

KINGS NORTON GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

December 2020

Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Well done and thank you we have successfully got the end of a very different and challenging Autumn term, and we have much to celebrate.

I am delighted that the schools progress and achievement have been recognised nationally. Kings Norton Girls' School & Sixth Form has been shown to be one of the top comprehensive schools in the West Midlands over the last decade, ranking in the top 3 comprehensive schools in the West Midlands and in the top 190 across the whole country! With the dedication of the staff and students I have no doubt that we can ensure this continues. Congratulations to all staff and students over the past decade that have made this possible.

Not only have we all worked together to ensure students continue to learn and make excellent progress but we have also contributed to our wider community. Staff and students at KNGS have contributed to the sKIDs COVID surveillance testing for Public Health England, with more participants than any other school. And as a school we raised £1794 for Children in Need, with 7HRI raising £468 of that. Well done.

I have been impressed with how Year 7 and 12 have settled in this term, and their excellent attitudes to learning. One advantage of year group bubbles is that Year 7 have been able to decorate their tutor bases. I have much looking enjoyed judging this competition of festive decorations, which began to appear in November!!!



This term has been a challenge but really successful, and thanks need to go to so many people:

To our **incredible teaching staff** who have adapted to a completely new way of working this term to ensure that whether students are in the classroom or at home learning, they have continued to make excellent progress.

To our **amazing non-teaching staff**; the Student Support team, Heads of Year, IT and network support, cleaning and site teams and our administrative staff as they have all taken on additional work to implement new procedures to make sure that school is running smoothly in order to keep us all as safe as possible and that students can work effectively in and out of school.

To our parents and carers for your continued support and patience this term in some really difficult situations. For updating the school in a timely manner relating to positive COVID cases and your diligence in supporting us in minimising the spread of COVID. Thank you to the parents/carers that also responded to our Relationships & Sex Education Policy Consultation. We received 36 responses and comments were positive. I will feedback to Governors on 17th December, after which the website will be updated,

To the Governing Body for their ongoing support and guidance.

And finally to our fantastic students for adapting so well to our new routines, the behaviour and approach to learning of the large majority of you has been truly exceptional this term and you have continued to flourish, well done, make sure you get a good rest over the holiday.

I would like to wish you all a safe and peaceful holiday and a very happy new year.

Nicola Raggett - Headteacher

Opening a World of Opportunities



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ♦ **Monday 4th January** - Start of Term
- ♦ **Thursday 14th January** - Year 7 Parents Evening
- ♦ **Monday 18th - Tuesday 26th January** - Year 11 Mock Exams
- ♦ **Wednesday 27th January - Friday 5th February** - Year 13 Formal Assessments
- ♦ **Thursday 28th January** - Year 10 Parents Evening
- ♦ **Tuesday 2nd February** - Year 8 Parents as Partners Evening (for invited students only)
- ♦ **Wednesday 3rd February** - Staff Training Day **SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS**
- ♦ **Monday 8th - Friday 12th February** - Year 12 Teacher Assessments
- ♦ **Tuesday 9th February** - Year 11 Interim Repots available **via SIMS Parent App**
- ♦ **Thursday 11th February** - Year 13 Interims available **via SIMS parent App**
- ♦ **Friday 12th February** - End of Term

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

CHILDREN IN NEED

This year, KNGS came together (Covid friendly, of course,) using their beautiful spirits and celebrated Children in Need by raising money in lots of different ways. The theme of Children in Need was 'come as yourself' and it was set so students around the country could celebrate their identities. We were cashless this year and parents/carers were asked to donate via our Justgiving page. We were moved by and so proud of our school community. We raised a total of £1,794! A special shout out to 7HRI who had their own JustGiving page and raised £468 as part of this total. This year has shown us that Covid-19 may be here, but it will not be affecting our will to support others.



Thank you for all your generosity and the kindness you have shown.

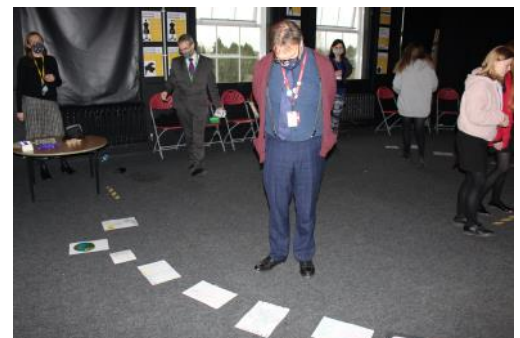
Mrs Bi

DYSLEXIA PUPIL VOICE LOGO COMPETITION

Congratulations to all pupils who entered the Dyslexia Pupil Voice Logo Competition during our Dyslexia Awareness Week earlier in the term. This



seems to have appealed to our pupils' creative sides as the entries were many and really fantastic. Last week Year 11 pupils from our Dyslexia Pupil Voice Group met with Mr Abelson, Mr Steele and Mrs Wobbes-Garcia to choose the winners. Selecting even a final 8 was difficult for our esteemed judges, however, after much deliberation we are pleased to announce the winners:



1st place: Amina Zia

2nd place: Grace Newman

Joint 3rd place: Arriella Dalmedo and Evie Ashton + Maggie Marshall (joint entry)

Highly Commended: Amberleigh Glover, Elizabeth Niclasen, Navneet Wilkhu & Kiyanna Davis.

Mrs Vaughan (Inclusion)



INTERFAITH WEEK

In early November, as part of national Interfaith Week, the RE Department at Kings Norton Girls' School & Sixth Form hosted a virtual faiths forum in with representatives of different religions and beliefs in Birmingham. Topics such as Covid-19, racism and free speech were discussed in some depth. The panel consisted of:

- **Gen Kelsang Leksang** - Resident Teacher, Kadampa Buddhist Centre
- **Rabbi Dr Margaret Jacobi** - Rabbi, Birmingham Progressive Synagogue
- **Maulana Humayon Jahangeerkhan** - Imam, Baitul Muqet Mosque (Ahmadiyya Muslim Community)
- **Rev Mat Wilson** - Senior Minister, Rowheath Pavilion Church
- **Jon Trevor** - Humanists UK



With thanks to our kind community leaders for their very valuable time and contributions



Rabbi Dr Margaret Jacobi
Birmingham
Progressive Synagogue



Gen Kelsang Leksang
Kadampa Meditation
Centre Birmingham



Reverend Mat Wilson
Rowheath Pavilion
Christian Community



Maulana Humayon Jahangeerkhan
Ahmadiyya Muslim
Association



Jon Trevor
Humanists UK

[#kngsinterfaith](#)

Interfaith Week 2020 Virtual Faiths Forum

"In this globalised world, it is essential that rather than harbouring negative feelings and fearing of one another, we should have positive feelings towards others. Certainly, this is the duty of every person who associates themselves to any faith, be they Christian, Muslim, Jew, Hindu or any other... One way to reduce conflict in the world is to focus on the commonalities that unite us, as opposed to the differences we have."

His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad
Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community



[#kngsinterfaith](#)

The forum has been shown in RE lessons across year groups and is also available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RD0BR4L20c&t=2517s>

Students benefitted immensely from the forum and greatly valued the thoughts and experiences shared, inspiring them to express their own views in class discussions.

Thanks to the kind community leaders for their valuable time and contributions, and also to Chris Cutler for his technical expertise and creativity in producing the video.

Mr Ahmedi - Head of RS

'MY TWIST ON A TALE: EVERYDAY HEROES'

Inter-House & National Competition

Following an extraordinary year of disruption, Pearson Publishing ran a national competition in November to provide students with a positive outlet to highlight the extraordinary stories that have emerged throughout the year.

They wanted students to have the opportunity to write their own tales of people who have made a difference to them. They could choose to write a story about someone in your local community, a key worker making a difference, a family member or friend that inspired them or even a superhero from their imagination.

We also decided to run this as an internal inter-house competition and the winner was **Carys Harland in Year 8** for her wonderful story entitled 'In life there are two types of super heroes'.

Mrs Edwards



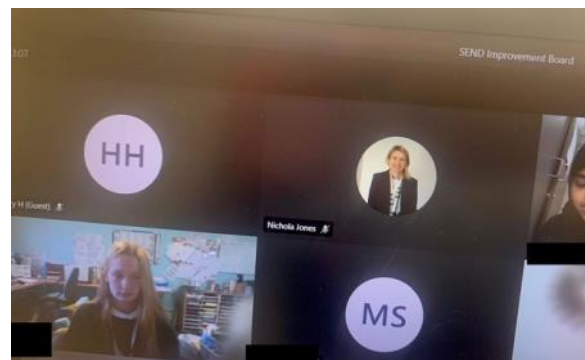
SUCCESSSES

SEND YOUTH FORUM

KNGS Student Represents Forum at BCC Board Meeting

A huge well done to Year 11 student **Mathilda Cannon** (11KGE), who was selected to represent the SEND Youth Forum during Birmingham City Council's Programme Board meeting on Tuesday 8th December 2020. In attendance at this meeting were many senior figures from Birmingham City Council including Cllr's, MP's, Assistant Director for SEND and Birmingham City Council Chief Executive. Mathilda wrote a truly inspirational statement which she read aloud during this meeting, then members were given the opportunity to ask her questions regarding the work which she has completed as part of the forum.

Congratulations Mathilda on your achievement!



Ms Woodward

HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

Each term Mrs Raggett awards Headteacher's Award to students who have demonstrated the school values of **Courage, Respect** and **Flourish**. Congratulations to the following students who received awards this term:

COURAGE: A'shaea Robinson (7CMI), Lily Collins (8HPI), Kiyanna-Grace Davies (8HPI), Eva Talbot (9JAB), Hilda Baker (9JAB), Elizabeth Jones (10HMI), Mathilda Cannon (11KGE), Indianna Curtis-Harvey (12PMA) & Anya McDermott (13CGE).

RESPECT: Amelie Zarifeh (7JWI), Fatmia Mohammad (8DPO), Lois Tormans (9HBA), Elizabeth Walker-Brown (10MMI), Mathilda Cannon (11KGE), Mario Spanos (12ALO) & Elliott Carr (13PCO).

FLOURISH: Rose Eccles (7CMI), Caitlin Thornevell (8MHI), Nabila Ahmed (9RHI), Azka Hashim (10SBH), Millie Battye (11VWA), Ellen Attrill (12JCO), Bethan Penhallow (13KGE) & Amy Pagnam (13CGE).

In addition, a number of **COMMUNITY AWARDS** were also given out this term to the following student in recognition of their role in CiN Fundraising along with various other activities/initiatives: Alba Smith-Penna (7HRI), Ellie Howard (7HRI), Erin Saunders (7HRI), Heidi Eaton (7HRI), Amberleigh Glover (7HRI) & Ryleigh Graham (7HRI).

Congratulations everybody!

KS3 OCEANIC LIFE HANGING PROJECT

After our time in lockdown and isolation over the last few months, the Year 8 and 9 KS3 students are working together to create a collaborative stitched Oceanic Life inspired hanging panel during their DT Textiles rotation. Students undertake research into contemporary and historical designers influenced by Sea Life as a theme in their work and research existing hanging products to help inform their final design outcomes.

Each student creates a textiles panel using a variety of hand embroidery, applique and mixed media techniques and materials. The panel is then stitched together to create an enormous Oceanic Life hanging and will be displayed in a prominent position in school when complete. These are a few of the panels completed so far, we are currently stitching them all together, there will eventually be over 300 panels. Students have been working really hard and should be very proud of their creative accomplishments.



Mrs Garcia

FOOD & NUTRITION

Homemade Creations

One of the greatest things about Food and Nutrition at KNGS are the practical lessons where students have the opportunity to make a selection of sweet and savoury products. Due to COVID, KS3 students have been unable to participate in any practical lessons, however we have not let this stop us from making some amazing products! All students have been given a recipe book and have watched a demonstration of how to make the products. They have then used their food homework time to prepare and cook their food product.

Mrs Walsh is super proud of the effort that students have made and has really enjoyed seeing the photographs of the finished products and hearing how much families have enjoyed having homemade food.

A big well done to all KS3 food students!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Student Leadership Group has managed to continue despite the challenging circumstances, and are now meeting over Microsoft Teams to organise their upcoming projects. The Head Students produced a fantastic video to promote the new format, which led to a record number of Year 7 students volunteering to be part of the team.

For the remainder of this term, the students have been working within their year groups to produce a quiz for Form Tutors to use before the Christmas break.

After Christmas, the Head Students will be leading their own equality and diversity project. This project will aim to celebrate the diversity we have in our school and community, whilst educating the students about the importance of equality within society.

Well done everybody!

Mr Houston

HEAD OF YEAR NEWS

YEAR 7: What an amazing start to KNKS Year 7 have had; despite being in very different circumstances they have fully embraced KNKS life and have settled in beautifully. Year 7 are a kind, passionate and enthusiastic year group who have engaged well in all aspects of school. Despite restrictions being in place and ever changing guidelines, Year 7 have taken part in; Showing Racism the Red Card by wearing red, they have helped raised an inspirational amount of money for Children in Need and have helped make the year group bubble look like a Christmas grotto in a fun festive makeover. Year 7 have also extended an overwhelming amount of kindness to a local care home through the 'Classroom to Care Homes' initiative; whereby students have created letters, poems and pictures for the residents of Lucton House to help towards combatting loneliness this Christmas time. These messages are truly heart-warming and will definitely lift spirits over the festive period. Well done Year 7, what a great start we have made to your KNKS journey.



Miss Bromley

YEAR 8: This has been a very new way of pastoral time for Year 8's this year but they have adapted with such resilience and courage. They have taken part in various activities and I have witnessed interesting debates ranging from elections to managing workload. I am so very proud of them all and hope that they have a rested Christmas break.

Mrs Bi

YEAR 9: Well done Year 9 for navigating a challenging term so well. It was great to see 98% attendance on teams lessons for the isolation period – I know it's not quite the same as being in school but progress will have been made because of your engagement.

Congratulations to **Adriana Stankute** (9JAB) & **Amy Ashby** (9SCR) for winning the Praise Prize Draw Vouchers of £30 each. Also a particular shout out to **Lois Tromans** (9HBA) our top praise point earner for Autumn Term – with 56 praise Points; very well done Lois.

Mr Steel

YEAR 10: After having months off school Year 10 have come back with a bang. They have made a fabulous start to key stage 4 by fully embracing GCSE subject content and exploring their options subjects. The level of peer support has been outstanding, the year group has shown genuine care for one another whether that be helping each other with academic advice or supporting one another's well-being. Although some students have had periods of time working from home due to self-isolation they have continued to work hard home to ensure they do not fall behind showing real independence and maturity. It has been lovely to see Year 10 students enjoying their time in form getting to know each other and their new Form Tutor, there has been a real sense of community within the year group. I really do hope that all students and their families have a restful Christmas break and approach 2021 with even more motivation and determination to succeed at KNKS.

Miss Wattison

YEAR 11: Year 11 have been working incredibly hard term, a big well done to all the year group. They have put hours into the home work club, additional period 6 lessons and getting stuck into GCSEpod with over a whopping 3040 pods streamed in one half term. It has been a pleasure seeing their engagement in form time; from decorating Christmas decorations, discussions about re-discovered British fauna, to meaningful discussions on dealing with worry. Their determined effort to be successful has resulted in over 2500 praise points being allocated as a collective and despite the challenges they face, they are demonstrating great maturity. I wish them a very pleasant, restful holidays ready to take on 2021!

Ms Davies

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

Amelie Zarifeh (7JWI)	Ellie Garratt (8TNA)	Naomi Rawlings (11CBA)	Madeleine Taylor (10HMI)
Ama Downes (7HRI)	Fiona Butler (7KCU)	Naveet Wilkhu (7KCU)	Millie Varma (8MHI)
Grace Singleton (7JWI)	Hanifah Saleh (10SBA)	Rose Frost (10MMI)	Mya Harvey-Whervin (11KGE)
Iman Aulaiwi (9RHI)	Heidi Eaton (7HRI)	Ruby Devaney (7HRI)	Olivia Scott-Reed (8GHA)
Lucy Jobe (9SR)	Megan Nightingale (8DPO)	Emily Chan (8SWA)	Andrea Biju (11EEV)
Sofia Azadi (9SCR)	Millie Scully (10SLO)	Evie Hall (7MRA)	Bibi Bramble (8SWA)
Alba Smith-Pena (7HRI)	Miriam Shpanin (9DMC)	Lois Tromans (9HBA)	Harpreet Kaur (7CMI)
Amy Ashby (9SCR)	Sophie Reeves (10SBH)	Loren Cope (8TNA)	Matilda McGuigan (11RHO)
		Olivia Hedges (10HMI)	Charlotte Pickup (11DFR)

Opening a World of Opportunities

SIXTH FORM NEWS

SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS

So far we've had a total of 175 applications to our Sixth Form and with the external application deadline little over a month away, we're seeing applications coming in thick and fast. There are no sixth form interviews this year due to Covid-19 meaning that our application process this year is all online.

We will be reviewing applications and making offers in the new year so if you know anyone who has applied to KN6 make sure they keep an eye out on their emails.

POST-18 EDUCATION

Over half of our Year 13 students have now submitted their UCAS applications. Getting the job done early will allow them to focus on their mock exam preparations and enjoy the motivational lift that comes from receiving offers. Once again, it is wonderful to see our students being so aspirational in their course and institution choices. What matters now is their continued hard work to achieve the grades and targets they have set themselves. In addition to university, many of our students are applying for apprenticeships which, whilst highly competitive, offer excellent opportunities to 'earn while you learn' and develop crucial skills and experience. Good luck to all our Year 13 students over the coming weeks and months. We know you will show the courage needed to flourish with your A Level courses.

PARENTS EVENING

Thank you to those who were able to virtually 'attend' the evening and were able to gain feedback regarding how your child is progressing in their studies. We hope you found the evening an informative and positive experience; it was lovely for staff to be able to offer feedback 'face to face'.

DROP OFF & PICK UP AT KN6

The majority of parents continue to support us in keeping KN6 students safe by driving and parking in a safe and responsible manner.

Unfortunately, there are some parents/carers/family members that continue to stop on the yellow lines (zig zag and single lines), block our neighbours' driveways and carry out dangerous turning manoeuvres in the road. All of this in spite of being asked politely by school staff not to do so.

PC Tony Harris from Bournville Lane Police Station has asked that we take photos of future offences so that he is able to trace individuals by their number plates and contact them formally.

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

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD USING GCSEPOD



What is GCSEPod?

GCSEPod is an award-winning expert in subject knowledge. We provide 3-5 minute bursts of audio-visual, teacher written learning which can help to reinforce and consolidate key GCSE topics covered in lessons. Experts read and explain everything clearly including all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and diagrams on screen.

Tips and Tricks

Watch online or offline

Ask your child to download Pods to their mobile device so they can learn on the go!

Favourites

Challenge your child to 'favourite' 10 Pods on topics they find difficult.

Watch the Pods together and use one of our other suggested learning techniques to help simplify what it is they're struggling

Personalised Playlists

Use the My Playlists area to create bespoke playlists.

Having personalised playlists means your child has fast access to Pods that will help fill knowledge gaps.

Support Homework

GCSEPod isn't just for revision, it's to help expand your child's subject knowledge.

If your child is struggling with a piece of homework, you can search for the topic on GCSEPod and use the Pods as an additional resource.

Memory Cards

Watch Pods together and then write down key facts, dates, diagrams and quotes.

Test their knowledge to see how much they remember.

Check & Challenge

Use our unique Check & Challenge feature to challenge your child to win at least 10 diamonds for each C&C they complete.

See if they can beat their previous score each time!

How does your child access GCSEPod?

If your child has already activated their account, they simply need to log in with the username and password they've created.

If your child has not yet activated their GCSEPod account, simply follow these simple steps!

1. Go to GCSEPod.com and click 'LOG IN'
2. Click 'NEW HERE? GET STARTED!'
3. Select 'Student'
4. Follow the onscreen instructions to create a username and password



 gcsepod.com

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