

# Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

*Edition 97*



## Dear Parents

As the Autumn Term progresses at pace, everyone at the College continues to work hard in our restless pursuit of all areas of excellence – artistic, athletic and academic.

It was an absolute pleasure this week to talk to one of our year 7 students, Blake Kent, who had the amazing opportunity to play at the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday. What a venue for a musician! As a keen musician myself, I had asked Blake to make sure he took lots of photos and I was very envious when I heard all the details of his day. Although it was a late night for Blake, this will be an experience he will never forget. Rehearsals for our Christmas production of Bugsy Malone are well and truly underway, and the snippets I have seen or heard so far make me really

proud of the artistic talent our KC students possess. It promises to be a great production and I would highly recommend buying a ticket for the performances on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December.

We were lucky enough this week to welcome Alistair Patrick-Heselton, Silver Paralympic medallist, to the College. Besides from the impressive athletic talent which Alistair has, his determination and courage was inspirational and his visit was a timely reminder of how important these qualities are. A full write-up of Alistair's time at KC can be seen later in the newsletter.

And finally, the week ended with the provisional release of RAISE online. This is a publication which compares our performance at KC with other schools nationally. We are delighted that we are performing above the national average in key measures, and as we approach our trial examination season in the next couple of weeks, we are confident that our students and staff continue to work incredibly hard to maintain this level of success.

We look forward to welcoming our year 11s to a day in the life of a sixth former this Tuesday when all year 11s will be given the opportunity to taste Post 16 life. Students will be able to undertake a range of Post 16 lessons, as well as get the chance to hear about all the other enrichment activities we are able to offer at KC. In the evening, there will be a short presentation from myself and the Director of Post 16, before students and parents will be able to chat with subject teachers about the huge range of courses we have on offer.

Our first Senior Team parent drop-in session will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 between 4:00-6:00pm. This is an opportunity for you to come and chat with senior members of the College about any concerns you may have, ask any questions, or just to give us some feedback on what we are doing well, and what we can do even better. A reminder that you do not need to make an appointment for this event.

Many thanks for your continued support – together, we will make sure that the College keeps going from strength to strength in making everything possible for all our young people.

**Mrs Giovanelli**  
Acting Principal

---

## Stars of the week



### **Red House**

#### **Toni Amato and Grace Stronnar Year 7 R10**

Toni and Grace have made a fantastic start to Year 7 and have made the most of all the opportunities that have come their way. They always make the right choices and display high levels of effort and attitude to learning and have had a positive impact on their tutor group and the House as a whole. It is hoped that they will continue to flourish and demonstrate a positive work ethic and fulfil their true potential throughout their time at KC. Toni and Grace, we are very proud of you, keep the good work up!

### **Green House**

#### **Mary Morgan Year 9 Gr3**

Mary has been an active and committed member of the Green House Charity committee for two years. She is always full of ideas and enthusiasm and is currently fully engaged in our next charity event at the

Xmas Fayre. Green House are very proud of you Mary!

### **Gold House**

#### **Mario-Rafael Nedelcu Year 7 Go6**

Mario joined KC as a slightly late addition to our Year 7 cohort and he came directly from Romania. When Mario started at KC he knew very little English, but has quickly shown a great determination to communicate effectively with both staff and students. This has clearly been a testing time for Mario but he has always approached this with an excellent attitude. Mario has been a great addition to KC and particularly Gold House. Well done Mario, keep up the great work.

### **Blue House**

#### **Shane Green Year 7 B7**

I am nominating Shane as he has made an excellent start to Term 2, achieving a number of commendations particularly in Religious Education. He is committed to his tutor time activities and is keen to take on additional roles. Shane is a real asset to Blue House and always has a smile on his face!

### **Purple House**

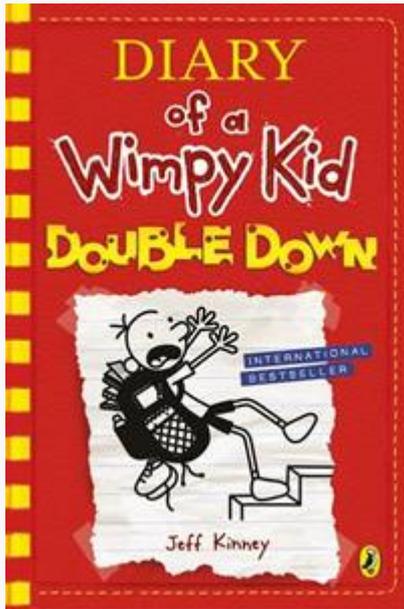
#### **Sherry Daniels Year 11 P6**

Sherry is a hardworking and diligent student. She regularly attends after school revision sessions and she is pushing herself to do the very best. She has been going the extra mile with her Travel and Tourism coursework and she has been preparing herself well for the upcoming mock exams. Sherry has a bright future ahead of her and we are very proud of her in Purple House. Well done Sherry.

---

## **Book of the Week**

**Diary of a Wimpy Kid Double Down by  
Jeff Kinney BL (5.5)**



This is Book 11 in the bestselling Diary of a Wimpy Kid series which has an estimated 150 million readers across the world. In this new adventure the pressure's really piling up on Greg Heffley. His mum thinks video games are turning his brain to mush, so she wants her son to put down the controller and explore his 'creative side'. As if that's not scary enough, Halloween's just around the corner and the frights are coming at Greg from every angle. When Greg discovers a bag of gummy worms, it sparks an idea. Can he get his mum off his back by making a movie

...and will he become rich and famous in the process? Or will doubling down on this plan just double Greg's troubles?

This book is a must for all Wimpy Kid fans. Also if you love Greg Heffley you may also enjoy Liz Pichon's Tom Gates books and Jonathan Meres's The World of Norm as well as Stephan Pastis's Timmy Failure series of books.

---

## The word of the week is...

“Courageous”

**Definition:** Facing difficulty with bravery

**Try and use this word in a sentence this week.** My sentence is:  
He was courageous in the face of insurmountable odds. He kept going.

---

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

Arzoo Rizwan R7

Please come to the library to collect your prize.

---



## **Reading Hero of the Week – Lewis Kennedy**

This week our reading hero is Lewis Kennedy. Lewis has become our latest student to read a million words on the Accelerated Reader programme and to join our 'Millionaires Club'. He has worked extremely hard this term and through his efforts has read an amazing 14 books and read 1,042,219 words. Well done Lewis on becoming an Accelerated Reader millionaire. Keep up the great work that you are doing and keep on reading!

---

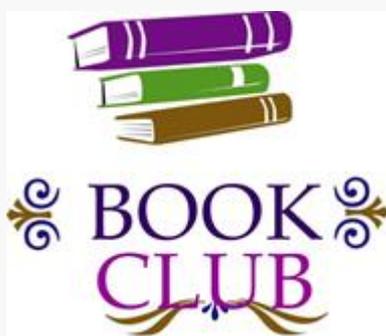
## **Bought a book and finished it?**

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



Book club meet every Wednesday lunchtime and we are always looking for new members to join. If you love reading and books, come along to the library. We are also looking for new members from years 7, 8 and 9 who would like to be a part of the team to compete in the County Literature Quiz 2017.

For more information please come in and speak to Mrs Broadbent.



**INTO  
FILM  
FESTIVAL**  
9-25 NOV 2016

This week some of our year 7 and 8 students attended a special screening of the movie Ghostbusters at Vue Cinema Northampton. This screening was part of this year's Into Film Festival. Our students were treated to a

special premier of short films that have been made by students across the county and they also got to watch a blockbuster movie too. This festival is supported by the British Film Institute and the National Schools Partnership and is the world's largest free film and education event for young people. Its aim is to inspire the next generation of film makers and our students were certainly inspired by what they saw. Each had a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. All of the students who attended were also given a free cinema ticket to use at their leisure to watch a film of their choice.

---

## **Sky Sports** 'Living For Sport'



Due to our involvement in the Sky Sports 'Living For Sport' programme, we were lucky enough to receive a visit from one of their athlete mentors. Alistair Patrick-Heselton came to work with our students on Thursday. He is a Paralympic Silver medallist and has a truly inspiring story.

When he was younger he was a highly rated footballer playing for Wycombe Wanderers, QPR and Oldham Athletic. His life was turned upside down in 2006 when he was in a very serious car accident. His best friend at the time (also an ex professional footballer) died in the car crash and Alistair suffered terrible injuries. He was in a coma for a couple of months and was told he may never walk again. He defied all the odds and not only did he walk but he also started playing football again. Just four years later he was contacted by the FA and given details of CP football for Cerebral Palsy or brain injury sufferers. Since then Alistair has played in

the CPISRA World Championships for England and in the Paralympics GB team at London 2012.

During his visit to Kingsthorpe College, Alistair worked with a variety of student groups, telling them his amazing story and running a motivating workshop on the '6 keys to success' (mental toughness, hunger to achieve, people skills, sports and life knowledge, breaking barriers and planning for success). The students really enjoyed the workshops and it resonated with all of them.

One of the groups he worked with were our year 7/8 newly appointed young leaders. It was the first time they had come together as a group so it was a brilliant teambuilding activity for them. They spent three hours doing both classroom-based and practical activities focusing on developing their confidence and teamwork. These students will be completing their Young Leader training next Thursday morning in preparation for leading a multi-sport festival for 80 year 5 children in the afternoon. I have no doubt they will be brilliant!

---

## 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.

---

## Cheerleading Club



The High Flyers cheerleading club is Northampton's Premier Cheerleading club and is based here at Kingsthorpe College. They run a couple of sessions each week for a variety of ages and abilities for children all over Northampton. There is usually a cost to attend the cheerleading sessions but we are delighted to announce that the session

that runs 6-7pm on Wednesdays is now FREE to Kingsthorpe College students! For more information please speak to Miss Bennett or contact Amy the coach directly on [admin@cheerunlimited.co.uk](mailto:admin@cheerunlimited.co.uk)

---

## Young Enterprise



Young Enterprise is the UK's leading charity empowering young people to harness their personal and business skills. It makes the connection between school and the world of work, enabling young people to develop the knowledge and attitudes they need to succeed. One of the schemes offered by Young Enterprise, the Company Programme, takes place over a single year and is recognised as having provided young people with invaluable skills, opportunities and experiences since the 1960s.

Several year 12 students have harnessed the opportunity to create, build and manage their own business, The Hamper Company. The business sells, alongside sweet mugs and cones, a range of specialist gift hampers, designed for different occasions and recipients, including Christmas, Easter, birthdays, mother's and father's day, new-born baby and dog hampers. The Hamper Company aims to provide an excellent quality and value alternative to traditional gift buying and introduce its customers to a collection of unique and inspirational gift hampers, made using a selection of quality branded and locally sourced products.

In order to fund their business, The Hamper Company led a number of fundraising events, such as a tuck shop and raffle, both of which were very successful in getting the business off the ground. The students have since produced a variety of their individualistic hampers and products,

which, despite already being available, will be launched officially at the Kingsthorpe College Christmas Fair on Saturday the 3rd December, hopefully by a special guest of The Hamper Company!

---

## A star in the making!



This week one of our talented year 7 students Blake Kent performed in the County Junior Strings for the Music for Youth Proms at the Royal Albert Hall.

What an amazing opportunity Blake, we are so proud of you!

---

## Keeping children safe online

Here at Kingsthorpe College, we work hard to make sure that our young people are aware of the potential dangers of internet usage, and we are always looking at ways we can support both young people and parents in relation to online safety. We came across these two articles this week and would thoroughly recommend you taking the time to read them. Should you have any concerns about any aspect of your child's well being or safety, please do not hesitate to contact our Designated Safeguarding Officers at school.

# Join thousands of parents talking PANTS

Understandably, some parents find it hard to talk to their children about online sexual abuse. The key to difficult conversations like this is to take your offline parenting skills online and adapt the advice you would feel most comfortable giving about the 'real' world to the virtual one. Having a conversation about sexual abuse will never be easy, but we at *Digital Parenting* think the NSPCC's PANTS rule is a great way to start. Whether the person making them feel uncomfortable is in the real world, or on the end of a webcam, these tips can help.



**Privates are private**  
Be clear with your child that anything covered by underwear is private, and no one should ask to see or touch these parts of the body. Explain that sometimes people – such as family members at bath-time or doctors or nurses – may need to touch their private parts. But let your child know that these people should always ask if it's OK first.

**Always remember your body belongs to you**  
Explain to your child that their body belongs to them, and no one has the right to do anything that makes them feel uncomfortable. If anyone tries, they should tell a trusted adult.

**No means no**  
Your child has the right to say 'no' – even to a family member or someone they love. This shows that they're in control of their body and their feelings are respected.

**Talk about secrets that upset you**  
Help your child feel confident enough to speak up about secrets that they're worried about. Reassure them that they won't get into trouble. Secrets shouldn't be kept in exchange for something, and should never make your child uneasy.

**Speak up, someone can help**  
If your child is sad, anxious or frightened, they should talk to an adult they trust. That person doesn't have to be a parent or family member – it can be a teacher or a friend's parent, or it can even be Childline. Their phone number is 0800 1111.

## What is PANTS?

Talking PANTS is a simple way to help keep children safe from abuse. The PANTS acronym teaches children that they have a right to say no, and that they should tell an adult if something upsets or concerns them. If your child says something that worries you, talk to a teacher or contact the NSPCC on **0808 800 5000**.



## Keeping pupils safe online: the teacher's view

We asked Catherine Goodwin, assistant head teacher and safeguarding lead at St Ignatius College, Enfield, how parents can help children deal with problems created by the internet

- 1** It's illogical, but parents who quite often won't let their children out on their own will buy them a phone or a tablet and have no idea what they are looking at on them.
  - 2** The apps young people use are always changing, and it's difficult to keep up with them. Take WhatsApp, for example. Children can add people they've never met to their WhatsApp group – hundreds of children they don't necessarily know – and have no idea what these people will do with a message or picture after they've sent it. Parents should try to monitor the WhatsApp conversations that their child is having and who they are speaking to.
  - 3** Ask if you can look at your child's phone occasionally so you can check messages, WhatsApp conversations, photos and videos taken. This should be part of a contract between you and them when you buy them a phone or credit for their phone.
  - 4** Show an interest in their digital habits and encourage them to tell you what apps they use or groups they belong to. If a child is very reluctant to show a parent what's on their phone, trust your instinct.
  - 5** You need to talk to them about what they are looking at. That's the most important thing you can do.
  - 6** Be honest and direct with them. And emphasise that it's for their safety and their benefit that you're taking an interest.
  - 7** Make sure that they know what to do if they get themselves into trouble online.
  - 8** Sometimes, young people get into situations they think no one else has ever been in, and they're too embarrassed to tell anyone. So let them know they can tell you anything. And, however shocked you are, you can't show it.
- For advice on where to report any problems your child encounters online, go to page 44.*

## 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 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

### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November

Yr 11 Taster sessions at Moulton College

### 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

---

[Follow on Twitter](#) | [Forward to Friend](#)

---

Copyright © 2016 Kingsthorpe College, All rights reserved.

MailChimp

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)