



# Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

*Edition 153*



## Dear Parents

As we finish the penultimate week of this half-term, a huge thank you to all of you who have supported your son or daughter in ensuring they achieve success at KC. We never underestimate the importance of your support and we will continue next half-term to do all that we can to make sure that home-school communication is as effective and forthcoming as it can be. We continue to trial a number of parent portals and apps, and my thanks to those of you who have been involved in trialling this on our behalf. If this is something you wish to be involved in or in the work we are currently planning in relation to developing our work with parents, please do contact Mr James Hartnett, Senior Strategic Leader at the College.

Thank you also to everyone who attended the Year 8 Parents' Evening on

Thursday. It was excellently attended - in fact it recorded the highest attendance of the year. Your feedback was very positive as we look to make long term sustainable improvements to the school. I know that the very competitive Mr Baines, Mr Hill and Mrs Van Geijlswijk have been working hard to make Year 8 the best year group in the school and they were therefore delighted with the turnout on Thursday!

The summer exam period has started in earnest this week and I am very impressed with the positive attitude of our students as they enter this stressful period in their lives. I teach two A Level English Language classes myself and I know my own students are really starting to feel the pressure now. However, we are all confident here at KC that our students are well prepared. We are supporting all our students by putting on exam breakfasts prior to morning exams and exam briefings prior to afternoon exams to remind students of some last minute tips before entering the exam hall, as well as being on hand to calm any nerves. The breakfast sessions start at 8:00am and I would encourage all students to attend these. There will be a range of revision sessions available for both GCSE and A Level students over May half-term – details of which will be on the website.

Our Duke of Edinburgh teams started their Bronze expedition on Friday and I am excited to hear how they have got on! The numbers taking this are growing every year and it's a tremendous opportunity for our students to develop their leadership and teamwork skills. Many thanks to Miss Old who leads our Duke of Edinburgh work, along with Mrs Spencer, Miss Kinsman, Mrs Garner, Mrs Jelley, and Mr Hill as her very able assistants!

Our transition programme is well underway now and we are really proud of the relationship we have with our partner primary schools. Our after-school gymnastics club for prospective Year 6 students has been running for the past 5 weeks and has been really successful. We are looking forward to welcoming these students to KC in September.

This week, our Key Stage 3 English groups have been listening to and taking part in interactive workshops led by the acclaimed author Joffre White. Joffre is a UK Patron of Reading and tours the UK with his Power of Words sessions and Creative Writing workshops. The students

really enjoyed the event with many staying behind to ask questions. This is just part of the many varied and wonderful events which our LRC hosts and you can read more about this later in the newsletter.

Finally, one of the highlights of my week was meeting Tom Rees, Executive Headteacher of Simon de Senlis and Education Director at Northampton Primary Academies Trust. Mr Baines, Deputy Headteacher, and I visited Tom at Simon de Senlis on Thursday and spent a couple of hours having a really interesting and lively debate about assessment and the curriculum. I am really excited that we are going to be undertaking a collaborative piece of work which focuses on maths and science in the first instance and looks at how the primary and secondary sector can create a cohesive 3-19 curriculum which ensures students have the knowledge and skills to be expert learners in maths and science. We are meeting again after half-term to refine the project and we will look to start this in earnest early in the next academic year. This collaborative working very much underpins our philosophy at the College and if you have any partnerships which you think could be of benefit to our students and staff at KC, please do get in touch with me.

As the warm weather continues, a reminder that students are still required to wear full school uniform. Students will of course be able to remove their blazers in warm weather but they must have this with them nonetheless.

I hope you all enjoyed the sunshine this weekend – please do get in touch if there is anything I can assist with.

Mrs Giovanelli  
**Headteacher**

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## Knights of the Borrowed

# Dark by Dave Rudden (BL: 5.6)



Grey placed his finger in the middle of the shadow. *'What's this?'* he asked. Denizen frowned. *'It's a shadow.'* *'No, it isn't,'* Grey said. *'It's a door.'*

Denizen Hardwick doesn't believe in magic - until he's ambushed by a monster created from shadows and sees it destroyed by a word made of sunlight. That kind of thing can really change your perspective. Now Denizen is about to discover that there's a world beyond the one he knows. A world of

living darkness where an unseen enemy awaits. Fortunately for humanity, between us and the shadows stand the Knights of the Borrowed Dark. Unfortunately for Denizen, he's one of them...

If you are stuck for something to read after the Harry Potter series, and you love stories packed with magic, action and adventure, then why not give this book a try.

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**Our literacy challenge winner this week is:**

Sophie Read 8G

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The word of the week is...

## “Correlation” noun

Definition: The mutual relationship between two or more things or parts.  
Try and use this word in a sentence this week. My sentence is,  
*There is a correlation between confidence and hard work when it comes to achieving success.*

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We are really pleased to announce that our reading hero for this week is Aaron Ali (Year 8). Aaron has been working really hard on the Accelerated Reader programme and has so far read 23 books which equates to 2,002,432 words read. He has read a wide array of fiction including books by the authors Derek Landy, Anthony Horowitz and Joseph Delaney. Well done Aaron on not only achieving millionaire status in Year 7 but also in Year 8 - you have achieved double Accelerated Reader millionaire status. Wow, what a fantastic reading achievement. Keep up the great work!

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Bought a book and finished it?

Want to swap your Bookbuzz book? Don't know what to do with it? If you've Read It, Swap It!

In the library we offer a book swap scheme for those students who would like to swap some of their old books from home for something different. Just pop in with the book you wish to swap and exchange for one of the book swap books we have available.

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## Joffre White Visit Kingsthorpe College Library



This week our students had the privilege of working with the author and UK patron of reading, Joffre White. He spent a jam-packed day with us and kicked off the day hosting an assembly for our Year 7s. Our students had the opportunity to listen to Joffre talk passionately about what it takes to become a successful writer and how important it is for them to keep working on their own reading and writing skills. After the assembly Joffre held a series of creative writing workshops for our Year 8 and 9 students. This was a real treat as he passed on lots of useful hints and tips on how students could improve their own writing skills. These sessions proved invaluable and were a fantastic experience for our students. Joffre was a real inspiration and these sessions really helped us to support the literacy work that we do in school.

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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 for a second year running to be 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 on the scheme before Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June and that you will be happy to be interviewed for the film on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

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

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Our school now has access to **The Day** – a daily online news service for schools and colleges that aims to make the news relevant to the school curriculum.

Every student and teacher can access the daily stories and search The Day's extensive archive of articles by visiting [www.theday.co.uk](http://www.theday.co.uk) and using the following log-in details:

**Username: Kingsthorpe**

**Password: theday**

➡ To find out more about The Day, visit [WWW.THEDAY.CO.UK](http://WWW.THEDAY.CO.UK)

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## Year 6 Gymnastics Club

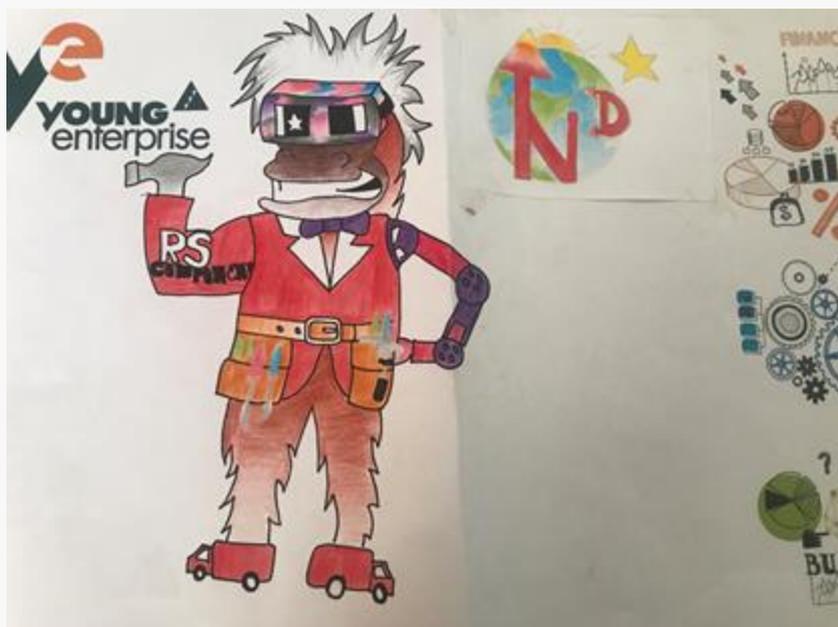


As part of our transition programme we offered our new intake the opportunity to come along to 5 weeks of afterschool gymnastics. The sessions covered a variety of gymnastics skills and disciplines including floor skills, vaulting and acrobatics. Children also had the opportunity to use our fantastic Air Track! The Air Track is a large inflatable tumble track which provides a safe and fun environment to learn new skills and build confidence.

The Year 6 children had a great time and showed great progress over the weeks. It was lovely to see them gel as a group and develop new friendships. We look forward to seeing them back, along with the rest of the cohort, in July for our transition days.

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## RS Components trip



On Monday 30.04.18, myself, Joshua Blackmore, Sofia Bland, Kacey Parish, William West and Oliver Broadhurst attended an engineering competition hosted by the Young Enterprise Team and the RS Components committee in order to find a new mascot for the TITAIN 2 (a science/ engineering truck helping launch new inventions into the world). Everyone found this experience highly valuable and enjoyable, as well as challenging and an opportunity to work with and get to know people you perhaps aren't best friends with. In this event, five opposing teams from other schools were also competing and Young Enterprise took this as a dazzling opportunity to develop our social skills, inspire and teach us explicit life lessons. For example: to begin the presentation, all 32 kids were split into two equal groups and asked to take place in 'The Rope Challenge.' In this challenge, each team had to find the quickest way possible to pass the bodies of all 16 students through three ropes in the time of 30 seconds. Both teams had three chances, and, before each attempt had five minutes preparation. Personally this activity was my favourite as not only did it display a challenge, but it also allowed us to work with/make friends with people you'd never met before.

Along this journey, we were also developing our skills in business and throughout the day we developed our own companies by creating brand names, logos, etc. This also taught us good employability traits such as ambition, communication skills, a positive nature), as well as opening our eyes to a whole new world of inventions and job possibilities. Most of this arose from a visit to the truck itself. Just before entering, we were

told our main activity of the day - to design a mascot using inspiration from the truck, as well as devise our own presentation. We would then have a further hour to prepare.

Everyone's favourite activity of the day was getting to look in (and fiddle with) the equipment in the TITAIN 2. It was truly spectacular! This included multiple VR headset games, 3D printing machine, thermogram scans and so much more. It was truly amazing to have the privilege to experience the incredibility of modern day technology!

For our presentation, we devised a speech (along with our mascot drawing), role play and business ideas to help launch 'Titain' around the world. We all had such fun with these challenges and definitely came away feeling more prepared for our anonymous futures, as well as feeling we had learned valuable information and skills that will carry us through our working lives. Thank you RS Components and Young Enterprize for giving us this opportunity and we wish you the greatest of luck for launching 'Titain' across the globe. Thank you!

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## **Key Contacts**

[Year7team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:Year7team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Mr Butlin, Mrs Read & Mr Hartnett

[Year8team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:Year8team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Mr Hill, Mrs VanGeijlswijk & Mr Baines

[Year9team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:Year9team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Mr Smith, Mr Baron & Mr Wade

[Year10team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:Year10team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Miss Old, Mr Heffernan & Mr Hancock

[Year11team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:Year11team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Mrs Watts, Mrs Patel & Mrs Gant

[sixthformteam@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:sixthformteam@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Mr Pomerantz, Ms Wainwright, Mr Campbell & Mr Sim

[attendance@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:attendance@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Mrs Williams & Mr Hancock

### **English**

Learning Director: Mrs Kinsella –

[laura.kinsella@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:laura.kinsella@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Leadership Team Link: Mr Baines –

[ben.baines@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:ben.baines@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

### **Maths**

Learning Director: Georgina Turner –

[georgina.turner@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:georgina.turner@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Leadership Team Link: Mrs Gant –

[rhiannon.gant@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:rhiannon.gant@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

### **Science**

Learning Director: Mr Cox –

[joseph.cox@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:joseph.cox@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Leadership Team Link: Mr Baines –

[ben.baines@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:ben.baines@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

### **Humanities**

Learning Director: Mrs Paice –

[gail.paice@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:gail.paice@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Leadership Team Link: Mr Sim –

[daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

### **Modern Foreign Languages**

Learning Director: Ms Sherred –

[sarah.sherred@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:sarah.sherred@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Leadership Team Link: Mr Sim –

[daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

### **ICT and Business**

Learning Director: Mr Anawka –

[eric.anawka@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:eric.anawka@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Leadership Team Link: Mr Wade –

[scott.wade@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:scott.wade@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

## **Vocational**

Learning Director: Mr Ingram –  
[david.ingram@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:david.ingram@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Leadership Team Link: Mr Sim -  
[daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

## **Visual Arts and Technology**

Learning Director: Mr Jones –  
[nigel.jones@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:nigel.jones@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Leadership Team Link: Mr Wade –  
[scott.wade@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:scott.wade@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

## **PE and Performing Arts**

Deputy Learning Director: Ms Townsend –  
[lucy.townsend@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:lucy.townsend@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Leadership Team Link: Mr Hancock –  
[paul.hancock@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:paul.hancock@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

## **Special Educational Needs**

Learning Director: Mr O’Leary –  
[david.o’leary@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:david.o’leary@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

Leadership Team Link: Mrs Gant –  
[rhiannon.gant@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:rhiannon.gant@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

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