



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 144



Dear Parents

It really doesn't seem two minutes since I was writing the welcome back from Christmas message! It's been a very short half-term but both staff and students deserve a break after all the hard work that has gone on this term.

This final week of the half-term saw lots of you visit the College for a variety of reasons. Year 7 Parents' Evening on Thursday was extremely well attended with only 34 students failing to make an appointment. This is one of the highest attendance at Parents' Evening that we have ever had and we really do appreciate your support. The feedback we receive via the questionnaires are read by myself and the senior team so we can act on the feedback and look at ways in which we can make sustainable

improvements to the College moving forward. All feedback forms which left a contact name will receive communication directly from us. I also spoke to many of you during the evening and it was lovely to receive so many positive comments as well as honest feedback about how we can improve. One parent left feedback on the newsletter which was very helpful – we are looking at how we can make the newsletter a useful communication tool so if you do have any ideas about what you would like to see in this, please do get in touch!

Thank you to all parents, staff and governors who attended the Online Safety Parents' Workshop on Tuesday delivered by Mr Wade and Simon Aston - the County Council Online Safety Officer. The practical session was open to all county schools as part of the county wide Safer Internet Day and focused on methods to keep young people safe online. It was great to see how parents are supplementing what we already do in school to keep students safe. Please remember to follow the school Twitterfeed @KingsthorpeC as we pass valuable On Line Safety information on.

Just a reminder for parents of Year 9 students to keep Thursday 1st March open as it's our annual Year 9 Options Evening where we will be going through the Options process. This evening will be open to both students and parents. This is a critical time for our Year 9 students as they start to think about which subjects they need to study at GCSE to help them go on to study Post 16 and beyond. More information to follow straight after half-term.

Some of you may have seen the Kingsthorpe College minibus out and about in the morning over the last week or so. In our continuing drive to ensure attendance and punctuality are as high as we know they need to be to ensure all students meet their potential, we have been proactive in collecting and chivvying some students along to make sure they make the most of every learning opportunity. Attendance at school really does matter and there is a huge amount of evidence to suggest that students who drop below an attendance figure of 96% do not achieve as highly as their peers. This increases significantly if attendance drops below 90%. If you are concerned about your son or daughter's attendance, and we can help in any way then please contact their form tutor in the first instance to see how we can support.

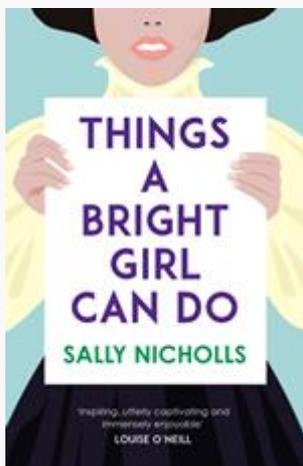
Finally, we also heard this week that Kingsthorpe College will be one of the partner schools for the Silverstone Technology Park Inspiration for Innovation programme. We are delighted to have been selected to part of this and Mr Wade will be including further details after half-term about what this entails.

I hope that you all have a restful and enjoyable halfterm break and we look forward to welcoming students back to the College on Monday 19thFebruary.

Mrs Giovanelli
Headteacher



Things a Bright Girl Can Do by Sally Nicholls



Through rallies and marches, in polite drawing rooms and freezing prison cells and the poverty-stricken slums of the East End, three courageous young women join the fight for the vote. Evelyn is seventeen, and though she is rich and clever, she may never be allowed to follow her older brother to university. Enraged that she is expected to marry her childhood sweetheart rather than be educated, she joins the Suffragettes, and vows to pay the ultimate price for women's freedom. May is fifteen,

and already sworn to the cause, though she and her fellow Suffragists refuse violence. When she meets Nell, a girl who's grown up in hardship, she sees a kindred spirit. Together the two girls start to dream of a world where all kinds of women have their place. But the fight for freedom will challenge Evelyn, May and Nell more than they ever could believe. As war looms, just how much are they willing to sacrifice?

This book is recommended for students in Year 9 and above.

Our literacy challenge winner this week is:

Jessica Stapleton 7I.

The word of the week is...

“Optimistic”

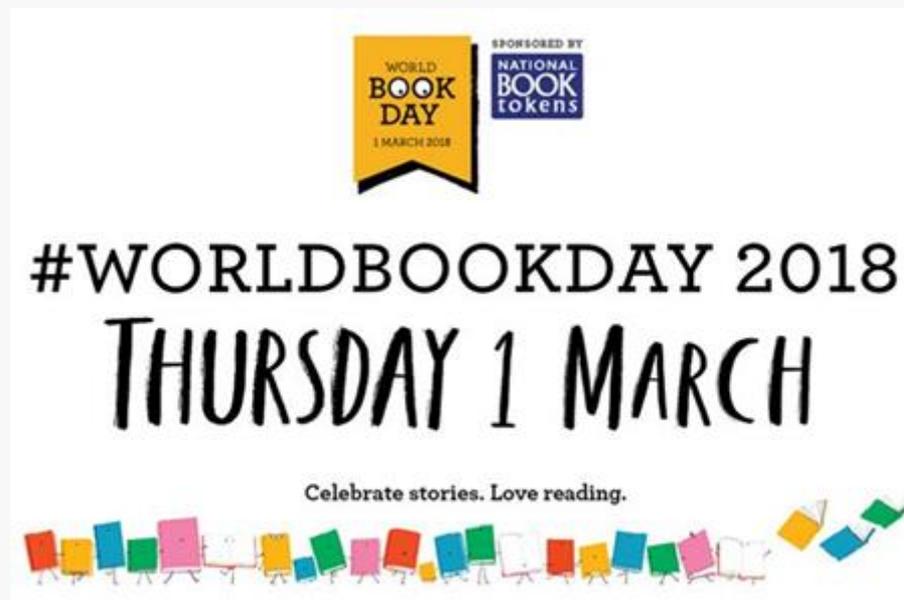
Definition: Hopeful and confident about the future.

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.



Our reading hero this week is Lewis Kennedy (Year 8). Lewis is an avid reader and his performance and participation in the Accelerated Reader programme since joining in year seven has been phenomenal. He has read a huge variety of fiction books and has read a vast array of different writers' work. He has read 67 books on the programme so far which equates to over 6 million words read. What an achievement Lewis, we salute you, keep up the great work!



This year World Book Day will be held on Thursday 1st March. 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 to win signed books.



Wow what a night! This year the theme for our Harry Potter Book Night was Fantastic Beasts. 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 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. They each had to attend wand and broomstick training with Mrs Cockerill, Miss Briggs and Miss Wade. This was then followed by Care of Magical Creatures training with Miss Kinsman, Mr McHardy and Mr Elliot; onto arts and crafts class with Mrs Potter and Miss Fagan and to finish they had to complete their potions class with Miss Bedford, and Mr Hill. The evening ended with a Harry Potter super-fan quiz.

Gryffindor A were declared the winning house team and each student on the winning team received 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.

We would like to thank all of the staff and our 6th form students 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 £53 which we have donated to the Year 8 Charity – Children’s Air Ambulance



Community Health Walk

The Kingsthorpe College Health Walk has been running successfully for 10 years. The group meet in the main reception every Tuesday morning and walk from approximately 9.30am-10.15am. This walking group is completely free and is suitable for all ages and walking abilities. We vary the walk each week, mainly staying in and around Bradlaugh fields. We are very lucky to have such a great green space on our door step.

Walking has so many health benefits, both physically and mentally. It gets you moving and keeps you active which can help with things such as reducing the risk chronic illnesses and increasing fitness. A morning walk is a great way to clear your head and lift your mood. We are a very welcoming group and love to have a good natter on our walk. We even organise the odd social event throughout the year, so it really is a brilliant way to meet new people.

We are really keen to encourage more people to join our walking group. If you would be interested, please get in touch by calling Alex Bennett on 01604 716106 or emailing Alexandra.bennett@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk.

This walk is part of the Northampton Health Walk Scheme coordinated by Northampton Leisure Trust. They have walks running every day of the week across Northampton (ranging from 20 minutes to over an hour so there is something for everyone). If you would like to find out about all the local walks running please follow the link below:

<https://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/walkfinder/northampton-health-walks>

KINGSTHORPE COLLEGE COMMUNITY HEALTH WALK



**FREE GROUP WALK FOR
ALL AGES AND WALKING
ABILITIES**

**EVERY TUESDAY 9.30AM-
10.15AM**

**STARTS/FINISHES AT
KINGSTHORPE COLLEGE**

The walk is recognised by 'Walking for Health' and is led by a qualified walk leader. The route varies each week, but generally stays in and around Bradlaugh Fields.

For more information please contact Alex Bennett on 01604 716106 or alexandra.bennett@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Alumni

Here at Kingsthorpe College we are dedicated to connecting, celebrating and engaging with our former students and staff. We aim to reach out to all our alumni and develop opportunities for them to connect and support each other, and the school. Our former students and staff will always be a part of our history, and by continuing to work with us they can be an important part of our future too by inspiring the current students at our school.

We always enjoy hearing from our alumni and their amazing journeys after their time at Kingsthorpe College. We hope you enjoy reading about one of our former students below.

Alumni Profile: NICHOLA NOBLE



Current job title: Service assurance analyst within Travis Perkins IT department.

Nichola started at Travis Perkins in 2010 (aged 19). She started as an IT Service Desk analyst where she took phone calls from branches across the UK and resolved their IT issues. Nichola worked shift patterns and long hours, starting as early as 6.30am and finishing as late as 9.00pm.

After 3 years, Nichola's hard work was rewarded with a promotion to a team leader. She managed a team of 6-8 analysts. The company were impressed with Nichola's work and she soon became the service manager between IT and Wickes. In this role, Nichola worked to resolve big IT issues for Wickes such as allowing receipts to print properly, improving response time to getting printers fixed and making sure the service desk had the most up-to-date knowledge on how to fix all aspects of Wickes IT systems.

A further promotion led Nichola to her current job role as a service assurance analyst. This involves running reports, making improvements and reviewing all aspects of the day to day operation of the IT department. She has taken the lead on projects that look to improve data across the group and make the systems easier to use. She also keeps the directors up to date with all the important information they require to make operational decisions.

Why work in IT?

'I would recommend a career in IT to anyone that has an enthusiastic attitude toward improving things in general, I started with a basic knowledge of computers and 2 A levels in Photography & Media. I have gained IT qualifications whilst working in Travis Perkins that are widely recognised across the UK including ITIL foundation which explains how IT works in the big wide world. I remember being at school and thinking working in office was the last thing I'd ever want to do, but I have had so much fun over the last 7 years that proves 18 year old me completely wrong!'

Nichola's fondest memories of school:

'I was Head Girl of the school Council and I am very proud to have started a more engaging school council. I also had the pleasure of presenting the duchess of Gloucester with a posie to mark the opening the first phase of the new building, and being part of the second phase opening with Ed Balls.'

Nichola's favourite teacher:

'Mrs Ayres – Incredibly passionate and has left me with a love for WW1 poetry.'

Nichola's advice for current students:

'Get involved!'

We are always looking to grow our alumni community, so if you are in contact with any former students (or perhaps you are a former student yourself) please direct them to our alumni page:

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

Being part of our Alumni community 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 (presentation skills, supporting others...)
-



Presents...

Spring Festival of Music Spectacular Season

6.00pm Sunday 4th March at Derngate, Northampton

Wind Band Spectacular

County Junior & Training Wind Orchestras and
County Youth Concert Band

Tickets: £8-15, available from Derngate box office 01604 624811

6.00pm Sunday 11th March at Derngate, Northampton

Orchestra Spectacular

County Junior, Training & Youth Orchestras

Tickets: £8-15, available from Derngate box office 01604 624811

6.00pm Sunday 18th March at Spinney Theatre, Northampton

Brass Band Spectacular

County Junior Brass Ensemble, County Training &
Youth Brass Bands

Tickets: £6-11, available from Northampton West Rotary 01604 765099

More information available from the NMPAT Office

T: 01604 637117

E: office@NMPAT.co.uk

www.NMPAT.co.uk

Key Contacts

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Mrs Williams & Mr Hancock

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