

Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you all for your support this year as we have worked to return to some level of normality.

I am incredibly proud of the students and staff and the way that they have embraced the challenge of the return to a normal way of working. This has included students sitting formal exams and re-engagement in enrichment activities and co-curricular activities, with 53 enrichment activities having taken place this year. It's been great to see the return of educational visits and being able to welcome visitors, such as theatre groups back into school. It has also been great to utilise our new found expertise in Microsoft Teams to support learning in school, for example inviting a range of employers to talk to students virtually in relation to their job roles, along with the use of 'Virtual Surgeries' in subjects such as Politics to support subject learning, as you will see as you read the newsletter.



Over the past few weeks it has been wonderful to see the return of some of community events namely leavers' proms, sports day and the school fete; we look forward to increasing this cross year group engagement through the House system next year. Thanks to your support the fete raised a fantastic £953.42. This money will go straight into the School Fund, which our Student Leadership Group, under the leadership of our new Head Students, will consult on how to best spend the money to improve our school environment. Thank you also for your kind donations to Birmingham Children's Hospital for our non-uniform, you raised £435. The Children's Hospital do amazing work and this year have looked after several of our students and their siblings.

I hope you enjoy reading all about the activities students have been involved in and their fantastic achievements both in and out of school, be sure to take a look at the South Area Network Digital Arts showcase of KS3 highlighted later in the newsletter.

Wishing you all a happy and safe summer holiday.

Nicola Raggett - Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Friday 22nd July - Friday 2nd September** - Summer Break
- ◆ **Thursday 18th August** - A Level Results Day www.kngs.co.uk/about-us/examinations/
- ◆ **Thursday 25th August** - GCSE Results Day www.kngs.co.uk/about-us/examinations/
- ◆ **Thursday 25th August** - Sixth Form Enrolment www.kngs.co.uk/sixth-form/enrolment-25th-august-2022/
- ◆ **Monday 5th - Tuesday 6th September** - Teacher Training Days **SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS**
- ◆ **Wednesday 7th September** - Students Return to School
- ◆ **Monday 19th September** - Year 12 Parents as Partners (Online), 5pm – 5.45pm
- ◆ **Monday 26th September** - Whole School Open Evening, 5pm - 8pm
- ◆ **Monday 27th September** - Whole School Open Morning, 9am - 11am (last tour 10.30am) **BOOKING REQUIRED**
- ◆ **Thursday 29th September** - Year 10 Parents as Partners (Online)
- ◆ **Thursday 6th October** - Whole School Open Morning, 9am - 11am (last tour 10.30am) **BOOKING REQUIRED**
- ◆ **Monday 10th October** - Year 7 Parents as Partners
- ◆ **Friday 21st October** - Last Day of Term
- ◆ **Monday 24th - Friday 28th October** - Half Term Break

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The History Ambassadors did a great job of organising some whole school events to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. During the school picnic on the 26th June, they organised a Jubilee bake sale, taking the opportunity to raise funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital. Thank you to everyone who baked a cake for the sale - it raised over £80 for the Hospital.



The Ambassadors also organised a Jubilee History trail around the field. Students were encouraged to find seven crowns hidden around the field marking a historical event from each decade over the past 70 years. Lots of students participated and won prizes. Well done to **Iniyah Saqib, Jessica Locke, Kara Wray, Eve Cotton and Isabella Harris** for all their hard work in organising these events.

Ms Thatcher

In addition, we also held a non uniform day where staff and students were encouraged to wear red, white and blue.

Mrs Edwards also ran some Jubilee themed activities in the Learning Hub including a jigsaw puzzle session.

Well done to Year 8 student **Aimon Qazi** who shared this fantastic piece of Jubilee artwork with us!



YEAR 8 TRIP TO TWYCROSS ZOO

Our Year 8's had an inspiring day learning about animal behaviour, biodiversity and conservation at Twycross Zoo. Students came face-to-face with endangered species from around the globe, including imposing gorillas, majestic Amur leopards, black rhinos (we won't mention the smell), and playful gibbons. Miss Davies' group were even stalked by the Sumatran tiger. The smaller animals provided some great moments, students enjoyed feeding the colourful lorikeets, photographing the spectacular butterflies and



Photo taken by Mr Willis

cuddly meerkats, and the playful penguins were striking a pose.

As usual, the KNGS students were fantastic ambassadors for the school. They were polite to the public and showed a lot of respect for the wellbeing of the animals.

They definitely achieved their daily step count and weren't phased for the brief period of rain.

Thank you to all staff and students that made the trip such a great event and good luck to all entries into the photography competition.

Mr McClelland



Opening a World of Opportunities

YEAR 12 PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION AT ARTEFACT

After a gap of three years the Year 12 Photography Exhibition was held at Artefact Café and we were all delighted to be back in Stirchley. The exhibition opened with an evening reception March 30th which was well attended by students, staff and parents and Artefact made us feel most welcome. The consensus was that this was a very high quality set of images and two students sold work! The students were happy with the outcome and it has been a most valuable experience in group co-operation and completing tasks by deadlines. The exhibition was on for the following and we are looking forward to holding another next year.

Mr Abelson



BIG BANG CAREERS EVENT

A small but elite group of students, **Millie White, Joe Hoare-Williams and Bebe Spackman**, went to the NEC on 24th June to see the 'Big Bang' careers event. There were stalls, speeches and events all relating to STEM careers; science, technology, maths and English.

There were online career advisors, slime making, a wall of women mechanical engineers, 3D shape building, the RAF promoting careers, even information on the uses of radiation in nuclear medicine! You could get in a brand spanking new truck to try it for size!

The students had a very busy and hectic morning but came away knowing a lot more about careers in STEM.

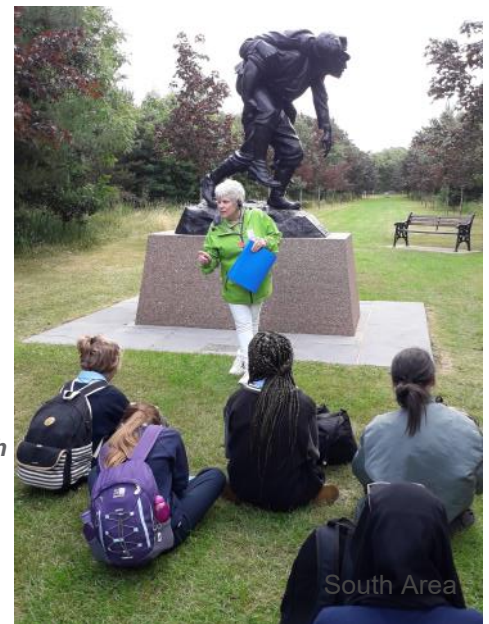
Ms Holbeche

YEAR 7 ENGLISH STUDENTS VISIT THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

Attention! Clip boards at the ready!

Despite some teachers experiencing surprise sunburn after a morning of inclement weather, Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed their long, character-building walk through The National Memorial Arboretum. All pupils were respectful to the history and visitors they encountered; the students really impressed us with their attentiveness and willingness to ask questions on a guided tour which marched them from grand monuments to servicemen to beautiful gardens grown in honour to other public servants. It was a great day and we look forward to future school trips with this fantastic year group!

Mr Millward, English



SOUTH AREA NETWORK ART EXHIBITION

Traditionally during the summer term, the schools in the Network collaborate on an Arts Exhibition.

At the beginning of the academic year, with the ongoing uncertainty around COVID-19, the decision was made to go digital and celebrate the work of our KS3 students. This Digital Arts Showcase celebrates the incredible work that takes place across all schools and the skills and talents of our students.

We are very proud of all our students work and we hope you enjoy the variety and creativity demonstrated in these presentations. To view the showcase please visit:

<https://sway.office.com/iwZDxZxCTUM5aDHn?ref=email&loc=play>

 **South Area Network
Arts Exhibition**

Summer 2022

Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.

THE POLITICS PROJECT

The Politics Department is working with the Politics Project to provide digital surgeries for Year 12 students studying the subject. This has involved Year 12 planning how to run a session with a member from the House of Lords and a Member of Parliament.

Year 12 welcomed Lord Harlech, who won a by election in July 2021 to be nominated as a hereditary peer to the House of Lords, to their lesson on Tuesday 28th June. The students showed real courage in asking Lord Harlech a range of questions: from his go to take out option, his star sign, how he would argue for hereditary peers in modern day politics and his political idol. Students showed respect in the manner of their questioning and engaging with the session. Year 12 politics showed the same levels of engagement and enthusiasm with the second surgery with local MP Steve McCabe. They once again impressed organisers, and Mr McCabe asking questions based around Labour leadership and proportional representation.



The Politics Project provides opportunities for schools to interact with politicians at all levels, from local to national government. We look forward to working with the project more in the future, especially looking ahead to Year 12 next year when they will be studying US politics.

THE POLITICS PROJECT

*Ms Wright
Head of Politics*

FORWARD THINKING PROGRAMME

On Tuesday 14th June 9, Year 8 students, who have been selected as participants in the University of Birmingham's Forward Thinking programme, visited the university for the first of what will be a series of visits and events over the next four years designed to prepare them for give them an insight into the benefits offered by a university education.

This is the largest number of cohort that KNGS has had accepted onto the programme. Alongside other Birmingham schools' Year 8 students they enjoyed a series of tasks; the paper dart distance challenge and unforgettable spaghetti and marshmallow tower building exercise followed by a tour of the campus.

Joined later by their parents and carers in The Aston Webb Hall, they were treated to a buffet to an inspirational talk by Action Jackson. Suitably motivated, they are looking forward to their subject taster day at the university in October.

Mr Abelson



MUSIC & ARTS SHOWCASE

This year has been an extremely busy one in the music department, and it has been a real pleasure to get back to rehearsals, performances and lots of practical music making activities. These have included performances at The University of Birmingham for the Flute Ensemble and the Chamber Choir, a 6 week DJ workshop, and of course all of the many and varied ensembles that performed so successfully in our recent summer showcase.



It was fantastic to see so many of our students involved and equally fantastic to see so many parents and carers there supporting us! I always look forward to opportunities for the Arts Faculty to show off just how busy we have been, and it was great to be able to include performances from dance and drama, and readings from some of our Year 8 poets.



The event also provided us with the opportunity for the Arts Faculty to display some of the KS3 Art, Photography, Textiles and DT work that students had been developing throughout their lessons this year. For Textiles the themes were Alice in Wonderland and British Garden Party Culture where they used textiles



techniques such as tie dye, applique, hand and machine embroidery, fabric paint, pen and crayon in order to create sustainable tote bags or cushion covers.

Art covered the themes of the Great British Bake Off, ceramics, Year 8, Under the Sea environmental campaign Art, Year 8, Culture and Identity, Year 9 and Book Sculptures Year 9.

However, there is still time for us to squeeze in some more performances which will be taking place at Symphony Hall, organised by Birmingham Music Service. Our Flute Ensemble and our Chamber Choir will be taking part in a massed ensemble and many of our students will also be taking part in other ensembles. For more information about this five day long music extravaganza, please type the link below into your internet browser.

<https://www.servicesforeducation.co.uk/blog/news/youth-proms-22/>

SUMMER FETE

We were delighted to be able to hold our annual summer fete again this year, with the last one being back in 2019!

We were very proud of the students, supported by their Form Tutors and the Pastoral Team, for all the hard work that went into planning and managing their stalls. The Fete was held on the 16th July this year and we had great weather, lots of community spirit and amazing talents from students who took part in Kings Norton's got Talent! Stalls varied from Samosas, beat the goalie, splat the teacher and many more to raise a huge sum of £953.42 for the School Fund.

In addition, we also held a non-uniform raising an additional £435 for Birmingham Children's Hospital - well done everybody!



Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.

Final 2022 Update:

2022 has been a fantastic year for the Duke of Edinburgh Award at KNGS! Below are a few updates and photos that will be of interest.

2022 Expeditions and Awards

This years cohort have just finished their final assessment weekend in Blackwell. The entire group passed their assessments with some excellent team work and leadership skills shown throughout.

There have been many highlights across this expedition year, not least the evening campfire, toasting marshmallows, rounders, frisbee and much more!

Activities that have been undertaken as part of the awards volunteering section included helping in charity shops, working with the elderly, support people in the local community with disabilities, supporting play groups and coaching children in a leadership role.

Physical activities undertaken were equally as wide ranging including martial arts, fitness, trampolining, cycling and swimming. The final element prior to the expedition was skills based with our students showing a wide range of skills including learning to play an instrument, leadership roles, photography and many more.

There are just a few finishing touches before the awards can be submitted - but students should be proud of the comeback that 2022 has been for D of E at KNGS!

A message of thanks

It goes without saying that this years awards would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of KNGS staff providing the opportunities for students to take part - I would like to personally extend my thanks to the following members of staff who helped me to run the expeditions as well as any other staff who helped support the students through clubs or activities for the three sections prior to the expedition.

Expedition staff: Ms Caswell, Mr Steele, Mr Goddard, Mr Potter, Ms Wright, Mr Piotrowski, Mr Page and Mr Abelson.

My thoughts have already turned to beginning the process all over again with the current Y9 students going into next year - and I look forward to another successful cohort!

Have a restful and relaxing summer break.

Mr Willis





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/

CRAFT CLUB

We've finished! It has taken us a whole term to design, collect bottle tops and then make our giant school logo artwork. The Year 7 and 8 craft club have run a competition to ensure we had the thousands of bottle tops we needed. Thanks to those of you who collected and donated. Well done to 7-5 who collected a colossal box full of bottle tops!

The organisation and democracy within the group has been impressive too. The list of those who wanted to operate the glue gun went on the board and the two minute timer indicated change of operator. Let's not forget the person who needed to collect the trails of glue so we didn't all get covered in it. It was certainly worth it in the end with a logo nearly two metres high. The Christmas wreaths were impressive last term but this term we have scaled new heights.

Our next project? We have all sorts of ideas but whatever we make, we look forward to sharing our crafts with you in another newsletter.

Mrs Shakespeare



PHILOSOPHY & CAKE CLUB

Since December, our brilliant Year 8 RE ambassadors have been hosting a 'Philosophy and Cake' club for their year group. It's been a massive hit and continues to grow in popularity. Here one of the RE ambassadors, Aimon Qazi, explains more - Mr W Ahmed, Head of RE

“Philosophy and cake club' is an incredible club led by Mr Ahmed where we get to talk about and debate lots of great topics. A few of these have already included: 'Is God real?', 'Should there be rules about what we eat?', 'Can you believe in both religion and science?' and many more! And of course everyone gets to enjoy some delicious cakes made by different people from the group who volunteer to bring them in.

With each topic one or more members does a presentation on a subject of their choice. After the presentation we all start discussing and debating our points of view! Everyone gets really enthusiastic and involved.

"I like 'philosophy and cake' club because there are so many deep topics and everyone always gets involved. I mostly love how everyone is always so enthusiastic and we always love to get our views heard! Also, everyone loves the cakes that people bring in!" - Navneet Wilkhu

Quite a few Year 7s have now joined the club and we hope that in the future we can include the older years! The club is extremely popular, we get new members every week and everyone loves it!

We also get very interesting questions throughout the discussion that really get people thinking! Although the club takes place on a Monday Week 1 lunch time, no one feels as if they're missing out, myself included. In fact it is my favourite lunch time of the week!

"The cakes are delicious! I like debating different topics and hearing other opinions as well as expressing my own, it's very fun!" - Bethan Fielder

Not only do you get to freely express your opinions, faith and beliefs, but you get to hear about others' too! This is an incredible learning opportunity for people to learn more about their peers and how they see the world and religion! Philosophy and Cake club is an amazing opportunity and is highly recommended by all members!

Article written by Aimon Qazi (8-5), with quotes from Bethan Fielder (8-5) and Navneet Wilkhu (8-2)



Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.

SPORTS UPDATE

BASKETBALL

In the Spring, our combined Year 9 and 10 team played in a Basketball friendly against Aston Manor Academy.

It was a very physical game with some tough defence needed, players were **Alex, Isobel, Megan, Holly and Myley** from Year 10 and **Fatima, Tiffany, Manahil, Rakaiya and Rhyanna** from Year 9.

All played brilliantly with some strong defence led by **Alex** and excellent shooting as well as a particularly nice lay up from **Myley**, meaning the game finished 46-25 to KNGS.



NATIONAL SCHOOL SPORTS WEEK

For **National School Sports Week** pupils in KS3 took on the five 60 second challenges in a circuit in their PE lessons – We had pupils doing the challenges of – Around the World, tap up tennis, catch and clap, speed bounce and fast feet.



We also had pop up sessions on Tuesday and Thursday lunch times where students were invited to challenge their teacher to beat their score.

Points totals were added up across the week and House winners were as follows:

Year 7 with 8388 points – Keller

Year 8 with 7433 points was Goodall

Year 9 with 9665 points were Goodall

Overall KS3 results – Goodall were the winners with 25,403

23703	22984	25403	23729
3rd	4th	1st	2nd

Well done to everyone who took part! Don't forget if you were featured in the results power-point shown in assembly as a top scorer or winner of any of the challenges then you can collect your prize from Mrs Currie.

Staff top scores 😊



Speed Bounce challenge

RHO	93
ASI	63
GHA	61

Tap up challenge

ALO	230
PST	207
DPO	175
RCU	167
HPI	152
JWR	123

Around the World challenge

RCU	68
DMC	66
PST	58
HPI	33

Catch and Clap challenge

HPI	71
Anne	62
DPO	43

Thank you and well done to all staff who participated 😊

SPORTS DAY

Sports day took place again on the back field on the 29th June! Some incredible performances were executed with 13 House records broken!! The atmosphere was electric, with supporters battling it out to be the loudest in order to cheer their year group and house on to victory. All performers excelled in their field and did their Year/houses proud; it was a real team effort. Well done to everybody that took part and special congratulations to Nightingale House who were overall winners on the day!



SUCSESSES

KNGS STUDENT WINS GOLD & BECOMES EUROPEAN TUMBLING CHAMPION

A massive well done to KNGS Year 9 student **Alicia Field** who had a very busy week in Rimini, Italy in June at the European Tumbling Championships representing Team GB at the start of June.

Alicia qualified for the finals of the Individual Junior Tumbling Event, going on to win a Gold Medal, making her the Junior Tumbling European Champion.

In addition, Alicia also competed in the team event representing Great Britain, with the team scoring full marks, gaining them a team gold medal.

Alicia is now the new Junior Tumbling European Champion and Team Junior Tumbling Champion - an amazing achievement at the age of 14!

Congratulations Alicia we are beyond super proud of you!



YEAR 8 STUDENT COMPETES IN SPAIN

A massive well done to Year 8 Student **Alba Smith Pena** who competed in the National Duathlon in April and a Triathlon Team and Relays Spanish Championships as part of Benalmadena Triathlon Club Young Talents Team in June.

As well as a solid team performance Alba also secured a new personal best!

Well done Alba!

FRICION ARTS - HANAMI WORKSHOP

As part of her involvement with Friction Arts, Year 8 student, **Ruby Cooper**, recently had the wonderful experience of exploring Hanami, the Japanese traditional custom of enjoying the beauty of flowers. Artist, Atsuko Kamura was in residence at 'the Edge' in Digbeth between the 1-4 May 2022.

During the event Ruby took part in a cherry blossom sweet making workshop, she created flowers for an art instalment and joined a words, music and dance improvisation workshop. Ruby felt privileged to have the opportunity to explore and develop an understanding of the ancient tradition of Japanese flower viewing. Well done Ruby - these flowers look beautiful!

Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.



KNGS LEADS THE WAY AT THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

KNGS Year 8 Student Selected as Batonbearer

We were delighted when we found out that Year 8 Student **Amelie Zarifeh** had been selected to take part in the Commonwealth Games Queens Baton Relay in the West Midlands in a few weeks time.

Amelie will be taking part in the relay on **Wednesday 27th July, with her segment starting at 9.50am from 133 Selly Oak Road ending at 304 Selly Oak Road** - meaning Amelie will be passing KNGS!

If you are able to come out and support Amelie, in this once of a life time opportunity, I am sure she will massively appreciate it! Good luck Amelie!

Miss Banner to Look After Canada

After having volunteered as a 'Gamesmaker' at the Olympic Games in London in 2012 and as a 'Clydesider' at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in 2014, I decided to put myself forward and volunteer to be part of the 'Commonwealth Collective' - the name given to volunteers working to ensure the smooth running of the Birmingham Games this year.

I had a rather intense interview at The Library of Birmingham last September and then had to wait five months to see if I had been selected. After having volunteered for two major international events before, I was hoping that I might have the necessary qualities the Commonwealth Committee required. However, with over **41,000** other people from all around the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries applying to volunteer- there was always a chance that I might not be selected.

Finally, after months of anticipation, I found out in February that I had been accepted - apparently, my previous volunteering experience, plus the job that I do for a living and my knowledge of languages had stood me in good stead!

We finish school for the summer and my first shift starts the very next day- no rest for the wicked! **450** volunteers in The Collective have been selected to work as Commonwealth Games Assistants and this will be my role. Essentially, we get allocated a Commonwealth country and we are attached to them from their arrival to Birmingham from 19th July until their departure after the Closing Ceremony. I am to be based at Birmingham University Athletes Village and I will be helping and supporting the athletes, trainers, managers and other staff that make up the team of my allocated country - which is Canada.

I am really looking forward to representing my city and helping 'my' Commonwealth country have the best Games experience ever. I know that it will be tiring but also very rewarding and an amazing experience to treasure forever. Hopefully I might see some of you and your families at some of the Games venues at the start of the summer holidays!

Miss Banner

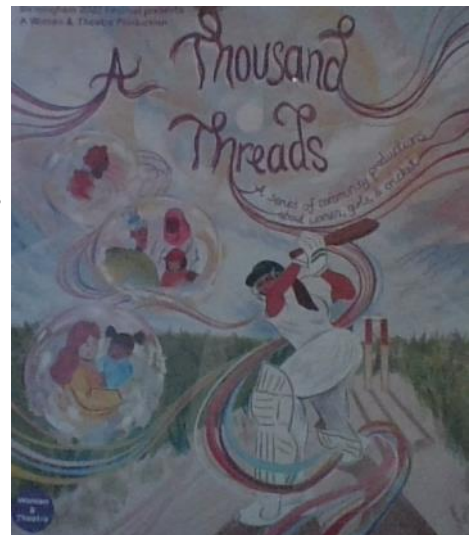
A Thousand Threads

In June, Year 8 student **Molly Oldershaw** took part in a cricket show as part of the Commonwealth Games called 'A Thousand Threads'.

'A Thousand Threads' was a performance bringing together community performers from Birmingham and Sandwell to create a vibrantly choreographed live performance, set to a unique soundscape of words and music.

Developed from local research, the outdoor production explores broad themes about women and girls' lives and aspirations both on and off the cricket pitch.

“ Molly said: I really enjoyed taking part in this amazing performance celebrating women's cricket being in the Commonwealth Games for the first time. Because it really should have been before now! It has opened my eyes to the world of performance, and how much sport means to women and girls. So, if you came along to the MAC in July, I hope you enjoyed the experience and the passion and power of femininity portrayed in the performance. ”



FAIRNESS TASTES BETTER - YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY

“ During this topic we learnt about Fairtrade and how it tries to make a difference to the lives of the people who grow and make the things we love. Learning about the way in which clothes are made in low-income countries shocked us as we did not expect some of our favorite brands to treat their workers so poorly. We were surprised to discover that children were working in sweatshops and that they might even lie about their ages to get jobs where the pay was so poor. We felt much better when we learnt about all the charities such as Fairtrade that helped people get out of these situations.

We then set about designing our own Fairtrade chocolate bars. We researched the process by which chocolate is made, designed and branded our bars, and investigated cocoa cooperatives that could supply our raw materials. We learnt how to create and present a sales pitch. Some of us even made chocolate bars which helped it feel even more like a real sales pitch. We really enjoyed watching the pitches made by other groups and asking them unexpected questions to see how prepared they were.

Overall, there was a well-deserved win by Sweet Supreme who truly did so well. All the other groups also produced amazing presentations. Sweet Supreme's bar contained cocoa, chocolate, shortbread, vanilla and coconut, with white chocolate and popping candy drizzle. This chocolate bar came to life as one of the people in the group, Isabel Keil, set about making the chocolate bar by hand. It was delicious.



Isabel Keil, set about making the chocolate bar by hand. It was delicious.

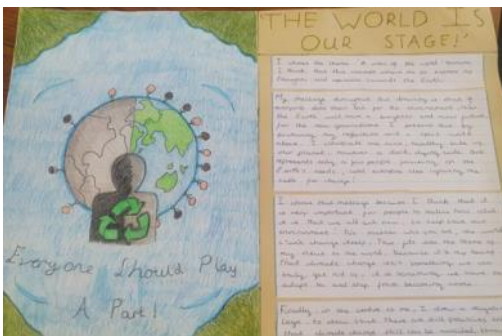
Fairtrade is a charity close to people's hearts because it helps people who are struggling to make money in the long chain that is the chocolate industry. Fairtrade shortens the production chain and makes sure everybody gets a fair price for the crops they grow.

A huge shoutout to **Isabel Keil and Chloe Renshaw-Assiene** who made the chocolate bars (Sweet Supreme and Sunrise Chocolate) come to life and let the whole geography class eat their way through a double lesson. Thank you!

Sara Eustace and Tabitha Russell, Year 7

SPIRITED ARTS COMPETITION

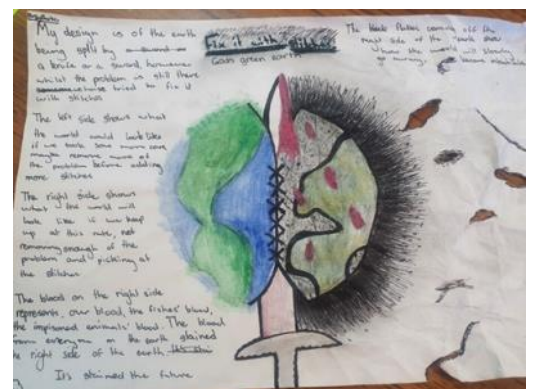
In recent RE lessons Year 7 have been creating some beautiful and deep thinking pieces based around the themes for the National Spirited Art competition.



I have been super impressed with the independent learning skills on display from Year 7 and their deep thinking and persuasive descriptions to explain their ideas. Pupils had to plan and draft their ideas before completing and then presenting their pieces to their peers. Well done to all for such hard work and creativity – brilliant!



Mr Ahmed and the RE Ambassadors will judge the pieces next week and the top ten from Year 7 will be entered for the national Spirited Arts competition.



Look out for results in the next newsletter after the summer holiday.

Mrs Currie

Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.

YEAR 8 - MEGA CITIES

A huge well done to **Tianna Harrison** who has worked incredibly well to write an inspirational poem on Megacities for the Urbanisation Unit.

Miss Kaur

Mega-Cities Galore

People move to urban areas
For a better life
For better job opportunities
But not everyone will want to move.

Mega-cities galore

21-30 in total.

But people decide what to do. Life is different when you move to a mega-city
Crowded and popular and people you have never met

Mega-cities galore

The push & pull factors,
It's people's decision not ours
Not important for many
But when they say "I moved here"
Doesn't mean everything.
There are many mega-cities

Mega-cities galore.

YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHERS - IMPRESSIVE EARTHQUAKE RESISTANT BUILDING DESIGN



“ For our project, we have made a city of earthquake proof buildings, on a base which we have made to look like an earthquake had occurred. Each building has their number on the top of it to help helicopters to identify any damaged buildings after an earthquake. We have all made our buildings out of cardboard and decorated with materials such as: card, paper, paper straws and netting, and decorative pens for details! We have designed our project for a High-Income Country as they are very well-developed buildings, which a HIC would be able to afford. We all worked very hard on our project and worked effectively together.” ”

A huge well done to **Navneet Wilkhu, Elise Townson and Lottie Roberts** who have worked exceedingly well to build their earthquake-resistant building model.

Miss Kaur

YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHERS - EXTRAORDINARY SUSTAINABLE CITIES

“ As part of our Urbanisation topic in Geography, we have designed and created a sustainable city. We chose Mumbai because it is the largest densely populated city in India estimated to be over 22 million people. The rapid growth has led to challenges and a large number of people live in the city's slums need to have access to services such as water and electricity. Also, as location Mumbai has a lot of solar energy which can be used as renewable source energy.”

Our sustainable city has a range of services such as hospitals schools and farmers market. The farmers market provides local people with fresh food and the local sourced food reduces the carbon footprints which will help with climate change. Our city is environmentally friendly as we have included turbines, solar panels that power our city and use renewable energy.” ”

A huge well done to who **Jessica Bayliss, Imaani Rashid, Maisie Newbold** and **Anna Downes** have worked exceptionally well to build their sustainable city.



Miss Kaur

YEAR 7 & 8 STUDENTS STAR IN FILM PROMOTING NEW BIRMINGHAM RE SYLLABUS

On Wednesday 4th May, a group of Year 7 and 8 students were selected to be part of the filming of a Religious Education lesson. This was for a short video promoting the new Birmingham Agreed Syllabus for RE adopted by Birmingham City Council, whose Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE) had approached the school to showcase good practice.



The lesson was about how religions and beliefs can often be misrepresented in the media and ways that students can develop the ability to 'learn to discern' - critically interpret and evaluate information.

Some excellent engagement, participation and conversations on the part of the girls were captured in the video which you can watch here:

<https://app.box.com/s/bycf8sjr8ty9alg959nqfzv5dilzvtjr>

The film is being used as a training tool for schools in and beyond Birmingham.

Below is an email received from Paul Davies of SACRE and VYKA, the company that produced the film. They were all mightily impressed by our girls!

Dear Mrs Raggett

On behalf of all of us at Vyka and Birmingham SACRE, can I extend the most sincere thank you to you for everything that went into the tremendous afternoon of filming yesterday.

We must thank your office staff and business manager in particular for turning round the necessary paperwork with such efficiency, and to the catering staff for providing our most welcome lunch. The room setting was perfect too.

Waqar's attention to detail really paid off with a very well-structured lesson to which the students responded in a completely exemplary way. In that we were trying to capture critical thinking, I had wondered how the students might respond to this higher order skill. When it came to it they provided some deep and heartfelt answers and were certainly not put off by the filming process, demonstrating thinking skills, deep knowledge as well as resilience and confidence. This says so much about their relationship with Waqar, but also so much about your school.

It has been a complete pleasure to have been able to spend some time in the classroom and I am confident that we will be pleased with the results.

I'm sure we will remain in contact as the process continues, but for now, can I thank you again for such a special experience. Perhaps you or Waqar will be kind enough to thank the students when they are next together.

Paul

A massive thanks and well done to all the students involved for demonstrating the very best of KNKS and for doing us immensely proud. I'm also extremely grateful to the parents for their immense support and cooperation that helped make all of this possible.

Mr Ahmedi

YEAR 8 - HISTORY PODCASTS

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 and how these stories tell us much about migration to Britain in this era. Please click on the below links for a selection of their podcasts about these important individuals.

<https://youtu.be/deKwLNgi-lk>

<https://youtu.be/5vKhWcDHP3g>

Well done to the following Year 8 students for recording their excellent podcasts:

Maisy Simms, Fasiha Naaz, Emily Hill-Natcheva, Rosie Stone, Erin Saunders, Phe Caulfield, Vera and Elana Atkinson-Sewell, Grace Doyle and Charlotte Merryfield.

Amelie Zarifeh, Aimon Qazi, Shannay Reilly Lawrence, India Truscott, Lexie Herbert, Sofia Salah-Dunkley, Rose Eccles, Ayva O'Neill, Alice Machell, Lily Rose Bergin, Evie Ashton Shaw and Maddie Sturman.

Lydia Morse Brown, Emily Justin and Shauna Partridge.

Ms Thatcher

Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.

AMELIE'S BLOG SUCCESS

Many congratulations to Year 8 student, Amelie Zarifeh, who was one of five winners of a national RE blog competition run by the charity Culham St Gabriel's Trust. Students from all over the country were invited to write about their most inspiring RE lessons and the difference an education in religion and worldviews makes to young people.

Amelie, who is also an RE ambassador, wrote about her lessons in Year 7 that explored arguments about the existence of God. Her entry, titled 'The Eternal Question', was judged to be one of the best in the Key Stage 3 category. You can read her excellent piece here:

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/2022/04/26/lessons-that-make-a-difference-amelie-ks3/>

Amelie received a certificate and a £30 book token. The RE department also received a £50 voucher code towards resources.

Amelie's success led to her being interviewed along with head of department Mr Ahmedi by Louisa Jane Smith of The RE Podcast, a popular podcast for students and teachers of RE not just in the UK but other parts of the world too. You can listen to this here:

<https://www.therepodcast.co.uk/post/season-6-episode-12-the-one-with-the-children-2022>

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/0QYEtlIkDf2pKVCPv5Gc99?si=4Yz8OA47SkmyGhvlm0GV9A&nd=1>

Another fantastic achievement, Amelie - you've done us all proud once again!

Mr Ahmedi



REFUGEE WEEK

Year 12 A Level geographers will be studying a unit called 'Migration, Identity and Sovereignty' when they move into Year 13. We were presented with the opportunity in the run up to Refugee Week 2022, which was from 20-26 June, to have a talk from a visiting speaker and published author, Gulwali Passarlay. This was an ideal opportunity to get our A Level students thinking about this topic. Anya has written a very informative article reflecting on what she found out about Gulwali's experiences as a child refugee which we thought we would share with you:

The Life of a Refugee by *Anya Dasgin (Year 12)*

What is a refugee?

A refugee is someone who flees from armed conflict, natural disaster or persecution to find safety in another country. Although they have little choice, they are often seen as criminals in countries they flee to, although they haven't done anything wrong. Gulwali Passarlay is an Afghan refugee who left Afghanistan in 2006, aged 12 and had a shocking and prolonged journey to the UK. This article will detail some of what he had to go through and just how resilient he is.

Who is Gulwali Passarlay ?

Gulwali is an Afghan refugee who fled in 2006 at aged 12, when he and his brother were forced to leave, due to conflict with the United States and the Taliban. He details his journey, in his published book "The Lightless Sky", as well as giving talks on his life. He managed to get 10 GCSEs with grade 6+, 3 A-levels and recently graduated with a degree in Politics from the University of Manchester, despite English being his 5th language. He had not seen his mum in 16 years and recently went back to see her.

About his life from age 12 to now:

Life in Afghanistan has not been easy and the challenges are numerous from its invasion in the 1970s by Russia, to the fact that nearly 10 million experience famine each year and even more recently, Monday 20th June 2022, the earthquake of 6.1 magnitude, where up to 1000 people have died. Most notably it was the conflict between United States and Afghanistan that led to Gulwali's father being killed by US forces and resulted in his family to living in bunkers. In 2006, Gulwali's mother sent him and his brother, who is a year older than him, to Europe as she felt this was the best way to keep them safe. He was handed to smugglers and was separated from his brother. He later found out that his brother had made it to the UK, where he reunited with him 14 months later. Gulwali stated that when he was given to the smugglers, they were "treated like commodities" and said the worst part was when "I was crossing the Mediterranean from Turkey to Greece, had never seen the sea before and we had to get on a boat made for 20 people, but there were 120 of us. We were travelling for up to 50 hours, with no food or water."



Gulwali Passarlay – An Afghan refugee that came to school to talk about his life, which links with our migration topic in human A Level geography.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBVMLY1KyhE>

When he was being smuggled from one country to another, at just 12 years old, he was deported from Bulgaria and then arrested in Turkey. Then he was deported from Turkey to Iran, where he was arrested and spent 3 months in a police prison, he managed to escape and start the journey again. When he was in Greece, he was trying to get across the border and had watched the Greek army beating up people just like him; he was travelling by the engine of a lorry and was nearly killed by the chemicals and ended up getting severe burns. He then made it to Italy, where he stayed in a children's home for a bit, where he was unaware he had turned 13 and Eid was being celebrated. He knew he had to get to his brother in England, so he left the home. From Italy, he headed to Calais, France. In Calais, he was helped by police, who gave him some food. He then crossed the English Channel to get to one of the ports in England, which he said was very challenging. He said he was more welcomed in Northern European countries than the UK.

When reaching the UK, he had reunited with his brother, but he had to go through a lengthy process of being granted refugee status, which took 2 years and during this time he was with foster parents. He then went on to do really well in school, achieved high GCSE and A level grades and graduated from University and now does talks and is part of the charity "Refugee Support Europe". This is a charity that aims to help refugees, by making them feel welcome and treating them like anyone else by even opening a shop, so instead of us giving what we think refugees may want, this shop provides refugees with choice - the charity believe "how we give is more important than what we give."

What we learnt from his talk:

When Gulwali gave his talk, it showed how hard people's lives can be and his sheer determination and resilience to get to safety, to see his family and to do well in his studies. He told us "work hard and you achieve great things" and this stayed with me as it reflects that no matter how hard your life is at the moment or what you have been struggling with, if you keep striving towards your goal, you will achieve it.

As a 17 year old, is really puzzles me how determined he was and how hard his life has been, especially being treated extremely harshly, although he was just a teenager. A question that I asked was "Do you think racism is the main factor as to why you were not as welcomed here as you had been in other countries?" and he said that he does think it is, as not only do the UK only host 1% of refugees, which I think is quite bad since we are a developed nation who should be more welcoming, but also he said the refugee status system for Afghan, Syrian people takes up to 2 years, but currently for European nations, only takes months. He also thinks that the UK need to show more support for *all* refugees and understands there could be housing issues. This question ties in with the current situation with the UK sending refugees to Rwanda in a deal. This deal has been accused of racism because we started welcoming refugees from Ukraine, but are sending refugees from other countries away, so this reflects inequality in the treatment of refugees from different places. The charity "Refugee Support Europe" help anyone as they feel that no refugee is more important than the other, as they are all fleeing from challenging situations in search for safety. Gulwali's life is really inspirational and just further highlights how important education is, but also how you only have one life, so it should be spent the way you want it to be, but in a way that resembles a happy, safe, successful life.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP

It is with great excitement that the SLG were able announce the return of the Fete Talent Show! It has been two years since the last one, so the students have had plenty of time to refine their skills.

We had a wide range of acts: singers, dancers, actors and even some impressions. The SLG also organised a staff versus sixth form competition, where the tallest structure won - well done to the Sixth Form on their win!

Finally, the Head Student selection process has been underway this term. There has been an unbelievably high standard of application and interview, which has really showcased the talent and potential of the sixth form.

Congratulations to our new Head Students, **Elyn Carreon** and **Daniel Hawes** along with our deputy Head Student, **Evie Roe**.



Mr Houston

Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.

NEW PREFECT TEAM LAUNCHES

We are excited to announce the relaunch of the Prefect Team after a long break due to the pandemic. The prefects are prepared to act as role models for the students at Kings Norton Girls' School, as we have been chosen specifically to fulfil our roles. We are eager to begin our duties and hope to make a positive impact on the school environment.

In addition to carrying out regular corridor duties, we plan on appearing at open mornings and evenings and assisting with parents' evenings and special events. For those who aren't aware, we will be wearing black jumpers when on duty and younger students can approach us whenever they would like to as we're always happy to assist.

By Grace Harper, Y10

LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS

A new update from the language ambassadors 2022. During the past few weeks, we have been working on various projects around school to help promote languages at KNGS:



Translation competition:



On Friday 1st April, students were invited to take part in the Anthea Bell Prize competition for young translators. Over 260 schools took part, where entrants were given a poem or short story in either Italian, French, German, Mandarin, or Spanish. The Entrants were as follows:

Zelia Dussol – Year 7 – French Level 3 (native)

Eleanor MacLennan – Year 9 – French Level 2

Freya Battye – Year 9 – French Level 2

Sofia Trujilio – Year 9 – Fr L2, Spanish Level 3 (native)

Abigail Heyes – Year 9 – German Level 2

Shaowen He - Year 9 – Mandarin Level 3 (native)

Emma O'Neill - Year 9 – French Level 2, Spanish Level 2

Marianne de Wildt – Year 9 – French Level 2, German Level 2

Isabella Harris – Year 9 – French Level 2

Emily Tipton – Year 10 – French Level 3

Favour Shaba – Year 13 – Italian Level 2

We are proud to announce that, in the West Midlands

category, 2 winners were from Kings Norton Girls' School. These were **Shaowen He** (Year 9) for Mandarin Level 3 and **Favour Shaba** (Year 13) for Italian Level 2. In addition, **Marianne de Wildt** (Year 9) received a commendation for German level 2. All entrants also received a certificate of participation for their efforts.

For a list of all winners, see <https://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/anthea-bell-prize-winners-2022> and see <https://twitter.com/TranslationExch/status/1534173158005264385> for a twitter post from the organisers, congratulating the winners.

European Day of Languages

European day of languages is taking place on Monday the 26th of September 2022 and the Language Ambassadors have already been busy preparing various activities, which will take place in the next term.

- A form quiz - one winner per year group will be selected to win a chocolate prize!
- A t-shirt design competition organised by the European Day of Languages committee
- The canteen will be serving themed food on Monday 26th of September.
- A 3-week long beginner's Polish workshop will be held in the new school year for anyone who is interested to learn a new language (including staff)

Languages We Speak at Home

A survey was sent out to all students and staff on the 13th of June 2022. We now have a total of 377 responses. Did you know that, within the KNGS community:

For students:

- 46 different languages are spoken (not including English)
- Some of these languages are: Tagalog, Punjabi, Shona, Hindi, Darija, Miripuri, Patois, Urdu

For teachers:

- 14 different languages are spoken (not including English)
- Some of these languages are: Ukranian, Greek, Slovak, Miripuri, Italian, Japanese

SUMMER READING READY?

Are You and Your Child **Summer Reading** Ready?

There's nothing more relaxing than chilling out in the shade on a sunny day with a good book! What books are you planning to read this summer? From sizzling crime thrillers to red hot adventures, a book is the perfect companion for those long sunny days.

Please encourage your child to read those special books over the six week break. If you run out of reading ideas, please check out these websites:

www.epicreads.com

www.penguinteam.com

www.bookish.net

We can't wait to hear what you've all been reading!

NEW CATERING PROVISION - INTRODUCING ACADEMY

Firstly, let me say we are looking forward to seeing you all in September, but that you also have a great summer break



Kings Norton Girls School have enlisted a new catering company to look after all food services at the school from September 2022 onwards

My name is Neil Hemmings, and I am the Operations Manager, and in partnership with the present catering team, we are very much looking forward to giving you a great catering experience

I work for a company called Academy under an umbrella company called Atalian Servest

Atalian Servest are a large Facilities management company, and we are the education catering side of the business.

At Academy we are passionate about the service we give, passionate about the food we serve, and we want all pupils to receive a great catering experience.

We promote healthy eating through a range of activities, to mention just a few, Interactive assemblies, smoothie bike promotions, and regular pupil council meetings, alongside the great food we serve.

We are reactive and will listen to feedback and are always striving to improve on the service we give.

The menu changes three times a year, and we hold theme days throughout the school year to celebrate annual events, and cultural engagement

Further information about our offering can be found on the KNGS website by clicking here: <https://www.kngs.co.uk/parents/healthy-eating/>

Neil Hemmings

LOCKERS FROM SEPTEMBER 2022

For many years now, KNGS has been proud to have been able to offer heavily subsidised locker provision to our students. Unfortunately, this is no longer sustainable to the school so we have had to review the provision.

After some considerable research, the best value option for the school and for families is to outsource locker provision at KNGS and this will begin from September 2022. The lockers will not change, however their administration and maintenance arrangements will.

From September 2022, you will be able to rent a locker online from Secure Locker Rentals who will be providing the service on behalf of KNGS. Lockers can be selected from the relevant year group area in the school and rented via their website for the price of £10 per year. You will be able to check availability and rent lockers for September 2022 from Thursday 2nd June and more information on how to do this is attached with this letter. For students who are eligible for Pupil Premium, a 50% subsidy for locker rental will be available on request. Please contact Amy Wilks for more information. Under this new arrangement, Secure Locker Rentals will deal with any maintenance issues for lockers e.g. broken locks and should be contacted directly via their portal to effect repairs. KNGS staff will not have access to lockers from September.

Further information can be obtained via www.locker.rentals.

Mrs Skinner - Business Manager

Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.

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,
- 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."

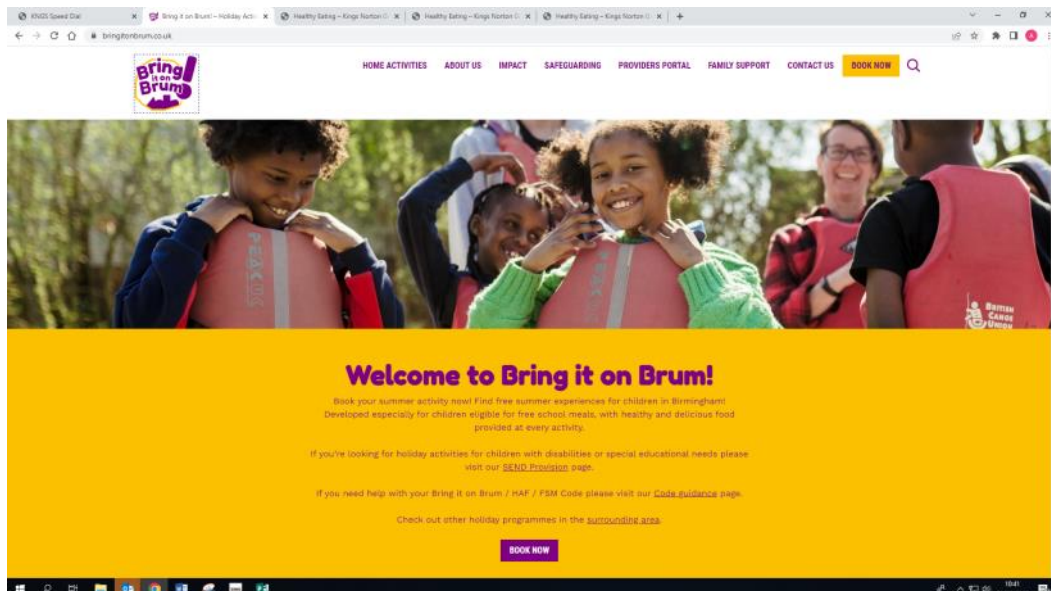
Doing this can incur a £20 fixed-penalty fine under the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) Regulations 2002, rising to £40 if unpaid within the required timeframe.

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

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



Bring It On Brum, where you can find information on play schemes and activities for the holiday period:

[Bring it on Brum! – Holiday Activities and Food](#)

Specific SEND provision:

[SEND Provision – Bring it on Brum!](#)



Opening a World of Opportunities.