



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 149 - Week Commencing 19th March to 30th March 2018



Dear Parents

As we finish the end of an incredibly busy term, the last two weeks have not only really demonstrated our commitment to developing artistic, athletic, and academic excellence for all our young people but have also made me immensely proud to be Headteacher of the College.

Artistic Excellence

It has been an absolute privilege over the last couple of weeks to see the talent of our students in a number of events.

A number of our Year 11s treated parents, staff, and fellow students to a preview of their exam piece 'Two' and we were all visibly moved by the

powerful performances. The series of monologues and duologues dealt with some mature themes and the students portrayed these admirably, transporting us to the bar in which the complex lives of its customers unravelled. The commitment and motivation of the students was a real testament to the dedication which their teacher Mr Rowbotham has inspired in them.

As a musician myself, I was very impressed with the performances given by our Year 10 music students and their invited guests on Tuesday. The show was organised and produced by the students as part of their Btec course and we were treated to vocal, instrumental, and band performances across a range of genres. The musical talent of our students really is some of the strongest I have seen and we are excited about developing this aspect of our work further – including developing links with the music department at Bishop Stopford school.

The penultimate night of the Easter term saw the inaugural performance of our live poetry recital as part of our Speak Up campaign. This year, students in Years 7 and 8 have been working hard on developing critical oracy skills to not only help with their academic performance but also to increase their confidence with public speaking. I was blown away by the quality of the spoken performances with students reciting some extremely challenging poems – many of which I have taught GCSE students in the past! Several students also shared their own poems with us and again, the quality of these was staggering. As we continue to develop our work on oracy, we look forward to providing many more of these formal opportunities for public speaking and presenting.

Athletic Excellence

We had a fun packed day on Friday 23rd March where the whole school supported Sport Relief. There were a large number of activities taking place including A Question of Sport and a staff bikeathon where members of staff cycled throughout the day in shifts. As a team they covered a total of 122.3 miles. A number of Year 9 students also took part in a rowathon during period 5 where they raised money as part of their work to support the Princes Trust Foundation.

This followed a brilliant sports festival which was organised and run by

our amazing Sports Leaders. The Year 3 Sports Festival involved 64 students from a number of our local primary schools and the feedback from both those organising the event and those taking part in the festival was excellent.

Academic Excellence

Mr Wade and Mr Hartnett interviewed all Year 9 students during the penultimate week of term to review their option choices and discuss possible future career options. All students were well prepared prior to these interviews and many students spoke articulately about their future plans with many expressing a desire to stay on to study in our sixth form.

Tuesday and Wednesday saw the timetable for Year 11 students collapsed so that they could participate in personalised and tailored learning opportunities. We were very impressed with the commitment and engagement of our Year 11 students during these days and we have seen some significant improvements in relation to students' understanding of key skills and the completion of any missed work. I was lucky enough to teach a small group of our Year 11 students myself and I really enjoyed discussing with them the concept that all texts are real acts of communication, and the impact that this has on how written and spoken texts are produced and received. There are a number of opportunities over the Easter holidays for our students sitting formal examinations in the summer, and I would encourage you to check our website for details and support your son or daughter to attend where they can.

Just a reminder that subject teachers will be feeding back to parents with regards to the trial examination results at the second Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 19th April so please keep this date free. Another date for your diary is the Year 11 Parents' Revision Workshop on Thursday 26th April where members of the senior leadership team will be going over revision skills to help you support your son/daughter navigate their way through the stressful summer exam period.

We were also delighted to welcome our newest recruits to KC on Wednesday of this week for our annual Year 6 Welcome Disco. The majority of students joining us in September attended and a great time was had by all. This event marks the start of a number of activities which

will take place between now and September for students joining us in Year 7. We are really proud of the quality of the transition experience that we are able to offer those young people who will be starting at KC in the near future.

Perhaps, however, the highlight of the last week was the two days run by Humanutopia for all our Year 7 and Year 9 students. Humanutopia run unique courses to improve the life chances of young people. Their flagship programme encourages students to reflect on the many personal and social barriers to learning they may face and shows them how in overcoming these, they are able to achieve their potential in life. We were aware of the excellent work that Humanutopia undertook prior to this week but I can safely say that we (students and staff) were all blown away by the quality and delivery of the programmes. At many points throughout the two days you could hear a pin drop due to the engagement of the students, and the honesty and clarity with which many of our students, in both year groups, shared their challenges moved many of us to tears. We look forward to building on this work over the next term as part of our belief that we should help develop qualities and skills in our young people beyond those that are required for them to succeed in examinations.

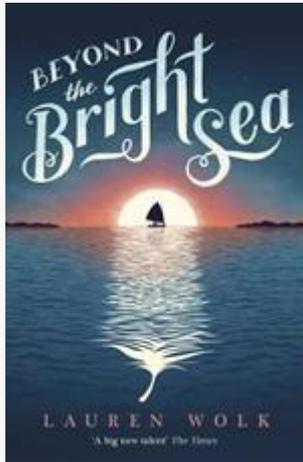
Thank you for all your support and continued communication with us, and I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

We look forward to welcoming students and staff back to the College on Monday 16th April 2018.

Mrs Giovanelli
Headteacher



Beyond the Bright Sea by Lauren Wolk



Shortlisted for this year's CILIP Carnegie Medal, *Beyond the Bright Sea* is a vivid, heartfelt, gripping tale of buried treasure and belonging. *It has been* inspired by true events that took place on Penikese Island in Massachusetts – once home to a leper colony - in the 1920s. It tells the story of Crow, who has lived her whole life on a tiny stark island with Osh, the man who rescued her as a baby from a washed-up skiff and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their neighbour. After a mysterious fire appears across the water, Crow begins to question her own history, and triggers a chain of events that lead her down a path of discovery and danger.

If you love tense, moving adventure stories why not give it a try. We would recommend this book to students in Year 9 and above.

Our literacy challenge winner this week is:

Ola Papiewska.

The word of the week is...

“Mindful”

Definition: bearing in mind, inclined to be aware

Try and use this word in a sentence this week. My sentence is:
A considerate person will always be mindful of the needs of others.



Well done Kieran Paul (Year 7), you are our reading hero of the week. You have been doing some outstanding work on the Accelerated Reader programme this year and this week you have become our twenty-eighth word millionaire. So far this year Kieran has enjoyed books written by a diverse range authors which have included; Anthony Horowitz, Roald Dahl and James Dashner. He has read a total of 21 books so far which equates to 1,163,914 words read. Congratulations Kieran, keep up the great work.



Kingsthorpe College joins challenge to read for 100 million minutes!

Here at Kingsthorpe College we have joined the national campaign to eradicate illiteracy and build a brighter future for children and young

people.

Throughout the month-long campaign, our Year 7 and 8 students will be challenged to read for as many minutes as they can. Students will then be asked to keep a log of their reading minutes.

We only have one week left in the competition so please keep on encouraging our students to read and add their minutes to our reading total.

So far for the competition we have collectively read 70,210 minutes and we are adding to this total daily. What a fantastic achievement by all of you. Please keep this going to the end.

Prizes will be awarded to schools who achieve the highest average number of reading minutes per student. We will also be awarding individual prizes to our own students.

For further information on the challenge visit 100MillionMinutes.org.

New Year 7 Intake 2018



At the beginning of this month, we were delighted to find out the list of students that will be joining our school in Year 7 in September. Since then we have received some lovely messages from children telling us how excited they are to have been accepted.

'I was very excited to hear I had been lucky enough to be given a place at Kingsthorpe College, when I was viewing all the secondary schools Kingsthorpe College was the one school that stood out and I knew this is where I wanted to go.' **Ella**

'She has asked me to let you know she is so excited and delighted to have got her first choice. In particular she loved how modern, well equipped and spacious the school looked when she visited, and can't wait for all the new classes, especially the science labs and the art faculty.' **Parent of Chloe.**

On Wednesday, we held our annual 'Welcome Party'. We had a fantastic turn out with approximately 160 children in attendance. The dance floor of the disco was packed all night and there were some brilliant dance moves on display! Children also enjoyed playing table tennis, giant connect 4 and a range of additional games and activities. It was great to hear how many children made new friends.

We are looking forward to seeing the children again soon at some of our other upcoming transition events including afterschool activities, transition days and our summer school.

Year 3 Sport Festival



Last week, some of our sport leaders organised a multi-sport festival for local primary school children. We had almost 70 children attend from Kingsthorpe Village, Parklands and Bridgewater primary schools. Our leaders put together a rotation of activities for the Year 3 children to take part in. These included football, endball, and a variety of teambuilding challenges. The leaders ranged from Year 7 all the way up to Year 13 students. They all did a fantastic job of making their activities fun and engaging. The Year 3 children all had a brilliant time.

Sport Relief



Last week we were been busy fundraising for Sport Relief.

On Wednesday all our Year 7 students took part in the Sport Relief mile during their PE lesson. A big thank you to the students who have brought in their sponsorship forms/money already.

Mrs Broadbent in the Library organised a lunchtime quiz on Thursday and there was a brilliant turn out, with over 50 students taking part.

Some of our sport leaders have been going around tutor groups throughout the week selling Sport Relief wristbands. A big thank you to Mrs Cockerill who bought every student in her tutor group a wristband!

We finished off the week with a Staff Bikeathon. Staff were challenged to cycle as far as possible on an exercise bike over the course of a day. Staff took it in turns on the bike from 7.45am to 3.30pm. A huge thank you to all the staff that got involved. We managed to cycle a brilliant 122.3 miles! Congratulations to Louis Coleman in year 10 who won the competition by having the closest guess to the total distance travelled.

Activity Weeks at Willen Lake

21st March 2018



Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to you from Willen Lake. Willen Lake is a multi-activity and leisure organisation run by The Parks Trust in Milton Keynes. We specialise in outdoor activities and watersports provision for all types of abilities and backgrounds. Our watersports range from wakeboarding to kayaking and we have many land activities as well such as orienteering, archery and high ropes!



We would like to inform you about our Activity Weeks we are running over the Easter Holidays. Activity Weeks are a Monday – Friday multi activity adventure. We do all types of activities from Sailing to High Ropes.

Our weeks are for children aged 8 – 16 years and costs only £180 on our off peak deal! The dates are 2nd April – 6th April 2018 and 9th April – 13th April 2018. Participants can be dropped off at the earliest 08:30am and picked up at the latest 17:30pm.

We have 8 spaces per week, so be quick to reserve you place! These courses are bookable online via our website www.willenlake.org.uk.

If you have any questions please email us at willenlake@theparkstrust.com and we will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Lancaster
Chief Instructor

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