



NEWSLETTER

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24th April 2015

Useful Dates

27 Apr	Year 8 HPV Injections (am)
27 Apr	Year 9 French Trip Information Evening (7.00pm)
29 Apr	PTA Lincs Fashion Show (7.30pm)
30 Apr	Junior Maths Challenge
1 May	Year 7 & 8 BAE STEM Roadshow (am)
4 May	BANK HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
5-8 May	Year 7 Assessment Week
8 May	Year 11 & 12 Last day at school before Study Leave



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Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the term.

Many thanks to all those parents who have, throughout the year at Parents' Evenings, completed a short survey. Your views are really helpful to us and we frequently make adjustments in school as a result of your feedback. Whether it's monitoring homework levels, making sure we are getting back to you quickly enough if you contact us or just making sure that our current systems work best for your children we do appreciate the time you take telling us what you think.

Every three years, like many schools, we use a slightly longer, more detailed, survey to ask you, your children and staff for their perceptions of the school. The results of these objective, externally analysed, surveys run by Keele University are shared with the school Governing Body and help to inform our school improvement planning.

Next week you will receive a survey from us and we ask that you find some time to complete it and return it to school, either in the post or via your child. Your child too, whichever year group they are in, will be invited to complete a pupil survey in tutor time, whilst some students have been selected to complete an extra, more detailed, Pupil Voice survey during the first half of lesson 1 on Monday.

We will report the surveys' findings to you later in the summer term so thank you in advance for the time you will take.

Best wishes

Craig Booker
Headteacher

Growth Mindsets - Staff Inset day April 2015



Whilst pupils were enjoying one final lie in at the end of the Easter holidays we were delighted to welcome Jackie Beere OBE to our staff inset day to provide training and professional

development to all our teachers and some from other visiting schools including Carre's Grammar School and The King's School, Grantham.

Jackie, a successful Advanced Skills teacher, former Headteacher, well known educational writer and school improvement advisor was tasked with developing existing staff expertise on developing pupil resilience, fostering open minded attitudes to learning, and providing feedback to students that both encourages and stretches them to take the next steps in their learning. Having a 'Growth Mindset' means accepting that talent and innate intelligence are not as important for happiness and future success as the ability to be a reflective and receptive learner.

The session covered practical strategies for providing feedback to able pupils, encouraging pupils' open minded attitudes to growing as learners, accepting difficulty and challenge and finding strategies to deal with those things rather than playing

safe as a learner. The sessions were deemed highly relevant to our students, who, with all good intentions, often appear to like to get everything ‘right’ and aim for ‘safe’ correct responses rather than sometimes taking risks and subjecting themselves to more creative and ambitious thinking. A ‘growth mindset’ leads students to greater resilience when the going gets tough (in life as well as the curriculum) and lots of educational research suggests that it leads to happier, more successful young adults. For teachers the links between good learning, pupils’ personal satisfaction and their resilience are a key part of our everyday work.

We shall be continuing to explore some of the strategies with pupils over coming months but in the meantime included here is some of the advice for parents that a ‘Growth Mindsets’ model promotes. Like most things in education (and parenting!) it is common sense but we felt it was worth sharing.

Parent’s Growth Mindset checklist

Do you want your child to be successful, happy and resilient? Sometimes we don’t realise that words that we think encourage and praise can actually undermine your child’s ability to become the best learners they can be. Every word or action sends a message to your child. Are you sending messages that suggest you are judging them or supporting them to learn and grow?

To help your child reach their real lifelong potential and be emotionally resilient try this:

Do	Do say	Don’t	Don’t say
Praise effort rather than focus on outcome	<i>I’m so proud of how hard you are trying and how much you are learning</i>	Praise their intelligence and talents – as if they are fixed	<i>You must get 10/10 – it’s the only result that matters because you are so bright</i>
Give lots of feedback about how they have done and what they could do next – without criticising and judging	<i>You have written such an exciting story – how about redrafting and checking some of the spellings I have underlined?</i>	Judge their outcomes – either good or bad	<i>You are so talented, I expected more from you OR This is full of mistakes you can do better!</i>
Focus on what they are learning and developing and celebrate that	<i>You have really tried hard with those sums – how do you work them out?</i>	Make them feel all that matters is their scores and grades	<i>You got an A that is brilliant You need to get good grades if you are ever going to be successful</i>
Help them realise that mistakes are part of learning and you only learn by making mistakes and sticking at it until you can make progress	<i>Did you find that book hard with all those difficult words – just think how much you are learning if you get through it all</i>	Get upset if they can’t do it – and show you think they are useless	<i>Are you too stupid to read that book?</i>
Model growth mindset yourself by sometimes getting it wrong and showing how you learn from it	<i>I’m finding it really hard to learn a few Spanish phrases for the holiday but I’m going to stick at it!</i>	Demonstrate you are stuck in your ways and nervous about learning new things	<i>I don’t do foreign languages..and I’m no good at maths, so I’d rather not bother</i>
Praise them for specific achievements and persistence	<i>I’m impressed with how you have found a new way to understand algebra. You stuck at it and I’m so proud.</i>	Only praise when they get it all right	<i>You’ve only done 5 I thought you could get at least 10 done</i>
Help them fix it when they make mistakes	<i>Hey you got it wrong – that’s good because it shows you can keep learning</i>	Make judgements about their ability and compare them with other children	<i>Hope your teacher doesn’t think you can’t do this because I bet all your friends can</i>
Talk to them about the learning process and journey	<i>What have you learnt today that has really pushed your comfort zone?</i>	Let them think you can learn and make progress without the pain of hard work!	<i>If it’s too hard, don’t do it – you don’t want to get upset</i>
Help them choose challenging tasks that stretch them even if they may not get everything right	<i>Isn’t it exciting when you are working really hard on something and it’s is so very hard but eventually you get it!</i>	Advise them that they don’t have to do anything they don’t want to	<i>It’s not fair if you get it wrong, your teacher should help you more</i>
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YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY VOLCANOES

Year 7 have been studying volcanoes and earthquakes and their homework over the break was to either create a model of a volcano, or a fact file on a volcano. On Wednesday 15th April, it was time to erupt the volcanoes and cut into the cakes that the students had lovingly made. The Geography Department was amazed at the amount of work and dedication that had gone into the making of the cakes and models and would like to thank all the parents involved in supporting their daughters to take part in this project. Without a doubt, the most explosive cake was Kyra Britton (7NP), who used food colouring, lemonade and bicarbonate of soda to create a very extreme eruption – getting rather wet herself in the process! Well done to Caitlin Coffey (7NP) whose cake was beautifully made and decorated. Also well done to Coryna Budd (7NP), whose cake showed a fantastic cross section of a volcano and her labels explained the structure of a volcano superbly.

Once again – well done 7NP for all your hard work and dedication in producing your models, cakes and fact files.

Mrs D Collett
Subject Leader Geography



SLEAFORD TOWN AWARDS

Congratulations, from everyone at KSHSSA, go to India Freeman (12A) who has been awarded 'Sports Individual of the Year' in the recent Sleaford Town Awards.

India had great success last year as she was selected to play for the Under 20 Girls England Cricket World Cup.

Well done India!



Library News

A number of NEW BOOKS have just arrived in the library and they are BEAUTIFUL!

Some of these are to help with student studies, including Geography and Food Technology. We also have a wide range of new classic and modern fiction titles, including brand new complete sets of the popular Harry Potter and Gallagher Girls series.

Pictured are Library Captains Kim Williamson (10W), Rosie Devos (10F), Cara Clack (8A) and Lauren Clack (10A) who have been helping me to prepare the new books to go on the Library shelves.

Mrs K Wallis
Learning Resource
Manager



Biology Club Year 8



Biology Club has been running since the beginning of the year and now it is time to say goodbye, thank you and good luck to the Biology Captains Molly McNae (13W) and Emily McRae (13F) who ran the Club with enthusiasm and verve. They are focussing on their A level studies now as they both have secured offers to read Biology at university. Well done and thank you for your time and effort.

Mrs K Fairhead
Teacher of Biology

Biology Club was a great opportunity for any Year 8 student to come along and experience new parts of Biology we have never seen before. There were many fun activities that wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for the sixth-formers, Molly and Emily, who were amazing organisers, running the club. Not to mention our cute hamster Coco Talula who was our



Club pet. So, on behalf of Biology Club we would like to say a big thank you for making this possible.

When Biology Club started we first assembled a cage for our surprise guest Coco who we later chose the name for. (We picked names from a hat, that's why it may seem a little strange!) But Biology Club was more than looking after a hamster!

We also learnt about how reaction times are affected by caffeine. We experimented on Daphnia (water fleas) and ourselves! We changed the colour of flowers by using food colouring in order to learn about the xylem. We enjoyed dissecting an eye to see how it works, and watched our sixth-formers dissect a rat! It was all very interesting, educational and fun.

We had a lot to keep us occupied over the last two terms and it's a shame it's now over but we had fun and that's all that matters.

Thank you Molly, Emily and Mrs Fairhead.

Lucy Freeman (8F)

Swimathon 2015

On Friday, 17th April Lauren Gamble (left) and Hollie Ford (right) from 7KG attempted the annual Swimathon Challenge. Swimathon raises money for Marie Curie Cancer Care and you can choose from 1.5km, 2.5km and 5km challenges. Both girls did really well, Hollie completed the 2.5km (100 lengths!) in 1 hour 15 minutes and 35 seconds. She thought it was great fun and challenging. Despite still having achy arms she is keen to have another go next year as she feels it is a great way to challenge herself.

Lauren said she was really eager to complete the full 100 lengths and enjoyed every minute of being in the pool on a Friday evening. She completed 78 lengths (1950 metres) in 1 hour and 38 minutes.

Mrs K Green (Teacher of Maths) also joined in the challenge and swam 5km (200 lengths) in 1 hour 48 minutes, beating her time from the previous year by 20 minutes.

Well done to all involved.



TEACHER TRAINING SCHOOL DIRECT TEACHER TRAINING AT KESTEVEN AND SLEAFORD HIGH SCHOOL SELECTIVE ACADEMY

Are you a Graduate?

Would you like to train as a Teacher?

Then why not do it on your doorstep with a Lead School rated 'Good with Outstanding Features' (OFSTED 2013) and which has a long history associated with training excellent teachers?

WHAT IS SCHOOL DIRECT?

The new School Direct Scheme allows you to apply to train with specific school associations. Kesteven and Sleaford High School is leading a number of grammar schools in Lincolnshire in a new scheme which brings teacher training into schools. The majority of your training will take place in your allocated school under **CfBT** as our training provider.

Alternatively, you may also choose a School Direct route into teaching supported by the **Lincolnshire Teaching School Alliance** (a group of schools based in Lincoln) who use **Lincoln University** as their training provider.

For more information on either of these routes into teaching then please contact Miss A Parkes, ITT and NQT Co-Ordinator, by email at adele.parkes@kshssa.co.uk



Get on your bikes and join us!
Sunday 24th May 2015

Leaves from Four Seasons Garden Centre
10:00 - 12:00am

5, 10 & 20 mile routes on quiet roads.
Adults £3:00
Children under 16 £1:00

For info please contact
Stephen Bath 07947 673796

Organised by **The Rotary Club of Sleaford**



**Are you a Post 16
Student applying for
Transport?**

You MUST apply now for 2015/16

Once entitlement is confirmed you will be asked to pay your contribution by 31st July to guarantee transport at the start of term. If you are in receipt of benefits you may apply to pay by instalments



For further information or to obtain an application booklet call 01522 782 020



Entitled students can pay on-line at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/onlinepayments (see booklet for other payment options)

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

PTA NEWS

Thank you for your support of the Bags2School collection and 'Civvies' day last week, we had lots of bags of unwanted clothing and the 'Civvies' day raised **£550.00** towards PTA funds, the total is still growing!