



# KHS News

## Message from the Headteacher, Mrs Conefrey

Merry  
Christmas

*Welcome to our December newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading about the fantastic achievements of our community during the autumn term.*

*It has been a very positive start to the school year despite the recent outbreak of Norovirus and flu. I would like to thank all parents and families who contacted school to offer support following my recent decision to partially close school in order to facilitate a deep clean.*

*We were very happy to be in a position to continue to offer an education to Year 10 and Year 11 students as we could manage to teach this smaller group in a specific area of school, ensuring that their health was a priority.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to remind students and parents that make-up, false eyelashes, and extreme hairstyles are not allowed in school so please be mindful of this over the festive season, in preparation for a positive return on the 7th January. All students are also expected to carry a school bag that is big enough to hold A4 books and files. Please see uniform expectations on our school website.*

*Recently we have had a major focus on improving punctuality. It has been a successful strategy which resulted in a huge increase in the number of students arriving to school on time.*

*We have now identified those students who are still struggling to start the day in a positive way by being present in form time. In the New Year, we will develop different strategies to offer support to help students to arrive to school on time. The ideal situation is that students are in their form class sitting down by 8.45am, hence our slogan: 'Don't be late, be here for 8.38'.*

*As always it is a pleasure and a privilege to lead Kirkby High School and to serve the local community and on that note, on behalf of all the staff, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2020.*

Mrs Conefrey  
Headteacher

# Educate Awards

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**RUNNER-UP 2019**

It is a complete joy to know that, yet again, Kirkby High School is being recognised for the hard work and commitment we show to our school family. As an inclusive school, we constantly strive to ensure that everyone is treated equally and that difference is embraced as something to celebrate. Every person matters in our school and being runner-up for the 'Wow' award in this year's Educate Awards is a fantastic way to acknowledge this.

## Raising money for Cancer Research

We are so proud of our students for carol singing in Liverpool Lime Street last week. We are just awaiting a final total, but all of the money will be donated to Cancer Research.

Thank you, Merseyrail, for the fabulous opportunity! We had a great time singing Christmas songs and spreading Christmas cheer!  
#raisingmoney #CancerResearch



## Year 11 Leavers Awards Evening

What a lovely night was spent celebrating our Yr11 leavers GCSE results in November. As always, the students were respectful throughout. We hope they are all proud of their achievements.

Thank you to our High School Musical cast and the Yr10 band for entertaining us





# Drama News



This has been an exciting term in drama. Year 10 and 11 have successfully created work based on 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell and their own devised pieces. It's been lovely to see the hard work and effort going into KS4 Drama.

It has also been so exciting to work with Year 7-10 on High School Musical. Bringing to life the world of Troy and Gabriella, students had a great time performing to our students, primaries and families. Well done to everyone involved!



## Year 9 News



This has been a lovely half term. It's been so nice for Miss Gill and all of the new year 9 form tutors getting to know you all.

It's also been so much fun seeing our #whatsinthebox attendance winners be so lucky week after week in assembly. Each week students had to select their chosen prizes ranging from Liverpool One vouchers to free toast. You've got to be in it to win it!!



Over this half term, students have had the opportunity to work with Knowsley Youth Mutual, Liverpool and Everton football club. We look forward to extending these exciting projects into 2020 for more of year nine students. See Mr Barton/ Miss Gill for more information.



Year 9 girls had a wonderful day out exploring our great city. Merseyrail staff gave inspirational talks on women and the rail industry. Pupils then produced poems and short written pieces as part of #womenwhowander competition. Winning pieces will be announced in 2020.

We are looking forward to next term, where our focus will be options. Careers and options will be looked at closely in year 9 form time.

**Keep up the hard work and focus, year 9.**



## ❄️ ❄️ Design and Technology ❄️ ❄️



The Technology team are proud to have delivered “Innovate-her” a project which has been running after school since September. We are the only school in Knowsley to have been involved in this exciting initiative that brought mentors from business and creative industries into school to work with year 9 girls, preparing them for a possible future career in the digital industries.

The project was funded by the Mayoral Priority fund and Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham visited school to talk to the students and hear about the work they had done around designing apps for Alder Hey Children’s hospital.

## Mindfulness Balcony in memory of ex pupil Renee Rogers



Year 11 school leaders came up with the idea to create an area for quiet time in the form of a ‘mindfulness garden’. The area will be created using plants and flowers contributed from local companies and will grow to become an area where pupils can take some quiet time out in nature. We are very grateful to Tesco in Bootle who

donated the plants and flowers, and to the Eco- centre who kindly donated the long grass.

The Kirkby High School ‘Eco-Warriors’, Erin Conyard, Emily Lockett, Caitlin Gladwinfield will be in charge of looking after the plants and flowers and ensuring that the balcony is put to good use. Once finished, their next project is to train up the

next generation of Eco-warriors in year 7 to develop ‘Forest Pods’ throughout the school.

Melissa Pugh, a year 11 school leader, believes in the importance of developing such areas for our community: “Having a peace/ mindfulness garden will help encourage pupils to reflect on their behaviour and improve learning. As teenagers this is such an important skill to learn as it helps to calm, relax and reduce anxiety. Having an area in school to do this will give our students a head start, and being ‘school of the year’, I feel as though we should lead by example. Our school is a welcoming place with something to benefit all students and staff”.



The garden is dedicated to the memory of Renee Rogers, a former pupil of Brookfield High School.

## Personal Development update ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

In personal development lessons, year 7 have been learning about transition into secondary school - and the themes of disability discrimination and friendship – through the book ‘Wonder’ by R. J. Palacio.

They also enjoyed a ‘Values’ morning in December on the theme of community spirit and staying safe. We welcomed Alan Walsh of the Anfield ABC who talked about his ‘Real Men Don’t Carry Knives’ campaign, and staff from Liverpool FC who delivered a presentation on their community foundation work.

Meanwhile, Rainbow Club - celebrating its status as

runner up in the WOW category of the Educate North West awards – enjoyed a visit by a representative of Knowsley Youth Mutual ‘Be Yourself’ group and we sincerely thank Melissa and John for all their hard work planning and delivering the sessions over the year.

Finally, Mr Greenbank read over thirty books as part of his role as a judge on the Read for Empathy awards shortlisting panel. More information on this will be coming out in the new year.

A Merry Christmas to you all!

# PE AND DANCE

## Netball

Our mixed Year 10 and 11 netball team played in the Knowsley borough competition in November and, after five exciting games, became the Knowsley champions winning four out of five of their matches.

Well done girls!! Miss Hamer



## Karate European Champion

Congratulations to Bradley Barker in Year 11 who is now a European Champion in Karate.

Well done, Bradley



## Handball

Year 10s enjoyed a fantastic game of handball this month against Blue Coat School. They had a narrow victory in their first game together.

The attitude and ability of both teams were first class.



## GCSE Dance

Our Year 11 dancers completed their first GCSE exam in November

and have been working extremely hard in developing and refining their performance skills towards this. They are now working towards their final Choreography exam and devised some amazing choreographic intentions and music to support this. Well done Year 11 – keep it up!! Miss Hamer and Miss Cowley



## Meeting a football legend

Two of our students had a fantastic experience meeting the legend Steven Gerrard. Thanks so much to Liverpool Football College for inviting the boys up after they showed amazing attitudes at a recent event with the college.



## New Ball Hall floor

We are all delighted with the new floor in our ball hall. This is another fantastic facility for our students and the community.





## Senior Citizens' Christmas Party 2019

In December the Food Technology department hosted its annual Christmas buffet for pensioners and other members of the local community. Students helped to prepare and serve the food and music was provided by our school choir.

It was as usual a very successful and festive occasion with a special visit from Santa Claus who was welcomed by staff and students and treated to a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine.

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## Big Help Food Club Tower Hill



The Big Help Food Club is a community store open to local residents. Run by volunteers, the store offers a wide range of food and other essential household goods to its members.



Registered Charity Number 1141024

- £3.50 per week cash
- Reduced rates for paying by standing order
- Everyone welcome.

Membership required, only 1 membership per household. Proof of address needed.

Members visit once per week and choose up to 10 fresh, chilled, frozen or ambient grocery items with an approximate value between £10 - £15. Members are welcome to stay and have a chat over a cuppa and a biscuit.

For more information call 07841 042 033  
Or Email [lisa.armstrong@big-help.info](mailto:lisa.armstrong@big-help.info)

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Tuesday & Thursday  
1.30pm - 3.00pm

Tower Hill  
Community Centre  
Ebony Way  
Kirkby  
L33 1XT



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Registered Charity  
Number 1141024



## ADVANCED CALENDAR 2019-2020

<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	School finishes for Christmas
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	Christmas holidays
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Staff Training (school closed)
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Students return to school
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening 4.00-6.30pm
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	School finishes for half term
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	Half Term break
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4.00-6.30pm
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	Year 6 Information Evening 5.30-6.30pm
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	School finishes for Spring Break
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Spring Break
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Students return to school
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4.00-6.30pm
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Bank Holiday (school closed)
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4.00-6.30pm
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	School finishes for half term
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Half Term break
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>	School re-opens after half term
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Year 6 Transition Evening 4.00-6.30pm
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	Year 6 Intake day
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Students finish for summer 12.15pm

# 12 Social Media Online Safety Tips

## FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

With Christmas only a few weeks away, many of you will be using social media to share your excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.

### 1 DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS

Make sure that you set your profile to private so that people you don't know can't find you online. Always tell a trusted adult if a stranger or somebody you don't know sends you a message or a friend request.



### 2 NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

Keep your personal information personal. Sometime people online aren't always who they say they are and might ask you to share things that you don't feel comfortable sharing.

### 3 DON'T SHARE EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF OTHERS ONLINE

This could really upset them and could get you into a lot of trouble. Always think twice before posting anything on social media and treat people online as you would in real-life.



### 4 NEVER SEND NAKED PICTURES OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS

This is illegal if you are under 18 and you could get into trouble with the Police. If you are being pressured by someone, always say no and tell a trusted adult. Even if you think it is innocent fun, the photo could be shared with other people and you won't be able to control who else sees it.



### 5 CREATE A POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION

Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of your digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real-life if it is negative.



### 6 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as much as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just what's on social media.



### 7 BLOCK ONLINE BULLIES

Sometimes people might say nasty things to you online or post offensive comments on your pictures or videos. If this happens, always tell a trusted adult who will help you block them from your profile and support you in taking further action.



### 8 REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you see something on social media that you don't like, offends you or upsets you, you should always report it to a trusted adult. You should also report it to the social media app who will be able to remove the content if it is against their user policy and can block the person who posted it.



### 9 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE

Before downloading any new social media app, always check the age-rating. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain content that isn't safe for you to see.



### 10 ALWAYS SECURE ALL YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES WITH A PASSWORD

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your profiles without your permission. Make sure your passwords are memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share them with your parents just in case you forget them.



### 11 ASK PARENTS TO SET-UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult to help you set it up for the first time. This will help you control who sees what you post, who can contact you and make sure you are able to enjoy using the app safely and securely.



### 12 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY

Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.

