

King's Academy Binfield - Secondary

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FUNDRAISING WEEK at KAB and KAO

This week we have fully embraced the true reason for the season, with our students thinking of others before themselves. We have held our Christmas Jumper Day across both sites, collected items to be donated to Kerith Foodbank and five of our Year 10 students braved the shave to raise awareness for Cancer Research UK in support of one of the student's mum.

The funds raised from the Brave the Shave and Christmas Jumper Day will be split evenly between Cancer Research UK and Alexander Devine Hospice, two charities that support members of our own community. We are delighted to announce that at the time of writing we have raised a fabulous:

£1,496.79

The 'Brave The Shave' took place on Thursday 16th December in front of all of Year 10. This was led by Franco, who approached Mrs Howells a few weeks ago to ask permission for him and some of his friends to have their hair cut below the school's policy of grade 2, in support of his Mum who is currently undergoing treatment for cancer. Rather than just having their hair shaved at home, the boys organised a 'Brave the Shave' with donations requested for Cancer Research. We were especially delighted that Franco's mum and dad were able to join us yesterday to give their support. Mrs Read planting a very lipstick kiss on Franco following his head shave had most of us in tears! We are so incredibly proud of the five boys. To want to so actively support Franco's mum, to raise awareness of cancer and the side effects of treatment and to raise vital money for such a worthwhile charity is just amazing; they truly epitomised our DARE to be remarkable values. Donations can continue to be made until Monday 20th December on Schoolcomms. Please see a montage of the event [here](#).



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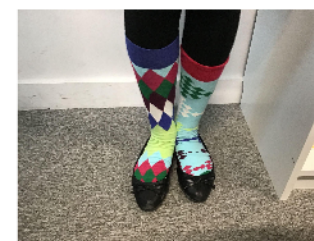
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Notes from SLT: Mrs Phillips

Wow, what a busy term this has been. We started the term by participating in anti-bullying week. It was great to see the students getting involved in all of the activities on offer and raising the profile of our anti-bullying stance. The first day of the week was odd socks day, celebrating all that makes us unique and an assembly led by our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, this was followed up by a week of additional tutor time activities coordinated by Mrs Smith.



During this term, we have also had a number of sporting fixtures, performing arts events and clubs running again. It has been fantastic to see so many of our students getting involved in the wide range of extra-curricular activities we have on offer. Year 9 students have participated in their first careers day in preparation for their options process which will commence fully in the new year. Rehearsals are also now underway for our first full school production of We Will Rock You, and we were delighted to host our Christmas Showcase in school.

As a reminder, school will be open for testing only on Wednesday 5th January, students will need to attend with their tutor group at the time detailed in the letters sent by Mrs Howells. We will then return to school for normal lessons on Thursday 6th January. I hope that you all have a safe and enjoyable festive period and we look forward to seeing you all when we return.



Celebration of Success

This week we have celebrated the fantastic achievements of all of our students, with year group virtual assemblies and concluding with our whole school virtual assembly today. We have celebrated the successes of students who have exhibited and epitomised our DARE values of Determination, Aspiration, Respect and Enthusiasm in all aspects of their learning through nominations by their tutors and an overall prize being awarded by their YPL.

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We have also celebrated the success of students in each house by awarding prizes for the highest number of achievement points and celebrating 100% attendance (COVID related absences excluded). We are so proud of how resilient our students have been and the constant outstanding effort they put into all aspects of school life.

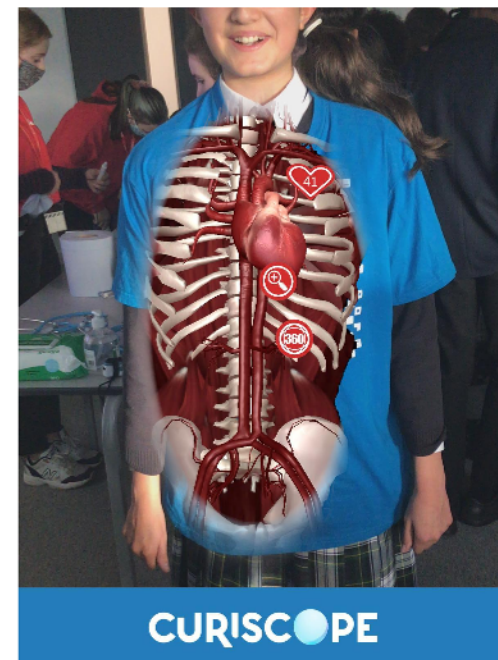
Year 9 Careers Day

On the 1st of December Year 9 took part in their careers and aspirations day. Students were engaged in a variety of activities to get them thinking about their educational choices, as well as their potential future careers.

Students took part in two sessions with their tutors. In the first, they started to think about their options post-16, they heard from representatives from Bracknell and Wokingham college about the different routes and pathways they could take, and then had time to research more about these on the Unifrog platform. In the second they were researching different careers and matching these to different skills and attributes.

We were lucky enough to have two groups of representatives and student ambassadors from Reading University with us for the day. One looking at careers in the NHS other than doctors and nurses and another talking to our students about university life. These sessions were really engaging and interactive, with students experiencing some of the equipment and tools that are used by NHS workers, and taking part in interactive quizzes about university life.

All in all the students had a really good day and came away armed with a better understanding of what their future may hold. Lucas in 9LLa said that whilst he still wasn't sure what his career would be, the day has given him a much better idea of what he wants to do for his GCSEs, and Alfie in 9JGo was inspired to do further research at home into a career in automotive and engineering.



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Festive Fun and Fundraising

Christmas Jumper Day

It was lovely to have so many students involved in our Christmas jumper day on Tuesday along with our Christmas lunch. We are delighted to announce that the winners of the Best Christmas Jumper are as follows:

Casey 7KGU

Jaiden 8SCA

Joseph 9HOW

Will 10LSW

We are delighted that the combined amount raised through our Christmas jumper day and headshave is currently standing at a massive

£1496.79

This amount will be split equally between Alexander Devine Hospice and Cancer Research UK, two charities very close to our community's heart.



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In addition to this, we have been delighted with the donations we have received for the Kerith Food Bank and these will be being delivered to them as we break up.

Department Spotlight - English



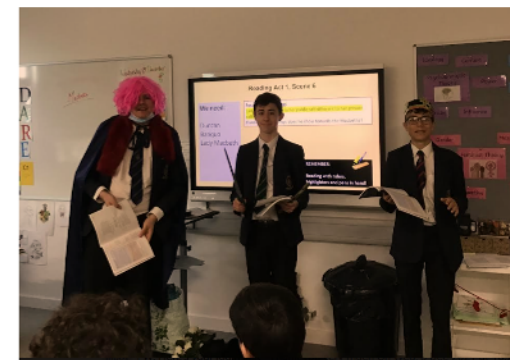
Youth Speaks - On Monday 29th November Jessica, Teresa and Hannah competed in the rotary clubs' Youth Speaks competition. They delivered speeches on 'Score or Scone; Does dialect matter.' Despite incredible performances, unfortunately we did not progress to the next round. However, I am incredibly proud of how they represented us at KAB and we look forward to entering a team again next year.

Macbeth - Students in Year 10 have begun their study of Macbeth (which forms part of the Literature GCSE). It has been great fun seeing how the DARE value of enthusiasm has been demonstrated in lessons; embracing the characters and the Shakespearean language. Specific thanks go to Will, Sasso and Finlay for their recent performance of Act

1 scene 6 .

EMC Event - Some Year 10 students were invited to join Mrs Mansell and Miss Henderson for a English language lecture which was delivered by the English and Media centre. They got to hear lectures on what affects language, how dialect and accent affects our perceptions and also about what forensic linguistics is. It also gave an insight into what the English language A-Level would consist of. Lots of food for thought.

Journalism Club - Members of the Journalism Club have spent this half term researching current affairs and putting together the first issue of King's Academy News for the new academic year! So far, the team have written about a range of thought-provoking and pertinent topics, including Black History Month, climate change, student wellbeing and matters relating to Student Council.



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Please follow the site link to discover an array of articles produced by our talented team:

<https://sites.google.com/bi.kgapupils.uk/kings-academy-news-2021-2022/home>

Donations for board games for the library please!

During breaks and lunchtimes students are able to go up to the library and read and have a quiet space to be. We would like to add to the board games that we currently have on offer. If you any you would like to donate, please send them in with your child and ask them to bring them to me in 1.11.

Romeo and Juliet Yr9

Year 9 students will be studying Romeo and Juliet in the new year, please ensure that students return in the new year with a copy of the play.

Yr8 A Midsummer Night's Dream

As part of the English curriculum Year 8 have been exploring key aspects of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare. Here are some examples of the way that they have been exploring some of the key scenes and characters.



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YPL update

Year 7 - Mrs Crockford - We have come to the end of Year 7's first term at KAB and we have had lots to celebrate. They have immersed themselves fully into life at secondary school and have learnt how to cope with friendships in this new setting. We have seen a superb attitude towards learning, they have joined student council, taken part in extracurricular sports and clubs and more recently excelled themselves in the Pantomime. It has been a pleasure to be part of their transition and I look forward to Spring term developments.

Year 8 - Mr Blake - Year 8s, let me start with a massive WELL DONE! We started the term looking at privilege and how, through our DARE Values, it is your opportunity to create an environment that you can reach your full potential, and on the whole, you are certainly doing that. From your lessons to your extra-curricular activities, you are pushing yourselves to be remarkable. Please can I ask you to continue to do so in the new year as we will have lots of opportunities for you going forward. Please rest and enjoy the festive period with your families and friends.

Year 9 and 10 - Mrs Jackson I am so extremely impressed with the focus and attitude both Yr9 and Yr10 have shown to their learning throughout this term. Yr10 students and parents have already had their reports and had the opportunity to meet with teachers (virtually) and yr9 will have this opportunity early in the new year. It has been so lovely to see the students representing the school in a number of ways including, sporting competitions, dance competitions, the Christmas showcase, debating competition and many more. What a great start to the academic year and I can't wait to see what else we achieve in 2022. Wishing you all the best over the festive period.

Prefects

I wanted to thank the Prefects who have done an amazing job this term supporting our school community. The Prefect training we completed recently enabled the Prefects to come up with some amazing ideas and they are now linked with younger tutor groups to demonstrate positive role model qualities and build relationships with the students. The Prefects volunteer their time at lunch to support on duties and attend school events and we are extremely grateful for all your hard work.

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Chromebook 1-1 update and reminder

Since our launch departments have continued their work adapting their curriculum and further looking at embedding the use of Chromebooks in the classroom. As stated at the launch, our aim is that students become independent learners but also who are critical thinkers, can collaborate with others, be creative and communicate effectively and appropriately with their teachers and peers. Having a device at their fingertips enhances learning in the classroom and extends effective learning beyond the classroom too. Please see below an update of some further ways the technology will be used in departments.

Chromebooks in Geography

Access to and monitoring of quizzes: google forms, seneca, pixl

Use of Geographic Information Systems: enhancing students' understanding of scale, location, systems and change over time.

Access to case study material: news stories, statistics and first hand accounts can build student understanding of their case studies

Extended learning: access to a whole range of podcasts, articles and journals that will help challenge students



Chromebooks in Science

- **Learning by Questions.** Students can be set differentiated tasks with live marking to maximise support during the lesson.
- **Century Tech.** Videos and quizzes to review a topic area. The majority of Science homework is set on Century.
- **Ability to research.** Students have the ability to research and find information to support their learning
- **Simulations and Virtual labs.** Students will be able to use simulations such as those from PhET to show principles and experiments that we are unable to demonstrate in the school science laboratory
- **Data logging.** We are investing in bluetooth data loggers that can link with chromebooks to record and log changes in pH, temperature, Infrared radiation etc.
- **Textbooks.** With access to Kerboodle students will be able to see digital versions of the course specific textbook



Please visit the [Chromebook Scheme page](#) for more information

To take part in the scheme and place an order for a device, please visit the Tech 4 Learners portal: www.tech4learners.co.uk - and login with the following details. Username: KAB2021 Password: S3cure02!

For any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us at chromebooks.bi@kingsacademies.uk.

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CAPA update - Woking Young Dance Makers

On Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th November 18 of our students from Year 7 - 10 performed in the Young Dance Makers platform hosted by Dance Woking. Our Dance Club dancers worked with a professional dance artist for 8 weeks leading up to the performance to create a choreography inspired by global warming and the increased risk of flooding. Our Dance Company dancers performed as guest group on both nights a piece of choreography to 'Waving Through A Window' from Dear Evan Hansen. All the students performed brilliantly and it was just wonderful to be back dancing at a live event. Huge congratulations to all.



Christmas Showcase

On Thursday 9th December we gathered together for our first in live performance since 2019; and what a wonderful evening it was. Our year 7 students dazzled in a unique Christmas Panto written by Miss White, we were serenaded by our wonderful choir and wowed by the dancers from the Dance Club and Dance Company. Our Christmas Showcase also provided a fabulous first opportunity for our KS4 Music & Dance classes to perform. Well done to everyone who took part and made the evening so special.



I would also like to thank the PTA for the provision of refreshments and our wonderful parents and families who made donations and purchased tickets. Your kind donations and ticket sales will be going towards costumes & props for our production of We Will Rock You in March next year....more information to come in the new year.



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We Will Rock You!

Rehearsals have officially begun for our first ever full scale musical production. The students are already blowing us away with their commitment, energy and enthusiasm for the production.

Our opening night will be Thursday 10th March and performances will run through until Saturday 12th March. These dates also include a matinee performance on Saturday 12th March.



More information regarding ticket sales will be released in the new year!

Pantomime Performance

Huge congratulations to Alexis who has successfully auditioned and is performing in the South Hill Park Pantomime throughout December.



Extracurricular activities - Spring Term

We will have a new timetable of extracurricular activities for the spring term. We will share this with you in the new year.

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PE Updates:

Wow, wow, wow we have had a very successful and busy term in the PE department. It has been so fabulous to be back playing fixtures and having extra-curricular clubs on!

Before we get into some of the successes we have had this term; I would just like to remind you of a couple bits.

Not taking part in PE

If you cannot take part in PE for any reason, you are required to bring in a note from your parents/carer AND your PE kit. We will still require you to get changed, this is so you can take part in an official or coaching role. It makes you feel part of the lesson if you are in kit and also means you have dry clothes to put on if it is raining!

Warm Clothes

We have already seen some cold winter days this term however I feel there may be more in the new year, so please ensure you come prepared for PE. Jumpers will need to be the King's Academy PE jumper. If you require to wear base layers under your t-shirts or trousers then please can they be black or navy with no logos.

Mobile Phones and Valuables

Students are able to hand in any valuables and mobile phones to their teacher at the beginning of the lesson, where they will be locked away. They will receive these back at the end of the lesson.

Extra-Curricular Timetable

There will be a new extracurricular timetable out in January with new sports on it so watch this space! We already have lots of fixtures booked in!

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Match Reports

It has been so nice to see so many of you taking part in extracurricular sports this term. We hope you have enjoyed taking part in them as much as members of staff running the clubs and we look forward to welcoming you back for more activities in the new year.

This half-term we have had students representing the school in Rugby, Netball, Football, Cross Country and Basketball, achieving successful results across all the sports.

We finished the last half term with the London Mini Marathon where students took part in a 2.6 miles course during their PE lesson. There were some fantastic times and even students completing the course holding hands the whole way round. A massive congratulations to everyone who competed and hopefully you have received your achievement pin.

The half term then restarted with a continuation of the rugby fixtures, and while results might not have gone our way, as a department we were certainly proud of the number of students partaking in the sport,

some for the first time. This introduction has equally led to students continuing to play outside of school. We just hope you remember the staff who taught you first if you make it to a professional level!

Following the rugby season, we have had successful results for our Basketball teams. Our Year 7 teams attended two tournaments at Sandhurst School, coming away as joint winners of one while losing out as group winners in the other. The Year 8/9 team and Year 10 team had a mixed set of results, winning a match while losing another, however, being the first time for a number of students to play an actual basketball game, they should be very proud of their efforts.

We took two year 8 football teams to Sandhurst in November. Both teams put in exceptional performances, and collectively only lost one game out of 9. One team came away runners up, while the other team won the tournament. This certainly sets the students up for a successful football season come January. This success on the football field was taken further by 5 students who played, who were selected to be

part of the Berkshire County School FA set up. A massive congratulations to Rudy S-B, Alfie P, Wesley O, Freddie F and Jake B.

During November we also saw our first cross country competition of the year, the Senior Schools Cross Country Relay, this is where you have a boy and a girl from each year take part in one team. Our students were selected based on the first interhouse competition that we had this year, the London Mini Marathon and we had 2 teams taking part. It was a tough



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competition with 20 teams taking part. Both of our teams finished in the top 10 - We had a 3rd place and 9th place. They all worked extremely well and it was so nice to see different year groups bonding together. There was a real buzz on the minibus on the way back compared to the way there. A massive well done to the following students: Evie, Lucy Jake, Maja, Harvey, Rowen, Frederick, Harley, Oliver, Megan, Isabelle and Libby.

There has been a number of netball fixtures this half term which has seen over 50 students at netball training. This is brilliant and I look forward to the league fixtures in the new year. This term has only seen 1 league fixture and 4 tournaments. The year 10's have played in two tournaments and have been brilliant, well done. The Year 9's have played in a tournament and a league fixture, which they have won both, they have worked incredibly hard.

A massive thank you goes to the year 8 students who played up for the year 9's, if they didn't the year 9's would not have had a team for either the tournament or league match, so you are every part of their success. The year 8's have played a tournament, where they made the nail biting final but unfortunately lost in the last second, however girls you did play well.

Year 7 please do not worry we have not forgotten about you, unfortunately your games were postponed until after Christmas.

We have had such a great start to the netball season, I look forward to what the next term will bring.



We have also had a number of students achieving success outside of school this term. Well done to the following students, we wish you all the best for future competitions.

- Charlie achieving his black belt in Karate
- Alexis competing at the British Teamgym Championships in Stoke on Trent, and came 3rd place in the Youth Women category

If there are any other success; please Mrs Sword know on: lauren.sword@kingsacademies.uk

Have a great Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!

The PE Department

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Upcoming and important dates:

Date	Event
Wednesday 5th January	Covid Testing in school (no normal lessons, online work will be set)- see Mrs Howells letter
Thursday 6th January	Return to normal lessons
Monday 10th January and Thursday 13th January	Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening
Friday 11th February	INSET Day - School Closed

Resources for help and support

We know that times are extremely challenging at the moment, we are compiling a list of resources and websites to help supporting your children with their mental health and wellbeing

[Young Minds - Mental Health Support](#)

YOUNGMINDS



[Safer Internet Centre - Resources for parents/carers](#)



[Kooth - Free online counselling support](#)

kooth

Remember, we are all still here to support you, please reach out if you need any support. For any safeguarding concerns please email safeguarding.bi@kingsacademies.uk