



# NEWSLETTER

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26th February 2016



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## Useful Dates

- 2 Mar Year 9 Vaccinations
- 2 Mar Year 7 Parents' Evening
- 3 Mar World Book Day
- 4 Mar Year 11 Individual and Form Photos
- 6 Mar School Production Rehearsal
- 7-11 Mar National Careers Week
- 7-11 Mar Year 9 Assessment Week
- 9 Mar Year 12 & 13 Language Workshop at KGGS
- 10 Mar BBC News Report Day
- 10 Mar Year 10 Maths Feast at Sir Robert Pattinson

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope you enjoy reading about the successful Iceland visit undertaken by students in Years 11, 12 and 13 over half term. Good weather and optimum conditions even allowed them to see the Northern Lights. My thanks go to Head of Geography Mrs D. Collett and her team of 3 other staff who organised and led the trip.

This week in school I have been delighted to attend subject award assemblies for each year group. Twice a year teachers are asked to nominate the names of two students in their classes who have demonstrated excellent commitment to their learning. This commitment may result in great progress, high attainment or may simply be evidence of the effort put into a particular assignment. Awards don't simply get awarded for high test scores. The badges were introduced last year as part of the review into our rewards programmes at the school and as a result of helpful comments parents made in the parental survey. The subject awards are just one of the ways we recognise students' efforts and sit alongside the merit system, assembly recognition, newsletter celebration and (what older students say they value most) good old fashioned timely verbal praise from staff and peers.

The photo included below is of some of the Year 7 and 8 students who were awarded the Headteacher's Award on Monday and Tuesday. This badge is awarded to those students recognised by teachers in more than four subject areas. A big well done to all.

Mrs J Smith  
Head of School





# KSHSSA GOES TO ICELAND

## 2016



On the 11th February 2016, 27 students and 4 members of staff set off on our long awaited visit to Iceland. This country is one of the most fascinating places on the planet and in a world of fire and ice, Iceland certainly delivered excitement, exhilaration and breath-taking beauty during our 6 day, 5 night exploration. The raw physical geography and geology of Iceland offered the opportunity to see first-hand a land of dynamic, exciting and pristine landscapes. Our trip encompassed a tour of Reykjavik, the Capital of Iceland renowned for its National and Saga museums, tracing Iceland's Viking history and the striking concrete Hallgrímskirkja church. We visited geothermal green houses and pools (The Blue Lagoon), where we swam in the geothermal waters and where some of us pasted our faces with the famous Blue Lagoon muds! We saw active volcanoes, volcanic craters, cascading waterfalls, the mid Atlantic ridge and the bridge between two continents. We were privileged to witness the awe and wonder of erupting geysers, bubbling mud pools as well as breath-taking glaciers, mountain ranges, geothermal features and basalt rock columns which were formed by undersea volcanic eruptions thousands of years ago. On our fourth night we witnessed the spectacle of aurora borealis, which I know for many were one of the highlights of the visit. To top it all off, we learnt so much from our expert guide and became educated on some centuries-old Norse culture and society including magical fairy tales and folklore.

The following excerpts give a precis of some of our students 'best bits'; my gratitude is extended to all our students on the visit who were all such a pleasure to spend time with. Their politeness, punctuality and outstanding behaviour earned them positive comments wherever we went - well done KSHSSA, so....where to next?

**Mrs D Collett**

**Subject Leader Geography**

I thoroughly enjoyed everything about the trip to Iceland, but if I had to choose, my favourite part would be the glacier walk on Solheimajokull. Being able to walk on a glacier and not just watch a film; see how the glacier is retreating and how they measure this; see how crevasses are formed, as well as learning how to use crampons and an ice axe was a fantastic experience. I loved seeing the physical geography and it has made me realise that I would like to pursue this interest further in my education. Iceland was amazing and I am already planning my next trip!

*Steph Wilkinson (11W)*

The whole of the trip to Iceland was far more spectacular and enjoyable than I could ever have imagined. The trip was also far more diverse than I expected and I enjoyed each and every part of it; from sightseeing in Reykjavik to driving past the lava fields and crossing the symbolic bridge between continents to witnessing geysers and hot springs erupting 30 metres in to the air. However, I particularly enjoyed the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa and the glaciers were exceptionally impressive. Every single view and image we came across was unbelievably stunning but seeing the Northern Lights whilst we were staying at Hotel Geirland had to be the highlight of the trip for me.

*Frankie Wilson (11W)*

I don't think out of all of my experiences in Iceland I could choose just one thing that I loved the most, being given a chance to experience such an incredible country is something that I'll never ever be able to forget. Every day we did some super cool things like the Blue Lagoon on the first day which was totally surreal, being in water that was 37 degrees yet outside it was something crazy like -11 degrees to being pushed to do things I would never have seen myself doing like the glacier walk.

*Maddie Finch (13L)*





My favourite part of the trip to Iceland was the blue lagoon, without a doubt it was the most exciting experience as there is nothing like it in England and I would love to go there again if I ever had the chance. Thank you so much for organising such an amazing trip, I enjoyed every part of it as it was such a different and extreme environment to be able to experience myself and it is something I will never forget.

*Stefanie Ellis (11F)*

The thing I enjoyed the most about Iceland was definitely getting to see the Northern lights! This is something me and my mum have been dreaming of doing for five years so to finally see them was really a once in a lifetime experience. When the clouds disappeared and the green glow brightened, any coldness or downheartedness due to the fact that we hadn't seen them to begin with disappeared and all I could think about was the overwhelming sense of joy at seeing them and getting some good pictures so that I can remember this experience for years to come.

*Elisha Rooke (11W)*

Personally I thought that Iceland was one of the best and most interesting places to go to because of its wide range of terrain, from coastline and floodplains to mountains, volcanoes and glaciers, which is why my favourite part of this trip was the glacier walk. Equipped with crampons, a helmet, harness and ice axe we were taken up the glacier by our guide who informed us of the history and geographical features of the glacier. I particularly enjoyed this as it provided some great photo opportunities along with amazing views. Even though at times the climb was challenging it was a once in a life time experience that is definitely worthwhile and something I will never forget.

*Hannah Ashworth (11A)*



Iceland was the most amazing trip I have ever been on; every day was so special and every landscape out the bus window was a postcard picture on its own! My highlights had to include seeing the Northern Lights, the glacier walk and swimming in the blue lagoon, however every moment was memorable. The Northern lights were beautiful, we had to wait awhile and it was literally freezing but well worth it a million times over, especially when Holly got perfect photos of them rising over the mountain, she captured the moment perfectly, they were magical!

*Freja Munks (12W)*

The glacier walk, Mid Atlantic ridge and the second deepest lagoon area were the activities I enjoyed the most because the view was incredible. Being able to walk up the glacier and turning around to see how far we'd walked was amazing and being able to learn about each of the characteristics was really interesting.

*Lizzy Simpson (12L)*



One of my favourite places that we visited in Iceland was when we went on the glacier walk. It was so much fun to be able to walk up the glacier and see the crevices and Moulin's that had been formed there. Once we got to a high point on the glacier, the view was absolutely spectacular – it was breath taking.

*Shayla Wilson (12W)*

My favourite part of Iceland wasn't a specific activity in which we partook, but the experience as a whole. The whole country was beautiful and the locals were welcoming and easy going. Our trip however was made even more special by our tour guide, who managed to inform us about the location around us while keeping us smiling and happy. *Kiera Spoor (11F)*

Upon my descent to Iceland I was taken aback by the sheer beauty that such a blissful, yet barren, snow wasteland Iceland is. As part of the trip we ventured onto a glacier; again I was awestruck, this time at the majesty of the glacier. It was a cool trip - (pun intended) and that was snow joke!

*Harpeet Atwal (12W)*



## A Day of Shakespeare

On 10<sup>th</sup> February the Box Clever Theatre Company spent a day at KSHSSA putting on performances of their own unique adaptation of "Romeo and Juliet" and their workshop, "Introduction to Shakespeare".

The Year 9s thoroughly enjoyed the unique staging of "Romeo and Juliet" and the unusual approach of having just three actors performing a multitude of roles. The aim of the performance was to consolidate the student's understanding of the play for their GCSE studies.

The Year 8s similarly enjoyed their workshop and were treated to a wide range of activities with a great deal of audience participation. Some students duelled as Harry Hotspurs and Harry, Prince of Wales, whilst others had a more gentle time exploring the magic within "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Pictured are Emily Sunman (8MC), Evie Tyler and Corey Stucker from Box Clever, Sasha Wildblood (8MC) and Jessica Van-Der-Sluis (8MC).



Mr J Cassidy  
Teacher of English



## Intermediate Maths Challenge

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of February some students from Years 9, 10 and 11 sat the Intermediate Maths Challenge, a national competition run by the UK Mathematics Trust. Congratulations to all the students who took part, but especially to Isabella Smith (11W) and Jasmine Wragg (10W) who got through to the next round of the competition, the Pink Kangaroo. Four students did exceptionally well in the competition and received Gold Certificates: Isabella Smith, Molly Desorgher (11F), Jasmine Wragg and Natalie Sands (10W). Eight students received Silver Certificates and 4 students received Bronze Certificates.

Mrs K Green  
Second in Mathematics



Jasmine Wragg 10W



Isabella Smith 11W

## BAE Systems Science Roadshow

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February, Year 7 and 8 students had the opportunity to watch a Science Roadshow delivered by the BAE Systems Education Programme. The presentation featured demonstrations and activities to help students understand the similarities and differences between sound, water and light waves. The students were shown examples from within BAE Systems, the RAF and the Royal Navy, where knowledge of different wave types is exploited by engineers to solve problems. Both students and staff were invited to participate in some of the experiments and they were able to make some strange sounds using unconventional instruments! They also discovered how light waves can actually make objects disappear and they created water waves without actually touching the water!

Mrs L Cook  
Teacher of Science







# YEAR 7 HISTORY



7F have been studying castles in History recently. We were given the choice to make either a Motte-and-Bailey castle, a Stone Keep castle, or a Concentric castle. We made these castles out of different materials, ranging from cardboard to cake! We had great fun designing, making and eating! Castles has been a fun topic to cover, and we have all enjoyed it. These are some of the castles that we made...

By Ruth Fuller (7F) / Photos by Alexia Johnson (7F)



## TEXTILES CLUB

Students from Year 8 and Year 9 have been very busy at Textiles Club on Friday lunchtimes making dresses for the 'Dress a Girl' project. This is a charity which sends dresses to girls of all ages across the world who live in very difficult conditions and own very little clothing. We have now finished 24 dresses ranging from baby to teenage size. The dresses have been made from left over fabric from KS3 projects and fabrics donated by the Lincolnshire branch of the Embroiderers' Guild. New students from Year 8 and Year 9 are welcome to join the project at any time. The dresses will be sent to the charity at the end of the summer term.

Mrs B Fleming  
Teacher of Textiles





## GIRLS' NEWS TEAM

The KSHSSA Girls' News Team work hard all year reporting news from within the school and beyond it. We take part in the annual BBC School Report Day and this year are working with Carre's Grammar School to develop our skills alongside them.

We have our new website up and running; check it out to see what we are up to and read the wide variety of articles we produce weekly.

<https://thegntchain.wordpress.com/>

Miss A Natley  
Teacher of English



## FIRST AID TRAINING – ST JOHN AMBULANCE

St John Ambulance have recently given basic First Aid training to all students in Year 8 and Year 10 in their PSHE lessons. This initiative has been funded by the PTA and links into a governmental programme of training for young people in gaining training in First Aid.

Next year, students will have the opportunity to have CPR training, again offered by St John Ambulance, free of charge and I hope that this means that more people are able to help in case of an emergency.

Mr L Rooke  
PSHE Co-ordinator



## PTA News

The PTA would like to thank all parents and students who contributed to the fundraising events last term. We raised approximately £130.00 from selling Chinese Fortune Cookies and nearly £500.00 from the Bag2School civvies day.

We are trying to raise money for a permanent structure that will cover the area between the school Dining Room and the Library, the PTA have already donated £5,000 to match the same amount raised by the sponsored walk for school projects.

Our next event is a Joules Seconds Evening on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 6.00-8.00pm – look out for our Facebook page. Tickets are £4.00 in advance and £4.50 on the door and they will be on sale by the middle of March. We are also selling tickets for the Joules Seconds Event at the school production evenings where we will be raising money by providing refreshments.

We estimate that we have a further £10,000 to raise and hope that we can do this with your continued help and support.

Thank you

Mrs B Fleming  
Chair KSHSSA PTA





## MATHS COMPETITION

The Year 9 Maths classes have recently been participating in a competition run by Edge Hill University. We all had to get into groups and work together to solve one of the two problems:

“Around the Sheep Fold” – a problem which required the use of construction skills and accurate scale drawings. We also had to use our knowledge of area of circles and triangles and had to look up how to convert between acres and yards.

“Combined Ages” – a problem which required the use of logic and reasoning and also knowledge of factors. It took a while for us to realise that there was only one sensible answer!

We then had to create an informative and eye catching poster to show our results.

After that, we got together as a year group to decide on the top groups to go through to the next round.

The winners were:

'The Cool Kids' - Zoe Newnham, Amber Swann, Sophie Pacey and Isabella Stuart

'Easy as Pi' - Hermione Marrant, Evie Mansfield, Maisie Lee and Holly Parsons

'Pythagoras's Pals' - Ella Hansford, Priya Hall, Jess Fry and Jayne Morley

'9S4' - Georgia Tweedale, Megan Woodfield and Lucy Neil

'9S3' - Cara Clack, Emily Shaw and Hollie Chessum

Congratulations!

By Elizabeth Keetch 9L

**joules**  
KSHSSA PTA Joules Seconds Evening

**KSHSSA PTA ARE HOSTING A JOULES  
CLOTHING SECONDS EVENING**

**THURSDAY APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> 2016**

**6PM-8PM IN THE SCHOOL DINING  
ROOM**

**WOMENSWEAR, MENSWEAR AND  
CHILDRENSWEAR AT BARGAIN  
PRICES**

**TICKETS £4.00 IN ADVANCE £4.50  
ON THE DOOR**

**Money goes towards the school**

**‘Raise the Roof’ project**