



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 116



Dear Parents

It seems that exam season is now well and truly upon us. Controlled assessments have been sent off, speaking and listening examinations for our students who are studying languages are almost finished, and the first GCSE exams get under way next week. With my eldest daughter sitting her Key Stage 2 SATS exams next week, I am acutely aware of the pressures that both students and parents face at this time. This article published today ([How can parents help students survive the exam season? | Teacher Network | The Guardian](#)) is well worth a read and outlines some practical strategies and approaches that we, as parents, can take.

Earlier this week, staff at the College got together to consider the

importance of giving students feedback in terms of helping students move their learning on. Much research and thinking has been done in recent years in terms of looking at the types of feedback and the frequency of feedback that teachers give, as well as looking at the response to feedback expected from students. Here at Kingsthorpe College, we are keen that feedback students are given not only helps them move their thinking forward, but that it also provides teachers with meaningful information to then adapt their teaching further. We are currently redesigning our feedback policy so that it does both these things. Whilst we have some common non-negotiables across the College, departments have also been working hard to personalise this to their own subject areas as we have a very diverse range of curriculum areas. As part of this, we are going to be launching our “What does my work say about me?” campaign across the College in Term 6. It’s really important to us that our students take pride in their work as we feel this is an important indication of their attitudes towards themselves, their learning, and indeed the College. Further information about both the feedback policy and “What does my work say about me?” will be sent home before the end of half-term by Mr Baines.

The supercurricula sessions which I have written about previously, have continued to be well attended and thought-provoking for our students. As a reminder, these sessions are aimed at stretching the thinking of our students, and we have had a number of external speakers, as well as our own staff, deliver subject specific sessions to our students at the College. This week, we were treated to Mrs Green telling us about life as an astronaut! We are really lucky to have Mrs Green as a member of our staff in the science department, as she also undertakes a range of exciting work outside of the College, including work with the National Space Centre! Mrs Green’s session gave students an insight into the sort of problems that astronauts face, and students undertook a variety of practical experiments to look at how astronauts deal with intense UV radiation, excretion, and extreme temperatures. Many thanks to Mrs Green, and also to Miss Maund who has overseen the entire programme of sessions.

This week we will be reminding students about the very high expectations we have in relation to College life. There has been much in the press this weekend, following an interview by a Headteacher in the South East,

about the relationship between schools and parents. The partnership between College and parents is absolutely crucial in making sure our high expectations enable all students to learn and exceed their potential. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our desire for the very best communication between the College and home, and our openness and determination to engage with everyone within KC's community. It is always our intention that decisions taken in relation to a student's conduct are fair, appropriate, and applied consistently. As Headteacher, my duty is to make sure that every young person and all of our staff members are able to learn and teach to the very best of their ability. Decisions in relation to conduct are always made with both the individual student in mind, but also the needs of the whole community. I would ask that you trust us with the decisions that we make, and trust that these have been taken to ensure the very best for all our students.

I look forward to updating you again next week.

Mrs Giovanelli

Headteacher



**There May Be a Castle by
Piers Torday (BL:5.8)**



Eleven-year-old Mouse is travelling to see his grandparents on Christmas Eve with his mother and two sisters. But it's snowing, and visibility is bad, the car goes off the road, and crashes. Mouse is thrown from the car. When he wakes, he's not in his world any more. He meets a sheep named Bar and a sarcastic horse named Nonky. So begins a quest to find a castle in a world of wonder - a world of monsters, minstrels, dangerous knights and mysterious wizards; a world of terrifying danger but also more excitement than Mouse has ever known.

But why are they looking for a castle? As the cold grows, we realise it might just have something to do with the family he's left behind; and that Mouse's quest is more important than ever. This is a novel about love and death. It's about the power of stories to change the way we view the world - and it's about the power of a child to change their own world.

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

Bridget Asare GR1

The word of the week is...

“Adapt”

Definition: To change or modify. Try and use this word in a sentence this week.

My sentence is: "*She adapted well to her new surroundings*".



Our reading hero this week is Zak Brown (year 7). We are really proud of Zak, and so far this year he has read and quizzed on a total of 61 books. This equates to 498,305 words read. Zak regularly reads and takes quizzes in his own time. He has worked hard on the programme this year and has read a huge array of books. He has read across different genres and has enjoyed reading both fiction and nonfiction books. He has also enjoyed reading books by David Walliams. Well done Zak, keep up the great work.



As a College each year we participate in the Bookbuzz scheme. This scheme is aimed at our new students who join us in Year 7 in September. It is a nationwide scheme available to all secondary schools in the country and is supported by the UK's largest children's reading charity, the BookTrust in conjunction with Arts Council England. The aim of the scheme is to give each child their own reading book to keep. It is designed to encourage reading for pleasure and to engage all students regardless of their ability. Furthermore, it allows students to develop as independent readers and is designed to encourage their reading journey as they start secondary school.

The Booktrust make a film each year to accompany the scheme and this film is shown to all participating secondary schools. This year we are really excited to announce that we have been chosen as the only school in the country to make this year's Bookbuzz film.

We are currently looking for students in years 7 and 8 who love reading and who would like to help us make this film. For our students' it is an amazing opportunity to work with a professional film crew and to be involved in the whole process of film making. You have to be able to commit to reading at least three of the titles below before Thursday 15th June and that you will be happy to be interviewed for the film on Tuesday 20th June.

If you are interested in being involved please contact Mrs Broadbent, Library Manager for further details.



As you will know from previous updates, we have unfortunately had a number of bikes stolen from the bike racks located outside the college.

We are looking to install a new bike rack in a more secure area of the College site but, in the meantime, if students would like to secure their bikes to the inside of the fence near to the side gate they are welcome to

do so. Please ensure that bikes are fully secured with a quality lock.

We would like to remind all parents and students that all personal possessions, including bikes, are brought onto the college site at your own risk and that they should be covered by your own household insurance.

We have contacted the Community Safety Partnership run by Northamptonshire Police who are running a scheme called 'Operation Push'. This scheme sees Police Support Community Officers security marking bikes as well as giving information on cycle security and how to secure your bike safely. They also give out property marking kits. We are hoping that they will be able to hold a bike security marking session at Kingsthorpe College in the very near future. More details of this to follow shortly.

Julie Ricketts
Director of Operations

Project Take Flight



My name is Corey and I am currently in my 6th year here at Kingsthorpe College, where I am studying Physics, English Literature and Psychology. Since joining in year 7, I have gained a further passion for English and science, a passion that resulted in me picking both English Literature and Physics as two of my A-Levels, and has consequently sparked my interest in and desire to be a part of Project 'Take Flight'. I have also become an English Literature ambassador.

We are still in the process of fundraising for our proposed trip to Chicago, after our success at the quiz evening (an event we hope to run again and are beginning to organise). We held a 'tuck shop' in the MFL corridor on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th of May in order to help aid our fundraising, an event that proved very successful. We are still accepting deposits for our

Dinner Dance at Sedgebrook hall on the 30th June at 7pm but from next week will only be accepting full payment of £35 until June 2nd. A silent auction will also be held at the dinner dance where a variety of items will be up for grabs to the highest bidder. On top of the dinner dance, we have also planned events to sell cakes at a local dance school on the 18th and 20th May. We will also be going to a flyball competition where we will have a stall selling a variety of snacks.

Thank you for your continued support to Project 'Take Flight' and we hope to see you at our next event.

Corey Churchman

Project 'Take Flight'

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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!

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