



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 165



Dear Parents

The end of a half term is always a time for reflection and to recognise successes that we have achieved, as well as consider what is still to be done. As I write this edition of the newsletter, I continue to be incredibly proud to be Headteacher of Kingsthorpe College and as a community, we have achieved much during these first 7 weeks. Our school improvement strategy this year is all about 'sharpening our practice'. We know and believe that changes we have made over the last couple of years are right for our community, and it is now about making sure that everything we do has as much impact as possible so that this translates into outcomes for our young people. Underpinning all of this, is our belief in the importance of artistic, athletic and academic excellence.

I am particularly pleased that the efforts of us all in relation to attendance

are starting to show impact, and we have finished this half term on the highest attendance that the College has ever achieved. Standing at a whole College figure of 95.6%, our attendance is higher than the national figure, and I would like to thank everyone for the part they have played in ensuring this aspect of our improvement agenda. I am also pleased that our attendance for our more vulnerable groups remains above the national average for the same groups nationally, and that again the attendance of these groups is higher than it was last year. In addition, the attendance of those students who are classed as persistently absent has also improved and is above the national figure. All in all, this aspect of our school improvement work is clearly paying dividends.

As you may be aware from our Ofsted inspection in June 2018, improving outcomes particularly in maths and humanities was a key focus which we had been working on and again, it has been really encouraging to see the progress that students are making in these subjects. The senior team have been supporting both faculties to ensure that learning and teaching is as good as it can be, and I have really enjoyed working closely with the Learning Director for Humanities. In addition, there are lots of signs that achievement is continuing to improve across all subjects and all key stages, and our newest recruits to Team KC have already helped us move forward our improvement agenda.

Therefore whilst there is still much to be done, I feel confident that the improvement journey we set out upon in September 2016 is now starting to reap benefits and that the College really is helping develop character and currency for all our young people.

It's been a busy last week of term and on Wednesday, we held our first ever Business Breakfast. For this event, we invited in over 40 representatives from local businesses in to school for the morning where they met with Post 16 students over a continental breakfast to discuss the roles they play within their companies. The students were inspired and have made some excellent contacts moving forward. It was a real pleasure to listen in to some of the conversations and hear the purposeful buzz of talk. The feedback from the business representatives was also extremely positive and this was a great first step as we look to build our links within the local business community. My thanks go to all those who were involved in making this such a success.

On Thursday, we held a number of fundraising activities including a bake sale, raffle and Mr Baron (Deputy Head of Year 10) having his head shaved by students, to raise money in support of both Macmillan Cancer and Helen Loynes - our College Finance Officer. Mrs Loynes, who has worked with us for over ten years now, was sadly diagnosed with cancer last year and is currently receiving treatment. The week's events ended on Friday with a non-uniform day where students and staff wore green. The care, concern, and generosity demonstrated by all our students and staff in relation to these activities reflect the kind of well-rounded individuals we look to nurture at KC. All activities raised over £2000 for such a worthwhile cause.

On Thursday, we also had our Year 11 Parents' Evening where parents and carers had the opportunity to meet with subject teachers. The evening was well attended, and feedback was very positive. Although the summer examinations may seem some way off, the half term holiday provides a great opportunity for students in Year 10 and Year 11 to consolidate their learning by using GCSE POD which can be activated via the College website:

- <https://www.gcsepod.com/>

There is also a very handy parents' guide which can be used to quiz your son/daughter:

- <https://www.gcsepod.com/parents-benefits/>

Finally, just a reminder to any parents/carers who haven't signed up to our new App, please do so by following the link below:

- <http://www.kingsthorpecollege.org.uk/my-ed-our-school-app>

We are finding the App is a great way to improve even further our home-school communication and I would highly recommend that you download this if you haven't already done so.

I wish you and your family a restful half-term break and I look forward to

welcoming students back on Monday 29th October.

Mrs Giovanelli
Headteacher

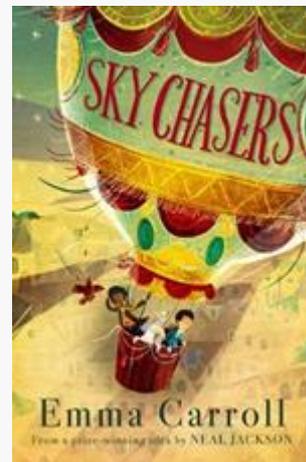


Sky Chasers by Emma Carroll

This is a wonderful tale of adventure, spies and man's attempt to be the first aeronaut. Beautifully written and perfectly capturing 18th century France *Sky Chasers*, follows Magpie, a young girl destined to stand out.

Set during the reign of King Louis and Marie Antoinette, when France is racing against its enemy England, to be the first to fly in a hot air balloon. This wonderful reimagining of real life events is full of adventure, peril and excitement. Magpie is a girl who doesn't quite fit in but despite her differences she has a strong sense of loyalty and a desire to do what's right. She is a fantastic character and one that stands out as a strong willed, intelligent girl with a fierce determination to follow her own heart to achieve her dreams no matter what conventions try to hold her back. She proves to be a fierce and brave friend.

Sky Chasers is dedicated to "all those names that don't make the history books", and is a testament to all the unsung heroes out there. If you love action, adventure and historical fiction then this is the book for you.



The word of the week is...

“Kindred” adjective

Definition: A person’s relatives; a natural understanding.

Try and use this word in a sentence this week. My sentence is,
“She was a kindred spirit; we really understood each other.”



Reading Hero of the Week – Eduard Paulet (Year 8)

This week our reading hero is Eduard Paulet. Eduard has become our first student to read a million words on the Accelerated Reader programme and to join our ‘Millionaires Club’. He has worked extremely hard this term he has read 6 books which equates to 1,088,888 words read. To get to be our first millionaire Eduard has enjoyed reading books by Christopher Paolini, Alex Scarrow and Rick Riordan. Well done Eduard keep up the great work and congratulations on becoming our first ‘millionaire’ of the year.



We are really excited to announce that we have secured tickets for 30 of our Year 7 and 8 students to attend this year's Into Film Festival. This festival is supported by the British Film Institute and the National Schools Partnership. It is the world's largest free film and education event for young people and its aim is to inspire the next generation of film makers. We will be taking selected students to Vue Cinema in Northampton on the 9th and 14th of November to watch some of this year's chosen films. Watch this space for more information.

Post 16 welcome Circuit Judge Sandy Canavan to Kingsthorpe College

We were delighted to welcome Circuit Judge Sandy Canavan to Kingsthorpe College on Friday 12th October for a talk about her career in law followed by a Q and A session. Sandy is a Circuit Judge sitting at Snarebrook Crown Court in East London, the biggest criminal court centre in Europe. She spoke about her experiences of being a barrister and working on a range of cases, starting with personal injury and family work earlier in her career, to more recently working on cases involving terrorism and gun running.

Sandy was asked questions about the types of cases she has been involved in and how she manages to keep her calm and not become too

emotionally involved in some of the more intense cases she has worked. She also brought her robe and wig with her (students gasped when the cost of the wig was announced - £2000!) and she spoke about different types of (quite strange!) uniform that judges wear.

The key message Sandy wanted to give was one of hope and inspiration. She attended an ordinary school and was part of a large, not especially well-off family, and through sheer determination and hard work managed to form an incredibly successful career in law. Many of our students had additional questions at the end of the talk and spoke to Sandy personally – and of course then also tried on the wig!

Mr Pomerantz



ACTING FOR SCREEN WORKSHOP

WITH **BBC** COMEDY/ DRAMA
PRODUCER GINA LYONS AND ACTOR
JAMES ABBEY

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3RD 2018
12 - 6PM
HELD AT: STREETS AHEAD DANCE
SCHOOL, 54A - 54B BEECH AVENUE NN3
2HE - ONLY £30

GROUP 1: 6 - 12 YEARS OLD
GROUP 2: 12 - 18 YEARS OLD

TO BOOK EMAIL:
GINALYONSTV@GMAIL.COM





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Friday 19th October** – School Closes
- **Monday 29th October** – School Opens
- **Thursday 15th November** - Year 9 Parents' Evening
- **Thursday 29th November** - Post 16 Open Evening
- **Monday 10th December** - Year 11 Options Meetings
- **Thursday 13th December** - Year 12/13 Parents' Evening
- **Friday 21st December** – School Closes
- **Thursday 17th January** - Year 7 Parents' Evening
- **Thursday 14th February** - Year 11 Parents' Evening
- **Thursday 14th February** - Year 11 & Year 13 Revision Session 2
- **Thursday 7th March** - Year 9 Options Evening
- **Thursday 25th April** - Year 10 Parents' Evening
- **Thursday 2nd May** – Year 11 & Year 13 Parents' Revision Session 3
- **Thursday 9th May** - Year 8 Parents' Evening

Key Contacts

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Mrs Williams, Ms Vink & Mr Hancock

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