

# Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

*Edition 105*



## Dear Parents

There is much to share with you this week in our newsletter as we rapidly approach the end of Term 3 here at the College.

### **Safer Internet Day**

Kingsthorpe College is delighted to have been chosen by Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire County Council to launch the County Wide Safer Internet Day which is a national event to promote E Safety across the country. During this high profile event, Year 7 students will be involved in E safety activities led by Simon Aston - the County Council E Safety Officer. The event will be observed by senior members of Northamptonshire Police and other local dignitaries and the local press. This session will be followed up by a Parental Workshop on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 6-7pm in the Learning Hub.

### **Class of 2017 Exam Support**

We held an assembly for all our year 11 students this week focused on achieving success in English and maths examinations. Led by Mrs Kinsella and Miss Bailey, we outlined the key aspects all students need to cover to ensure that they reach their potential. This weekly assembly will continue for our Year 11s over the coming months and will cover key messages from subject areas, as well as more general advice and support. This coming week, Mr Sim and Mr Pomerantz will be talking to our Year 11s about their progression post 16, and reminding them of the choices that are available to them following their examination results. Mr Sim and Mr Pomerantz have also met with every student in Year 13 this week to discuss students' current progress and what additional support students may require prior to their examinations in the summer.

We have also launched our mentoring scheme and students in Year 11 and 13 have been assigned mentors to provide academic support and guidance, as well as gently nagging students where required! We are fortunate that we have been able to draw on a range of expertise in providing these mentors, and this is something we are looking to develop further in the future by including local business mentors. If you are interested in finding out more, please do get in touch. Our Year 11 launch event will take place on Tuesday 21st February from 3-4pm in the main hall, and as part of this interactive event, students will receive a personalised exam pack full of useful resources. Finally, we will be holding a revision workshop aimed at all students sitting examinations and their parents and carers, on Thursday 23rd February in the Learning Hub from 6-7pm.

### **Year 13 Parents' Evening**

Just a reminder that we have our annual Year 13 subject specific Parents' Evening this Thursday (7<sup>th</sup> February 5.30 – 7.30pm) where parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet with subject staff to discuss progress and receive subject specific feedback. Appointments can be made online [kingsthorpecollege.parentseveningsystem.co.uk](http://kingsthorpecollege.parentseveningsystem.co.uk) and we look forward to seeing many of you later this week.

### **Rewards**

As you will know from previous newsletter editions, we are constantly

looking at how we can improve further, and how we engage with our student voice. This academic year, an important aspect of this has been responding to feedback from our students that they would like us to refine our approach to rewards. The Student Senate have been working with Mr Jackson on this, and we all recognise how important it is for us to acknowledge the hard work, commitment and dedication that so many of our students demonstrate on a daily basis. Whilst this work is still in its early stages, we have received positive feedback so far on some of the refinements we have made. Each Friday, the leadership team have been issuing positive weekend notes home as we conduct our walkabouts, we now have half-termly rewards assemblies and students have given us some ideas as to the types of rewards they would like to see issued at these, and finally we have launched our “In To Win” initiative where all students who have 100% attendance over a defined period of time are entered into a draw for a Kindle Fire.

There’s been much more happening this week, including a magical Harry Potter event, and I would urge you to read the rest of the newsletter to find out what we have been up to!

**Mrs Giovanelli**

Headteacher

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# Stars of the week



## **Red House**

### **Toni Amato Year 7 R10**

Toni has been nominated for her impressive model she created for Geography – showing a very British living room which can be seen along with our stars of the week photo. Toni put a great deal of detail and thought into it. She is a real credit to herself and the College!

## **Green House**

### **Jessica Hewett Year 7 Gr7**

Congratulations go to Jessica Hewett who, at her primary school, entered the Race to the Top short story competition ran by Northamptonshire County Council. Jessica's story, 'Whiskerella', was one of only 26 short stories that were chosen for the anthology. She beat over 300 entries to make it to the final published book. We are delighted to have a Green House student's published work on display in the library. Well done Jessica on such a great achievement!

## **Gold House**

### **Briana Tancau Year 7 G05**

Briana is an absolutely brilliant student and is a pleasure to have as part of Gold House. Briana consistently works hard in her lessons and produces some excellent work. Briana received 33 commendations last term which demonstrates that her teachers clearly recognise her excellent attitude, effort and work ethic.

Well done Briana, you are a star!

## **Blue House**

### **Toby Perrin Year 7 B3**

Toby competed on Saturday at the Northamptonshire county cross country championships where he finished in 25<sup>th</sup> place. This on its own is a great achievement, however, during the race another KC student who was competing in Toby's race was struggling and as Toby approached the other KC student to overtake him, Toby actually checked on the other student and ran with him for a period of time to make sure he was ok. This could have jeopardised Toby's own race, however, it was brilliant to see his sportsmanship and the support he was willing to show to another KC student.

We are so proud of you Toby!

## **Frankie Robbins Year 9 B10**

Frankie has been nominated for being chosen to take part in the Maths Challenge. Frankie is described by her tutor as "a model student and a lovely young lady".

Well done Frankie, you are a role model to other KC students – keep up the amazing work!

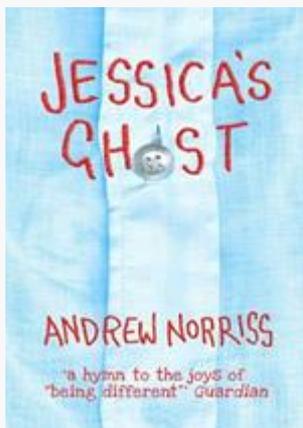
## **Purple House**

### **Ross Holt Year 12 P7**

Ross has been spending his lunchtimes working with students in the SEN department. He has been helping them with homework and classwork and generally raising their confidence. He has willingly given up his time in order to help students and his hard work is really paying off. The year 7 students really enjoy working with Ross and it is clear that their confidence is increasing all of the time. It is wonderful to see a student give up their own time in order to help others, and we really appreciate it. Well done Ross and thank you.



## Book of the week: The Monstrous Child



**Jessica's Ghost** by **Andrew Norriss** (BL 5.3)

Our book of the week this week is part of a set of books that our Year 7 and 8s have been introduced to as part of a collection of future classic stories.

This book tells the story of Francis, who has never had a friend like Jessica before. She's the first person he's ever met who can make him feel completely himself. Jessica has never had a friend like Francis before. Not just because he's someone to laugh with every day - but because he's the first person who has ever been able to see her.

Jessica's Ghost is a funny, moving and beautiful book. Ultimately it is about how the power of friendship can shine a warm light into dark places.

## This week's literacy challenge winner is....

Olly Birch R4

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## The word of the week is...

“Optimistic”

**Definition:** Hopeful and confident about the future.

Try and use this word in a sentence this week.

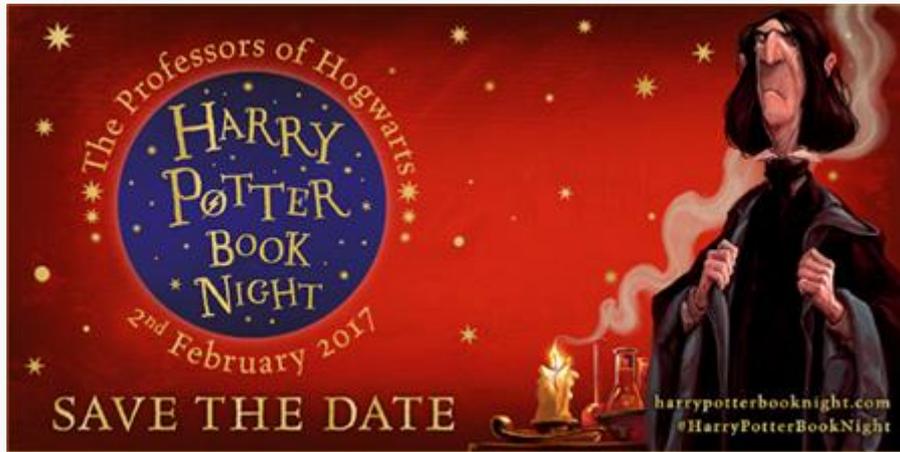
My sentence is: *The team were optimistic that their players would perform better than last year.*

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Our reading hero this week is Seb Tomlinson – Year 7. Seb is our latest Accelerated Reader millionaire. So far this year he has read an amazing 35 books, which equates to 1,057,014 words read. He reads across different genres and has recently read *Running Wild* by Michael Morpurgo. Well done Seb, you are a fantastic reading ambassador for the school, keep up the good work.

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Wow what a night! This year the theme for our Harry Potter Book Night was 'The Professors of Hogwarts'. We had over 60 students attend and each were treated to a very special evening of Harry Potter based activities. On arrival all of our students attended the Sorting Hat Ceremony and once sorted into their respective houses they competed against each other for house points to try to win the title of best house. The library was transformed as students participated in a huge treasure hunt. Once all of the items had been found they then all had to complete four tasks. Our very own school professors were on hand to help to train our newly recruited Hogwarts students. Each students had to attend wand training with Mrs Cockerill. This was then followed by Wizarding quick draw with Ms Kinsella; then onto arts and crafts class with Mrs Potter and Mrs Ingman. Finally to conclude their training they had to complete their potions class with Miss Bedford and Mr Hill.

Once the training had finished we were all treated to some well-earned refreshments at Honey Dukes Sweetshop. To wrap up the evening we held a huge Harry Potter Book Night Quiz and a raffle.

This year Hufflepuff A were declared the winning house team and each student received a medal and a quill. However, no student went home empty handed as they were all given a Harry Potter goody bag as a reminder of the event.

The winner of the best fancy dress prize went to Megan Thomson.

The winner of 'Invent a magical professor' competition was Arani Ramesh.

We would like to thank all of the staff and our students, Monica Rideout, Jessica Adshead and Ethan Grande Rebecca who helped us run this special event. We all had a fantastic time and very much look forward to celebrating the next Harry Potter Book Night!

Whilst we were having lots of fun our students also raised money for charity which we have donated to this year's Blue House charity.

Mrs Broadbent  
Library Manager

Here are some photos from Harry Potter Book Night 2017



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## Harry Potter Book Night Quiz



## Northampton Guildhall

After completing our Harry Potter Book Night celebrations a number of our Year 7 students hot-footed it to the Northampton Guildhall where they entered the Waterstone's Harry Potter Book Night Quiz. Our students' knowledge of the wizarding world was severely tested with seven rounds of some of the hardest Harry Potter questions. The Guildhall was packed and they were competing against over a hundred die-hard Harry Potter fans including teams made up of adults. We're thrilled to say our students won the entire competition and each were presented with a set of Harry Potter books by the Mayor of Northampton. Well done Grace, Ellie and James.

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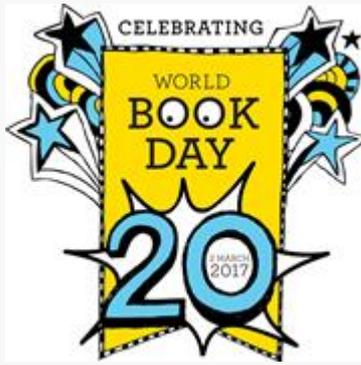
## Love to play chess?

Why not join our brand new chess club. It is being held in the library every Tuesday lunchtime. The club starts at 1.20pm. Please sign up at the library desk if you are interested in joining. Alternatively speak to Kyle Robinson and Corey Churchman our sixth form students who are helping us to run the group. Don't forget to bring a packed lunch.



Also, if you are participating in the eCAT Programme this is one of the many extra-curricular activities that are recognised by the scheme.

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**This year sees the twentieth anniversary of World Book Day.**

It will be held on Thursday 2nd March and it is a day that is set aside each year to celebrate books and reading. At Kingsthorpe College we will have lots to celebrate, as not only will our students be receiving their World Book Day

Tokens, but the library will also be giving away 200 free books during World Book Day week. Watch this space for more information about the free books on offer and how to enter lots of amazing competitions.

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## Attendance Target

Our attendance target for the College is 96% - this is because we know that students who are in school for at least 96% of the time, have a significantly higher chance (73%) of gaining results which will help them progress to the next stage of their education or careers. Your support is essential in helping our students meet this target and having the best possible chance of achieving their potential.

Did you know that if a student's attendance falls to 90%, this is equivalent to missing one morning a week over a year, or four weeks in succession? This will have a serious impact on a student's learning as it will lead to significant gaps in knowledge and skills which students will need to close.

We have been working hard at the College to ensure our students know their attendance figure and understand the importance of being in College. Do you know your son or daughter's current attendance? How many days has your son or daughter had off this year? Your son or daughter will be updated on their attendance every Monday during tutor time, and their attendance figure will be written in their planner – help support us by having a conversation with your son or daughter about

their attendance.

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## Year 4 Multi-Sport Festival



We had Year 4 children from All Saints, Parklands and Barry Primary School here on Thursday afternoon for a multi-sport festival. During the festival the children were given the opportunity to take part in a range of teambuilding games and sporting activities. The activities were planned and delivered by Year 7 and 8 students from our Young Leader Development Squad. They did an absolutely outstanding job at running the festival and the Year 4 children had a wonderful time. It was great to see the primary school children working together and taking part in all the activities.

We were lucky to have Amy Thomason, the head coach from Northampton High Flyers Cheerleading Club, come along to run some taster cheerleading sessions for the children. It went down really well and

even the boys (who were quite sceptical at the start) had a brilliant time. Amy runs cheerleading sessions here at Kingsthorpe College on Wednesday evenings (5-5.45pm for 6-9yrs and 6-7pm for 9-14yrs).

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## Extra-Curricular Activity Tracker

The eCAT Programme is open to Year 7 and 8 students at Kingsthorpe College. It aims to reward and recognise students that attend extra-curricular clubs. Students are provided with an e-CAT log book which they must get stamped each time they attend a club. The more stamps they collect, the more awards they will receive!

- **Bronze – 25 hours**
- Silver – 50 hours
- **Gold – 75 hours**
- Platinum – 100 hours

We are coordinating the eCAT programme here at Kingsthorpe College and already have primary school children from across the town sign up and logging hours! There will be an awards ceremony for all the students across the town (primary and secondary age) at Kingsthorpe College in the summer term to celebrate all the hours that young people are spending participating in extra-curricular activities.

If your child would be interested in signing up for the eCAT programme please ask them to see Miss Bennett or the library staff.

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## Sixth Form Art & Photography Trip



Sixth Form Art & Photography students enjoyed a fantastic trip to London during January. We started off with a visit to the Saatchi Gallery for the current 'Painters' Painters' exhibition. We were given a brief introductory talk from a member of the gallery staff and then were able to explore the exhibition of contemporary painters for ourselves. Our Fine Art students enjoyed looking at the variety of painting techniques and approaches while the Photographers in our group used the gallery and exhibition space to experiment with some creative photography compositions and techniques.

Next we took the tube to the V & A Museum where we spent the afternoon sketching and taking photographs from the vast collections there. Students were encouraged to explore the museum independently in order to choose the areas of interest and research for themselves.

We had a great day and the students really benefitted from the opportunity to experience art works, artefacts and architecture first hand. Their research will inform their studies as they continue with their A Level courses.

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# ‘School Ties’ Alumni

Kingsthorpe College (formerly Kingsthorpe Upper School) are keen to connect, celebrate and engage with our ex-students and staff through our alumni network. We would like to give people the opportunity to keep in touch with other alumni and renew old friendships, as well as working alongside our current students.

## **It is a chance for you to:**

- Share aspirational success stories and inspire others
- Give something back (this may link with your organisational social responsibility commitments or volunteer policy)
- Network with students past and present
- Create business and enterprise links
- Gather the views and opinions of young people/ current learners
- Develop your CV (e.g. presentation skills, supporting others)

As a former student or member of staff you will always be a part of our history, but by sharing your story you can be an important part of our future too by inspiring the current learners at our school.

To join our alumni group, please register your details on our website:

<http://www.kingsthorpecollege.org.uk/content/school-ties>

We are starting to gather an archive of old photos and videos to provide some fascinating insights into life at Kingsthorpe over the years. If you have any photos from your time with us we would be really grateful if you could share some of them with us. We are hoping to create a photo timeline on our website to show Kingsthorpe through the years.

Please feel free to get in touch with us on 01604 716106

or [alexandra.bennett@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:alexandra.bennett@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

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# Online Safety

We have been contacted by another school regarding a number of their Year 8 students who have experienced inappropriate behaviour online towards them. This involves the App - Musical.ly. The App is designed to allow the user to create music videos.

The girls have been 'followed' online by an individual who initially follows them, starts "liking" what they post and then initiates conversation. Very quickly this progresses to requesting that the conversation moves privately to the Oovoo App for live chat or uploads of highly inappropriate images of the student.

We are able to educate young people to the dangers they face online and give them the tools to protect themselves. We, the school and parent/carer, are unable to police and monitor in full their online activity so it is important that we work together to keep them as safe as possible. We would ask that you take the time to talk to your child about this incident and reiterate the online safety message.

If you identify that your child may have been contacted in this manner we advise that you keep any evidence on the phone and contact the Police on 101.

**Want to know more about how to keep your family safe?**

**A parent session run by the County Council E-Safety Officer Simon Aston is taking place here!**

**When:** Tuesday 28th February – Learning Hub, Kingsthorpe College

**Time:** 6-7pm

## Don't throw out your old uniform!

If you have KC uniform that you no longer need or use and it is still in good condition, please bring it in to school. We can use it for emergencies and for our second hand exchange programme. Thank you!

Thursday 16th February 2017 - Year 12 & 13  
English trip to Playhouse Theatre  
Northampton (during half term week)

Monday 20th February 2017 – Year 10 & 12  
Technology trip to Northampton University

Wednesday 22nd February 2017 – Year 11, 12  
& 13 – Creative & Digital Media trip to  
Watford and Milton Keynes

Thursday 23rd February 2017 – Year 10 & 11  
English trip to the Playhouse Theatre  
London

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