



# Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

*Edition 106*



## Dear Parents

We've come very quickly to what was an unexpectedly snowy end to this half-term!

I'd like to start my final message of this term by thanking you all for your continued support with your son or daughter's education – it is this positive relationship between home and the College that will make sure all our students achieve their potential, and we continue to encourage you to contact us with ways in which we can improve further. We are currently working particularly hard to ensure that our students' attendance is at least 96% as we know that this plays a significant part in how well students achieve. Our first "In To Win" draw was held on Friday 10th February. All students who had been in school every day over the last 10 days were entered into a draw to win an Amazon Kindle

Fire. Tension had been building throughout the day as the potential winners were selected during each period to give us our final selection pool at 2:40pm. Whilst there could only be one winner, we used the opportunity to talk to the other potential winners about future rewards and recognition for excellent attendance, and we received some great suggestions - watch this space next half-term!

We have also spoken to students this week about our high expectations in relation to uniform and attitudes to learning. At Kingsthorpe College, we are proud of these expectations and we encouraged students to share our messages with you at home. Of particular note is the message that was given to students about appropriate footwear and outer clothing. After half-term, any student who is wearing a 'hoodie' or sports style top will be asked to remove it at the gate in the morning when we greet students. These should not be seen or worn throughout the day – including break and lunchtimes. Should a student not adhere to this, the item of clothing will be removed from them and they will have to collect it at the end of the day. Many thanks in advance for your support with this, and in reinforcing with your son or daughter the high expectations we expect.

Mrs Haines, Senior Strategic Leader, spoke to students this week in assembly about achieving their potential and students were encouraged to reflect on the importance of hard work and determination in making this happen. We also talked with students about the importance of resilience and not giving up – it is very rare that success happens first time around, and we want all students to see the value in taking on board feedback and giving whatever task or activity they are undertaking another go. One of our stars of the week, Dan, exemplifies this in particular and it was a really proud moment for his House Manager to see his commitment to improvement recognised. This attitude and approach is something which is reflected in all aspects of the College's work, and our School Improvement Partner spent two days with us this week both challenging and supporting our thinking on all aspects of school improvement. It is this 'restless excellence' which will ensure we achieve our ambition to be outstanding in everything that we do.

Finally, I hope that all our students have a restful, enjoyable, and safe half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on

Monday 20th February 2017.

**Mrs Giovanelli**

Headteacher

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## Stars of the week

### **Red House**

#### **Nick Year 13 R9**

Nick has been an absolute star supporting one of our younger students who is in Year 9. We have been so impressed by the way they engage together - whether this is working on the tutor time quiz or on literacy activities. Nick encourages the student's thought process and praises him for applying himself - skills which teachers tweak for years and it comes so naturally to Nick!

Well done Nick, we are very proud of you!

### **Green House**

#### **Daniel Year 11 Gr7**

Daniel is making a real effort in the run up to his GCSE exams. He has been proactive in seeking support from his subject teachers, especially in Maths where he needs to make more progress. We have been very impressed with Dan's mature attitude and his independence which stands him in great stead for the future. Well done Dan, keep up the hard work!

### **Gold House**

#### **Gabriela Year 8 GO2**

Gabriela is a brilliant all round student and we are really proud to have her as part of KC and particularly Gold House. Gabriela has 100% attendance, her behaviour record is exemplary, and she displays an excellent attitude to learning, especially in English where she has received commendations for her work this term. Gabriela is always smiling and it is always a pleasure to see her. Well done Gabriela you are a real star!

## **Blue House**

### **Andrew Year 9 B6**

Andrew has produced a book with lots of illustrations that he has clearly put a lot of time and effort into. Andrew's illustrations are of a high quality and reflect his interest in Pokemon. Andrew has also informed us that there is also now a volume 2 on the way! What a talented young man - amazing work Andrew!

## **Purple House**

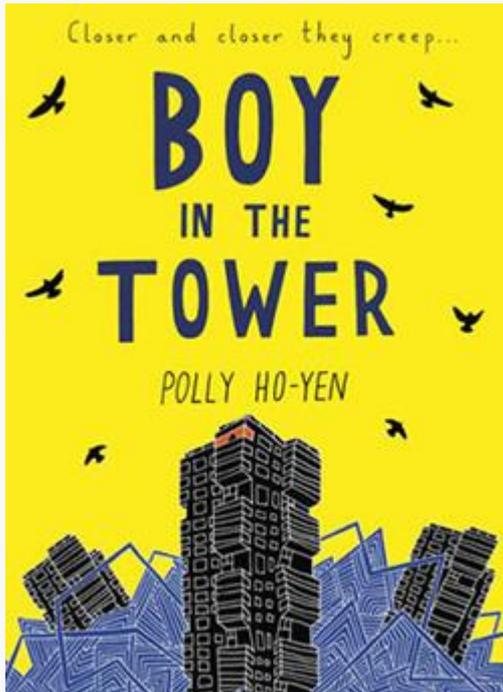
### **Kobe Year 11 P5**

Kobe has been giving good advice to students in the younger years as well as giving his time to them if they need someone to talk to. He often reminds them that they need to work hard and to listen to their teachers. Kobe is also a very helpful student and he will always come to help us out in Purple House. Well done Kobe!



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## Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen (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.

Boy in the Tower has been shortlisted for the Waterstone's best YA fiction award and the Blue Peter Book Award. It tells the story of Ade who lives with his mother on the seventeenth floor of a tower block. Strange things begin to happen and all Ade can do is watch as the buildings fall down around him. The Bluchers - a strange and terrible kind

of plant - are taking over the city, and everyone is being forced to evacuate, but his mother is refusing to leave her room. And so Ade watches alone as the city slowly empties, and the Bluchers creep ever closer.

This dystopian novel is both haunting and compelling and is the fabulous debut novel of Northampton-born writer Polly Ho-Yen.

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.

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

Arzoo Rizwan R7

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## The word of the week is...

“Tempest” *(noun)*

**Definition:** A violent windy storm.

Try and use this word in a sentence this week. My sentence is:

*The trees along the shore were buffeted by strong winds when the tempest hit land.*

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Our reading hero this week is Blake Kent (Year 7). Blake is one of our latest Accelerated Reader millionaires' and this week achieved a very impressive 1,062,464 total words read. Since joining the college in September Blake has read a total of 25 books. He has read across many different genres and has been reading books written by Anthony Horowitz, Rick Riordan and Jeff Kinney. Well done Blake you are doing a fantastic job, keep up the good work.

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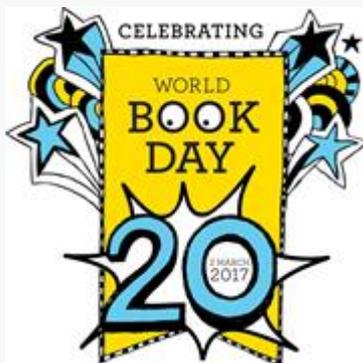
# Love to play chess?

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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# Safer Internet Day



On Tuesday we had the County Council E Safety Officer Simon Aston and representatives from Northamptonshire Police launch the County wide Safer Internet Day initiative with Year 7 students. The interactive session started with an introduction from Simon and then a presentation from PC Beth Curlett and her team from the Cyber Crimes Unit. The presentation covered the dangers of social media and hints and tips for our students to stay safe online.

This launch will be followed up with an E Safety Parents Workshop on Tuesday 28th February 6-7pm in the Learning Hub.

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# Attendance reward



At Kingsthorpe College, we constantly strive to ensure that students benefit from their educational opportunity by attending regularly, and our focus on attendance this week has been on thinking about how we can reward students who maintain good attendance.

We are always keen to reward students in all aspects of their education, and our latest attendance reward has been focused on our “In To Win” Ten Day Challenge. For

those students who achieved 100% attendance in the last two weeks, their names were placed in a draw to win an Amazon Kindle. The lucky winner was Amy in Year 11. Well done!

After half-term, our “In To Win” challenges will continue and we will be implementing some of the ideas which students have shared with us in relation to how they would like to be rewarded. If you have any ideas as to how we can reward our students, we would love to hear from you.

Since the start of this academic year, 674 students have 96% or above attendance with 176 students achieving 100% attendance. Our challenge to all students over the next half term is to achieve an attendance figure of at least 96% for the 6 weeks of Term 4. We are looking forward already to rewarding those who achieve this!

Thank you for your continued support around school attendance which is making a significant difference.

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# Post 16

## **2fast2soon** – students in year 12 learn about Road safety

Students from year 12 had a visit from the company 2fast2soon, who delivered a lesson on driving safely and avoiding the pressures of drink-driving and driving while texting. Young people are disproportionately more likely to be involved or killed in car accidents, and many may not be aware of the ramifications of dangerous driving. Many students are now starting to learn to drive, so the timing of the talk is particularly appropriate.

The presentation was led by two Northamptonshire Police officers who both had first-hand knowledge of car accidents and the consequences if you are caught driving dangerously. Students were asked to identify factors that most commonly lead to serious car accidents, known as the 'fatal four': these included not wearing a seatbelt, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, using a mobile while driving, and speeding.

A brave volunteer (Rashid) was also breathalysed during the discussion on drink driving. The officers also explained the existing driving laws in place in the UK, such as who is responsible for seatbelt wear and new drug testing laws.

Students in year 13 will have workshops later in the week where they will learn more about driving safely.

## **Careers in nursing and health talk**

This week in assembly, Cindy Odell from Northampton University, gave a presentation to Year 12 students on careers in health. She took the opportunity to explain the different routes into a career in the field of health, and spoke about the application process, focusing on both the soft skills needed as well as the academic qualifications. Cindy has offered to give any students interested in a career in health a chance to visit the University of Northampton and speak to current students to gain a

further understanding of what their courses involve.

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# Year 12 – Dance Performance at Corby Cube



**Saturday 25 February 2017**

**7:30pm–9:00pm**

The Core at Corby Cube, George Street, Corby NN17 1QG

<https://www.thecorecorby.com/whats-on/n-dance-2017/>

## **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!

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February - English Trip to see Journey's End - Northampton.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Year 10 & 12  
University of Northampton – Fashion & Leather.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February -Year 11, 12 & 13 –  
Explore Moving Image Trip – MK and  
Watford.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Year 10 & 11 –  
English Trip to 'An Inspector Calls' –  
London.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February - Year 12 – Dance  
Performance at Corby Cove/Cube

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