

# Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health. As we delve into the latest edition of our school newsletter, I am truly amazed by the variety of enrichment and leadership opportunities that our students engage in. Their contributions to our community, coupled with their everyday achievements and successes, fill me with immense pride, and I'm sure you share the same sentiment.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the students involved in the events highlighted in this newsletter. However, it's important to acknowledge that there are countless other noteworthy accomplishments and endeavours over the last term that might not be represented here. The dedication of our staff is crucial in creating such enriching experiences for our students, and I am deeply grateful for their commitment.

I would also like to take a moment to recognise the resilience and determination displayed by our Year 11 and 13 students as they embark on their public exams. With calm maturity and professionalism, they are fearlessly tackling these challenges head-on and prepare to embark on the exciting journey that lies ahead.

At KNGS, we hold the values of respect, courage, and flourish close to our hearts. It is through these values that our students are able to embrace their unique abilities, strive for excellence, and contribute meaningfully to the world around them. As educators, we are dedicated to fostering an environment where every child feels valued, empowered, and encouraged to reach their full potential.

In the coming weeks, we have a series of events and activities planned that embody these values, including leavers and transition events. We will also be holding our annual Sports Day; with our new houses (Kari, Ganymede and Neso) competing in this event for the first time. We are also looking forwards to our school fete; an event that captures the true spirit of the school. Looking ahead we have been planning an extensive range of trips and continue to focus on consistently excellent teaching so that our students have further opportunities to showcase their talents, demonstrate their compassion, and grow as individuals. We look forward to your continued support in nurturing their personal and academic development.

As you are aware attendance has been a real focus this year and although attendance as a whole is still a few percent below our target most of our students now have attendance of over 96%, this is a fantastic achievement. Well done and thank you to parents/carers for your support. As the annual reports come out this term you will notice a difference with the reporting of attendance and will see the percentage of attendance and number of sessions your child has missed, we hope this will help you support your child even further with improving their attendance.

I hope you all have a fantastic half term.

**Nicola Raggett - Headteacher**

## UNIFORM

**Our focus for next half term will remain on attendance, and also on uniform.** Can you please remind your child of the school's uniform policy and support us in ensuring that they are wearing appropriate shoes and skirts/trousers and that the only jewellery worn is: 1 stud in each ear, 1 ring and one piece of devotional jewellery <https://www.kngs.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Uniform-and-appearance-Policy-June-2022-amended-March-2023.pdf>. Any bracelets, necklaces, additional earrings etc. will be confiscated for safe keeping and returned to students at the end of the day and students will be asked to change incorrect uniform. Thank you for your support.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

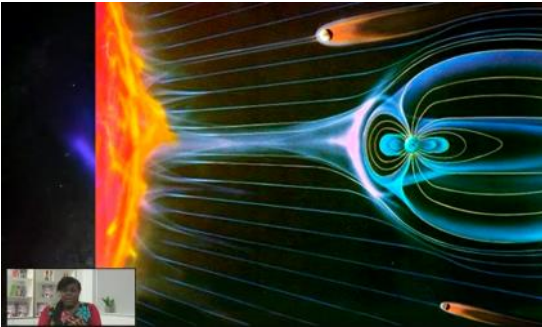
- ◆ **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** - Half Term Break
- ◆ **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June** - Start of Half Term
- ◆ **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June** - Year 7 & Year 8 Teacher Assessments
- ◆ **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June** - Whole School Open Morning - **Booking required via website**
- ◆ **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July** - Year 10 Reports Issued **via SIMS PARENT APP**
- ◆ **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July** - Year 7,8 & 9 Reports Issued **via SIMS PARENT APP**
- ◆ **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July** – end of term, **Students will be dismissed at 1.20pm**

## EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

### BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March, all of Year 7 took part in a special author event, organised by BookTrust.

Students listened to and interacted with a live stream by the author and space scientist Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE, where she discussed everything from the Big Bang to the future of space travel.



A screenshot from the event

Students came away with a colourful booklet including a quiz and information about the author's new book *Am I Made of Stardust?*

The event generated some wonderful questions, such as 'Life on other planets might be very different to life on Earth, so why are we looking for similar organisms to our own?' (**Lola M**).



**Ms Caswell**

### CITY OF EMPIRE TO DIVERSITY PROJECT

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May, three Year 9 students (**Grace Orr, Malika Dore & Imaani Rashid**) represented KNKS at the closing symposium for the City of Empire to Diversity Project which the school has been involved in for the last two years. The project was run by Sampad, Birmingham Archives, and the University of Birmingham.

The three students each made a speech, explaining what participation in the project had meant to them. They explained how it had led them to explore their own family histories and to learn more about the rich diverse history of Birmingham, especially since WW2.



After the event the pupils were congratulated for their mature and reflective feedback. The event organiser wrote:



I can hardly put into words just how inspiring... your young people were! Each person added to the bigger picture with personal responses which spoke to the audience in a way that really moved them... They showed how challenging and representative resources are so important... if we are going to move forward and shift understanding of the past.



A massive well done to the three students for giving up their time on a Saturday to make such an important contribution to this event.

**Ms Thatcher**

### BIRMINGHAM MUSIC SERVICE VIRTUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

This year clarinet and brass students took part in a virtual music festival run by the Birmingham Music Service. It gave them the chance to work together in ensembles and show off their musicianship to a wider audience.

These ensembles will also be taking part in our **Arts Faculty Summer Showcase** which will be taking place on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June**. **Tickets are available now on ParentPay**. Hope to see you there!

**Mr Gell**



**Opening a World of Opportunities**

## WASHINGTON DC TRIP

Over the February half term, 33 Year 13 students and 4 staff travelled to Washington DC in the United States to experience the cultural, social and political differences between the US and the UK. After a 6 hour flight, where some students completed revision, we landed in Dulles Airport to be greeted by our state side agent Caroline. Upon arrival at the Holiday Inn Hotel, it was straight to bed to get ready for a busy day of walking.



**Day 1:** A carby breakfast awaited the group after waking bright and early at 8am. Students marvelled at the chicken and biscuits, waffles and other delights on offer on the buffet menu. Luckily coffee and soda were free. We walked from the accommodation down Black Lives Matter Plaza, which gives a great view of the White House. We walked around the outside of the White House, barely able to see the famed West Wing and then towards the National Archives. Here students saw the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Over 20,000 steps were walked on the first day, seeing more of the sights Washington has to offer, before enjoying food at Bens' Chilli Bowl - an iconic DC restaurant chain with Civil Rights era roots.

**Day 2:** Carby breakfast number two awaited, as students cottoned onto the idea of free drink refills. Arlington Cemetery was the aim today, with a trip on the large and clean Washington DC metro. Ruth Bader Ginsburg, J F Kennedy and others are buried at the site, which spans 639 acres or about a mile. We then travelled to the Pentagon, the Centre of National Security, to see the 9/11 Memorial for the victims of Flight 77 and workers from the building. Students then had a luxurious 3 hours in the Pentagon City Mall, to explore the variety of shops that the US offers before heading to the trendy Georgetown. Georgetown is where students, but also diplomats, high ranking government officials and journalists live. Today was over 25,000 steps with our final stop being an Italian restaurant for a variety of pastas.

**Day 3:** The last day loomed with another carby breakfast. We made our way to the US Congress to get inside in time for our tour slot. US Congress is the legislative branch of US Politics, creating laws and drafting bills. The National Holiday, Presidents' Day, meant that Congress was not open to its usual levels and no famous faces were seen! Lunch was at the Hard Rock Café, situated just opposite a souvenir shop where staff and students hurriedly purchased some more gifts to say thank you for the trip. The last stop before heading back to Dulles Airport was the Lincoln Memorial at the end of the mall. On the coach journey to the airport, students were awarded prizes



nominated by staff for photo sharing, meme creating and more during the trip! Jet lag hit as **Day 4** began, landing at Heathrow tired and grumpy (Ms W!!) and the coach was eerily quiet.

Students were a delight on the trip and a credit to the school. They were kind, thoughtful and all wanted to know more about US Politics and how it works. The memories students have made on this trip, will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

*Ms Wright*



**Photo credit: Enfys Sykes Y13**

**Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.**

## SLQ YOUR TIME LEADERS

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** who have successfully completed their Your Time Leaders Award. On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May these students led competitive activities to a group of 50 Year 7's. Leaders found out how long a 20 minute session really felt when in charge of participants and participants said the activities were fun and could they have the Year 9 Leaders as their PE teachers more often!



The Leaders have shown such excellent progress in their skills across the course and the development in their sessions as the day progressed was very evident and impressive to see as they refined their activities to make them more suitable to the groups in front of them. It was lovely to see their confidence and team work lead to a successful event. Well done to all who took part.

*Mrs Currie*

## WORLD BOOK DAY

To celebrate World Book Day all Year 8 students attended a virtual author event with one of Britain's most well-known children's authors Michael Morpurgo.

We were lucky to be invited to attend the event as we had run a Read for Good Reathon earlier in the year. He told the pupils how he had been inspired to write War Horse after meeting a war veteran who had worked with horses during the war and how he wanted to tell the story from the horses point of view. He also showed them a picture of a horse which he had based the story on. He then described how the puppets had been developed for the stage production of war horse. At the end of the talk Michael Morpurgo also ran a question and answer session.



*Mrs Edwards*

## CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May the History Ambassadors (representing students from Years 8-12) organised a charity cake sale and a crown hunt to celebrate the Coronation.

The chosen charity was the Birmingham Children's Hospital. This was the student choice charity voted for via a forms questionnaire.

The Ambassadors advertised the events, baked the cakes for it, and set up and ran it completely independently. It was extremely well organised and they raised an incredible £132.28 from the cake sale.

Lots of students also participated in the crown hunt around the school and won prizes.

It was a truly fab effort and well done to all involved.

*Ms Thatcher*



*Georgina Newton, Tess Edwards, Neve Elliot, Amberleigh Glover, Susie Catling, Emma Allchin, Daisy Downes, Zelia Dussol*

## GCSE & A LEVEL TEXTILE VISIT TO VIEW THE GETHSEMANE GARMENTS

In March, fourteen Year 10 Textile students and 8 A Level students visited the Gethsemane Garments exhibition at St Francis Church, where they were able to see first-hand the textile construction techniques employed by Peter Privett. This was sponsored by Westhill Endowment and we would like to thank Cheryl Homer and Rev Chris Chalmers for their hospitality and enabling these visits to happen.



Students were able to touch the garments and really explore the meanings behind each piece, this opened up a vehicle for discussion and reflection and provided an invaluable learning opportunity in understanding how art work is curated and allowed students to understand what construction techniques they could use in their own textile outcomes. The themes explored were very much based on human emotion;



### **The Red Garment: Pain**

This represented the garment being ripped apart, the world ripped apart. Where can we see these rips and pain in our world, in our country and in our community today?



### **The Purple Garment: Suffering**

The purple garment is shredded – it was perfect fabric but became shredded in the process of the garment's creation. Are there times we have felt shredded, perhaps we've felt damaged, a failure, useless, unbeautiful ... perhaps unworthy?



### **The Green Garment: Hope**

The Artist, Peter Privett, has used fragile, flimsy, recycled material. He explains importantly that hope does not deny pain and suffering, but it recognises and accepts it, and waits for those green shoots of hope.



### **The White Garment: Renewal**

This garment is about renewal and resurrection. Peter explains how the white cloak is designed to unfold, to embrace, us all.

*Mrs Garcia*

## A LESSON IN FRENCH CUISINE

This term Year 12 were lucky to sample the culinary delights of fine French cuisine to aid in their study of their A Level English Language and Literature Paris anthology. After their initial horror when met with foods such as French onion soup, moules mariniere and extremely strong cheeses, every student eventually embraced the experience and even tried the mussels. The croissants and baguettes, of course, proved much more popular! Thank you to Chef Andre & the Academy catering team for our French cuisine!

*Mrs Taylor*

**Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.**



## SIXTH FORM STUDENTS SUPPORT TEN ACRES CONSERVATION PROJECT

On Saturday March 4th, six A Level biologists cheerfully braved near-freezing conditions to join Ms Caswell and a local ecologist to carry out a scientific survey of the River Rea at Ten Acres in Stirchley. Their results will be used to inform conservation efforts in the area over the coming months, and the data they obtained have been added to a national database.

We learned from other local volunteers that the Ten Acres stretch of the river is currently home to a wide variety of species including water voles, and that they now hope for otters to return to the river after last being sighted in 2007. We also learned about features of a healthy river, such as riffle-pool sequences.



**Amelia, Mathilda, Poppy-Jo, Karen, Lila and Izzy** all carried out kick sampling in the river and identified a range of invertebrate species.

Poppy-Jo's younger sister who will be joining KNGS in September also lent a hand and a large smile. Students used a variety of equipment, from scientific sample trays, magnifiers and nets to a turkey baster (which separated larvae from sediment magnificently)!



The next session will be on 1st April. If any other students would like to join us, please speak to Ms Caswell in the Science department. Information on the project can be found at <https://tenacresconservation.co.uk/river-fly-monitoring-with-harry-gray/>.

*Ms Caswell*

## EX-STUDENT DROPS IN ON A LEVEL RE LESSON

Former student Indiana Curtis-Harvey came into school to speak to A Level Religious Studies students in Year 12 and 13.

Indiana shared lots of excellent tips for revision and exam success, and as one of our top performing students in A Level RS last summer the students benefited hugely from her advice.

Thanks to Indiana for giving up so much of her time!

*Mr Ahmed*



## SEND PARENT COFFEE MORNING - 23RD MAY

Thank you to the parents that were able to attend this event and contributed so positively to the gathering of parent voice at KNGS.

This term we focused on how best to support for pupils with Autism at home.

We had the pleasure of welcoming Anne Seymour from the Communication Autism team to lead our event. There was a very helpful discussion around some of the common difficulties our young people with autism may experience at home after managing and navigating the challenges of the school day. Some useful tips to managing anxiety and feelings of being overwhelmed included allowing time at home for activities that our young people enjoy and find relaxing such as exercise, listening to music and reading.

For further advice and guidance please look at the Barnardo's early help support for autism.

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/services/early-help-autism-service>

The next parent coffee morning is likely to take place on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023**. Invitation to follow next term.



## BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL'S CONSORTIUM SKI EDUCATIONAL VISIT - MARCH 2023

Resilience, determination, patience, teamwork, companionship, organisational and time keeping skills, bravery and considerable physical effort – just some of the words I would use to describe the amazing experience that was Ski23.

40 KNGS Year 8 and 9's, Mrs Currie, Mr Steele, Miss Welch and Ms Holbeche travelled to Costa, Folgaria in Italy alongside pupil's and staff from Swanshurst and St Edmund Campion – total party of 187. It was a pleasure to be away with the group, pupils represented themselves and KNGS fantastically and should be extremely proud of their achievements.

The visit was an enormous success, with pupil's making excellent progress both on the snow in terms of their skiing ability, and off, in terms of their personal and social development. During the week, increases in pupils' independence, time management and confidence in particular were evident and smiling faces after skiing from the top of the mountain was a pleasure to see. It was also a real pleasure to see pupils interacting so successfully with young people from different schools across the city.



Commendations and praise have been sent from the course leader, hotel staff, Ski School staff and ferry crew who reported that the group had been a pleasure to work with and in fact they would love to have groups like ours every week, so a massive well done to all!

Pupil's reported particular highlights of the incredible snow shoe walk through the woods with lit torches; the sense of achievement feeling their skiing improve and skiing harder runs they thought impossible at the start of the week; the

panoramic restaurant at the top of the slopes serving the most delicious pizza; beautiful pasta dishes from the hotel and lovely relationships with their ski instructors who were ace. A massive thank you to all involved for supporting the visit.

*Mrs Currie*

## KNGS SILENT DISCO TO CELEBRATE AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK

On the Thursday 23rd March 2023, we hosted a silent disco to mark this event. The event was led by our Autism Pupil Voice group and was a huge success. It was so lovely to see pupils socialising and enjoying themselves while promoting awareness of Autism. The event was also a perfect opportunity for pupils with sensory needs to take part in a way that they felt comfortable.

The theme for the awareness week this year was 'acceptance'. At KNGS we strive to open a world of opportunities for our young people while ensuring all demonstrate respect and courage in order to flourish. This was a perfect opportunity for pupils to demonstrate their respect of diversity and it was a wonderful sight to see.



Further information on Autism awareness can be found on the National Autistic Society website:



<https://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/raise-money/world-autism-acceptance-week-2023>

*Ms Cartin*

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# LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS



## Anthea Bell Prize 2023

After last year's success, we ran the Anthea Bell Prize competition again last half term. It took place in ICT 3 between the 28th of February and the 28th of March. Students had to translate a poem, short story, or text from German, French, Italian, Spanish, or Mandarin into English. Thank you to everyone who took part, we have sent over 20 entries to be judged! Winners will be announced next half term.



## Looking for New Language Ambassadors

Our Year 11 Language Ambassadors have 'left' us to take their GCSE exams. We are therefore recruiting Year 9 and 12 students to take over. Any interested students with a love for languages are encouraged to fill in the MS form which will be sent soon.

If you have any questions, please ask your language teachers, or come to ICT3 on a Tuesday lunchtime. Students will also be notified during form time, in their language lessons, and through form notices.

## Letters to a French Care Home

On Tuesday, the 8th and 15th of November last year, ICT3 was full of students writing Christmas cards for the elderly living in a care home in France. They were overjoyed to receive them and have since started a writing workshop, to send replies to the students who took part! We very much look forward to receiving their replies and we will distribute them as soon as we receive them.

## Year 8 Film Club

On Tuesday 9th May and Tuesday 16th May, Year 8 students were invited to watch the French stop motion film 'My vie de courgette' (My life as a zucchini). The film tells the story of a young boy is befriended by a police officer and sent to a foster home with other orphans his age. With the help of his new friends, he begins to trust and love again.



## Language clinic

Come along to language clinic on Tuesday lunchtime in ICT3 and we will be delighted to help. All years are also for exam or homework support.

*Abi Heyes, Year 9 & Mrs Housley*

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP

I would like to pass on my thanks to the Head Student team: **Evie Roe**, **Dan Hawes** and **Elyn Carreon**. They have worked tirelessly all year in delivering projects that have made a real change to the school. Their commitment, enthusiasm and leadership have been incredible; they have been ideal role-models for the younger students. For the remainder of the year, the Student Leadership Group will be gearing up for the school fete, where we will organise a fantastic main event for the school to enjoy.

*Mr Houston*

## ECO SCHOOL PROJECT



As part of the KNGS Eco Clubs' work towards achieving a Bronze Eco Award the Eco Committee students have been super busy since our last update!

The group have worked with our Site Team to find suitable locations for 7 bird boxes to be put up around the school site. The student have also carried out litter picking as well as working hard to create a strawberry patch in the Science garden. In addition, the Eco Club held a plant sale which raised £35 for Comic Relief and also enabled them to purchase wild flower seeds which they have planted in the Science garden. A huge thank you to Mrs Smith-Chopra for her help, input & gardening knowledge!



The Eco Club has completed all 'Eco Actions' that the Eco Committee set last year and they are now in process of compiling our brilliant evidence for the Eco-Schools Green Flag application.

*Ms Randell*

## Student Top Tip



Place pasta in a saucepan of cold water for the day to soften. Then, at the end of the day, cook in boiling water, it will only take a couple of minutes, saving you energy. **Charlotte - Year 7**





# INTRODUCING OUR PUPIL VOICE AMBASSADORS

This year we have developed our Pupil Voice tradition by introducing some Student Ambassador roles. This is to:

- Offer student leadership opportunities.
- Promote a school wide understanding of dyslexia and other invisible needs.
- Encourage pupils to represent, speak and act for others.
- Develop pupils' advocacy skills.
- Progress from having a voice to taking action.
- Contribute to the school community by organising fun whole school activities.
- Encourage pupils to be courageous and flourish!

We appointed 8 fantastic applicants: Congratulations to **Freda, Fleur, Nancy, Issy, Lotie, Amelie, Molly** and **Isabel**.

They had some thoughtful reasons for applying...

"I would like to engage more with the school and spread awareness for dyslexia to pupils and teachers."

"I enjoy learning, teaching and organising events."

"I am compassionate and have good listening skills and hopefully younger years will not be scared to talk to me as I am approachable."

"I have received lots of support from teachers and some students with dyslexia and I would love to be able to share that with other students."

They are full of ideas and have already been rather busy: they have delivered staff training, organised a face painting and a 'Kindness Raffle', helped plan awareness raising library lessons, run a competition and organised a 'TechShare' initiative for pupils using assistive technology.

At the moment they are planning a fete stall involving fun, glitter and sparkle. Looking ahead, they would like to contribute to an assembly and develop an 'Experience Library' event using pupils (and staff) to be 'borrowed' for conversation in place of books. Watch this space!

*Mrs Vaughan*



## PRAISE

We would like to like to congratulate the following students on receiving the '**Headteachers Award**' this term for demonstrating our school values:

**Respect:** Ruby Marklew-Murray (Year 7), Martha Mellon-Woods (Year 7), Poppy Berry (Year 7), Charlotte Donoher (Year 8), Eleanor Hodson (Year 8), Isla Cliff (Year 8), Issy McNeill (Year 9), Aimon Parveen (Year 9), Grace Orr (Year 9), Chloe Burfitt (Year 10), Lydia Saunders (Year 11), Miriam Shpanin (Year 11), Phoebe Yates (Year 11), Evie Roe (Year 13), Elyn Carreon (Year 13) & Andrea Biju (Year 13).

**Courage:** Harriet Brocklehurst (Year 7), Lucy Gerrard (Year 7), Rosie McHale (Year 7), Annie Mathias (Year 7), Poppy Jones (Year 8), Sara Eustace (Year 8), Esme Wale (Year 8), Annabelle Seadon (Year 8), Evie Cann (Year 9), Ella Powell (Year 9), Maddison Bassett (Year 9), Ella Coates (Year 10), Elysia Malpas (Year 10), Kyra Brown (Year 10), Tilly Nathan Fuller (Year 10), Lucy Jobe (Year 11) & Mathilda Cannon (Year 13).

**Flourish:** Sophia Deane (Year 7), Zara Phillips (Year 7), Kitty Talbot (Year 8), Abby Tranter (Year 8), Lexie Collins (Year 9), Grace Orr (Year 9), Bethan Fielder (Year 9), Emma O'Neill (Year 10), Isabella Harris (Year 10), Olivia Brown (Year 10), Kara Wray (Year 10), Jess Locke (Year 10), Neive McNally (Year 10), Grace Varley (Year 10), Sophie Watley (Year 11), Isabelle Talbot (Year 11), Megan Abbott (Year 11), Izzy Carruthers (Year 11), Myley Patterson (Year 11), Emily Caves (Year 11) & Amy Lerrigo (Year 13).



[Opening a World of Opportunities](#)



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

### STUDENT LED CODING CLUB

During this year, students from the Year 11 Computer Science group have led a Key Stage 3 Coding Club on lunchtimes. Students have had the chance to use BBC Microbits, learn how computers are coded and worked together to solve problems. Well done to the Year 11 students who gave up their time to run the club and thank you to all Year 7 and 8 students who have attended.

*Mr Willis and Mr Goddard*



## SPORTS UPDATE

### NETBALL

Congratulations to both Year 7 and Seniors (Year 10/11) Netball Teams on an unbeaten season!! The girls' won the leagues as well as the end of year tournament, playing some fantastic netball throughout the season - it truly has been a pleasure to watch!

Also well done to the Year 9 team, who lost only one game in their tournament.

Congratulations to all teams, you have been a credit to the school and have certainly flourished! Demonstrating respect and courage along the way!



*Mrs Cadman*

### CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to **Alba Smith-Pena** who represented West Midlands Schools at the ESAA Cross Country Championships at Wollaton Park in Nottingham back in March and finished a very creditable 261<sup>st</sup> out of almost 350 runners in the Junior Girls' race in 14mins28s. The winner finished in 12mins16s. The event was live streamed by British Athletics and past winners have included Paula Radcliffe and Mo Farah so it has acted as a springboard for some of our elite athletes.

*Mr Piotrofski*

## EXAMINATIONS

External exams are in full swing with GCSE and A Level exams taking place every day until Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023. A reminder that the "[Candidate Handbook](#)" has exam information for our Year 11 and 13 students, useful FAQ's and reminders of key regulations. We ask that both students and parents/carers are familiar with the schools procedures and JCQ regulations.

GCSE's and A Level's are extremely important exams; **they are set by external examination boards and therefore cannot be rescheduled.** Students need to ensure they are prompt and prepared for all of their exams. A full list of required equipment can be found on the school's website.

**GCSE Results Day Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023:** <https://www.kngs.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/GCSE-Results-Day-Letter-August-2023.pdf>

**A Level Results Day Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023:** <https://www.kngs.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/A-Level-Results-Day-Letter-August-2023.pdf>

Any queries please do not hesitate to contact our Examinations Officer, Miss Chloe Welch at 0121 675 1305 or [cwelch@kngs.co.uk](mailto:cwelch@kngs.co.uk).

**We wish all students sitting exams the very best of luck!**

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## SUCCESSES

### KNGS SIXTH FORM STUDENT DELIVERS LETTER TO DOWNING STREET



A massive well done to Sixth Form student **Evie Roe**, who back in April alongside fellow members of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award's Youth Ambassador Team, hand delivered a letter to Downing Street. The letter called upon political party leaders to ensure that young people "have a voice" on the issues that affect them at the next general election.

In the letter to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer and Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey, the Youth Ambassadors – a panel of Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants and Award holders aged 16-24, from all over the UK – expand on the priorities identified by young people in the DofE's Youth Manifesto as well as suggesting a youth summit to discuss these issues and give substance to their voice.

Further details about the letter and their visit can be found at: [www.dofe.org/thelatest/youth-ambassador-letter/](http://www.dofe.org/thelatest/youth-ambassador-letter/)

### YEAR 7 NETBALLING SUCCESS

Congratulations to KNGS Year 7 students **Charlotte Greasley** and **Lola Mooney** who both enjoyed success with their netballing weekend at Leeds Rhinos Challenge Weekend.

Charlotte and Lola both play netball in the Under 12's for the Parkside Netball Club, the team won the Pool 1 playoff trophy, only losing 1 game all weekend with Lola captaining the team. The Tournant saw 100 teams across all the age groups and the girls were competing against 20 teams in the under 12 age group. Lots of fun was had over the weekend not only playing netball but also at the fairground and beach!



### PROJECT REMIX

Over the past couple of months, Year 10 student **Gabby Balderson** has been attending Project Remix.

Project Remix is 11-18 year olds who are approximately Grade 5 or above in their instruments. As well as traditional orchestral instruments, Project Remix is open to those who play the guitar, bass guitar, drum kit and saxophones. This free programme allows musicians to be mentored by CBSO players, before performing in a concert at Symphony Hall. Each year, they play brand-new orchestral arrangements based on an exciting theme, this year the theme was Video Games.



Gabby applied for a drum kit part but was offered a place in the percussion section instead. As well as making lots of new friends Gabby has also learnt lots of new skills. At the end of the 7 week Project, Gabby had the privilege to perform a concert at Symphony Hall, showcasing all the skills and talent the group had to offer.

Well done Gabby - what a fantastic opportunity!

### PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Each newsletter we will be celebrating the talent of our Photography students with a 'Photo of the Month'.

May's photo credit goes to **Felicity Jones - Year 9**.

(Featuring **Elana Atkinson-Sewell** assisted by **Mia Price**)

**Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.**



## YEAR 9 CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

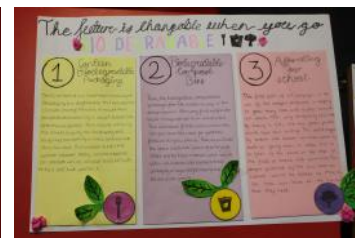
Our 2nd topic of Geography in Year 9 is Climate Change. To end the topic, campaigns proposing solutions to make our school more sustainable were created.

The Year 9 students showcased a diverse range of topics and solutions related to climate change. The campaigns covered various aspects of sustainability, including energy conservation, waste management, water usage, transportation and promoting eco-friendly practices. Each campaign provided insightful analysis and proposed practical strategies to reduce the school's environmental footprint. Also showcasing their dedication and creativity in making our school more sustainable.

Through these campaigns, students have fostered a culture of environmental responsibility, creating a deep understanding of pressing global issues, to contribute to mitigating climate change and inspire future generations to embrace sustainability and develop courage to exercise their responsibility as global citizens in the twenty first century.

The winners, as voted for by the year group and teachers were; **Flora Astbury, Grace Orr, Amelie Zarifeh** and **Navneet Wilkhu**. However, all campaigns were exceptional and the standard of entry very impressive, the decision was hard to make. Well done Year 9!

*Mrs Warwood*



## YEAR 7 MAISONS

Year 7 students have been brilliantly creative in French whilst learning to describe their homes and say what they do. They produced some fantastic, colourful houses and we were really impressed with all their efforts and enjoyed reading their fabulous creations.

Well done Year 7!

*Modern Foreign Languages Department*



## SIXTH FORM NEWS

### Year 13 Leavers Event

We held an assembly and picnic lunch on the field to say goodbye to Year 13. 'End of Course' awards were given out to students who have shown outstanding commitment, academic achievement and progress. We also were able to make sure the Mad Hatter and The Baldies went away with the 'Best Dressed Individual' and 'Group' in our annual Fancy Dress Competition.

Our thanks go to **Dan Hawes, Elyn Carreon** and **Evie Roe**, our Head Students, for their contribution to the day and their warm, reflective speeches.

We would like to take this opportunity to commend our Year 13's for their hard work and commitment and to wish them the very best of luck for the future.

### UCAS Update

Our Year 13's are looking forward to completing their exams, enjoying a long hot summer and then taking up university and apprenticeship places, with some taking a gap year first. We are having increasing success with students securing apprenticeships, with lots of support from Mrs Edwards. Well done to these students who have shown great determination and perseverance. Additionally, we have 117 of our Year 13 cohort holding offers from universities and look forward to congratulating them as they take these places up across the country, and even into Europe, in the new academic year.



## CAREERS

**Year 12** successfully completed their work experience placements. We had some very positive feedback from employers and have awarded certificates of recognition to many students.

One employer said, *"We thoroughly enjoyed having X with us this week and so did the children. She showed patience and willingness to learn and help. She would make a fantastic early years' teacher."*

**Year 10** have their work experience upcoming in the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> July and are now mostly placed. If your child requires support with sourcing a placement please contact Mr Ali ([Sali@kngs.co.uk](mailto:Sali@kngs.co.uk)) who has a list of available placements.

Year 10 also have an upcoming careers advice and guidance day (13<sup>th</sup> July) during which they will learn more about colleges, T-levels, university, apprenticeships and Kings Norton Sixth Form.

Our current **Year 13's** have had some excellent success with apprenticeship applications. Congratulations to them as their hard work and perseverance has paid off. Many of our Year 13's will also be off to university in September after their exams and a well-earned summer break!

**Years 7 and 8** will receive their careers education in the final half-term of the year through PSHE. They will also be receiving their log-in details for Unifrog; an excellent one-stop shop for careers advice and guidance which we subscribe to for all students.



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

## PARENTPAY

Please could we remind all parents/carers to ensure that they keep their ParentPay account topped up for catering and all debts are cleared before the end of the school year.

We are unable to provide a credit facility and therefore, will have to decline students who do not have sufficient funds on their ParentPay account.

To avoid this happening, you can set up alerts on your ParentPay account to advise you when balances are getting low, information is below:

### Parentpay – Helpful Tips to Manage your Account



You should check your Parentpay account weekly to see when your child has had a school meal and check how much they have spent. In order to keep your account in credit, you can set up an email alert for a low balance or an auto top up payment as detailed below.

### Parentpay Account – How to set up an Alert

1. Login to your Parentpay account
2. Go to Communications
3. Go to Alert Settings
4. Select the type of Alert (low balance and/or new item) and select how you want to receive alerts, email and/or SMS Text.

**Email alerts are free of charge.** If you opt for SMS text alerts there is a small charge per text. For more information go to <https://www.parentpay.com/parent-account-faqs/>

*Mrs Skinner - Business Manager*

# SCHOOL LOCKERS

As those of you who already use the school lockers may know, lockers for September 2023 are now available to rent.

If you have not rented a locker for your child previously then you are able to rent a locker online from Secure Locker Rentals who provide 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 2023 now, further information on how to do this is outlined in the posters displayed.

For students who are eligible for Pupil Premium, a 50% subsidy for locker rental will be available. Please contact Mrs Wilks for more information: [awilkes@kngs.co.uk](mailto:awilkes@kngs.co.uk)

Secure Locker Rentals 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.

Further information can be obtained via [www.locker.rentals](http://www.locker.rentals).

*Mrs Skinner - Business Manager*

THE UK'S NO.1 SCHOOL LOCKER.

# Secure

LOCKER.RENTALS



**SIMPLE. SAFE. SECURE.  
RENT A LOCKER NOW.**

Dear Parent,

We're delighted to be providing lockers for Kings Norton Girls School

The lockers are owned and maintained by Secure Locker Rentals and are available to rent for just **£10** per academic year (September to July).

The lockers will be available online from Friday 2nd June 2023

Simply visit [www.locker.rentals](http://www.locker.rentals) to select your locker and make payment by Debit or Credit Card. Once payment is received, the combination for your locker is sent to you via text or email.

Yours Sincerely,  
Secure Locker Rentals



All rentals are subject to our terms and conditions which are available during the booking process. Please note we are a separate entity from the school and all dealings will be directly with ourselves.

# Secure

LOCKER.RENTALS



**CHEAPER THAN A NEW SCHOOL JUMPER.**  
SIMPLE. SAFE. SECURE.

Kids these days carry a lot of expensive equipment, from trainers and clothing, to books and sportswear. So, it's scary to think that the average student loses 7 items per month.

Having a school locker can help to reduce these numbers. Creating a constant, secure location for students to store possessions safely. With the added advantage of keeping books dry and promoting better back health.

And, when you consider prices start from just 12p per day, the decision is simple.

STUDENTS LOSE AN AVERAGE OF **7** ITEMS PER MONTH

Visit [locker.rentals](http://locker.rentals) and book your locker today.

Source: [www.mrmcc.co.uk/news/uk-news/how-many-items-you-lose-6246553](http://www.mrmcc.co.uk/news/uk-news/how-many-items-you-lose-6246553)

✉ [enquiries@locker.rentals](mailto:enquiries@locker.rentals) 🏠 [www.locker.rentals](http://www.locker.rentals)

THE UK'S NO.1 SCHOOL LOCKER.

# Secure

LOCKER.RENTALS



**2 SIMPLE WAYS TO RENT YOUR LOCKER.**



**1**

Visit [www.locker.rentals](http://www.locker.rentals)



**2**

Scan this QR Code

**Once on the web app do the following:**

- Enter your **LOCATION**
- Choose your **PREFERRED LOCKER AREA** from the drop down menu (if available)
- Click on **CHECK AVAILABILITY**
- Where prompted enter your details and read and agree to the terms and conditions
- Click on **RENT LOCKER** and follow the instructions for entering your payment details
- You will then be emailed a locker code and the number of your locker compartment.

**How to Access your Locker:**

- Go to the locker number detailed on your confirmation email
- Enter the **4 digit code** detailed on your confirmation email and open the lock
- Should you forget your code it can be reissued by visiting [www.locker.rentals](http://www.locker.rentals) and clicking on the re-issue my locker code link.