



# Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

*Edition 96*



## Dear Parents

It's been a week of reflection here at the College for many reasons. We have been working hard on making sure our priorities for the College this year will ensure we continue to raise the bar and narrow the gap for all of our young people, we have been reflecting with students about the impact that absence can have on learning, and we have been reflecting on our need to accept responsibility for all that we do whilst representing Kingsthorpe College.

Mrs Knight, a member of our Extended Leadership Team, used assemblies this week to share with students some stark figures in relation

to the impact that even one day's absence can have.

<b>Percentage Attendance</b>	<b>Number Of Weeks Missed</b>	<b>Number Of Days Missed</b>	<b>Number Of Lessons Missed</b>
96	2	10	49
90	4	19	95
85	6	28.5	143
80	8	38	190

Mrs Knight explained the impact that this absence can have on our students' understanding and learning – with so much content to cover in the new curriculum, even missing just one lesson can open up a gap which our students then have to work even harder to close. This is why the College does not authorise requests for holiday during term-time, and cannot authorise requests for time off for visiting family abroad. We also emphasised to students the importance of resilience and determination to come into College even if they are feeling a little under the weather. We would much rather provide them with tissues and a bit of TLC if they have colds, then see them stay at home missing out on vital learning. Even if they are not at their best, students will still stop themselves falling behind by being present to hear the main learning points of their lessons. This half-term, we will be working hard with those students and their families where attendance falls below our expectation of 96%, to see what we can do to support and help students catch up on what they have missed.

I was really proud on Friday to spend tutor time with our army cadets who were attending College in their cadet uniforms. All of our cadets spoke passionately about what life was like in cadets, and the sense of responsibility they demonstrated for both their own actions, those of their classmates, the wider College, and their cadet detachments was inspiring. I am sure you will agree with me, when you see their photo later in the newsletter, about how smart they look!

As you know, we always welcome feedback and we were delighted this week to receive some exceptional feedback from Michaela Morgan who visited us last week to spend some time with our students. Ms Morgan wrote to me to tell me how impressed she was with our students, staff, and facilities at KC, writing, "I felt welcomed and informed and positive about the school from the first moment. The students were polite,

interested, well behaved - and had excellent, thoughtful questions. They enjoyed the sessions, engaged with them and were a delight to work with.” Ms Morgan’s full feedback can be seen later in the newsletter.

In order to continue with providing opportunities to all members of the school community to talk with us, our first SLT drop-in session will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Further details will follow closer to the date but this drop-in will provide you with the opportunity to meet with members of the senior team and share any feedback, ask any questions, or raise any concerns you may have – no appointment will be necessary.

We are looking forward to another busy week next week at College as we make sure we make the most of every moment in terms of both challenging and supporting our young people.

**Mrs Giovanelli**  
Acting Principal

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## Stars of the week

A number of our students are members of the Army Cadets and asked if they could wear their uniform in honour of Remembrance Day. We are very proud of them and we feel they all deserve to be our stars of the week!

**Jack Myers – Year 9 P1**

**Mikey Bunning – Year 9 P7**

**Louis Obasogie – Year 9 P6**

**Charlie Millar – Year 9 P5**

**Paige Small – Year 9 Gr3**

**Grace Nightingale – Year 8 Gr1**

**Ellie-Rose James - Year 8 B6**

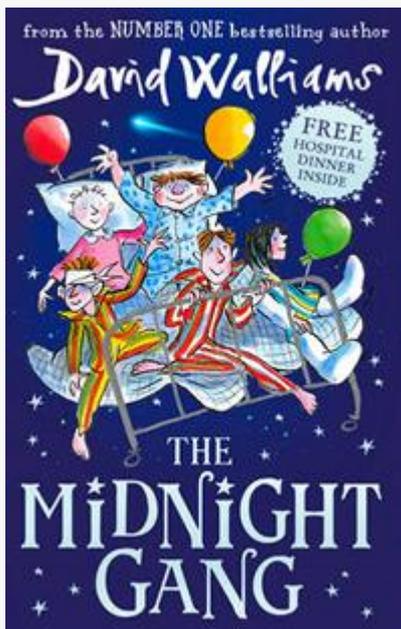
**Fionn McKay – Year 8 B11**



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## Book of the Week

### **The Midnight Gang by David Walliams**



This is the latest book from one of the College's most popular writers, David Walliams. He is back with another heart-warming, jaw-achingly funny read!

Welcome to the Midnight Gang! Midnight is the time when all children are fast asleep, except of course for... the Midnight Gang. That is when their adventures are just beginning...

When Tom gets hit on the head by a cricket ball, he finds himself in hospital, and is greeted by a terrifying-looking porter. Things go from bad to worse when he meets the wicked matron in charge of the children's ward... But Tom is about to

embark on the most thrilling journey of a lifetime!

The Midnight Gang tells an extraordinarily heart-warming and, of course, funny story of five children on a hospital ward – and on a quest for adventure! It is a story of friendship and magic – and of making dreams come true. Readers are set to be utterly spellbound by this heartfelt story. The book is also filled with illustrations by the renowned children’s illustrator Tony Ross.

Our book of the week is a must read for all fans of comedy, adventure and of David Walliams.

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## The word of the week is...

“Reminisce”

**Definition:** To go over in one’s memory.

*Try and use this word in a sentence this week. My sentence is:  
"We loved to reminisce about our holidays."*

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## The literacy challenge winner this week is...

Raise Anea P1

Please come to the library to collect your prize.

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## Reading Hero of the Week – Toni Amato (Year 7)

This week our reading hero is Toni Amato. Toni became our seventh reader to read a million words on the Accelerated Reader programme and to join our 'Millionaires Club'. This term she has worked extremely hard and has already passed 18 books quizzes, which equates to 1,075,901 words read. Toni is really enthusiastic about the books that she has been reading and really challenges herself; she is currently reading the Book Thief by Markus Zusak. She regularly comes into the library in her own time to take quizzes and to choose books. Congratulations Toni, keep up the good work and don't forget to collect your reading hero prize.

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## BookTrust visit Kingsthorpe College Library



This week the BookTrust, who are the UK's leading reading charity, visited Kingsthorpe College to join the school library's launch of the

reading for pleasure programme: Bookbuzz. This is a programme where every year 7 student will choose and keep their own free book. All of our year 7 students have now made their choices and have received their books.

Anna Dever, Schools Project Manager from the BookTrust commented that, “We have been working closely with Kingsthorpe College’s school library to get feedback from staff and students to enable us to build and grow reading programmes that encourage more children to read for pleasure. Members of the school and the research team at BookTrust led a focus group of year 7 students to find out more about reading motivation and book selection. A huge thank you to your school librarians for their support. It was so helpful to get feedback from your students and to hear their perspectives on reading, motivation and choice. This input and feedback is incredibly valuable for our programme development.”

I would like to give a special mention to our team of year 7 students who were outstanding reading ambassadors for the college. They were extremely animated and articulate with their opinions about reading and came up with some amazing and inspiring ideas for future year 7 students. Well done to Harry Hutchinson-Owen, Justine Bush, Benji Dery, Mayson Hawes, Shakira Patel and Bianca Cerezo who made up our student panel.

Over the coming weeks over 200,000 children across the country will be receiving their Bookbuzz books and we were really privileged to have been asked to be apart of the BookTrust’s continuing work to develop a love of reading for pleasure for young people across the UK.

For more information about the BookBuzz scheme we would encourage families and students to visit the website [www.bookbuzz.org.uk/](http://www.bookbuzz.org.uk/). This website is filled with useful hints and tips to inspire reading at home. It also helps to give students lots of book recommendations; it features author blogs and discussions, along with some amazing competitions and prizes to be won.

**Mrs Broadbent**

## Library Manager

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We are really excited to announce that we have secured tickets for some of our year 7 and 8 students to attend this year's Into Film Festival. This festival is supported by the British Film Institute and the National Schools Partnership. It is the world's largest free film and education event for young people and its aim is to inspire the next generation of film makers. We will be taking selected students to the Vue Cinema in Northampton on the 16<sup>th</sup> November to watch one of this year's chosen films. It has also just been announced that every single student who attends this event will be given a free cinema ticket to use at their leisure to watch any film of their choice. Watch this space for more information.

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# “My impressions of your school”

Dear Headteacher and Staff of Kingsthorpe College,



On 1st November I spent a day as a visiting author at your school and I thought you might like to hear my impressions of your school, students, staff and resources.

For background information I will tell you that I visit hundreds of schools of differing sorts all around the UK so I have a great deal of experience in a wide range of schools.

The visit and day was arranged by Mrs Julie Broadbent and her team in the library. The day of workshops and talks was really excellently organised. I sent a power point in advance and it was loaded and ready to run when I arrived. A much appreciated lapel mike was provided. The room was prepared - with some great displays. The room was set out and the students were informed, interested and well behaved. They had been well prepared for the event and were expecting me. In some schools I start from ground zero despite having provided background information before I arrive.

From the moment I arrived the day went well. Mrs Broadbent was waiting for me in the Reception area. I felt welcomed and informed and positive about the school from the first moment.

The students were polite, interested, well behaved - and had excellent, thoughtful questions. They enjoyed the sessions, engaged with them and were a delight to work with. They showed great enthusiasm and I am sure this day will have made a difference to them in terms of their willingness to read and explore new topics. I was very impressed by the Kingsthorpe College Library and thoroughly enjoyed my experience of Kingsthorpe

College. The staff were enthusiastic as were the students and I found everyone gained energy, motivation, information and encouragement from the day. You should all be very proud!

**Best wishes**

**Michaela Morgan**

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## Post 16 update

It is a busy time for Post 16 students at the moment, with both year 12 and 13 students preparing for their Pre Public Exams at the start of December. Some students who have not yet gained a C grade in maths sat their retake exam last week, whilst drama students in year 13 are getting ready for their performance which counts towards their final A-level grade. Many students have already sent off their UCAS applications for university, and I'm delighted to say that many (the vast majority in fact!) have had offers back from many of the universities they applied to. We have also had students receive unconditional offers from some of the very top universities in the country, meaning the universities are so impressed with their performance so far and their personal statements (not to mention the references that their tutors wrote) that they have offered them a place regardless of the A-level grades they achieve!

Looking ahead, the 22<sup>nd</sup> November sees Post 16 transition day take place. This is a day when year 11 students become Sixth Formers for the day and take Level 3 (A-level and BTEC) courses. Open evening then starts at 6pm with short talks in the main hall before parents and students have a chance to visit subject stands from all areas and also have the chance to discuss with subject staff what courses might be right for them. We will also have a range of stands focused on apprenticeships and careers – so even if Kingsthorpe College Post 16 isn't necessarily right for all students, the evening will still be worth coming along to.

If parents of year 11 students have any questions about the day or evening please don't hesitate to get in touch with me  
- [paul.pomerantz@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:paul.pomerantz@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

# Young Leader Development Squad

Just before half term, applications opened to year 7/8 students to apply to be on the 'Young Leader Development Squad'. We were blown away with the response we got from students wanting to join, with over 50 students completing application forms. The standard was extremely high which made it particularly difficult to pick just 20 successful students. It is great to know we have students that are so passionate about taking on leadership roles at such a young age.

The successful students will undergo leadership training and will help run a variety of sporting events for local primary school children. They will also have the opportunity to work with Sky Sports 'Living For Sport' Athlete Mentor, Alistair Patrick-Heselton, who is a very inspiring Paralympic Footballer.

A huge congratulations to the students listed below who will join our 'Young Leader Development Squad'. For those students that weren't successful on this occasion, please keep an eye out as there will be lots of other opportunities for you to get involved in leadership later on in the year.

- Hannah Byrne – P7
- Ellie Cross – Gr7
- Mirran Fletcher – B10
- Alicia Gadek – G09
- Ellis Gaw – P11
- Hannah Gibbins – P9
- Caleb Hall – B5
- Rhys Harrison – G03
- Bill Hitchcock – P11
- Stan Hitchcock – Gr5

- Grace Ingram – B10
- Ellie-Rose James – B6
- Thomas Liptrott – B8
- Joseph Mattock – Gr2
- Grace Nightingale – Gr1
- Kacey Parish – Gr9
- Thomas Robinson – B2
- Mckenzie Sparke – Gr7
- Ben Toseland – P12
- Blake Yexley – Gr1

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## Year 5/6 Gymnastics Competition



Just before half term, a group of year 11 and 6<sup>th</sup> form students completed an evening training session that focussed on gymnastics judging. The training was run by British Gymnastics Judges who taught our students how to judge at school competitions. On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, the students put their training into action and took on the role of the judges at a year 5/6 gymnastics competition. The competition was held at Kingsthorpe College and we had 11 local primary schools attend.

The primary school pupils competed against each other in a number of different gymnastic disciplines. Our students did a fantastic job judging and acted responsibly and professionally throughout. Judging is by no means easy but they all did brilliantly!

The event was a huge success and all the children had a great time. In the

next few months we will be hosting a couple more primary school gymnastics competitions which I am sure will be just as successful. Well done to everyone involved.

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## Christmas Fair



The Kingsthorpe College Christmas Fair is back again this year! It will be taking place on **Saturday 3 December, 12 to 3pm**. We already have 60 stalls confirmed selling 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.

In addition to stalls, there will also be a variety of festive performances to entertain the crowds including musicians, dancers and a choir. The face painting and games will mean there will be plenty of things to entertain the kids!

The Christmas Fair is completely free to enter and everyone is welcome. We hope you will be able to join us for this fantastic event.

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# Indecent exposure incident in Bradlaugh Fields

We have had reports that a man indecently exposed himself to a woman in Bradlaugh Fields on Tuesday, 8 November. The man is described as having a young looking face, probably in his early twenties, and shoulder length, light brown, curly hair. He was wearing a short sleeved white shirt and thin gilet. He had a small brown, short haired dog with him.

Now that the nights are drawing in, please try and ensure you keep to well-lit areas wherever possible. If you are in or around the University and you need the support of Security, please call: 01604 892269 (Park) or 01604 893369 (Avenue).

Witnesses or anyone with information regarding this incident can contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## **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!

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November

Year 10 Art trip to the National Portrait Gallery  
London

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November

Library Literacy Reward Film Festival Trip

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November

Year 12 & 13 STEM trip to the National Space  
Centre

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Chemistry Competition at Bedford School

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Year 11 Post 16 Taster Day – Photography  
Harleston Firs

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

Year 10 & 12 Photography Trip to Oxford Museum

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

Year 11 Science in Action GSCE – Warwick  
University

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

Art Trip to Compton Verney

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

Year 12 & 13 Travel & Tourism Trip to Cadbury  
World

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

Year 9 & 10 Technology trip to the Clothes Show  
Birmingham

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