



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 134



Dear Parents

As we celebrate Remembrance Sunday this weekend, it's been an ideal time to reflect within the College. My own sister and brother-in-law fought in Iraq, and I still remember receiving the emails and letters from her sharing her experiences with us. Whilst it is almost impossible to imagine being in such a situation unless you have experienced it first hand, we have all spent time this week remembering those who sacrificed their lives for us. We have also used it as an opportunity to remember how grateful we should be for the people we do have supporting and caring for us. In this way, Mr Sim's assembly followed on very appropriately from Mr Baines' last week where he talked about the importance of considering other peoples' needs as well as our own. As usual, those of our students who are part of a Cadet Detachment wore

their uniforms to College on Friday and I am sure you will agree from the photo below how fantastic they look. Hearing these students talk about their experiences within the Army Cadets and the Emergency Services Cadets was both humbling and inspiring.



We have had several issues recently where email communication has not been received by the intended recipient at the College - this may be because of the filters on our system which ensure we have a secure network. These filters can result in emails going in to the 'spam' folder. Our IT Network Manager has several solutions which we will work on implementing, but in the meantime can I please ask that if you are not contacted within 24-48 hours following an email to the College, that you call our main switchboard line so that we can help you as promptly as possible in the event that your original correspondence has been held up in our IT system. There have also been some incidences this week which have arisen from communication between students outside of College. In order that we can help make sure all our students are supported effectively, can I please ask that you let your son or daughter's form tutor or Achievement Director know if there are any

issues which are happening outside of school which may impact within the College. Please also encourage your son or daughter to do the same.

Rehearsals have been in full swing this week for our annual Christmas production this year - Hairspray. Hearing snippets of the rehearsals, and plans for the staging and props has been one of the highlights of my week and I know we are in for a real treat at the end of term. We have also started rehearsals for what will be our first Carols by Candlelight Christmas Concert. This will feature a selection of traditional and modern carols, along with readings from students and staff, and will be a real opportunity for the College to celebrate Christmas with our community. Mrs Gant and myself have been very impressed so far - with one of our choirs learning a two-part carol within just a couple of practices! More details of the venue and date will follow shortly.

On a more academic front, I have spent this week holding student experience meetings with our middle leaders and their leadership team links. The purpose of these meetings is to gain an overview of the kind of experience our students are receiving (in the broadest sense) both pastorally and academically. They are an ideal opportunity to talk with our middle leaders about the strategies and support they and their teams are employing to make a difference in the classroom, and to ensure our students are safe and happy. However, they also allow for a focused discussion to challenge thinking further to make sure that we are always striving to do an even better job.

It promises to be another busy week ahead. As always, if you have any feedback, please do get in touch with us.

Mrs Giovanelli
Headteacher



Private Peaceful by Micheal Morpurgo (BL 5.2)



During this week of remembrance our book of the week is the stunning classic novel of love and war Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo. Told in the voice of Private Tommo Peaceful, the story follows twenty-four hours at the front, and captures his memories of his family and his village life. It is full of vivid detail and engrossing atmosphere and leads to a dramatic and moving conclusion. Private Peaceful is a thought provoking and a deeply moving account of the First World War.

Our literacy challenge winner this week is:

Toni Amato 8P

The word of the week is...

“Genuine” *adjective*

Definition: real, authentic, free from pretence.

Try and use this word in a sentence this week. My sentence is,
She was a genuinely nice person, I really liked her.



Our reading hero this week is **Eleanor Burrows (Year 7)**. She has been working exceptionally hard on the Accelerated Reader Programme since she joined us in September. She has read a really diverse range of fiction including books by the authors David Walliams, J.K. Rowling and Michael Morpurgo. She has read a total of 16 books which equates to 1,084,676 words read. She is one of our newest millionaire readers and will be attending the Intofilm festival this week as a reward for all of her hard work. Well done Eleanor keep up the great work.

Irfan Master Author Event

This week we were extremely honoured to welcome the author Irfan Master into college. He is based in Australia but is currently doing a book tour of the UK and we were one of only five schools in the county which he visited. Our Year 8 and 9 students had the opportunity to listen to Irfan talk passionately about what it takes to become a writer and how important it is for students to keep working on their own reading and writing skills. He also talked about his book *Out of Heart* which this week was nominated on the long list for the Carnegie Medal. Our students were also treated to a very informative Q and A session, again students got to ask Irfan their own questions about his life, his work and his accomplishments.



Northampton School Chess Association Congress



On Saturday 4th November Hamish took part in the Northampton School Chess Association Congress, a chess tournament for people of all ages. Hamish was the overall winner in the Under 12 category. Hamish has been playing chess for 3 years and we look forward to seeing how well he does in the County Championships in February.

Young Leader Development Squad



The Young Leader Development Squad is a group of students who help with primary school sports events throughout the year. Everyone in the group is provided with Young Leader training where they learn about the qualities that make a successful leader, as well as developing teamwork and increasing their own confidence.

Every year we take on a new group of Year 7/8 students to add to our existing Young Leaders. This year we were blown away with the number of applications we received. The successful applicants were congratulated last week and have been put through their paces already. On Monday the students spent the morning completing their Young Leader Training. They were informed that we had 100 year 5 children coming in the afternoon for a 2 hour sport festival, and that they were in charge of organising it! The students rose to the challenge and began working in small groups to plan a variety of activity stations for the primary school children to take part in. These included football rounders, capture the flag, endball, races and even a few games they came up with themselves.

The Year 5 sport festival was a huge success! The students were really organised, responsible and enthusiastic. They confidently led their sessions for groups of 20 primary school children at a time. It made me immensely proud to see how well they were doing. The leaders received some amazing feedback from the primary school children and their accompanying staff, who all had a brilliant time.

A huge well done to the Young Leaders. You are all brilliant additions to the Young Leader Development Squad.



Christmas Fair

Our annual Christmas Fair will be taking place on Saturday 2nd December, 12-3pm.

There will be lots of stalls with a huge range of goods, creating an exciting and diverse Christmas experience. It will be the perfect place to find unique Christmas gifts, homemade decorations and delicious food treats. The activities and performances will mean there is also plenty to entertain the kids.

Attractions include:

- 50 Gift/Craft Stalls
- Outdoor Animal Zone - with a variety of animals including a Shetland Pony, Donkey, sheep, chicks, rabbits, etc.
- Food & Refreshments
- Activity Zone - Fete Games, Kids Activities & Face Painting
- Performance Arena - Live dance & musical performances

FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING – ALL WELCOME!



Key Contacts

Year7team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Butlin, Mrs Read & Ms Taylor

Year8team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Hill, Mrs VanGeijlswijk & Mr Baines

Year9team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Smith, Mr Baron & Mr Wade

Year10team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mrs Watts, Mrs Patel & Mr Hancock

Year11team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Miss Old, Mr Heffernan & Mr Hartnett

sixthformteam@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Pomerantz, Ms Wainwright, Mr Campbell & Mr Sim

attendance@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mrs Williams & Mr Hancock

English

Learning Director: Mrs Kinsella –
laura.kinsella@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mr Baines –
ben.baines@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Maths

Learning Director: Miss Bailey –
louise.bailey@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mrs Gant
– rhiannon.gant@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Science

Learning Director: Mr Cox –
joseph.cox@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mr Hartnett
– james.hartnett@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Humanities

Learning Director: Mrs Paice –
gail.paice@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mr Sim –
daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Modern Foreign Languages

Leadership Team Link: Ms Taylor –
alison.taylor@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

ICT and Business

Learning Director: Mr Anawka –
eric.anawka@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mr Wade –
scott.wade@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Vocational

Learning Director: Mr Ingram –
david.ingram@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: –

daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Visual Arts and Technology

Learning Director: Mr Jones –

nigel.jones@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mr Wade –

scott.wade@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

PE and Performing Arts

Learning Director: Ms Newell –

victoria.newell@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mr Hancock

– paul.hancock@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Special Educational Needs

Learning Director: Mr O’Leary –

david.o’leary@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mrs Gant

– rhiannon.gant@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

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