



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 118



Dear Parents

Another half-term has flown by and it seems hard to believe that we will soon be in the final stages of this academic year.

External examinations for our year 11 and sixth form students continued this week and once again we have been impressed with the commitment and dedication that our students have demonstrated. Exam breakfasts have been well attended and a reminder for all our students, that there are a number of revision classes and activities which they can access over the half-term break. Although many students will have already sat a significant number of their examinations, every day really does count and we would encourage all students to remain focused and take advantage of the support we will be offering right up until their very last exam!

Mrs Haines and Mrs Townsend have been working hard over the last couple of weeks to finalise our Artsmark submission which should see the College awarded and recognised for the work it does within this area of the curriculum. This follows our successful bid for funding last year which has enabled us to work with several of our partner primary schools to promote the importance of the Arts in developing confidence, creativity, and communication skills in our students. I look forward to keeping you updated on what I am sure will be a positive application. We have made several very strong teaching appointments over the last few weeks and we are looking forward to these staff members joining our already strong staff team in September. We have had strong fields for all advertised posts and this has really enabled us to select the very best candidates to help us on our journey to excellence. All applicants who have visited the College for an interview have commented really positively on the culture and ethos of the College, and have also been impressed by the young people they have met.

When we return from the half-term break, we will be having a real focus on 'back to basics'. This will involve us working closely with students and parents in terms of continuing to develop our rewards system, as well as ensuring all stakeholders are aware and able to meet our high expectations in relation to uniform, attendance, and attitude to learning. I will be writing to all parents at the start of next term to outline our work in relation to this and I look forward to your support in ensuring that we really can make vibrant learning the focus of everything that we do.

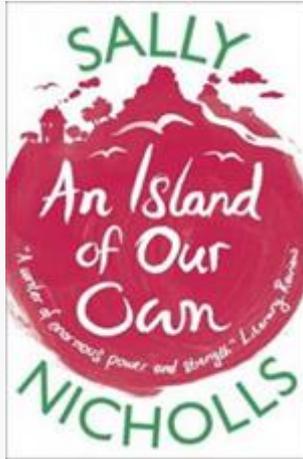
Wishing you all a happy and safe half-term break.

Mrs Giovanelli

Headteacher



An Island of Our Own by Sally Nicholls (BL 4.7)



Holly and her younger brother Davy have been in the care of their 18 year old brother Jonathan ever since their mum died. Life is hard, they never have money for new clothes or nice food, and, although he says he does not mind, Holly is pretty sure Jonathan is not too happy about giving up his place at university to work in a café in order to pay the bills. So when Holly's eccentric, wealthy great-aunt gives her a photo album shortly before her death, she is sure it contains clues to buried treasure.

Solving the clues is only the beginning, though, as Holly also has to convince her brothers the treasure is real and get to it before anyone else does.

Holly is a spirited, determined girl who says exactly what is on her mind, no matter the situation, and her passion for the treasure hunt is infectious. This is a beautiful, fast paced story about the importance of family. It is touching at times and is filled with humour.

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

Ivy Mintah GR1

The word of the week is...

“Anomaly”

Definition:

- deviation or departure from normal or common order, form or rule
- One that is peculiar, irregular, abnormal or difficult to classify

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

There was an anomaly with the data collected in the science experiment.



Our reading hero this week is Aaron Ali (Year 7), he becomes our 28th Accelerated Reader word millionaire. Aaron has read a wonderful array of fiction, his favourite books this year have been the Alex Rider Series by Anthony Horowitz and the Time Rider series by Alex Scarrow. He has read a very impressive 21 books since he joined us in year 7 and this equates to 1,087,686 words read. Aaron regularly takes quizzes in his own time and has worked hard on the AR programme. Well done and don't forget to collect your reading hero prize.



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 as 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 below before Thursday 15th June and that you will be happy to be interviewed for the film on Tuesday 20th June.

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

Amazing work by our Year 7 students!



Year 7 Geographers in 7p4 were recently set a challenge to create a 'Biome in a Box' for their homework. The students created some absolutely fantastic biomes and had clearly put a lot of effort into their work. They have created deserts, rainforests, tundra scenes and the savannah. The level of detail presented was phenomenal and all students who participated in the challenge were rewarded for their efforts.

As you can see from the photos the students have clearly presented their biomes, as well as having labels for all of the relevant parts.

Biomes is one topic that year 7 study alongside map skills, Great Britain, Africa and Coasts.

The Biome boxes will be available to view in reception.

Fantastic work from our EAL students!

Betty Pitt, a Year 8 student has worked incredibly hard to produce a beautifully designed board that is informative and colourful all about Thailand. Betty has been attending KC since September and has worked hard to be a part of the school.



Fabiona Hamataj, Year 11 student came to KC a short while ago and has settled in very well. She has worked hard to learn English and her knowledge can clearly be seen on the board she has created about her country, Italy.



Project 'Take Flight' Update



It has been a hectic couple of weeks for Project 'Take Flight'! The students have been busy organising their fundraisers whilst studying for their internal and external exams; this project certainly helps develop time management skills! Last week, Olivia, Corey, Harvey and Abi ran a cake stall at Unit 17 Dance School in Northampton which went very well; thanks again to the staff at Unit 17 for their hospitality and support and for the parents of the students who made so many cakes! We were also thrilled that three of the students received grants from the Sir Thomas White Charity which we are very grateful for and which have given us a boost for our funds.

This week has also seen two exciting developments which link the original cohort and the new one. Firstly, Conor and I were pleased (and

relieved) to finally share the lesson filming that we had done with the International Committee. This filming shows a typical Sixth Form Literature lesson at Kingsthorpe and then a lesson led by Conor to show how our older students can work with the younger ones. I know that Conor and I are both looking forward to discussing these lessons with the Edison staff and the teachers at the Chicago schools in October and finding out what they thought of our way of working. It has taken a while to co-ordinate and edit this filming and we are very grateful for the hard work of another of our Year 13 students, Jasmine, who has put it all together for us. The completion of this project has coincided with the near completion of our Vlog project. This was a new project set up by the International Committee this year which Corey has led on and has involved the 'Take Flight' cohort working with some of our younger students to present 'A Day in the Life' of a Kingsthorpe Student. Corey has edited this all himself and we are just waiting to see the final cut (what we've seen so far looks amazing!). Harvey has also produced a print version of this to accompany the Vlogs. We are eagerly awaiting the Vlogs from the American schools so we can examine the differences in our students' daily routines.

Secondly, in a strange coincidence, a year to the day after Beth, Becky and I were interviewed on Radio Northampton about the original project, Becky and I returned to Radio Northampton, accompanied by Abi, to talk about this year's project with John Rose. This was a fantastic opportunity to discuss the discoveries we made last year and our progress so far this year and to try and raise awareness of the project in the local community. The two students were an absolute credit to the school; it is not easy speaking live on the radio and they were both articulate and enthusiastic. The interview can be re-played from this link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0529cy3> starting at 2:14:50.

These two events conclude the original cohort's involvement in the project (although Conor will be travelling with us in October as a liaison chaperone) and I would like to thank Becky, Beth and Conor for setting up such a fabulous and ambitious project and for supporting Olivia, Corey, Harvey and Abi as they continue the work of 'Take Flight'; we all wish them every success in their exams.

This week, we are focused on several more fundraisers – a cake sale and

tombola at the Northants Falcons Flyball Team's competition this weekend, our Oscars Ball at Sedgebrook Hall at the end of June and the preparations for another tuck shop and another quiz. With more of us hoping to travel to Chicago in October, our fundraising is vital. There are still tickets available for the Ball – they are £35 each for a three course meal and welcome drink and there will also be a silent auction. Tickets are available from the school finance office. If anyone has any raffle prizes, auction prizes or would be interested in sponsoring the trip, we'd love to hear from you. I can be contacted via the school on 01604 716106 or abbie.coleman@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk Any contribution is greatly appreciated.

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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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