



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 163



Dear Parents

It's been another busy week here at KC. We held our annual Open Evening for prospective Year 7 students on Thursday night and it was certainly a night to remember. We had the pleasure of sharing KC with over 750 visitors and we were so proud to showcase our facilities and demonstrate the commitment and passion of our students and staff members. A couple of weeks ago I had said to Mrs Gant that we should open the night with a choir performance. Despite the very short turn around, the choir (consisting of students from all year groups and staff) opened with their version of This Is Me from the Greatest Showman – a deliberate choice which reflects our belief in developing individuals to be the very best versions of themselves. It really was a stunning performance and a great start to the night – as an aside, I was far more nervous accompanying the choir than I was addressing the audience! We

were overwhelmed with the positive feedback we received from students and parents on the evening, and were particularly proud of all the comments about our commitment to artistic and athletic excellence, as well as academic performance. One parent commented that this was the best school they had been to in a country mile! We do of course realise that an open evening does not afford parents the chance to see the school running in its normal day to day business, so we always ensure we have opportunities for parents and students to see KC in practice. We have an Open Morning on Thursday 11th October, but any parent is always welcome to come and see us at any point.

As part of our admissions process for students wishing to join us in September 2019, we have our annual Aptitude Admissions test on Saturday 13th October where we will be allocating 10% of our new Year 7 places for children with a particular aptitude in the visual or performing arts. If you would like your son/daughter to be considered, please complete and return the aptitude admissions form from the link here: <http://www.kingsthorpecollege.org.uk/secondary-admissions-september-2019>

Wednesday evening saw the English faculty lead a Year 11 skills session where a high number of students were involved in a workshop to help develop their writing skills to help support them ready for the GCSE exam next summer. I have been so impressed with the work ethic of our Year 11 students since they returned to school following the summer holidays – the maturity and dedication they are showing to their studies really is impressive, and they are acting as superb role models for the rest of the school.

Just a reminder that we have our first Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 18th October where there will be the opportunity to speak with subject specialists to discuss the progress of your son/daughter. Booking can be made on line at <https://kingsthorpecollege.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/> Letters will be going out early next week. There will also be a parents' revision session led by members of the senior leadership team to go through some simple strategies to help support your son/daughter during the build up to the summer exam season. We have offered this session much earlier this year as a result of feedback from parents of last year's Year 11 – there will

be repeats of this session on offer throughout the academic year.

And finally in other Year 11 news, Louis Obasogie and Mary Morgan have been nominated as representatives for the Northampton Youth Forum 2018/19. The Youth Forum is Northampton's youth council. It is a town-wide body consisting of representatives of young people who aim to speak up on behalf of the young people of Northampton. This involves young people in taking an active part in decision making about the lives of young people in Northampton.

We were also delighted this week to find out that 2 of our Post 16 students have been offered scholarships by the London Institute of Banking and Finance as a result of achieving the highest grade possible in their Level 3 Financial Studies exam in the summer. Sean Andrews will be visiting the College on Tuesday to present this prestigious award to Elouise Brooks and Mohammed Ahmed.

Next week, Mr Wade and Miss Bennett will be at Kingsthorpe Library on Tuesday from 1pm as we look to engage with the local community. It will be a further opportunity to give us feedback as we look to promote our ever-growing role within our local community. We will also use the afternoon to share some of our ideas and promote some of the wonderful events we have coming up. Please do drop by and say hello if you can.

Sadly, we had 2 bikes stolen from the bike racks outside the front of the school on Tuesday. The police have been informed and they are investigating. Can I please take this opportunity to remind all students to lock their bikes within the internal school fence by PE to help keep them safe and secure.

I wish you all a productive week.

Mrs Giovanelli
Headteacher

SPREAD THE WORD

Open Morning

Thursday 11th October



Prospective families are invited to come and see Kingsthorpe College in action. Join us at 9.30am for the chance to meet our staff and students, and take a tour of the school.

Call **01604 716106** now to book your place.

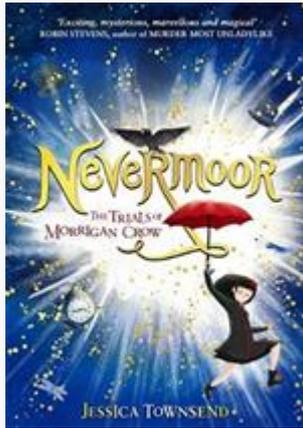


Our Open Evening 2018 is a huge success!



 Book of the Week 

Nevermoor : The Trials of Morrigan Crow (BL 5.6)



Morrigan Crow is cursed. Having been born on Eventide, the unluckiest day for any child to be born, she's blamed for all local misfortunes, from hailstorms to heart attacks - and, worst of all, the curse means that Morrigan is doomed to die at midnight on her eleventh birthday. But as Morrigan awaits her fate, a strange and remarkable man named Jupiter North appears. Chased by black-smoke hounds and shadowy hunters on horseback, he whisks her away into the safety of a secret, magical city called Nevermoor. It's then that Morrigan discovers Jupiter has chosen her to contend for a place in the city's most prestigious organisation: the Wondrous Society.

In order to join, she must compete in four difficult and dangerous trials against hundreds of other children, each boasting an extraordinary talent that sets them apart - an extraordinary talent that Morrigan insists she does not have. To stay in the safety of Nevermoor for good, Morrigan will need to find a way to pass the tests - or she'll have to leave the city and confront her deadly fate once and for all.

Perfect for fans of the Harry Potter series and His Dark Materials, this series takes readers into an extraordinary world, setting hope and imagination alive.

Our literacy challenge winner this week is:

Taylor Parnell 7K.

The word of the week is...

“Inclination” noun

Definition: A liking for or preference.

Try and use this word in a sentence this week. My sentence is,
She definitely had an inclination for computer science, she was really good at it.

Year 7 students get ready for.....



What is BookBuzz?

This year the library is giving all of our Year 7 students the opportunity to participate in the Bookbuzz reading programme. This scheme gives each student the chance to choose a **free** book from the list of specially selected titles (see below). Over the next two weeks, all of our Year 7 students will be asked to make their choice.

The programme is supported by the Book Trust and all of the books are specially chosen to appeal to Year 7 readers. Its aim is to inspire excitement about reading and allows students to discover new books and authors. We have been introducing our students to the programme and we would like to encourage all of our Year 7 parents to have a look at the BookBuzz website. Here you will be able to find out about this year's titles, and other books that your child will enjoy. You will also find that it is filled with competitions, quizzes and fun activities to encourage reading at home. www.bookbuzz.org.uk



Our reading hero this week is Jezica Chambers – Year 7. Jezica has done an amazing job on the programme since joining us in September. She has read a very impressive 11 books with a word count of 673,675 words. She is really enjoying books by Roald Dahl, Jacqueline Wilson and J.K. Rowling. She has also been reading and taking quizzes in her own time. Well done Jezica, what a fantastic start to the year.

We encourage parents and carers to check your son or daughter's planners on pages 32 and 33. These pages contain information about what your child is reading, and they also have information about students' star reading test scores. Please encourage wider reading at home - we recommend at least twenty minutes per day.

Knife Crime

Year 8 students on Monday received an assembly on understanding knife crime and the implications of carrying a weapon. This was delivered by the Youth Offending Service at Northamptonshire County Council and we are one of the first schools in the County to receive this assembly. The Youth Offending Service has provided the College with follow up activities for the students to complete during our PSHE lessons. They have additionally provided training for our team of tutors. Please see additional information that you may be useful to you as a parent.

Is My Child In a Gang?



The best way to know if your child or a child you care about is in a gang is to talk to them early and often. If you notice one or more of the following signs, you need to talk with your child right away to determine if they are considering joining, or are already involved with, a gang.

Signs to look for:
Shows interest in talking to or hanging out with known gang members, or attending gang parties
Acquires a new nickname
Makes a sudden drastic change in appearance - hairstyle, clothing, accessories with distinctive designs
Wears similar clothing as the surrounding neighbourhood gang members
Insists on wearing certain colour combinations.
Shows a change in attitude towards family, friends, and authority figures
Develops an unusual desire for privacy (beyond normal teenage behaviour) - refuses to tell you where they are going or who they are hanging with
Stops hanging out with old friends, won't let you meet new friends, or won't tell you the real names of new friends (they use nicknames, also)
Draws gang symbols or sayings on books, furniture, clothing, hands or arms with an ink or markers, or gets them permanently tattooed on body.
Associates with suspected or proven gang members or gang nations as 'friends' on popular networking Web sites
Shows signs of suspected alcohol or drug use
Obtains large amounts of cash and merchandise with no explanation
Displays evidence of vandalizing property with graffiti (presence of spray cans, paint marks on clothing or backpacks, wide tipped markers, blank stickers)
Shows disinterest in school and other previous activities
Increased level of defiance - frequently breaking curfew, having run-ins with the law, breaks school or parental rules consistently
Develops obsession the gangster lifestyle such as music, videos and movies
Unexplained extra money or new possessions such as clothes, trainers, jewellery, computers / games, mobile phones

How do I find out?

Talk with your child - these signs do not automatically indicate that your child is in a gang. Remember that many parts of gang life have been glamorized and made popular in our culture. Terms like "gangster" have become acceptable in casual conversations. Young people who are far removed from the reality of gangs might use these terms loosely, not realising the words' connection to gang rankings. They may also copy fashion trends seen in movies or music videos, not knowing when a "trend" is **actually** a claim to gang life.

**Do you know how many knives are in your house?
Would you know if any are missing?**



Count them and put the number below...
...recount them regularly and if any are missing let us know!

OPVIPER

Report it online at www.northants.police.uk/webform/online-crime-reporting
or call **101** and ask for contact from your local Neighbourhood Policing Team

If someone you know carries a knife, ask yourself why:



- Are they being bullied?
- Are they involved in a gang?
- Are they being forced to by someone else?
- Are there concerns for their mental health?

If you know someone who carries a knife, let us know so we can offer them help.

Help us raise awareness of the dangers of carrying a knife by posting pictures on social media of **your** knife count leaflet using the hashtag **#OpViper**



Carrying a knife increases **your** risk of being the victim of a knife attack.

Our message to people who carry knives is quite simply, **don't**, it isn't worth it. Don't risk your future, your life - or anyone else's - by doing so.

#SaveLivesNoKnives
MAKE A POINT OF STAYING SAFE
www.fearless.org

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO CARRIES A WEAPON?
A weapon is anything made, adapted or modified for use against others in a public place

CARRYING A WEAPON COMES WITH CONSEQUENCES

- Knife crime has big consequences so for both the victim and the offender
- It is a criminal offence to carry a weapon, even if it is not used
- Knife possession is not an excuse for carrying an offensive weapon. If caught carrying one, you will be arrested, prosecuted and could be sentenced to a prison
- Knife crime is not just a gang issue and can affect anyone

- Knife carriers are more likely to get stabbed or otherwise injured compared to non-carriers
- Even if it's not your idea, if someone is injured or killed by a knife in your presence you could be held responsible for your part in the offence, even if you're not the person who carried the knife
- Having a criminal record could stop you getting a job, or university or getting a job in the future. It could also prevent you from travelling abroad as countries such as the US and Canada

STAB WOUNDS LET'S GET TO THE POINT
There is no 'safe zone' for stab wounds
Even if you walk past someone in the area or they trip they can still die if an injury is received

A PERSON CAN BLEED TO DEATH IN JUST 3 TO 4 MINUTES.
You can survive losing 10-15% of your body's blood. A loss of 20% or more, is life threatening.

IF SOMEONE YOU KNOW GETS STABBED:

1. CALL 999 FOR AN AMBULANCE
2. PUT PRESSURE ON THE WOUND UNTIL HELP COMES
3. DO NOT REMOVE THE KNIFE

USEFUL NUMBERS:

- FRANKS: www.frankscotland.org
- FRISK: www.frisk.org
- CRIMESTOPPERS: 0800 001 111

KEEP YOUR BIKE SAFE

Unfortunately we have had two bikes stolen from the bike racks this week. Police have been informed and are investigating. Can we please remind all students that they must lock their bikes in the bike racks within the school grounds. It is also important that a strong bike lock is used to ensure it is secure.

Post 16

Year 13 Personal Statements & Interview Technique, University of Nottingham 5th October

During periods 3 and 4 we had a session on personal statements from Andrea Ranford from the University of Nottingham who provided us with guidance on how to effectively write a personal statement and how to best perform at interview.

We were provided with guidance on the structure of personal statements including how they should be presented and what should and should not be included in them. Andrea emphasised the importance of ensuring that all applicants spend time doing their own research around the subject to gain a better understanding of courses and modules that are available. She also recommended that beyond our academic experiences, detail should include any additional stand-out skills, qualities and experiences that would allow us to stand out in the application.

The interview session provided the opportunity to understand what is expected by students when they attend an interview and Andrea provided plenty of guidance about things we should be doing and things we should avoid. We also spent some time practicing parts of the interview.

Leaving the sessions with an information pack was useful as I will be using this to help me with my personal statement and if needed, for when I attend an interview.

Robbie Dascombe-Rouse (Year 13)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Thursday 18th October** - Year 11 Parents Evening / Year 11 & 13 Revision Session
- **Friday 19th October** – School Closes
- **Monday 29th October** – School Opens
- **Thursday 15th November** - Year 9 parents evening
- **Thursday 29th November** - Post 16 Open Evening
- **Monday 10th December** - Year 11 Options Meetings
- **Thursday 13th December** - Year 12/13 Parents Evening
- **Friday 21st December** – School Closes

Key Contacts

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Mrs Williams, Ms Vink & Mr Hancock

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