



NEWSLETTER

www.kshssa.co.uk

27th February 2015

Useful Dates

- 28 Feb** Duke of Edinburgh Training Walk
2-6 March Year 9 Assessment Week
9 March Year 12 Next Steps Event (11.30)
12 March KS3 & KS4 Onatti Productions p4-5



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @KSHSSA

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope that all of the students enjoyed their well earned break last week and that everyone is refreshed ready for a busy few weeks leading up to Easter.

The next few weeks are very important for our Year 9 students who are busy choosing their GCSE options and our GCSE and A Level students are all working hard now with their preparations for their forthcoming exams in the summer term.

I hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening over the last couple of weeks.

Best wishes.

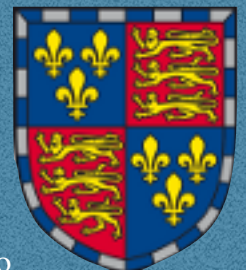
Craig Booker
Headteacher

Christ's College, Cambridge University History Essay Prize Competition 2015

I distinctly remember the History lesson, way back at the end of September, in which we were told of an essay competition being offered in History by one of the colleges at Cambridge University. This specific college was Christ's College, one of the older colleges of the University; with alumni including Charles Darwin, John Milton, and even Sacha Baron Cohen (who, believe it or not, studied History). There were four titles to choose from, and a word limit of 2,500. This was all the information given, which at first seemed a little daunting – there were no prompts, and the questions were unlike anything I'd ever seen before. But one jumped out at me. *"What can clothes tell us about the past that the written word cannot?"* was a question which I was immediately interested in, and I knew I had to give it a shot. So, I warned my History teachers of my intentions, and began researching.

My essay mentioned things such as the link between colour and gender, the effects of war and revolution on clothing, the way popular dance changes fashion and even Dolly Parton. On Monday morning, 9 February, after returning from the Art trip to Paris, I was delighted to be given the news that I'd come runner-up in the competition (winning a not-too-shabby £50)! I'm very passionate about History, and I had so much fun researching for the essay. I'm so pleased that all my hard work has paid off and a massive thank-you to the History teachers for supporting my decision to write it!

Charlotte Halse (12A)



ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS COMPETITION SENIORS EXCEL AT SEMI-FINAL BOURNE, 4th FEBRUARY 2015

The District 1070 semi-final for the Senior age group of the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition was held at Bourne Academy on the evening of 4th February 2015.

Teams from Kesteven & Sleaford High School Selective Academy, Sleaford; Catmose College, Oakham; The Priory Ruskin Academy, Grantham and Bourne Grammar School took part.

The adjudicating panel of Philip Marston, Fran Rhowbotham and Pastor Peter Damen, were given a difficult but enjoyable task by the teams' wide ranging choice of subjects, such as 'Upside Down World' and 'A Rebel with a Cause'. KSHSSA students Arian Thomas (Speaker), Jonathan Sands (Chair) and Georgina Hands (Vote of Thanks) spoke on the topic of 'Should Feminism exist anymore?' after winning the first round of the competition last term.



We narrowly missed out on a place at the District Final at Catmose College on 14th March but are keen to redouble our efforts in next year's competition.

Assistant District Governor Bill Martindale of the Sleaford Kesteven Rotary Club presented the certificates and complimented all the contestants on their presentations and subject knowledge and paid tribute to the hard work and support of the teachers and families.

Mrs J Smith
(Deputy Headteacher)



Next Steps 4 Study Programme – Year 12

On Thursday 5th February, 14 Year 12 students went on a trip to Bishop Grosseteste University in Lincoln for the 'Next Steps 4 Study' programme. This was a really enjoyable day as it involved meeting new people from other schools, and talking to current students at the university to help us get a better idea about what university is like and whether or not it would be something to consider going to.



Following a sample lecture on Charlie Hebdo the day involved three main activities. The first was critical thinking, which involved working together in small groups to investigate a murder mystery in which we had to choose who we thought the murderer was based on evidence and reason using our analytical skills. We also looked at time planning and learnt what to prioritise and different ways to save time in order to get the most out of a typical week at university and the activities available. Finally we participated in a seminar class in which we did a debate, arguing for and against freedom of speech; this was particularly interesting as we got to experience the type of lessons we might get if we went to university.

I found the day very useful and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who was unsure about going to university as it makes the whole idea of university a lot less daunting.

Amy Frankland (12W)



Science Live!

by Kayleigh Stearn 10W

On Tuesday 20th January, some Year 10 students went to Sheffield City Hall and listened to five scientists talk about their discoveries in Science and how we can make a change in the world using Science. It was a really eye-opening day and I feel much more knowledgeable about what I could do with a job in Science.

One of the Scientists who talked to us was Dr Simon Singh, a Science journalist, who talked to us about how Maths can be used in Science. It was an interesting talk about loads of different topics. The topic I found the most interesting was about Maths in 'The Simpsons' because I never realised that there were that many Maths references in the TV programme.

Not only were there talks from Scientists, but we gained some advice on how to gain more marks in an exam, which was really helpful as I'll be taking my exams next year. We had two talks about that throughout the day, so there was a lot to take in about it, but we had a booklet where all the information was written, so in the future, I can recap what was said.

My favourite talk from the day was from Professor Jim Al-Khalili, who talked about time travel and black holes. It was really strange to hear that, in theory, time travel into the future was possible, and how you could do it. It's a topic which is in a lot of films that I've watched so I was really intrigued to see if time travel was actually possible.

Overall, the day was full of knowledge and interesting facts and I felt quite inspired to take a career in Science, because the Scientists showed me how you can help people and how we can explore our world further using Science.



Mrs D Collett
Subject Leader, Geography

Jelly Baby Geography

On the final day of term the girls in Year 11 Geography were allowed to eat Jelly Babies in their Geography lesson....but this was only after they had played a population game. The Jelly Babies were used to help them understand population structures and pyramids and the type of events that can affect population change. On the chances cards there were a variety of scenarios that affected the population of each of the girl's countries. These scenarios enabled the girls to consider the type of factors that will increase or decrease population. The best part of the game came at the end of the lesson when the girls could eat any of the population they had left! A great lesson to end the term.





Get ready for World Book Day!

Mrs Wallis and the Library Captains are planning an extravaganza during lunch time in the Library to celebrate all things 'Book' on Thursday 5th March, including activities, prizes, and a few surprises!

World Book Day will also see the official opening of the revamped 'Biography' and 'Comfort' Zones.

Every pupil is entitled to a World Book Day book voucher, that can be exchanged in most book shops for either one of the special World Book Day books (including exclusive Geek Girl title 'Geek Drama' and the slightly spooky 'Killing the Dead') or as £1 off any other book, so make sure you don't miss out!

You can find out more about World Book Day books on their website:

<http://worldbookday.com/books/>



German Day of Culture at Bourne Grammar School

On Thursday 12th February, German A-Level students visited a German Day of Culture, held at Bourne Grammar School. Mr Smith, Head of German at BGS, talked about the patterns in irregular verbs in German and we used these to translate a short story by Franz Kafka into English. After break, we interviewed 8 representatives of German culture; they ranged from Charles the Great to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. In the afternoon, Dr Martin Ruehl from Trinity Hall, Cambridge gave a very interesting lecture about the relationship between England and Germany pre and post World War 1 and how Nietzsche's theories can be seen and interpreted in the actions of both sides. Dr Ruehl also gave us some insight into what admissions tutors are looking for in a university application and personal statement. Overall the day was insightful, as it offered German enthusiasts an opportunity to explore various aspects of study.

By Zoe Baxter (13K) and Natasha Torres-Coote (13L)





Friday 6th February marked National Libraries Day with libraries all over the country holding events to celebrate the occasion.

National Libraries Day was Saturday 7th February – celebrated by public libraries. The book swap held in schools was in support of it and had to be on the Friday. Mrs Wallis, our Librarian at KSHSSA and member of the School Libraries Group, organised to take part in their cooperated book swap that involved our school with 74 others in an attempt to set a world record of the most books swapped in 24 hours. Across break and lunchtime on Friday,

students gathered in the school's Library to donate their used books in return for those previously cherished by others and each participant was able to leave the library having gained a new and interesting story to add to their collection.

In total the Library managed to swap 83 books ranging from the biographies of students' favourite celebrities, to their most captivating fiction novels. With this number, our school's target was met setting KSHSSA well on the route to world-record success.

Among those swapped was popular Young Adult Dystopian Fiction 'The Maze Runner' written by James Dashner; a novel that has recently been adapted into a major motion picture in 2014. The entry entered the 'book lottery' and was snatched by Molly Sheppard from Year 8 within 30 seconds – the fastest swap to occur on the day.

Molly said that she was "surprised that such a good book was in the book swap, it was something that I've been wanting to read for a while so that was great". Her opinions of the event were that "it was really good to do a book swap within the school as books were being wasted, we should definitely do it next year".

The book swap marked one of the many events that are starting to be held in the Library to celebrate books and aim to engage more young people in reading and literature. Mrs Wallis hopes to continue these events in the future to continually raise awareness and enthusiasm for the benefits and joys of reading.

Our next Library event will be a celebration of 'World Book Day' on 7th March – watch this space!

By Natasha Torres-Coote (13L)

