



Kings Langley School News

Issue 5

A note from the Headteacher - Mr Fisher

This week we celebrate the achievements of some key students. Firstly, Will in 10P who as part of a team managed to swim the English Channel this week!

Will has had to show all the character virtues of our school in his preparation before the event; completing multiple sea swims including over nights, waking up at 1.00am in the morning to prepare with the team on the day of the challenge and filling up with porridge! As part of his swim he even managed a power hour where he was swimming at an average of 8 knots. As a team and an individual they have broke multiple records such as fastest swimmer relay team, and youngest relay team ever. Will's full article is overleaf and I know so far they have raised over £12,000 for a well deserved cause. His family and school could not be more proud of him and seeing him back in school so quickly after this challenge clearly shows the inner character of this young man, well done Will!

School Events

Wednesday 11th October

Grease Theatre Trip
5.50-10.30pm

Thursday 12th October

Y7 Literacy and Character
parent event - 6.30pm

Friday 13th October

Y7 Grades home - 6pm

KINGS
LANGLEY
SCHOOL

Swimming The Channel Relay - 4.10.23 by Will 10P

Preparation

In preparation for the swim, we had to complete multiple 2 hour sea swims to qualify, and an hour night swim to get used to swimming in the dark. Along with boat practice to learn specific ways to change swimmers during the relay. But, before all this we also spent 3 months preparing for the swim with endless training sessions, swimming from 3k – 10k at Denham Lake as well as multiple trips to the coast.

The day before

I left to go to Dover at 1pm and arrived at Dover at roughly 6pm. We stayed in a Premier Inn hotel by the shore and 3 of my friends were staying there as well. As soon as we arrived at the hotel, we unpacked our stuff and put it in the room. After I finished that I went on a walk around the harbour and the beach with 2 of my friends, then we got back to the hotel at 7:30pm and had dinner. I had chicken goujons and chips. As soon as I finished them, I went straight to bed as it was an early start in the morning.

The day of the swim

Woke up at 1am to drive down the harbour. For breakfast I had a few pots of porridge. We then set off to the boat which steered to the shore to the starting point, where we needed a dingy, which would drop the first swimmer Sam off at the start, followed by Prisha then me, as I was third to swim. Before swimmers were allowed in the water we had to ensure Vaseline was around our necks, arms and legs so the salt didn't hurt when it rubbed against us. I also had to put on my goggles and hat.

When I got in, I was taken away by the temperature of the ocean. It's a lot colder in the middle of the ocean than by the shore, as soon as I started to swim I realised I put my swimming goggles on wrong and they started filling up with water so I had to swim with water in the goggles for an hour. (doh).

The second time I swam we called it a power hour because the speed I was travelling was at a rate of 8 knots (9mph). I was surprised by my speed. But, I thought the tide must've been on my side pushing me around. When my second leg was over, we were so close to France, then Felipe got to finish it for us, who is the youngest swimmer aged 13.



The most difficult part of the swim was the mental part, because your swimming with no entertainment, just your own thoughts nonstop can be quite difficult to do. You just need to put yourself into a zone and put everything you've learnt and practised into reality.

Achievements

We broke and made multiple records when we swam it in a time of 9 hours 40 minutes and 29 seconds: Fastest 6 Swimmer Relay (Since 2018), Fastest Relay England-France (2023), Fastest Mixed Relay England-France (Since 2018), Fastest Junior Relay England-France, and Youngest Relay team.

To date we've raised around £12,000 for the Peace Hospice Care



We see great progress with our all-weather surface, and I know the heavy machinery is keeping our students' attention at lunch time with our year 11 boys in particular all wanting a go on the diggers! All credit must go to the students and PE in particular, on how quickly they have adapted to the site changes and locations for lunch and use of facilities whilst these works progress. I am delighted to see the delight on their faces and some students saying to me "it's massive", and I can't wait sir".



The contractors are confident with the 14th February 2024 completion date.

If parents want to support our pitch project with the extras that will really enhance our facilities the just giving page can be found at [Kings Langley School 3G Football Pitch - JustGiving](#). Big thank you to Steve and family and the George family for contributions this week that have moved us over the £500.00 mark, however we still have a long way to go to reach our £25,000 target.

This week we welcome the final few staff to our school in the form of our foreign language assistants from the British Council. A foreign language speaker is an additional resource for us in our classrooms giving context to language learning, talking about their experiences in their home culture and inspiring students to develop their ability to communicate their own world views. Insight shows that a foreign language speaking assistant makes a significant difference to language teaching, exam results and learning outcomes.



Mr Loussouarn joins us from his home city of Rennes in northern France. Thomas is 21 years old and is studying for a Degree in Pédagogical studies at the Université Catholique de l'Ouest. He is an enthusiastic young man with ambitions to go into teaching.

Mrs Vargar Tovar is a published author and has published academic research on citizenship, education and togetherness. The citizenship aspect of her work draws her to Kings Langley as our existing link with the University of Birmingham on Character Education is something which deeply interests her.

Finally, external cover has really disappointed me this year and as such we have recruited our own cover supervisor to ensure better consistency when staff are unwell or absent. Mrs Smith is very experienced in teaching and can cover a number of subjects. She is just working through her internal training and will soon be supporting students in and around the school which will improve the quality of cover lessons.

We launched our new school website this week and welcome feedback from parents. The new website hosts a variety of materials for parents and students on all areas including what we teach, our offer, support and advice around wellbeing and mental health and general parent support. If you feel we have missed something, please email admin@kls.herts.sch.uk and we will try and ensure we get this advice online shortly.

[Kings Langley Secondary School - Unlocking Potential for Life \(kls.herts.sch.uk\)](https://www.kls.herts.sch.uk)

The new Sixth Form site will be populated over next week with information related to Key Stage 5 students.

It is always lovely to hold my Headteacher breakfasts and celebration events each morning and over the last week speaking with students about the school, what we can do to improve and what they like. The last few have been with year 7 students on how they have settled in, with students appreciating their teachers and support staff but with a real drive for a school dog and in some cases improved catering. I was pleased to confirm we are already looking at our catering contract which runs out this year and as such we are going out to tender and we will involve students and parents in this. The school dog I have explained with so much building works going on we will review this in the summer, but I know Polly will hold me to this! The year 7s have made a great start to life at the school, I met with the top Bedrock students this week which showed they are doing everything they can to unlock their potential.



Headteachers Commendation



Congratulations to the following top Y7 Students for their achievements in Bedrock:

Sania, Charlie, Jessica and Niamh -7A

Harriet, Sophie, Myiah and Ethan -7D

Alice, Ace, Amelia and Cerys -7G

Mia, and Lucy -7J

Kayla and Willow -7P





Recognition

Being noticed for doing something positive or achieving something

Students of the Week w/c 2nd October

Drama	Jamie 9J
For being brave, taking risks and getting the drama done!	
English	Sadie 9J
Excellent work and commitment to her English studies.	
Graphics	Erin 9A
Outstanding shop prototype work.	
History	Polly 7A
For her effort and enthusiasm in lessons. What a great start to Year 7 she has made.	
Library	Joseph 8T
Great focus and attention to detail when learning a new process on the library system.	
Modern Foreign Languages	Leticia 10P
Excellent written work last week.	
Music	Summa-Louise 8D
For enthusiasm and stickability in music lessons.	
Physical Education	James 10D
For excellent contribution in PE lessons and supporting others to complete the skills.	
Product Design	Paris 10C
Excelling in his lesson after a challenging start.	
Philosophy, Religion, Ethics	Keira 10A
For focus and stickability in lessons and homework – some brilliant work and excellent application shown so far this year!	
Sociology	Ryan 12JNN
For increased engagement and interest in lessons and confidence in answering questions.	

Textiles	Elise 7C
Outstanding tacking and lead learner in textiles.	
Year 7 Head of Year	Myiah 7D
Outstanding commitment to creative writing outside of her English lessons.	
Year 11 Head of Year	Mia 11J
Consistently following school expectations and flourishing as a great role model to others.	
Key Stage 5 Head of Year	Adaya 12ARN
Settled in well as a new student to Kings Langley and getting involved in the wider community.	

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

Best at Bedrock! Week 5

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

- Connor—7D (75 Points)
- Sastika—8A (98points)
- **Adam—9P (126 points)**
- Kian—10A (91 points)
- Samuel—11D (60 Points)

Highest progress made in each year group

- Kayla - 7P (72%)
- Samuel—8T (226%)
- **Sasha - 9P (277%)**
- Samuel—10P (227%)
- Emily - 11G (137%)



Generation Dacorum Careers Fair

On Wednesday 27th September, we took a small group of Year 11 students to Shendish Manor in Apsley in order for them to attend the 'Generation Dacorum Careers Fair' which is organised each year to support students from all Dacorum Schools.

The aim of the fair is to offer students the opportunity to meet and gather information from a variety of industry professionals and companies offering apprenticeships and or school leaver programs and forms part of the Careers Information and Guidance program delivered in school.

During their time at the fair, students were able to talk to a number of local and national employers which included Tesco, Atlas Copco, Bovingdon Airfield Studios, ASK Apprenticeships, West Herts College, NHS Trust, Open Hairdressing, Hertfordshire Police, Machins Solicitors, Watford FC and Balfour Beatty, plus many others who all gave their valuable time to be available for our young people.

We hope this provided students with access to a range of options that are available and will go towards helping them make well informed choices for their future career planning.

All students were polite and respectful and conducted themselves in a mature manner. They were a pleasure to take and great ambassadors of Kings Langley School.

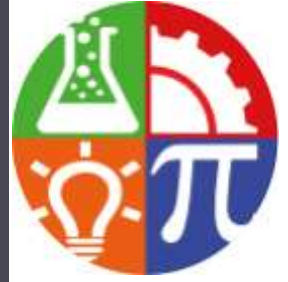
During the fair, Whitestar Solutions a Hemel Hempstead based Data and Electrical Services company, were offering students the chance to win various prizes and we are delighted to report that one of our students, Sharleez, was a lucky winner drawn at random and had the pleasure of spending the day at Watford FC, last Saturday, as a VIP guest of Whitestar Solutions. Sharleez was accompanied by her Dad and enjoyed a four course lunch in the LP Lounge then watched the game from the Director's box.

Although, sadly, Watford lost the game to Middlesbrough 2-3! Nevertheless, a lovely prize and a fantastic opportunity.

Our sincere thanks to Mr. John English – Managing Director – Whitestar Solutions for offering such a generous prize.



STEM Challenge



Which tyre doesn't move when a car turns right?

Answer next week.

Last week's answer:

You're standing in a hallway with three light switches on the wall, each of which turns on a different lamp inside a closed room. You can't see inside the room, and you can't open the door except to enter the room. You can enter the room only once, and when you do, all the lamps must be turned off. How can you tell which switch turns on which lamp?

Answer

Turn on the right switch and leave it on for two minutes. After two minutes, turn on the middle switch and leave it on for one minute. When that minute is up, turn off both switches and enter the room. One light bulb will be hot (1st switch) and one will be warm (2nd switch). The cold bulb will correspond to the switch you didn't turn on.



SEPTEMBER 2023

The Library

Books of the Month

Key Stage 3

You Will Be Able to Knit by the End of this Book by Rosie Fletcher

From your first stitch to your own complete clothing & homeware projects, this beginner's handbook goes back to basics, with clear step-by-step illustrations demonstrating how to cast on and how to ace a range of stitches, while 15 easy projects allow you to practise your skills and build your confidence.

You're also welcome at **Knitting Club** — every Thursday in the library, after school!

Please sign up on Scopay if you are interested in attending.

YOU WILL
BE ABLE TO
KNIT
BY THE END
OF THIS BOOK



ROSIE FLETCHER

Key Stage 4 and 5

March by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell

The autobiographical story of the youth of Congressman John Lewis, a major force in the American civil rights movement, told in comic book format. This first volume spans his youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement, and their battle to tear down segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, building to a stunning climax on the steps of City Hall.

B:M2023

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER



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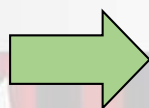
Attendance Ladder

*MORE TIME IN SCHOOL =
MORE TIME TO LEARN!*

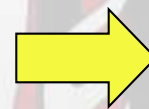
4 SCHOOL DAYS
OFF EACH YEAR



7 SCHOOL DAYS
OFF EACH YEAR



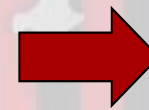
9 SCHOOL DAYS
OFF EACH YEAR



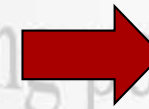
11 SCHOOL DAYS
OFF EACH YEAR



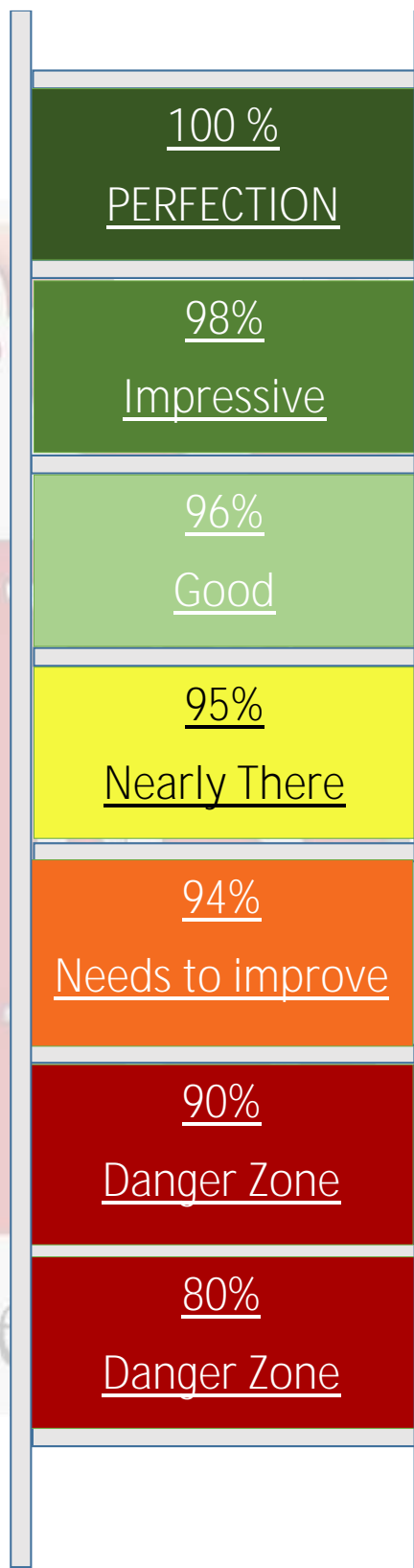
19 SCHOOL DAYS
OFF EACH YEAR



2 MONTHS
OFF EACH YEAR



Nationally, only 35% of students who miss between 10% - 20% of school go on to achieve 5 GCSEs at grade 9 to 4 (A* - C)





YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY



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- Join the lottery to support our school
- Win weekly cash prizes up to £25,000
- Free entry into the bonus Super Draw

BUY TICKETS:

Go to: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

And search for: Kings Langley



GambleAware



£5
per ticket



Friends of
Kings Langley School

Family Quiz Night

Saturday 7th October
7pm for 7:30pm start

Maximum of 8 people per team

Tickets available via SCOPAY or use the QR code.

BYO refreshments



Kings Langley School
Unlocking Potential for Life