

KHS News

Message from the Headteacher, Mrs Conefrey

Welcome to our December newsletter, I hope you enjoy reading about the fantastic achievements of our community during the Autumn term. Wishing you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Mrs Conefrey Headteacher

Merry
Christmas

Ofsted Inspection December 2018



No More Special Measures

Teaching and Learning - **GOOD**

Leadership and Management - **GOOD**

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare - **GOOD**

"This is a school that is barely recognisable compared to how it was two years ago"

- Ofsted 2018



It is with great pleasure that I write to tell you that following a very successful Ofsted inspection on the 4th and 5th of December, Kirkby High School is no longer a school that requires special measures. The inspection report is available on the school website and I encourage you to read it as you will see clearly the vast improvements that have been made in school since the last full inspection.

Inspectors now acknowledge that your children (our students) are receiving a **'good'** education in terms of the quality of teaching and learning at our school. Leadership and management throughout the school is judged as **'good'** alongside the personal development, behaviour and welfare of students which is also judged as **'good'**. Overall the school requires improvement, a grading that will change as our GCSE results improve over the next few years.

A huge thank you to all students, staff and parents/guardians for the hard work, commitment and belief in Kirkby High School. It is with pleasure and immense pride that I call myself the headteacher of this great school and I look forward to continuing my work at the school I have grown to love.

May I take this opportunity to encourage you to ensure that your children attend school each day up to and including the last day before Christmas. Attendance is hugely important and whilst we are enjoying the start of the festive season with Christmas music at lunchtime, the focus of lessons continues to be about learning.



Drama News



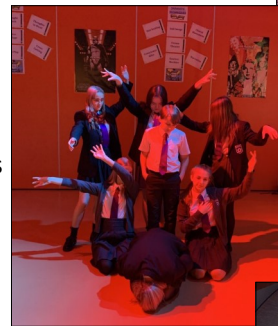
This has been a magical term in drama.

GCSE classes have worked incredibly hard on their performance work. Year 10 focused on 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell and Year 11 devised emotional pieces based on the Holocaust. Well done to all of our students on such amazing performances.

It's also been lovely to welcome Paige Williams back to the drama department. Paige achieved grade 9 in her GCSE Drama examination in August. Now Paige is focusing on teaching and learning, alongside her A Level studies at Carmel College. It's great to see Paige in school as a positive role model for our students.

Finally this term, we saw the practically perfect world of Mary Poppins unfold on stage. Students and staff worked tirelessly this term to bring a little magic to Kirkby High School at this special time of year. The Creative Arts team would like to thank you all for attending and hope that you enjoyed the show. Special thanks to all the cast, crew and parents. We couldn't do it without you.

Keep your eyes open for more exciting projects in the drama department next year.



'Anything can happen if you let it' - Mary Poppins

Year 9 News

Year 9 started this term with a fabulous performance of 'Time'. Focusing on road safety, the play was insightful and entertaining! Year 9 had a great time!



As part of Anti-Bullying week 2018, they were involved in a number of projects. The students created their own drama pieces, raising awareness of bullying. A big well done especially to Samantha, Megan and Devon. They performed their theatre in education piece to Year 7. They gave a fabulous performance and were then hot-seated by Year 7 students.

Also as part of Anti-Bullying week 2018, our Year 9 anti-bullying ambassadors worked hard with Bully Busters. Our ambassadors aim to continue to raise awareness of the issue in 2019 #Dontsufferinsilence.

In 2019, Year 9 students will have the opportunity to continue our exciting partnership with Community Rail Lancashire (CRL). Starting off with 'Women Who Wander' in January, we have many exciting plans. More information to follow in assemblies next year.

Sporting Champions

TABLE TENNIS



Well done to the key stage 3 table tennis team as they bring home the first trophy of the year winning the Knowsley Championships. They will now represent Knowsley at the Merseyside games in March.

BADMINTON



At the beginning of November we took two teams to the Knowsley badminton tournament. Our key stage 4 team became Knowsley champions and will now represent Knowsley at the Merseyside finals in February 2019.

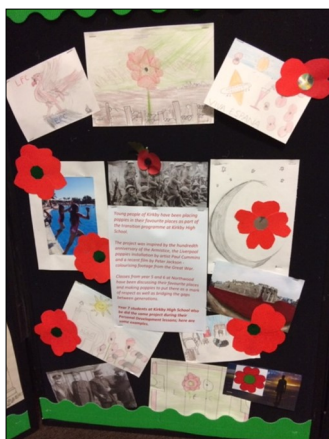
Congratulations to all who took part.

U13 GIRLS FOOTBALL

Our U13 girls' football team are now through to the fourth round of the ESFA national cup. They recently became Knowsley 7-a-side champions and 2nd place in Merseyside. Congratulations so far and good luck for a season's worth of continued success.



Primary / transition projects (Art)



Young people of Kirkby have been placing poppies in their favourite places as part of the primary transition programme at Kirkby High School.

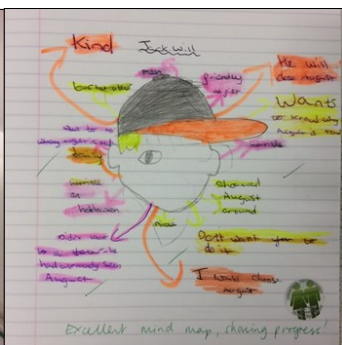
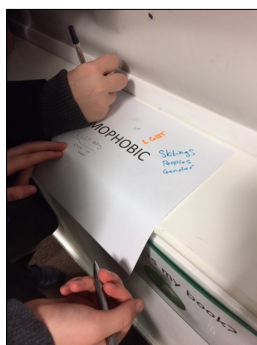
The idea for the project was inspired by the hundredth anniversary of the Armistice, the Liverpool poppies installation by artist Paul Cummins and a recent film by Peter Jackson, colourising footage from the Great War. As part of our transition work, classes from year 5 and 6 at Northwood and Millbrook discussed their favourite places and made poppies to put there as a mark of respect as well as bridging gaps between generations.

Year 7 students at Kirkby High School then completed a similar project in their Personal Development lessons. A selection then went on display at the 'Kirkby Remembers' event held in school.

Meanwhile other primary transition groups have been learning about the art work of Sir Peter Blake and produced their own self-portraits using the style of the Pop Artist. They even listened to the *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* album whilst they worked, to inspire them!



The Power of Reading at Kirkby High School



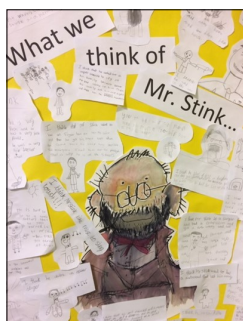
This term, year 7 pupils have been enjoying the powerful book 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio as part of their Personal Development programme. It's all about the challenges a boy starting a new school, so has helped them settle in to life here at KHS. We have also been learning about disability discrimination and friendship & bullying, to develop our understanding and relationships further.

As part of our "great work promoting a love of reading", the school was nominated for a prize: an Advent Book Calendar, sent from the Siobhan Dowd Trust. Each day, a

book was opened by a pupil and the selection is then available to all pupils to enjoy. So far, the books have ranged from the Guinness Book of Records to stories on body image, mental health and immigration.

Meanwhile, other primary groups from Park Brow and Westvale schools have enjoyed sessions learning about the books of David Walliams. These have included activities on animal alphabets, ice cream advertising, the back story of Mr. Stink and planning new adventures for the character of Raj!

We'd love it if you could discuss your own favourite books and authors at home; maybe even encourage our young people to spend a bit of their Christmas money on something to read!



Personal Development at KHS



December saw the first 'Values' event of the academic year, with a theme of 'Respect & Relationships' and the whole school were involved in activities including presentations by the Anne Frank Trust, Merseyside Police, Rejuvenate and Young Minds.

Future days will involve careers education, Humanutopia, the CELLS project and some exciting rap workshops, so watch this space!

Meanwhile, every week form groups learn about current affairs with a themed 'Reflective Friday' session. Topics this term have included mental health, Hannukah and the Knife Angel statue currently on display in Liverpool. Please do supplement our learning by talking about the news at home!

We've also started a Rainbow Club on Friday lunchtimes, which grows from strength to strength and offers an opportunity for young people to enjoy their lunch together and discuss any LGBTQ issues or questions they might have. As part of our work promoting diversity and equality, this year the hard work of Miss Regan paid off when we were awarded four of the six Proud Trust Rainbow Flag awards.

The Reading Zone up in English even has diversity-themed book displays and the texts themselves are arranged to promote the rainbow / diversity themes.

We're hoping our hard work since September will mean we achieve the full award in the near future...

Year 11 News

Women in Law

Nine of our very talented Year 11 girls applied to be part of a special law project in partnership with Liverpool John Moores University and DWF Law firm, located in Liverpool City Centre.



The project is taking place over the next few months, with the girls committing themselves to the after school sessions. The project will involve them doing some work in partnership with the law firm and law students at the university. They have already completed their first session with their second one approaching this week, we are extremely proud of the girls and their dedication to their future careers.

GCSE Dance Exam



Our Year 11 dancers had their first real exam at the start of November, with all assessment marks going towards their final grade next year. The

maturity and focus shown by all girls on the day was exceptional, we are extremely proud of the girls involved

LJMU Art & Design Saturday club

Year 11 pupils had the opportunity to apply to take part in LJMU's Art & Design Saturday club, with one of our pupils Taryn Mallon being successful in this application. She has been taking part in weekly art sessions at the 'Imagine' building in the city centre, working in partnership with other teenagers and university students producing artwork on a theme called 'All about me'. She has recently shown her work at an exhibition, images of her artwork will follow. Well done Taryn.

Next steps after KHS

All year 11 pupils have had an action packed autumn term continuing with our push on future careers and next steps once they leave us in the summer of 2019. We have had assemblies delivered by the majority of our local college/apprenticeship providers who have provided excellent advice & guidance on what is available to our Year 11's whatever their ability. Thank you to Winstanley College,

Carmel College, Knowsley Community College, West Lancashire College, Bootroom Academies & David Campbell Soccer for giving up their time to come and speak to our pupils.

A group of pupils were also taken by myself and Mr Foulkes to Winstanley College's Open Evening in November, it was lovely to see so many other Year 11 pupils in attendance pushing themselves to achieve the high grades that Winstanley expect.

We also held our annual careers fair in November, which again provided an opportunity for pupils with parents and carers to meet possible college providers, apprenticeship providers or employers to discuss what is available across Merseyside. As in previous years the turnout was well attended by Year 11.

Our new careers advisor joined us this term and is in school on a Thursday, her name is Carol Doyle. As well as providing advice and guidance through appointments, she is also available during break & lunch for our pupils to drop in and ask her any questions.

All pupils should have applied or be in the process of applying to a college, sixth form or apprenticeship provider by February 2019. If they need any help or support, please tell them to see Miss Morrin.

2019 PROM

Can you help out with our Class of 2019 prom?

As we slowly approach the end of a busy term for Year 11 with our final mock exams out of the way, we can begin to focus our attention on our class of 2019's prom. This will be held on Thursday 27th June, 2019, with pupils receiving further details before the Christmas holidays.

This can be a really costly event for parents and carers, and get can put extra pressure on relationships at home financially. In order to try and reduce the cost for all pupils we will be carrying out some fundraising in school to reduce this cost. We would also like to ask the local community to support our pupils as well.

If you think you could help us out with any of the following please get in touch with Miss Morrin at Kirkby High School:

- * Local business who can donate a small amount of money towards the venue hire, meal, drinks etc
- * Florists – Could you donate some table flowers?
- * Beauticians/hairdressers – Could you provide your services for free to some of our students?
- * Do you have any formal dresses or suits to donate to some of our students?
- * Photobooth hire?
- * Prom decorations?

If you can offer anything else please get in touch.

Our gratitude for your support will be publicised locally.



Gifted, Talented and Able Students

This term Year 10 Gifted, Able and Talented students have been working with Winstanley College. The students have been working on a project named 'Humans are destroying the planet'. On Tuesday 11th December students and their parents were invited to an exhibition evening where they had the opportunity to showcase their work. Their work was of a very high standard.



Kirkby High School Glee Club recently performed in Liverpool One for a local charity. It was lovely to see so many parents and relatives come along to support the students. All students sang beautifully.

KHS *Student View*

Written by The Students - for The Students.



Democracy is central to life in Britain: it allows the public to have a say on major decisions which affect our every day lives.

What if we had a say in our school life? Could a parliamentary system work for Kirkby High School students? How could we make a difference?

Respect, learning, safety – These are some important issues for Kirkby High School students.

This term we have set up the Kirkby High School Student Parliament. The parliament will allow students to affect positive change in

Kirkby High School and ensure everybody has a voice in our school community.

On the 23rd November, elected members of Kirkby High School Student Parliament met the Labour MP for Knowsley, George Howarth MP. Mr Howarth has been a member of Parliament for 32 years having joined in November 1986. It was never his ambition to become an MP, but an opportunity in life which 'fell on him' accidentally. He talked of his many experiences as an MP, even sharing his personal views on Brexit and his support for the Remain Campaign.



Our annual school production this year was Disney's Mary Poppins Jr. There were five performances in early December with the cast playing to packed audiences of friends, family and our feeder primary schools.

The cast and crew were truly 'supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!'

It seems our school production gets better every single year.

Audiences were thrilled with parents saying 'It's even better than what we'd see at The Empire', and 'That could have been on The West End!'

Congratulations to everybody involved. It was 'practically perfect' and we are all looking forward to next year's offering.

Everybody at Kirkby High School is very proud of you.

Kirkby High School Mobile App

Please download our free mobile app from either the Apple or Google Play stores. You can download the it by searching for Kirkby High School and downloading the app that displays our school logo.



The app provides instant access to term dates, letters, events, newsletters and many more features. We will also be using it to send out important information that is relevant to your child.



YOU CAN NOW REPORT YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE OR CHANGE CONTACT DETAILS USING THE APP.

School office hours

If you wish to contact school, the office hours are from 8.00am – 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 8.00am—3.30pm on Friday.

Community/leisure have use of the building during the evenings and weekends with their own reception staff.

The school office will be closed from 1.00pm Friday 21st December until 8.00am Monday 7th January 2019.

KEY DATES UP TO EASTER 2019

Friday 21st December	Non-uniform day School finishes for Christmas
Monday 24th December to Friday 4th January	Christmas holidays
Monday 7th January	Staff training (school closed)
Tuesday 8 th January	Students return to school
Thursday 17 th January	Year 11 parents evening 4.00-6.30pm
Thursday 31 st January	Year 9 parents and options evening 4.00 -6.30pm
Friday 15 th February	School finishes for half term
Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February	Half term break
Monday 25th February	Staff training (school closed)
Tuesday 26 th February	Students return to school
Thursday 21 st March	Year 8 parents evening 4.00-6.30pm
Thursday 4 th April	Year 6 information evening 5.30-6.30pm
Friday 5 th April	Non-uniform day School finishes for Spring Break