



King's Academy Ringmer Newsletter

July 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

This is the summer of positivity, inspiration and success and I refuse to let anyone tell me otherwise!

You will probably be telling me I have been somewhat distracted by sport - and you would be right! Inspiration and courage from our 'Three Lions' who stepped up to the plate with an average age of 21 and gave it their all, then wrote with such humility about the events that followed. Positivity from Brit Emma Raducanu who got through to the last 16 at Wimbledon, being ranked 338 in the world.

And success? Am I referring to Lewis Hamilton winning the British Grand Prix; Jordan Pickford winning the golden glove - or the Denmark football team who showed such strength and determination to compete in a glorious semi final, having nearly lost Cristian Eriksen?

Well, of course, I could be referring to any one of these fabulous events and each of them had me on the edge of my seat and shedding more than a few tears. However, this year, I am talking about our very own, day long, completely exciting Sports Day!

Students and staff alike had been crossing their fingers in the hope that it would go ahead, both from a 'Covid compliant' and a weather point of view. It was important that we had the whole day out there - that everyone who could, took part and most importantly that we felt a real sense of community spirit. What can I say - we smashed it!

The PE department organised a fantastic day's events and we had

an amazing time- we had to run the 'Everybody dance' event twice as it was so popular; Mr Phillips, who thought he would have a quiet hour supervising a few students running the school perimeter, was inundated with students who wanted to beat the record or run it as many times as they could, and the relay races at the end of the day affirmed that the new competitive house system is well and truly established!

The event was indeed full of positivity, inspiration and success and we celebrated the end of another difficult year in style!

It has been a challenge again without a doubt - another year without formal exams; no prom for our Year 11s; we've had to cancel a proposed ski trip and our out of school visits have been at a minimum.

In school, we are still wearing face coverings and social distancing and you have supported us with bi-weekly testing and of course it isn't over yet. We will be testing students on their return in September and still do not have insight yet into how long bi-weekly testing will continue into the autumn term.

But... we have a new cohort of Year 7s to welcome in September, a Year 6 summer school to enjoy and a whole summer of fun in between.

Reflecting on this year I cannot help but feel positive. Once again, I have

this wonderful family we call a school. Staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that students are in school, as happy as possible and accessing quality education. Students have remained positive and brave in the face of the pandemic and parents and carers have been patient, understanding and generous with their thanks for the school. It is this that makes my job such a pleasure and why I look forward to coming into school every day. I am tremendously lucky and very grateful to this community.

So, as I wish you all a wonderful summer break, I thought I would end with some wise words to our students from a very well known 1990's song by Baz Luhrmann called 'Sunscreen'. Your parents may know it and be wondering if I am about to tell you to floss, dance or wear sunscreen.. all excellent advice. No, I shall leave you with my favourite line and ask you to take the time to do this over the summer. For some of us, these lines are poignant because if we could go back in time and do this, we would.

So King's Academy Ringmer take time in the summer to:

'Get to know your parents, you never know when they'll be gone for good

Be nice to your siblings, they're your best link to your past

And the people most likely to stick with you in the future'. BAZ LUHRMANN

Have a wonderful summer

Mrs S Williams - Principal

NEW PROMOTIONAL SCHOOL FILM

Well done to all our year 10 Student Leaders who helped Mrs Williams and Mr Peacock, write, direct and star in our fabulous new film...we love it!



FAREWELL YEAR 11s

Farewell to our lovely year 11s who had their last day back in May. It was such a shame that we had to cancel Prom but hopefully we will invite them back to collect their exam certificates at Awards Evening in November. It's been an extremely tough year for them all but they have pulled through and we wish them all the best. Good luck guys!



THE NATIONAL TUTORING PROGRAMME

This year, 55 Year 10 students have received small group tuition from The National Tutoring Programme, partly financed by the Government's catch-up fund. This has been a fantastic opportunity for some of our students but also a testament to their commitment to their own learning as these sessions were after school and delivered by tutors that they had never met in person. One of the students, Seraphina, commented, "I like the personalised nature of the tutoring as you got to go over topics that you were unsure of or perhaps had been affected by learning remotely. I have also really enjoyed the interactive nature of the sessions."

Students have received tuition in English, Maths, Science, French and Spanish and each tutor has provided bespoke tuition for their small group. Teah said, "I have found the tutoring really helpful as it has enabled me to target my revision for mocks and assessments." Another student, Harry said, "Although I didn't necessarily want to do the tutoring initially, it has increased my confidence and I am starting to see the benefits from the sessions."

I would like to thank our partners from the NTP and the staff in school who have supported these sessions.

Mrs Loney - Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning

TERM DATES 2021/22

Friday 3 September - First day back for years 7 & 11 ONLY

All students return Monday 6 September 2021

Term 1 ends: Friday 22 October

Inset day 3: Monday 1 November

Term 2 starts: Tuesday 2 November

Term 2 ends: Friday 17 December

Term 3 starts: Monday 3 January

Term 3 ends: Thursday 10 February

Inset day 4: Friday 11 February

Term 4 starts: Monday 21 February

Term 4 ends: Friday 1 April

Term 5 starts: Tuesday 19 April

Term 5 ends: Friday 27 May

Term 6 starts: Monday 6 June

Inset day 5: Wednesday 22 June

Term ends: Friday 22 July

THE BRILLIANT CLUB

Over the last few months a group of highly dedicated year nine students have been part of a university project called The Scholars Programme, along with thousands of students every year from across the United Kingdom. Our six successful year nine students were Alice, Ben, Lizzie, Kitty, Mia, and Morgan who have worked tirelessly to produce a 2000 word essay on, "The 1950s, all shook up: How did we make the fifties". All six students graduated with at least a 2.2 in this assignment.

At the online graduation ceremony, students were asked to share their

experiences, with such comments put forward as:

"I am really proud of my achievements"

"I am amazed at how successful I was"

"I have really enjoyed gaining new insights into the 1950s and how they are so different from what has been portrayed in the media"

"It was fun!"

The Graduation Ceremony was run by The University of Oxford and gave tremendous insights into careers and potential opportunities for higher education. To find out that there are

approximately 37,000

combinations of courses and universities on offer was something of a shock but definitely made students realise there is something for everyone.

We as a school are tremendously proud of what our students have accomplished and would like to thank the support of our PhD tutor - Ellie Turner-Kilburn and the respective parents and carers.

Well done to them all, we look forward to running this again next year with our current year 8 students.

Mr Quinnell - Lead Practitioner for Maths



PEER MEDIATION

On Wednesday 14th July, 35 of our lovely students, from across all year groups, took part in some restorative peer mediation training delivered by Mrs Peters.

Most of these students have already completed 6 weeks of online training to become Wellbeing Ambassadors so have been busy planning different wellbeing campaigns within school.

We are so lucky to have such a passionate team of students who can't wait to make a difference. One of the students who attended the training wrote;

"Thank you so much for the time and effort you put in to teach us today. I thought it was amazing! I can see what a big difference it's going to make lots of people including myself. I can already feel my confidence growing."

Mrs Peters - Wellbeing Lead

These students will now become part of our OASIS (Offering All Students Independent Support) team. As from September they will be supporting younger students who may be struggling to settle in, form friendships or dealing with higher levels of anxiety which is impacting their everyday lives.



HISTORY

Year 7 have spent the year considering the impact of two cataclysmic events - the Black Death and the Reformation - and whether good things can come from bad. At present they are considering what really happened in the Gunpowder Plot (spoiler alert - nobody knows). By the end of term their study of Britain will



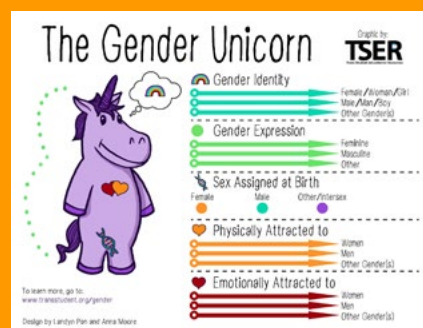
have taken them from a country in which total power was held by the King to one of the verge of a civil war which would take that power away.

PSHE

Having spent quite a lot of time working on emotional and mental wellbeing at the beginning of the year, students at King's Academy Ringmer have turned their attention to a diverse range of topics - from how to resist peer pressure into risky behaviour (for example around using legal and illegal drugs) to how to know what career you want and where to find it. Along the way Year 10 have been visited by PC Ross who gave a very timely session on the dangers of knife crime. In addition we have looked at fluffy and spiky protests in the modern world and considered how to change things effectively and morally.



A major focus this year which will continue into next year is to equip all our students with the skills to create a kinder, more tolerant society by standing up for each other and challenging racism, transphobia, homophobia and misogyny.

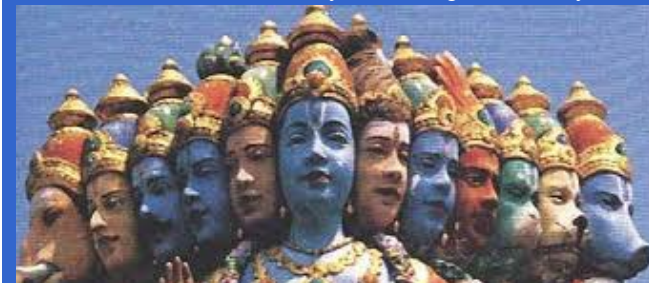


Year 8 started the year looking at the different groups of people who have made the British Isles their home from the Stone Age to the present day. Since then they have studied how power continued to be distributed through society and evaluated the 'fluffy' (non-violent) versus 'spiky' (violent) tactics used by all the protest groups they have studied. These include the Roundheads in the English Civil War, the Luddites in the Industrial Revolution and the Suffragists and Suffragettes trying to get the vote for women. They have discovered that the money needed to invest in new factories and railways came largely from the Atlantic Slave Trade and have considered how this affects both Britain and the world today.

Year 9 have spent three terms this year considering the British Empire - its origins, what it was like at its height and how and why it was dismantled. This has helped them put other major world events from the 20th century including the two world wars and the Holocaust into a larger context. This is all excellent preparation for GCSE History which over 75% of the year group have chosen as an option.

RE

Year 7 and 8 have continued their in-depth explorations of specific religions - Christianity, Hinduism and Judaism - by focussing on the key



principles of belief and then seeing how these beliefs affect everyday life in different ways for followers of each religion. As the students build upon their knowledge, they are to make informed observations about the place of religion in the world.



Meanwhile year 9 have had a brain-stretching year because they have studied various philosophical schools of thought in their quest to work out what is ethical and what is not. They should now have a working knowledge of the following - utilitarianism, situation ethics, natural law, Kantian ethics and virtue ethics - go on, ask them! This has been quite demanding but the students have more than risen to the challenge and they have tackled the difficult topic of euthanasia with sensitivity and maturity.

Year 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

I am delighted to say that every student in Year 10 was given an opportunity to take up a work experience placement this year despite the complications caused by lockdowns and social distancing! We had to be a bit creative and some students have still to carry out their work experience but most had a great time during the week beginning 28th June. Jordan (pictured) got very arty working with Same Sky in Brighton on a display for a local primary school.

Other students were working in garages, for IT companies, in catering, in stables, on farms and in luxury hotels. Almost all of them have come back into school buzzing with their experiences and determined to get on with their GCSEs during Year 11 to make their career dreams a reality. Here are a few of the lovely comments I have had the pleasure to read from employers.

Madison has excellent organisational skills and was polite and diligent at all times.

'The speed and willingness to learn which Ellena demonstrated was highly commendable.'



'I think Ryan would do well in any working situation.'

'Henry was a pleasure to work with. A career in sport beckons!'

'Hayden showed a consistent enthusiasm and impressive work ethic'

Congratulations to all those who, like Phoebe, who managed to get a holiday job as a result!

Special mention must go to Ria whose placement in a primary school fell through on the Friday before the week was due to start and who reacted with enormous cheerfulness and resilience. She helped me teach a Year 8 history lesson the following week with an aplomb which many student teachers in their 20s would envy.

I would like to give special thanks to all the parents and carers for your support, both financial and practical, in making this happen. Many parents offered placement to their own or other children and I know it was quite stressful at times! But as always, it was worth it in the end.

Mrs Moorhouse - Careers

READING PROGRAMME

This year, we launched our tutor time reading programme where students read novels with their tutor. Students read an array of texts - classics, texts exploring cultural diversity and popular young adult fiction. The aim is for students to spend dedicated time each week lost in a good book. There is no expectation for students to complete any work related to the novels; it is simply about enjoying the stories and thinking about some of the themes and issues covered within the texts. In fact, research from Mindlab suggests that reading for at least 6 minutes per day can reduce stress levels and improve overall happiness.

However, academically, reading for pleasure and reading high quality literature does make a significant impact on students' progress. Simply reading challenging,

complex novels aloud and at a fast pace in each lesson can rapidly improve a students' reading age and expose them to thousands of new vocabulary. Nationally, 25% of 15 year olds have a reading age of 12 and under severely hindering their chance of success academically.

Nationally, 25% of 15 year olds have a reading age of 12

This reading programme is one of the many things we do to try and ensure that students become confident and fluent readers.

Next year our reading programme becomes even bigger and better with a glut of new and exciting texts as we curate our own King's Canon. A huge thank you to all the staff who have helped make this a success.

Mrs Loney - Assistant Principal

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department has been very impressed by the resilience, determination and enthusiasm of all students during this past term. Thank you for supporting and encouraging them during this difficult academic year.

Year 10 have now completed assessments in all the areas of English Literature studied this year and have made excellent progress in the detail and sophistication of their responses. By the end of this term, they will have begun work on and practised a speech that will form part of their submission for English Language. This is a task that we expect them to improve and complete during the Summer holidays for assessment in early September. The speech should be about 3-5 minutes in length and can be on a subject of their choice.

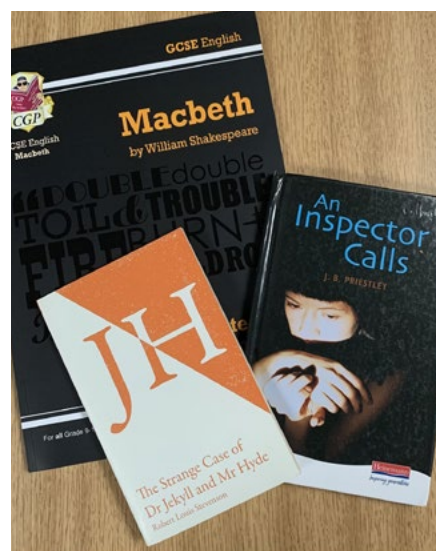
In Year 11 we will be focusing on exam skills for English Language as well as revisiting and revising the Literature texts, so it's very important that students reread the texts and test themselves regularly using their flashcards, or by using Seneca or GCSEPod. There are also many very helpful tutorials on YouTube covering all aspects of the Literature course. Please encourage them to use these tools to support their ongoing revision and learning.

We hope to offer Year 11 students an 'Excellence Programme' from October onwards, which will enrich their knowledge and appreciation of the Literature texts. This will be an optional after school programme for students aspiring to achieve grades 6 and above. More details to follow.

Year 9 have started their GCSE English Literature course this term and have risen to the challenge of reading more sophisticated texts. We have started with the AQA Power and Conflict Poetry and students have read and explored 4 of the poems, which they will be expected to be confident about when they begin Year 10. Please ask them about these and encourage them as much as possible to share their learning with you. Each

student will be issued with an AQA Poetry Study Guide to support their learning at Key Stage 4 and will be expected to use this to catch up on any lost learning. Look out for a letter requesting purchase of the Literature texts for Year 10.

These are available to buy at a reduced price through Parent Pay and will be ready to use from September. Please contact the Finance Office if you have any problems with payment, as we would like to ensure that all students are using the same versions of the texts. There will be further opportunities to buy study guides for the key texts each term.



Year 8 have been excellent during remote learning and now that they have been back in school for a full term we are seeing some excellent progress being made, particularly with analysis of texts and creative writing. Please encourage your child to read a little every week over the Summer holidays, and to revisit their Top 10 vocabulary, as they will be tested on this when they start Year 9.

Year 7 have made remarkable progress this year, particularly with their writing! In September, we took part in a national writing task which identified each student's writing age. The task was completed again in May, to measure their progress. Despite being 6 months behind the national average when they joined us in September, students at Kings Academy Ringmer made an

taking them above the national average by 10 months!

impressive 1 year and 7 month's progress during the year to May, taking them above the national average by 10 months! In contrast to national trends, boys at KAR made even faster progress than girls: whereas nationally boys made 11 months' progress during this time, KAR boys improved by a huge 2 years and 7 months. We are thrilled by our students' progress and look forward to taking them on an exciting journey of learning during the next few years.

Year 7 Poetry Competition
Last term Year 7s took part in a Poetry Competition after exploring a range of Poetry from Different Cultures. The submissions were all thoughtful, sensitive and mature. The results are as follows:

1st Place: Piran, with 'Cornish Shore'

Cornish Shore

The Cornish shore
Where golden sand lies next
To damply grey granite rock,
Where the sea breeze sweeps
And the mussels flock,
Where the rockpools gather
And the small crabs patrol,
Where the white foam curls
And the breakers roll,
Where the sea birds call
And the salt spray stings
Where the seaweed bathes
And the limpet clings,
Where a stream course meanders
And reflects the azure sky,
Where a starfish gazes skywards
And white clouds go scuding by

By all means take treasures and memories,
But please take nothing more
And leave nothing but your footprints
On this sacred Cornish shore.

Ms Hunnisett
Head of Faculty for English



ACTIVITY DAYS

Years 7 to 9 enjoyed their two activity days in July. Students participated in Multi Sports, Sponsored Walk, Trash 2 Fash(ion), Play in a Day, Climbing Wall, Eco Workshop and Branching Out. So great to get out and about once again!

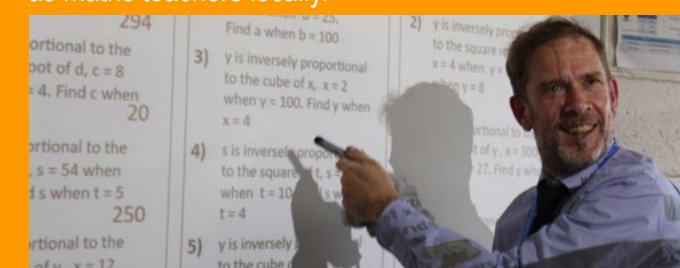


MATHS

We came back stronger than ever in September, determined to make the most of this year and ensure we gave our year 11 students the best possible start to their futures. Once they knew that there were no formal exams, students turned their attention to making the most of the rigorous in class testing – it was genuinely heart-warming to see such driven students working hard and enjoying maths.

For the first time ever the UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge took place online for our year 9 and 10 students whilst our 7 and 8 students sat the Junior Mathematical Challenge later in the year and were able to sit the paper as normal. We were proud to receive a number of Bronze and Silver certificates for students across all four year groups.

The maths department believes strongly in the training of new teachers and this year we continued with two brilliant PGCE students, both of whom start their careers as maths teachers locally.



So we wish Mr Daintree, Mr Masters, and all of our year 11 students the best of luck for the future whilst we continue working on our curriculum development here in the Maths Department at King's Academy Ringmer.

Mr Quinnell - Lead Practitioner for Maths

LESSON LEGENDS

Principal Mrs Williams has continued with the reward incentive 'Hot Chocolate Friday'! The students who have received the most achievement points that week are invited to celebrate in the Principal's office during tutor time on Friday mornings. Students discuss their week whilst enjoying hot chocolate and cookies.



Mrs Williams has also brought back 'Lesson Legend' in which one student is awarded Lesson Legend every lesson and the students with the most Lesson Legend nominations in a week are invited to join her for hot chocolate.

Congratulations to all the winners this term!



ART CLUBS

The past year has been difficult for us to run our clubs (and we have missed them) but this term has been a breath of fresh air with us being able to start again.

This term's first lunch club we ran was a 'Art Journaling' workshop with our sign up sheet filling all 12 spaces within 3hrs of the email going out. Clearly the students had missed art clubs as much as we missed running them. Students created colourful and expressive journals, this really was a club that anyone could join with any artistic ability. Seeing the creativity that students have always inspires me!



Our most recent art club filled up in 6hrs (all 15 spaces). This is all



about creating a mixed media art piece with an animal theme, again the students really went in head first and expressed themselves with the paint (trust me my desks are proof of it) creating some fantastic backgrounds in preparation for the final stage.



It has been amazing to be back to some sort of 'normal' with our lunch clubs and we cannot wait until September to continue providing different lunch clubs and to see all of the amazing talent we have here at Ringmer.

Miss Hook - Art

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

As a new teacher at Kings Academy, I have been so impressed with the welcome I have received from students and staff alike.

During this last year, students have had little opportunity for practical cookery at school so we have spent the term trying to redress the balance and get everyone preparing food that they will all enjoy. There's no surprise that years 8 and 9 immediately threw themselves into making their own burgers to be eaten then and there in class. Many students made their own bread dough for burger buns and there was a huge variety of additional fillings and

garnish with all tastes catered for. I was very impressed with the students' creativity and imagination, as well as the size of their appetites!

Year 7s had their first experience of food preparation at school when they all made fruit salads and were able to display the safe and correct use of knives by peeling, coring and cutting a huge range of different ingredients. Once again, students produced some very colourful and tasty fruit combinations.

Year 10 showed me some solid Food theory knowledge when sitting their recent end of year assessments and I will enjoy working with them on their GCSE course work projects next year.

Meanwhile we will continue to expand their repertoire of cookery skills.

Everyone has enjoyed the freedom to be able to carry out practical lessons once more and I am looking forward to a successful Autumn term with new challenges for us all.

Fiona Budd - Food Tech



ECO CORNER

In December we said goodbye to Steve Green who retired after an illustrious career making KAR one of the top Eco schools in the country.

Ms Pillar and Mrs Holmes have now taken over as the Environmental Coordinator and Environmental project manager and have won the prestigious Green Flag for the 19th year running.

KAR have teamed up with Ringmer Wildflower for now May and the blue heart scheme to bring some wildlife diversity to the school site. The students have been making bird baths and feeders, bug hotels and creating sustainable fashion.



The Eco reps have been coming up with ideas for rewilding the school site and we are hoping to build a wildlife pond, a butterfly garden and a wildflower meadow. We are working with the charity <https://abandonofbrothers.org.uk/> who are coming to help clear the area around the Eco Hub ready for us to replant with pollinators and native plants.

Longer term we are planning Environmental film evenings, moth capture days, art and meditation workshops and a host of other exciting events.



You can follow our progress on the [KAR website](#), [facebook](#) and [instagram](#).

Ms Holmes - Environmental Project Manager

GEOGRAPHY

Students have been very engaged in the Geography curriculum all year, thinking deeply about topics from extreme weather to European migration, but nothing can replace the experience of getting outdoors and collecting data for themselves. It has been an absolute joy to see the students collaborating to investigate different topics and learning new fieldwork skills.

This term, year 7 students have conducted a flooding infiltration enquiry, year 8 have conducted a microclimate enquiry and year 10s

have conducted a coastal management enquiry in Brighton.

On Monday 21st June we had our first school Geography fieldwork visit since July 2019.

It was an absolute joy to see the students out and exploring the world around them once again and seeing Geographical processes and features with their own eyes.

Students measured the sediment build up on either side of the groynes in Brighton and Saltdean in order to investigate whether coastal management is effective or not and

what possible effects it might be having elsewhere along the coast. Despite the persistent rain and soggy workbooks, the students remained positive throughout and got stuck into their enquiry. In lessons we will now be presenting and analysing our data, as well as reaching conclusions overall.

We hope to organise another GCSE trip in the autumn term to investigate urban quality of life across Brighton.

*Ms Cardin
Subject Leader for Geography*



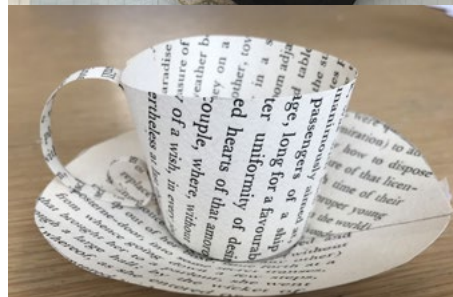


THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

The students have really welcomed the re-opening of the LRC and it is providing an essential wellbeing space, in which students can relax, borrow books and catch up on school work during break and lunchtimes. Students have also been enjoying a number of activities. Several students have been making wooden kits of Da Vinci style helicopters and catapults from the Pathfinder kits, kindly gifted to us by GMC publications in Lewes. Chess is proving to be popular, with a number of chess boards available. We have had two art clubs running each week, including a creative journal class and paper art. Students have shown real engagement with the journals and are enjoying creating personal creative pages each week, which is something they can continue with over the summer break. I have been very proud of the way the students have returned to the LRC, treating the environment with respect and helping to keep it a calm and relaxing space in which to spend time. I have had support from our amazing student librarians who help to keep the LRC running smoothly. I would encourage students to come along and choose one of our new fiction titles as summer reading.

We are very grateful to our good friends Cate and Nash from Much Ado Books who kindly support our LRC gifting many of the books and resources for our students.

Mrs Colbourne



FACEBOOK USED UNIFORM PAGE

In an attempt to help with the cost of uniform and as an eco school, we have initiated an online "marketplace" on Facebook where used items of uniform, in good condition, can be bought and sold.

The Facebook logo will take you to the Facebook Group Page where you can request membership and then upload details of items for sale along with images if required.

The transaction is strictly between the two parties and the school has no input other than to provide an initial introduction via the link. As such, the school takes no responsibility for any part of the transaction.



HOUSE LEADERS PROMOTION

New House Leaders promoted the new school Houses the day before Sports Day. Sports Day was the first inter-house whole school event and some students were unsure of their House.

House Leaders set-up stands to display House names, colours and information about the people behind the four names and why they were chosen. The House Leaders had great fun dressing up and wearing their colours. You can be sure that everyone now knows what House they are in and something about the person it's named after.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

This academic year the music at KAR has developed in new ways as we have had to work around restrictions on live performance, with limited practical lessons and a staggered return to the music rooms in the Spring and Summer terms.

Just Play and Musical Futures Online

All classes have been back in the music rooms since Easter and it has been so fantastic to see the brilliant and speedy progress they have made since returning to playing instruments. All year groups have been following the Musical Futures 'Just Play' resources as part of our 'catch up curriculum' in music to get their practical skills back on track. 'Just Play' is a comprehensive bank of resources that teaches students chords on guitar, ukulele, keyboard and bass guitar. In recent weeks they have been breaking out into small bands with their friends and the results have been great to watch!

If students want to carry on with this project in the holidays then they can find all the resources at <https://www.musicalfuturesonline.org/> The username is KARmusic and the password is KARmusic.

Trips and Live Events 2021-22

We have booked a trip for KS4 students to Glyndebourne in October and are looking for other live performance events that we could take a larger trip for KS3 and 4 students. Watch this space for live performance details as we rebuild our extra-curricular



provision and get our fantastic and enthusiastic students making music again!

Virtual Concerts

Our experiments with virtual concerts, with students submitting recordings for me to edit into a longer performance, have been so inspiring as so many students have been getting involved. This has been such a great success that - where possible - we will continue to publish online performances even once we're allowed to plan live performances too.

Thank you to all those students who have submitted performances for Summer 2021 Virtual Concert - I really hope you will watch this film below and share with friends and family.

Ms Urquhart - Leader of Music

LEXONIK LITERACY

We were very fortunate to be able to work with the reading intervention company Lexonik to support our in-school work. 60 students in years 7,8 and 9 took part in a lesson per week for 6 weeks.

Lexonik is a unique, research-based programme leveraging metacognition, repetition, decoding and automaticity. Lexonik Advance trains learners to develop phonological awareness and make links between unknown words using common prefix, root word and suffix definitions. This equips students with vital skills to use in the classroom to support their own reading and comprehension of all texts.

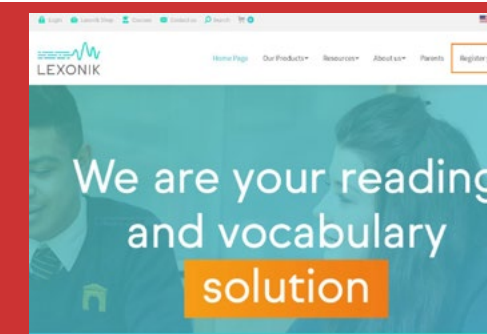
Students made a significant amount of progress taking part in this programme with some students improving their reading age by 2 years. The students worked well throughout the programme and were highly commended by the teachers. Ms Carter stated, "I was highly impressed by the calm and purposeful atmosphere in the school and how welcoming your pupils were; they are justifiably proud of their school community. Many Year 9s demonstrated

exceptional metacognition skills and were consistently supportive of each other, clearly a reflection of the teaching and learning that they're experiencing on a day-to-day basis. Your pupils showed resilience, determination and a genuine love of learning."

This was a fantastic opportunity for the school and our students and we look forward to working with Lexonik again in the future.

I would like to thank Mr Baker for all his help and support setting up the programme and supporting the efficient running of it. A big thank you to all the teachers as well for releasing students to attend.

Mrs Loney - Assistant Principal - Teaching & Learning





YOUNG GENTLEMAN'S PROJECT

YGP consists of an introduction, discussing students' strengths, weaknesses and positive traits. It includes interactive workshops on social responsibility, such as in the family and community and conduct in school. We also look at the qualities of a young leader and role model. Some year 8 and 9 boys took part in a very inspirational Young Gentleman's introduction day, where the main focus was around positive mindsets, conduct, respect and aspirations.

The boys contributed to the session with some great input on different topics and are now looking forward to commencing the programme over the Autumn term.

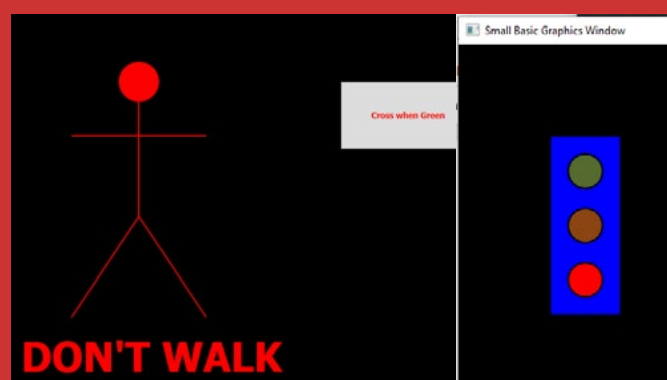


COMPUTER SCIENCE

KS3 students have been learning to develop their computational skills in programming and design. As well as developing understanding how technology impacts on our lives socially students have been learning about how digital information is created and distributed. We have looked at networks, hardware, the internet, data representation, programming, information bias, tracking, ciphers, computer threats, internet of things, bbc micro bits and more...

Years 8 and 9 have been using different development tools including Small Basic, a graphical coding language to develop their understanding of developing algorithms to create models of traffic light sequences, moving objects and talking heads.

KS4 students are learning to develop Python programs with good computational practices. They have looked



at various topics this year towards their GCSE including the architecture of the CPU, Data representation, networks, security, system software all underpinned with developing computational thinking skills.

Mr Philips - Computer Science

MFL DEPARTMENT

Our Y10 Spanish students this week have been having a bit of fun taking part in a frantic running dictation activity, where they are practising their speaking, listening, reading, writing and memory skills and revisiting the topic of holidays.

Our year 7 students had produced some amazing posters describing themselves in Spanish. Well done, we are very proud of your work and your effort, muchas gracias chicos y chicas!

Mr Prado - Leader of Spanish



SCIENCE

Science has had a very successful year! Despite the challenging times, science practicals have continued to operate in a close to normal way and students have had lessons in laboratories within their bubbles. Big thank you to our amazing science teachers and technicians who have made this possible!

YEAR 7

In biology, students studied human reproduction and variation. In chemistry, they have completed work on acids and alkalis. In physics, students learnt about what electricity is and how energy is transferred. During these topics, students completed a variety of practical investigations. Through these investigations, students' have started to develop an understanding of the scientific process and the skills required to work safely in the lab.



YEAR 8

In biology, students studied respiration and photosynthesis. In chemistry, they learnt about types of reactions and the importance of energy transfer when reactions occur. In physics, students have studied magnetism and how electromagnets work. During these topics, students completed a variety of practical investigations. Through these investigations, students' have developed a strong understanding of the scientific process, with a specific focus on methodology.

YEAR 9

Students have been spending time preparing for the transition to GCSE science. We have focussed work on fundamental concepts that will support students in accessing the GCSE curriculum. During these topics, students completed a variety of practical investigations. Through these investigations, students' have developed a strong understanding of the scientific process, with a specific focus on variables.

YEAR 10

Students are making brilliant progress with their teachers preparing for the final year of GCSE science. Year 10 students are continuing to finish off paper 1 content in biology, chemistry and physics. Over the summer students should continue to complete a small amount of science revision weekly just to keep the knowledge fresh for the start of the next academic year.

We have also successfully launched [Tassomai](#), a state-of-the-art learning platform, to support students in revising for their GCSE examinations and accelerate their progress.

Mr Weir - Director for Science

THERAPY DOG - RONNIE

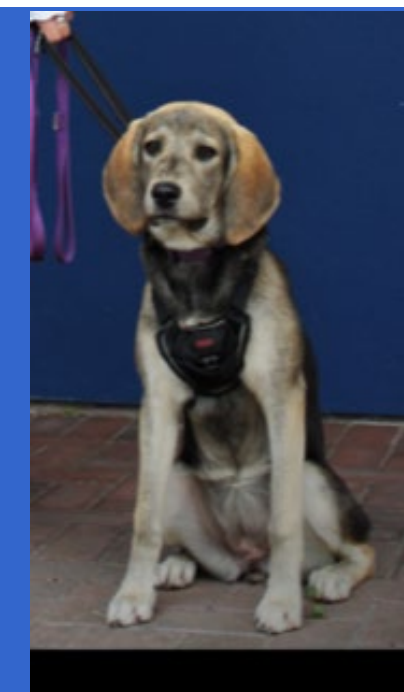
Ronnie, my pet dog, is joining King's as our school therapy dog from September 2021. She accompanied us on the sponsored walks on 28th and 29th June. We walked 11.5 miles on Monday and 8.5 miles Tuesday; this included rest breaks for snacks. Ronnie had a fantastic time and enjoyed sharing some of the students' packed lunches, thankfully no one minded!

Many of our students spent time walking with Ronnie and exploring

the hills and hedgerows. It was lovely to see how responsible and caring our students are with Ronnie and I feel everyone will hugely benefit from Ronnie becoming a new member to our caring school community.

It is widely recognised that therapy dogs have a substantial impact with supporting mental health and well being. As we are all aware, Covid has impacted people of all ages but significantly those of secondary age. This has been a very unusual school year but we look forward to new beginnings and many more adventures to come.

*Miss Jo Beattie
Teaching assistant / ELSA*



DANCE AND DRAMA

Year 10 drama students have been working extremely hard in lessons preparing for their performance of 'DNA' by Dennis Kelly. We are keeping everything crossed that we will be able to perform to a live audience.

It's been fantastic to start our after school dance club once again. We have been learning a new routine which we hope we can include to a show next year.



Mrs H Williams -Dance

ARTWAVE EXHIBITION

One of our budding year 8 artists, Isaac has been busy creating in preparation for an Art Exhibition at Gote Barn, Ringmer 25-26th September. Isaac's work will be feature on the website when it's advertised too! We think it's amazing, especially his fully working electric wind turbine made from electrical wire. Well done Isaac, we look forward to seeing the rest of his work in September.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Since arriving after the Easter break to cover Mrs White's maternity leave, students in the Design & Technology department I have been involved in some interesting and varied projects.

Year 11 have now left having completed their GCSE work. Once again, this has been in a scaled down form due to lockdown and Covid restrictions, however, students made good progress under the circumstances. Most managed to produce a high quality prototype or model of their desired outcome and this was followed up by assessments to consolidate their knowledge and understanding of the subject.

Year 10 have been busy with some more practical work in the workshop. Their completed projects include iPad stands, macrame work (carried out during lockdown) and modelling styrofoam phones. They have had some interesting results and I am looking forward to working with them through year 11 to see their final GCSE products.

Year 9 have also had some time in the workshop making Alessi inspired egg cups, modelling Art Deco jewellery and producing cam toys. Again, they have produced some high quality outcomes with many students really wanting to stretch and challenge themselves to produce more complex items, some of which have been a challenge for me too!

Year 8 have been able to build on the workshop skills they gained in year 7 by developing and branding their own chocolate packaging and latterly working in teams making lanterns which include a circuit to light them.



Finally, year 7 have had an introduction into the workshop looking at health and safety with the majority of work based on hand tool skills. They have produced some of the finest clocks in the style of Memphis that I have seen in a long time - fingers crossed in 5 years time we'll have 100% grade 9 GCSEs!



Mr Potter - Design and Technology

CALM MIND

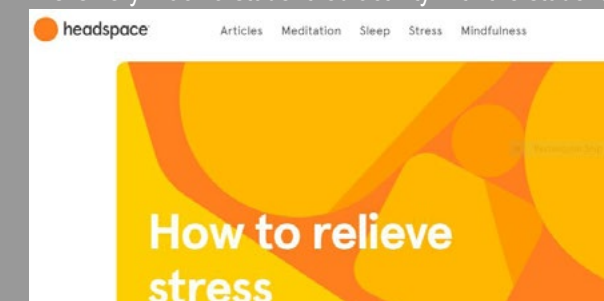
During this school year I have run Calm Mind interventions for small groups of girls, meeting once a week during tutor time. In between lockdowns the focus was on Year 11 support to assist with coping strategies for anxiety with the GCSE assessments and the effects of Covid and the feelings of isolation. After the year 11 students left school, a new group was formed to support a group of year 10 students. We use our time to talk about our feelings and emotions. We also try out and discuss different strategies, including focused breathing, meditation and positive visualization techniques.

Miss Jo Beattie

HEADSPACE

I have been working with a group of year 10 boys, meeting once a week during tutor time. We have used the sessions to talk about our feelings and offered support to one another. We have talked about different strategies to help us cope especially over the isolation of lockdown this past year.

This is very much a student led activity with the students



deciding what they need help with on that particular week.

We have completed level 1 & 2 of the Headspace meditation app which has proved very helpful. Some of the students have said, "It gives us 20 minutes of being able to be calm and meditate- I wish we could do this every day". We are planning to continue this throughout the GCSE year in September with a focus on coping with exam stress.

Mrs Emma Holmes

SCHOOL UNIFORM

If parents are purchasing new logoed uniform over the Summer break, please do so via [Sussex Uniforms](#).

Sussex Uniforms are providing the service to even more schools this year so we suggest purchasing well in advance.

Shoes should not be trainers, but black leather, or leather effect shoes without ANY logos. Black leather Nike, Vans, Air Force 1s (or other sport provider) trainers are not an appropriate school shoe.



Thank you



HAMMER THROWING

Back in late 2019 I was offered to join a throwing group at Lewes athletics on a thursday where you could learn either different types of throws E.G. shot put, hammer, javelin or discus. I already had my heart set on learning how to throw a hammer so I was more than excited when my coach allowed me to try it out.

Just before the beginning of the first lockdown my coach had to go on leave due to medical issues and I was blessed with an amazing coach who is with me to this day and with his encouragement I was able to continue practicing during lockdown, socially distanced of course, and at the end of 2020 my parents even brought me my own hammer.

My first competition I ever did for hammer was earlier this year in March -as under 13s were not allowed to compete- where I threw 21.92m however in my next

Competition I managed to throw 4.6m more than my original personal best and I now have a PB of 26.52m!



I love hammer and I am happy we have new people joining the club as it could lead to more funding for better equipment. For anyone wanting to look into doing hammer I have to say that it is totally worth a try. Even if it seems hard to practice it is one of the most amazing experiences ever.

Jia Year 8

PE DEPARTMENT

This year, many departments have seen a real change but in the PE department it has had a huge impact on our ability to deliver extra curricular clubs and fixtures, which is such a shame and something which we are hoping to get back to normal come the new school year.

Throughout the year, we still have managed to run some inter-house events and competitions as well as our Year 11 Btec PE group leading on sporting activities for the primary school in the Autumn Term, which was fantastic to witness.

In lessons we worked our way through all the time consuming throwing events so we didn't need to get these completed on an already busy sports day, with the results:

1st Place: Hawking House
2nd Place: Franklin House
3rd Place: Seacole House
4th Place: Turing House

Sports day was something which we thought at one point may not happen, but we are so glad that we



In the last month, we have been working hard towards sports day and have been having interhouse fitness events, seeing which house could achieve the most amount of minutes of exercise over a period of two weeks. Total minutes completed 12542 for those who logged their minutes in time

Hawking completed the most minutes with a fantastic effort from Maisie in year 7 and her 1140 minutes.

Franklin in second with Charlie K being the top performer

Seacole third with Arthur with top minutes

Turing in fourth place with Evie H completing the most minutes.

Congratulations to you all for your performance with activities with evidence of swimming, star jumps, walks, runs, horse rides, wet bike rides Scout camps and many more.

managed to get the event organised and more potently that we actually managed to have some competition again. Sports which students had the opportunity to compete on the day were football, rounders, benchball, basketball, softball, table tennis & slog It. In the afternoon, all students were able to take part in the athletics events of 100m, 200m & the relays in which all school records were broken.

We withheld the results on the day to announce them in the celebration assembly on the last day of term. So hopefully when they get home they will be able to tell you how well their house has competed.

Next year we look forward to things getting back to normal, having more interhouse fixtures and competitions within school but also being able to get back to having fixtures against other schools.

Well done to all for your continued commitment to PE

The PE team