



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 161



Dear Parents

I would like to start my message this week with a huge thank you to you all for your support in ensuring that our students continue to meet our high expectations in relation to uniform standards and our mobile phone policy. There is a noticeable improvement in the standards of dress by our young people, and the new mobile phone policy has had a real impact on social time – students are now enjoying and engaging in conversation with each other, rather than glued to a screen on a mobile phone! A reminder that if a student is seen using a mobile phone during the school day, their phone will be confiscated and not returned until the following day with a note or call from yourselves. If the phone is confiscated on a Friday, the phone will not be handed back until Monday.

I have enjoyed getting to know some of our Year 7 students better this

week as Mrs Gant (Deputy Headteacher) and I started up our choir again. We are practising at the moment for a performance at the start of our Open Evening on 4th October before we start rehearsals for our Carol Concert. We have been really impressed with the engagement and talent of our new recruits – although they couldn't believe Mrs Gant hadn't see The Greatest Showman! On this note, we will be holding auditions for our Christmas production of Fame on Monday 25th September and Tuesday 26th September. There are a variety of acting, dancing and singing roles available and students should see Mrs Townsend for more information. To help get in the mood, 50 of our students had a wonderful afternoon at the Derngate Theatre on Wednesday where they watched the full dress rehearsal of Kinky Boots. Our students really enjoyed the musical and were an absolute credit to the school.

I am also delighted that one of our middle leaders, Mr Michael Hill, has been successful in securing a place on a prestigious project run by SSAT – a network of schools who work in partnership to raise standards within our schools. Mr Hill, who is Head of Year 9, will take part in the Leadership Legacy Project and will have access to some incredible professional development opportunities over the course of the next year. I know that both the network and Mr Hill will benefit from learning with and from each other.

After a couple of weeks of excellent attendance from our students, our overall College attendance dropped slightly below our target of 96% last week. Can I please ask that you encourage your son or daughter to attend every day – we have a designated area within school where students can take some time out if they are feeling a little unwell, but we often find that once students are in school and learning, they are able to participate in lessons and therefore not fall behind in their studies.

I had the pleasure of meeting representatives from the Gaia Innovation Centre this week. These colleagues were meeting with Mr Wade (Deputy Headteacher) and Ms Fisher (Careers and Enterprise Lead) to discuss the launch of our partnership working. This is going to be in the form of a school wide event in January and we are excited about the activities that will form part of this launch. In addition, our selection to be one of only 3 partner schools the company are working with, means that we have access to some superb business links – many of whom are sending

volunteers to work with our young people. The benefits that this will bring for both our students and the wider community really are excellent, and we will of course keep you updated.

A reminder that we have our Meet the Tutor Evening this coming week on Thursday 27th September. This is an opportunity to have a discussion with your son/daughter's form tutor to see how they have settled into their new year group. It is also an opportunity to set targets for the coming year and share any information you feel would support your son/daughter in the coming year to ensure they meet their potential.

Appointments can be made using the on line booking system as below:
<https://kingsthorpecollege.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>

Parents of Post 16 students are also invited to the College on the same evening for our Post 16 Information Evening, where members of the Post 16 team will cascade a wealth of useful information to support both students and parents.

Some useful dates for the future include:

- Thursday 18th October - Year 11 Parents' Evening and our first Year 11/13 Parents' Revision Session
- Thursday 15th November- Year 9 Parents' Evening

Finally, we have our Open Evening on Thursday 4th October for prospective families who are considering joining us in September 2019. This will be a fantastic opportunity to have a look around the school and meet both students and staff. There will be a wonderful evening and spaces will be limited, so please arrive early to ensure a space in the main hall to hear some of our Year 7 tell you about their experiences of life at KC. The evening will run from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

I look forward to updating you again next week.

Mrs Giovanelli
Headteacher

SPREAD THE WORD

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 4th October
6pm-8pm

Dedicated to ensuring that we make a difference, in any way that we can, to both our community and our young people!



To find out more call 01604 716106, visit www.kingsthorpecollege.org.uk or follow us on Twitter @KingsthorpeC

Book of the Week

My Evil Twin is a Supervillain by David Solomons (BL 5.3)

When Luke is confronted with Stellar, his superpowered twin from another dimension, he is highly suspicious. No one travels through time and space without a plan, and that plan is usually EVIL. So what does Stellar want? And why is he so UNBELIEVABLY IRRITATING? From his superhero hair to his rocket-powered shoes, Stellar is up to no good, and Luke must BRING HIM DOWN!



If you love crazy, funny adventure stories, then this book is definitely for you.

Our literacy challenge winner this week is:

Samiya Ahmed 7I.

The word of the week is...

“Perseverance”

Definition: Steady persistence, keeping going despite things being hard. Try and use this word in a sentence this week. My sentence is, *“She persevered with her work to make it the best it could possibly be.”*



K.C Library were privileged to host an afternoon tea party in honour of the master storyteller Roald Dahl. Our students were treated to an array of games, activities, crafts, a treasure hunt and afternoon tea. All of our students had a wonderful afternoon but our overall winning team were The Witches B. Whilst we were having fun we also raised money for Roald Dahl’s Marvellous children’s charity which helps to make life better for seriously ill children in the U.K.



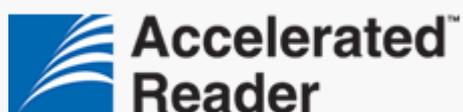
Year 7 students get ready for.....



What is BookBuzz?

This year the library is giving all of our Year 7 students the opportunity to participate in the Bookbuzz reading programme. This scheme gives each student the chance to choose a **free** book from the list of specially selected titles (see below). Over the next two weeks all of our Year 7 students will be asked to make their choice.

The programme is supported by the Book Trust and all of the books are specially chosen to appeal to Year 7 readers. Its aim is to inspire excitement about reading and allows students to discover new books and authors. We have been introducing our students to the programme and we would like to encourage all of our Year 7 parents to have a look at the BookBuzz website. Here you will be able to find out about this year's titles, and other books that your child will enjoy. You will also find that it is filled with competitions, quizzes and fun activities to encourage reading at home. www.bookbuzz.org.uk.



Our reading hero this week is Eduard Paulet (Year 8). Eduard has made a phenomenal start to the year and is achieving some amazing scores on the Accelerated Reader programme. So far this term he has read three books which equates to 748,857 words read. He is really enjoying reading the Inheritance Cycle series of books and is working towards becoming one of our first millionaire readers this year. Well done Eduard, keep up the great work.

As it is the start of term, all of our Year 7 and 8 students will be taking their star reading tests. We have included information below about the reading scheme. We encourage parents and carers to check planners on pages 32 and 33 as 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

This week saw our first meeting of our student judging panel for this year's BBC Student Critics' Award. We kicked off the week with a special afternoon tea where students were given their anthologies and had a first look at the five short-listed stories. Since our first meeting, we have been holding lively discussions and debates over who we think is worthy of winning this year's prestigious award. Over the coming week, Mr Elliot, Mrs Coleman and Mrs Broadbent will be continuing to hold discussions at lunchtimes and afterschool, and next week our students will get to cast their votes for this year's Student Critics' Award.

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.

Our students will play their part by participating in the shadow judging team. Each student will receive a free copy of the short story anthology and over the coming weeks, they 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.



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. /

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

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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

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Science

Learning Director: Ms Basar – ruhana.basar@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Leadership Team Link: Mrs Hayward-Pretty – [kate.hayward-](mailto:kate.hayward-pretty@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk)

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Humanities

Learning Director: Ms McDermott

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Leadership Team Link: Mr Sim – daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Modern Foreign Languages

Learning Director: Ms Sherred

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Leadership Team Link: Mr Sim – daniel.sim@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

ICT and Business

Learning Director: Mr Anawka – eric.anawka@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

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Vocational

Learning Director: Mr Ingram

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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

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PE and Performing Arts

Learning Director: Ms Newell

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Leadership Team Link: Mr Hartnett

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Special Educational Needs

Learning Director: Mr O’Leary

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Leadership Team Link: Mrs Gant

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