



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 131



Dear Parents

It's been another busy week here at the College and whilst I won't be able to cover everything in this short message, I will do my best to pick out the highlights!

The week started with the annual Leading Edge Conference. Kingsthorpe College is one of a select number of high performing schools nationally who belong to this network, and the theme of the conference this year was leadership. It was a great opportunity to hear from other successful schools, and also to share our practice here at KC. The highlight of the day for me was a keynote speech by Andy Roe (London Fire Brigade Deputy Assistant Commissioner) who gave an inspirational and humbling talk on the importance of teamwork and the leadership of high

performance teams. Teamwork is incredibly important to us at the College and it was nice to hear that much of what Andy talked about, we do already. However, it was an opportunity to reflect on how we can develop further and I am looking forward to using some of his thinking within the College this year.

Following our Open Evening the previous week, we hosted another very successful Open Morning on Wednesday with over 100 people joining us to see our College in action on a normal school day. We were delighted that so many parents and prospective students could join us, and we were so pleased with the positive feedback we received. This feedback followed some we received from Gideons International who sent us a letter after their visit to our Year 7 assembly the previous week to say, "The order, courtesy and respect we experienced at your school today is amongst the best."

On Saturday, we welcomed all those Year 6 students who had applied to KC under our aptitude admissions criteria. Here at KC, we are passionate about the visual and performing arts as we absolutely believe in the impact that these disciplines can have on our students' confidence, creativity, and achievement. 10% of our students, therefore, are offered a place if they demonstrate an aptitude in one of the following areas - music, drama, dance, and the visual arts. We had a huge number of students join us on Saturday and I was so impressed by the talent and commitment that they all demonstrated.

At the end of the week, we welcomed 30 colleagues from Egypt. These colleagues were from a number of university education departments in Egypt, and were working in partnership with the University of Northampton. They had specifically asked to visit us to hear about our provision for continuing professional development for our staff, and the ways in which we encouraged and promoted collaborative learning. Our Deputy Headteachers, Mr Ben Baines and Mrs Rhiannon Gant, hosted the visits and colleagues had the opportunity to tour the school, meet our young people, and listen to how we develop the expertise of our teachers through both internal mechanisms, and the very many networks we have beyond the College through our involvement in town-wide and national partnerships. The visit has also led to some exciting opportunities to work further with our colleagues from the University of Northampton

who were interested and impressed with the work we were undertaking. In particular, we are looking at how we can work together to provide further bespoke learning opportunities for our staff which could result in formal accreditation. This is really important to us as we very much see our staff as learners just as much as our students.

For those of you who have sons or daughters who choose to travel to College by bicycle, please ensure that you have seen the new bicycle procedure and expectations which were sent home this week. The expectations in relation to this will come into effect following the half-term break and are designed to keep everyone safe when travelling both to and from College.

I look forward to updating you all again next week.

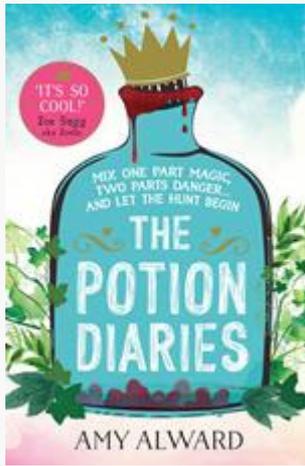
Mrs Giovanelli

Headteacher



The Potion Diaries by Amy Alward (BL 5.4)

When the Princess of Nova accidentally poisons herself with a love potion



meant for her crush, she falls crown-over-heels in love with her own reflection. Oops. A nationwide hunt is called to find the cure, with competitors travelling the world for the rarest ingredients, deep in magical forests and frozen tundras, facing death at every turn. Enter Samantha Kemi - an ordinary girl with an extraordinary talent. Sam's family were once the most respected alchemists in the kingdom, but they've fallen on hard times, and winning the hunt would save their reputation.

But can Sam really compete with the dazzling powers of the ZoroAster megapharma company? Just how close is Sam willing to get to Zain Aster, her dashing former classmate and enemy, in the meantime? And just to add to the pressure, this quest is all over social media. And the world news. No big deal, then.

If you love magical adventure stories with lots of twists and turns then why not try this book.

Our literacy challenge winner this week is:

Kae Crisp & Isobel Norris 7R

The word of the week is...

“Jeopardy” *noun*

Definition: Risk, peril, danger

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

Her results would be in jeopardy if she didn't start revising.



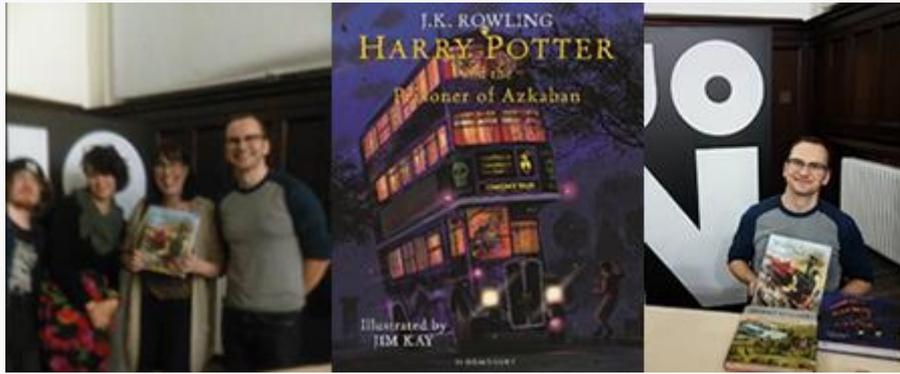
Again it has been extremely difficult to pick a reading hero this week as our students are all working really hard on the programme. However, this week the award goes to Kacey Beckett year 7. She has been doing lots of reading and quizzing in her own time and will often come to the library after school to take quizzes and read books. She has read a real diverse mix of books which include comedy stories and historical fiction. Kacey has read an amazing twenty-two books since joining us in September and has read an astonishing 922,604 words. What a fantastic achievement. Keep on reading, we are sure it won't be long until you are our next word millionaire.

This week we would also like to say a massive well done and congratulations to Scott McCluskey, Keshini Ramesh and Mia Duncan on becoming the College's first word millionaires of the year. Keep up the great work.

Thank you

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Anne White of Sherwood Avenue, Kingsthorpe for contacting the school and donating a complete set of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. They are a welcome addition to our school library and we are sure that they will be well used by all of our students.





This week we were extremely privileged to have been invited to the University of Northampton by Bloomsbury publishers to attend a special presentation by the award-winning illustrator Jim Kay. Bloomsbury have just released Jim's third instalment of the stunning illustrated version of Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.

During the evening our sixth form students were treated to a fascinating, insightful and inspirational presentation on how Jim became an illustrator and how he was asked by J.K. Rowling and Bloomsbury to create a new series of Harry Potter books. He conveyed what a daunting and mammoth task this was and shared with us that the first book he illustrated, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, took over two and a half years to complete.

It was a very special evening as he shared with us how he set about illustrating such an iconic series of books. He also shared with us how he used different techniques to create his illustrations and how every picture he created is littered with symbolism and hidden meanings that only the most ardent of Harry Potter fans will pick up on.

After Jim's talk and a very interesting Q and A session our students were free to get books signed and have photos taken. Jim was very giving of his time and continued throughout the evening to share with us his amazing stories. It was a truly fantastic experience shared by all.

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 15th November to watch one of this year's chosen films. Watch this space for more information.

Post 16

Post 16 celebrate World Mental Health Day with new meditation programme

The Post 16 team celebrated World Mental Health day in Kingsthorpe College by launching a new programme of meditation and a new display aimed at getting students to talk to each other about their feelings. The display had various ideas about how students can look after themselves (as well as each other), and had postcards they could take away with additional information on. The meditation session was run by Miss Wainwright, who will now continue to run this on a weekly basis. These will be full hour-long sessions to really ensure students have a chance to unwind and de-stress. Some of the other benefits of meditation are:

- Improving concentration
- Improves health by improving breathing and the immune system
- Increasing happiness
- Increases happiness
- Improves productivity

The Post 16 team are launching several other sessions as part of an expanded extra-curricular programme to ensure students remain both mentally and physically healthy – including sports and cookery sessions.

Home to school transport

Eligibility

Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring their child gets to and from school. However, in certain circumstances your child may qualify for free transport to school.

In most cases eligible children will be provided with a bus pass for home to school transport. In some cases other transport methods (public bus, taxi) may be provided.

Does my child qualify for free home to school transport?

Your child may be able to get free transport to school if:

- They are not in walking distance of their nearest suitable or linked school*
- You are on a low income
- Your child has a special educational need or disability
- You have moved house
- They are aged 16-24, have a disability and you are on low income

You can check your child's eligibility using this

link: <http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/school-transport/Pages/home-transport-eligibility.aspx>

If you have checked your child's eligibility for school transport please complete one of the following forms to apply using this link:

<http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/school-transport/Pages/apply-school-bus-pass.aspx>

Please ensure you have read the accompanying school transport policy

before applying, which is also available via the above link.

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