



Newsletter

Spring term 2024 has been much shorter than we are used to, but we have packed so much into a short space of time and have so much to celebrate.

All of the opportunities highlighted in this newsletter take time, patience, creativity and determination to plan. None of the opportunities are statutory requirements of the curriculum, all of them however, provide incredible experiences for our students and really enhance their learning. Staff run these because they see the benefit to the students and want the very best for them. They give their time freely and willingly to make these happen and for this I am very grateful, as I am sure you are and I would like to publicly thank all of the staff for their hard work and dedication in 'Opening a World of Opportunities' to our students and impacting so positively on their personal development.

Examples of just a few of the opportunities that students have experienced this term include:

Every student in KS3 will have had the opportunity to see a performance in Stratford by the Royal Shakespeare Company, along with Year 7 visiting the Symphony Hall to see the CBSO perform.

In Year 8 a group of students took part in a series of events on inspired choices by the West Midlands police, some have been bowling as part of a rewards trip and 35 students have been skiing. The Year 8 ski trip was a huge success this year, with at least a 48 hour delay in the arrival of their luggage, the resilience and team work of students and staff was fantastic. Thanks to the support of the ski company, skiing continued and over the week students skiing abilities developed greatly.

In Year 9 students who participated in the Brilliant Club Programme graduated. In Year 10 we have seen visits to Oxford University, students began their DofE with first aid training and an Arts & MFL trip to Barcelona, thankfully their luggage arrived with them!

Last week the school production of Sister Act captured our imaginations and entertained us over four evenings. The students involved were incredible, I am exceptionally proud of them all. Those acting, playing in the band, managing backstage, lighting, sound, costume and front of house all had their part to play in creating a fantastic experience. There are too many staff to list who have given their time to ensure that these performances ran so smoothly and professionally but particular thanks go to:

Mrs Bathe - costume, Dr Harvey - lighting and sound, Mrs Banner - front of house, Mrs Law - marketing & front of house, Ms Cartin - Assistant Director and finally Mr Gell - Musical Director and Mr Swift - Director, both of whose skill brought the show together after many months of rehearsing.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your ongoing support too.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday and for those celebrating:
Ramadan Mubarak and Happy Easter.

Nicola Raggett - Headteacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Monday 25th March – Friday 5th April** - Easter Break
- ◆ **Monday 8th April** – Start of Summer Term
- ◆ **Tuesday 9th – Thursday 11th April** - Year 9 Exams
- ◆ **Friday 12th - Thursday 25th April** - Year 10 Exams
- ◆ **Friday 26th April - Friday 3rd May** - Year 12 Exams
- ◆ **Monday 6th May** - Bank Holiday - **SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS & STAFF**
- ◆ **Wednesday 8th May** - Year 11 - Last Teaching Day
- ◆ **Friday 10th May** - Year 13 - Last Teaching Day
- ◆ **Monday 20th May** - Year 12 Parents as Partners (Post-18 Information)
- ◆ **Thursday 23rd May** - End of Term for Students
- ◆ **Friday 25th May** - Teacher Training Day - **SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS**
- ◆ **Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May** - Half Term Break

EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

COLLABORATIVE MINDFUL QUILTING PROJECT UPDATE

The textiles quilting panel has now been fully sewn together and hung in pride of place in the Hall to be enjoyed for many years to come. There are 200 individual squares created by 200 individual students that have now been sewn together by our fantastically creative Textile Ambassadors; [Aimon Parveen](#), [Lydia Morse-Brown](#), [Navneet Wilkhu](#), [Bess Thompson](#), [Chloe Lam](#) and [Eleanor Hodson](#).

This has been an epic creative journey for many of our students. The creative process started during the COVID and lockdown period of school life where over 200 students that were in Year 8 and 9 who began the panel are now in Years 11 and 12. This has been an incredibly successful project which allowed students to stay connected during some difficult and often challenging and lonely times. We were able to focus on some positive mindful stitching adding applique and developing a range of hand embroidery stitches with the knowledge that each panel would form part of a much bigger picture.

We hope that students will see this as part of their creative legacy which will hopefully be displayed for many more generations to enjoy.

Mrs Garcia



YEAR 12 BUSINESS STUDENTS VISIT DIGITAL MARKETING COMPANY

Year 12 A Level Business students who are participating in the Young Enterprise Company Programme had the opportunity to visit Team ITG, a digital marketing company.

Students had a tour of the Innovation Room and were able to see the latest developments in digital marketing, such as hologram adverts, interactive shop window display and menu boards. They visited the Capture Film & Photography Studio and attended workshops on building confidence to overcome presentation and conversation anxiety, how to perform a perfect pitch to win new business and the importance of customer service. Staff from ITG commented on the excellent listening skills and engagement of our students and the high quality of the questions asked and answers given. Students also pitched their business idea and product to a panel of judges. This developed the students public speaking skills and also gave them some valuable feedback and how to develop their business idea further.

Mrs Neale



BIRMINGHAM: FROM A CITY OF EMPIRE TO DIVERSITY

On the 8-15th January, KNGS, again, hosted the exhibition on Birmingham: From a City of Empire to Diversity. The loan of this exhibition was hosted by Sampad whom we worked closely with on this project. Year 9's explored several of the photos of Commonwealth immigrants who arrived in Birmingham after WW2 in lessons, and took part in a talk, and Q&A session, with a lecturer in Modern History from the University of Birmingham. They were then invited to use this work to investigate their own histories or to explore further some of the stories and photos they had looked at. The students wrote really interesting and thought provoking responses and some of these were displayed in the hall along with the exhibition.



Well done to: [Esme Wale](#), [Liz Allen](#), [Anushka Handa](#), [Maya Khan](#), [Chloe Mansell](#), [Eleanor Hudson](#), [Poppy Avars](#), [Tamuda Munyuki](#), [Anwen Evans](#), [Abigail Homer](#), [Bobbi Morrison](#), [Kiren Rai](#), [Betty Gay](#), [Jasmine Lucas-Garner](#), [Emily Lavery](#) whose work was displayed.

Ms Thatcher

[Opening a World of Opportunities](#)

YEAR 7 VISIT THE RSC IN STRAFORD

Year 7 visited the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-Upon-Avon, earlier this term, to watch a production of A Midsummer's Night Dream. Students thoroughly enjoyed the comedy, characters, and staging as you can see for the comments below. Year 7 will study the play in the Summer term and this wonderful opportunity gave them the perfect chance to watch the Bard's famous literary work come alive!

Mrs Shabir



I highly enjoyed the play as I thought it was a mystical journey full of humour, danger and tension. I especially enjoyed Bottom and his crew of mechanicals who put together the hilarious production. The play made me laugh so much! I highly recommend this play to everyone.

Halimah, Year 7

The Midsummer Night's Dream play was a phenomenal trip to go on and is something I would want to do again in the future. The play had an amazing storyline and extremely talented actors who have the skill to bring stories to life. I would definitely try and get people to go and watch this play because it has now inspired me to read and find out interesting facts about Shakespeare and his life.

Amaya, Year 7

Watching A Midsummer's Night Dream gave me a new understanding of the funny and fabulous adventures of the four lovers, the mechanicals and the mischievous fairies! I found the book quite difficult to read but when I watched it, I could understand exactly what everything meant. The acting was lively and there were a lot of colours and sounds. I would love to come again!

Elizabeth, Year 7

YEAR 9 - FORWARD THINKING PROGRAMME

In March, five Year 9 students enjoyed another experience day as part of their on-going Forward Thinking Programme giving valuable insights into life at university. The day was designed to show what the social and non-academic life of an undergraduate involves. They were treated to an entertaining drama about the benefits of studying at university. They were also given a voucher for lunch and ate amongst the students in one of the many campus cafes (the burritos proved popular). They also enjoyed a silent disco, learnt how to juggle, spin and catch a diablo and hula hoop. The day concluded with a visit to the sports centre to have a go at squash, which even included Mr Abelson!



Next year these students will benefit from mentoring sessions in school with a second-year student from the University of Birmingham.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

We are a group of Year 12 students who have formed our own business named UrbanTotes with Young Enterprise, selling our own fully customisable tote bags. Our tote bags are high quality, practical and designed by you. In our custom designs, you may choose a quote to have printed on your tote bags; this quote can be in any language you wish and include any message you would like.

We collected pre-orders at the school production of Sister Act on the 12th-15th of March, selling official KNGS Sister Act merchandise. If you wish to purchase a tote bag following the performance, we will be posting on our social media with any updates about upcoming sales. Please contact us via:

Instagram & TikTok: @urbantotetbagz or via email: urbantotes@kngs.co.uk

Thank you. **Urban Totes - Young Enterprise Team**

Young Enterprise Marketing Webinar

I attended a webinar hosted by Colgate recommend to me by Young Enterprise. I found it incredibly useful in learning how to apply the skills learnt in school to running a real life business, as many have misperceptions on what it is really like. I found that listening to others experiences helped me determine whether business is something I would like to pursue, and the information provide was well explained. - **Kaya Cox (Year 12)**

Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2024

World Book Day at KNGS was a day packed full of fabulous, reading related activities. During every period of the school day, teachers spent the first ten minutes introducing pupils to their favourite book and explaining why reading was important to them. It was a privilege to walk around the school and see students being introduced to the dystopian genre by one teacher and laughing at another teacher's choice. At breaktime, the English Department hid 14 books around school which were tied with big red bows. Whoever found a book was then able to keep it forever. At lunchtime, the Learning Hub ran a spectacular World Book Day celebration event. Activities included: judging the Book Related Cake Decorating Competition, Turning a Potato into a Book Character and the Design a National Book Token Competition.



Mrs Edwards



YEAR 7 AUTHOR EVENT WITH WATERSTONES CHILDREN'S LAUREATE: JOSEPH COELHO

On Friday 8th March, during their English lessons, all Year 7 students attended a live online author event with the Waterstones Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho. We were very lucky to be invited to attend the event because we are currently running participating in the Read for Good Readathon! Coelho told the students all about his childhood and explained how he had been inspired by everything around him to become a writer. He was very engaging and demonstrated different techniques to encourage the students to write their own poetry. At the end of the talk, there was a live question and answer session.



Mrs Edwards

YEAR 11 VISIT WORCESTERSHIRE MEDICAL MUSEUM

On the 15th and 16th January Year 11 History GCSE students visited Worcestershire Medical Museum and the George Marshall Museum. The trip involved a surgery workshop in which the students could handle objects and re-enact a Victorian surgery. The students were taken on a tour of both museums and given the opportunity to explore many objects and displays. The students answered and asked loads of questions and added to their knowledge of the history of medicine. A great day was had by all.

Ms Thatcher



BUSINESS & ENTERPISE CLUB



Members of the Business and Enterprise Club held a spring lunch time business fair to sell the products that they have been developing and creating during lunch time meetings. Students promoted their products by producing leaflets and PowerPoint presentations. They had to design their stall and make sure their products were displayed in an eye catching way. There were a range of stalls selling jewellery, book marks, stationery and crochet keyrings and coasters. The club are now busy planning their summer sale!

Mrs Neale

PUPIL VOICE 'WELLBEING 4 EXAMS' WORKSHOP

...and relax! Students from our SEND Pupil Voice Groups unwound this term with Lynette Fryer, a holistic therapist. It was a treat to be surrounded by bubbles, scents, and fairy lights as we learned techniques to help manage nerves and anxiety in preparation for exams. We found out about the power of breathing techniques, full body relaxation and good sleep routines. We also learned about positive self-talk and affirmations.

Lynette provided students with a wealth of wellbeing advice and strategies to use alongside their academic preparations for exams. She created a lovely moment of calm and tranquillity for students to reflect on and aim to replicate in the busier times ahead.

Mrs Vaughan



SKI VISIT - PINZOLO, ITALY

32 KNGS Year 8's, Mrs Currie, Mr Steele, Mrs Gregory and Miss Lordan travelled to Pinzolo in Italy alongside pupil's and staff from Swanshurst school. It was a pleasure to be away with the group, pupils represented themselves and KNGS fantastically and should be extremely proud of their achievements.

Resilience – the word of the week, well definitely the word of the first few days!

58 suitcases short at baggage claim, we had an interesting arrival in Pinzolo. So the added bonus of a first day of watching an ice hockey match, a picnic and scavenger hunt with prizes, while a trip to the shop for toothbrushes and the amazing Ski Company working on sourcing hire kit for all pupils at short notice, meant we were back on track. Never quite had a ski visit like this one, it will certainly be one I remember but also genuinely one of my favourites. I think the little bit of adversity at the beginning of the week with the suitcases really bought the group together and made them appreciate the experience on the slopes all the more, as well as help them to really support each other. Quote of the week - (once we had our cases back!) *'Miss, I'm actually quite pleased we lost our suitcases as it's a good story to tell and it's been quite a fun adventure'*



Alongside the amazing resilience we also saw, 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 fantastic experience that was Ski24. 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 were a pleasure to see. It was also a real pleasure to see pupils interacting so successfully with young people from Swanshurst school.

Commendations and praise have been made from the course leader, hotel staff, Ski School staff and cabin 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 ice cream, the lovely torch light walk and reflections conversations, the sense of achievement feeling their skiing improve and skiing harder runs they thought impossible at the start of the week; the pizza at the slope restaurant, beautiful pasta dishes from the hotel and lovely relationships with their ski instructors who were ace.

A huge thankyou to all involved for supporting the visit and a massive 'Yeeee Haa' to all the pupils – we are super proud of you!

Mrs Currie

Demonstrating Respect & Courage in order to Flourish.



WICKED WRITERS COMPETITION

This term, the Learning Hub has been running the **Wicked Writers: Be the Change** writing competition where pupils were asked to write a piece of persuasive writing about any environmental issue that is important to them, for example the climate crisis, pollution or endangered species. Approximately 10 students have had their work submitted to the national competition and now we have the opportunity to win some great prizes, including free class tickets to see the stage musical, Wicked; free writing workshops; or a book bundle for the school.



Mrs Edwards

VISIT BY COVENTRY UNIVERSITY LECTURER

On the 5th March, the Year 12 Photography students were treated to a talk and workshop on 'The Photobook' by Emma Lambert, a senior lecturer at Coventry University. She showed and talked about her personal collection of photobooks and then led a workshop where the group learned how to make two types of photobook, one of which required some involved stitching. Everyone agreed that this could really benefit the students when creating their A Level final outcomes next year.



Mr Abelson

LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH

The History Ambassadors organised a fab event to recognise LGBT+ History Month which was in February. We researched some key turning points in the history of LGBT rights and the information was displayed around the school. Students were then invited to fill in a few quiz questions to win a small prize.

Well done to **Martha Newman, Zuzanna Foster, Niamh O'Shea, Amberleigh Glover, Neve Elliot, Lauren Neal, Lydia Niclasen, Zelia Dussol, Tess Edwards, Georgina Edwards, Oscar Hateley, Emma Davies, Emma Allchin and Daisy Deeley** for helping to organise this.

Ms Thatcher

YEAR 10 GCSE BUSINESS AMBASSADORS

Year 10 Business Ambassadors have been busy marketing GCSE Business. They have rewritten the course details in the Year 9 Options booklet and held a lunch time drop in session so that students thinking about taking business as a GCSE can find out more information and ask questions.

Mrs Neale

VIRTUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Back in early February KNGS were invited to take part in the Services for Education Virtual City Music Festival, which showcased the amazing music being made by talented musicians across Birmingham. A huge well done to **Phoebe Barton-Butcher, Caitlin Sims & Marianne de Wildt** for their fantastic performance and for being part of this showcase across social media.

Mr Gell



THE DOG MENTORING PROGRAMME

We are pleased to announce a brand-new initiative called The Dog Mentoring programme, has started in school this term with several selected pupils. The Dog Mentor programme is built upon the benefits of the human-animal bond by providing pupils positive experiences with dogs, that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally, and socially.



This scheme assesses dogs for suitability, then trains those selected dogs and the trainer, to work with pupils in schools. The two dogs that will be joining us are Ami (Amaretti) and Bisco (Biscotti), they are a very special breed of Italian hypoallergenic, non shedding medium size dogs. For centuries these dogs have worked with humans. They are motivated by love, loyalty and wanting to work and to please.

Over the years, the Dog Mentor programme has been proven to have a positive impact on children in all areas including self-esteem, behaviour, peer relationships and better engagement skills. These improvements then result in improved academic achievement.

Our Dog Mentor will be bringing Bisco and Ami into school one day a week, which began at the start of March.

We envisage that The Dog Mentor will bring a positive influence into the school environment as a whole and look forward to the impact The Dog Mentor programme will have on our pupils.

Ms Cartin

SEND COFFEE MORNING & INFORMATION REPORT 2024

Thank you to the parents/carers that were able to attend our termly SEND coffee morning earlier in the term. The purpose of this event was to review of the KNKS SEND Information Report. This is a document that is published on our school website to inform parent/carers about the SEND provision at KNKS.

The report can be found here: <https://www.knks.co.uk/about-us/special-educational-needs/>

Following the review, the new report will be published in Summer term.

For the purpose of the review we focused on the **following six points**:

1. How do we **monitor and review how much progress** is being made by students with SEND?
2. What is **our approach to teaching pupils** with Special Educational Needs (SEN)?
3. **What training do the staff** have to support pupils with SEND?
4. **How do we consult and involve parents of children with SEN** and involve them in their child's education?
5. **How are young people with SEN consulted and involved** in their education?
6. How do we **support students with SEN through transition** between phases of education, and preparing them for adulthood and independent living?

Please see a summary of the points raised and our responses via the link below:

<https://www.knks.co.uk/about-us/special-educational-needs/parent-carer-voice-feedback-feb-2024/>

Ms Cartin

LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS

We are delighted to share the latest MFL news with you!



Meet the Team

The Language Ambassadors are a group of Year 10 to 13 students who meet on a Tuesday lunchtime to run language drop-ins and cultural events.

Year 13: [Megan Hopwood](#),

Year 12: [Caitlin Hopwood](#), [Theo Muri-Tulloch](#), [Fayez Saoudaoui](#), [Lois Tromans](#) & [Sophie Watley](#),

Year 11: [Marianne de Wildt](#), [Emma O'Neill](#) & [Caitlin Thornevell](#),

Year 10: [Rose Eccles](#), [Arrow Jackson](#), [Flora Astbury](#), [Carrie Law](#), [Chloe Lam](#), [Jacintha Majak](#), [Fasiha Naaz](#), [Grace Orr](#) & [Elise Townson](#).

Anthea Bell Prize

Following last year's success, the Anthea Bell Prize competition will be taking place every Tuesday lunchtime during the 27th of February and the 26th of March. All students are welcome to participate in ICT3, by translating a short text from German, French, Italian, Spanish, or Mandarin into English. Enter now for a chance of winning book prizes! We look forward to seeing many students there. More information will be shared in form notices and through your language teachers.

Thank you to the following students who have already taken part! Year 9: [Zélia Dussol](#), Year 11: [Emma O'Neill](#), [Caitlin Thornevell](#) & [Marianne de Wildt](#) and Year 12: [Lois Tromans](#)

Upcoming Barcelona Trip

This year, a group of Year 10 students who study Spanish or Arts, are on a 4-day trip to Barcelona during the final week of this term. These students will be visiting a range of places such as, Montserrat (a monastery surrounded by chapels), Barcelona Cathedral, a Spanish school, Tarragona (to explore some Roman sites). We hope that they have an enjoyable time during their stay and can't wait to hear about it in the next newsletter.

Language Drop-Ins

A quick reminder that all students are welcome to pop into the Language Drops-Ins on Tuesdays at lunchtime, if they want support with homework, grammar, speaking or even just a chat about languages and culture. We are looking forward to seeing you soon in ICT3!

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Reply to our Christmas Cards from the French Care Home



The residents of *Jardins de la Garenne* have written a letter to thank those who sent them a Christmas card! We were very excited to hear about their fascinating daily lives, in the lively care home. They have also kindly introduced us to Angoulême, the city where the care home is located in. It was intriguing to learn about the tourist attractions and major events of their city. For more information, click on this link [Lettre de voeux .pdf](#)



Written by [Chloe Lam](#) & [Carrie Law](#) - Year 10, on behalf of Mrs Housley & the Language Ambassadors Team

PRAISE

This week will see the Spring Term awards assemblies – well done to the 190 students who have been especially noted by their teachers.

Well done also to the 254 students who will be getting a 'Zero & Zenith' bar of chocolate as a token of recognition for great attendance and commendable behaviour. A fresh start for the second half of the year means that Zero & Zenith (Zero behaviour logs & high attendance) is reachable for the second round.



HEADTEACHERS AWARDS

In addition, we would like to also like to congratulate the following students on receiving the '**Headteachers Award**' this term for demonstrating our school values:

Respect: [Elizabeth Kugbeadjor](#) (Year 7), [Lynette Leung](#) (Year 7), [Tyra Harrison](#) (Year 8), [Lucy Grindrod](#) (Year 8), [Isabelle Wilson](#) (Year 9), [Fleur Arabi](#) (Year 9), [Lottie Roberts](#) (Year 10), [Yasmin Seddougui](#) (Year 10), [Abi Heyes](#) (Year 11) & [Sofia Trujillo](#) (Year 11).

Courage: [Malak Abdollatar](#) (Year 7), [Lacey Anderson](#) (Year 7), [Emily Jones](#) (Year 8), [Martha Mellon –Woods](#) (Year 8), [Daisha White](#) (Year 9), [Lily Courtney](#) (Year 9), [Sam Templeton](#) (Year 10), [Grace McGugan](#) (Year 10), [Lily Shaw](#) (Year 11) & [Chloe Burfitt](#) (Year 11).

Flourish: [Elsa Deakin](#) (Year 7), [Poppy Twigg](#) (Year 7), [Niamh Dehame-Hare](#) (Year 8), [Rose Spencer-Bennett](#) (Year 8), [Phoebe Gough](#) (Year 9), [Carina Lui](#) (Year 9), [Rosie Stone](#) (Year 10), [Grace Orr](#) (Year 10), [Ellie Harrison](#) (Year 11), [Amy Field](#) (Year 11), [Wise Lau](#) (Year 12) & [Elizabeth Jones](#) (Year 13).

SIXTH FORM STAR OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the following students on being awarded **Sixth Form 'Star of the Week'** over the last term for being exemplary A Level students: **Molly Makupe, Maisie Jones, Matthew Glasby, Ivor Duncan, Mia Jackson, Ifah Salim & Harry Turrell.**

Miss Ledwidge – Assistant Headteacher (Sixth Form)

YEAR 8 PRAISE BOWLING TRIP

Before half term 25 Year 8 students were selected and treated to a praise trip bowling before as a reward and recognition for their good attendance and praise points in the Autumn term. The students thoroughly enjoyed their trip bowling and I am planning on doing a similar one for the Spring Term.

Miss Gregory - Head of Year 8

STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP

The SLG are delivering a number of Easter projects this half term. Students will be able to enjoy an Easter egg hunt and an art competition over the next few weeks. They also supported at the World Book Day events, organising an amazing cake decorating competition. The cakes were delicious as well! Next half term, the SLG are looking forward to working with the equality and diversity group to support in the organisation of the cultural celebration day.



Mr Houston

HOUSE SYSTEM

The house System continues to develop after a recent new launch. The new Student House Team are doing a fantastic job and I have been very impressed with the committed approach of our House Captains; **Alexandra Adjei-Kwarteng, Jessica Parmar & Lois Tromans.**

At the time of writing we are half way through our House Bench-Ball Competition. So far you would have heard it before you could see it – the sound of students cheering on their house could be heard along the corridor; great to see passion for the house system building. Year 7's, 8's and 10's enjoyed their games. The final week of term will conclude with Y9's Y11,s and Sixth Form matches. We're currently recruiting for a staff team to give the Sixth Form a run for their money!

Mr Steele



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

SCHOOL PRODUCTION - SISTER ACT THE MUSICAL

Since well before Christmas there has been a real buzz about school as students and staff started preparations for the school production of Sister Act the Musical. We are sure that those of you that came along to watch the production, will agree that all the hard work paid off and that it was an outstanding success, with the cast presenting a lively and heart-warming musical filled with laughter, love and soul-stirring music.

An incredible amount of hard work and dedication was put in by our talented cast and crew, along with a huge amount to support from across our whole school community with rehearsals both after school and at the weekends, with work on costumes, set design & props, lighting & sound, photography, backstage management, front of house, site team, admin and finance support & ticket allocation. Everybody has poured their heart and soul into bringing this show to life, and that passion both on stage and behind the scenes shone through in every performance.

Thank you also for all the support from parents and carers who ensured the cast were available for rehearsals at weekends and prepared for rehearsals and shows!

What an amazing production and huge success - we are so proud of everybody who was involved!

The Production Team - Mr Swift (Director & Producer), Mr Gell (Musical Director), Ms Cartin (Assistant Director) & Miss White (Assistant Director - King Edwards VI King's Norton School for Boy)



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SUCCESSES

ART CLUB (KEY STAGE 3)



There have been many marvellous creations produced by the second rotation of Key Stage 3 Art club. Students have all had a great time designing, hand-building and glazing ceramics and of course making new friends.

Mrs Everson and Dr O'Mahony have really enjoyed seeing the work develop. Well done Art club!



Pictured right: **Isabelle Knowles, Charlotte McCall, Mavis Chan, Pippa Butler, Francesca Bahri and Isabelle Oliver.**

BRILLIANT CLUB GRADUATION

On the 4th March, 15 Year 9 students, who all worked very hard last term as part of The Brilliant Club Scholars' Programme all attended an online 'graduation event' here at KNGS. They all received their graduation certificates and two students, **Maisie McTiernan** and **Tamuda Munyuki** both spoke very well about how they rose to the challenge and also how they benefitted from the experience. Ms



Ledwidge hosted the event in the media room, which was suitably decorated for the occasion. Ms Ledwidge also showed off her skill as fine baker, providing a delicious cake to celebrate the students' fine achievement. The programme is designed to stretch and challenge the students and they should all be congratulated for all the hard work they put into their final essay.



Mr Abelson

GOLD AWARD - UK PARLIAMENT TEACHER AMBASSADOR SCHEME

Congratulations to Ms Wright on being awarded Gold in the UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador Scheme. Last January Ms Wright was fortunate enough to gain a place on the UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador scheme, and as part of this spent three days in London exploring Parliament and Portcullis House. In addition, Ms Wright went out to Cotteridge Primary School to deliver a session to Year 4 students learning about democracy, and also supported a local teacher training provider to train new teachers on inclusion, diversity and British values. This award is fantastic recognition of the work that takes place here at Kings Norton Girls' School & Sixth Form, with students from Year 7 through to Year 13 partaking in UK Parliament Week, both in form time as well as citizenship days, as part of PSHE provision.



What a fantastic way to showcase the work students at KNGS partake in, linked to the subject of politics. Well done Ms Wright!

SPORTS UPDATE

RISE GYMNASTICS FESTIVAL

On Wednesday the 21st February, 10 KNGS students went to Power Gymnastics Trampoline, based in Billesley Tennis Centre to support in the Rise Gymnastics festival, run by the School's Games.

The aim of the festival was to increase participation within gymnastics and trampolining for students within the local area. The event had upwards of 90 primary school children, where the KNGS students supported in running a variety of activities including warm up games, balancing and trampolining. Well done to all the students involved.



Miss Cunningham

NETBALL

West Midlands Regional Schools

On Sunday 28th January 2024, 10 students represented Kings Norton Girls' School in the U19's West Midlands Regional Schools Netball Tournament. All students played extremely well throughout the day, winning 4 out of 6 matches. The team finished 3rd in their group, just missing out on a spot in the semi-finals.

Results on the day:

- KNGS v Wolverhampton Grammar – Won 9-4
- KNGS v Bromsgrove – Lost 6-14
- KNGS v Denstone College – Won 15-12
- KNGS v Stratford Grammar – Lost 12-14
- KNGS v Hereford Cathedral School – Won 14-5
- KNGS v Newport Girls High School – Won 15-8



Kings Norton District Netball League

A huge well done to all students who have been committed to extra-curricular netball this year. It is a pleasure to see how your netball has progressed at training and/or during competitive fixtures. Hoping to see you all again in September!

Overall results:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10/11
League	3rd	1st	3 rd	1st
Tournament	Semi final	Team 1: won Team 2: 6th	Cancelled	1st

Additionally the Sixth Form Netball team played a friendly against University of Birmingham School on Wednesday 31st January and won 39-11. Well played everyone!

Please remember to check the extra curricular timetable (on PE noticeboards, in form rooms & on the website) after Easter for the new summer clubs on offer! Remember all clubs are free and you just need to turn up with your PE kit!

Miss Johnson

CAREERS

Year 9 Options

Year 9 took part in a full GCSE Options Day. During the day students were able to speak with current Year 11 students about GCSE's to help inform their choices. They utilised Unifrog, our one-stop-shop online careers platform to find out about other post-16 pathways, including college, sixth form and apprenticeships. The apprenticeship talk was given by a wonderful former student Lucy Burdett, who was able to provide a real insight into her apprenticeship at the BBC. Year 9 also took part in a brilliant Careers Forum with representatives from our local police, the NHS and Daljit Sambhi another former student who is currently completing a successful degree apprenticeship in law.



Remember! If you feel able to support our careers programme by being a member of one of our careers forum panels, or anything else, please get in touch with Ms Ledwidge (sledwidge@kngs.co.uk).

Work Experience

All Year 12 completed their work experience in February with all students finding or supported to find places. Year 10 are busy looking for placements for their week starting July 15th.



If you think you can help by offering a placement to the school please get in touch with Mr Ali (Sali@kngs.co.uk)

Job of the Term (provided by MyPath): **Lighting Engineer:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSeV7qLrm34>

Ms Ledwidge (Careers Lead)

Opening a World of Opportunities

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Year 12 Work Experience

The Work Experience programme was launched to students in September 2023 with the week taking place between the 5th and 9th February 2024.

Many Year 12 students found exciting and interesting places to carry out their work experience giving them an insight into the world of work and upon return to sixth form they were asked to reflect on this valuable experience that it enabled students to build their soft skills, their employability skills, and be more confident in their choices post-18.

Challenge Day

For this year's Challenge Day, Year 13 took part in an off-timetable day that included workshop a wonderful relaxation session to support with student mental health and well-being. Other sessions provided advice and guidance about sexual health and information about managing finances. We want to thank Academy, our school catering company, for providing a really fabulous session covering food budgeting, menu planning and cooking a meal from scratch! We hope this day was really useful for our students, it certainly smelt fabulous!

Sixth Form Wellbeing Ambassadors

Following the success of the 'Worth It' Wellbeing Ambassador trial with Year 13 and Year 8, we are relaunching this with a new cohort of Year 12 students. Interviews and training with Mrs Merrell will take place before we break up for the Easter break.

Students Finance 2024

As our students are starting to receive offers from universities we emailed the following advice from the from the Student Loan Company (SLC) Website. We have also had a session on student finance with the Year 13's as part of their tutor programme this half term.

SLC is encouraging prospective students to starting planning their student finance as Student Finance England (SFE) launches its [mailing list](#). The full-time, undergraduate application service for the 24/25 academic year is expected to open in March 2024, and by signing up, students will be among the first to receive an email when the application service goes live.

SLC advises students to apply as early as possible for their student finance, even if they don't have a confirmed place on their course. This helps to ensure that their funding is in place at the start of term. Students in England can apply for Tuition Fee Loans to cover their fees and Maintenance Loans to help with their living costs.

Key Sixth Form Dates for Your Diary

- **Year 12 Mocks:** 26th April – 3rd May
- **Transition Day:** Applicants to Kings Norton Sixth Form - Tuesday 2nd July
- **Year 13 Leaving Date:** 10th May



UNIQUE ART AWARDS 2024

The entry deadline for the Unique Art Awards, which is funded by the Mouth and Foot Painting Trust Fund, is fast approaching.

The Unique Art Awards is an Art Competition for disabled children between the ages of 7 - 21 years old. Prizes include up to £750 for entrants and £5,000 for their school/college Art Department.

The competition closing date for applications is 19th April 2024. The winners will be announced in July 2024.

Please visit the link below for further information on how to enter:

<https://uniqueartawards.uk/>

[Opening a World of Opportunities](#)

