



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 112



Dear Parents

We ended the term on a celebratory note as we recognised the achievements of all those students who maintained 100% attendance for the entire term in a series of assemblies on Friday. We all know the importance of excellent attendance in relation to ensuring that students achieve their potential, and this term has seen attendance levels at the College at the highest they have ever been - with a significant increase particularly in the number of students achieving 100% attendance. Mr Hancock and Mr Wade rivalled Ant and Dec for a comedy double act during the assemblies held for each year group, and the atmosphere was a great way to end the term – congratulations to all students who received a golden ticket to attend the assemblies. Photos of some of the lucky winners can be seen later in the newsletter.

A reminder that we have a number of opportunities available during the Easter holidays to those students who will be taking external exams this summer. Details of

the timetable and availability of staff for revision sessions and support can be found on the College website. When we return after the holidays, the final count-down to exams really does begin, and we will be sharing further details of events we will be holding to support both students and parents at the start of next term. I would urge all students who are undertaking exams to remember the advice that we have been giving here at the College about the most effective way to revise. Reading through notes and highlighting important parts often makes it feel like students are revising effectively, but all the research and our experience shows that it is in fact testing and recalling information that makes the most difference to making learning stick. Creating flashcards which you can help quiz your son or daughter on, using apps such as quizlet, and undertaking practice questions is the most effective use of time for our students. If you want to find out more about the most effective revision techniques, I would highly recommend taking a look at the following blog which contains links to lots of other useful sources: <http://www.theconfidentteacher.com/2017/03/the-revision-collection/>

It was a real privilege on Tuesday to spend the evening listening and watching some of our most creative students shine. First off it was the Artsmark performance evening where KC and some of our partner primary schools displayed their musical and dance prowess as part of a celebration of the work we have all been doing towards gaining Artsmark status. The final performance saw dancers and singers from ages 6-18 on stage together for a truly memorable finale. It was then straight over to the drama room where our Year 10 BTEC music students had set up an intimate 'live lounge' style performance. These students had organised everything from the script, to the lighting, stage, sound, and the programme of music we were treated to. The evening went without an organisational hitch, and every performer excelled. It really did remind me just why I came into teaching in the first place. We are looking forward to developing our work within the creative and visual arts next term with the introduction of a staff choir, and another student choir in addition to our pop choir.

Another highlight of my week was hearing the Extended Project Qualification presentation by one of our Year 13 Science students. He had a great turn out to his presentation from both his fellow A level students and staff, and his ability to explain some incredibly complex material in a way which was understandable to even those of us who were non-scientists, was fantastic. A definite teacher in the making should he choose to be!

Finally a reminder that the Summer Term begins on Tuesday 18th April 2017. Unlike some other local schools, we do not have a training day and we look forward to

welcoming all students back on this day.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and restful holiday period.

Mrs Giovanelli

Headteacher

Stars of the week

Green House

Olivia Year 7Gr3

Olivia is a real Green House star with top attendance and a fantastic attitude to learning. As part of her English homework project on Shakespeare Olivia baked a Globe Theatre cake including a thatched roof made of shreddies! Let's hope it tastes as good as it looks! Well done Olivia!

Gold House

Nishat Year 7 G03

Nishat has been nominated this week by her English teacher Mrs Craig after producing an amazing piece of homework, centred around the Globe theatre. Nishat has produced a detailed model of the theatre in preparation for a visit to the Globe. Well done Nishat, you are a star!

Blue House

Georgia Year 7 B4

Georgia was part of a group that re-enacted and filmed their own version 'The Merchant of Venice' and also managed to fit in time to bake cookies! Georgia consistently performs above and beyond in all her subjects across school. Amazing work Georgia, keep it up!

Red House

Zia Year 10 R4

Zia has made fantastic progress in his BTEC Music lessons and this week has made a positive contribution to the overall success of the concert held this week. He has shown that he can make the right choices and display high levels of effort and attitude to learning. We hope that he will continue to demonstrate a positive work ethic and fulfil

his true potential. Zia, we are very proud of you, keep up the good work!

Purple House

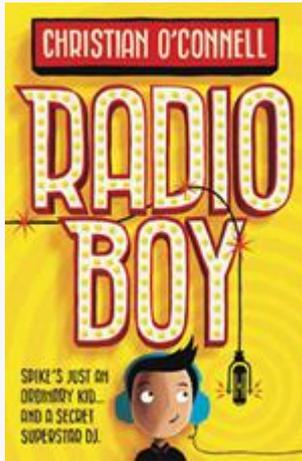
Blake Year 7 P6 & Hawes Year 7 P4

Mayson and Blake have created some beautiful and very creative homework for English. The amount of effort they have put into their models is very clear to see and I am exceptionally proud of the dedication they have put into their work. Well done boys, fantastic effort!

Photos of the amazing English homework can be seen further on in our newsletter!



Radio Boy by Christian O'Connell



Meet Spike, aka Radio Boy: a new Adrian Mole on the radio for the internet generation. Spike's your average awkward 11 year old, funny and cheeky and with a mum to reckon with. When he becomes the first presenter ever to be sacked from hospital radio, he decides to carry on from a makeshift studio in the garden shed, with the help of his best friends Artie and Holly, disguising his voice and going by the moniker Radio Boy. Week by week, word gets around and soon Spike is a star...if only people knew it was actually him.

When Spike begins to believe his own hype, and goes too far with his mocking of the school headmaster, a hunt is launched for the mysterious Radio Boy. Can Spike remain anonymous? Will he get to marry the girl of his dreams, Katherine Hamilton? Will he become famous and popular? The answer to most of these questions is no...

If you love a story that's packed with adventure and is a laugh out loud read then this is the book for you.

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

Grace Melay B3

The word of the week is...

“Unequivocal”

Definition: clear, having one meaning.

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

The rules were unequivocal: uniform must be perfect.

This week we are celebrating three reading heroes who have each achieved millionaire reader status. Our first is Rosie Baines (year 7) who has been working extremely hard on the programme and has read a very impressive 22 books which equates to 1,125,737 words read. Well done Rosie you are doing an amazing job keep up the good work.

We also have two students from year 8 who have made some remarkable progress on the programme this year. Nizma Ali who became a millionaire this week; she has read a total of 25 books and has so far read 1,025,703 words. Well done Nizma you are doing an awesome job keep it up. Our last millionaire this week was Katie-Jane Lattimore. Katie-Jane has now successfully achieved millionaire status in both year 7 and year 8. This year she has read a total of 12 books, with a word count of 1,071,177 words. Well done Katie-Jane, your hard work has paid off.

Well done to all of our students who are working extremely hard on the Accelerated Reader programme. Don't forget if you do become a millionaire reader you will receive a special prize from the millionaires' box along with an invitation to this year's Millionaires event in the summer.

Google Expeditions

On Monday 20th March, the Humanities department arranged for Google Expeditions to come into school with their virtual reality equipment in order for our students to immerse themselves in the exciting geography of our planet. Our students were able to explore the world and see a number of fantastic and amazing sights.



Over 500 students were able to participate in this exciting opportunity. They used the Google Expeditions app and the Google Cardboard virtual reality viewer to place themselves in the rainforest, Antarctica, space and many other exciting areas of our planet. Using the viewer, the students were able to see a 360 degree view of the area they were placed in. The students thoroughly enjoyed their expeditions and they were able to take a lot from immersing themselves in their learning.

Google Expeditions is a free app and there are over 400 expeditions to participate in which cover all subject areas. The app is available on all smart phones and tablets. The cardboard viewers can be bought online and are inexpensive. It is a fantastic way to view sights around the world that could otherwise be inaccessible. The Humanities department would highly recommend downloading this app and participating in expeditions at home.

Year 11 Photography Trip



Last week our Year 11 photography students went on a location shoot to Pitsford and Brampton Station in Northamptonshire. The station which closed in 1981 has now been revived as the headquarters of the heritage railway called the Northampton & Lamport Railway.

It was a fantastic location for our shoot with lots of rich stimulus for creative photography. We had arranged to go when the station was closed to the public and were privileged to be allowed down on the tracks, between the engines, and inside the signal box for close-ups and unusual compositions for our photographs.

This was an enormously valuable trip which has supported our students in their

preparatory work for their controlled assignments which will take place after Easter.

Amazing homework from our Year 7 students

This term, year 7 have been studying Shakespeare and his plays. Their homework was to complete a research project. The students of 7G1 were told that they could present their information however they wished - and they really have! We've had scrolls of parchment detailing Shakespeare's life and work; a filmed reimagining of 'The Merchant of Venice'; 3D models of the Globe theatre from Nishat Ali, Blake Kent and Mayson Hawes; and Olivia Nugent even baked a Globe theatre! Fantastic work year 7!



Over the past week all our students have received an assembly from Urban Strides founder, Andy Instone. Urban Strides is the UK's leading Street Dance educator. The assemblies aimed to motivate our students to lead healthier lives and give them the confidence to achieve a higher level of success for themselves.

We have been blown away by the response from our students to these assemblies, with one student saying: 'It was the best assembly ever!' Andy's real life story of starting with nothing and going on to establishing the UK's leading Street Dance company is

certainly an inspiring one. Using humour, Street Dance, and real life experiences, the assembly completely captivated our students and has encouraged them to take positive action and 'Aim Higher' to achieve their dreams.

Urban Strides are launching a brand new club in Northampton, and it will be based at Kingsthorpe College! It will run every Monday evening in the Dance Studio. There will be three classes in total; a Junior class (5-6pm), a senior class (6.15-7.15pm) and an adult class (7.15-8.15pm). The classes are open to all abilities and focus on positivity, passion and progress. To find out more about this amazing opportunity visit www.urbanstrides.com.

We do have two scholarship places available in the Junior and Senior classes which would entitle each child to a 50% discount. If you would like to apply for a scholarship place, please email us with your child's name and the reason you feel he/she should receive the scholarship. For more information on the scholarship place please contact Miss Bennett on alexandra.bennett@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Career talks for Post 16 students



We have continued our focus on careers over the past two weeks for both year 12 and 13 students. Year 13 students that are not planning on attending university have had a series of sessions run for them aimed at helping them find employment or apprenticeships. We have also run a workshop on writing CVs which was opened up to all Post 16 students which was very well attended.

On Friday 24th March, a speaker from an electronics company called Komcept Solutions, based in Northamptonshire, came in to speak to students about her career as an Electronic Engineer, with the focus on where a degree in engineering or ICT can take you. She spoke about her own job role, bringing in examples of her work and showing off some of the products she has made and the computer code she has used to bring her designs to life. She also showed future products the company plan to release, including a pop up mobile phone network that can be delivered to countries in the

aftermath of an earthquake.

Helping Post 16 students stay calm and deal with exam stress

As part of our well being programme for Post 16 students, we have started a series of regular events over the past few months to help students deal with the stresses of exams and enjoy their time as a Sixth Former as much as possible. Following student demand from last year, we introduced PE sessions that students could opt in to during their independent study time, and many really enjoy getting away from their studies and taking part in some exercise. More recently, year 12 students have organised a weekly Zumba session, taking place in the common room each Wednesday during tutor time, whilst Miss Wainwright has been taking meditation sessions; this started off as just one session a week but has proved so popular it has expanded to two or sometimes three sessions.

We will soon also be running a weekly session on mindfulness which aims to teach students to become more aware of the stream of thoughts and feelings that they experience on a daily basis. Mindfulness has become increasingly popular in recent years and is recommended by the National Institute for Health Care Excellent as a way to promote positive mental health. These sessions will be led by a postgraduate student from Birmingham University.

Safety Matters - Police, Fire and Highways Newsletter

Please find attached the latest version of the safety newsletter kindly sent to us by the Safer Roads Team, Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Rescue Service and Highways. It covers various safety related issues, information about safety campaigns, changes in laws and legislations and advice.

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

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Green House

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Purple House

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Gold House

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- Leadership Team Link: Mr Jackson
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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!

Events

- **Wednesday 5th April** - Years 12 & 13 trip to the Globe Theatre (selected students)
- **Tuesday 18th April** - School opens

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