



# KHS News

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

As the days are getting longer, it is with pleasure that I write to tell you that we have had another successful term at Kirkby High School. This newsletter showcases some of the experiences our young people have had over the past few months and I am delighted to be able to say that the overwhelming majority of students are fantastic ambassadors for this school and the wider Kirkby community. Throughout the spring term, congratulations emails and letters continued to pour into school recognising our achievement in our autumn Ofsted inspection and we are all working extremely hard to continue to improve the school so that your child benefits from an excellent education. Of course, none of this would be possible without your continued support. Our greatest strength comes from a healthy partnership between school and home.

I wish Y11s the best of luck as they embark on their final weeks in the lead up to their GCSE examination season.

I recognise that it is hard work and all staff are here to offer support to anyone who requires it. Before we know it, they will be donning their glad rags and getting ready for prom.

On the other end of the spectrum, parents and carers of Y7 students will probably be surprised that their children have now completed two full terms at secondary school and it won't be long until the current Y6s in primary are ready to join us. I am very pleased to announce that Kirkby High School is oversubscribed for September 2019 and I have no doubt that this is as a result of the improved reputation of the school. With that in mind, I would like to thank all staff at school for their continued dedication to the community we serve. The commitment and determination that I witness on a day to day basis is second to none and I look forward to continuing our great work to the benefit of all.

Yours faithfully  
Mrs R Conefrey



## Head Boy and Girl represent KHS at KMBC Meeting

Kirkby High School students were invited to attend Knowsley Council's Children's Scrutiny Committee last week. The Committee works with schools to improve outcomes for all children and young people. Head Boy, Brad Gill and Head Girl, Tiegana Chambers, addressed Councillors and Senior Leaders at the meeting, talking about Kirkby High School's improvements

and our journey to outstanding. The students were a real credit to the school and did themselves and us proud.

Assistant Director of Education Jill Albertina commented *"I could clearly see your passion for achieving great things for our pupils – thank you!"*



## The Skills Show

Students from Year 9 and 10 had an amazing experience at The Skills Show at St Helens Rugby League Stadium. They met representatives from various industries helping to inspire them for future careers. They also took part in activities and challenges, with one student winning a £10 voucher for the quickest 'Skills Stacker Challenge'.

Following the event, a number of businesses contacted school to say how polite, well mannered and engaged our students were on the day.

# SMSC AT KIRKBY HIGH SCHOOL

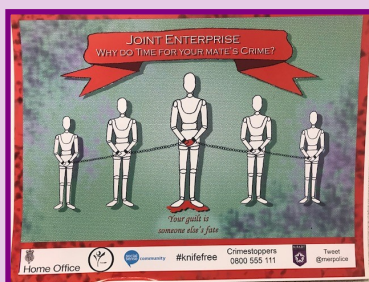
This term, there have been many exciting things going on in terms of personal development at KHS.



Firstly, we were honoured to be one of six schools in the North West to win the full proud Trust Rainbow Flag award. It is a national quality assurance framework for all schools and colleges, focusing on LGBT+, (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, plus other related identities), inclusion and visibility.

The Rainbow Flag Award encourages a whole organisation approach to LGBT+ inclusion, as well as developing strategies to combat LGBTphobic bullying. At Rainbow Club we planned a presentation, then went into every year group's assemblies to explain what the award means and to highlight the good work that is going on.

Meanwhile, there was another successful 'Values' event in March, with a focus on the future: year 7, 8 and 10 students spent the day learning about career paths and aspirations (including the fascinating 'buzz' personality test) whilst y9 worked with Ashleigh Nugent and the RiseUp team to discuss choices related to knife crime and safety. This involved discussion, rapping workshop and a poster design competition. Well done to the girls whose design was chosen as the winner; it was turned into a poster, now on display across the school.



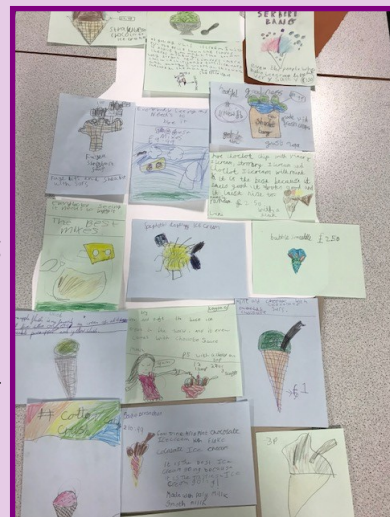
## Literacy



World Book Day had a theme of 'Once Upon a Time' and the English department dressed as characters from fairy tales, teaching lessons on the same theme. The Queen of Hearts, accompanied by her team of woodcutters, a witch and the Snow Queen among other characters, took over the department for the day... the Brothers Grimm even made an appearance!

We also held a y7 competition to discover the favourite books of all staff, with winners – Josh Williams and Olivia McKee - receiving vouchers to spend at the ever-popular Scholastic book fair... the book fair will return in the summer term, when all books will be half price!

Similarly, as part of primary liaison, young people from Millbrook and Kirkby C of E schools have been experiencing the power of reading through the work of David Walliams. Sessions have involved word games, alliteration activities and creative writing using the senses.



## Transition (art)

Three exciting – and very different – art projects have taken place this term with Mr Greenbank and various primary school classes: firstly, Kirkby C of E enjoyed sessions on the self-portraits of Sir Peter Blake (even



painting to the Sgt. Pepper's album!) Meanwhile, Eastcroft Park designed their own Ancient Greek vases, inspired by the pottery of Grayson Perry and the paintings of Patrick Caulfield. Currently, the young people from Westvale Primary are doing some great work on the theme of Andy Warhol's Campbell's Soup cans. The company even 'liked' a tweet we sent out about the project!

You can follow everything we do in terms of personal development, literacy & art @KCarticularcy



## MATHS CHALLENGE

In April, pupils from years 9 and 10 took part in the United Kingdom Junior Mathematical challenge. This is a competition for truly gifted and talented mathematicians, and schools from all over the UK compete. Pupils received awards if they were in the top 40% of the country and then they were shared into bronze, silver and gold awards for the highest attainers.

At Kirkby High School, we were extremely successful and the following pupils gained:  
**Favour Davies and Dylan Taylor were awarded joint best in the year for year 9.**

**Zoe Aguilar won best in year 10 and a silver award.**

**Abbie Hayes and Robyn Bowden both received a Bronze award.**

## Women Who Wander



Yr9 students celebrated International Women's Day 2019 by attending the 'Women Who Wander' presentation at Liverpool Museum.

Milly Higgins, Isabel Whitelaw, Danielle Skyner and Rebecca Gregory had their poems published as part of the (Community Rail Lancashire) Women Who Wander competition. The students read their pieces at the celebration in front of the Lord Mayor of Liverpool. Truly inspirational!

Congratulations to all involved.

## DRAMA NEWS



This has been a busy time for drama this term. Year 11 have worked extremely hard on their scripted pieces for component three.



Year 10 have focused on Blood Brothers by Willy Russell. Year 10 were also lucky enough to be visited by The Royal Court and their touring & thought provoking production of 'Terriers 2 Eve's Story'.



Year 9 have looked at Status and how one decision can change things for the better.



Year 8 have created some outstanding pieces on the theme of fame.

Year 7 have looked at evacuation and WW2. Keep up the hard work.

We will also be starting a new drama project each Wednesday after school. We will be working on a project in conjunction with Community Rail Lancashire. See Miss Gill or Miss Cowley for more information.

## WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

A massive well done to all the pupils in all our teams for their hard work and dedication this term. You have done Kirkby High School proud.

*Year 8 boys and girls participated in the Merseyside Indoor Athletics Championships. The boys finished 8th and the girls finished 14th.*



Congratulations to our Year 7 basketball team who won the Knowsley basketball championships in March. On the way to lifting the trophy, they didn't lose a game. Well done.



Year 10s represented Knowsley at the Merseyside Handball Championships. They played fantastic ultimately losing in the semi-final 4-3 against Wirral Grammar who eventually went on to win the final. This was a big achievement to even get that far in the Merseyside tournament.



A number of students took part in the Knowsley Cross Country



championships last week. The pupils ran amazingly and we had a host of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places.

# Improving Attendance Means Improving Progress

Improving school attendance is a major focus for all of us at Kirkby High School. With the launch of rewards competitions rewarding both outstanding and improving attendance, we have seen a steady improvement in attendance compared to previous years.

In September 2015, the government set the attendance threshold at 90% meaning any student who drops below this will be classified as persistently absent.

## 90% attendance is:

- **Missing half a day every week.**
- **Missing 4 whole weeks of school every year**
- **Missing 100 lessons in a year**
- **Over the 5 years of school, the student would miss half a year of school.**
- **17 missed school days has been shown to result in the loss of a whole GCSE grade.**

## Rewards Assembly

During our termly rewards assembly, students celebrate their efforts with the entire year group. We reward students for both their attendance and positive contributions to our community. The rewards are in the form of £10, £20 and £30 vouchers for Liverpool One. To have a chance of winning students must attend school well and show the Kirkby Child Values in their lessons.

## Attendance Games

During each term, all students compete in the Attendance games. Every week that your child is in school, they receive one entry in our prize draw for £100. This means that they could have up to 12 entries each term

**Best results are always achieved when there is strong collaboration between students, staff and parents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in helping the school to achieve a minimum of 96% attendance**

## Education Penalty Notice Warning for Non-School attendance

Under the Education Act 1996, parents and carers have a duty to make sure their children regularly attend school. If parents or carers fail to do this, they can be prosecuted.

Working within a Code of Conduct the Local Authority can issue a penalty notice to parents or carers if a child has missed a number of sessions without permission from the school.

If your child falls within one or more of these categories within a 12 week period:

- 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence with under 90% attendance
- 20 sessions (10 days) of unauthorised absence
- persistently arrives late for school after the close of registration

You could receive a Penalty Notice of £60 which will increase to £120 if not paid within 21 days. The Penalty Notice will need to be paid in full before 28 days of the notice being served. Failure to pay a penalty notice may result in prosecution (a separate penalty notice may be issued to each parent for each child).

In law, an offence is committed if a parent fails to secure a child's regular attendance at school. Knowsley Council Attendance Service, in conjunction with schools, will use these powers as an early deterrent to prevent patterns of unauthorised absence developing.

You may also receive a Penalty Notice for the offence of failing to secure regular school attendance under the following circumstances:

- Your child is stopped on a truancy sweep
- You fail to ensure that your child is not in a public place during the first 5 days of a fixed term or permanent exclusion.

The Local Authority and schools are committed to providing the best possible future for your child. If you have concerns about your child's attendance at school or if you are experiencing any difficulties please contact school and ask for support.