



Kingsthorpe College Newsletter

Edition 151



Dear Parents

It's been a week of celebration at the College – particularly for our Post 16 students.

Early last week, we received notification that one of our Post 16 photographers – Nathan Oliver – had been shortlisted for The National School Photography Awards 2017/18 in the Post 16 category. This is an incredible achievement and Nathan has been shortlisted alongside students from some extremely successful schools. Regardless of whether Nathan wins his category, we are delighted that his talent and hard work has been recognised. All students were informed about the competition and Nathan himself made the effort to submit his work to be considered. We are delighted that this self-belief and determination paid

off. The results are announced on Monday 30th April.

Later in the week, on Thursday, we again celebrated as our Young Enterprise team made up of Post 16 students won the Northampton County Final. The prestigious event was held at Wicksteed Park and saw us battle it out with Wellingborough Independent School and Northampton School for Girls. We won a total of 4 awards on the night including Best Presentation, Most Environmental Product and Best Company. The students were thrilled, and we are now through to the Regional Final to be held in Nottingham. The success of the team is thoroughly well deserved and I am extremely proud of all team members who have worked tremendously hard and shown considerable resilience in getting through to this stage of the competition. I am sure the students would also be the first to join me in my thanks and praise for the superb work Mrs Fischer has done in supporting the team and programme – I know she had a tear in her eye when the results were announced on Thursday!

Whilst our Post 16 students were receiving their awards, back at the College we were holding our Year 10 Parents' Evening which was extremely well attended. Thank you to all parents who came to speak with us - the feedback was very positive and where there were concerns, it was good to be able to discuss these and agree ways forward. As we have said many times, we are committed to excellence and we acknowledge that there are always ways in which we can be even better – we always welcome feedback and encourage you to get in touch if there is an issue you wish to discuss. It is this positive working relationship between home and school which will ensure the success of our young people.

On the same evening, we held one of our Parents' Revision Workshops specifically aimed at parents of Year 11 and Year 13 students. The interactive session led by Deputy Headteachers, Mrs Gant and Mr Baines, gave a number of strategies that parents can use to support their son/daughter through the stressful summer exam period. The feedback from both parents and students was excellent and it is now our intention to make the session and its resources available to all parents through our website.

This week also saw our Year 11 students involved in the Royal

Shakespeare Education programme where they joined thousands of other students across the country to watch a live screening of Macbeth. Students and staff enjoyed the performance and we are confident that this will really help our students in preparing for their English Literature exam.

In year groups lower down the College, some of our Year 8 and 9 students attended the Secondary Sports Leadership Conference on Friday where they received leadership training from a number of sports coaches and then worked with leaders from other schools to plan and run sport sessions with primary school children. Miss Bennett was extremely impressed with the hard work and dedication of our young sports leaders and you can read more details of this event later in the newsletter.

This week has also seen a discussion between the College Leadership Team and College Governors in relation to our curriculum development at Kingsthorpe College. Following feedback from students and parents, we are introducing a “Choices Programme” into Year 9. Kingsthorpe College is committed to providing students with a broad and balanced curriculum as we believe this best prepares our students for lifelong learning and opportunities when they leave us. However, we also recognise that by the time students enter Year 9 they are starting to develop a real enthusiasm for some subjects more than others. We wish to facilitate this passion, and help students deepen and broaden their knowledge in those subjects which they particularly enjoy. The “Choices Programme” will increase curriculum time for students to study a slightly reduced number of foundation subjects, whilst still ensuring that students cover a broad range of subject disciplines. As these are not formal option choices, students will still have the opportunity to study all courses on the curriculum in Year 10 when they start their GCSE courses. We are excited about this development and believe it will have a really positive impact on the experience of our Year 9 students.

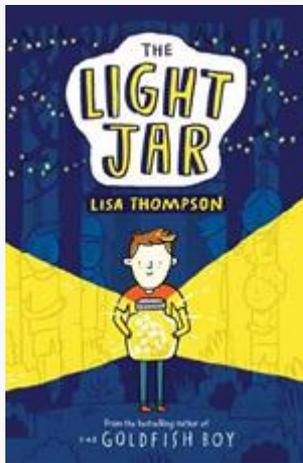
Finally, advance warning of our next Parents’ Evening which will be for parents of Year 8 students on Thursday 17th May. As usual, appointments can be made online and we would encourage you to attend as this will form an important point of the discussion in relation to your son or daughter’s achievement.

I look forward to updating you again next week.

Mrs Giovanelli
Headteacher



The Light Jar by Lisa Thompson (BL4.4)



Nate and his mother are running away, hiding out in a tumbledown cottage in the middle of a forest. When Mum heads off for provisions, and then doesn't return, Nate is left alone and afraid, with the dark closing in all around him. But comfort can come from the most unexpected of places - a mysterious girl trying to solve the clues of a treasure hunt and the reappearance of an old friend from his past. Will Nate find the bravery needed to face the troubles of his present and ultimately illuminate the future?

If you love fast-paced, action/mystery stories then why not try this great read.

Our literacy challenge winner this week is:

Hannah Byrne 8G.

The word of the week is...

“original”

Definition: new, fresh, inventive

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

Her artwork was original: there had been nothing like it before.



Our reading hero this week is Jacob Milencius. Jacob has had an amazing start to the new term on the Accelerated Reader programme. This week alone he has read eight books and passed each quiz gaining a 100% pass in each. He is working really hard and he is really enjoying discovering a new series of books by the writer Dav Pilkey. In total Jacob has now read 25 books which equates to 468,722 words read so far this year. Well done Jacob, keep up the great work and keep on enjoying your books!

Joffre White will be visiting Kingsthorpe College Library On Tuesday 15th May

We are really excited to announce that the wonderful author Joffre White will be visiting our college library on Tuesday 15th May. He will be working with our Year 7, 8 and 9 students. Throughout the day he will be delivering a series of creative writing workshops and assemblies that

centre around his books, his life and his works. Students will have the opportunity to ask lots of questions throughout his day with us and if they wish to do so will be able to purchase signed books. I hope you will agree this is a wonderful treat for our students.

Young Leader Conference



Last week, a group of Year 8/9 students attended the Northampton Secondary Sport Leaders Conference at Malcolm Arnold Academy. Lots of secondary schools from across Northampton were represented at the conference. During the morning the students received leadership training from sport specific coaches in tennis, rugby, cricket and basketball. In the afternoon they were challenged to work with leaders from other schools to plan and run sport sessions for local primary school children. Our leaders were some of the youngest students there and they did absolutely

brilliantly. They demonstrated fantastic teamwork with the other students, and ran the sessions confidently and professionally. We are very proud of you all.

Post 16

Year 12 students start to focus on future careers

Year 12 students were treated to a talk by careers coach Stephen Isherwood, who runs the successful business and company 'Invest in your Careers'. Stephen led four worksheets with our students, explaining how they should regard their current education and possible next step (i.e. university) as a stepping stone to get them to their ultimate goal. He gave some excellent examples and ideas of work experience and internships that students could seek to make themselves more valuable to future employers, and then left students with a questionnaire designed to get them thinking about what they might want to do in the future. Stephen will meet with all students again shortly to discuss the results of their questionnaire. This is just the start of the careers focus we will be conducting with Year 12 students – we have several university taster sessions happening in College over the next term, as well as people from various different jobs coming in to talk about their careers, including a clinical psychologist and a policeman. Students have also been asked to let us know which other careers they would like to know more about – and we will do our best to get experts from that field in (and if any parents would like to come in and speak about their own career – please get in touch!).

Paul Pomerantz,
Director of Post 16

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