

KINGS NORTON GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

April 2022

Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

This half terms newsletter is a fantastic celebration of the diversity of opportunity within our school community and highlights the school beginning to re-establish its presence, very positively, within the local community and across Birmingham.

In this newsletter, you will see a new section showcasing two extracurricular activities, on this occasion Chess Club and Spanish Club, fantastic examples of student leadership through the Business Studies showcase and participation in the "City of Empire to City of



Diversity" exhibition. We celebrate our students team and individual participation in a wide range of sports and how we have raised awareness of Epilepsy and Autism and the plight of refugees including those from the Ukraine. We had great fun on Red Nose Day and supported our wider community through fundraising for Comic Relief. It was also fantastic to be able to welcome Rev. Matt Wilson back into school again to take part in our Easter Assemblies on the theme of 'Hope for all'.

This term we have also been pleased to be able to welcome our Governors back into school more regularly to work with staff and students. Details of the Governing Body along with a current vacancy for a Governor role can be found on our website: www.kngs.co.uk/about-us/governance/. I look forward to sharing the invaluable work this group do to support the school in our next newsletter.

I wish you all a fantastic holiday and to those celebrating, a wonderful Easter and to those observing Ramadan, Ramadan Mubarak.

Nicola Raggett - Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 11th Friday 22nd April Easter Break
- Monday 25th April Start of Term
- ♦ Monday 25th April Friday 6th May Year 11 & Year 13 Structured Assessment Period
- ◆ Tuesday 26th Thursday 28th April Year 9 Exams
- ♦ Thursday 28th April Friday 6th May Year 12 Formal Assessments
- ♦ Monday 2nd May Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS & STAFF
- ♦ Monday 9th May Tuesday 17th May Year 10 Exams
- ♦ Friday 13th May Year 11 Last Teaching Day
- ♦ Monday 16th May GCSE Exams Begin
- ◆ Friday 20th May Year 13 Last Teaching Day
- ♦ Monday 23rd May A Level Exams Begin
- ◆ Thursday 26th May End of term
- ♦ Friday 27th May Teacher Training Day SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS
- ♦ Monday 30th May Friday 3rd June Half Term Break



EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

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

A massive well done to all the Year 9 History students whose work was selected to be included in the 'From City of Empire to City of Diversity' exhibition at the central Library, Birmingham:

Kara Wray, Jess Barnett, Rhyanna Harney, Isabella Harris, Iniyah Saqib, Jess Locke, Lily Mole, Jess Sargeant, Ella Andrews, Millie White, Abi Heyes, Eleanor Thompson, Sophie Power,

Book in boundaries

Pleased across specific colors and collection

State in the colors of the colors

Black is Beautiful' Poem by Olivia Brown

Eve Cotton, Marianne de Wildt, Nellie McKenzie and Olivia Brown

The girls attended a launch event where they got to view the exhibition and to see their own work on display.

In particular, a really big well done to Kara Wray, Jessica Barnett and Rhyanna Harney

who were invited to speak about their work at the evening official launch. The girls spoke confidently and eloquently about

their involvement in the project and how it had inspired them to research their own family's history. Their speeches were described as the highlight of the evening by many people who attended the launch.

The exhibition shows Birmingham's changing population through photographs, exploring how Birmingham changed from being a City of Empire in 1889 to the City of Diversity it is today. The exhibition includes personal stories of migration and settlement



Work Produced by Kara Wray

by those who came to

Birmingham and put down roots in our city. In response to the photographs, our students and students from across the West Midlands created their own work, some of which is displayed in the exhibition.

Please do try and visit the exhibition.

From City of Empire to City of Diversity is now showing at The Library of Birmingham – details of which can be found <u>here</u>.





EASTER YEAR 7 PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

The Easter Year 7 Public Speaking Competition was held on Thursday 31st March 2022. The preliminary rounds had taken place in the Learning Hub, as part of regular Year 7 library lessons, where pupils had been asked to write and deliver a one minute speech on their free Bookbuzz book, which they had received before Christmas. Twelve pupils were then invited to take part in the Easter Public Speaking Competition. For the competition pupils were asked to prepare and deliver a 45 second speech about either 'A Special Day Out' or 'My Interests'. The event was very successful and the presentations were delivered with enthusiasm and confidence. The winner of the competition was *Eleonor Hodson.*Mrs Edwards



VALENTINE'S SCIENCE CLUB

How better to celebrate St Valentine's Day than with a heart dissection!? On March 23rd Year 7 were given the opportunity to take part in a fully supervised heart dissection. The activity is always really popular and it was fantastic to see the enthusiasm of the students taking part in the session. Mrs Bhangal and Miss Jhall ran the club, which included a demonstration of how the heart works using models and a cow's heart.

The students then thoroughly enjoyed carrying out their own dissections using sheep hearts. The whole experience was supported by our team of experienced technicians, including Ms Davies who came and



assisted throughout the session. The students were able to see the structures of the heart and link these to the heart's function.

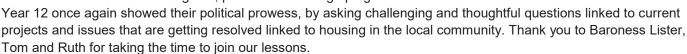
Mrs Banghal

AN AUDIENCE WITH BARONESS LISTER

This term has been busy for the Politics Department, with Year 13 spending most of the term preparing for their Summer exams. Year 12 have been looking at the role of the judicial branch in British Politics, and starting to make comparisons to their studies in Year 13 with American Politics.

Politics was delighted to welcome Baroness Ruth Lister, a Labour peer to the House of Lords nominated by Ed Miliband in 2011, to Year 12's lesson on Friday 25th March. A number of students from lower school also came along from Year 7 and Year 9 to ask questions to the Baroness. Her experience is in Social Policy, with a particular focus on women and refugees. Students asked some very thoughtful questions which elicited good lines of debate. Well done to **Lilia Kemm (Year 9)** and **Georgina Newton (Year 7)** for having the courage to stand up and ask a question in front of the Baroness and Sixth Form students. Thank you to Mrs Edwards for joining too!

On Friday 1st April, Politics once again welcomed a visitor to the lesson: Tom and Ruth from Homes England, part of the levelling up agenda.



Looking ahead to the summer term, the department will be taking part in the Politics Project with the aim of having a local MP speaking to students - the aim is to allow students insight into government and support those who are considering a career linked to Politics.

Well done to all our hard working students.







As you know, the Music Department Christmas Concert took place without an audience in December 2021. However, we did film the performances with a view to putting them on the school website for you to watch. Unfortunately, there are licensing complications which mean we have been unable to do this.



Looking to the future, I am optimistic that we will soon be able to get you back in school to enjoy the performances of our students in person. In the meantime, I will post photographs of the Christmas concert on the school website for you to look at.

Mr Gell and the Music Department





BUSINESS STUDIES SHOWCASE

On the 26th of February, there was a 'Business Fair' in the Learning Hub. There were lots of business-related games, which many people enjoyed. These included. Needs and Wants Snap. Dragons' Den. Guess the Logo.

These included, Needs and Wants Snap, Dragons' Den, Guess the Logo, guess the winner of The Apprentice and more. For these games, the prizes were sweets and chocolate!

The fair was organised by the Business Ambassadors. These are a group of Year 10

Business Students who meet every other Wednesday to work on events that promote Business Studies and how beneficial it would be to a wide range of students. The next project is selling revision resources that were left former students to raise money to charity. Thank you and hope to see more students at our next event!





By Isabel Band - Year 10

EX-KNGS STUDENT RETURNS WITH DRAMATIC IMPACT

Early in March Poppy Bunn an ex KNGS pupil returned as part of her work experience programme to lead some drama workshops with the Key Stage 3 Drama Club.

The sessions ran every lunchtime for the first week in March. Pupils had the opportunity to develop performance skills and explored ways to develop character and apply this to a script extract. Their work was then shared during the final session. The engagement and enthusiasm of pupils was outstanding. They showed incredible maturity and commitment. It was also an absolute pleasure to see Poppy back at KNGS working with our younger students to inspire and motivate them to develop as performers.

Ms Cartin



ROMEO & JULIET THEATRE PERFORMANCE AT KNGS

Year 10 and Year 11 students have been studying Romeo and Juliet in their English Literature lessons this half term, so we were delighted to be able to welcome Box Clever Theatre to the school to provide a live performance and workshop for each year group. This energetic theatre company presented an engaging and memorable adaptation which has really helped to consolidate students' knowledge of the plot and characters. Shakespeare's language was inventively juxtaposed with some narration in modern English which drew attention to key themes and ideas in the play. Following the performance, which was energetically staged by three versatile actors, students had the



opportunity to talk to the cast and participate interactively in a workshop which saw them explore key elements of the play and even ascend the stage to act out some key moments. Students really enjoyed the experience, both as an entertaining way to bring the text alive and an ideal means of revision.

Dr O'Mahony

EPILEPSY AWARENESS

On Friday 28th March, students and staff at KNGS were invited to wear an item of purple to school to help support and raise awareness for Epilepsy Awareness Day. It was great to see lots of purple around school, a huge thank you to all that got involved!





NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK - 28TH MARCH - 3RD APRIL

To celebrate Autism Awareness Week, we ran a competition in school.

Many people with Autism have their own special interest so we asked students to use their special interest to create something for Autism Awareness Week.

A panel of selected judges voted on the most creative and informative design. There was some excellent entries and it was a tough decision:





1st place - Amelie Zarifeh (8-5)- video entry)

2nd place – Joint winners- Caitlin Harborne (9-3) and Ella Coates (9-1)

3rd place – Joint winners- Lola Brown (11-1) and Alesha Robinson (7-4)

Thank you to everyone that entered. Prizes will be shared before Easter break!



Ms Cartin

EXAMINATIONS

Internal and external exams are fast approaching and will begin after Easter half term. A reminder of key dates can be found below:

Year 11 and Y13 Structured Assessment Period	Mon 25 th April – Fri 6 th May	
Year 9 Mock Exams	Tues 26 th – Thur 28 th April 2022	
Year 12 Mock Exams	Thur 28 th April – Fri 6 th May	
Year 10 Mock Exams	Mon 9 th – Tue 17 th May 2022	
First GCSE Exam	Mon 16 th May 2022	
First A Level Exam	Mon 23 rd May 2022	
Last GCSE & A Level Exam	Wed 29 th June 2022	
A Level Results Day	Thur 18 th August 2022	
GCSE Results Day	Thur 25 th August 2022	

We encourage all students to familiarise themselves with the "Candidate Handbook" on the schools website or by clicking on this link: **Candidate Handbook**, a copy is also available 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 Welch (cwelch@kngs.co.uk).

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/



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

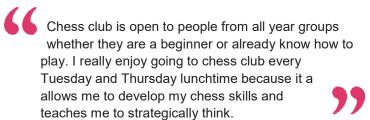
The last 18 months have really impacted on the extracurricular and enrichment opportunities for students. This aspect of personal development is a big focus for us as a school this year and the uptake for clubs and activities by students has been fantastic. Going forward we are working with our students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

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/

CHESS CLUB

Chess Club is well attended by students across all year groups. The club runs on a Tuesday and Thursday each week, and depending on the number of attendees priority is given to Years 7-9 on a Tuesday and priority given to Years 10 & 11 on a Thursday. The Chess Club was part of the Birmingham School's Chess League pre-COVID, it plans to return to once the League starts up again next academic year.





Phoebe Glover - Year 10

EL CLUB DE ESPAÑOL

Spanish Club runs every week with Mr Piotrowski and takes place in Room 22.



Spanish speaking club has been running since January of this year, and so far it has been a great opportunity for students to learn Spanish from scratch or improve their current Spanish speaking skills. We have already covered a wide range of conversational Spanish including greetings, basic conversation and even role play



between students! It is a great was to build confidence, learn new vocab and have fun while doing it! It runs in room 22 every Thursday lunchtime, so come along and ¡habla espanol con tus amigos!





Spanish speaking club is a great way to learn helpful phrases and conversational skills, along with a way to socialise. For any students wishing to pick up extra Spanish skills or refresh their language speaking skills this is a well suited club to join and a fun, relaxed space to be a part of.

Isara Garvey - Year 10



SPORTS UPDATE

KNGS INTER-HOUSE NETBALL

On Monday 14th February over 140 students took part in KNGS Inter House Netball Competition. Congratulations to all students who took part, the PE Department were impressed with their efforts, teamwork, leadership and sportsmanship! The winners were:



Year 7- Keller



Year 8 - Nightingale



Year 9- Goodall

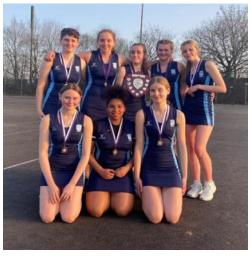


Year 10- Nightingale

NETBALL NEWS

In recent weeks, the Year 9 and Senior Netball Teams have participated in the Kings Norton Netball League Tournaments. Both teams excelled - winning all their games, taking home gold medals.

Congratulations to all students involved!





	Seniors		Year 9	
	Opposition	Result	Opposition	Result
Semi Final	KEFW	Won 9-7	KE Northfield	Won 11-5
Final	EHS	Won 8-7	EHS	Won 7-3

CROSS COUNTRY

Alba Smith-Pena (Year 8) was selected to represent West Midlands Schools in the Junior Girls (Years 8 & 9) race at the English Schools Cross Country Championships on 19th March at Paddock Wood in Kent. In the Championships back in January, Alba fell over badly grazing her leg, but still managed to get up and finish the race and, even though she finished just outside of the selection places then, she has now made the team and is really looking forward to representing West Midlands Schools. Athletic Association.



This is an incredible achievement as there will be athletes at the next event who will be a year older than her. Well done Alba!

Mr Piotrokski

BASKETBALL

Our Year 9 & 10 Basketball Team took part in a tournament at St Thomas Aquinas. They played 3 matches and showed excellent teamwork and perseverance in some tight games. Results were 18-23 to STACS, 16-18 to Bishop Challoner and a win against Yardley's 26-14.

Well done to Megan A, Alex A-K, Manahil B, Isabelle C, Tiffany H, Lexie H, Myley P, Rakaiya S, Taylor S, Fatima S and Holly T!

Mrs Currie

SUCCESSES

KNGS STUDENT DANCES HER WAY TO SUCCESS

We are delighted to share the amazing successes and extensive accolades of one of our students, **A'shaea Robinson in Year 8**, who in the last month has succeeded in bringing home a large number of trophies, having taken part in a number of dance championships as a member of Eloquent Dance School.

Recently she took part in a Freestyle competition taking away three 1st place medals!

A'shaea recently took part in a Freestyle competition taking away the1st place medal. She was also selected to take part in this year's XM Championship Competition in Essex in March, where she won 1st place in the Solo Street Dance, Duo Street Dance, Quads and Group categories.



More recently A'shaea was also selected to compete at The West Midlands Freestyle Championships on Sunday 3rd April where she won 2nd place in the Street Dance Solo Category and 5th place in the Freestyle Duo.

In addition, A'shaea is a member of the Birmingham City Gymnast squad Advanced Team!

Well done A'shaea - we are super proud of your growing list of achievements!



YEAR 8 STUDENT'S FUNDRASING SUCCESS

A massive well done to Molly Oldershaw in Year 8 for her amazing fundraising efforts

for Comic Relief!



Molly blew her £100 target out of the water raising a total of £320 by climbing the equivalent of the Old Man of Hoy which is 137 metres!

Well done Molly - very impressive and all for a a very worthwhile cause!



YEAR 7 STUDENTS IMPRESS WITH CREATIVE MULTI-FAITH BUILDINGS

As part of their 'Sacred Buildings' unit in RE, students in Year 7 have been learning about different places of worship and also worked in groups to design their own multi-faith building.

The students have enjoyed working in their groups bringing together their research on churches, mosques, gurdwaras, mandirs and synagogues, designing and planning each section of their project. They had to carefully consider the features and rules for each place of worship and work as a team in designing a building that might cater for followers of different faiths. They worked

very hard and brilliantly presented their ideas in front their class. A huge well done to all the students who participated.

Thank you to Mrs Edwards, Mr Charlett and Mr Ahmedi for taking their time

out to come and watch and support the students' presentations.

Congratulations to **Poppy Avards**, **Ava Parsons**, **Emma Sharp**, **Jessica Ensor** and **Evie Dunsmuir** who have produced an extraordinary multifaith building and gave a very informative presentation about their design.

Well done to Florence
Brandon–Oddy and Ashrita
Handa for their outstanding
homework in RE. They both have
consistently worked very hard
each week producing wonderful
and creative pieces for RE.

Miss Kaur





TEXTILE A LEVEL SUCCESS

Scarlett Rea, currently in our **Year 13** Textiles cohort, has worked incredibly hard and submitted a very unique, creative and personal Portfolio whilst enduring a rigorous interview process to be awarded a place to study the Costume for Theatre and Screen Degree at UAL, Wimbledon College of Fashion.

This is most prestigious Fashion and Textiles School in the UK, second in the world only to the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. Competition for places is incredibly fierce and Scarlett has worked exceptionally hard to secure her place.

We look forward to following Scarlett on her creative journey and hopefully seeing some of her fabulous creations on the West End stage in future years.

Mrs Garcia



YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHERS INSPIRING EARTHQUAKE RESISITANT BUILDING DESIGN

Year 8 students have been learning about natural hazards and how people's lives can be affected by natural hazards at any time. Students have been examining the characteristics of hazards, disasters and the emergency responses in less developed, emerging and more developed countries. They have been finding out how a hazard becomes a disaster and how disaster preparedness can reduce the impact of a natural hazard. The students had to carefully consider the design and features of an earthquake -resistant building by ensuring

their final design allows the building to move with the quake, with retrofitted steel beams for strength.

A huge well done to the **Amelie Zarifeh, Lydia Morse-Brown, Emily Justin** and **Ruby Godsill** who have worked incredibly hard to build their earthquake resistant building models.







DAY OF ACTION FOR REFUGEES & THOSE DISPLACED BY CONFLICT

On Thursday 31st March our KNGS Student Amnesty Group led on a 'Day of Action for Refugees & Those Displaced by Conflict'. The students involved planned and promoted a day of activities to raise awareness, this included:

 Students and staff planting over 150 sunflowers at lunchtime as a gesture of solidarity with refugees and those displaced by conflict, raising over £50 for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC Appeal).





- Students and staff were able to sign a poster created by the Amnesty Group as part of an Amnesty International campaign calling on the UK Government to make changes to their policy on refugees.
- A 'Donation Station' for staff and students to donate a range of items for the Ukrainian

Refugee appeal was set up in reception. The items collected were donated to the charitable organisation, the Midlands Polish Community (MPC), who have been co-ordinating the transportation of donations

to Warsaw and then onwards to the Ukraine. Thank you to all who contributed, we were able to take two car loads of items to the donation centre - for which they were extremely grateful.

A MASSIVE thank you to everybody who got involved and supported these activities - either in school on the day or by contributing to the 'Donation Station' and massive well done the our Amnesty Group and Mr Charlett for all of their hard work organising a fantastic event.



RED NOSE DAY

A HUGE thank you and a massive well done to all the students & staff at KNGS who on Friday 18th March managed to raise just over a whopping £1600 for Comic Relief through a Non uniform day the sale of cakes and samosas at break, along with fun activities sat lunchtime with a Treasure Hunt & Just Dance fun!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP



The Student Leadership Group delivered their sustainability project at the start of this term. The students planted trees in the field, cleaned gum from under tables, picked litter and conducted a recycled goods sale. Students from all across the school took part in these events and raised awareness about the importance of sustainability in our local community.

For the upcoming half-term, the SLG are working on a health and well-being project. This will entail organised games on the field and group relaxation sessions; hopefully the students will benefit from these during the exam period.

Mr Houston

LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS

The language ambassadors are a group of students in Year 9, Year 10 and Year 13, who love languages! The following students have been committed language ambassadors over the last 5 weeks:



Year 9: Abi Heyes, Emma O'Neill, Caitlin Thornewell, Marianne De Wildt.

Year 10: Nabila Ahmed, Hilda Baker, Isabella Basanes, Elizabeth Curtis, Phoebe Glover, Holly Handley, Caitlin Hopwood, Amanvir Rai, Miriam Shpanin, Lois Tromans, Mia Wainwright.

Year 13: Lucy Burdett.

Here is what we have been getting up to:

Language clinic:

Language clinic started on Friday the 4th of March at lunch time in ICT3. It is open every Friday to any student who wants extra support and help in French, Spanish, and German. Students can access homework or assessment help from language ambassadors, some of their teachers, or the computers and online resources.

Renewing display boards:

The language ambassadors are also busy updating display boards throughout the MFL corridor to display the new student work and to create space for new cultural displays.

Home Languages Questionnaire:

Ahead of the European Day of Languages (26th September), a Microsoft form will soon be sent out to all staff and students, asking them about the languages that they speak at home and that they have learnt in the past or are learning now. We hope to collect data about the incredible variety of languages that are spoken by people at KNGS.

Preparing for European day of languages:

As well as the questionnaire, we are busy creating resources celebrating languages across the world. So far, we have created information PowerPoints to do with cultures in countries that do not speak English, along with tongue twisters and ideas for competitions.

Courses in other languages:

You may have heard about the conversational Spanish group that has started, teaching students fun things to use when having conversations in Spanish. This takes place on Thursday lunchtimes in Room 22 with Mr Piotrowski. We are also planning an upcoming 4-week taster class in Polish.

Fun things to try at home:

Wordle in different languages! - https://blog.duolingo.com/wordle-in-other-languages/

Learn Ukranian on Duolingo as a sign of solidarity - https://www.duolingo.com/course/uk/en/Learn-Ukrainian

Mrs Housley would like to warmly thank the language ambassador team for their hard work and commitment.



EQUALITY & DIVERSITY GROUP

As part of their education blog called 'Inclusive Classrooms: Taking positive steps together', Oxford University Press published an article from our Head of RE, Mr Ahmedi, about how Inter faith Week is organised in school. You can read it here:

 $\underline{https://educationblog.oup.com/secondary/inclusive-classrooms-celebrating-inter-faith-tolerance}$



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: Phoebe Barton-Butcher & Lauren Neal.

Year 8: Alba Smith-Pena & Molly Oldenshaw.

Year 9: Bibi Bramble, Sophie Lowndes-Butler & Olivia Brett-Young.

Year 10: Caitlin Hopwood & Sky Humpage.

Year 11: Hannah Chetty & Evie McFadzean.

Well done to all of the above students.



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: Eleanor Hodson (Year 7), Molly Oldenshaw (Year 8), Ali Saudaoui (Year 12) & Charlotte Locke (Year 13).

<u>Courage:</u> Georgina Newton (Year 7), Maisy Simms (Year 8), Lily Rose Bergin (Year 8), Ella Coates Year 9), Lilia Kemm (Year 9) & Clarrie Williams (Year 12).

<u>Flourish:</u> Saleha Zia (Year 7), Bethany Nightingale (Year 7), Jayne Harris (Year 8), Nicole Davis (Year 8), Chloe Berfutt (Year 9), Megan Nightingale (Year 9), Charlotte Waters (Year 10), Louisa Deane (Year 10), Elizabeth Selanitis (Year 11) & Rahaf Mohammad (Year 11).

Flourish & Courage: Sonny Connor-Bell (Year 13).

