



ISSUE

February 2021

KIMMINGS

NEWSLETTER

THE SPRING ISSUE



THE HEAD MASTER'S PAGE

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

This half term's newsletter comes to you from a strangely silent King's, with few around to witness the snow that has made King's look magical over the past week. As we reach the end of one of the most challenging half terms that the school community has had to face, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all. Under the most unusual of circumstances parents and carers have supported their sons in developing the perseverance to push on. Staff have delivered online lessons in a very alien teaching environment, and others have supported teachers to facilitate them doing this and maintained the running of the school. Some have learned how to become a mini lab with flow testing and others how to hold a conference in a virtual environment. The list goes on. Thank you to you the student body who have risen to the challenge, and continued to learn and bring your joy, wit and enthusiasm to lessons. Well done!!

Mental Health and Well Being

Online Safety Training

At the start of next term Year 7 students will receive login details to access a series of courses on online safety, healthy relationships, alcohol awareness, anti-social behaviour and fire safety. The courses have been produced by Lincolnshire County Council through their Safer Communities Service and would normally have been delivered in school earlier on this term. Once students receive login details they should follow the link to the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership Virtual College platform. Once they have accessed their account they will have access to the five Year 7 modules.

LiNCHigher

At the start of next term students in Years 9 to 13 will have access to an online learning platform from LiNCHigher; an organisation providing young people in Lincolnshire with the information and support they need to make informed decisions about their future. The online platform is being used by a large number of schools across the county. Students in all years will have access to on-demand training modules assigned specifically for their year groups relating to health and wellbeing; resilience and confidence; study skills; masterclasses and Higher Education pathways. LiNCHigher will email students their login details at the start of next term.

Useful sources of support

The 'Every Mind Matters' website is also an excellent resource for researching resources to support your mental health. This can be accessed at Every Mind Matters | One You (www.nhs.uk)

Net Aware have produced some useful resources and 8 tips for keeping your kids safe online during lockdown (net-aware.org.uk) on how to keep children safe online during lockdown.

We would encourage all parents and students to continue having conversations around online safety, regularly check phone and app settings together and manage time online. There is some national guidance available: Coronavirus (COVID-19): support for parents and carers to keep children safe online - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Mr Dixon (Deputy Head Master) should be contacted if you have any safeguarding concerns at justin.dixon@kings.lincs.sch.uk.

Changes to all students' usernames

As part of our continued improvement in our Information Technology infrastructure we are having to change all student usernames. Passwords will not change.

It will be changed from the format forename.familyname to 17.f.familyname. Please can students watch out for the email confirming that the change is in process. [The 17. represents the year the year group joined the school, Y10 – 17; Y11 – 16; Y12 – 15 and Y13 – 14].

THE HEAD MASTER'S PAGE

We anticipate making the next change on Thursday 25 February for Year 10, although this does rely on Microsoft's availability. This process is already complete for Years 7, 8 and 9 and will continue with other year groups over the coming weeks.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND CRITICAL WORKERS

Provision in school will continue for the Vulnerable Children and Critical Workers' group.

Only one parent needs to be a Critical Worker to access this facility. If you would like to add your son to the Critical Workers provision could you please inform the school by email to admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk. Please state the days required over the next two-week period. The school will be open from 08:30 until 15:45 for this small group of students. Please note there is no provision during Half-Term.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

All Free School Meals families will be provided with vouchers for £15 per week during the period 25 January to 5 March 2021 through the EdenRed National Voucher Scheme. The February half term vouchers have been purchased from Wonde and will arrive with eligible families soon. If you have any issues accessing Free School Meal vouchers please contact admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk. If any families are experiencing significant hardship, we are registered as a referral agency with the Grantham Food Bank for families that live locally. Please email admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk if you would like further information.

WI-FI VOUCHERS

We have several additional Wi-Fi vouchers available on a first come first served basis that will connect free of charge to a BT Wi-Fi Hotspot until the end of July 2021. If you think this would be useful and you are in range of a Hotspot, please email admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk

YEAR 12 & 13 UNIFROG

Students are encouraged to log into their Unifrog accounts at least once a week to make sure they are keeping up to date with important university, apprenticeship and employment opportunities. Mr Whales is posting a large number of online work experience, open days and enrichment opportunities from a range of sources, many of which are operating on a first come first served basis. One silver lining of the lockdown is the proliferation of online opportunities available which will help shape future decisions and enhance future applications.

YEAR 13 MOCK EXAMINATIONS

The government guidance continues to state that the earliest schools may be able to open is Monday 8 March. For year 13 students the mock exams are delayed until the school is reopened to them. The order that the mock exams will be sat remains the same as the original schedule.

Thank you for your continued support at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

SIMON PICKETT



Parents, Teachers and Friends Association

Introduction

The Parents, Teachers, Friends Association actively supports the school, teachers and students by organising events to raise funds for the school community.

Due to restrictions in place, our ability to hold face to face events and raise funds is currently limited; therefore the PTFA is working on how to continue the fundraising efforts with remote events.

We rely entirely on the goodwill, energy and participation of parents and teachers and would like to welcome anyone wanting to get involved.

Funding

If you haven't already registered with easyfundraising to help support us, please sign up now at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/kingschoolgrantham where the money raised will make a real and positive contribution to the education of your boys.

We hope that many of you will feel able to contribute something to the school and with the ability to claim back the tax you have paid, the school will receive £12.50 for every £10 you give.

We recognise that not all parents will be able to help us in this way and would like to thank anyone who is able to either give some time through volunteering on an ad-hoc or regular basis to PTFA activities, or is able to make a regular gift, both of which will help to make a huge difference to the whole-school experience for our boys.



STUDENT SUCCESSSES

ENGLISH

Studying Shakespeare in Lockdown? No Problem!

Half of Year 7 are currently studying Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'. Here are some of their thoughts on studying this magnificent tragedy in lockdown:

Despite most of the world having been put on hold, education hasn't. Our education has had to continue - virtually! Although only beginning our study of Shakespeare less than two weeks ago, we have already learnt so much. Initially we began with researching Shakespeare's life - his childhood, family and career. This was particularly interesting. His life was inspiring, how from a basic childhood he became one of the most revered playwrights (among many other things). We then went on to study the prologue of 'Romeo and Juliet', and we learnt that the play had a forgone conclusion. By the beginning we knew the end. I personally thought that the relevance of the play's storyline to today was amazing. That a playwright who has been dead for over 400 years could have written something so relevant to now! (Thomas Mitchell, 7C).

We have been taken back to the 1600s to learn about the 'star-crossed' lovers: Romeo and Juliet. Their dramatic love story has taught Year 7 so much (including how to interpret Shakespearean English!). We also learnt about all the dramas and exciting events in the first Act of 'Romeo and Juliet' (such as the brawl between the Montagues and the Capulets). We have enjoyed reading Act 1 and we cannot wait to read more! (Oliver Ferrier, 7C).

During the third lockdown, we have been learning Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'. Normally we would have been acting out scenes in the classroom, but we have been reading the play aloud over Teams. I have quite enjoyed reading Shakespeare, as it is interesting but sometimes it is hard to understand. I have enjoyed the fact that lessons are more interactive on Teams though. This is because we can complete knowledge recall tests via 'Microsoft Forms' and these are marked automatically. We also have the chat function which really helps. The chat allows us to ask questions simultaneously and others can answer. I have really enjoyed learning 'Romeo and Juliet' and I believe my peers have too! This has been a really fun topic to learn. However, if Shakespeare were

alive today, I think he would be a little disappointed as his plays were meant to be watched by an audience (and not listened to through our devices!). (Henry Apps, 7C). We have been studying Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' in our English lessons this term on Teams. The most enjoyable lesson was when Mr Kearney helped us understand the conflict between the two feuding households, and we had to use Shakespeare's insulting language! (Leo Dudman-Millbank, 7C).

Getting to Grips with Literature: The A level English Club

Purav in Year 12 explains what the A Level English Literature Club is all about:

The Literary Club is an extra-curricular club under the wing of the English Department. We developed the Club out of our mutual interest in literature and creative writing, and after noticing that many people in our school shared similar passions.

Within the Literary Club, members engage in a wide range of activities along the dual lines of reading and writing. They conduct presentations, showing aspects of literature outside the syllabus, from experimental novels to uncommon genres. They sharpen their prose by writing for prompts such as phrases or paintings. They are even encouraged to participate in competitions (though this is not mandatory!).

Last year, two of our members submitted their respective entries to an international competition and are now awaiting their results. This year we are looking at new material to partake in. From television scripts to radio dramas, our list of avenues has expanded.

The Literary Club takes place once a week on a Monday, with members leaving and coming back if they are required to. It is held between 1:00-1:20pm in Room 46. However, due to the necessity of year group bubbles, it is currently limited to Year 12.

The first 5 minutes of Club are spent on announcements and recommendations for books, websites, films et cetera. The next 15 minutes are spent on the activity of the day often chosen from the aforementioned examples. During an exam period, the Club can even be used as a place of revision for English students.

When school eventually reopens to the student body, we shall recommence. We mainly receive students taking English Literature and English Language this year, however, we must stress that the Literary Club is open to anyone with a sincere regard for the subject. We hope to see more people join us in the future.

STUDENT SUCCESSSES



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Thinking About Applying to Oxbridge?

Preparing in Year 12

Ellie Wood
Admissions and Outreach Officer
Christ's College, Cambridge



Year 12 students who have expressed an interest in a future Oxbridge application received an informative webinar this term.

Ellie Wood, Admissions and Outreach Officer at Christ's College, held a personalised webinar for our students and offered a fantastic insight into Cambridge and an Oxbridge application.

Students were given an overview of Oxbridge (colleges, life, teaching, courses etc), plus detailed information about the admissions process and preparing in Year 12 (super-curriculars). The group will have a second webinar after half term from Brasenose College, Oxford allowing the group to have a full appreciation of the challenges and excitement of an Oxbridge application.

The Year 12 have already heard from the University of Leicester about making the most of Year 12 and we will be inviting further Universities to talk to our students about university applications, personal statement writing and much more.

Mr Whales will also be hosting the annual Higher Education (HE) evening for all parents on Wednesday 29 April 2021



On Saturday 6th February, our stoic Head Boy, Rory Mapletoft led the first King's team in the University of Cambridge's Chemistry Race. His team included Pete Rajesh, Mihails Kosmans, Ben Buck and Josh Brooks.

This competition is designed to test the brightest groups of chemists of school leaving age.

The format is simple; answer as many questions as possible, in a set time. However, you can only unlock the next question by answering the previous question correctly. The combination of speed and accuracy is paramount in making progress in the 80 questions. I am proud to say that Rory and the team placed 12th Nationally but answered as many questions correctly as the team in 2nd place.

Even though they could not attend the University of Cambridge in person, the university produced a virtual awards ceremony where the competitors' avatars could collect their prizes and even speak to the competition masters afterwards in a simulated classroom. Who said home learning was dull?

Karl Downing,
Subject Leader Chemistry



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Fitness Suite

The Fitness Suite has received an update to the equipment available, with the addition of 5 new rowing machines. This brings the total number of machines to which, along with the free weights, means that we now have a more accessible area for students to make use of during PE lessons and during lunchtimes.

We look forward to offering the boys the opportunity to use the new fitness equipment when school reopens.

The PE Department would like to thank the PTFA for their generous funding in purchasing 2 of these new machines.

Mr Hulme - Subject Leader, PE

Combined Cadet Force



Although the CCF Contingent is currently closed there is a lot of work being done by myself and SSI Pulfrey as it is important that the Contingent is on the front foot when we are released from lockdown.

We have been invited by the CCF Rifle Association to field a team of 4 in the shooting competition to be held at Bisley in October 2021 and there is an option to field a second team if other schools don't take up their invitations.

As Contingent Commander and the Clay Shooting Coach, I have renewed my Section 11 firearms certificate for another year. This allows me to conduct clay shooting for the under 18's. SSI Pulfrey will also be able to conduct air rifle shooting.

We have also renewed our very antiquated tentage over the past 5 years. We now have 8 six person tents and so if necessary can sleep 48 cadets on the school field to start our A/T exercises again. This will happen in the summer should we feel we do not want to travel to different areas in the current climate. SSI Pulfrey will have 24 hour ration packs for feeding purposes, so that we can be self-sufficient.

I have also renewed our health and safety radios which allows us to contact each other and have purchased 6 more.

Two RAF Cadets are going forward to the virtual Air Cadet Leadership course, with a possibility of 4 more cadets doing so.

We have entered the RAF Cadets 2021 Area competition which is being run virtually and Flt Lt Barton is co-ordinating this.

Flying and Gliding will recommence once the RAF give us dates to participate again.

All of the Contingent Governance (health and safety) is up to date which will allow us to concentrate on cadet training. Once we are clear to carry on, we hope to recruit at least 30 Year 9 students. Some expressions of interest have already been received but parents of Year 9 students are invited to email SSI

Pulfrey (shane.pulfrey@kings.lincs.sch.uk) now so that we can set up a recruitment list for March or April 2021. In September 2021 we will recruit again and prior to this, in July 2021 our senior cadets will lead a recruiting exercise.

The Contingent has a summer camp planned with 7 Brigade for 20 cadets and 4 adults for the Army Section at Beckingham in July 2021. We have also been given places at Inskip, the RAF training venue in Cumbria.

Our annual dinner night is in the diary for 16 June 2021 and is a chance for our Contingent to impress a VIP guest.

Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire also have an East Midlands Regular and Cadet Forces Committee chaired by the Lord Lieutenant and Group Captain Sharp, with input from the 7 Brigade Colonel Cadets Ian Sackree. This is a high level discussion group of officers from the ACF, CCF and regular Army and RAF and they cover help and public relations activities from TA units in our area. Having been invited to become a CCF member of the Committee and I was delighted to accept.

Articles have been written for both the Grantham Journal (Dec 2020) and the Queen's Royal Lancers for publication in the magazine (Oct 2021).

As you can see, SSI Pulfrey and I have tried to keep some normality whilst planning ahead.

R M Ogg, BEM

Lt Col

Contingent Commander



NEWS FROM THE LRC

The hustle and bustle of our students eagerly logging onto the LRC computers, the queues to borrow the latest acquisitions and the fight for biscuits in Book Club have been much missed by Mrs Mattison and Mr Kearney this term - but whenever you are in a Library the magic never stops. Read on to find out more!

EXCITING NEW BOOK PROGRAMME - COMING SOON

A considerable proportion of Term 3 has been spent reviewing our Key Stage 3 and 4 fiction collection and re-labelling these books in preparation for an exciting new reading programme. Although the programme - co-ordinated by the LRC and the English Department - will be aimed at Years 7 and 8, all of our students will benefit from an increased range of fiction stock. More will be revealed when students return to the site, but in the meantime, take a look at the before and after pictures of our labelling process.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The LRC has continued to maintain a rolling programme of stock acquisitions - fiction and non-fiction - to support reading for pleasure and to promote wider academic reading. Recent fiction purchases include classics, LGBTQ+ fiction, BAME writers, contemporary fiction, humour and thrillers. Here is a taster of some of our recent purchases:

Fiction

- 'Let the Circle Be Unbroken' (Mildred D Taylor)
- 'Deeplight' (Frances Hardinge)
- 'More Happy Than Not' (Adam Silvera)
- 'Will Grayson, Will Grayson' (John Green)
- 'Simon v. the Homo Sapien Agenda' (Becky Albertalli)
- 'The Hate U Give' (Angie Thomas)
- 'Bringing up your Parents' (John Farman)
- 'Billy Elliot' (Melvin Burgess)

Non-Fiction

- 'Van Gogh: Great Lives in Graphic Form' (Sophie Collins)
- 'Letters from an Astrophysicist' (Neil deGrasse Tyson)
- '999: My Life on the Frontline of the Ambulance' (Dan Farnworth)
- 'Macbeth: the Graphic Novel'
- 'An Inspector Calls: the Graphic Novel'
- 'Reactions & Revolutions: Russia, 1881-1924' (Michael Lynch)
- 'Bedeviled: a Shadow History of Demons in Science' (Jimena Canales)

READING IN LOCKDOWN

Form 7M were recently surveyed on their reading in lockdown and

it was greatly reassuring to hear that 92% of this Form had read at least one book during lockdown. Well done 7M. They also offered an eclectic mix of reading recommendations, from 'Cinderella is Dead' (by Kalynn Bayron) to 'Dog Man: Grime and Punishment' (by Dav Pilkey), but it seems that Rick Riordan's 'Percy Jackson and the Olympians' series is definitely the winner.

Stuck for books at home? If you are a member of a local council library service, your membership will give you access to online resources - often including e-books and magazines. Additionally, Oak National Academy are providing a book every week through their Virtual Library:

<https://library.thenational.academy/>

Finally, Spotify have been trialling streaming audio books - definitely worth exploring further!

Mrs Mattison & Mr Kearney





MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

The last term has been one of adapting and constant change as we all dealt with another lockdown, track and trace notifications and sudden changes to where we may be working from. This is on top of the usual difficulties we seem to face at this time of year, particularly the short days and miserable weather! However, it is important to recognise the resilience we all have within us to keep going, to support our family and friends, and to bounce back each time the goalposts are moved.

We can never be 100% certain of what will happen next, but by focusing on what you can take charge of, rather than what is not in your power, you can make a real difference to how you feel. So speak to the people around you, access the mental health resources available online, or even grab some fresh air outside - these are things in your power to do and can make a world of difference when the things around us change so quickly.

[Mind - The Mental Health Charity](#)

[Shout 85258 - free, 24/7 mental health text support in the UK - Shout 85258 \(\[giveusashout.org\]\(https://giveusashout.org\)\)](#)

[Kooth](#)

Young Carers

Next term we plan to hold social groups each week in the Library to give the young carers in every year group a chance to get together and find some support. Please look out for the emails sent home to let you know when each year group session will be held, and there will be new posters going up in Form Rooms to inform students about what's happening.

A young carer is any young person who is living with someone at home who is disabled, ill long-term, frail, or has mental health difficulties or addictions. They might support them through cooking meals, collecting or dispensing medication, assisting someone to get around, or they could be looking after their siblings more to help out. There are lots of ways to be a young carer, but we know the impact of their extra responsibilities can be big on their own well-being, their friendships and how they do in school.

If you feel your son might be a young carer and you would like some more information about how school can support you, please get in touch with Miriam.Bond@kings.lincs.sch.uk.



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