



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 154



Dear Parents

This term really has flown by and it doesn't seem two minutes since we were welcoming students back after the Easter break. In part, this is due to the demands of this particular term in relation to students sitting external examinations. As I write this edition of the newsletter, students have already completed many of their examinations and we have been so impressed with their commitment and conduct throughout. A reminder that there are opportunities over the May half-term for both Year 11 and Post 16 students to receive some additional support if they wish, and that there is no study leave for Year 11 students. Year 11 students each have a personalised timetable tailored to their curriculum pathway and we therefore look forward to welcoming them back with the rest of our school community on Monday 4th June.

I would also like to take this opportunity to not only thank you for your support with the progress of all our students at Kingsthorpe College, but also to extend my gratitude and appreciation to all of the leaders and staff at KC. Whatever role a member of staff undertakes from the governors, the teaching staff, the support staff, and the numerous staff we have who support us from auxiliary providers such as AMEY, everyone can always be relied upon to give of their best and the dedication which everyone demonstrates to making a difference to our students is unlike any other school I have known. This dedication also extends to our governors who are equally passionate about providing a personalised and challenging curriculum, and a range of opportunities for all of our young people.

My own personal thanks go to my leadership team without whom I could not do my job. I never take for granted how lucky I am to be surrounded by a team of senior leaders who share my optimism and determination that we will be the best school in the country in time. The self-critical and reflective nature of my team means that we are always working to be even better than we were the day before, and the innovation and hard work of everyone within the team makes my job a real pleasure. Above all though, I have never worked with a team who are so committed to doing the best for our students and our community. With all the 'noise' surrounding teaching as a profession, I can confidently say that the Leadership Team at KC embody and demonstrate in their behaviours just what a great profession it is, and we have been delighted to attract a number of high quality members of staff to join us in September because they too align with our moral purpose.

As the education landscape continues to change around us, I can say wholeheartedly that here at KC, we absolutely see ourselves as an integral part of the community and whilst we have some staff (myself included) who travel to work at the school, the reason we continue to strive for excellence in all aspects at KC is because we know our students and our community deserve the very best. Whilst we know we have much still to do, we have taken the opportunity to reflect over the last week on how much progress we have made, and it is with great pride that I continue to have the privilege of leading the school.

I have no doubt that Term 6 will continue to see us gather momentum and I am looking forward to really driving forward partnership working

with a number of outstanding local and national providers.

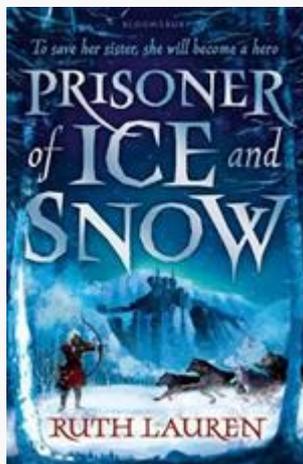
I hope that you all have a pleasant and restful Bank Holiday and that students take the opportunity for a little bit of rest and relaxation (amongst the revision for some!) over the break.

We look forward to welcoming everybody back on Monday 4th June.

Mrs Giovanelli
Headteacher



Prisoner of Ice and Snow by Ruth Lauren (BL 5.2)



Valor is under arrest for the attempted murder of the crown prince. Her parents are outcasts from the royal court, her sister is banished for theft of a national treasure, and now Valor has been sentenced to life imprisonment at Demidova, a prison built from stone and ice. But that's exactly where she wants to be. For her sister was sent there too, and Valor embarks on an epic plan to break her out from the inside. No one has escaped from Demidova in over three hundred years, and if Valor is to succeed she will need all of her strength, courage and love. If the plan fails, she faces a chilling fate worse than any prison

An unforgettable story of sisterhood, valour and rebellion. This book is perfect for fans of Katherine Rundell, Piers Torday and Cathryn Constable.

Our literacy challenge winner this week is:

Kyle Smith 7G

The word of the week is...

"Nostalgic"

Definition: sentimental longing for the past.

Try and use this word in a sentence this week. My sentence is,
Reading an old book brings back nostalgic memories.



Our reading hero this week is Ruby King (year 8), she becomes our 28th Accelerated Reader word millionaire. Ruby has read a wonderful array of fiction, ranging from Zoella Sugg to Jacqueline Wilson to Ally Carter. She has read a very impressive 19 books in year 8 which equates to 1,006,542 words read. Ruby regularly takes quizzes in her own time and has worked hard on the AR programme. She will also be representing the college at the Big Book Quiz which is being held at Sir Christopher Hatton Academy at the end of June. Well done Ruby, keep up the great work.



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.



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 4th June and that you will be happy to be interviewed for the film on Thursday 7th June.

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



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 and using the following log-in details:

Username: Kingsthorpe

Password: theday

➔ To find out more about The Day, visit WWW.THEDAY.CO.UK

It's not just in the UK that attendance matters!

There has been some recent press coverage about the importance of students attending every school session from across the Channel. As we

continue to work hard at ensuring excellent attendance from our KC students, we thought it would be interesting to share the article below with both you and our students to exemplify the importance of this aspect of a child's education.

German police stop 'truant' families at airport

21 May 2018

- Police carrying out checks at an airport in southern Germany discovered several school-aged children travelling ahead of the holidays.
- Reports concerning 10 families have now been sent to education officials in Bavaria, German media report.
- It is believed the families caught at Memmingen Airport were trying to avoid travelling at the peak holiday time, which can be a lot more expensive.
- In Germany parents are legally obliged to send their children to school.
- The Memmingen families were allowed to fly off on holiday despite the questioning, a German police spokesman told the BBC. "It would have been disproportionate to take the children back to school, as the families had paid for their holidays," he said.
- The Spiegel news website reports that the parents now have two weeks to explain why they took their children out of school. If the reason is not good enough each family can be fined up to €1,000 (£876; \$1,177).

[Last year a case in England went to the UK's Supreme Court](#), which ruled against Jon Platt, who had taken his daughter out of primary school in term time for a trip to Florida.

He had won earlier court battles against a £120 fine from Isle of Wight council, but the Supreme Court ruled that parents could be fined for unauthorised absences, except for reasons such as illness or family bereavement.

The rules in Germany vary from state to state. But fines are quite common (and home education is effectively prohibited). In Saxony, eastern Germany, fines of up to €1,250 are imposed on parents if their child has an unauthorised absence of five or more days in one school

term.

The daily Sächsische Zeitung reports that fines were imposed in nearly 5,680 cases of truancy in the state last year, generating €618,000 for local authorities. The city of Leipzig had the most cases - more than 2,280.

What happens in other countries?

In Austria, the authorities are increasing penalties for parents in similar cases. In January, Education Minister Heinz Fassmann announced fines ranging from €110 to €660 for parents whose children played truant.

The penalty would escalate depending on the length of absences, he said.

France relies on dialogue between school and parents to tackle truancy, but as a last resort a fine of €135 can be levied, LCI news reports. It can be cut to €90 for rapid payment, or raised to €375 for significant delay.

Do holiday times differ much in the EU?

Yes - the dates of school terms and holidays even vary from region to region in many countries.

In France, all children get two months in the summer (7 July-2 September), but the dates of their other holidays depend on their home region.

There is also much variation in school holiday dates among Germany's states and in Switzerland.

[The EU's Eurydice education website reports](#) that France has 162 school days in the academic year, though the figure is higher in upper secondary education. In most European countries the figure ranges between 170 and 190 days. But in Denmark and Italy it is 200 days.

At Christmas, nearly all countries have two weeks of school holidays. But the summer break varies a lot. In the UK, some German states and the Netherlands it is six weeks.

But children in Italy get between 12 and 14 weeks' holiday in summer, while many also get 13 weeks in Latvia and Portugal.

Key Contacts

Year7team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Butlin, Mrs Read & Mr Hartnett

Year8team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Hill, Mrs VanGeijlswijk & Mr Baines

Year9team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Smith, Mr Baron & Mr Wade

Year10team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Miss Old, Mr Heffernan & Mr Hancock

Year11team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mrs Watts, Mrs Patel & Mrs Gant

sixthformteam@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Pomerantz, Ms Wainwright, Mr Campbell & Mr Sim

attendance@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mrs Williams & Mr Hancock

English

Learning Director: Mrs Kinsella –

laura.kinsella@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mr Baines –

ben.baines@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Maths

Learning Director: Georgina Turner –

georgina.turner@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 Baines –
ben.baines@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Humanities

Learning Director: Mrs Paice –
gail.paice@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
Leadership Team Link: Mr Sim –
daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Modern Foreign Languages

Learning Director: Ms Sherred –
sarah.sherred@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
Leadership Team Link: Mr Sim –
daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

ICT and Business

Learning Director: Mr Anawka –
eric.anawka@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
Leadership Team Link: Mr Wade –
scott.wade@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Vocational

Learning Director: Mr Ingram –
david.ingram@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
Leadership Team Link: Mr Sim -
daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Visual Arts and Technology

Learning Director: Mr Jones –
nigel.jones@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
Leadership Team Link: Mr Wade –
scott.wade@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

PE and Performing Arts

Deputy Learning Director: Ms Townsend –
lucy.townsend@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
Leadership Team Link: Mr Hancock –

paul.hancock@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

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