



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 138



Dear Parents

As we rapidly approach the end of term, we are just as busy as ever here at the College.

We have had two visits this week which have enabled us to share our own good practice, as well as given us the opportunity to reflect on how we can develop even further. On Wednesday, we welcomed Alex Gavins, the senior educational lead from Leading Edge and SSAT to KC. Alex had hosted the workshop Mr Baines and I ran at the national SSAT conference last week and she was visiting the College to gain firsthand experience of our practices. She was able to give us links to other high performing schools to help challenge our thinking, and she will also share

our practice and put other schools in touch with us where we can help them. This collaborative way of working is very important to us at the College. Our second visit was from representatives of the Treasury and the DfE. Kingsthorpe College had been selected as one of ten secondary schools nationally to take part in a research visit by the Treasury. The Treasury will use this research to compile a report and case studies which will be published nationally and will share excellent practice in relation to financial planning, including the strategic deployment of staff and resources. Colleagues from the Treasury were particularly interested to hear about our recent work in relation to recruitment, retention, leadership development, and the systematic mapping of talent across our workforce to ensure we have effective succession planning across the College.

This time of year is always a time where College leaders reflect on the impact of the work we have undertaken to date this academic year. To this end, College governors have been meeting with senior leaders to review our progress against our school development priorities. These meetings are a great opportunity for all of us involved in the leadership of the College to celebrate our successes as well as identify next steps and work for the forthcoming Spring Term. We have an outstanding Governing Board at Kingsthorpe College and we have some exciting developments planned so that all stakeholders can engage more frequently with our Governors - further information will follow after the Christmas holidays.

There has been a lot of exciting and successful work undertaken recently by our young enterprise and business students, and I would recommend reading the report from Miss Fisher later in the newsletter. We were also delighted to welcome a performer from the West End to the College this week and he spent the day with our Hairspray cast and our Year 7 Girls' Choir helping them finetune their performances in readiness for the end of term performances. A great time was had by all!

As the weather forecast turns more inclement, and with significant snow forecast for this weekend, please see details later in the newsletter about our policy and procedures for wintry weather. Up to date information will be published and regularly refreshed on the website. It is of course always our intention to keep the College open where it is safe to do so for

both our staff and students.

Finally, an advance notice that the College will close for the Christmas break at 12.30pm on Wednesday 20th December. A letter detailing arrangements will be sent home with your son or daughter this week, as well as being made available on our website.

Although this will be a short week, learning at the College will be of high quality and taking place right up until 12.30pm on the Wednesday - we have a lot to pack into our curriculum and it is therefore of vital importance that students have full attendance on all three days of this week.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Giovanelli

Headteacher

Snow Procedures

Following the recent forecasts, we are writing to remind you of the procedures that will be followed during periods of time when there is snow on the school site.

We will do everything possible to keep Kingsthorpe College open during snowy conditions – your child's education is very important to us and missing time due to inclement weather can impact on future progress. We also fully appreciate the difficulties this causes in terms of child care.

If snow has fallen overnight and we have to take the difficult decision to close the school, we will inform you via text, and we will post a message on the school website front page. We will also contact Northamptonshire County Council. Any school closure will occur on a day-by-day basis and we will aim to get this information out by 7.30am, if not before.

If snow falls during the day to such a degree that we have to take the

decision to send students home early, we will inform you in exactly the same way as above. We will also allow any student with a mobile phone to contact you to arrange for child care arrangements and enable any students without mobile phones to use a school phone to contact you. If no contact can be made, we assure you that a Senior member of staff will stay on school site with those students until we are confident that they can get home and that an appropriate adult has been informed.

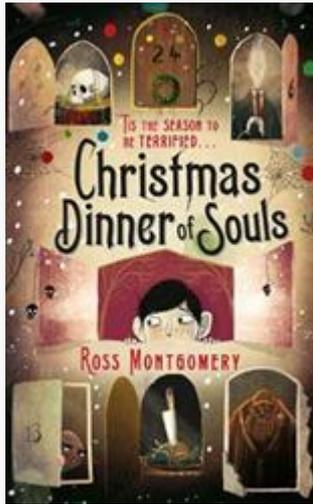
In the interest of health and safety, students are not allowed to throw snowballs in any areas of the school and will receive consequences; including the loss of their break times should they not observe this direction. As the snow turns to ice no snowballs will be allowed. Students are informed and are usually very mature and compliant in this respect, recognising the risk of injury.

Please make every effort to send your child to school in the snowy conditions as non-attendance due to snow may have to be recorded as an 'unauthorised' absence.

We hope this information helps, but if you have any further queries please contact the school.



Christmas Dinner of Souls by Ross Montgomery



In honour of Ross Montgomery's visit to college, our book of the week is his delightfully dark and scary book *Christmas Dinner of Souls*.

It's a cold and lonely Christmas Eve in the dining room of ancient Soul's College. The kitchen boy, 11-year-old Lewis, has helped prepare a highly unusual meal, made with unrecognisable ingredients, cooked by a mysterious chef. And then the extraordinary guests arrive... and carnage ensues.

The Dean of Soul's College enters the great hall, and the evening's ceremonies must begin. For this is the annual meeting of a secret club for those who despise children, warmth, happiness, and above all Christmas. Each member must try to outdo the others by telling the most terrible, disgusting story they know.

If you love spooky adventures with a bit of a twist then this is the book for you.

Our literacy challenge winner this week is:

Yasmine Antoche 9I.

The word of the week is...

“astute” *adjective*

Definition: having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and turn this to one's advantage.

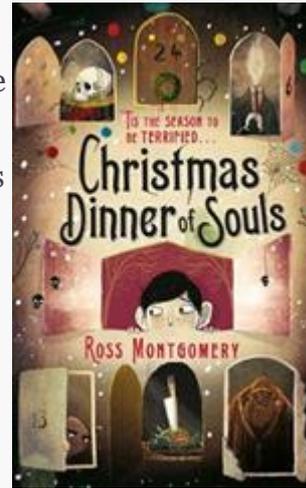
Try and use this word in a sentence this week. My sentence is,
The student was intelligent and astute, as we have seen with her handling of the exams.



Our reading hero this week is **Philip Tarbuck (Year 8)**. Philip has been doing some fantastic work on the Accelerated Reader programme. He regularly takes quizzes in his own time and stays afterschool to complete his work. So far this year he has read an astonishing array of fiction and has already read 25 books which equates to 1,044,819 words read. He is one of the first students this year to achieve millionaire status both in year 7 and year 8. He also becomes our sixteenth millionaire this term. Well done Philip, what a great achievement.

Ross Montgomery will be
visiting KC Library On the
12th December

Our Year 7 students are in for a real treat as the amazing children's author Ross Montgomery will be coming in to talk about his new festive horror story collection, Christmas Dinner of Souls. Our students will get to be a part of a really spooky story telling session, followed by an audience and author Q & A session.



It will be a wonderful treat for our students to meet such a fantastic author. As part of the event there will also be a chance to buy books which will be signed personally by Ross.

For more information about his work please visit his website.

www.rossmontgomery.co.uk

Year 7 BookBuzz Challenge

Throughout December and January we are challenging all of our year 7 students to take up the BookBuzz Challenge. All of the challenges centre around the BookBuzz books we have given to each year 7 student. Students have to complete all of the categories on the grid and once they have done so they should hand in their completed work to either their English teacher or the library. The winning student will receive £20 of gift vouchers, plus we have BookBuzz runner-up prizes to give away too.



Year 12 Young Enterprise Team



Our Year 12 Young Enterprise Team KrispiKrafts have been extremely busy over the last couple of weeks and are really beginning to realise the pressures of the Business World.

On Saturday 25th November our students were up at 4.30am to get to Wellingborough for 8AM to take part in their first trade fair within the Swansgate Centre. They received lots of positive feedback and were a credit to the school.

Last Sunday 3rd December they attended the Northampton Trade fair in the Grosvenor Centre and out of ten local schools who competed, they

won the award for 'Best Product'. This was a fantastic achievement for them and hopefully the first of many.

They have learnt how to work as a team and I am watching their confidence grow week by week. Students who were previously shy are now approaching customers and chatting with judges because they are proud of their business. These are the words of one of the team; "The Trade Fair was successful on Sunday and the judges were completely stunned by our product and the eco-aspect of it, being environmentally friendly. We amazed ourselves with how we engaged with the judges explaining our product and answering all their questions. We sold most of our stock and took lots of orders. This is a fantastic opportunity that we have been given and we can't believe how much we are learning through it as well as developing our confidence. When we won the award it just made all our hard work worthwhile."

For those that don't know they are recycling crisp packets into key rings, fridge magnets, pencil cases purses etc. They are continuously adding products to their range. If you have a favourite flavour, then bring in your empty packets and choose what you would like it to be turned into. Please see any member of the team or come and see me if you would like to place an order.

I am a very proud teacher.

Miss Fisher

Barclaycard employers offer Year 12 students workshop on finance



This week we had eight members of staff from Barclaycard come to Kingsthorpe College to work with our year 12 students to teach them all about various aspects to do with finance and money. The students in year 12 were split into smaller classes to ensure the sessions were interactive and had plenty of opportunities to ask questions. Students were taken through aspects of finance such as credit checks (including how they can ensure they have the highest credit rating possible for the future), banking, insurance and renting accommodation. As year 12 students turn eighteen and starting taking out credit cards and considering moving away from home, we consider these sessions to be arguably as important as anything that is taught in day to day lessons! We'd like to offer a special thanks to the employees of Barclaycard for their efforts and enthusiasms on the day, and look forward to welcoming them back again in the future.

Paul Pomerantz

Christmas Fair



Last Saturday we held our Christmas Fair and it was an astounding success. The typical British winter weather didn't deter the many visitors that we had coming through the doors. We had over 50 stalls in the main hall selling an array of fabulous Christmas gifts and crafts. It was the perfect place to get unique Christmas gifts for the whole family.

One of the highlights of the fair was the animals that greeted all our guests as they arrived. 'Home Grown and Raised' kindly brought along a selection of animals for everyone to meet. We had an adorable baby donkey, an alpaca, a sheep and some rabbits to name just a few. The KC dance students entertained the crowds with a number of fantastic performances. We look forward to seeing a lot of them performing again at the school production of Hairspray next week.

The activity zone was a huge hit with the kids. They loved taking part in the science experiments, playing table tennis and dancing to Christmas music. The face painting, body art, nail painting and hair braiding were also extremely popular. A huge thank you needs to be given to the Kingsthorpe College students and staff who volunteered to help with the fair. We had lots of helpers running stalls, fete games and activities. The Christmas fair wouldn't have been half as successful without you. THANK YOU!

Many of the stalls and activities were being done to raise money for charity. We have put some of the totals below (and we still have more totals coming in!).

- The Air Ambulance: £398.40 (£275 from the Year 8 Chocolate tombola/fete games, and £123.40 from the Air Ambulance stall)
- Love Light Romania: £143 (Year 8 chocolate tombola & raffle)
- ChildLine: £60 (Year 7 bric-a-brac stall)

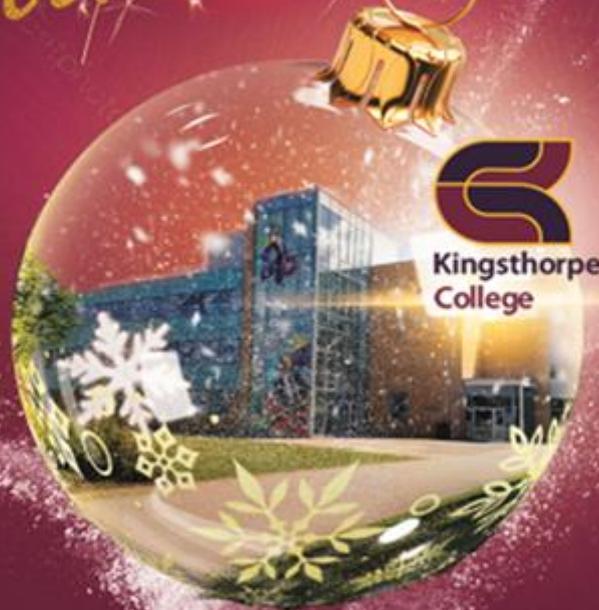
- RSCPA: £283 (£111 from the Christmas tombola ran and organised by some of our year 7 students, and £172 from the RCPCA stall)
- Young Minds: £75 (Refreshments)
- Cats Protection: £56

The fair itself raised £450 which will be spent on a project for our students, chosen by our students. The school communications team and school prefects are looking into a variety of ideas at the moment and will be feeding back to the rest of the school shortly. One of the suggestions has been to use it to get some outdoor equipment for students to use at lunchtimes, such as a table tennis table or gym equipment. Watch this space!

Thank you again to everyone that supported our 2017 Christmas Fair.

Miss Bennett

CAROLS
by
Candlelight




Kingsthorpe
College

TUESDAY 19th DECEMBER

6:00PM - 7:30PM

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MAIN HALL



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