

Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you enjoy reading about the successes of our students in this newsletter, yet again some incredible personal and group achievements across a diverse set of activities, along with representation in the local community and beyond.

Congratulations to all our students who are getting involved, we are very proud of them.

In this message I would like to publicly thank and celebrate the fantastic work our Governing Body carry out for the school and encourage you to visit our governance page of the website <https://www.kngs.co.uk/about-us/governance/>.

Our Governing Body are volunteers, who work with, challenge and support the Senior Leadership Team, staff and students, to ensure that the school is providing the best opportunities possible for all students, both academically and personally. They regularly visit the school so that they have a clear understanding of what is happening and how we might best use our resources to make improvements.

The full Governing Body meets four times a year and delegates responsibility for specific aspects of our work to two committees:

- **The Resources Committee:** Responsible for Finance; Health & Safety and security; staffing, school buildings and site.
- **The Curriculum and Standards Committee:** Responsible for: academic standards; teaching and learning; curriculum, attendance, behaviour and examinations.

All Governors are fully committed to the safeguarding of our students.

Over recent months we have advertised and been extremely successful and fortunate in being able to appoint 5 new governors to the team of Trustees. Do have a read of their profiles. <https://www.kngs.co.uk/about-us/governance/meet-the-governors/>

Thank you again to all our Governors for the excellent work they do in supporting and challenging us as a school community.

Nicola Raggett - Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Monday 20th February - Friday 24th February** - Half Term Break
- ◆ **Monday 27th February** - Start of Half Term
- ◆ **Tuesday 7th March** - Year 12 & Year 13 Interim Reports Issued - [via SIMS PARENT APP](#)
- ◆ **Thursday 9th March** - Year 9 Parents Evening
- ◆ **Monday 13th March** - Year 11 Parents as Partners Evening (Online) 5pm - 5.30pm
- ◆ **Tuesday 21st March** - Year 13 Parents as Partners Evening (Online) 5pm - 5.30pm
- ◆ **Monday 27th March** - Year 8 & Year 10 Interim Reports Issued [via SIMS PARENT APP](#)
- ◆ **Thursday 30th March** - Year 8 Parents Evening (Online using SchoolCloud) 3.30pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Friday 31st March** - Year 7 & Year 9 Interim Reports Issued [via SIMS PARENT APP](#)
- ◆ **Monday 3rd - Friday 14th April** - Easter Break
- ◆ **Monday 17th April** - Start of Summer Term

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

CULTURE DAY



Culture and Diversity day was a great celebration in the KNGS community, as students dressed to represent their culture, identity or interests. With a delicious international menu served in the canteen and a fashion show, students really embraced the opportunity to celebrate our diverse community.

Thank you to everyone involved, and a special shout out to our amazing Year 11 Ambassadors **Manasse, Huda** and **Jasmine** for co-ordinating the fashion show – it was a great success!



Mrs Stanway

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

The History Ambassadors produced an informative and thoughtful presentation for forms to watch to remember the events of the Holocaust, and of other genocides.

The Ambassadors organised for pupils from all year groups to design their own memorial flames. These individual flames were combined to make a school memorial which was displayed on Holocaust Memorial Day as a way to remember the victims of genocide.



Ms Thatcher

DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH LECTURE



Year 13 Business A Level students participated in a live lecture led by Dr Boon Han Koh, Lecturer in Economics from the School of International Development at the University of East Anglia.

Students explored some of the reasons why there is unequal distribution of wealth in the world and debated whether this issue could be resolved.

It was a great opportunity for students to experience how academics from different disciplines think about and debate pressing and complex issues, whilst also getting directly involved in the discussion and sharing their own perspectives.

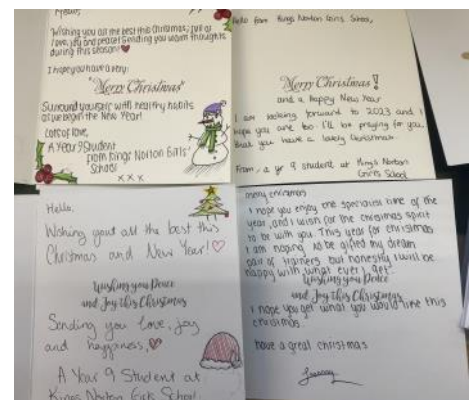
Mrs Neale

YEAR 9 CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR CARE HOMES

Year 9 spent a 'Theme of the Week' before Christmas looking at loneliness at Christmas time, to tie into the theme of kindness. Students then spent time in form writing Christmas cards for residents at Ivy Bank Care Home, to bring some Christmas cheer from KNGS.

Year 9 were exemplary role models and ambassadors for the school, writing many kind and caring comments, that no doubt uplifted the spirits of many during the Christmas season. Ivy Bank were very grateful for the cards and the effort from Year 9.

Ms Wright



SHEFFIELD LODGE MANOR HOUSE

85 GCSE History students visited the Elizabethan Manor Lodge in Sheffield on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd February. They went on a tour of the grounds and house, created clay models and dressed up as wealthy Tudors. The guides commented on how attentive and focused the students were.

It was great preparation for their GCSE historic environment question and a lovely day out too!

Ms Thatcher



UK PARLIAMENT TEACHER AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

In January, we were lucky enough to be selected to take part in the UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador programme. The purpose of the programme is to assist schools with their citizenship provision and bridge the gap between schools and Parliament.

Ms Wright travelled to Parliament for three days, to watch debates in the House of Commons, have talks from members of Parliament in the



Commons and Lords, and listen to the work done on select committees. Ms Wright will be working towards gaining the gold ambassador badge, to promote Parliament and education of the political system across all year groups of the school.

Ms Wright

YEAR 11 CAREER SENSE DREAM BIGGER WORKSHOP

Year 11 Business studies participated in a workshop designed to explore entrepreneurship as a career path. Students learnt about the importance of goal setting, overcoming challenges and using their transferable skills for the future world of work.

Mrs Neale



Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.

SLQ YOUR TIME LEADERS

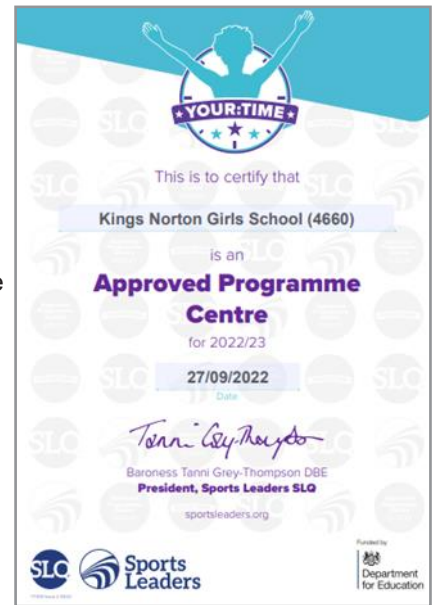
KNGS have become an approved centre for the delivery of the 'Sports Leaders Qualification' (SLQ) award **Your Time**.



10 students in Year 9 have been chosen to take part in the first phase of the program. They are currently undertaking online training modules to become young sports competition leaders and have received their official your time badges (and whistles to follow). They will then plan, organise and lead a series of competitive sport sessions for a lucky group of 25 Year 7 students.

Future newsletters will have updates of their progress. Well done to the 10 Year 9 Leaders – **Isobel Anderson, Lola Aybatar, Grace Doyle, Ruby Godsill, Shauna Partridge, Holly Soames, Navneet Wilkhu, Aimon Qazi, Rojane Selman, Yasmin Seddougui** – keep up the hard work on those modules!

Mrs Currie



BIRMINGHAM EMPIRE & DIVERSITY PROJECT & EXHIBITION

For the second year, KNGS has participated in a project run by Sampad looking at a collection of photographs taken in the Dyche Studio in Moseley, of Commonwealth immigrants to Birmingham after WW2.

Year 9 pupils listened to a talk from a Lecturer from the University of Birmingham on post war immigration and using this historical context, wrote their own responses to the photos.



Some pupils investigated their own family histories. Some of their work was selected to be on display at the Back to Backs Museum as part of a larger exhibition and these pupils, along with the History Ambassadors, enjoyed visiting this on the 7th February.



Ms Thatcher

KINDNESS & VALUES RAFFLE

This term, our brand new Pupil Voice Ambassadors showed some heart by planning and running a busy 'Kindness and Values' Raffle, with staff kindly donating their excess Xmas gifts and goodies as prizes.



Students completed questions about kindness and school values in exchange for free raffle tickets. Hundreds of students came along to take part on a Friday lunchtime. They wrote hundreds of thoughtful entries which the Ambassadors are using to create a display.



14 lucky winners were very excited to collect their prizes the following Friday! Very well done and thank you to **Amelie, Molly, Lottie, Issy and Nancy** for running their first successful event along with great assistance from **Freda** and photographer **Caitlin!**

Mrs Vaughn

FUTURE EVENTS...

Go PURPLE for epilepsy

The 26 March is Purple Day, the perfect time to Go Purple! Help us transform lives and get people talking about epilepsy.

To mark this occasion we will be **inviting pupils to wear an item of purple clothing on Monday 27th March** to raise awareness of Epilepsy.

Silent Disco for Autism Awareness Week

The Autism Pupil Voice Group (APVG) will be hosting a Key Stage 3 Silent Disco (**for Year 7, 8 & 9 Students**) to celebrate World Autism Acceptance Week 2023.

The event will take place on **Thursday 23rd March 2023 from 3.30pm-5pm** in the school hall. Limited tickets are available to purchase via parent pay and will be limited to first come, first served. The **cost of the ticket is £2.50** and this will include your entry, access to your personal set of headphones and choice of music.

Pupils should attend school as normal in school uniform but may bring a change of clothes for the event. There will **not** be refreshments available at this event but pupils may bring their own soft drink or confectionary treats to enjoy.

We look forward to seeing you!

Ms Cartin

LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS

Christmas in Vienna



Christmas in Vienna club ran during the last few weeks of last half term.

Our very own Mrs Evans kindly ran the club on Monday lunchtimes, providing Christmas Music, stories, and traditions from her own experiences of celebrating Christmas in Austria, as well as fun crafts like making Gonks and snowmen tree decorations.



Anthea Bell Prize 2023

After last year's success, we are pleased to announce that we will be running the Anthea Bell Prize competition again. It will take place in ICT 3 on Tuesday lunchtimes between the 17th of February and the 28th of March. All students are welcome to participate, by translating a poem, short story, or text from German, French, Italian, Spanish, or Mandarin into English. [We look forward to seeing many students there. More information will be shared in form notices and through your language teachers.](#)

Looking for New Language Ambassadors

At the end of next half term, our Year 11 language ambassadors will be leaving us to do their GCSEs. We are therefore beginning to recruit Year 9 and 12 students to take over from them next term. Any interested students with a love for languages are encouraged to fill in the MS form sent out to all students. If you have any questions, please ask your language teachers, or come to ICT3 on a Tuesday lunch time. Students will also be notified during form time, in their language lessons, and through form notices.

Year 9 GCSE Options

On Tuesday 28th February, Year 9 students are invited to come to ICT3 at lunchtime to ask any questions related to language learning at GCSE levels ahead of choosing their options.

Language Clinic!

Year 11s: would you like further support ahead of your GCSE speaking exam? Would you like some guidance to improve your tenses and grammar? Come along to language clinic on Tuesday lunchtime in ICT3 and we will be delighted to help.

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

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STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP

The Student Leadership Group have joined forces with Ms Randall's Eco Club, in order to help the school in their bid to achieve a Bronze Eco Award. Our current project ideas are varied and include building eco-blocks from unrecyclable waste, creating scrap paper bins for the photocopiers, decorating the outside bins to make them more visible for students, and conducting a litter-pick. All of these will contribute towards the award, which the school will hopefully have achieved by the next academic year.

The Head Students have been fantastic in galvanising the SLG members to complete their projects and have stayed on board, despite their upcoming examinations. This half term saw the group hold a successful clothes/items swapping event. The first half of the Summer term will see the selection process for the new Head Students start and the second half of the Summer term will see the ever-popular talent show return for the fete.

Mr Houston



ECO SCHOOL PROJECT



As part of the KNGS Eco Clubs' work towards achieving a Bronze Eco Award the Eco Committee students were delighted to receive a donation of two trees from 'Tending to Cotteridge' and were excited to plant these near to the school entrance.

Miss Randell



Student Top Tip



Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth to save water.



Rose - Year 7

PRAISE & HOUSE NEWS

Pop Up Praise



Earlier in the term Year 7 & 8's were issued a 'Pop Up Praise' ticket showing how many 'Pop Up Praise' points they had earned (based on their praise points) and had to spend.

Year 7 & 8 were then invited to the 'Pop Up Parise' Event where they were able to spend their points in the 'Pop Up Praise' Shop, where there was lots of stationary and sweet treats to chose from.

Thank you to the Form Captains for being excellent 'shop keepers'.

Mr Steele

Cake Decorating - House Competition

Well done to all students who decorated a cake for our first new house competition.



Students we're challenged with decorating cakes to represent their Form Tutor. We saw some very clever designs including: A brain representing psychology, a needle and thread – textiles, a brilliantly executed camera cake and lots more.

Thank you to Miss Banner and Mr Piotrowski for being great sports in the staff blindfolded cake decorating – students really enjoyed your participation.

Congratulations to 3rd place Miss Rickard - **Ganymede** (brain) created by **Neive Elliot - Year 9**, 2nd place Miss Gerard - **Kari** (bonjour) by **Emily Chan - Year 10** and 1st place Mr Ableson - **Ganymede** (camera) by **Betty Curtis - Year 11**.

Opening a World of Opportunities



SPORTS UPDATE

NETBALL

Congratulations all students who have represented the school netball teams and well done to all students who have regularly attended netball club/training on Tuesdays. Final netball fixtures and results for this academic year are:

Senior Division 1 (Year 10 & 11)

- KE Five Ways, Tuesday 27th September, @Home - Won 26-20
- KE Camp Hill Girls, Wednesday 19th October, @Home - Won 19-16
- KE Camp Hill Girls, Wednesday 9th November, Away - Won 38-15
- EHS (A), Thursday 17th November, Away - Won 21-7
- EHS (B), Tuesday 31st January, Away - Won 32-7
- Lordswood, Tuesday 10th January, Away - Won 34-16

Year 9 - Division 1

- KE Five Ways, 27th September, @Home - Lost 5-24
- Bishop Challoner, Tuesday 18th October, @Home - Won 13-8
- KE Camp Hill Girls, Wednesday 19th October, @Home - Lost 10-13
- EHS, Wednesday 17th November, Away - Lost 8-11
- Queensbridge, Wednesday 8th February, Away - Lost 10-11

Year 7 - Division 1

- Bishop Challoner, Tuesday 18th October, @Home - Won 23-0
- KE Five Way, Tuesday 1st November, Away - Won 26-5
- KE Camp Hill Girls, Wednesday 9th November, Away - Won 28-2
- EHS (A), Tuesday 31st January, Away - Won 6-2
- EHS (B), Tuesday 31st January, Away - Won 20-1



BASKETBALL

Congratulations to the Senior Basketball Team (Years 8 & 11) who participated in a tournament at St Thomas Aquinas. It was the students first competitive match as a new team.

KNGS played three matches - winning two games and narrowly losing one game. Well done!

Miss Cadman

CROSS COUNTRY

On Saturday 21st January, four of our students competed at the West Midlands Schools Cross Country Championships at Warley Woods. For Years 8 and above this was the selection race for the ESAA (English Schools) National Championships in March at Woolaton Park in Nottingham, with the top 6 achieving automatic selection for West Midlands Schools.

I am delighted to inform you that **Alba Smith-Pena** finished in 4th place in the Junior Girls race (Years 8 & 9) therefore guaranteeing her selection for West Midlands for Nottingham. In the same race **Arriella Dalmedo** finished 10th and **Imogen Baker** 17th.

Then in the Minor Girls (Year 7) race **Macayla Drewett** won the bronze medal with a storming run in the last 1/2km to overtake the athlete in 3rd place.

Huge congratulations to these students on their achievements - they were a credit to the school.

Mr Piotrowski



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SUCCESSES

KNGS STUDENT WINS ENG SPORTS UK PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2022

Over the Christmas holidays, KNGS Year 7 student Lily Field was nominated for 'ENG Sports UK Player of the Year 2022' (for netball), being 1 of only 5 girls nominated across the country. Following a public vote via Facebook/Instagram, Lily found out on New Year's Eve that she had won the vote to become the 'ENG Sports UK Player of the Year 2022'! Lily is due to receive her glass award in the coming weeks.

Lily plays for Sutton town Netball Club and was ranked last year as number 1 in the Midlands and 7th in the country, after competing in a recent ENG Tournament. Lily is currently being sponsored by ENG Sports and as part of her contract is one of their Elite Athletes for the 2022/2023 season.

A huge well done to Lily from all at KNGS, not only on her netballing achievements but on her nomination and prestigious award!



KNGS STUDENT WINS SWIMMING MEDAL

Back in January, KNGS Year 9 student, Amelie Zarifeh, along with 3 other swimmers from the Orion Swimming Club won the Warwickshire ASA County Championships bronze medal in the 13-15 years, 4 X 50m Freestyle relay!

Well done Amelie and team - a fantastic achievement!

MR ABELSON WINS AWARD

Mr Abelson, our very own talented Head of Photography, has had his work recognised with his photograph of 'Barbra' the chicken (belonging to Mrs Evenson) being selected for The Royal Western Academy Open Photography Exhibition. It won third prize and it currently on display at the RWA Gallery in Bristol until 1st May.

The same photograph has also just been selected for The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists' 2023 Photography Competition Exhibition. It will be on display at the RBSA gallery in the Jewellery Quarter from 2nd March until 8th April.

Well done Mr Abelson - you are a great inspiration to our students!



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN SCHOOLS CONFERENCE 2023

The school's Head of RE, Mr Ahmedi, was invited to speak at the virtual Diversity and Inclusion in Schools Conference 2023, organised by Government Events based in London. He was asked to present on the topic 'Celebrating religious diversity to ensure schools are religiously inclusive'.

The organisers wanted Mr Ahmedi to speak about KNGS's excellent InterFaith Week initiative, how this has inspired other schools to do the same and share tips for how to hold such events. The conference was attended by teachers including headteachers from all over the country. His talk was very well received with very positive feedback received from the delegates and organisers.

Information about the event can be found at: <https://www.governmentevents.co.uk/dais23/>

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Starting this month we will be celebrating the talent of our Photography students with a 'Photo of the Month'.

Look out for this in future newsletters and our @KNGSlife Twitter and Instagram accounts.

February's photo credit goes to **Ffion Grace - Year 12.**



EXAMINATIONS

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

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

Students sitting GCSE & A Level exams this year must be available up to and including **Wednesday 28th June 2023**, in line with JCQ's contingency planning regulations.

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

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/>

CAREERS

Work experience (Year 10 and Year 12)

After 3 years of no in-person work experience (due to Covid), The last week of this half term saw out year 12 Students completing their work experience placements in a variety of contexts. Feedback from placements has been really positive and the year group should be really proud of their efforts. Year 10 will do the same in the week beginning the 17th July. It has been a challenge sourcing placements as so many workplaces now use a hybrid approach to working. If you know of a workplace that might be able to support one of our Year 12 or 10 students, please contact Mr Charlett (tcharlett@kngs.co.uk). Good luck to our Year 12's!

UCAS and apprenticeships (Year 13)

The deadline for university applications has now passed. Well done to Year 13's who are now receiving their offers and looking forward to taking up exciting university placements across the country. February is also a busy month for apprenticeship opportunities going live; many of our Year 13s are applying for these. Good luck!

1:1 careers meetings (Year 11)

Mrs Edwards has nearly completed all 1:1 meetings with Year 11 to support them in action planning for the next steps of their education and beyond.

GCSE Options (Year 9)

Year 9 will be taking part in a full day to find out more about possible GCSE options but also post-16 pathways, including college, sixth form and apprenticeships. Year 9 will be using Unifrog on the day; this is our one-stop-shop online careers platform which all students are given access to during their time here.

All students, Years 7 to 13, receive their careers education via PSHE lessons in addition to the type of extra days and activities described above.

Mr Charlett (Careers Lead) and Mrs Edwards (Careers Adviser)

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Calling all Year 13 Parents & Carers!

On **Tuesday 21st March 5 - 5.30pm** the Sixth Form Team will be delivering a short presentation about how parents and carers can support students in the lead up to, and during, A Level exam season.

The session is live but online (MS Teams) and only scheduled to last 30 minutes. This is to make attending as easy as possible. The link for the meeting has been emailed out and will be re-sent nearer the time.

Challenge Day - Year 13 Health Day

Tuesday 14th February was a whole school Challenge Day and for Year 13 there was a Health Day focusing on Healthy Relationships, Financial Health and Sexual Health. There was also some very good advice in the Student Finance talk delivered by Charlotte from Newman University.

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