



NEWSLETTER

27th March 2015

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Useful Dates

11-12 Apr	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Practice
13 Apr	Staff Training Day
14 Apr	FIRST DAY OF TERM
16 Apr	PTA Bags2School Collection & 'Civvies' Day
20 Apr	Year 9 Road Safety Talk - period 5
22 Apr	English Workshop (pm)
23 Apr	Year 10 World of Work (am)
23 Apr	Music Concert - A Night at the Movies



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Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you enjoy the latest newsletter; as always there has been a lot going on at the High School.

Last Friday I took the decision to allow the whole school to miss part of lesson 1 to watch the Solar Eclipse. It was a great High School event; many of the students brought along viewers made from cereal boxes; others used colanders. Some brought along special eclipse glasses and there was a smattering of full-face welding masks! The Science Department set up a number of telescopes to enable students to watch the eclipse in greater detail by projecting the image of the eclipse onto boards and pieces of paper.



Year 7 students with their viewers



We were incredibly lucky with the weather and everyone seemed to enjoy this once in a generation experience. The next full eclipse occurs in the UK in 2090 – I will be 128 by then so will possibly miss it!

I am proud to say that the behaviour of all of the students was exemplary.

There is an article about the solar eclipse on the 'Local' section of the Sleaford Standard website with some great pictures.

I hope you and your family have a pleasant Easter and look forward to welcoming your son/daughter back into school on Tuesday April 14th.

Best wishes

Craig Booker
Headteacher

Eclipse by Jade Maltby (11F)

I have never been one to question
Why the night is so black and leaden
And yet, so still, so quiet, so black
Had me still and watching.

This small sliver of a sun in the sky
Of nothing to live for and nothing to die.
And yet the moon with its pearly glow
While people wait for its oh so slow

Descent into darkness, birds stand still
Quiet, quite silent as the world waits.
Some excited, some maybe not
Sometimes earth-bound things are all
we've got.

A flash, it's over and now we wait again
Until the next time we all turn to the east
To see this sliver of the moon over the sun
And until next time, now it's done.



Food Technology

So far this year we have seen some fantastic food dishes being produced across all year groups. These have involved a range of savoury and sweet dishes, along with many food skills being developed. The products have used a range of seasonal and, where possible, local ingredients with a focus on sustainability and supporting the local farmer. We have investigated the properties of ingredients and built food bridges from suitable sweet products. Some of the year groups have got together to bake for red nose day as well as celebrating Easter this week.

These are just a sample of the delicacies that we have seen so far this year.

I look forward to the wonderful work of the final months of this school year!

Mrs J.Pankhurst (2nd in Technology)



Art Department – Trip to Paris

We arrived at La Gare du Nord around 5pm on a bitterly cold day, after a long day of travelling, ready to take on the busy schedule of drawing and art gallery visits ahead. We concluded the day with a wander through the streets of Boulevard Montmartre with a trip to the famous Hard Rock café where a selection of burgers, chips and ice cream was our prize.

The first full day in Paris began with the continental breakfast that became the normal start to the day on the tour; by the final day students were dipping Croissants into their coffee, just like the Parisians! We then headed off on a coach tour of Paris and its landmarks. The tour guide was fantastic, and her knowledge of the architecture and historical events in this great city was fascinating. Musee D'orsay, a truly magnificent building, once a railway station, has been transformed into a vast space, where the collection of Impressionist works is second to none. The students' made many drawings and painted studies in their sketch books. After lunch, we pushed on to the Musee Orangerie with its stand out painting of water lilies by Monet. We followed this with a wander through the contemporary Art galleries and then on to Notre Dame, with its incredible stonework and stained glass, before going to a creperie for a double helping of crepes (savoury and sweet!).

On day two we went to look at twentieth century art in the Pompidou Centre, with exciting, moving and challenging installations, paintings, photos and the undefined, leaving a mix of emotions as the lasting impression. Selfie sticks at the ready we marched off to the Louvre to claim our prize of a shot in front of the "Mona Lisa" and then moved to the more serious matters of drawing from The Raft of Medusa and the French and Italian painting housed in Denon. We then headed back to Pigalle and a late night visit to the peace and tranquillity of Le Sacre Coeur(pictured).

Our final day in Paris saw no change to the weather with the cold getting more severe and we travelled over to the Musee Marmottan, a real gem and lesser known gallery, which has some of the best paintings by Monet, Morisot and Renoir in the world. A final drawing session and then off back to pick up our bags for the Eurostar home.

Many thanks to all who took part in the visit, who made the artistic endeavour enjoyable and rewarding for us all by behaving impeccably. Some truly magnificent drawing was made in sketchbooks and will no doubt feature in examination work and Mrs T. Milnes if you were a student you would be getting an A* - have you seen her sketch book?!!!!

Mr P. Letchworth
Subject Leader Art and Technology



VIRTUAL BABY PROGRAMME

For a third year running we have run the virtual baby programme for Year 10 students.

So far 20 students have taken a 'baby' home for the weekend and there are 7 more taking babies home after the Easter holidays.

The babies are programmed to activate at 5pm on Friday and stop at 10pm on Sunday night.

The baby's needs are based on a real baby that wants its nappy changing, feeding or cuddles.



Students who took babies home last weekend were Charley Mills (10L), Kathrine Millar (10L), Sarah Taylor (10W) and Lauren Williams (10W) who shared a baby, Charlotte Amey (10A) and Matilda Wyatt (10W).



UKMT Mathematics Team Challenge

Last week a team of four Year 8 and Year 9 pupils travelled to Lincoln to represent the School in the Regional Final of the UKMT Mathematics Team Challenge, stopping on the way to experience the partial eclipse. The bright March sunshine became a fainter 'winter' light, but with the aid of a zoom lens we were able to capture an interesting secondary image.

As for the competition itself, 24 teams had gathered at the Priory City Academy to pit their wits against a series of fiendish mathematical problems, organised into the group round, the cross-number, the shuttle and the relay. Working either as a four or in pairs, our team of Lucy Freeman (8F), Kathryn Johnson (8F), Emily Hobson (9F) and Flo Husson (9F) acquitted themselves very well throughout, earning the final placing of 6th. The team from Caistor Grammar emerged victorious and will go on to the National Final, but our girls were pleased to have beaten a large number of mixed and all male teams from independent and selective schools in the region, showing a lot of potential for the future.



Year 12 Oxbridge Conference

On Friday 20th March a small group of Year 12 students, along with Miss Chant (Head of Sixth Form), attended an Oxbridge conference at the Priory Academy LSST. The day involved a variety of sessions with academics, current students and Year 13s who had just received offers, with the aim of raising awareness about what Oxford and Cambridge are looking for in applicants, how to make a competitive application and what studying the different subjects might be like.

I found having the choice of sessions really helpful. Although 'studying Computer Science at Cambridge' looked gripping, it was hardly relevant to the course I wish to study (History and Politics). I found attending the personal statement session particularly useful, as it aided my understanding of how it should be structured, as well as what aspects universities are looking for. I also had the chance to hear from two Year 13 students, both of whom had received offers to read History. It appeared the horrific tales of interviews are not a reality, which relieved many!

Personally, one of the main messages of the day which I took away was about how to make a competitive application for an Arts course which was explained by an Oxford Tutor. Although entrance is very competitive, he said: "people do get in". This stuck with me, as after all, offers must be given to someone. The conference made me realise that sometimes prospects such as this can be possible, although looking at the terrifying offer grades required it may make one think differently! I just hope with hard work and passion for my subject, I will be able to go to university one day. Attending the conference at the very least broadened my knowledge of the admissions process at Oxbridge, and assured me that university is a path I wish to take in the future.

Georgina Hands (12A)

DRAMA DEPARTMENT NEWS

The week beginning 16th March was a very busy one for the Drama Department. On Tuesday we held our second Drama Evening of the year in which students from Years 7 to 13 performed a range of pieces both from established playwrights and of their own devising. The evening was a great success and we raised £50 for the Young Minds teenage mental health charity. Thanks to outgoing Drama Captains Mariessa and Kristen for compering the Drama Evenings so professionally over the past year.

On Wednesday we took 50 Year 8 students to Nottingham Theatre Royal to see a production of 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas.' This was an engaging and moving adaptation, made more so by the extremely talented young actors who took the central roles.

Thursday saw our students in Year 11 face the moderator for the performance of their final Devised pieces. The moderator was very impressed with their work, and we are giving parents and friends a chance to see the pieces on the evening of Wednesday 25th March, when an evening of Devised work will round off a busy but successful term for the Drama Department.

Mrs H. Raeburn
Subject Leader Drama

English Department Trip to 'The Boy in The Striped Pyjamas' By Holly Parsons (8L)

On the 18th March, a group of Year 8 students visited Nottingham Theatre Royal, to see the production of 'The Boy in The Striped Pyjamas' adapted from the best-selling book by John Boyne. Set in 1943, we see World War II through the eyes of nine year-old Bruno who is the son of a concentration camp Commandant. He does not realise the horrors that are taking place behind the barbed wire fence next to his home or understand why the little boy he tries to befriend appears to be wearing striped pyjamas and cannot come out to play with him.

Having read the book and seen the film, I was very interested to see how the story would be staged. The set was on a revolving stage, which allowed us to see both sides of the fence. There was a screen backdrop informing us which chapter was being portrayed. Everything was kept simple with minimal set and few props, and the cast was small. We only knew how many people were in the concentration camp because Schmuel, the little Jewish boy, told us. This made the play different from the film because with less visual background information, the audience does not realise the full horror of what is happening until towards the end of the second half.

In my opinion, the actor playing Schmuel was the best as I think he showed the emotions of his character well.

Obviously there was far less detail than is possible in a book and therefore the play wasn't as upsetting as some of us had anticipated, but it was still a sad and shocking story. Overall the production was excellently done, and I very much enjoyed our trip and would like to thank the English Department for taking us.



Comic Relief – ‘Funny for Money’

KSHSSA's Comic Relief started with the eagerly awaited Teacher Auction. Twenty 'willing' members of staff volunteered to be auctioned off to the highest bidders who then had the extremely difficult task of making their faces 'Funny for Money'. The auction raised an incredible £500 with the highest bid of £50 going to 10W for Mr Cassidy who had also agreed to have his beard shaved off. As Friday lunchtime approached the excitement amongst the pupils was palpable as was the fear amongst the staff! At one o'clock the fun started! Brushes, paints, sprays, all were used liberally on the faces and in some cases hair of the staff. A final pose for a picture saw the event come to a close. The cake stall and 'civvies' day helped bring the total amount raised to over £1,200.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part.

Mrs C Tipper
Assistant Headteacher Pastoral



All the 'willing' volunteers



Miss A. Beckitt, MFL



Mr N. Periam, Mathematics



Mrs D. Collett, Head of Geography



Mrs A. Wright, Reprographics



Mrs C. Tipper, Assistant Head Teacher



Mrs H. Megginson, Mathematics



Mrs J. Smith, Deputy Head Teacher



Mr J. Cassidy, 2nd in English



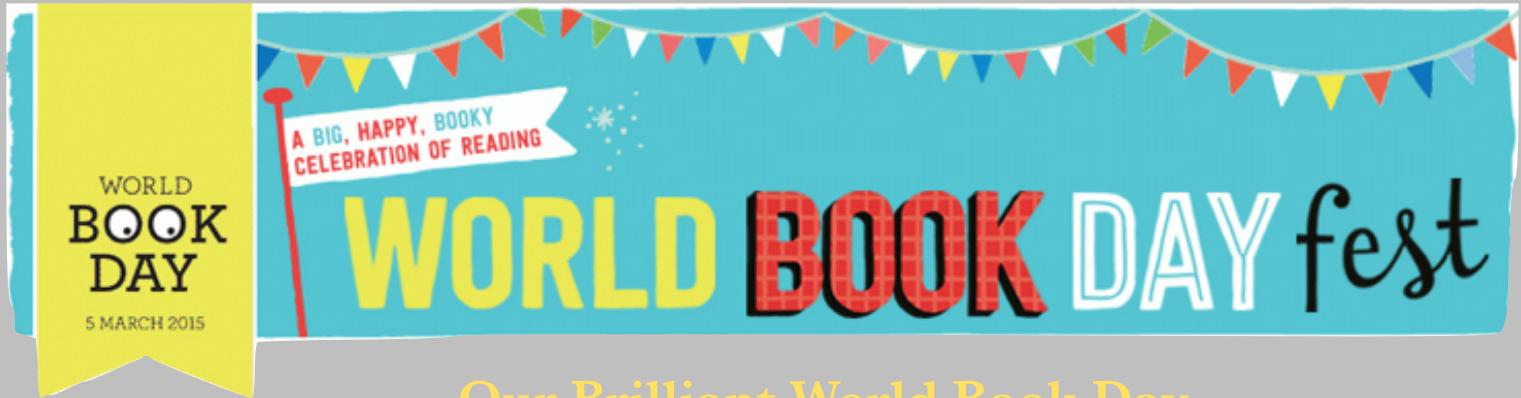
Mrs G. White, Mathematics



Mrs J. Pankhurst, 2nd in Technology



Mr L. Rooke, MFL



Our Brilliant World Book Day

We enjoyed an action-packed lunchtime on Thursday 5th March to celebrate World Book Day.

Mr Booker officially opened our new Biography section and reading areas (including the new comfy chairs). The short speech and ribbon-cutting ceremony was enthusiastically clapped and cheered by those present, which included the Library Captains, Mrs Wallis and a number of students who had come along to join in the fun.

Students were encouraged to enter a competition to make a favourite book scene out of Lego. Mr Cassidy, our resident Lego expert (and Second in English), was hard pressed to choose 1st 2nd and 3rd prize-winners from the entrants, who each won a book for their efforts. The winners were Molly Sheppard of 8W (1st, The Hunger Games), Avelyn Hawthorn Brownlee of 8F (2nd, Percy Jackson) and Kim Williamson 10W and Cara Clack 8A (Eragon).

In the weeks preceding World Book Day, all forms were asked to choose their favourite books, and the results of this survey were finally revealed on World Book Day. The results were as follows:

KSHSSA's favourite book was....HARRY POTTER

Our favourite author was...JOHN GREEN

The favoured genre was...FANTASY

To celebrate the winning book, the Library Captains created an amazing Harry Potter-themed 'restricted section' within the library shelves, complete with 'restricted' tape and paper 'chains' to keep it secure, and featuring the titles of all the textbooks Harry has to study to become a successful wizard.

All the forms who took part in the survey were entered into a prize draw, with 5 forms winning the prize of a book to keep in their form room. Those lucky enough to be picked out of the library sorting hat were: 7KG, 8W, 9L, 10F, 11L and 12W.

Mrs Wallis would like to thank all the students and staff who have supported the event and contributed to its success, particularly the Library Captains who worked so hard to prepare for the day.

We can't wait for next year!

By Mrs K.Wallis and the following Library Captains: Rebekah Rankin (12W), Cara Clack (8A), Lucie Swan-Dennis (8A), Kim Williamson (10W), Amecia Ruddle (8L), Natasha Errington (8L), Roseanna Devos (10F), Molly Sheppard (8W) and Tabitha Davenhill (10F)



North Kesteven Youth Council

On Monday 16th March Emily Dunham (9F), Edward Down (13F) and I went to a Youth Council meeting. We have been members of the Youth District Council since October 2014. Various ages of students from schools all across the North Kesteven District met at the Sleaford NKDC offices and discussed some important issues in today's society such as taking drugs and self-harm. We also discussed what actions can be taken to reduce incidences of these problems and whether the actions that are already in place are enough.

We meet 4 times a year and I enjoy each one as much as the last.

The North Kesteven District Youth Council is a great thing to get into as it allows young people to have a say and to participate in the decisions which are made.

Emily Colman (9A)



CIVVIES DAY

**TO INCREASE OUR PTA FUNDRAISING
FOR THE BAG2SCHOOL COLLECTION**

16TH APRIL



If you wear civvies on Thursday 16th April, we ask that you bring a carrier bag of old clothes, or soft toys to help our fundraising efforts. If you do not bring a bag, you are asked to donate £1.

Bring your bags of unwanted clothes to the Dance Studio from 8.15am.

THANK YOU

LINCS FASHION

Invite you to a
CHAINSTORE CLOTHING CLEARANCE SALE & FASHIONSHOW EXTRAVAGANZA

Bargain clothes for all seasons
Clothes range from smart to casual
Prices range from £1.99 - £29.99
Many garments £4.99 - £7.99
Age range from 16-60+ / size range 8-24
ALL GARMENTS ARE PERFECT...NO SECONDS
MANY BRAND NAMES AT BARGAIN PRICES
including
Wallis – M&S – Austin Reed – Country Casuals

HOSTED BY KSHSSA PTA
WEDNESDAY 29th APRIL 2015

IN THE SCHOOL SPORTS HALL 7.30PM

TICKETS – ENTRANCE & REFRESHMENTS £5
ACCOMPANIED STUDENTS £3
ON SALE 2nd MARCH from KSHSSA Reception

All items sold and paid for on the night
cash or cheques with valid bankers card

