLE TO ORDER!

The Year 11 photograph taken earlier in the year is still online and available to order at the below website:

Website: www.gsimagebank.co.uk/kngs

Token: **efka5x2019**

A larger and clearer image can be viewed by logging onto the above website.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact Gillman & Soame directly at enquiries@gillmanandsoame.co.uk or on 01869 328200.

Please note that all orders must be made online and not via school.



Opening a World of Opportunities

