



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 117



Dear Parents

Despite a wet start to most days this week, it has been a real pleasure to see students arriving to College in the correct uniform, and fully equipped for learning. And as the sun looks set to make a welcome appearance for much of next week, we are all looking forward to a much more pleasant start to our days!

Myself and Miss Eddy, along with Mr Wade, Mr Baines and Mr Sim visited every classroom on Monday to remind students of our high expectations in relation to some key aspects of College life. We talked to students in particular about the need to be punctual – both to College at the start of the day, and to every single lesson. Key material is often shared and recapped at the start of lessons, and therefore even if students are a couple of minutes late, they risk missing out on vital information for

their learning. Students who need some support and encouragement to make sure they are on time will be placed on punctuality report and expected to make up double the time that they are late to lessons at lunchtime. We also spoke to students about the need to make the most of every single minute of every lesson. Students shouldn't need to leave the classroom during the lesson, and should ensure in particular they use the toilet during the appropriate social time prior to lessons starting. We do of course recognise that on occasions, there may be medical reasons where students need to use the toilet, and this will be arranged. Visiting lessons was also a great opportunity for us to thank those students who day in, day out help contribute to a really productive learning environment. Term 6 will very much have a back to basics theme and I look forward to writing to you at the start of next term with details of this.

Senior staff have also spent time over the last two weeks at both the start and end of the school day visiting local shops and local community areas such as the library. It's important to us that we are a community school, and we are clear that our students represent us both in and outside of the College grounds. Building positive relationships and portraying the very highest of expectations at all times is something we are all personally committed to, and there are some exciting opportunities for partnership work with our community members in the pipeline.

The external summer examinations have got off to an excellent start and it was really pleasing to receive some feedback from our invigilators about how impressed they were with both the behaviour and attitude of all our students sitting examinations this week. Many invigilators undertake work across a range of schools within the town and to hear such positive feedback is always welcome. This week sees the exams continue and a reminder that there is a full revision programme available for students to access prior to these. I was particularly pleased to see approximately 100 of our year 11s volunteer to sit a mock maths examination on Friday afternoon! This level of commitment and dedication is a real indication of their desire to do their very best.

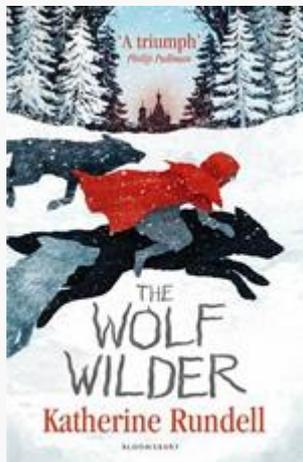
I am sure it will be another busy week to end this half-term on and I look forward to updating you again on Friday.

Mrs Giovanelli

Headteacher



The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell (BL4.5)



Feodora and her mother live in the snowbound woods of Russia, in a house full of food and fireplaces. Ten minutes away, in a ruined chapel, lives a pack of wolves. Feodora's mother is a wolf wilder, and Feo is a wolf wilder in training. A wolf wilder is the opposite of an animal tamer: it is a person who teaches tamed animals to fend for themselves, and to fight and to run, and to be wary of humans. When the murderous hostility of the Russian Army threatens her very existence, Feo is left with no option but to go on the run. What follows is a story of revolution and adventure, about standing up for the things you love and fighting back. And, of course, wolves.

If you love historical fiction and a book packed with action and adventure then this is the book for you.

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

Jessica Iftene R7

The word of the week is...

"Discretion"

Definition: To act with discretion; to act carefully

Try and use this word in a sentence this week. My sentence is:
"They spoke with discretion so that no one could overhear their conversation".



Our reading hero this week is Briana Tancau (year 7). This year Briana has worked exceptionally hard on the Accelerated Reader programme. So far she has read an incredible 34 books. She regularly reads and takes her quizzes at break and lunchtimes and works hard to maintain her reading levels. Since joining us in September it has been a real pleasure to watch her reading confidence grow and she is now tackling some really challenging books. Well done Briana keep up the good work.

We also wanted to share with you that our year 7 and 8 students are achieving some amazing results on the Accelerated Reader programme. Since September they have so far read an astonishing 7,686 books which equates to 123,552,694 words read.

We work hard at K.C. to foster and nurture reading for pleasure and our students really do enjoy working on the programme. If parents or carers would like further information on how to access their child's Accelerated Reader information from home please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Broadbent, Library Manager.



This week I was privileged to be asked by the BookTrust and Arts Council England to join this year's school library pack selection panel. The school library pack is an amazing resource that is sent to over 4,700 mainstream secondary and special schools across the country. Each school receives 40 free books and is used by school libraries and teachers to inspire a love of reading in year 7 – 9 students.

Each panel member had to read a selection of 30-40 titles and on Tuesday we met to decide the shortlist at the Booktrust's headquarters in Battersea. This year's panel members included authors, librarians, heads of publishing houses along with consultants and experts from across children's literature. It was an amazing day and after hours of deliberation and discussion we made our final selection of 15 books. Unfortunately, I cannot share with you which books have been selected yet as this will be announced formally to all secondary schools in September.

For our participation in the programme, the Booktrust has kindly donated to our school over £300 worth of new titles to add to our school library for our students to enjoy.

For families it can be hard to inspire a love of reading at home, however the BookTrust website is a fantastic place to start. So if you need inspiration, ideas and tips on how to help your child with reading it is an ideal starting point. It caters for children of all ages from babies up to teenagers and beyond. For further information go to www.booktrust.org.uk.

Mrs Broadbent
Library Manager

Post 16

Apprenticeship success for year 13 students

With year 13 students currently finishing their courses and preparing for their final exams in June, many of those not applying for university have been very busy applying for jobs and apprenticeships. We are very proud of the success that many have had, including:

- Sam Cowley who has secured a high level apprenticeship with D Archer Electrical Engineers and Contractors starting in mid June.
- Daniel Slinn was successful in applying for a high level apprenticeship position as a Tax Junior with MHA MacIntyre Hudson.
- Reece Smith and Joe Harray went through three selection procedures (including two whole days of interviews and activities) to secure high level apprenticeships with Coca Cola European Partners.

All of these apprenticeships are only available to students achieving highly and with three A-level or equivalent qualifications, and are all very well paid with many benefits. We look forward to welcoming them back in the coming years to be able to offer advice to our future Post 16 students!

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: Mrs Gant

– rhiannon.gant@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: Mrs Gant

– rhiannon.gant@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!

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