

Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year.

This newsletter is just small snapshot of the incredible work and activities that have taken place in the first six weeks of term to enrich the personal development of our students. Congratulations to the hundreds of students who are already taking part in an enrichment or leadership activity; I look forward to seeing even more joining in over the coming weeks. It speaks volumes of our school community, and the sense of belonging that we all feel, that so many staff are prepared to devote extra hours to providing these opportunities, whilst our students show courage in getting involved and, often, trying something new.



Congratulations to last year's Year 11 and 13. Their exam results were exceptional. A Level results were our best ever with A*-A: 49.4, A*-C: 89.3 and an average grade of B+ and GCSE results again were excellent with grade 7+ at 41%, 5+ at 79% and 4+ at 88%. Students really did flourish, despite the disruption of the last few years. These excellent results, alongside the personal and social qualities they have developed while at KNKS, have enabled them to move onto a range of exciting opportunities, aspirational courses and destinations. This, of course, means many are still with us studying in our thriving Sixth Form.

Our new students in Year 7 and Year 12 have settled in brilliantly, as I visit their lessons I have been impressed with their confidence in explaining their new learning and their pride in their work. They really are flourishing.

This newsletter introduces our newly extended SEN team. The Pandemic has really impacted on the Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs of many of our students. To support our students we have now appointed an Assistant SENCO with a remit for social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) support. We have also appointed a Sixth Form Pastoral Support Worker. I am sure these staff along with increased learning assistant support across all learning needs will enable all students to flourish.

And a final thank you, as ever, to the wonderful support we get from our parents and carers. Additional thanks to those parents and carers who have completed the parents questionnaire. If you haven't already done so the questionnaire <https://forms.office.com/r/HVHY3pXXeC> ends on the 26th October. Your opinions are important to us and we will give feedback in the next newsletter and personally where required.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to another busy next half-term!

Nicola Raggett - Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Monday 31st October** - Start of Term
- ◆ **Thursday 10th November** - Year 11 Parents Evening (**Online**), 3.30pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Tuesday 15th November** - Meet the Sixth Form Event, 4pm – 5.30pm
- ◆ **Thursday 24th November** - Sixth Form Parents Evening (**Online**), 3.30pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Friday 25th November** - Teacher Training Day, **SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS**
- ◆ **Monday 28th November - Friday 9th December** - Year 11 & Year 13 Internal Exams
- ◆ **Monday 5th - Friday 9th December** - Year 12 Internal Exams
- ◆ **Tuesday 13th December** - Christmas Concert (Evening Performance) - Timings TBC
- ◆ **Friday 16th December** - End of Term
- ◆ **Monday 19th December - Monday 2nd January** - Christmas Break
- ◆ **Tuesday 3rd January** - Start of Spring Term

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS



MEET THE SIXTH FORM

TUESDAY 15th NOVEMBER

4pm - 5.30pm

Your chance to come along and talk to our Sixth Form students directly about each of the A Level subjects on offer at Kings Norton Sixth Form

YEAR 9 TRIP TO UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

For the first of two events following on from last year's introduction, organised by the university's Forward Thinking programme, nine Year 9 students visited the main university campus, on 4th October, where they were introduced to the academic side of university life.

In the Psychology department they discovered what they would learn on that course and how easy it is to be distracted when watching a video that you miss a dancing gorilla! They were then treated to a lecture on Material Science where they learnt about the world's most expensive material, Fullerenes which costs \$160 per gram! Even though the students realise they could not afford to buy any, they enjoyed the visit and are looking forward to their second visit in the spring next year where they will find out about the social aspects of student life.

Mr Abelson

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK

The theme this year was 'Breaking Through Barriers' so 6 pupils from the KNGS Dyslexia Pupil Voice Group were brave and presented to staff at staff training. They spoke about the obstacles they have to overcome at school, the assistive technology they use and the most helpful ways that staff can support them.

The group also helped the school 'Go Red for Dyslexia' as part of a global campaign: during lunchtime they had fun face-painting hundreds of students with red stars,



hearts, flowers and patterns to show support

for pupils working with dyslexia. They also organised a writing/art competition on the theme of '**Overcoming Barriers**' which Mrs Edwards based Year 8 library lessons around. There has been a huge response to this so watch this space for the winners! Many thanks again to the group for rising to the challenge and organising these events.

Mrs Vaughan



Opening a World of Opportunities

GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK TRIPS

Year 13

The start of this term has been a very busy time for the Geography department and students taking the subject at Key Stage 4 and 5 as they have embarked upon their fieldwork, which is a compulsory requirement of their GCSE and A Level courses.

On Monday 12th September, Year 13 travelled by train to Nechells where they conducted a wide variety of urban field surveys across 10 sites in total. The students displayed tenacity as they battled against the elements (it was an extremely wet day) and persevered to gather a wealth of data using methods from environmental quality surveys to questionnaires. The next day the students were closer to home as they conducted the same range of field surveys across 10 sites in Bournville and this time the weather was on our side, we were even able to enjoy a picnic lunch at Rowheath park.



Field Sketches of Site 1 in Nechells and Site 7 in Bournville by Theo Reinarz Year 13

On Thursday 15th October, it was an early start as Year 13 set off for Borth in Wales this time to conduct some coastal fieldwork. After a journey, which involved many a winding road, they got stuck in assessing the effectiveness of coastal defences at Ynyslas and Borth. Some brave members of the group even dipped their toes in the water as we examined the process of longshore drift. We spent the night at Borth YHA and the manager complimented our students on being amongst the best they'd ever had to stay! He was particularly impressed by their appetite, which in fairness was down to the delicious food we were served. With the tide out on Friday morning we set out to complete our coastal fieldwork, before setting off home at about 3pm.

Students now have the option of using the data they have collected to complete their NEA coursework (worth 20% of their A Level) on either Borth or Birmingham and some have even chosen to gather different data of their own!



Y13 Geographers & Mr Potter at Ynyslas Beach, Wales.

Year 11

Year 11 Geographers travelled to Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire on Tuesday 4th October, to conduct their Rivers fieldwork. Students will be assessed on this in Section C of Paper 2. They were assessing characteristics of the Ashbrooke stream in order to assess the level of flood risk.

Students were impeccably behaved and threw themselves wholeheartedly into trying out a variety of fieldwork techniques. They did however face some challenges in attempting to measure the stream's velocity as the wind blew the floats back upstream! Nevertheless this is a useful experience and has allowed Year 11 to evaluate this particular field technique as well as others that we used.



Mr Potter & Year 11 Geography students embarking on rivers fieldwork, Carding Mill Valley, Shropshire.

Ms Mitchell

Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.

MakeUK ENGINEERING WORKSHOP

Students in Years 10 and 11 who had expressed an interest in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) careers were invited to take part in an engineering workshop run by MakeUK.

The workshop was called 'Future Makers' and combined teamwork with learning and applying some engineering skills. Later in the day students learned about the many opportunities for taking up apprenticeships in STEM subjects. We hope those present were inspired and represent our future engineers.

Mr Charlett



In the workshop we were able to develop our teamwork skills and learn about ways to get into engineering after year eleven. We made a cardboard replication of a mechanical arm and learned how to make the different parts of the arm work with syringes and air pressure.

Holly Truth - Year 11



SEND PARENT/CARER COFFEE MORNING

We were pleased to hold our first SEND Parent/Carer coffee morning on Tuesday 4th October and were delighted with the turnout.

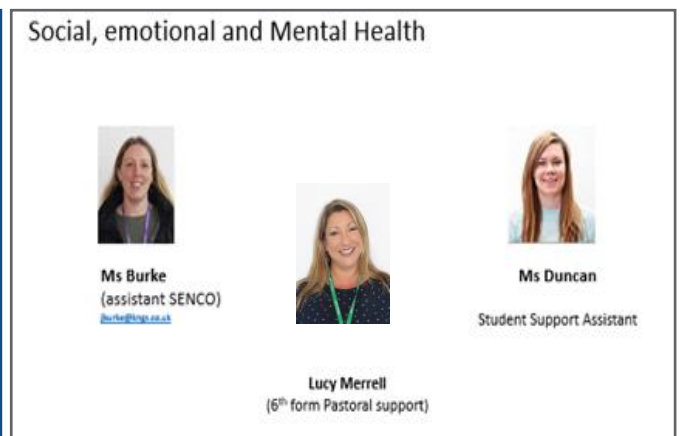
The key topics discussed can be found below:

- Introduction to the SEND team (see below)
- Key strategies to support your child at home
- Reminder of the annual review days:
 - Year 7 12th January 2023
 - Year 8 30th March 2023
 - Year 9 9th March 2023
 - Year 10 26th January 2023
 - Year 11 10th November 2022
 - Year 12 and 13 24th November 2022
- What is Exam access (an overview)
- Parent feedback- questionnaire
- Review SEND policy
- Q&A

A copy of the PowerPoint slides have been distributed, please get in touch if you have any questions.

We are looking forward to holding another Parent/Carer event on Tuesday 24th January 2023, timings TBC.

Ms Cartin





KNGS STUDENT MEETS WITH LORD MAYOR

In early October this year, **Millie White** in Year 10, met with the Deputy Leader of Birmingham City Council, Cllr Brigid Jones and the Lord Mayor, Cllr Maureen Cornish, as part of the Birmingham SEND Youth Forum.

We are so proud of Millie for representing our school to speak up for students with disabilities.

Mrs Holbeche

LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS

The language ambassadors are a group of Year 10, 11 and 13 students, who meet on a Tuesday lunchtime to run language clinics in order to support other students with languages homework and create activities and displays to encourage language learning at KNGS.



Here is an update on what we have been up to this half term:

IMPORTANT - Language Clinic

We would like to encourage all students who feel they may need some support with their language learning to join our language clinics. We can provide support with homework, grammar, translation, pronunciation, listening, etc. If any KNGS student is interested, they need to come along to **ICT3 on a Tuesday lunchtime** and we will be happy to help!

Open Evening

On Monday 26th September, Kings Norton Girls' School was open from 5:00 – 8:00pm for prospective students and their parents/carers. The Language Ambassadors offered a range of activities such as quizzes and language mysteries about European Day of Language's (see below). As well as this, we used one of the MFL computing rooms, to allow people to try interactive language-based games. A special thank you to all our helpers!

European Day of Languages:

On the same Monday, it was European Day of Languages, and the language ambassadors prepared a PowerPoint of language-based mysteries and quizzes for form groups to do. At the end of the week, we counted the results, and had one winning form per year! The winning forms were: **7-2, 8-4, 9-2, 10-2 & 10-4, 11-3 & 11-6, 12-5 and 13-4.**

Thank you to everyone who entered and well done to the winners.

The other events we have been running include a t-shirt designing competition (which can still be entered – see poster below), and a 5-week Polish taster course run by **Miriam Shpanim in Year 11**. The course will cover the basics of Polish and will feature games:

Week 1: food/key phrases

Week 2: key vocabulary through games

Week 3: numbers and age

Week 4: colours and sounds

Week 5: idioms and games

Christmas in Vienna

Mrs Evans will be running a new edition of her very popular club 'Christmas in Vienna'. Please see advertising poster below for details. There is still time to sign up (the sign-up sheet can be found on the noticeboard outside the language office).

Christmas Cards for the Elderly:

During November, we will be running a 4-week event, where students can practice French while doing a good deed for the elderly. Students will be invited to write a Christmas card in French. These cards will be sent to a care home in France and given isolated elderly people. We know that they will love to receive a card, written in their own language. KNGS has been twinned with *Résidence Mutualiste des Jardins de la Garenne*.

You can find more information about this project here: <https://1lettre1sourire.org/en/1-letter-1-smile/>

*Written by **Abi Heyes** - Year 10, on behalf of the Language Ambassadors Team*

Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH - SHARING JOURNEYS

This month's Black History Month's theme is 'Sharing Journeys'. The Year 9 and 10 History Ambassadors have been researching and sharing some journeys made by black Britons and then looking at the contributions made by these individuals. Please take a moment to [listen to their PowerPoint](#).

Well done to [Neve Elliot](#), [Amberleigh Glover](#), [Ella Harvey](#), [Isabella Harris](#) and [Eve Cotton](#).

We would love students (and parents/grandparents) to share any journeys that have helped shape the identities and history of their own families and, therefore, the KNGS community.

These stories are going to form part of a school exhibition later in the term.

Please [click here to view the PowerPoint](#) for more details on how to get involved.

Ms Thatcher



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

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The after-school Key Stage 3 Photography Club has proved to be as popular as ever and the first group this year have shown great enthusiasm taking photos in their own time as well as during the club session.

The students have taken photos on various themes and learnt some simple Photoshop techniques.

The standard of the students' photography has been extremely high, as shown in this brilliant example by [Liz Allen](#) in Year 8.

Mr Abelson



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: Ruby Marklew-Murray, Polina Kuchevska, Ahoud Mohamed, Millie Farmah, Rhian Fielder & Lucy Hubbocks.

Year 8: Zoe James, Lily Brown & Betty Gay.

Year 9: Emily Justin, Eleanor Adjei-Kwartang, Daniella Kord, Lydia Morse-Brown, Ella Powell & Bess Thompson.

Year 10: Cyndi Rihi Kale, Mia Lenihan, Nelly MacKenzie, Lillia Kemm, Emily Chan, Chloe Burfitt & Alexandra Pailthorpe.

Year 11: Iman Aulaiwi & Amelia Guest-Scott.

Well done to all of the above students.

[Opening a World of Opportunities](#)



SPORTS UPDATE

NETBALL

So far this half term, we have played King Edwards Five Ways at netball. The Seniors (Years 10 & 11) won and Year 9 lost.

Well done to all girls who represented the school and good luck to all KNKS teams in their league matches this year.

In addition, a huge congratulations to **Olivia Brown (Year 10)** and **Megan Abbott (Year 11)** who have been selected to represent Wasps Netball. A fabulous achievement - well done girls!



Mrs Cadman

SUCCESSSES

ALICIA TAKES BRONZE AT BRITISH TUMBLING CHAMPIONSHIPS



On the 1st & 2nd October, KNKS Student **Alicia Field** -Year 10 competed at the British Tumbling Championships at the Utilita Arena in Birmingham. Alicia qualified for bronze on the Saturday, proceeding to the finals on the Sunday. Not only did Alicia put out a new run with a higher difficulty in the finals, maintaining her bronze position, she was also competing in the junior category with the under 16's at age 14. Well done Alicia - a huge achievement!



Alicia is heading to the World Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria at the end of November to represent Great Britain - watch this space - everybody at KNKS will be rooting for you!!

SPIRITED ARTS COMPETITION

In the summer newsletter Mrs Currie shared examples of some amazing pieces from the then Year 7's based around different themes for this year's Spirited Arts competition run by the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE). The themes were:

- ◆ 'We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us.'
- ◆ God's good earth?
- ◆ Searching for God
- ◆ A view of the world
- ◆ Celebration: Big days and big ideas

The RE Ambassadors had a tough time judging the most popular entries from each RE class but eventually decided on their 10 favourite pieces. The winners whose work was selected to be sent to NATRE were:

- Cadence Leek
- Poppy Jones and Eleanor Hodson
- Lexi Dixon
- Kitty Talbot
- Lauren Neal
- Maya S Khan
- Holly Barber
- Chloe Harrison
- Georgina Newton and Isabelle Wilson
- Jessica Priest

A brilliant achievement – congratulations and well done to all!

You can view the national competition winners here: <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-gallery/2022/>



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Mr W Ahmedi, Head of RE

KNGS LEADS THE WAY AT THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

KNGS Year 8 Student Takes Part in Queens Baton Relay

A massive well done to Year 8 Student **Amelie Zarifeh** who was selected to take part in the Commonwealth Games Queens Baton Relay in the West Midlands on Wednesday 27th July. Amelie's segment of the route meant that she ran past KNGS on Selly Oak Road with quite a crowd turning out to cheer her on!

Well done Emile on representing KNGS in our local community and being part of something really special!

Miss Banner Looks After Team Canada

“ Now that the Birmingham Commonwealth Games are over, I'm officially allowed to share a little of what I was up to for the first three weeks of the summer holiday.



I was attached to Team Canada, based at The Vale, one of the three main athlete accommodation hubs for the duration of their time in Birmingham. I supported **Team Canada** in all aspects of their Birmingham experience. My role was essentially to make Team Canada's life (hopefully) just a little easier, by performing tasks that the brilliant Operations Team just didn't have time to do because they were unbelievably busy from dawn till dusk.

Before the Games even began, I'd already done seven shifts!

My role was so varied and the days so busy... here are some of the things I did....

I checked athletes' rooms before they arrived to ensure they were ready, checked their kit bags in and hauled them to their individual rooms, moved mattresses, bed linen and beds. I counted hundreds and hundreds of Team Canada pin badges and put them in bags, ready for the coaches to give to their individual teams.



I had the privilege of seeing superstar athletes just chilling everywhere in the Village. I 'stole' extra towels for the gold medal-winning Team Canada wheelchair basketball ladies. I drove their Opening Ceremony flag bearer Josh Cassidy round his wheelchair marathon route. I actually didn't get to see the Opening Ceremony live on TV, because I was waiting in a car park for Josh to take him back to The Vale! I also drove lots of Canadian Commonwealth Games Record breakers to Longines House in town to collect their commemorative watches.

Fifteen shifts - all fun, varied, sunny and soooo tiring! (The walking!!!!!!) I might have spoken hardly any French... but I found out so much more about Canada and its people.

And yes... I have signed up to volunteer for the Olympics in Paris 2024!

Miss Banner



STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP

The Student Leadership Group have been working alongside our three head students to plan their projects for the coming term. They have an ambitious range of events in the works, including a book swap, food bank collection, recycling drive, wellbeing afternoon and (possible) pyjama day! All these events will take place next half-term.

The head students and year group captains have also been collecting feedback for the new canteen provider. They will feedback in a meeting after the break.



Mr Houston

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Sixth Form Admissions

131 students have successfully enrolled into Year 12 this year. We have over 50 external students, who have come from a range of secondary schools, including Kings Norton Boys', University of Birmingham School, and Queensbridge. All of our students are settling in very well, and are making the smooth transition from GCSE to A Level that we would have hoped.

Former Year 13 Students

Our 2021-2022 cohort of Year 13's have successfully moved on to a number of universities all over the country, and also to apprenticeships and Gap years. 102 of them gained places in their first choice university, with 54 placed at Russell Group universities. They are studying a wide range of courses such as Medicine, Law, Biochemistry, International Business, English Literature, Engineering and Film Production. We would like to wish them every success for their futures.

Applications For Sixth Form are Open

Applications are now open for September 2023 and the application form and further details including entry guidance are available on our [website](#). If you have a child in Year 11 thinking about A Levels next year, then we hope that you will encourage them to consider Kings Norton Sixth Form. With strong pastoral support, fantastic teaching and excellent results we have a lot to offer! Don't forget to join us at our 'Meet the Sixth Form' event as promoted on page 2 of this newsletter.

The deadline for applications is 25th November 2022 for internal applicants and 20th January 2023 for external applicants. If you have any queries relating to applications please contact Heather Harvey, Sixth Form Administrator at: hharvey@kngs.co.uk

16-19 Bursary Fund

The Bursary Fund is designed to help support those young people who face the greatest barriers to continuing in education or training post 16. The level of support offered may vary during the academic year and is dependent on the amount of funds available. Students will need to complete an application form and supply evidence of need or eligibility as appropriate before assistance is provided. Application forms are available from the common room.

New Sixth Form Team Member

Mrs Lucy Merrell - Sixth Form Pastoral Assistant

The Sixth Form Pastoral Assistant is a new role which is designed to meet the growing wellbeing needs of our Sixth Formers. This could be advice regarding their mental health, referrals to professional support or just talking through any worries or difficulties that may arise during their time on the Sixth Form. Lucy is based in the office in the Sixth Form Hub.



DROP OFF & PICK UP AT KNGS

The majority of parents continue to support us in keeping KNGS 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.

Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.

Mrs Skinner - Business Manager





HOW TO DEAL WITH A LOCKER ISSUE

LOCK IS BROKEN/DAMAGED

- Contact www.lockers.rentals
- They will allocate you a new locker within 48 hours and then attend school to repair the lock so it can be reallocated to someone else.



LOCKER DOOR IS DAMAGED OR BROKEN BUT THE LOCK IS FINE

- Contact www.lockers.rentals
- They will allocate you a new locker within 48 hours.
- Advise Mrs Maleady in the Pastoral Base, who will then report it to the Site Team for repairs during the school holidays.



YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN YOUR LOCKER CODE

- Contact www.lockers.rentals
- They will advise you of your code.



NO LOCKERS ARE AVAILABLE TO RENT IN MY YEAR GROUP



- Please select a locker from another area of the school, just use a different year group in the drop-down menu.
- The only difference is that your locker will be in another part of the school, this will not be a problem!

I CAN'T ACCESS MY BELONGINGS IN MY LOCKER

- Follow the instructions above and contact Mrs Maleady in the Pastoral Base to arrange access.



SEND BRIEFING PARENT WEBINAR

October 2022



Parent/Carer Webinars take place regularly throughout the year and cover a number of different topics. Please see the local offer website for further details. Each webinar should last approximately one hour and take the format of a presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

[Developing joint Attention](#) – Tuesday 11th October 2022 11-11:30am

[Supporting Language Development Through Play](#) - Tuesday 18th October 11-11.30

[Using a Now and Next board](#) - Tuesday 1st November - 11-11:30

[Using Objects and sensory Cues](#) - Tuesday 8th November - 11-11:30

[Offering Choices](#) - Tuesday 15th November - 11-11:30

[Using a communication board](#) - Tuesday 22nd November - 11-11:30

[Creating opportunities](#) - Tuesday 29th November - 11-11:30

[Using a Song Bag](#) - Tuesday 6th December - 11-11:30

Speakers:

Speech and Language Therapists from the Outreach and SEND Therapy Team

These sessions are suitable for parents of children who have difficulties with their early communication development in the areas of attention, social interaction, understanding of simple language and use of words/other means to convey their wants and needs”.

Please email bchc.sendtherapy@nhs.net if you are unsure whether these webinars would be suitable.

Each webinar will last approximately **30 minutes** and take the format of a presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product-category/speech-and-language-therapy/>

All people who book a ticket will be sent a copy of the presentation and a copy of the recording of the webinar.