

# Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

The best schools are always a partnership between the child, school and parents/carers. I am so grateful that you have continued to support us throughout this uniquely challenging year, even through long periods of disruption. As Headteacher, I am grateful for your understanding that the safety of our community has always been upper-most in our decision-making.

Although so much of the KNGS and Sixth Form experience has felt different this year, I am proud that we have maintained a full curriculum for our students, with the rich variety and challenge that brings. Having said that, we are excited about being able to offer a much more 'normal' experience again next year including, hopefully, a return to our excellent offer of clubs, trips and extra-curricular activities which we hope all students will engage in.

Our continued focus on high quality teaching and learning has meant that all students have flourished this year. At times, this has required great courage; none more so than when the majority of our students were faced with nine weeks of online, home-learning. Who could have imagined that eighteen months ago? Again, this highlighted the embodiment of partnership at KNGS; staff rapidly adapting their practice, students showing great independence and parents and carers supporting, motivating and probably nagging too! I am not too keen on using quotes but this one seems very appropriate: as Nelson Mandela said, "It always seems impossible until it's done." Well, it's done, another year and a very successful one!

Thank you once again. My warmest wishes to you all for a safe and enjoyable summer.

**Nicola Raggett - Headteacher**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** - Summer Break
- ◆ **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** - Teacher Training Day
- ◆ **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September** - Lateral Flow Tests for Years 8, 9, 10, 11 & 13
- ◆ **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September** - Start of Term for Students. **Please see letter sent out on 15th July:** [www.kngs.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/New-term-arrangements-July-2021.pdf](http://www.kngs.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/New-term-arrangements-July-2021.pdf)
- ◆ **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September** - Year 12 Parents as Partners
- ◆ **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September** - Whole School Open Evening, 5pm - 8pm
- ◆ **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September** - Whole School Open Morning, 9am - 11am (last tour starts at 10.30am)
- ◆ **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October** - Year 10 Parents as Partners
- ◆ **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October** - Whole School Open Morning, 9am - 11am (last tour starts at 10.30am)
- ◆ **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October** - Year 7 Parents as Partners
- ◆ **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October** - Half Term Break

## EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

### YEAR 10 BRING THE PONDS TO LIFE



In early July, ten of our wonderful Year 10 biologists volunteered to populate the newly renovated ponds with native oxygenating pondweed species and various varieties of pond lily.

After investigating the animal wildlife, they quickly got to work using aquatic compost and hessian sacking, and chose suitable planting sites based on their knowledge of plant biology. To say there is competition over whose lily will grow best is rather an understatement.

They named their newts Isaac Newt-on and Newt Scamander (in case you were wondering) and have been returning to the ponds to check on their handywork.



*Mrs Caswell and the Biology Team*

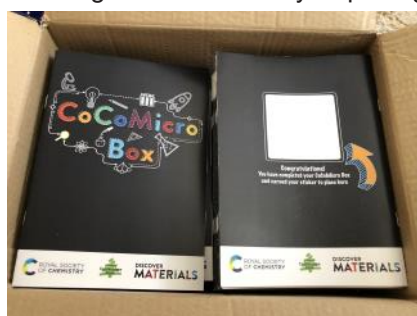


### YEAR 7 - COCO MICRO BOX

We've been so happy to invite the Year 7's into the science labs this summer term so that we can finally get stuck into practical investigations and bring science to life.

Even though we will be breaking up for summer soon, the fun doesn't need to stop. Each student in Year 7 will receive their own CoCoMicro Box. This has been arranged for us by Dr Chris Hamlett, who is based at the University of Birmingham and coordinates the activities of the Discover Materials Group.

The CoCoMicro Box is jam packed full of scientific equipment and detailed instructions to allow the Year 7's to investigate a series of eye-opening experiments that will let them explore the materials that make up our world.



Material Science is a fascinating field that includes parts of all sciences, including chemistry, that not only expands our understanding of the natural world, but also leads to the discovery of new materials, which are at the heart of technological advancements. The box includes, microscopy, rocket and bath-bomb building, and much more. In addition you also get entry to a live, online microscopy session from Swansea University in September.

Thank you again to the Discover Materials Group and the Royal Society for Chemistry for funding and organising this inspiring opportunity. **Year 7 students, please share your photos and stories of your investigations with @KNGSlife on Twitter** and to let your teachers in Year 8 know what you found out.

If you want to learn more about the Discover Materials group please visit the website, [www.discovermaterials.uk](http://www.discovermaterials.uk)

*Mr McClelland - Head of Science*



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The SLG delivered a project focused around self-confidence this half term, based on the feedback from our schoolwide survey. Students completed a range of projects including positive self-talk resources, a quiz about teachers' fears and some 'Motivational Monday' boxes, where students could place messages of encouragement to others in their form. These were then read out on Monday mornings to give everyone a boost.

Our survey suggested that almost half the students in the school engaged with these projects during form time and rated them as 3.35/5. Thanks to the artistic talent of **Amelie Auger** in Year 7, we now have an SLG logo. This will be proudly displayed on all of our future resources and communications, in order to raise the profile of the SLG even further.



The students are excited to return to face-to-face meetings next academic year and are looking forward to the opportunities that cross year group collaboration provides. I would like to congratulate all the members of the SLG for their hard work this year. As a predominately student facing group, this year has posed huge challenges for the SLG. However, the independence, motivation and creativity of our members has meant that the SLG has not only survived but thrived. Well done!

### APPOINTMENT OF HEAD STUDENTS

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Head Students. Congratulations to **Simran Sanghera** and **Marios Spanos** who have been appointed as our Head Students and also to **Florentina Dasgupta** who has been appointed as our Deputy Head Student.

The successful appointees were put through the rigorous process of completing an application form, having an interview with Mrs Raggett, Mr Charlett, Ms Ledwidge & myself, followed by a video testimony and a whole school vote.

Well done to everybody who applied and congratulations again to Simran, Marios & Florentina - we know you will be great ambassadors and role models.

*Mr Houston*

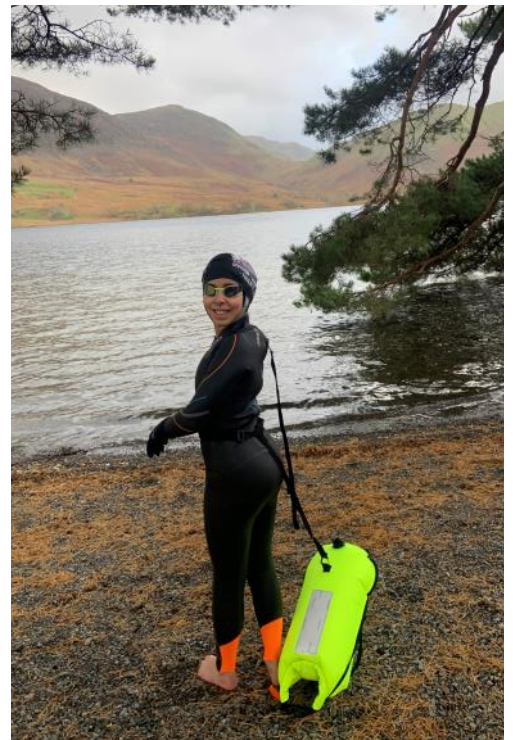
## SUCCESSSES

### YEAR 7 STUDENT TAKES ON THE GREAT NORTH SWIM

A massive well done to Year 7 Student **Amelie Zarifeh** on raising more than £730 for The Feeding Trust, a Rubery-based social enterprise which helped her little sister who has a Paediatric Feeding Disorder (PFD).

Amelie took on the Great North Swim in June to raise money for The Feeding Trust – a non-for-profit social enterprise which operates from a feeding clinic at Waseley Hills Country Park. The Trust has been set up by PFD experts to provide a specialist service, using education, direct therapy, training and support to help children and young people all over the country with severe feeding difficulties and dangerously restricted diets.

Congratulations Amelie on this fantastic achievement!



## 2ND PLACE IN THE POD GAMES

I am delighted to share that KNGS came in 2nd place in the March to June Pod Games for the Middle Heavyweight league! The competition is always fierce and the fact that we have come in 2nd place is a proud achievement for the school. Across the school we have watched 21,771 pods and our top podder is **Maaria Shabbir (Year 11)** who has streamed an impressive 560 pods this year! If you'd like any further information on how to access GCSE Pod, please follow the quick start guide below.

*Miss Walker - Head of English*


### Quick Start Guide

How does your child get it?

Your child has already been registered by their school and simply needs to activate their account. To help your child activate their account, follow these simple steps:

- 1) Go to [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) and click "Login"
- 2) Click "New Here? Get Started!" and select "Student"
- 3) Enter your child's name, date of birth and type in the name of their school. The school's name should appear. Click on it to confirm.
- 4) Create a username and password

\*If you're having trouble finding your school, double check that you've entered the correct date of birth and full name as it appears on the school's register. Some schools are known by a shorter version of their name so make sure you're typing the full, official school name.



## AMELIE'S ANTI-RACISM MESSAGE

The killing of George Floyd and abuse suffered by England's black footballers, among other examples, has highlighted more than ever the continued harrowing effects of racism in society and the need to challenge bigotry and discrimination.

As part of their RE curriculum, Year 7's have been exploring the theme of anti-racism using resources produced by the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE). Through a focus on values, found in many religions, which promote human wellbeing, respect for all, harmony and mutuality, students have been reflecting upon ways to cultivate an open mind and reduce their own prejudices.



This has inspired students to express their thoughts openly and honestly, and moved one particular pupil, **Amelie Zarifeh**, to write this powerful speech and deliver it in class. It so impressed her RE teachers that it was shared with NATRE who were equally awe-struck, and will be posting on their website very soon (link will be shared once available).

Well done Amelie, and also the whole of Year 7 for your exemplary passion, maturity and commitment in standing up to hate!

*Mr Ahmedi, Head of RE*

“*The message of this speech is to try to stop, and to finally put an end to racism. Black people, Asian people, and others of colour have suffered long enough, and it shall not be tolerated. We need to reduce, and lessen society's standards of the 'perfect human' (white, upper-class, wealthy, attractive and posh) because we are different and nobody should be categorised down to the mere difference of the colour of their skin. Instead of highlighting our differences we should link our similarities to come together and combat the current crisis of COVID-19 as a world of peace, together, one another, as our beautiful humanity. Skin deep differences, and all this anguish, unnecessary discrimination, fear, isolation, pain, and hurt. Lives have been lost, and no more should be. Stephen Lawrence. George Floyd. Just some examples. And so many more. Yes, it may be human to be prejudiced upon first impression, we may naturally think, 'Oh she's blonde, or, oh he's black', but those should not have to go to prison for being quite simply them. Should I be pepper-sprayed because I have straight hair? Should anyone be knelt on the neck, and suffocated? Murdered. The answer is NO. No more racism.*

*We have improved from several eras back, when white people owned black people as slaves, but now, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century people of colour do have a significant increase in opportunities, and, thank goodness, a chance to receive a decent, good education, as it should be, and rightfully so. I believe that just as we have improved before, why can we not improve again, to possibly, and hopefully, wiping racism out completely?*

*A good analogy I thought of while pondering upon the subject is that racism, the word, quite literally has been written upon a whiteboard. Over the years it had faded, and had been slightly rubbed off. What I am thinking now, is why we cannot completely rub out the word, and remove it from being embedded into our stubborn souls? Together we must show respect.*

*I hope you enjoyed listening, and agree with me that racism should end. And I have one question for you as I wrap up - why has the dream of Martin Luther King Jr, mentioned in his speech on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1963, still not been achieved nearly 60 years later? I will leave that with you.*

*Thank you.*

*By Amelie Zarifeh*

## YEAR 9 STUDENT WINS ROAD TO WIMBLEDON

After many hours of training and hard work, we are so pleased to announce that, last weekend **Isabella Taylor (Year 9)** won the county Road to Wimbledon tennis tournament at Sutton Coldfield. This means that for a whole week in August, she will be playing at a national tournament on the grass courts of the famous Wimbledon itself!

Isabella currently trains for fifteen hours a week mainly at The Priory and Blossomfield tennis centres as well as playing tournaments most weekends. Her favourite player at the moment is Maria Sakkari from Greece and she's hoping to go to an American university on a tennis scholarship after school.

Congratulations on your fantastic achievement Isabella!



## MS WELLS WINS GOLD



Congratulations to **Ms Wells, our Design Technology Technician**, who was approached by Oxford Garden Design, to see if she would be interested in working with them on their show garden for Blenheim Palace Flower show in June, after seeing her sculptural work on social media.

Following a meeting with their lead designer Jamie Langlands, they selected Narcissus to use as a feature in their show garden. The garden was inspired and entitled Narcissus and was created to reflect how a large sculpture could still work in a small space (4m x 4m). The show garden featuring Ms Wells sculpture won Gold for 'Best Garden Design'.

## GO MR PAGE!

We wish **Mr Page, our Network Manager**, lots of luck as he continues with his year long charity cycling challenge over the summer, to raise money for Acorns Children's Hospice.

Mr Page has joined #TeamAcorns and his challenge is to **cycle 2021 miles in 2021 to raise at least £2021** to help ensure that Acorns can continue providing high standards of care to children and their families.

For more information on the Mr Page's Challenge and updates on his progress can be found at:

<https://www.givepenny.com/danpageacorns2021cyclingchallenge>



## EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The Student Diversity Group was formed this year, they've worked hard and had many successes despite COVID disruptions. These include the equality and diversity calendar going into staff and student planners, contributing to theme of the week to dispel myths, art competitions to raise awareness of our group (now used on the front cover of all planners), feedback to the Staff Equality & Diversity Group about curriculum changes, proposed changes to the current uniform policy and lots of ideas for the next academic year. Thank you to all students in the Diversity Group for their thoughtful contributions and hard work. I look forward to seeing how their ideas evolve next year.

Below is an entry by **Sianne Parmar (Year 12)** which she submitted for a creative competition in February, 'express your identity through the arts'. I found it quite moving!

Thank you, from the **Student Diversity Group and Mrs Bhangal**.

### “ The Race of Humans

They call us the human race. They do not always realise the irony. Each step we take, each decision that leads us to now is all part of, a race. This race overwhelms us, consumes us, drowns us. We let it. Competition runs in our blood, they say. But why fight. We fight for the sake of others, the sake of love and yet there is never a real winner. If you win, then their blood is on your hands but if you lose, you may die a martyr, but nothing can bring you back from the dead.

[Opening a World of Opportunities](#)

When a 10-year-old says he would rather be white, that he is not worth as much because he is not, it is then that you realise that lives are only worth what they are told. Growing up, I never saw people like me, represented as important, a cliché I know, but some clichés are true.

This race, commonly referred to as the rat race, is a lot more than a battle of classes, but also a means of survival. How can I live a life of fulfilment when there is no way of fully accomplishing that? Greed. Greedy, us humans are greedy, that's why we fight, we compete. We want it all to ourselves and that's the real reason there are categories, right? Because I do not think that I will ever, and I mean it, with the whole of my human, sacred, heart, understand, why the colour of my skin defines me, to someone else. Why a pigment, a small 'defect' in my DNA defines us. Is it so hard to understand that raw, red, blood runs through our veins as well? That our heart beats from its circulation, that underneath our skins, we have flesh and blood and bones and everything every normal human has.

We live in a race. Why should you care if I'm brown not white? Why should I care, if my girl, best friend is in love with another girl, is it really going to affect me, kill me? Why do we mock, other peoples' accents? We are cruel. Humans are evil. The food chain labels, predators and preys and somehow, humans are both.

The only real problem is that in this race, there is born privileged and born disadvantaged. But they were never real rules. We set them. But someone once said, 'rules are made to be broken', so let's break them.

*Sianne Parmar, a documentation of my dark thoughts (diary entry)*



## HEAD OF YEAR NEWS

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

**Year 7: Sofia Saleh-Dunkley, Amelie Zarifeh, Marianne Holland, Tianna Harrison & Summer Dainter.**

**Year 8: Gabby Balderson, Faye Adams, Loren Cope, Bibi Bramble & Emily Chan.**

**Year 9: Esme Riley, Georgia Gilman, Zaynab Khan, Emily Caves & Kirsty Tchos.**

**Year 10: Sage Heidarasooji, Roopider Bains, Abi Hunter, Mary Holcombe & Freya Dempsey.**

**Year 11: Matilda Johnson**

In addition we would like to also like to congratulate the following students on receiving the '**Headteachers Award**' this term for demonstrating our school values:

**Respect: Alba Smith-Pena (Year 7), Shaowen He (Year 8), Lois Tromans (Year 9) & Millie Scully (Year 10).**

**Courage: Emma Caldwell (Year 7), Rebekah Niclasen (Year 8), Eva Talbot (Year 9) & Leah Meade-Broadhurst (Year 10).**

**Flourish: Ava McCormick (Year 7), Gabby Balderson (Year 8), Jaspreet Kaur (Year 9) & Susie Catling (Year 10).**

**Respect & Courage - Marios Spanos (Year 12)**

## SIXTH FORM NEWS

### YEAR 12

Huge congratulations to Year 12 for completing their first year of A Levels in very difficult circumstances. They have achieved fantastic results and have certainly earned their holiday! We look forward to welcoming them back to Year 13 in September.

### ENROLMENT

We are looking forward to meeting our new Year 12 on enrolment day on 12<sup>th</sup> August. All applicants who have been made an offer should now have received their enrolment pack through the post. The pack is available on the school website should you need it. The times you should attend on 12<sup>th</sup> are as follows:

KNGS students with offers: 8.30am -11am

KNBS students with offers: 11.30am -1.00pm

All other applicants with offers: 1.30pm onwards.

We would like to wish all of our applicants the very best of luck for GCSE results day.

**Opening a World of Opportunities**