



KINGSTHORPE COLLEGE

Boughton Green Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, NN2 7HR

Telephone: 01604 716106 Fax: 01604 720824

E-mail: Admin@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk Web Site: www.kingsthorpecollege.org.uk



Newsletter

December 2011

Dear Parents,

It's been a good term.

Changes to the College day, introduced in September, have led to a very quiet and purposeful learning environment. New tutoring arrangements have also meant that more time can be given to ensuring that students understand where they are in the learning process and what needs to be done to reach their target grades. Following the College's examination successes in the summer, it is clear that everyone is committed to improving outcomes once again for all of our students in 2012.

The 200% improvement in Kingsthorpe's GCSE results over a three year period has been recognised on a national level. It was very exciting to welcome the Deputy Director of the Policy Unit at 10 Downing Street, Chris Brown, to College on Thursday 1st December. Chris was particularly interested in how the College had made such a difference in a relatively short period of time. He spoke to students, members of staff and College governors about the effective systems that have enabled more and more of our students to gain at least 5 GCSEs at C grade or above including English and maths. His visit included a full tour of the College and visits to lessons. He was clearly very impressed with everything that he saw on the day.

I am also delighted to let you know that the College has won an award. This is the Edison Learning Award for 2010 – 2011 in recognition 'of excellence in providing a world-class education for every child.' The award was presented to Kingsthorpe College in America by the CEO of Edison Learning and celebrates the College's significant improvement in examination results last year.

It is an honour to win such an award from a highly respected international company which works tirelessly to improve the life chances of students in a number of countries through effective leadership, systems and teaching and learning.

Thank you to the many parents who attended Progress Day on 29th November. I have been told that we held learning conversations with over 70% of parents during the afternoon and evening. Thank you also for completing the questionnaires regarding your thoughts about aspects of our work. I have included the outcomes in this newsletter.

I hope that you all have a lovely Christmas and a time to unwind.

Happy Christmas,

Judith Long
Principal

**OUTCOMES OF PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRES
NOVEMBER 2011**

	Strongly Agree / Agree	Disagree	Don't know
My child enjoys school	98%	1%	1%
The school keeps my child safe	100%		
The school informs me about my child's progress	97%	2%	1%
My child is making enough progress at this school	98%	1%	1%
Teaching is good at this school	98%		2%
The school helps me to support my child's learning	95%	3%	2%
The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle	92%	5%	3%
The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future	94%	1%	5%
The school meets my child's particular needs	97%	1%	2%
The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	94%	2%	4%
The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns	91%	1%	8%
The school is led and managed effectively	96%		4%
Overall I am happy with my child's experience at this school	97%	1%	2%
The changes to the College day have improved the learning experience for students	64%	2%	34%
Changes to tutoring have been beneficial	63%	1%	36%

KC PERFORMING ARTS FACULTY PRESENTS

“WISH YOU WERE HERE!”

A Christmas trip around the globe!

Come and join us as we send musical postcards from around the world, featuring dance, drama and music from all four corners of the globe

TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2011
7:15 P.M.
KC MAIN HALL

TICKETS FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE AT BREAK, LUNCH & AFTER SCHOOL
£3 adults, £2 concessions



LOST PROPERTY

We endeavour to reunite students with lost property whenever we can. This is only possible if all their belongings are named.

CASHLESS CATERING

Can we remind everyone that we are unable to change money in the College. Students need to bring the correct money to put in the cashless catering machines.

Student Services

POSTER COMPETITION

Keeley Dazeley (P12) and Asha-Marie Dykes (B12) have been chosen as the winners of the poster competition. Their designs will be reproduced and used as the new posters promoting the counselling service and nurse drop in sessions.

Mr. H. Patel, ICT Faculty

SUPER LEARNER DAY 22ND November 2011

On Tuesday 15th November and Wednesday 16th November, twenty of our Year 8 students (who were last year involved with the Gifted & Talented Olympic Club) visited The Saints Rugby Club at Franklins Gardens for a Young Leaders' Learning Course in preparation for a 'Super Learner Day' to be hosted by Kingsthorpe College on 22nd November.

On Tuesday 22nd November about eighty Year 5 pupils visited our school from eight of our Kingsthorpe Cluster Primary Schools. This is part of a town-wide Year 5 and 8 transition project which is being run throughout this academic year. It is also linked with the University of the First Age where some of our Year 8 students are working towards Young Leader Awards.

Our Year 8 students led workshops including Super Spelling! My Amazing Memory! See, Say, Do and My Amazing Brain! The workshops involved the Year 5 students learning ways to spell, memorise and communicate more effectively in order to improve their ways of learning. One Year 5 pupil commented 'This is the best trip I've ever been on'.

Our Year 8 students planned and ran the whole day and were enthusiastic leaders throughout. They were a credit to the College during their visit to The Saints and during the Super Learner Day.

Mrs. S. Lomas and Ms. S. Spencer



WHAT'S NEW IN THE HUMANITIES FACULTY?

The last term has been another very busy one for the Humanities Faculty. For Year 11 students there has obviously been a large focus on preparing for the mock exams. Revision sessions have been running to prepare them for this. We have also had World War Two veterans visiting the school to speak with History students (please see below for report).

WORLD WAR TWO VETERANS VISIT

As part of the Remembrance commemorations, we were very privileged to have a group of World War Two veterans from the Burma Star organisation visit the College on November 21st to give a talk to students from Year 9 and Sixth Form History classes and Year 7 English groups. This has now become an annual event and was a fantastic opportunity for students and veterans alike to bridge the generation gap and for students to hear first hand experiences from the war. We were also very lucky to have members of the British Legion as part of this session, sharing their experiences of conflicts ranging from the Cold War to Iraq. The talk was filmed by two of our students, Nathaniel Villette and Sandro Sorrentino, both in Year 12, and we hope to show the edited film in the school foyer. The students involved were a credit to the school, showing great enthusiasm and asking thoughtful questions. Some students have written their thoughts on the visit:

“Yesterday was a really good day. Some students were invited to go to the library to visit three very important people that fought for our country. People don't realise how lucky they really are. I learnt a lot and it made me realise how lucky I am because they didn't have all the latest gadgets and if they wanted to get in touch with someone whilst away at war they would only be able to write a letter. The veterans had started in the army when they were very young – one joined up when he was only 17. They were very kind to bring in photos and items from the war. It was very interesting and I am very pleased that I was able to go.”

Molly Hunt (Year 9)

“We all thought it was a great chance to talk to people who were part of WW2. It was a great learning experience to find out about and meet people from the forgotten army who fought in Burma (Asia) – it's not something you can do every day. The experience made us feel quite emotional, but privileged that that we don't have to go through what they had to. It was also good to see soldiers from more recent wars and the things they brought along to show us were really interesting.”

Jordan Oliver (Year 7), Freya Jones (Year 7) and Bethany Clark (Year 9)

“Yesterday Kingsthorpe College welcomed World War 2 veterans and members of the British Legion to speak to students about their experiences during wars from the D-Day landings to Afghanistan. This was a particularly valuable experience for me as an A-Level History student. The stories of the veterans gave a more personal aspect to the History that we study. Through talking to Mr. Voice from the British Legion, who served in West Berlin during the Cold War, I was also able to get first hand knowledge of what it was like there and just how unstable the world was at that time. Overall, the talk was really interesting and a rare opportunity to meet people who fought to save our country.”

Jack Rehle (Year 13)

Miss G. Atkins, Learning Director – Humanities



LIBRARY NEWS

KC CHESS TOURNAMENT 2011

The Chess final took place on Wednesday 20th July with over fifty students taking part. Sixth former Stewart Boswell was declared overall winner of the tournament.

Northamptonshire Schools' Chess Association supported our event and the Chronicle and Echo were in attendance and as a result a lovely feature appeared in the newspaper that week.

As a result we have been contacted by Campion School who would like to challenge their students with a mini chess tournament. Watch this space!

WAR VETERANS

To tie in with Remembrance Day we were fortunate enough to yet again hold an event for the Burma Star War Veterans. The British Legion also joined us this year with two soldiers who have served in more recent wars.

The event was held in the Library on Monday 21st November and two groups of thirty five students eagerly looked forward to the event and had a vast array of questions to ask. Reporters from the Chronicle and Echo were present and photos should appear shortly.

READING AT KC

Reading takes a very high profile at KC and especially in the Library. We run a programme called Accelerated Reader for our students in Years 7, 8 and 9.

The students can earn prizes and rewards for maintaining an average of at least 85% of correct answers. Since September the students on the programme have read 1,449 books and 16,526,792 words.

We have a fantastic team of volunteers who are on board and helping to support reading within the College. The volunteers really love what they do and find it to be a positive experience because the students are enthusiastic and keen to improve. If you live locally, have an hour or two to spare per week and would like to help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Students have fortnightly lessons in the library but are asked to read for at least 15 minutes per day as part of their homework and to ensure that reading levels continue to improve. Please support reading at home by checking that students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have spent this time reading daily.

HOMEWORK HELPERS

We offer homework help at all times in the Library but especially after College. Every day there are at least two members of staff available and, on Wednesdays and Fridays, a further two members of staff offer help too.

The My Maths website work has been particularly beneficial as we can make time to explain any concepts that are proving to be difficult on a one to one basis

NB We do offer squash and biscuits if students stay to do homework but if you would prefer this not to be offered (e.g. for dietary reasons), please let me know.

Many thanks.

Mrs H Bell, Library Manager

FOOTBALL & GOLF RESULTS

YEAR 11 FOOTBALL

The Year 11 Football team has made a good start to the season with very good wins against Danetre School (won 9-0) and Northampton Academy (won 6-4). This has ensured that we have progressed to the quarter finals of the county cup competition. In the next round we are awaiting the winners of Wrenn School versus Malcolm Arnold Academy. In both games this year there have been some strong performances from Joe Handley, James Clarke, Liam Stone, Frankie Belfon and Jake Cayton.

YEAR 9 FOOTBALL

The Year 9 Football team has also had a good start to the year with back to back victories in the County Cup competition against Kingsbrook School (won 9-0) and William Parker (3-0). This has also ensured that they have progressed to the quarter final where they are due to play The Ferrers School before the Christmas break. They have also made a good start to the Town league with wins against Malcolm Arnold Academy (won 10 – 0) and Duston School (won 5-3). The team's only loss was against a very strong NSB team (lost 5-0). There have been a number of good performances from all of the team, particularly Ross Garlick; Leighton Small; J'Nai Butterfield-Steede; Sam Gilkes; Harrison Desborough; Dan Long; Callum Patching; Joe Shanley and Rico Ewer to name a few!!

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY SCHOOLS GOLF ASSOCIATION UNDER 15 CHAMPIONSHIPS

The annual NSGA Under 15 Championships were held at The Northampton Golf Club, Harlestone in October. The 'field' was very strong and both our entries (Harry Brown and Jack Bull) played very well in difficult windy conditions. Harry Brown was Runner Up in the 'Nett' competition with a score of 73. Both students will also be representing Kingsthorpe College in the Under 18 NSGA Team Championships in June.

Mr. D. Wright, Learning Director - PE

OUTSTANDING EFFORT & BEHAVIOUR IN PE

As you are aware last year we introduced an 'Outstanding Effort and Behaviour' award in PE. Every four week block we change our activities in PE and at the end of each block each teacher nominates a student who they think has worked particularly hard, brought their correct PE kit and behaved in an exceptional manner.

Similar to the aspiration awards, students are handed out certificates and also have letters sent home to parents to recognise their outstanding effort and behaviour.

Here are lists of the students who have achieved the award in the first block of the year:

Year 7		Year 8		Year 9	
Josh-Kai Brooks	OAA	Zac Harris	Basketball	Mitchell Stennett	Rugby
Jordan Matthews	Basketball	Edward Band	OAA	Nabil Anwar	Badminton
Kade Mock	Gymnastics	Jamie Nash	Gymnastics	Chris Griffin	Trampolining
Sandra Lawrence	Netball	Ellie Morgan	Hockey	Kemi Edonmi	Netball
Abigail Medland	Football	Aimee Shaw	Netball	Katie Grant	OAA
Hayden Tebbutt	OAA	Miles Coleman	Basketball	Ryan Banyard	Rugby
Tom White	Basketball	Josh Abbott	OAA	Arafat Mohamed	Badminton
Luke Andrews	Gymnastics	Ashai Parmar	Gymnastics	Turker Kahveci	Trampolining
Ryana Belfon	Netball	Dakota Tarry	Hockey	Aarifa Islam	Netball
Immi Wilkins	Football	Keeley Dazeley	Netball	Lois Hough	OAA

Congratulations to all the students who worked hard and achieved the award this time.

Miss T. Crossland, PE Faculty



NETBALL AT KC

There have been a number of successes in Netball over the first term.

Firstly, the Year 10 Netball team played in the District Tournament held at Duston School on Thursday 20th October. The girls played the other town schools and, after some very closely fought games, finished the tournament in second place. Well done to the girls who, now in Year 10, still continue to enjoy and play netball to a high standard.

Year 10 Squad:

Cheyenne Redmond, Katie Fellows, Amber Ostler, Paige Ostler, Steph Hill, Tammy Geyer,
Nicola King

The Year 7 and 8 Netball teams have also had a good start to the year, having regularly attended Netball Club. The girls had a mixed year group game, which they played against Malcolm Arnold Academy on Tuesday 8th November. For many of the girls it was their first competitive game of netball, although this didn't show. They performed brilliantly and won the game 16-1. Well done, in particular, to Emma Johnson for her fantastic shooting on the night.

Year 7 and 8 mixed squad:

Emma Johnson, Ryana Belfon, Charlotte Brown, Harriet Adnitt, Rebecca Kings, Megan Church,
Fiona Morse, Olivia Pattison, Jemima Williams, Nina Garrett.

The Year 7 netballers had a busy week with another game the following day, Wednesday 9th November, against NSG. The girls made a nervous start to the game, but after the first quarter dominated the game on court, with the ball only getting into NSG's circle to shoot twice! Unfortunately, the score doesn't reflect the possession the girls had throughout the game (we need to work on our shooting!), but the game finished 5-0 to KC!

Year 7 squad:

Harriet Adnitt, Ryana Belfon, Eloise Brooks, Leila Greatorex, Grace Turner, Bethany Jackson,
Megan Redmond, Fiona Morse.

The Year 7 and 8 mixed squad, during the following week, played Northamptonshire Grammar School and Quinton House in a tournament at KC. This was a challenge for our girls. Pitsford brought two teams and KC and Quinton House both had one. The girls held their own on court, but we struggled at times to score. We finished third out of the four teams.

Well done to all the girls involved in the games – more to come after Xmas!

Miss V. Newell, PE Faculty

TRIP TO THE SAINTS OPERATION GUARDIAN

A number of students were invited to the Saints Rugby ground for a tour of the stadium and the opportunity of an hour of coaching.

It was a great experience for all students.

Our thanks go to Kingsthorpe Community Police and school staff for giving up their time to support the students.

Mrs. D. Duncan

COMMUNITY SPORT TIMETABLE

Day	Activity	Time	Cost	Contacts
Tues.	Kingsthorpe Health Walk	9.30am	FREE	Alex Bennett - 01604 716106 x 1219 Alexandra.bennett@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
Wed.	Tai Chi	4.30pm-5.30pm	£5	Dominic Rushmore - 07957 321531 dominic@dominicrushmore.co.uk
	Adult's Badminton (16+ years)	7.45pm-9.45pm	£4	Nina Bridge - 07900 585033 ninabridge@badmintonengland.co.uk
	Zumba	7.30pm-8.30pm	£6 (£4 students)	Rosa Cristini - 07721 038823
	Boxercise	4.00pm-4.45pm	£3	Tara Withers - 07912142877
	15 minute Massages	3.30pm-4.00pm and 5.00pm-5.30pm	£5	Tara Withers - 07912142877
Fri.	Under 11's Badminton	3.45pm-5.00pm	£3	Nina Bridge - 07900 585033 ninabridge@badmintonengland.co.uk
	Over 11's Badminton	5.00pm-6.30pm	£3	Nina Bridge - 07900 585033 ninabridge@badmintonengland.co.uk

For more information on any of the sessions mentioned above please see the school website, under 'College and Community Sport'.

Alternatively, you can contact Alex Bennett (Sport Development Officer) on 01604 716106 x 1219 or alexandra.bennett@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Alex Bennett, Sport Development Officer