



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 100



Dear Parents

It's difficult to believe we have just finished the penultimate week of the Autumn Term - the term seems to have just flown by!

It was my own daughters' nativity performance this week and as I watched them on stage, it was a timely reminder about just how important the wider aspects of school life are in ensuring our students benefit from a broad and balanced education. It's really important to us at Kingsthorpe College that we make sure our students leave us as responsible citizens, and we work hard to give all of our students experiences which help them to develop empathy and compassion.

Students have been lucky enough over the past couple of weeks to hear

the Take Flight Team deliver House based assemblies about their experience of visiting our partner schools in Chicago earlier this term. It was very humbling listening to the students recount their experiences, and we were all particularly moved when the Take Flight Team shared the very difficult circumstances facing those students in our partner schools. Many of our own students were shocked to hear how different mainstream education is in America, and it made all our students realise just how lucky they were to come to KC. We were delighted as part of this feedback to the wider College community, to welcome Mr Tim Nash, Managing Director of Edison Learning, to the College. I know everyone involved in the Take Flight project are keen for the relationships we have established to continue, and there are plans in place to continue this work next year – watch this space!

Students in Green House also heard how difficult life was for someone who had lost their eyesight, and it was both a moving and sobering experience as students were encouraged to imagine what their life would be like if they could not see. As part of this talk, our guests brought along two guide dogs to meet our students and some carefully given treats helped keep our animal guests well behaved! The College is going to look to raise money over the next year to sponsor our very own guide dog for the blind puppy. We need to raise approximately £1500, and we already have some suggestions for possible names, including Kacey! We will be running naming competitions, and a series of fundraising events over the next year – further details of this will follow in the New Year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our year 11 and Post 16 students who have undertaken trial examinations this week. Students approached these exams with maturity and dedication, and we have been particularly pleased with the number of students using GCSE POD. In fact an incredible extra 2000 pods have been watched in the week immediately prior to the exams. The main aim of these important exams is to help prepare our students for the summer exam period. We recreate exactly the same structures and procedures during these trial examinations to give our students an overview of what happens in the summer exams. Students will also receive the results of these trial examinations in the same format as they will in August, with students receiving their results in sealed envelopes.

We talk a lot at Kingsthorpe College about the importance of working as a team, and we are currently looking for any parents who would like to make a difference in our local community by becoming a parent governor. The role of a Governor is a vital one in supporting Kingsthorpe College as it goes from strength to strength, and we are lucky at KC, that we have an outstanding Governing Body who both challenge and support us. Further details of what the role involves, and how to apply, can be found later in this newsletter.

Thank you to those parents who came to our SLT drop in session on Tuesday. It was really nice to hear some positive feedback about the experience we give to our students, and as ever, we were also grateful to those parents who came along to give us feedback on how we can continue to be even better. We will continue to offer these sessions throughout the remainder of the Academic Year.

Finally from me, a letter was distributed to all students at the end of this week detailing our arrangements for the end of term, and a copy of this letter can also be found on our website. With just one week to go until the holidays, all at the College will continue to work hard and demonstrate the highest of expectations in regards to learning, behaviour and uniform.

Mrs Giovanelli
Acting Principal

Stars of the week



Red House

Holly Taylor Year 7 R8

Holly has made a fabulous start to year 7. She consistently works hard and displays exemplary behaviour around the College. Holly is now working hard towards fundraising for the Red house charity and we look forward to supporting her in her efforts. Well done, Holly!

Green House

Ivy Mintah Year 7 Gr11

Ivy has been working incredibly hard in her EAL lessons and has been nominated by Ms Pitt and Ms Foyle. Ivy did a fantastic presentation about festivals in Italy, she was clear, gave good eye contact and her presentation flowed fantastically. Ivy is a hard working young lady who has continued to improve on her reading, writing and speaking skills, in particular her spelling, this has gone up by one year and one month. Everyone in EAL and at KC are very proud of you!

Gold House

Iarina Tancau Year 8 GO12



This week Iarina created a fantastic piece of English homework based around what life was like in Victorian England, and has been nominated by her English teacher, Miss Hitchon, for star of the week this week. Iarina is one of our EAL students within school, and this piece of work demonstrates her excellent attitude to learning and specifically her desire to improve her knowledge and understanding of English. Well done Iarina, we are very lucky to have you in Gold House and you are definitely a star! A photo of Iarina's amazing piece of work can be seen below.

Blue House

Rebecca Swindell Year 8 B7

Rebecca has raised a considerable amount of money for charity for Blue House, by selling sweets which she organised herself and was so enthusiastic about doing this by going around the classes at tutor time. Her English teacher also has said that she has produced some fantastic English homework. She was asked to complete a research project on Victorian England and she has completed over 10 pages of typed up information with headings, charts, introduction, conclusion and

bibliography. We are proud of you Rebecca!

Purple House

Amelia Bates Year 11 P11

Amelia always has a really positive attitude to school and to her learning. She is always pleasant and polite and is never without a smile on her face. She is enthusiastic about making her choices for Post 16 and she is motivated to do well to get onto the courses that she wants to study after her GCSEs.

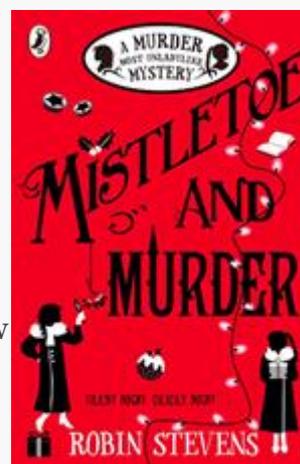
She is a lovely girl and she always tries her very best. Well done Amelia, you embody positivity and we are really proud of you in Purple House.

Book of the Week

Mistletoe and Murder by Robin Stevens

This year our students had the pleasure of meeting author Robin Stevens at the Read For My School awards in London and since then students have really enjoyed reading her books. This book is a festive feast of ghastly goings on for fans of the *A Murder Most Unladylike* series. Astute, smart and daring they may be, but trouble sure seems to follow detective duo Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong around.

It seems that even a Christmas Holiday to Cambridge is filled with cads, murderers and mysteries. Soon after arriving in Cambridge, Daisy and Hazels' detective senses are tingling as they suspect that a series of practical jokes and a dose of sibling rivalry are much more deadly than they seem. Yet time is of the essence and Daisy (somewhat reluctantly) agrees to join forces with a local detective agency to try and get to the bottom of the murderous goings on before Christmas day. But has Daisy finally met her match with the rival agency?



Throw in some hot chocolate, cakes, snow and of course deadly mistletoe and you have all the ingredients for a thrilling murder mystery. There's a touch of Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie magic within these pages and it makes for an exciting read. If you love detective stories and solving mysteries then this book is definitely for you.

The word of the week is...

"Nostalgic"

Definition: sentimental longing for the past.

Try and use this word in a sentence this week. **My sentence is,**
"Reading an old book brings back nostalgic memories".

Library Christmas Competition



Enter our library competition to be in with a chance of winning a Fantastic Beasts Goody Bag. We also have 2 runner-up prizes to give away too! To be in with a chance of winning this prize collect a competition entry form from the library.

The literacy challenge winner this week is...

Ella Pancoust GO7

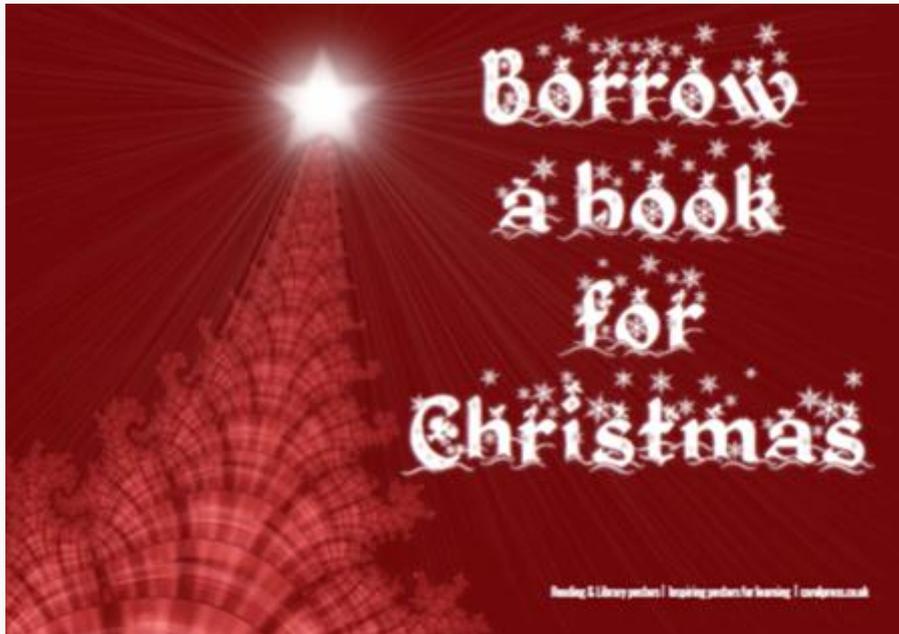
Please come to the library to collect your prize.



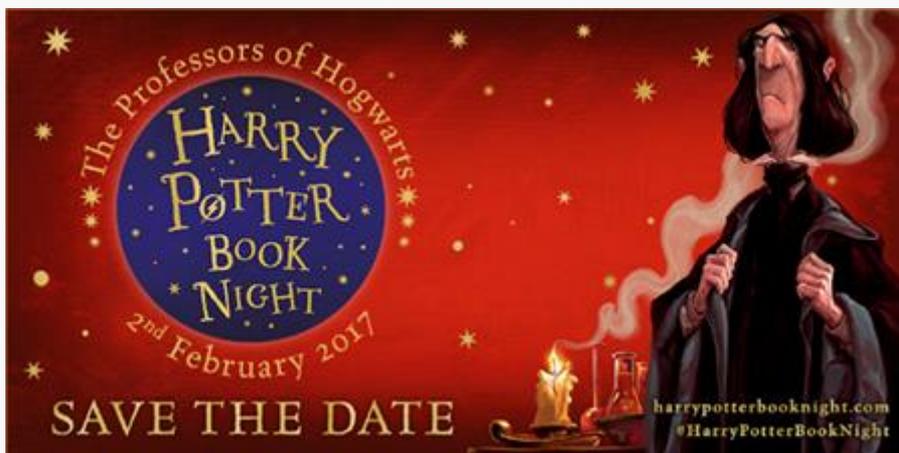
This term we have witnessed some fantastic results on the Accelerated Reader Programme. All of our year 7 and 8 students participate in the scheme and so far this year they have taken 3,552 book quizzes which equates to 61,032,528 words read. We also have an incredible 13 students who have already read over one million words each. Well done everyone and keep up the good work. Remember to keep reading in the holidays so that you are ready to take quizzes when we come back in the New Year.

Our reading hero this week is Alex Lau (year 8)

Well done Alex, you are our reading hero this week. Alex really enjoys reading and it shows. He regularly takes quizzes in his own time and this term has read an impressive 26 books which equates to a total of 1,557,137 words read. His average percentage of correct answers on each quiz is above 95%. Alex you are doing a great job, keep on enjoying reading and keep on quizzing.



Coming soon...



Project 'Take Flight'



Some of you may be aware that I have been working on a project with three Year 13 students to link Kingsthorpe College with other Edison schools in America. Rebecca, Bethany and Conor spent much of the Spring and Summer terms fundraising and planning, All in all, our funds totalled just over £9200. The aim of the project was to share literacy ideas and teaching styles as well as to see how Edison worked with schools and alternative education establishments in more economically challenging areas. Many people associate America with wealth and progress but it is clear from our visit that this is not always the case.

In October half term, accompanied by Mr Campbell, we were able to see the project become a reality and we flew out to Chicago. Our first couple of days were spent exploring the local area, learning some of its history and taking in some of the tourist, sporting and cultural aspects. The students were blown away by the sheer size of the city and were able to draw some interesting comparisons with the UK. Even during this more relaxed period, we could not help but see that some of the issues we were there to observe were obvious, even in the affluent Loop area, where we were all shocked by the number of homeless people.

After the weekend, we spent two days at the Theodore Roosevelt College and Career Academy (TRCCA) in Gary, Indiana, a 40 minute drive from Chicago. The school is in an area which has suffered badly from the loss of industry and the town is perceived negatively by people we spoke to in Chicago. We were initially shocked by the security measures; a metal detector, security on every corridor and students being required to carry clear plastic backpacks in order to be able to see their contents. However, we were hugely impressed by many of the students we met there who were clearly aspirational and determined to succeed. The methods of

teaching were very different to ours and many of the students worked independently on computers rather than the teacher led classes we are used to here. For me, this was saddening; as a teacher, it is the relationship and interaction with the class which often provides the most stimulating and interesting learning. The students then worked together on a social justice project on Health Care which they continue to develop, even after their return to the UK.

On the second day, Rebecca, Beth and Conor delivered poetry lessons to the students, a skill Beth and Conor had already honed working with our own students earlier in the year. It was clear from these lessons that our respective countries focus on different skills when studying Literature; our sixth formers were able to use a greater degree of technicality in their analysis of the written word (this was something we also observed later in the week). We were also privileged to see TRCCA's Panther Poetry Club perform some of their own poems; a phenomenal experience and one which truly brought home the reality of their situations, particularly in terms of their economic problems and racial issues. One student spoke about "putting the gun down and picking the book up", an all too real concern for their young people.

On the last two days, we visited four campuses of the Bridgescape Academy; Brainerd, Roseland, Humboldt Park and Lawndale. These are alternative education establishments which offer an opportunity for students to gain the credits they require to complete their High School Diploma. The reasons these students have dropped out vary; some have to work, some care for family members, some have had children, some have been in trouble with the law. We were given a warm welcome at all the sites, although we encountered equally stringent security measures as we had at TRCCA. Here, we were able to see, again, how students tend to work independently on computers. This allows them to work at their own pace and on the necessary modules required to complete their Diploma. If required, students work in a 'pull out', a session for a small group of students working on a particular skill. Becky, Beth and Conor took part in an English 'pull out' and, whilst they again found the level of challenge significantly lower than they are used to at KC, they enjoyed the session.

Bridgescape boasts a higher than national average graduation rate so

their methods are clearly working. Whilst there, we learnt more about the challenges faced by these students, the problems the areas have with gangs, violence and guns and heard about their consequences, some of which are tragic. This was a humbling experience for us to hear and made us all a little bit more grateful for the lives and education we have back in the UK.

Since being home, Becky, Beth and Conor have continued to work on Project 'Take Flight' as they prepare to hand it over to a new cohort of students. They hosted a very successful presentation evening where they described all the details of their fundraising and travel to family, friends, staff and those who had helped them with their fundraising. The Take Flight Award for perseverance and aspiration was presented to Mr Jackson at this evening; this is a trophy to be awarded annually to a student or group of students who have shown the same degree of dedication and hard work that these original 'Take Flight' members had to show to make their ground breaking trip come to fruition. The students are also still liaising with the International Committee about the Social Justice Project and Conor has been invited to be the student representative on the committee. The students and I have also been able to talk to every house during assembly about some of the highlights of our trip. Finally, just last week, Becky, Conor and I were very lucky to have the opportunity to discuss our trip with Tim Nash, the managing director of Edison, where we discussed the differences between the schools we had visited and KC. The students then went on to outline future ideas we had for a return visit to Chicago to investigate other aspects of the education systems. It was a great pleasure for us to have the chance to speak to Mr Nash and hear his views.

Project 'Take Flight' has been more successful than we could have dreamed possible; I am extraordinarily proud of Becky, Beth and Conor and of what they have achieved. I am thrilled that they wish to see the project continue and that they are putting things in motion to ensure that it does. Drafts of a proposal for Project Take Flight Take Two are already being drawn up utilising ideas drawn from the discussion with Mr Nash; onwards and upwards!

Abbie Coleman – Deputy Director of English

Christmas Fair



Last weekend we held our annual Christmas Fair and it was the most successful one to date! We had 60 stalls selling a huge variety of unique gifts, crafts and decorations. The hall was packed and there was a brilliant festive atmosphere throughout the afternoon. There were wonderful performances put on by Kingsthorpe College students and local musical and dance groups. Hundreds of pounds were raised for a number of charities including Children are Butterflies, Young Minds, RSPCA and Air Ambulance. A big thank you to all the staff, students and parents that helped out on the day!

Green House Charity Stall



children.

Green House are pleased to announce that they made £104 at the KC Christmas fayre. All proceeds will go to our chosen House charity 'Children Are Butterflies' a local charity which supports families who have lost

Huge thanks go to Lily Foot, Natalie Morton and Kacey Parish who all helped out on the day.

Children in Need

The grand total our amazing students raised for **Children in Need** was a huge **£1183.47!** This is a significant amount of money to raise from a non-uniform day and more information on how that money is spent can be found here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/>

Parent Governors required

Want to make a difference in your local community?

Our school Governing Board is made up of Community, Parent, Trust and Staff Governors.

Our Governors come to us through a variety of routes and with a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences, but they are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the College and are the link between the School and the community it serves. We are currently looking for a new Parent Governor and would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- an interest in the performance of the College.
- a desire to contribute to and represent the community.
- an open and enquiring mind
- the ability to look at issues objectively
- the confidence to ask questions and join in debate.
- a willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- the ability to work well with others
- a child or children currently attending Kingsthorpe College (essential).

If you match the above description, you may be the very person to become a Governor at Kingsthorpe College. Everyone has something to offer and we want people from as many backgrounds and with as wide a range of interests as possible.

What can we offer?

- A chance to develop skills in strategic management
- The opportunity to work with our 'outstanding' team of governors and staff in improving our School
- Training to develop an understanding of specific school management issues
- A sense of achievement in making a difference to our school
- The pleasure of helping students reach their potential

If you would like to stand for election please e-mail the clerk to Governors [Graham.Lampard@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk] by 11 pm, 16th December, 2016.

Nominations can only be accepted from parents or carers with children at the school on the day that nominations close. Parents/carers being nominated are invited to provide some brief biographical details limited to not more than 150 words suitable for inclusion in the ballot paper. Parents/carers who have paid employment in the school for 500 hours per academic year or more or who are elected members of the Local Authority are not eligible to stand in this election.

For further information please contact the Clerk to Governors: Graham.Lampard@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

**Don't throw
out your old
uniform!**

Friday 16th December 2016 - Last Day of Term
Thursday 5th January 2017 - First Day of Term

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!

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