

Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome Back

It has been fantastic to welcome students back since September. I am very pleased with how students have settled into the new routines we have put in place, the respect they have shown each other and staff and their engagement with learning. I would also like to thank parents and carers for their support since September.

Parent Governors

Welcome to our two new parent governors Ursula Doerry and Jitesh Parmar. Ursula will be sitting on the Curriculum and Standards Committee and Jitesh the Resources Committee. I look forward to working with them over the coming years and welcome the support and challenge they will have to offer. Ursula and Jitesh's profiles are available on the school website at: www.kngs.co.uk/about-us/governance/meet-the-governors/



Relationships and Sex Education Policy Consultation

You may be aware that in June 2019, the DfE published new guidance on "Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education" (June 2019). This guidance:

- a) Makes it compulsory for all schools to have an RSE Policy and to consult parents and carers in the development of that policy;
- b) Sets out the topics that need to be taught to students by the end of secondary schools; and makes changes to the right of parents or carers to withdraw their child from the elements of sex education that are not taught as part of the compulsory national science curriculum.

School have a responsibility to start delivering this guidance from Summer 2021 at the latest.

I have now updated the Kings Norton Girls' School RSE Policy and we are now in a position to consult on this policy. I would very much welcome your feedback. Information on the consultation, links to the policy and Microsoft forms consultation feedback can be found on the following page.

Thank you all for your continued support over this challenging time.

Kind regards

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Monday 2nd - Friday 6th November** - Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 Assessments
- ◆ **Thursday 12th November** - Year 11 Parents Evening
- ◆ **Wednesday 25th November** - Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 Interim Results Issued **via SIMS PARENT App**
- ◆ **Thursday 26th November** - Sixth Form Parents Evening
- ◆ **Friday 27th November** - Staff Training Day. **SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS**
- ◆ **Wednesday 16th December** - Year 7 & 9 Interim Reports issued
- ◆ **Friday 18th December** - End of Term

RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY CONSULTATION

Please visit: <https://www.kngs.co.uk/about-us/policies/policy-consultation/> to review our Draft Relationships and Sex Education policy

Background

1. This consultation seeks your views on our Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Policy in line with requirements from the Department for Education (DfE).

2. In June 2019, the DfE published "Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education" (June 2019). This guidance:

- Makes it compulsory for all schools to have an RSE Policy and to consult parents and carers in the development of that policy;
- Sets out the topics that need to be taught to students by the end of secondary schools; and
- Makes changes to the right of parents or carers to withdraw their child from the elements of sex education that are not taught as part of the compulsory national science curriculum.

3. These and other topics are covered in our RSE Policy and [RSE Curriculum map](#). The new requirements formalise expectations but don't make significant changes to what we already teach our students. The topics required by the DfE were already taught as part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum, and in other subjects.

4. We have worked hard to make sure that our curriculum reflects:

- Our value of respect for all students and communities;
- Our students' age and maturity levels, as well as their cultural and religious backgrounds;
- Every students' learning needs; and
- What students need to know to be healthy and safe in school, in their personal relationships and in the wider world.

5. This consultation has been published on the schools' website. Parents and carers are invited to submit responses to the consultation questions at the following link:

[Consultation Questionnaire](#)

If you need a paper copy of the questionnaire please email Mrs Wilson: dwilson@kngs.co.uk or call the school office on 0121 675 1305 to request one and this will be sent to you.

6. The deadline for responses is **30th November 2020**.

7. We will consider responses to the consultation by **18th December 2020** so that our RSE Policy can be published before the start of the **Summer Term 2021**.

Mrs Nicola Raggett - Headteacher

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

SHOW RACISM THE **RED** CARD

KNGS Stand Together by Wearing Red

On Friday 16th October, we took part in 'Wearing Red Day'. Students wore an item of red clothing to support us standing together and 'Showing Racism the Red Card'.

Show Racism the Red Card (SRtRC) is one of the UK's largest anti-racism educational charity. It was established in January 1996, thanks in part to a donation by then Newcastle United goalkeeper Shaka Hislop.

Mrs Bi



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DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK 2020

Dyslexia Awareness Week was a necessarily more mellow affair than usual this year, so no noisy cake sales, treasure hunt style activities or dressing staff up in green! Instead, the Dyslexia Pupil Voice Group shared some appreciation and thankyou's with staff throughout this week to recognise their hard work support at such a challenging time:

"We are extremely lucky to have such a supportive group of staff and opportunities to make our voices and opinions heard, so thank you!"

"Thank you for checking in with me and having a quick word to say, 'Are you ok?'. It helps a lot."

"Thank you to staff for not being moody. I'd understand if they were, because of all that's going on, but they're not and that's been good."



The group also provided form time 'Theme of the Week' resources focussed on dyslexia as an 'invisible difficulty'. Heads of House delivered inspiring assemblies on overcoming challenges and included personal accounts of succeeding with dyslexia. To fit in with the British Dyslexia Association's theme of 'Dyslexia Creates...', the Pupil Voice Group launched a competition to create a logo to reflect their group values – watch this space for winning entries. The group and I also enjoyed catching up within 'year group bubbles' to celebrate the week with some much needed cake!



Mrs Vaughan (Inclusion)

GCSE POD

Revision Resource Now Available

As a subscriber, your child now has access to GCSEPod's library of over 6,000 'Pods,' 3-5 minute videos designed to deliver knowledge in short bursts. GCSEPod makes learning and revision much more manageable: every Pod is mapped to an exam board, and contains all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that your child needs for GCSE success – all neatly organised into topics and exam playlists.

One of the best things about GCSEPod is that you can download any Pod to your child's mobile device, and then they can watch them at any time, in any place, with or without internet. It's like they're carrying a whole set of textbooks in their pocket! Make sure you download the GCSEPod app from the App Store (Apple and Android are supported) to access this feature. They can browse the GCSEPod library and create their own playlists – just as they would when they're listening to music.

For more ways to support your child using GCSEPod, please visit www.gcsepod.com/parents where you'll find lots more information and resources.

Miss Walker - Head of English

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SUPPORT YOUR CHILD ON THE PATH TO SUCCESS

Your child's school has invested in the award winning resource, GCSEPod, to help your child reach their goals! Join the thousands of parents encouraging their children to use GCSEPod to support learning, homework and revision.

" I found GCSEPod especially useful to compliment my knowledge and I'm certain it helped me secure the grades that I have been so happy to receive. **"**
Student

" My daughter used GCSEPod for her GCSEs and was very successful with her results, she absolutely loved your Pods and this style of revising. **"**
Parent

" The correlation between success and failure was made almost 100% clear by the use of GCSEPod. **"**
Head of MFL, Yateley School

- ✓ Proven to increase results
- ✓ 25+ exam mapped subjects
- ✓ Available online and offline
- ✓ Audio visual content
- ✓ Builds confidence
- ✓ Use on the go, anytime, anywhere



For more information please visit www.gcsepod.com/parents

LOG ON NOW @ www.gcsepod.com



SHOUT OUT TO YEAR 7!

Creative Approach to Learning

My RE groups have been keen to complete the research and expert's carousel tasks within our topic of 'What Religions Teach' which are teamwork activities. As we can no longer do these in the classroom gathered to work in groups, pupils quickly found ways to create virtual research teams for their homework and then we braved the cold and did the feedback lesson outside.

So I would like to give my RE group's a massive shout out for their commitment to their learning, for the courage to do things differently and also give a recommendation for base-layers and fingerless gloves! I am super proud of the start Year 7's have made and how flexible and creative they are managing to be with their learning.

Mrs Currie

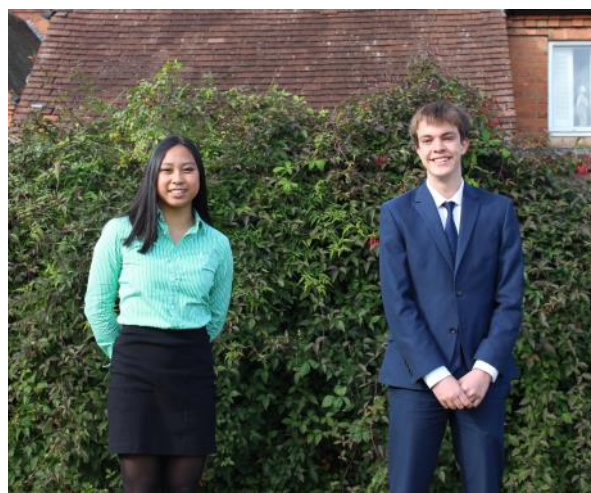
STUDENT LEADERSHIP

HEAD GIRL & HEAD BOY APOINTED

During the summer, the Head Student candidates worked hard to record a video presentation in order to explain why they should be appointed to the role. These video presentations were shown to all students during form time, and an electronic vote was conducted to determine which candidates would become our new Head Students.

The standard of applications, interviews and video presentations was extremely high; myself and the SLT members involved were all hugely impressed by the array of talents and the amount of passion that the students had for their school community. Every candidate was a credit to themselves and we are lucky to have them as part of our Sixth Form.

However, only two Head Students and one deputy can be appointed. On behalf of the school, I would like to congratulate Jodie Carreon and James Hill and on being appointed Head Students, and Shaska Nicholson on becoming our deputy.



Mr Houston

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

STILL TME TO PLACE ORDERS

School photograph order packs for Year 7, 9 & 11 students were sent home with students before half term. If you haven't placed your order yet and would like to receive your photographs in time for Christmas, orders can still be made online directly with the photography company - Gillman & Soames.

If you have misplaced your order pack please email Andrea Law: alaw@kngs.co.uk providing the name and form of your child and we will request an order link to be emailed to you.

All orders must be made online. Orders cannot be made via the school office.

SUPPORT IN LOCKDOWN

YOU'VE BEEN MISSED

Check out the [#YouveBeenMissed](#) campaign being promoted by Forward Thinking Birmingham, helping to support pupils, parents, carers and education professionals to aid children and young people in their return to school and during the forthcoming lockdown.

Information & resources can be found at:

<https://bwc.nhs.uk/youve-been-missed/>



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SIXTH FORM NEWS

SIXTH FORM VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING

As we are unable to welcome you into Sixth Form to visit in person, we have instead pulled together a Virtual Open Event package to capture the essence of KN6 and what makes it such a special place to study A Levels.

Please click on the link (to the right) to hear from our Headteacher as well as the students and staff at our Sixth Form or visit: www.kngs.co.uk/sixth-form/virtual-open-event/



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE KINGS NORTON SIXTH FORM VIRTUAL OPEN EVENT](http://www.kngs.co.uk/sixth-form/virtual-open-event/)

SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS

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

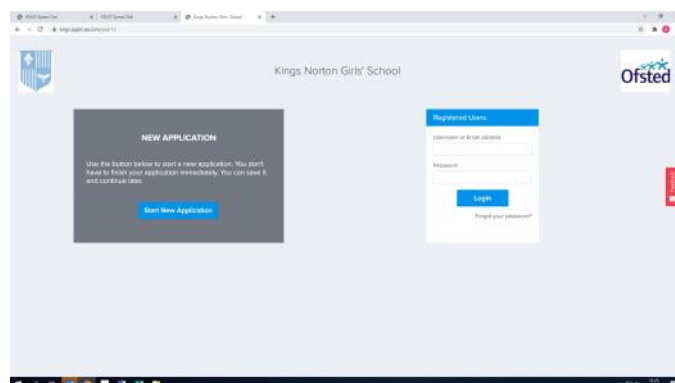
41 of our external students are boys, and 13 of them are girls, who have come from a range of secondary schools, including Kings Norton Boys', University of Birmingham School and Queensbridge.

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

APPLICATIONS FOR SIXTH FORM ARE OPEN

The application process to join us in September 2021 is now open. Applications can be made online and full details can be found on the website at: www.kngs.co.uk/sixth-form/apply/

If you have a child in Year 11 thinking about A Levels next year, then Kings Norton Sixth Form should be on your list of sixth forms to consider. With strong pastoral support, fantastic teaching and excellent results there really is only one choice! Make sure you also check out our Virtual Open Event - a link to this can be found above.



16-19 BURSARY FUND

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

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

UCAS APPLICATIONS

The **deadline for Oxbridge is 15th October and for all other applications is 15th January 2021. The internal deadline for students is 29th November** – this is when all students are aiming to have their UCAS completed by so that they can focus on their formal examinations.

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

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

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BONFIRE NIGHT



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

HAPPY, SAFE HALLOWEEN/BONFIRE NIGHT – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

With the darker nights fast approaching, it is important that students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour.




Parents/carers and students should already be aware that as part of our safeguarding arrangements, the school has a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are active members of the local Police & Schools Panel. This joint-approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving our students, and provide support and up-to-date safety messages.

Sadly, this year's Halloween, Bonfire night and the half term break will look very different due to COVID-19, so please be aware of the legislation and rules in place linked to this. Remember it is now a legal requirement to wear a mask on all public transport and within communal areas such as shops, cafes, restaurants and bars and we must maintain social distancing, ensure we abide by the the rule of six, and the bespoke rules for Birmingham regarding entering other people's homes: https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/coronavirus_advice | <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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

- **Anti-social behaviour:** Halloween can be a scary time for people who don't like surprises or callers at their door. Think about how your actions and behaviour affect others; elderly and vulnerable people may be frightened by 'trick or treat' so look out for signs in windows that people do not want callers at their door.
- **Personal Safety:**
 - Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep valuables such as phones out of public view whenever possible.
 - Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances; they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour and your ability to do well at school and enjoy other interests and activities. They can also be addictive and have unpredictable side effects, including sudden death!
 - West Midlands Fire Service recommends that you go to an organised display; it's the smart way to stay safe. You'll see a lot more fireworks and it's a lot cheaper. Information about firework safety is available at www.saferfireworks.com
- **Weapons in public places:** carrying a knife will get you a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel and job prospects. Those who carry knives are also much more likely to be injured by them.
- **Off-road bikes:** These can only be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. Don't risk your life and future prospects by illegally riding these on the road.
- **Remember the company you keep:** if your friend breaks the law, you may also be held responsible for that crime – even if you weren't the one directly responsible.

Yours sincerely

		
Nicola Raggett Headteacher <u>Kings Norton Girls' School & Sixth Form</u>	Mat Shaer Chief Superintendent - East NPU <u>West Midlands Police</u>	Stephen Graham Chief Superintendent - West NPU <u>West Midlands Police</u>

DROP OFF & PICK UP AT KNKS

Since all students have returned to school in September, I have had the envious role of standing at the top of the school driveway, ensuring they come onto the site at the relevant staggered start time. They have done a great job and enter school calmly and quickly.

I have also been monitoring adult behaviour in relation to dropping students off and picking them up and I am pleased that the majority would receive an "A" for driving and parking in a safe and responsible manner.

Unfortunately, there are some parents/carers/family members who continue to stop on the yellow lines, block our neighbours' driveways and carry out dangerous turning manoeuvres in the road.

As a reminder the Highway Code, <https://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/parking.html> section 243 states:

- **DO NOT** stop or park: near a school entrance,
- opposite another parked vehicle,
- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles,
- in front of an entrance to a property.



There are over a thousand students entering and leaving the site on a daily basis, please don't put them at risk just because you want to save a few seconds.

Drive, stop and park responsibly.

Mrs Skinner - Business Manager

SIMS PARENT APP - HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

In order to make it as easy as possible for you as parents/carers to access information relating to your child/children we use the SIMS Parent App at KNKS. SIMS is our school management system in which we collect and process information about your child.



	SIMS Parent App
Advantages for you as a parent/carer	Access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • important information such as attendance, achievement and behaviour • notifications of homework set for your child • your child's school report. <i>Paper copies of school reports are not provided</i> • school term dates, INSET dates & KNKS contact details in one place • notifications about key information such as key dates for your diary • update your contact details, so we always have the most up-to-date information in case of an emergency • information for all your children at KNKS & Sixth Form from the same App.

Interim reports will be sent out via the App later in November - please note paper copies are not sent home.

All parents have been emailed an invite to register for the SIMS Parents App - if you have not registered yet and your invite has expired or you don't think you have not received an invite, please contact the School Office via email at: enquiry@kngs.co.uk and a new link will be emailed out to you.

Please email rather than phone in the first instance to help us manage any queries.

Full details on the app can be found on the website at: <https://www.kngs.co.uk/parents/sims-parent-app/>

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