



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 160



Dear Parents

A warm welcome back to this new academic year. I hope that you all had an enjoyable summer and that your son and / or daughter is ready and raring to go. Certainly from our perspective at the College, we have been incredibly impressed with the positive start back that our students have made. Uniform is looking immaculate, the majority of students have attended well and on time, and there is a purposeful and calm atmosphere as students undertake their day to day business at the College.

We say a particular welcome to our new Year 7s who have been an absolute delight to engage with, and we also welcome a large number of external students to our Post 16 community. I am teaching a Year 12 English Language class this year and I have been very impressed so far –

I know other sixth form teachers feel the same. Expectations have been set high throughout the College and we will continue to insist on these throughout the term – thank you in advance for your support with this.

This academic year we continue to have a whole College focus on ensuring the attendance of our students is as high as possible. In particular, we will be looking to expand the provision and support we offer to those young people who find it more difficult to attend school, as well as looking further to develop the support and mechanisms we have in place to ensure students who do miss school can catch up on any work they missed. Details of our expectations in relation to attendance can be found on our website and in the student planner, and I would encourage you to familiarise yourself with these. Can I also reiterate the importance of calling our absence line every day that your son or daughter may be absent from College. This is really important as failure to do so means that our pastoral team spend more time than they need to checking on the welfare and safety of absent students. Our attendance team will be working closely with families where absence is not reported to see how we can best support them.

Another focus for us this year is going to be on engagement with our local families and communities. To this end, members of the Senior Leadership Team visited the library on Kingsthorpe front along with a number of the local shops including Waitrose and Asda this week to meet members of the public and the store personnel. One of our goals this year is to regularly schedule drop in clinics in the community, where members of the public and parents of past and present students can find out a bit more about the school and what we do. Watch this space for more details.

A particular highlight this week was on Wednesday when we welcomed Robin Neighbour from Young Enterprise. Robin spent the day with our new Year 12 students who were off timetable for the day to launch our Young Enterprise programme for the year. Last year we were incredibly proud that our Post 16 Young Enterprise Team got through to the regional finals in Nottingham – and this is something that we are looking to replicate this academic year. You can read further details about what students got up to on Wednesday later in the newsletter.

Please do take a moment to look at the key contacts at the end of the

newsletter as there have been some changes in staff personnel. Please also note the following date for your diary – our Meet the Tutor Evening will take place on Thursday 27th September and I would encourage you to come along as the relationship between your son or daughter's form tutor and yourself is a critical one.

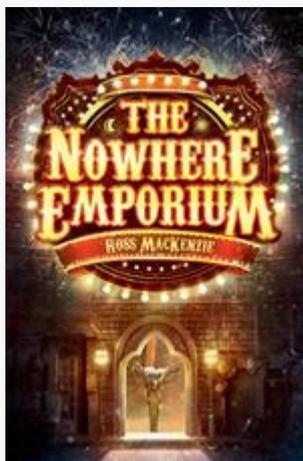
Finally, can I please ask all parents who pick their children up at the end of the school day by car, to park sensibly and avoid blocking both the entrance and exit to the school. This will speed up the exit at the school gates and also ensure the safety of all students on site.

And as ever, if you do wish to give us feedback on how we are doing – please get in touch!

Mrs Giovanelli
Headteacher



The Nowhere Emporium by Ross MacKenzie (BL 5.0)



When the mysterious Nowhere Emporium arrives in Glasgow, orphan Daniel Holmes stumbles upon it quite by accident. Before long, the 'shop from nowhere' -- and its owner, Mr Silver -- draw Daniel into a breathtaking world of magic and enchantment. Recruited as Mr Silver's apprentice, Daniel learns the secrets of the Emporium's vast labyrinth of passageways and rooms -- rooms that contain wonders beyond anything Daniel has ever imagined. But when Mr Silver disappears, and a shadow from the past threatens everything, the Emporium and all its wonders begin to crumble.

Can Daniel save his home, and his new friends, before the Nowhere Emporium is destroyed forever? If you love magical, adventure stories then why not give this book a try.

Our literacy challenge winner this week is:

Yusuf Abdullah 7T.

The word of the week is...

“Innovation” noun

Definition: Something new or different introduced.

Try and use this word in a sentence this week. My sentence is,
The teachers at Kingsthorpe College were always using innovation in their lessons to make them exciting.

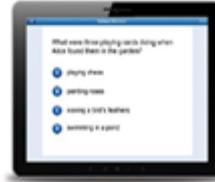


As it is the start of term all of our year 7 and 8 students will be taking their star reading tests. Below we have included information about the reading scheme. We encourage parents and carers to check planners on pages 32 and 33. These pages contain information about what your child is reading, they also have information about their star reading test scores. Please encourage wider reading at home, we recommend at least twenty minutes per day.

Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader

What is Renaissance Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a reading program that helps teachers support and monitor children's reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short online quiz to measure how much of the book they understood.



What is a Renaissance Star Reading test?

Star Reading is an online test used to measure your child's reading level. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes around 20 minutes.

How do students select books?

AR includes over 30,000 books. These can be found in the school library as well as public libraries, books shops, homes, etc. Each book is assigned three scores to help your child make a suitable choice:

Book Level

Book Levels represent the difficulty of the text. The Star Reading test tells your child what range of Book Levels to read within. This is called the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD).

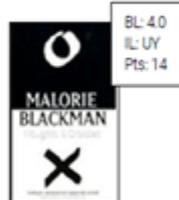
Points

Books are assigned Points based on their word count. Points are earned by passing quizzes. Students are set personalised targets each term by their teacher.

Interest Level

The Interest Level indicates for which age group a book is suitable for. It does this based on the content and themes.

| Interest Level | Age (in years) |
|---------------------|----------------|
| LY - Lower Years | 5-8 |
| MY - Middle Years | 9-13 |
| MY+ - Middle Years+ | 12+ |
| UY - Upper Years | 14+ |



The two examples above both have a Book Level of 4.0. This is because both have short sentences and simple vocabulary. However, 'Noughts and Crosses' is worth 14 Points because it's quite a lengthy text and is intended for Upper Years' students. Meanwhile 'The Enormous Crocodile' is worth 0.5 Points as it is much shorter, and it is intended for Lower Years.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

- Make time for them to read at home. Children need to read for at least 20 minutes every day to improve their reading ability.
- Encourage your child to read; discuss books, asking questions about what they have read; and visit your local library.
- Find suitable books for your child at www.arbookfind.co.uk. Use the Search function to look for specific titles or topics, or go to Advanced Search to browse for books within your child's ZPD and interest level.
- To find out more about your child's reading progress, visit Home Connect. This will allow you to track your child's progress towards their targets and to view your child's reading history. Contact the school to find out more information.



6th Form Student Event

We are thrilled to announce that our school has been selected to work in conjunction with the BBC, First Story, and Cambridge University to shadow judge the prestigious BBC National Short Story Award. Our students have been selected as part of this year's student judging panel. On Monday 17th September we shall be holding a special launch afternoon tea party in the library for our A level students who have been selected to join this year's student panel.

Background information about the BBC National Short Story Award 2018

It is one of the most prestigious awards for a single short story and previous winners include, Lionel Shriver, Zadie Smith and Miroslav Penkov. The award continues to serve as a reminder of the power of the short story and celebrates a literary form that is proving ever more versatile in the 21st century. This year the adult judging panel will consist of Times Literary supplement editor, author and broadcaster Stig Abell along with award winning writers, K J Orr, Benjamin Markovits and poet Sarah Howe.

For our students, they will play their part in the shadow judging team. Each will receive a free copy of the short story anthology and over the coming weeks will have the opportunity to debate and discuss their thoughts on each of the nominated stories. It is such a wonderful

opportunity for our students to have their say, and to form their own opinions about current, contemporary literature.

Safe use of the school car park

Please can we remind parents & carers to use our carpark safely and considerately when dropping off and picking up students.



It is important that you do not obstruct rights of way, zebra crossings and other cars as this can be dangerous especially if emergency vehicles need to gain access urgently.

Thank you for your support in this matter, Please be considerate and help keep our students safe.

Extra-Curricular Clubs – September 2018

All clubs are free to attend. For more information on any of the clubs listed below, please speak to the relevant departments.

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------------------|--|--|---|---|---|
| Lunchtime | Table Tennis PE (all years) | Badminton PE (all years) | Basketball PE (year 10+) | Basketball PE (year 7, 8 & 9) | Sports hall activities PE (girls only, all years) |
| | Multi-Gym PE (year 10+) | Multi-Gym PE (year 10+) | Multi-Gym PE (year 10+) | Multi-Gym PE (year 10+) | Girls' Multi-Gym PE (year 10+) |
| | Drawing Club Library (all years) | Chess/Puzzles Library (all years) | Mrs B's Book Club Library (all years) | Quiz Library (all years) | Crafts/Games Library (all years) |
| | Rehearsals Performing Arts (all years) | Rehearsals Performing Arts (all years) | Rehearsals Performing Arts (all years) | Choir Performing Arts (all years) | Street Crew Performing Arts (all years) |
| Afterschool | Defined Dance Company Performing Arts | Gymnastics PE (year 9+) | Football PE (year 11 boys) | Gymnastics PE (year 7 & 8) | Stoolball PE (year 7) |
| | | Fame Performing Arts (all years) | Dance Club Performing Arts (year 7 & 8) | Football PE (year 7-9 boys) | |
| | | | SEN Homework Club (all years) | Arts Award Performing Arts (year 9) | |

The library is open from 8.00am-8.30am in the morning and 3.00pm-4.30pm afterschool for students to come in and do homework or read. /

Post 16 students enjoy a day of enterprise and business education



Year 12 students recently spent the day learning about business and enterprise, taking part in a series of workshops run by the company Young Enterprise. Students worked in teams to consider what are the key qualities that make companies thrive, and what skills are required by prospective employers - and how they can ensure they have them! Part of the day included students giving a presentation in small groups to the entire year group – something many students were slightly nervous about doing! However, every student successfully took part, and it was wonderful to see those sometimes lacking confidence in themselves take part in activities far outside their comfort zone; this is what being a Post 16 student is all about!

Mrs Fisher then gave students information about the Young Enterprise competition – a chance for students to run their own company, dealing with real stocks and shares, and ultimately aiming to make a real life profit (which they get to keep)! Successful companies can enter a competition against other schools and colleges locally and then nationally; Kingsthorpe College students have won the Northamptonshire area of the competition in the past, so hopefully we can go one step further this year and win the national competition!

For more information about the Young Enterprise Company programme please contact Mrs Fisher: Diane.Fisher@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Pomerantz

Key Contacts

Year7team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Rowbotham, Mr Wright, Mr Heffernan & Mr Hancock

Year8team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mrs Kinsella, Mrs Read & Mr Hartnett

Year9team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Hill, Mrs VanGeijlswijk & Mr MacDonald

Year10team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Smith, Mr Baron & Mr Wade

Year11team@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mrs Watts, Mrs Patel, Mrs Hayward-Pretty & Mrs Gant

sixthformteam@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mr Pomerantz, Ms Mahay, Mr Campbell & Mr Sim

attendance@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Mrs Williams, Ms Vink & Mr Hancock

English

Learning Director: Mr Elliott–

alan.elliott@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mr Baines

– ben.baines@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Maths

Learning Director: Ms Turner –

georgina.turner@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mrs Gant

– rhiannon.gant@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Science

Learning Director: Ms Basar –

ruhana.basar@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mrs Hayward-Pretty –

kate.hayward-pretty@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Humanities

Learning Director: Ms McDermott

– elishia.mcdermott@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 Baines

– ben.baines@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

PE and Performing Arts

Learning Director: Ms Newell

– victoria.newell@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mr Hartnett

– james.hartnett@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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