

# Kings Langley School News

#### Issue 23

#### A note from the Headteacher - Mr Fisher

It has been a pleasure this week to welcome not one but three of His Majesty's Inspectors into Kings Langley School for our long-awaited Section 8 inspection. I would firstly like to praise our student community for their amazing attitude towards the inspection. The inspectors really enjoyed their experience at the school, and I know the students played a huge part in this positive experience. This was an ungraded inspection, and our first since 2018. The Ofsted protocols mean that we are not able to share the information of the report and any outcome at this stage because the information needs to be checked and quality assured at head office. This will take about 4 weeks, possibly a little longer with Easter coming up. However, we really look forward to being able to share the report with you.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all our students, who were, as usual, amazing over the two days and a real credit to their families and school. Equally, parent responses to the online survey, thank you for taking time to respond which was greatly valued by the inspection team. I also want to say a special thank you to all the staff, governors and trustees who were magnificent and demonstrated why this is such a great school. Well, done everyone and we will let you know as soon as the final outcome is ready to be shared with you all.

#### **School Events**

**Thursday 21st March** Y13 Othello Theatre Trip - 7.30pm

#### Friday 22nd March

Y11 DofE Silver Exhibition Departs

#### Sunday 24th March

Y11 DofE Silver Expedition Returns



Whilst we have had this, we have also been able to celebrate opening the pitch this week for students to use for lunch times, PE lessons and our first official after school match, our Year 8 boys in the county cup semi-final. I hope the lunch time photo I took today sums up the enjoyment on offer at our school and the high usage of this new facility already.



I would also like to thank staff for giving up time over weekends to run and compete in Mock Trials, Silver DofE expeditions and also to those organising talks for targeted careers assemblies on being a paramedic and a finally we would like to thank John Fieldsend who came in to talk to Year 9 and Year 12 on Tuesday morning about his experience as a Kindertransport refugee during the Holocaust. His speech was incredibly powerful and informative helping the students consider the personal, human cost of the Holocaust that they have been studying in PRE lessons. We would also like to thank ex-student Millie Geard who put us in contact with John.

# Unlocking potential for life

### Best at Bedrock! Week 24

All of these names have been placed into a prize draw which will be drawn at the end of the term.

#### Highest points earned in each year group

- Mia- 7D (120 points)
- Sastika- 8A (134 points)
- Adam- 9P (201 points)
- Henry- 10J (45 points)
- Alice- 11G (53 points)

#### Highest progress made in each year group

- Gabrielle- 7P (700%)
- Narayah- 8T (133%)
- Beau- 9J (210%)
- Hyman- 10D (82%)
- Charlotte- 11G (555%)





Confident voices, strong literacy





#### Students of the Week w/c 11th March

Jai 11G Drama For excellent work on their component 3 exam scenes, really developing the role and committing to the performance. Brooke 8G English For creating a fantastic gothic story for her written exam. **Food Technology** Harriet 8J For having a positive attitude towards learning and always engaging in conversations and offering answers. History Barney 8G Always engaging in history lessons with a positive attitude! Todd 13SCO Library For reading widely, trying out new styles and forms of literature. Alessandra 10P **Modern Foreign Languages** Alessandra is our top year 10 performer on LanguageNut so far this month. Well done. Music Joseph 8J For taking on extra challenges in the music lesson to great success! **Physical Education** Summer 10C For scoring 7 goals in the last U/15 National Cup fixture against Henlow School. **Product Design** Isha 7D For beautiful work in her STEM lesson. Psychology Terri 12MOY For asking excellent questions and showing very good analytical skills. Science Henry 12JNN Excellent attainment in physics.

Sociology	Ryan 12JNN
For excellent contributions to class discussion	on.
Year 11 Head of Year	Sybella 11J
Amazing commitment to her technology pro	oject.
Key Stage 5 Head of Year	Edward 12JNN
Baising over £70 from a bake sale to go tow	vards Action Aid, nurchasing a goat and water for a family in

Raising over £70 from a bake sale to go towards Action Aid, purchasing a goat and water for a family in desperate need.

# Well done to all of our students who have achieved 'student of the week'.

#### **Headteacher Commendations**



It was with great pleasure that Mr Astley and Mr Fisher presented students with their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh certificates on Monday. The award is given in recognition of participation in four core sections of the program which allows students the opportunity to demonstrate determination, stickability and commitment, as well as developing their community awareness, team working and leadership skills.

#### **English Department Theatre Trips**

The Kings Langley English Department recently organised two theatre trips for GCSE and A-Level students to help the cohorts further secure their knowledge of examination texts. Starting on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, Mr. McGuigan was assisted by three colleagues in taking almost 50 students to a production of 'Macbeth' at the Rickmansworth Watersmeet Theatre. This was an engaging and compelling production well received by staff and students.

The following evening, Mr. McGuigan was accompanied by Mrs. Butt to the Kings Langley Community Centre for a production of 'The Great Gatsby'. Rarely performed on stage, it was a wonderful experience not only to see an A-Level set text performed live but also in a local setting with a local cast – some of whom were ex Kings Langley students in Millie and James, who performed wonderfully.

Mr. McGuigan would like to take a moment to thank all colleagues and students for two very successful theatre trips that helped to underpin students' textual knowledge.



#### **Magistrates Mock Trial**

On Saturday 9th of March 2024, myself, and other students from year 8 and 9 travelled to the Stevenage Magistrates courthouse for a competition between Kings Langley and four other schools. During the competition, the prosecution side from one school would compete against the defence side of another school. The other half of both teams (both defence and prosecution) would act as magistrates for the trial. Each person would be scored out of ten, and so the school with the most points in total would win. Simple.



At the beginning of the first trial, the prosecuting side of Kings Langley went against the defence side of the Nobel School. I can testify that everyone was nervous (in other words panic-stricken) when their turn to stand and speak came. The trial went smoothly, and the second the magistrates vacated the courtroom to decide their verdict, the room exploded into excitement. After approximately ten minutes, the magistrates re-entered, and the head magistrate declared that the defendant was not guilty. This was followed by an explanation of what the sentence would have been, had the defendant been found guilty!

After lunch we were ushered into the next courtroom for the second trial. During this, the defence side of our school competed against the prosecution side of the Hertswood school. Yet again, the prosecution and the defence from the previous trial acted as magistrates. Our school did significantly better in this trial, and the verdict was in our favour; not guilty. Again, they went through the possible sentences if the defendant was found guilty.

At the conclusion of this trial, all four schools gathered in the first courtroom for the winning school to be named: The Nobel School.



This was an amazing experience to everyone involved in this competition. Thanks to Paige 9P, Ella, 9P, Madison 9P, Olivia 9G, Daniel 9C, Josh 8A, Brian 8T, Sammy 8G, George 8G and Roma 8J.

By Isabelle 9P



#### **DofE Silver Practice Expedition**

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, at 6am, seven Kings Langley students came



together to participate in their Duke of Edinburgh Silver, practice expedition. The group, comprised of six Y11 students and a Y12 student, we made our way onto the school minibus after a brief equipment check. The trip to South Downs took only two hours and was benefited by breakfast at Cobham Services.

The group, led by Mr Astley and chauffeured by Mr Higgins, arrived an hour early and had the chance to

explore the local medieval market town of Arundel. Arundel, agreed by the group to be one of the most beautiful places we had ever seen,

is technically a city as it boasts not only a very impressive castle, but also a stunning, gothic cathedral. This prompted a quote from Alan "That's amazing, why don't we build things like that anymore". The group explored Arundel for half an hour or so, then headed to Amberley Station, where the group would meet their expedition leader, Paul, of Wildside Outdoors.





On the Friday, the group walked supervised by Paul from Amberley Station to Furzefield Scout Campsite some 15km away. The purpose of the day was to remind everyone of navigation techniques, gain



familiarity with the use of the OS Map and gain some confidence with wild walking. The walking was far from straightforward. The rain had been relentless over the previous few weeks and some of the fields were under inches of water. The paths, if you could call them that, were not much better at times. Several pairs of socks were retired and changed before lunch.

The group arrived safely after about seven hours of walking and pitched their tents with relative ease. The campsite was very muddy, almost swamp like, and the group did very well to soldier on and not let the conditions hinder them. Dinner on the first night came late; after dark, but there was a strong sense of accomplishment that the first day had been completed.

Day two. The mood of the camp was bright after a comfortable and warm night in the tents, probably aided by the use of the double duvets which were bought along as a health and safety precaution against the cold winter nights of early March. The duvets, which were generously funded by Friends of Kings Langley, proved to be well worth bringing along.

A further 15km awaited after breakfast, walking to a different campsite, this time in Washington. Thankfully no passports required. The group walked under remote supervision this time, with Paul, Mr Astley and Mr Higgins meeting them at different checkpoints. The scenery the group walked through was some of the most beautiful rolling hills to be seen in the UK, with the British Channel loitering on the horizon of the highest hills. Some blisters and sore feet slowed progress, not helped by a navigational mistake that took the group (accidentally, I'm sure) towards a vineyard for English sparkling wine.

Paul, Mr Astley and Mr Higgins met the group at the summit of the last hill to be conquered, as the sun set over the landscape behind. The group worked their way down the back of the hill to their second campsite, this one blessed with an immaculate toilet block and warm showers!





Dinner and route plotting for the final day followed the pitching of tents. Everyone was eager to get some sleep and signs of tiredness were starting to show, despite the positive mood of the group.

The final day, Sunday, the group set off early in an attempt to avoid the rain promised in the afternoon. Having somehow managed to avoid all the bad weather in the area for two straight days, the priority was finishing the expedition dry. A

further 15km back to Amberley station awaited the explorers, as they followed the South Downs Way; a trail leading along the ridges of the hills. A steep gradient was overcome to join the trail, but it was a long and shallow, consistent downhill gradient that followed.

Tired and aching, with more blisters in the group than thought possible, they arrived at the finish line. Smiles and laughter, dispersed between painful groans, showed the excellent attitude that the group had held all weekend. The perseverance and determination shown by all members of the group was truly remarkable and reminded Mr Astley and Mr Higgins of the remarkable capabilities that their students have, when they put their mind to something. The group bid Paul a farewell and retreated to the minibus for the journey home. Not five minutes after the group had got into the minibus, the rain clouds, which had had a foreboding look about them all day, exploded over the south coast. The deluge followed all the way back to Kings Langley, where parents

were prompt pick their children up at 6pm. Short and brief farewells were given in an attempt to stay dry, and the weekend was over!

Through the whole weekend, the group had shown huge character, displaying the traits expected of Kings Langley Students at every turn. As if to show further confirmation of their character and commitment to learning, all seven of the



students were in school the next day, after a three-day, 45km, tough and muddy expedition.



#### **STEM in Action**







The whole school is participating in STEM fortnight and the theme is STEM in action where we challenge students to channel empathy and come up with innovative ways to fund raise for our selected STEM charity

In the past we have made significant contributions to helping others around the world in need.

This year we have selected Action Aid as our focus charity and are asking students to select a gift which they want to raise money for. Students can work individually, in pairs, small groups, as a form or even as a year group to achieve this the amounts for each gift. Please can you encourage your child to participate in these activities.







If you would like to take part please select a gift and donate the amount name, amount via Scopay or in a sealed envelope addressed to Miss Scanlan with your name amount and gift choice on the front.

Thank you for your support

Miss Scanlan



#### **Music News**

#### **Kings Langley Young Musician Competition**

We have been enjoying listening to the auditions for the Kings Langley Young Musician Competition this week, with lots of fantastic entries. We are looking forward to the finals which will be held on the **19<sup>th</sup> April 2024** in the hall and we invite students to come and watch! It will be a lovely afternoon.

#### **Ukulele Group Starting up**

Learning to play the ukulele to accompany yourself while singing has proved to be a very popular here and one that lots of you have been asking to have a taught group for. Ukulele is a fantastic stepping stone for learning how to play guitar, as well as being an enjoyable instrument all on its own. The session is planned to run on Monday lunchtimes in the Music Department, starting next term. If you are interested in joining this group, please express your interest by filling in the below form by the end of term. When we have gauged numbers, we will put it on SOCS for you to sign up 'officially'.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oaYmCpPm0KIbYLNnQDOOBOLOVr\_kyxEj4iQathkR09URVRXSE1DMjlJTTdUWk9KNVV MVEk1VIUxMi4u

#### **Individual Music Tuition**

We have been receiving lots of enquires about signing up for individual music lessons. This is a good time of year to sign up as the Year 11 and 13 students leave, making space on the waiting list before our new Year 7 students (starting in September) nip in there and take the slots! If you are interested in learning an instrument, please follow the below instructions to sign up.

- 1. Go to <u>Hertfordshire Music Service (hertsmusicservice.org.uk)</u>
- 2. Click on 'Music Lessons'
- 3. Click on 'sign up for music lessons and ensembles'
- 4. Click 'lessons in school'
- 5. Choose Kings Langley School (902) from the drop down menu
- 6. Click on the box below that says 'browse lessons'.
- Choose your instrument (we currently have piano, flute, clarinet saxophone, violin & viola, guitar (electric, acoustic & bass), singing and percussion (including drum kit) available.



#### **Summer Term Performance Opportunities**

After a number of fantastic performances in the Autumn term, we are now looking ahead to our performance opportunities for next term.

- 22<sup>nd</sup> June: Kings Langley Carnival
- End of term celebration assemblies
- Summer Term showcase (date tbc)

The choir and the guitar group will be performing at this, as well as a number of smaller sessions. There are still spaces available in the Choir and Guitar group so feel free to sign up. If you are interested in performing a solo or in any of these please sign up using this form by **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** <u>https://forms.office.com/Pages/</u>

ResponsePage.aspx?id=oaYmCpPm0KIbYLNnQDOOBOLOVr kyxEj4iQathkR09URVJYNzINQ0o2NjY0MUZZWkIJ WIpNSVJURy4u







### **STEM Challenge**

#### This weeks challenge:



Answer next week.

#### Last weeks answer:

A teacher writes six words on a board: "cat dog has max dim tag." She gives three students, Albert, Bernard and Cheryl each a piece of paper with one letter from one of the words. Then she asks, "Albert, do you know the word?" Albert immediately replies yes. She asks, "Bernard, do you know the word?" He thinks for a moment and replies "yes". Then she asks Cheryl the same question. She thinks and then replies "yes". What is the word?

**Answer:** Dog. Albert knows right away because he has one of the unique letters that only appear once in all the words: c o h s x i. So, we know the word is not "tag." All of these unique letters appear in different words, except for "h" and "s" in "has," and Bernard can figure out what the word is from the unique letters that are left: t, g, h, s. This eliminates "max" and "dim." Cheryl can then narrow it down the same way. Because there is only one unique letter left, the letter "d," the word must be "dog."





#### The following jackpot winning number for this week is:

#### 659380

#### Our supporter won £30.00 in the draw!

Remember to check your email to see if you've won!

If you haven't signed up yet visit our lottery here - <u>https://</u> www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/kings-langley-secondary-school

#### **Online Safety Links**

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	10 Top Tips: Remote Education for Parents and Carers <u>10-top-tips-remote-learning-for-parents.pdf</u>
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	10 Top Tips: Remote Education for Children <u>10-top-tips-remote-learning-for-children.pdf</u>

# KIS Community Iftar

All are welcome. People of all backgrounds, faiths and ages to join together, share a meal and celebrate the diversity of our community.

## Tuesday 26th March

# 5.30pm to 7.30pm

£5 per person

Please pay on Scopay by 15th March (strictly first come first served due to the popularity of last year's event)

Please contact Mrs Butt or Mrs Ashraf for further information.

# *Advertisements & Opportunities*

Please contact admin@kls.herts.sch.uk to advertise here



## SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2024

#### VENUE

Adeyfield Free Church, Maylands Ave, Hemel Hempstead HP2 4GZ

DATE & TIME Sunday 17 March, 3pm – 5.30pm

FREE ENTRY For young people aged 11 – 18

> Bring a friend, put on yer boots, don a checked shirt and join us for some yee-haw fun!

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Last Man Standing
- Redemption Saloon
- County Fair including tin can alley, sombrero tossin', balloon stampede, popcorn stall, Mexican mule mocktail
- Worship

TESTIMONY Mugged in America by Lisa Dussek



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