



# Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

*Edition 111*



## Dear Parents

We were absolutely delighted this week to be invited to become a Leading Edge school. The Leading Edge network of schools represents the views of high performing secondary schools across the country, and membership is dependent upon schools meeting certain eligibility criteria. Kingsthorpe College has been invited to join the network because of our OFSTED 'Good' rating, and because of the significant progress our students make in comparison to other schools nationally. The main purpose of the network is to support connections between high-performing schools, enabling staff at all levels to work collaboratively with like-minded colleagues nationally. This is both a privilege and an opportunity to further develop our practice here at KC, and we are really excited about both learning from other high performing schools, as well as sharing our innovative and successful practices with other schools in the network.

At Kingsthorpe College we are justifiably proud of the work carried out by our students

and staff within the field of performing and fine arts. We believe that our work is worthy of national recognition and, with this in mind, are working towards making an application for the Artsmark Award. Last week, we were joined by our colleagues from Kingsthorpe Village, Sunnyside and All Saints primary schools, as well as Bosworth College, Leicester, for our Artsmark Development Day. We are now in a position to draw up our application for submission to the Artsmark awarding body and hope to be able to announce the awarding of our Artsmark before the end of this academic year.

To celebrate the successful collaboration between our College and partner primary schools, we are holding an Artsmark celebration evening on Tuesday 28 March. Children from All Saint's, Kingsthorpe Village and Sunnyside will perform alongside College students, demonstrating our commitment to making the Arts come alive for both our students and our community. Further information regarding this event is available from Mrs Townsend and Ms Haines and we hope to see some of you there!

Mr Wade has delivered assemblies this week, and we have been reflecting on how we can ensure, as a school community, we use technology both appropriately and safely. Mr Wade talked in particular about mobile phones and reiterated our expectations in relation to these. Whilst mobile technology has many benefits, we need to ensure that they do not distract from our core business of learning. Students should not use mobile phones in the College building (except for the canteen, and main hall at break and lunchtime) at any point during the school day. Should a student need to contact home, or the College need to contact you, we are able to arrange this through House teams and Student Services. Any student who does not comply with this expectation will be asked to give their mobile phone to the member of staff. This will be stored securely until the end of the school day in Student Services, and students are able to collect them from 3:00pm. Should a student have their phone confiscated for a second occasion, then we will be asking parents to make an appointment to collect the phone. Many thanks in advance for your support with this.

Finally, a reminder that the College breaks up for the Easter break this Friday, 31st March. This is a full teaching day and students will be dismissed at 3pm as usual. An advance notice that we return from the Easter break on Tuesday 18th April. The College does not have a training day on this day (unlike some of our partner primary schools, and other local secondary schools) and we look forward to welcoming all students back on this day.

**Mrs Giovanelli**

Headteacher

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# Stars of the week

## **Green House**

### **Blake and Grace Year 8 Gr6**

Blake and Grace have taken the initiative to organise a sponsored bike ride around Northampton to raise money for our house charity 'Children Are Butterflies'. The girls made the decision to organise this event and so far, through lots of hard work and determination, they have managed to gather over £200 in sponsors! Blake and Grace are a credit to the house and always approach any challenge with a positive attitude. We look forward to hearing about their cycling adventure. Well done Blake and Grace, Green House are very proud of you!

## **Gold House**

### **Alex Year 9 G03**

Alex is a student who quietly goes about school life and day after day is an exemplary student. Alex deserves recognition for his fantastic attitude towards school and in particular his record of excellent attitude to learning across all of his subjects. Alex's teachers are clearly recognising that his hard work is paying off as he is on track or excelling in a large amount of subject areas. Well done Alex you truly are a star student!

## **Blue House**

### **Tom Year 7 B2**

Tom has been nominated by his tutor for not only being a well behaved student with no behaviour points but also for independently raising money for Comic Relief by doing an ice bath challenge!

You are very brave Tom, everyone at KC wishes you lots of luck!!

## **Red House**

### **Beth Year 7 R3**

Beth joined us at the start of September and ever since she has been a real asset to KC, and in particular, Red House. She has worked hard and has gained 31 achievement points. Beth always displays impeccable manners and behaviour which is reflected in having no behaviour points. Beth is also multi-talented and is involved in a number of

extra curriculum activities. Both you are a star and we are very proud of you. Keep up the good work and continue to shine!

### **Purple House**

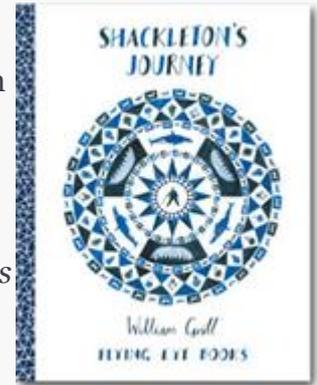
#### **Monica 12 P2**

On the year 9 options evening Monica was a fantastic representative of the college. She spoke confidently and maturely about why students should pick Philosophy and Ethics at GCSE and she sold the subject incredibly well. Monica was able to answer all questions from parents and students and she was a great ambassador for Humanities in general. Well done Monica and thank you from both the Humanities department and from Purple House.



## Shackleton's Journey by William Grill (BL 6.7)

William Grill won the Kate Greenaway medal in 2015 and he became the youngest winner of this prestigious award. On his win he commented that, *“I believe there is a large, untapped reserve of non-fiction stories waiting to be re-interpreted that, handled correctly, can be educational and entertaining. They can also be more accessible for those who struggle with reading, as dyslexics like myself have. Picture books and graphic novels are a way into reading for us, and I was moved to create my book after reading of Shackleton’s heroism and endurance. I am thrilled that my book has been so positively received by schools which have seen that children learn very effectively through storytelling. In Shackleton’s case, they can see that he and his crew proved that just because you fail it doesn’t make you a failure. In Shackleton’s own words, ‘the only true failure would be to not explore at all.’”*



In the last days of the Heroic Age of Exploration, Ernest Shackleton dreamed of crossing the frozen heart of Antarctica, a place of ferocious seas, uncharted mountains and bone-chilling cold. But when his ship, the Endurance, became trapped in the deadly grip of the ice, Shackleton’s dreams of crossing Antarctica were shattered. Stranded in a cold, white world, and thousands of miles from home, the men of the expedition set out on a desperate trek across the ice in search of rescue. If you enjoy non-fiction books, adventures and graphic novels then this book is definitely for you.

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## **This week’s literacy challenge winner is....**

Betty Pitt GR3

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## The word of the week is...

“Neoteric”

**Definition:** New, modern.

Try and use this word in a sentence this week. My sentence is:

*It was a neoteric idea; very different.*

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This week our reading hero is Connor Saysell (Year 7). Congratulations Connor, you have become our newest Accelerated Reader Millionaire. This means that you will receive a special prize from the millionaires' box along with an invitation to this year's Millionaires event in the summer.

Connor works on the programme in his own time and regularly stays after school to take his quizzes. Since joining us in September he has read an astonishing 32 books and has now read a total of 1,033,875 words. We are very proud of you for all of the hard work and determination that you have shown this term; well done it has really paid off.

## 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.

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# World Pi Day – 14<sup>th</sup> March (Also known as 3.14)



Kingsthorpe College Maths Faculty celebrated World Pi Day last week with a range of activities taking place during the day. Activities included calculating Pi to as many decimal places as you could work out, ordering the Maths faculty staff in order of Pi, Pi classroom activities, and Pi Dingbats during tutor time.

All ten of the Maths faculty staff wore a different coloured t-shirt with a section of Pi on the back. Students had to find out what the value of Pi was and then find the section of Pi each staff was wearing and then put them in order!

We had over 200 entries but we could only have three winners. Congratulations to Robson Scott (B4), Miriam Cobzaru (Go8) and Bailey Fitzpatrick (Gr4) who were the chosen winners. The actual order of the teachers were: Miss Bailey, Mr Berry, Miss Grubb, Mr Mickiewicz, Mr Patel, Mr Sim, Mr Ahmed, Ms Mason and Miss Turner.

Mr Patel on World Pi Day activities: “It was a Pi-deal day, everyone had a Pi-ice time, and it was the Pi-cing on the cake of a great day. There was a Pi-ice buzz around the Maths faculty on Tuesday”.

## **Pictures of the Maths faculty with their Pi t-shirts.**



Year 7 working hard on Pi activities in their Maths lesson.



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# Dead Legends Live Lounge

(Tuesday 28th March from 6.30pm in the Drama studio)



As part of the BTEC Music course our Year 10 students are completing a unit of work on 'Managing a product'. As part of this they have to create, plan, promote and appraise their own concert. The concept behind the concert is the 'Dead Legends Live Lounge'. It will include a little something from those musicians who are no longer with us (from classical to pop and everything in between) but most importantly they will be showcasing the musical talent here at KC.

Please come and support our students!

Tickets are available from FINANCE from Tuesday 21st March. (Cost Adults £3 / Concessions £2)

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# Year 7 trip to work with author Caroline Lawrence

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On Friday 17th March we had the privilege of taking some of our Year 7 student reading heroes to Northampton High School. Our group were invited to attend a special presentation by the author and historian Caroline Lawrence. Our students had the opportunity to watch Caroline talk about her life, her work and her writing process. It was a real treat as Caroline spoke of how her books were inspired from her love of stories from Ancient Rome and Ancient Greece. She also talked about her series of books called the Roman Mysteries which has sold millions of copies worldwide and was also made into a TV show.

Caroline spoke with such enthusiasm about ancient history and about how stories written thousands of years ago are still being re-written and re-worked today; not just in books but in the movies too.

Our students were given the opportunity of asking lots of questions and each found the presentation both enjoyable and inspiring. I am sure that they will take on board the excellent advice that Caroline gave them about the creative writing process and each will be able to apply this in their own work.



Northamptonshire  
Police

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, unfortunately a bike was stolen from the bike racks outside College. Two men on a moped came on to the site, with bolt cutters, and made off with a bike owned by one of our students. Staff were alerted as soon as the moped was seen on site, police were notified immediately, and we have been able to provide them with CCTV footage to help their enquiries. All other local schools were also immediately notified so they

could be extra vigilant.

We have in the past looked at moving the bike racks to a more secure area of the site but the costs at the time were prohibitive. We are exploring this again and are looking at a variety of different solutions. We will of course keep you updated. In the meantime, we would ask that all bikes are fully secured, and a reminder that all personal possessions, including bikes, are brought onto site at the owner's risk.

We have also contacted the Community Safety Partnership run by Northamptonshire Police who are running a scheme called 'Operation Push'. This scheme sees Police Support Community Officers security marking bikes as well as giving information on cycle security and how to secure your bike safely. They also give out property marking kits. We are hoping that they will be able to hold a bike security marking session at Kingsthorpe College in the very near future. More details of this to follow shortly.

**Mrs J Ricketts – Director of Operations**

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## Catering Update

The new 12-sided £1 coin is being introduced into circulation on 28th March 2017. Currently the AMEY cashless catering machines located in College are ***not equipped to accept the new coins or the new £5 Polymer note.*** Please ensure that your child has the correct change as there are no facilities in College to exchange money. The machines currently accept the following coins and notes 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 (old style), £5 (old style), £10 and £20.

Thank you for your help.

**Mrs J Ricketts – Director of Operations**

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## Year 6 Welcome Party

On Thursday evening we held a welcome party for all the Year 6 children who have been allocated a place at Kingsthorpe College for September 2017. We had over 170 children attend the party and it was a huge success. It was great to see so many children making new friends and having fun. There were some brilliant moves shown off on the dance floor during the disco! The children also had the opportunity to do some arts and crafts, and play games such as giant connect 4 and table tennis. A huge thank you to all Year 7 students who came along to help out as 'Buddies'. They did a great job of making the Year 6 pupils feel welcome.

We look forward to seeing all the Year 6 children again soon.

Miss Bennett  
Transition Coordinator





**TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017**

**6PM @ KINGSTHORPE COLLEGE**

**£1 ENTRY FEE**

Please come and join us for a celebration of the arts across  
Kingsthorpe schools.

The evening will feature talented young students showcasing dance,  
drama, music and art.

Please arrive at 5:45 for the art exhibition on your way into the main  
hall to see work from:

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY

KINGSTHORPE COLLEGE

KINGSTHORPE VILLAGE PRIMARY

NORTHGATE ARTS COLLEGE

SUNNYSIDE PRIMARY

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# Project Take Flight update



Last year, three of our Year 13 students, Conor, Rebecca and Bethany, set up Project 'Take Flight', a project designed to create stronger links with other Edison schools in America. As part of the project, the three students raised money in order for us all to be able to travel out to Chicago in October 2016 and work directly with the American schools. Whilst we had an amazing time, all of us were left shocked and humbled by some of the difficulties faced by students in these schools.

As part of the work they did whilst in Chicago, Conor, Becky and Beth taught some poetry lessons and engaged in a social justice project with students from two other schools. Since returning home, they have been keen to establish the legacy of the project and have worked with a new cohort of four Year 12 students at Kingsthorpe to develop and continue the links they made and the work they did. This has involved activities such as lesson filming here at Kingsthorpe College which will be shared with the American schools.

As a result of this work, the new cohort of students, currently nicknamed 'Take Flight – Take Two', have created a new proposal which will hopefully see us go out to Chicago in October 2017 with a slightly new focus. Olivia, Corey, Harvey and Abigail have focused their attention on two main aspects, both continuations of the original project but with a more specific emphasis. In terms of an educational study, they intend to look at the transitions between age groups (key stages) and draw comparisons with schools in the UK. The other half of their project is the continuation of the Social Justice project and this sees them focus on health care provision in both countries and the issue of obesity. They have already been involved in conference calls with the International Committee and have produced some research and information of an exceptionally high standard. We are excited about the prospect of a return visit to Chicago and we are lucky that Conor has accepted the invitation to accompany the trip and return with us to Chicago to act as a liaison.

Now the hard work really begins as we have to begin the process of fundraising and we have been very grateful to Becky for the time she has taken to support the Year 12 students as they take their first steps. It truly is an excellent example of the collaboration and support we see amongst the KC students.

'Take Flight' will be holding its first event of this year on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2017; a quiz to be held in the Dining Hall at KC from 7pm – 9pm. Tickets are available from the Finance

Office and there will be a raffle and refreshments. There are also other events being organised and we hope that you will support us as we try to emulate the success of last year.

If you have anything you would like to donate as a raffle or tombola prize, know anyone who may be able to help us or would like to donate to our fundraising, please get in touch through the school or by emailing me at [abbie.coleman@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:abbie.coleman@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

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## Key contacts

### Red House

- Achievement Director: Mrs Watts – [Rhoda.watts@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:Rhoda.watts@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)
- Leadership Team Link: Mr Sim – [Daniel.Sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk](mailto:Daniel.Sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

### Blue House

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### Green House

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### Purple House

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### Gold House

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## **English**

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## **Maths**

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## **Science**

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## **Humanities**

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## **Modern Foreign Languages**

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## **ICT and Business**

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## **Creative Digital Media and Performing Arts**

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

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## **Art**

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## **PE**

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## **Special Educational Needs**

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- Leadership Team Link: Mr Jackson  
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**Don’t throw  
out your old  
uniform!**

## **Events**

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

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!

- **Thursday 30th March** - Year 7 trip to the Globe Theatre London
- **Friday 31st March** - Sports Leader training at Malcolm Arnold Years 8 & 9 (selected students)
- **Friday 31st March** - School closes
- **Wednesday 5th April** - Years 12 & 13 trip to the Globe Theatre (selected students)
- **Tuesday 18th April** - School opens

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