

# Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you again for your support this half term, having started the term with an increased number of COVID cases, these have now fallen dramatically for students and it has been fantastic to see more students attending school each day. Staff numbers are still a little higher than last half term. Thank you for encouraging your child to wear face coverings in the corridors and communal areas, they have been very respectful in meeting our requests.

After half term, government guidance dependant, we will no longer be directing students or staff to wear face coverings in communal areas. Staff and students can however continue to wear face coverings if they wish.

You will see from this newsletter that we have had a busy half term. It is fantastic that we are starting to see the return of some educational visits to enhance students learning experiences. We were delighted to be able to take Year 7, who represented the school wonderfully, to a CBSO concert at the Symphony Hall. Our A Level Art, Photography and Textiles students also enjoyed a jam-packed trip to London to support them in their studies. In addition, we are also delighted to be able to celebrate a number of student successes including the Year 10 students who have successfully completed their Brilliant Club Programme and the Year 11 students who have completed their Forward Thinking Programme run by the University of Birmingham. Congratulations also to our students in Years 7 & 8 who have successfully competed in recent Cross Country Championships and Tumbling competitions - we certainly do have a lot to celebrate and be proud of.

One of the highlights for me this term has been our focus on culture in 'Theme of the Week'. Our 'Day of Culture' event where students dressed to represent their culture, was a real success and an opportunity to talk about the different cultures our diverse school community represents and celebrates.

I wish you all a wonderful and restful half term break.

**Nicola Raggett - Headteacher**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February** - Half Term Break
- ◆ **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February** - Start of Half Term
- ◆ **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March** - Year 12 & Year 13 Interim Reports Issued - [via SIMS PARENT APP](#)
- ◆ **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March** - Year 9 Parents Evening
- ◆ **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April** - Year 8 & Year 10 Interim Reports Issued [via SIMS PARENT APP](#)
- ◆ **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April** - Year 7 & Year 9 Interim Reports Issued [via SIMS PARENT APP](#)
- ◆ **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April** - Year 8 Parents Evening
- ◆ **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** - Easter Break
- ◆ **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April** - Start of Summer Term

## EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

### THEATRE PERFORMANCE

In order to aid with their study of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, the English department organised for the Quantum Theatre Company to perform a stage adaption of the text to all Year 10 students.

The performance was praised by staff and students alike.

We have a *Romeo and Juliet* performance planned for April of this year. This will be put on for Year 10 and Year 11.

*Mr Houston*



### 'FROM CITY OF EMPIRE TO CITY OF DIVERSITY' TOURING EXHIBITION

We were delighted earlier in the term to host the SAMPAD 'From City of Empire to City of Diversity' touring exhibition. The exhibition showcased the Dyche photography collection, celebrating Commonwealth migration to Birmingham & our diverse heritage as the city prepares for the Commonwealth Games 2022.

In addition to the exhibition hosted in the Hall for students to view, a selection Year 9 work was also on display, produced as a response to a series of lessons



which examined both the historical context of immigration after WW2 and the photos from the Dyche studio of Commonwealth immigrants to Birmingham. The Year 9 lessons included a talk by an historian from Birmingham University on the subject, to help further their understanding. Students also had an opportunity to ask questions and our guest speaker was very impressed with the engagement of the students and the maturity of their questions. The Year 9 work included drawings, poems, and personal family histories connected to the subject. Some of this work will be selected to be part of the public exhibition in the Central Library in June 2022.

*Ms Thatcher*

### CREATIVE TRIP TO LONDON

A Level Art, Photography and Textiles enjoyed a visit to London's Victoria and Albert Museum, Tate Modern and the Courtauld Gallery; a jam-packed day and well worth the 6.00am start and tired feet.

Students not only gained a valuable cultural experience but essential research for their A Level studies. It was wonderful to be able to visit galleries after so long and much appreciated by our students, who as always were a credit the Sixth Form.

*Mrs Everson, Mr Abelson & Mrs Garcia*



**Opening a World of Opportunities**

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

On Holocaust Memorial Day KS3 and Year 12 History students were involved in an event organised by the Literacy Trust and the author, Tom Palmer.

The students listened to an interview with a holocaust survivor, Mala Tribich and Tom Palmer. Tom Palmer wrote the novel 'After the War' which narrates



the experiences of the Windermere children - the Jewish children who were brought from Nazi concentration camps to Windermere in 1945. Year 7 pupils worked on some of the stories from the book within English lessons too. The students were clearly moved by the accounts and asked so many interesting and probing questions. Year 12 History students also researched a holocaust survivor story and contributed these to the display in the Learning Hub.



The students were set the task of

responding to the stories they had heard through writing or art. Many then entered their responses into a competition organised by Ms Edwards and the Year 9 and 12 History ambassadors. The ambassadors and Ms Edwards have started the judging process and winners will be announced shortly. Some of the best entries will also be sent off to the National Literacy trust competition.

Congratulations to all who entered - there are some outstanding pieces of work.



*Mrs Thatcher*

## YEAR 7 TRIP TO SYMPHONY HALL

This half term the Music Department took the whole of Year 7 to Symphony Hall in the centre of Birmingham to watch a performance by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra of music inspired by the natural world. It was an amazing experience and the students had many positive things to say about the trip. It has been our first outing in quite a while and we hope that there are many more to come!



In further news, look out for our Virtual Christmas Concert Performances and some of our ensembles performing in the Services for Education Virtual Chamber Music Festival. These performances will be posted on our website and social media platforms over the coming weeks!



*Mr Gell*

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## SPOTLIGHT ON ...EXTRA CURRICULAR & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AT KNGS

The last 18 months have really impacted on the extracurricular and enrichment opportunities for students. This aspect of personal development is a big focus for us as a school this year and the uptake for clubs and activities by students has been fantastic. Going forward we are working with our students to showcase groups and clubs that are taking place at KNGS, the first two being our Eurovision Club & Amnesty International Group.

If your child isn't taking part in an extracurricular activity or a leadership activity please encourage them to do so. You can have a look at our extensive and varied list of opportunities available on the website at: [www.kngs.co.uk/school-life/extra-curricular-timetable/](http://www.kngs.co.uk/school-life/extra-curricular-timetable/)

### EUROVISION CLUB

The Eurovision Club celebrates all things Eurovision as preparations ramp up for the next contest with **semi-finals and grand final in Turin** taking place on the 10th, 12th & 14th May. Students have presented to each other on a whole range of topics including "Ireland at Eurovision", "The first ever Eurovision", "France at Eurovision", "Nul points at the Eurovision", "Most outrageous Eurovision entries ever", "ABBA at Eurovision". Forthcoming presentations: "This year's cohort so far", "Melodifestivalen - a history of Sweden choosing its Eurovision contestant".



“ Every Wednesday lunchtime, students from across KNGS gather in Room 30 to celebrate the vibrance, fun and diversity of the Eurovision Song Contest. With the help of Miss Banner, the club's friendly and supportive atmosphere has produced presentations encompassing the histories and cultures of competing countries as well as the contest itself. Past Eurovision performances are also discussed, and club tradition demands that each meeting concludes with a karaoke of Verka Serdutchka's 'Dancing Lasha

Tumbai'. Zélia Dussol in Year 7 perhaps captures the spirit best: "I really enjoy Eurovision Club because it has helped me build more self-confidence about talking to older students and talking in front of the club. I also love learning about different countries in the Eurovision Song Contest through other presentations. But mostly, I LOVE Verka at the end!!!"



**Eve Connor, Alice Cockcroft, Lucy Burdett (Year 13) & Zelia Dussol (Year 7)**

### AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GROUP

“ The Amnesty International group at KNGS is a club that helps to fight for human rights, especially in developing countries where it is needed most. We are part of the main Amnesty organisation so participate in their campaigns – in the past we have written letters and petitions to government and letters of encouragement to people who have had their rights taken away from them, such as Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe who was falsely accused of being a British spy when visiting her parents in Iran. Our most recent activity was to produce informative posters on women's rights and how they are abused both in this country and around the world. The three posters were: a general overview of women's rights, forced marriage and its problem in modern society and domestic abuse and its problems in society. Amnesty makes me feel that I am actually having an impact in the world and helping people who have their rights abused. The club also has people from a range of year groups so allows positive interactions between year-groups which doesn't happen much as most of the time we interact with our own year and no-one else. People should consider joining Amnesty if they want to make difference to people around the world whose human rights have been abused. **Isabelle Thompson (Year 11)**”



# EXAMINATIONS

As external exams are fast approaching for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, a useful "Candidate Handbook" can now be found on the schools website at: [bit.ly/3peXuZp](http://bit.ly/3peXuZp) and also in Student Share. It provides general information on the examination process here at KNGS and also answers some frequently asked questions that can occur during the busy exam period, such as:

- What to do if you are unwell on the day of an exam.
- What stationery is required for exams.
- What to do if you are scheduled 2 exams at the same time.

We strongly encourage parents and carers to be familiar with what is expected of students during their external exams too. Any queries please do not hesitate to contact our Examinations Officer, Miss Chloe Welch.


Any information regarding changes to Summer 2022 exams will be communicated as it arises. Our Examinations page of the website is frequently updated with internal/external timetables, recent letters and other useful documents. There are also key student documents published by JCQ, all students should be familiar with these before they sit their exams. <https://www.kngs.co.uk/parents/examinations/>

*Miss Welch - Exams Officer*

# SPORTS UPDATE

## SPORTS AMBASSADORS

Congratulations and well done to all of our new Sports Ambassadors - we know you will do an amazing job!

| Year 7  | Year 8  | Year 9  |
|---|---|---|
| Cadence Leek (K)<br>Lauren Neal (N)<br>Anwen Evans (G)<br>Isla Cliff (S)          | Alba Smith-Pena (K)<br>Arriella Dalmedo (N)<br>Amelie Zarifeh (G)<br>Imogen Baker (S) | Nieve McNally (K)<br>Jess Barnett (N)<br>Grace Varley (G)<br>Isobel Hankin (S)      |
| Year 10   | Year 11   |  |
| Jessica Parmar (K)<br>Emily Caves (N)<br>Holly Trough (G)<br>Taylor Strickley (S) | Becky Wilson (K)<br>Maddie Taylor (N)<br>Nadia Parker (G)<br>Eve Godsall (S)          |   |



## CROSS COUNTRY

On the morning of Saturday 22nd January, a number of our Year 7 and Year 8 students competed in the West Midlands Schools Cross Country Championships at Warley Woods in Smethwick. This race acts as the selection race for the English Schools XC Championships in Kent for Years 8 and above, with the top 6 qualifying automatically.

There were lots of encouraging performances all around. Alba Smith-Peña finished in 12th place despite taking a heavy tumble during her race. She competed in the Junior race (Year 8 and 9) so was at the bottom of her age-group. A great achievement which will hold her in good stead for potential ESAA selection next year. In the same race Ariella Dalmedo finished in 23rd position, after having played a football match in the morning before racing.

In the Minor race (Year 7) Isla Cliff finished 13th, Georgina Newton 15th and Sara Eustace in 18th position. For the Year 7's it was only the first or second time they had done a cross-country race and they performed admirably competing against many athletes who belong to clubs.

A massive well done to all of our students on their achievements. They never gave up and were an absolute credit to the school.



*Mr Piotrofski*

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# SUCCESSSES

## FORWARD THINKING EVENT

Although much of their four year Forward Thinking Programme run by The University of Birmingham had been interrupted by Covid-19, this year's Year 11 cohort were able to collect their certificates from 'Action Jackson' in a ceremony in The Aston Webb Hall. This was the culmination of an enjoyable day at the university, visiting the campus and taking part in some activities. A massive well done to **Ifat Salim, Zahra Bibi, Gabriella Jones, Leo Valentine, Haalah Sultan and Alisha Tabassum** on their achievements.



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

Mr Abelson

## KNGS STUDENT WINS MULTIPLE TUMBLING MEDALS

A massive congratulations to Year 7 student **Swanson Williamson**, who on the 5th of February competed in Wythall Gymnastic Club's delayed age 11 and under Artistic Club Competition for 2021. Swanson achieved 4 Gold's, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze medal plus the top tumbling award and highest point scorer in her age group.

In 4 weeks, Swanson's club is competing in Stoke at the George Finney Competition in the floor and vault categories - we wish you the very best of luck!

Well done Swanson, we are very proud of you!



## BRILLIANT CLUB

This year ten Year 10 girls have successfully completed The Scholars' Programme run by the Brilliant Club.

The programme ran between October and December last year, at the same time as the students were preparing for their mock exams. Notwithstanding, these girls attended tutorials after school once a week and found time in their busy schedules to prepare and submit 'university style' essays to complete the programme which they engaged with great

enthusiasm and fantastic attitude.

Their tutor has commented that the standard of the work they produced was very high. Both Mr Charlett and Mr Abelson who were involved in running this programme, are exceptionally proud of these students who have developed their skills so amazingly which should serve them well now and into the future.

Our warmest congratulations go to: **Nabila Ahmed, Maria El-Baltagi, Kaiyah Clarke, Betty Curtis, Ava Eustace, Jaspreet Kaur, Eileen Qiu, Isabelle Sargeant, Isara Garvey and Phoebe Glover.**



## SUSTAINABLE CITIES

“ As part of our Urbanisation topic in Geography, we have designed and created a sustainable city. We chose Australia as location because there is an abundance of solar energy which can be used as renewable source energy. Also, Australia is seen as a leader in sustainable development as it recognises the role it plays in the wellbeing of its people and nation.

Our project focuses on the key factors which are: energy; transportation infrastructure; food affordability; CO2 emission and green spaces. Our



sustainable city is made from recycled materials such as cardboard. We have included solar panels that will power our city and use renewable energy. We have included an electric car park, bike stands, a community centre and apartments with roof top gardens. Our favourite part of the project is the organic farm shop because it provides local people with fresh food and the local sourced food reduces the carbon footprints which will help with climate change.”



***By Imogen Baker, Amberleigh Glover, Nea Stenfelt-Cox, Neve Elliott and Sophie Townson in Year 8***

## POLITICS

Year 13 have been busy this term, finishing off their studies in Global Politics. They have looked into environmental global governance by investigating the different institutions of the UN that are designed to help mitigate the climate emergency, as well as some of the overall successes and difficulties in global governance. Year 12 have been analysing the different voting systems used in the UK both in general elections and in the devolved bodies (Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales). They went into Year 7 Humanities lessons to test out two voting systems: First Past the Post (used in our General Elections) and the Single Transferable Vote (used in Northern Ireland and European Parliament which ranks candidates). Thank you to those students who cast their vote! Year 12 analysed the data, attempted to gerrymander the results and concluded that Single Transferable Vote was the better of the two voting systems.

Every Thursday lunchtime students from across the year groups have been coming to room 26 to discuss current events in the Politea Club. Students who bring a mug get a free hot chocolate or cup of tea, as we discuss the news stories that are happening in the moment. We have recently covered: Ukraine and Russia crisis, anniversary of US Presidential elections and how Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are doing, issues facing the Prime Minister and bell hooks – a feminist political writer who passed away in December).

Currently a competition is being held by the University of Sheffield, focusing on how East Asia has influenced life in the UK. Students who want to get involved can create something to show how China, Korea, Japan or any other East Asian country has influenced the United Kingdom. This can include history, popular culture (BTS) or myths to name only a few. If students are interested they should come see Ms Wright. Winners get a voucher, a place in a University workshop and it would look great on a CV! This is open to Year 10-12 only.

We are also pleased to announce that on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March Year 12 will be hosting a Learn with the Lords session, where they will have the opportunity to ask a Lord in the House of Lords questions about their role.

Well done to all Politics students this term. Keep up the good work!

*Ms Wright - Head of Politics*



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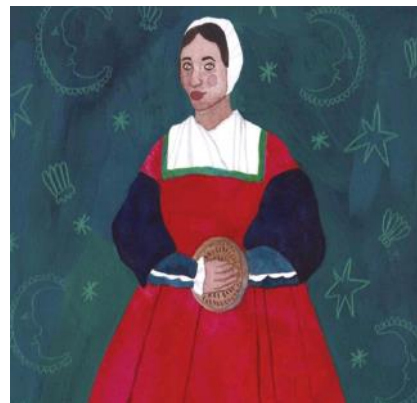
## HIDDEN TUDOR HISTORIES

Students in Year 8 History have been working hard on 'Hidden Tudor Histories'. They have been learning the stories behind some relatively unknown black Tudor men and women. Please click on the links below for a selection of their podcasts about these really interesting individuals.

<https://youtu.be/7smZsBvwckM>

<https://youtu.be/XyVgLGCTtn4>

Well done to **Bethan Fielder, Weza Joaquim, Bess Thompson, Evie Cann and Adela Dandy Amelie Dawkins, Layla Patwary, Georgina Snell, Sophie Townson, Ruby Dawkins, Hanah Shommakhi, Amberleigh Glover and Katie Chatterton** for their excellent podcasts.



*Mrs Thatcher & Ms Wright*

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP

The SLG have been working hard on delivering our sustainability project.

- **Year 10** kicked the week off with a fabulous assembly to the whole school about all the different elements of the project.
- A group of intrepid **Year 7's** have spent a week tackling the litter and recycling problems around the school, voluntarily giving up their lunchtimes to make our environment cleaner. They even spent a lunchtime chipping gum from the bottom of the classroom tables!
- The **Year 8's** donation sale is almost ready to go; they have collected a wide variety of second-hand textbooks, stationery, notebooks, plays, novels and revision resources from the older year groups. Once they have finished their collections, these will be redistributed to the younger year groups on the promise of small donations to Greenpeace.
- **Year 9** have ordered a selection of sapling trees and will begin tree planting in late February - look out for updates around the school about how to get involved.



I would like to say a huge thank you to our Head Students: **Marios, Florentina and Simran**. Every part of this project has been managed by them and they have done exceptionally well in motivating their teams, giving up their time and balancing all this with their A Level studies.

*Mr Houston*

## PRAISE

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

**Year 7: Lola Sweeney & Georgina Newton.**

**Year 8: A'shaea Robinson, T'yana Josephs & Bethan Fielder.**

**Year 9: Abi Heyes, Emily Chan, Fatima Sylla, Jhia Kaur, Shaowen He, Tiffany Henry, Rakaiya Sehmi & Jess Barnett.**

**Year 10: Hilda Baker, Isabella Taylor & Rose Harvey.**

Well done to all of the above students.





## EQUALITY & DIVERSITY GROUP

During the last week of January, students discussed various cultures, using PowerPoints arranged by the Student Diversity Group. These were shown in form time and covered cultures like Jamaica, China, and India; with the aim of inspiring people to have discussions about their own cultures throughout the week. On Friday, the students dressed up as their identity or what they culturally identify as and we saw a range of different styles of clothing that originate from different places all over the world.



Photo Credit: Inayah Jawad (Year 12)

It was a pleasant sight to see everyone represent their cultures. It was both an educational and enjoyable experience as we learnt a lot about each other's cultures from the amazing food, intricate clothing, melodious music and lifestyles. During break-time, stalls were set up in the hall and it was amazing to see people asking questions about different cultures and buying food that was brought in. Everyday we wear the same uniforms which represent us as students of KNKS, but 'Culture Day' gave us the opportunity to embrace our backgrounds and show off our cultures.

*Mrs. Bhargal*



## SIXTH FORM NEWS

### ADMISSIONS

For September 2022 we have received a total of 439 applications, including 110 internal applications and 329 external. We have received applications from a wide range of local schools including Kings Norton Boys' School, Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, St Thomas Aquinas and The University of Birmingham School.

Conditional offers have been emailed to applicants and we look forward to welcoming our new cohort in September.

### CHALLENGE DAY

For this year's Challenge Day, Year 12 took part in a remote learning day of workshops with the University of Sheffield. The workshops focused on choosing a course, subject overviews, and student life. There was also an opportunity for self-guided research on Unifrog.

### HEALTH DAY

Year 13 took part in a Health Day with workshops focused on mental health, sexual health, alcohol awareness, financial health and positive relationships.

## DROP OFF & PICK UP AT KNKS

The majority of parents continue to support us in keeping KNKS 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. 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,



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- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles,
- in front of an entrance to a property.

We have also received complaints from our neighbours relating to idling engines. Whilst waiting for students please can you support local residents and school in protecting the environment by turning your engines off whilst waiting to collect students.

Rule 123 of the Highway Code, states:

"You must not leave a vehicle's engine running unnecessarily while that vehicle is stationary on a public road."

Doing this can incur a £20 fixed-penalty fine under the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) Regulations 2002, rising to £40 if unpaid within the required timeframe.

**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*

## JUNIOR BAKE OFF - APPLICATIONS OPEN...



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**APPLICATIONS CLOSE  
SUNDAY 13TH MARCH 2022**

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