

Welcome to the Kingsthorpe College newsletter.



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 110



Dear Parents

As the sun finally starts to make an appearance, it's been another week of hard work, determination and a constant drive to do our very best here at the College.

Monday was a very busy start to the week as we welcomed both the Chief Executive Officer, and the School Improvement Director of The Collaborative Academies Trust to KC for our termly Team Around The

School Meeting. Along with myself and members of the Senior Leadership Team, we were also joined by our Chair of Governors and one of our Vice Chairs of Governors to reflect on our progress to date so far this year. This meeting is an excellent opportunity for all involved in the leadership of the College to celebrate our very many successes this year, but also to think about the work we still have to do and how we can all contribute to ensuring that these next steps happen. This meeting was followed by several others, culminating in a Local Governing Body Meeting during the early evening where our Governing Body offered us their usual high levels of both support and challenge. All in all, it was quite some way to spend my birthday!

On Wednesday, members of the Senior Leadership Team met with all Year 9 students to discuss GCSE option choices following on from the Parents' Evening on Thursday 2nd March. It was great to see how well informed our students are when it comes to discussing future career plans, and how keen they were to discuss higher education option pathways in particular. Many of our students had also considered the local job market and the shortage areas within Northamptonshire itself. This commitment to thoughtful consideration of what is a very exciting, yet daunting, process is a real mark of the attitudes to learning which so very many of our young people demonstrate on a daily basis.

It was wonderful to also see so many students and parents at the second Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday. This was the final parents' evening of the year for our Year 11 students and the feedback from the evening was very positive. Subject teachers discussed the second round of mock exam results and gave specific individualised feedback that will be crucial over the final few weeks before students sit their formal exams.

Anyone who attended the dance showcase this week will undoubtedly agree that it was truly spectacular. KC students, representing all different year groups, performed a variety of pieces covering a mix of styles. The standard was incredibly high and it was a real pleasure to see our students excelling in the creative part of the curriculum. I would like

to congratulate all students involved in the performance as they were a real credit to the College. I would also like to give thanks to all the staff involved in organising the show - particular gratitude and praise goes to Miss Heath and Mrs Townsend for their time, effort and dedication.

Finally, we will be talking to all students in assemblies next week about the responsible use of mobile phones during the school day, and I know we can rely on your support in helping us ensure that these do not become a distraction to learning within the College.

As always, many thanks for your continued support and feedback.

Mrs Giovanelli

Headteacher

Appointment of Parent Governor

I am very pleased to confirm that Siobhan Cotter has been appointed to the Kingsthorpe College Local Governing Board as our third parent governor joining Justin Brown and Katie Johns. Siobhan Cotter has two sons attending Kingsthorpe College. Her appointment brings the Governing Body up to full strength. The Ofsted inspection report of May 2015 stated 'The college receives outstanding support and challenge from the governing body'. We are most grateful to all Governors for the time they so generously give to the College.

Chris Hilliard

Chair of Governors

Stars of the week

Green House

Michal Year 11 Gr5

Michal has made a dramatic improvement in GCSE PE recently. This massive turnaround is coming at the right time with his exams just around the corner. Michal performed really well in his recent mock exam which has led to a huge change in attitude and application in lessons. Michal is producing some excellent work in his latest unit and will no longer settle for half-hearted marks. He has been working a lot at home to further develop his work and it is really paying off. We're hoping that Michal will adopt the same approach in other lessons to give himself the best chance of success. Well done Michal, keep up the hard work!

Gold House

Chloe Year 12 Go4

Chloe has been volunteering within Gold House this week to give out messages to students through tutor times, and collect stamp and commendation counts so that students receive their rewards. Chloe is also redesigning the Gold House notice boards which is a great help to Mr Hancock and Mr Baron. Thank you for all of your help Chloe it is much appreciated.

Blue House

Costelino Year 8 B9

The EAL (English as an Additional Language) team have nominated Costelino for working hard and improving his attendance. He has found school life quite challenging which has affected his attendance, but he is now realising that if he attends 100% then school life gets a little bit easier. He has a very good attitude and is always keen to help out the EAL team with our new EAL students.

Well done Costelino!

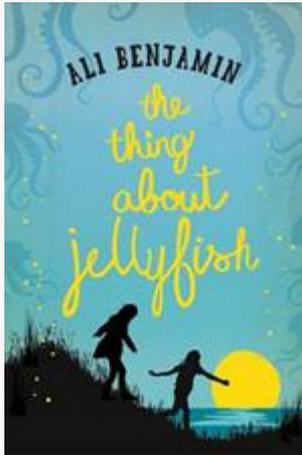
Red House

Alfie Year 7 R7

Alfie has come a long way in the past few months and has shown that he is growing in confidence and is beginning to find his feet again. This has not been easy for him and whilst Alfie still knows there are even more improvements that he can make, we have seen a huge improvement in his attendance and wellbeing. Alfie - you are doing brilliantly and we are very proud of you. Keep smiling!



The Thing About Jellyfish
by Ali Benjamin (BL 5.0)

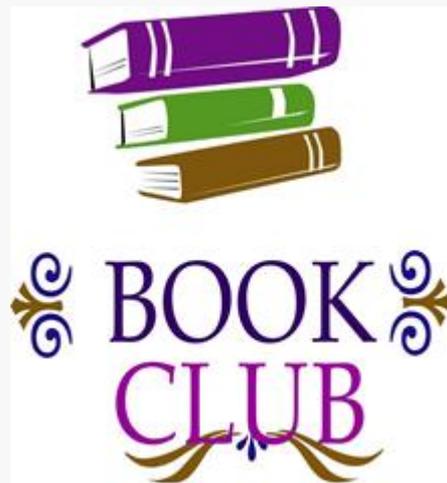


Synopsis

Suzy is 12 when her best friend, Franny, drowns one summer at the beach. It takes two days for the news to reach Suzy, and it's not something that she can accept: Franny has always been a strong swimmer, from the day they met at swimming lessons when they were just 5. How can someone all of a sudden, just no longer be there? Suzy realises that they must have got it wrong: Franny didn't just drown - she was stung by a poisonous jellyfish. This makes a lot more sense to Suzy's logical mind than a random drowning - cause: a jellyfish sting; effect: death. Suzy's journey to acceptance is quiet - she resolves to either say something important, or say nothing at all. This book is bursting with bittersweet humour, heart-breaking honesty, big ideas and small details.

This is an astonishing debut novel about a twelve year old girl coping with the death of her best friend. This is perfect for fans of the books *Wonder*, *Counting by 7s* and *My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece*.

KC Book Group meets every Wednesday lunchtime in the library. We meet and discuss what students have recently been reading and more importantly what they love to read for pleasure. For our Year 7 and 8 students they are currently preparing to enter the County Literature Quiz at Sir Christopher Hatton School in June. This involves reading a selection of 50 books of which they quiz on and compete against other schools to become the best book group in the



county.

However, this week Mrs Broadbent set the group a special challenge. This year she has been chosen as one of the librarians on this year's selection panel for the Book Trust's Secondary School library Pack. This means that she must read a selection of books that will eventually be shortlisted and be given away free to every secondary school library in the country. As a special treat our students had the chance to take the books home and to have a sneak preview of some of the books that have been put on the longlist for this year's pack. This year the three categories that they are looking for are: books that will become future classics, non-fiction books and books for reluctant readers. Our students' input into this process is invaluable as all of the books are aimed at readers aged 11 - 14 years old. The books that eventually make it to the shortlist will be available in schools across the country in the new academic year.

Here is a small selection of some of the books that appear on this year's longlist.



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

Dominika Szablinska R2.

The word of the week is...

“Persistence”

Definition: To last or endure.

Try and use this word in a sentence this week. My sentence is:
She has great persistence, she keeps going no matter what.



This week our reading hero is Pia Aujla (Year 7). Pia has worked extremely hard on the Accelerated Reader programme since the beginning of this term. However, this week she has really excelled herself. She has read a book and taken a quiz every day for a week and has read an impressive 19 books which equates to a word count of 686,347 words read. Well done Pia - keep up the great work and keep on reading!

Also this week our Year 7 and 8 students have broken the one-hundred million words read target this year. In total they have now read a staggering 100,981,952 words read and have read 5,863 books.

Accelerated Reader Masterclass

We currently have two English classes who each have the potential to achieve Master Class status. The classes in the running this year are 7g1 Mr Arterton and 7p1 Miss Hitchon. In recognition of excellent work,

Renaissance Learning (who run the Accelerated Reader programme) honour classes and schools that can meet a very high criteria for reading groups. Each class must have 100% participation in the programme, read a minimum of 25 minutes per day and score 85% and above on every quiz that they take. This is measured over a 25 week period. There are millions of children across the U.K. who use the Accelerated Reader programme and there are very few who achieve this title; so for one of our classes to be recognised as a 'Master Class' would be a huge achievement. At the moment each of these classes are so close to accomplishing this prestigious award so please ensure that you all keep up the great work that you are all doing and keep on reading and quizzing.



Here are some of this year's World Book Day competition winners collecting their prizes.

The full list of winners are:

- Diary of a Wimpy Kid Competition – Connor P7
 - Dr Proctor Competition – Briana GO5
 - Max Crumbly Competition – Arani GO8
 - Design a National Book Token – Stan GR5
 - World Book Day Quiz winner – Robson B4
 - Star Wars Competition – Chloe P6
-

Year 3 Multi-Sport Festival

On Tuesday of this week, Year 3 children from All Saints, Parklands, Bridgewater and Barry Primary schools came to Kingsthorpe College for a Multi-Sport Festival. The festival consisted of 4 activity stations that included bench ball, football, teambuilding games and cheerleading. The cheerleading station was run by Amy Thomason who runs the High Flyers Cheerleading team that is based at Kingsthorpe College on Wednesday evenings. All the other activities were run by some of our Year 7/8 students from our Young Leader Development Squad. They did an absolutely amazing job of organising the children and running really engaging activities. The Year 3 pupils had a wonderful time and we received so many compliments from primary school staff about our young leaders. Well done to all of you!



Signing out procedures

A reminder please about the importance of students signing out should they have to be absent for any part of the College day. This is so that we can ensure the safety of all our students at **all times**.

Any student needing to leave school early e.g. for a hospital appointment or college interview must sign out either in student services (Years 7-11) or the Sixth Form Study Centre (Years 12-13). All students will be expected to present either a letter from their parents/guardian, a doctor's appointment card or similar.

Any students who leave the school site without signing out during the school day (excluding lunchtime 13.20 – 2pm sixth form students only) will be issued with an unauthorised absence from the College.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, they must seek permission

to leave from their Achievement Director or House Manager who will issue a pink exit slip which needs to be shown to the receptionist upon signing out.

Please be mindful that if a student's attendance is less than 90%, any reason to leave the school site could be refused.

Key contacts

Red House

- Achievement Director: Mrs Watts
 - Rhoda.watts@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
- Leadership Team Link: Mr Sim
 - Daniel.Sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Blue House

- Achievement Director: Mr Hill
 - Michael.hill@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
- Leadership Team Link: Miss Eddy
 - Danielle.Eddy@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Green House

- Achievement Director: Mr Butlin
 - Zachary.butlin@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
- Leadership Team Link: Mrs Haines
 - Sue.Haines@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Purple House

- Achievement Director: Miss Old
 - Fiona.old@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
- Leadership Team Link: Mrs Bunker
 - Amy.Bunker@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Gold House

- Achievement Director: Mr Hancock
 - Paul.Hancock@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
- Leadership Team Link: Mr Wade
 - Scott.Wade@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

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: Mr Baines
 - ben.baines@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Science

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

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

Humanities

- Learning Director: Mrs Paice –
• gail.paice@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
- Leadership Team Link: Mr Wade
– scott.wade@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Modern Foreign Languages

- Learning Director: Mr Thiam
– oumar.thiam@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
- Leadership Team Link: Mr Sim / Mrs Haines
– Daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk / sue.haines@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

ICT and Business

- Learning Director: Mr Anawka
– eric.anawka@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
- Leadership Team Link: Mrs Bunker
– amy.bunker@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Creative Digital Media and Performing Arts

- Learning Director: Mr Ingram
– david.ingram@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
- Leadership Team Link: Mr Wade
– scott.wade@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Technology

- Learning Director: Mrs Ainscow
– jenny.ainscow@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
- Leadership Team Link: Mr Wade
– scott.wade@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Art

- Learning Director: Mr Jones
– nigel.jones@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
- Leadership Team Link: Mr Wade
– scott.wade@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

PE

- Learning Director: Ms Newell
– Victoria.newell@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
- Leadership Team Link: Mr Baines
– ben.baines@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Special Educational Needs

- Learning Director: Mr O'Leary
– david.o'leary@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
- Leadership Team Link: Mr Jackson
– Michael.jackson@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

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!

Events

Friday 24th March - Gold House Rewards trip to Ten Pin Bowling at Sixfields

Tuesday 28th March - Year 12 Science G&T trip to Birmingham HE conference

Thursday 30th March - Year 7 trip to the Globe Theatre London

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