

KHS News

Message from the Headteacher, Mrs Conefrey

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to begin my Christmas message by expressing a heartfelt thank you for your continued support for our school community during this challenging period. I am delighted to inform you that our children have responded brilliantly and managed themselves very well with regard to the changes we have had to make.

I also want to acknowledge the efforts of all our staff who have worked tirelessly to keep our children safe whilst focusing on quality teaching and learning. I thank everyone for their commitment and patience as we learned new remote teaching skills and we have provided numerous families with technical support in order to help this work better, where the need has arisen.

Important Reminder

I would like to take this opportunity to remind students and parents that make-up, jewellery, false eyelashes, nail varnish and false nails are not allowed in school. Any students who return to school in January with any issues of this kind will be isolated at break time and lunch time until the situation is resolved. It is better for your child if we can start the new year on a positive note, so please support school with this.

GCSE Examinations 2021

It may seem like a long way in the future but before we know it, GCSE exam season will be upon us. The Government laid out its plan for GCSE exams 2021 in a press release two weeks ago. Please see the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-measures-to-support-students-ahead-of-next-summexams>

School will communicate further on this when we return in January.

School Arrangements (Pandemic)

We are planning to maintain our current timetable and procedures until at least Easter and perhaps until July. We will adapt our rules and procedures when it is safe to do so and we will start to introduce more curricular and extra-curricular opportunities as guidance from the Government allows.

If a child develops symptoms during the holiday, they should go for a test. If the result is positive, please follow the following guidance:

Up to midnight on Sunday 20 December

Email admin@kirkbyhighschool.net - We will inform close contacts by telephone call advising them to self-isolate.

After midnight on Sunday 20 December

Inform NHS Track and Trace at <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk> or phone 111.

After Saturday 26th December please email admin@kirkbyhighschool.net so that we can update our records.

And finally this is going to be a very different Christmas for all of us and I sincerely hope you and your children find some peace and joy. On behalf of our governors and staff, I wish you a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2021.

Mrs Conefrey
Headteacher

Merry
Christmas

Senior Citizens' Christmas Gift Boxes 2020



Unfortunately, we could not host our annual Senior Citizens' Christmas party in school. However, we have arranged for 100 Kirkby residents to receive a gift box with some essential items and one or two luxury goodies to spread some Christmas cheer. Our Year 7 students have sorted and packed the items ready to be delivered.

Many thanks to local community and voluntary organisations, "Music Sweet Music" and "Kirkby Women's Health Group" for their kind donation and generosity.

Merry Christmas from all at KHS!!



Year 9 Student Parliament

Year 9 student voice got off to a great start with forms voting for their School Parliament Representative. It was a close competition and the successful candidates are:

9A1 Olivia Balmer 9A2 Andy Barrett 9A3 Charlie Joyce 9B1 Alexa Donnelly 9B2 Rosie Berry
9C1 Roseanne Browning 9C2 Ethan Arthur



Well done to everyone for your success in gaining the confidence of your peers!

The first parliament meeting took place in October, where we discussed the return to school and the challenges that change brings. This was a great opportunity for everyone to put forward their views and suggest changes they would like to see.

Currently representatives are gathering views on the last day of term and Christmas celebrations.

Pictured above from left to right: Liv McKee (deputy), Roseanne Browning, Andy Barrett, Liv Balmer, Charlie Joyce, Tyler Jones (deputy) and Alexa Donnelly.

Golden Ticket winners

During lockdown we were very proud of the resilience shown by the current Year 9s (who were Year 8 at the time) in working hard and completing all their online lessons. The students were nominated for golden tickets by their teachers. Well done all and keep up the good work!

Pictured: Back row: Joe Williams, Ellis Shepard, Andy Barratt. Olivia McKee.

Front: James Brunton, George Covell, Charlie Joyce and Olivia Balmer





Year 9 Christmas Tree Competition



This year, the Year 9 bubble have been given the Christmas theme of Scrooge. We have had the idea of doing 3 trees all representing the three ghosts of the story: past, present and future.

The Ghost of Christmas Past Tree Our Ghost of Christmas Past Tree will have baubles made by our year group showing what bad habits, characteristics and bad toxic traits we want to be rid of in 2021. This year has been such a struggle for us all and we think it is the best time to change ourselves for the better.

The Ghost of Christmas Present Tree The Ghost of Christmas Present Tree will have baubles showing what we want to bring into 2021, eg. happiness, friends and joy. We are going to think about our resolutions for the new year.

The Ghost of Christmas Future Tree Finally, the Ghost of Christmas Future Tree is going to show the effects of climate change and deforestation across the world and we are going to have a dead tree to show how all the trees could look in the future.

On all our trees, keeping up with the theme of Scrooge, we will have humbugs instead of candy canes, as in the quote. 'Bah Humbug'! *By Liv Balmer, Year 9*



Year 9 Random Acts of Kindness

Students had to begin with being kind to themselves. Examples included going to bed early, spending less time on their mobile phone, reading more and eating less sugar.

"Compassion for others starts with compassion for oneself"

Then students had to think about how they could show little random acts of kindness to their family, friends and community– we had lots of heart-warming examples:

"I made tea for my Dad after his major operation on his heart". (Anon)

"I looked after my dog while Mum went to work and made everyone in the house a cup of tea." (Dominic W 9B2)

"I ran my Mum a bath". (Clayton A)

"I looked after my nephew and picked him up from school". (Anon)

"I helped my Dad put up the wallpaper and lay the floor in the living room" (Louis K)

"My random act of kindness is helping my Grandad with the cooking and helping him get through the death of my Nan". (Anon)

"I helped my Nan do a care package for one of my uncles friends who isn't very fortunate" (Anon)

"I pick up my sister every day after school" (Anon)

"I listened and helped my best friend through a difficult time"(Anon)

"I try to be happy around my friends and family" (9B2)

"I took care of my brother, did the dishes for my mum and helped with the shopping".(Henry)

"I made myself something to eat so my mum didn't have to do it" (Anon)



What wonderful caring students we have in Year 9 – your kindness will go a long way. The winner was Miss Wood's form 9B2 – well done everyone and keep up all your thoughtful acts of kindness.



Year 10 News



It has been so nice to welcome back Year 10 this term. As we have made the transition from KS3 to KS4, it has been lovely to see your focus and maturity in lessons.

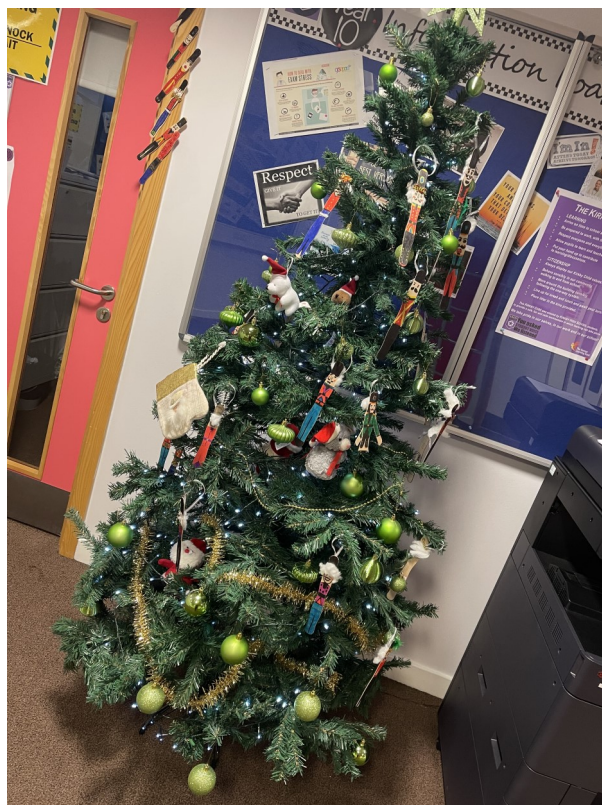
This term we have seen a number of students work with Mr Barton and qualify as BullyBusters anti-bullying ambassadors. The focus for next term will be for these students to develop their role and to work with some of our younger students.

In English/drama lessons, students have explored Blood Brothers by Willy Russell. Students have been fortunate enough to receive kind words and encouragement from Willy Russell and Lyn Paul (who has played Mrs Johnstone in the West End). This has been a real boost to students as they embarked on their written and practical assessments.

This term we have also seen the successful launches of our 'Who Inspires You?' and our 'Guess the Teacher Pet' competitions. Next term we will focus on our 'Guess the Teacher' competition, as we have the opportunity to see our teachers when they were little children.

We have ended the term with our lovely Nutcracker inspired Christmas tree. The decorations were made by Year 10 students and added a lovely Christmassy feeling to our Homebase.

Merry Christmas Everyone!



*don't
stop
- the -
music*

Year 8 Music News

Year 8 music students have decided they are not going to let a global pandemic stop them from learning, and have been safely performing film music hits with the school's new set of Boomwhackers. Anyone teaching in their area has left with the Ghostbusters theme stuck in their head! Well done Year 8.

Year 8 Gifted, Able and Talented

Year 8 Gifted, Able and Talented students have achieved The Arts Council of England, Arts Award Discovery level certificate.



The students have worked extremely hard and we are excited to be looking into the next level, The Explore Award, which we intend to complete next year. Well done Year 8!



GCSE Dance

Year 10

What an amazing start to the year for our Year 10 GCSE dancers. They have worked incredibly hard practically exploring all the skills needed for their GCSE dance course. Every one of them has shown hard work and resilience both in the dance studio and the classroom. Keep it up Year 10!!

Year 11

After a tricky end to Year 10, the Year 11 dancers are working hard towards their first GCSE dance exam on December 16th. They have been committed to extra rehearsals on a Tuesday after school and have created some fantastic aural settings to match their dances. Keep up the focus and determination Year 11.

Miss Hamer and Miss Cowley



The importance of happiness and self-belief



On Thursday 3rd December, staff were fortunate to participate in a training session led by Action Jackson (Fix-Up Seminars). Jackson Ogunyemi first visited Kirkby High School in 2019 when he spoke to our Year 11 students about the importance of happiness and self-belief for their upcoming exams. His inspirational delivery led us to invite him back to speak to teaching staff, teaching assistants and learning mentors. As the



self-entitled UK Ambassador for Happiness, Jackson delivered a session on how to meet our young people's needs in order to allow them to be confident, happy and raise their own bar for success.



Year 11 Mock Exams

We are so proud of the way in which Year 11 have completed their first round of mock GCSE examinations. Last year was a year like no other, but the attitude, conduct, resilience and effort they have shown has been exemplary.

Attendance to school during mock exams was outstanding, and it is vital that this continues moving forward. Your child's teachers are using the

information to inform their teaching, ensuring that all gaps in knowledge are addressed so that your child has the opportunity to achieve their potential in the summer GCSE exams.



The Confident to Compliment Award



"With realisation of one's own potential and self-confidence in one's own ability, one can build a better world, Dalai Lama"



At Kirkby High School, we strive to provide students with opportunities to develop into confident and resilient young people, with the aspirations and self-belief to achieve the highest grades to enable them to excel in their future life and chosen careers.

This term, we have launched our Confidence to Compliment Award, with winners being shortlisted weekly for each year group, with an

overall winner selected to win a £10 Amazon voucher. Students can demonstrate confidence in a variety of ways, such as producing an inspirational piece of work, standing up for the right thing or supporting others to help them on their journey to outstanding confidence. The award has been a real success, and each week staff are seeing more and more examples of confidence, and recognising all our amazing students in school.



Year 7 News



Year 7 students have made an amazing start to life at Kirkby High School. The Year 7 pastoral team are extremely proud of how they have settled in so quickly. They are all a credit to their families.



As well as working hard in lessons, Year 7 have had a variety of opportunities to show their creative side with a few competitions.

The English faculty launched a bookmark competition for National Book Month, we had lots of entries and five were chosen for their creativity.

Well done to all who took part.

We also had a competition to help raise awareness of wearing face masks in our communal areas around school. Students were asked to design a poster, write a poem or create a slogan. Our winning design went to Alissa Parkinson, second place Amber Hibbert and Stevie Locket took third place. Well done girls.



Christmas has finally arrived in the Year 7 homebase. Thank you to our Year 7 form tutors who helped decorate our rooms and corridors.

ADVANCED CALENDAR 2020-2021

Friday 18 th December	School finishes for Christmas - KS4-12pm and KS3-12.30pm
Monday 21 st December to Friday 1 st January	Christmas holidays
Monday 4 th January	Staff Training (school closed)
Tuesday 5 th January	Students return to school
Thursday 14 th January	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm
Thursday 28 th January	Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening 4-6.30pm
Friday 12 th February	School finishes for half term
Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February	Half Term break
Monday 22 nd February	School re-opens after half term
Thursday 18 th March	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm
Thursday 25 th March	Year 6 Information Evening 5.30-6.30pm
Friday 26 th March	School finishes for Easter
Monday 29 th March to Friday 9 th April	Easter holidays
Monday 12 th April	Students return to school
Thursday 29 th April	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm
Monday 3 rd May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Thursday 13 th May	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm
Friday 28 th May	School finishes for half term
Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June	Half Term break
Monday 7 th June	School re-opens after half term
Thursday 24 th June	Year 6 Transition Evening 4-6.30pm
Friday 2 nd July	Year 6 intake day
Tuesday 20 th July	Students finish for summer 12.15pm

Calendar subject to change
Parents Evenings to be confirmed



Make your own Christmas decorations

This year the maths and technology faculties have worked together to create something you can make during the festive period. The simple recipe has a maths challenge below. These tasty treats also make a fantastic Christmas decoration.

Tweet us your pictures @kirkbyhigh when you have made yours.

Stained Glass Window Biscuits

This recipe make 20 biscuits

Ingredients

175g butter/margarine

225g plain flour

75g sugar

1 large egg

1 bag boiled sweets

Method

1. Pre-heat the oven to Gas 4/180C
2. Place the butter/margarine, sugar and flour in a mixing bowl and rub together using your fingertips until it resembles bread-crumbs
3. Add in the egg and mix until a soft dough is formed
4. Roll out on a lightly floured surface until about the thickness of a pound coin
5. Cut out using a large cutter and place on a greased baking tray
6. Cut out the middle of each biscuit using a smaller cutter
7. Crush the sweets slightly and place a small amount in the middle of each biscuit
8. Bake in the oven for 15 mins until golden brown and sweets have melted
9. Carefully remove from the tray

Numeracy Challenge

This half term has been packed full of numeracy activities. All students take part in numeracy during form and the tasks are different for different year groups. Our website has up to date information on this including websites that can offer support for both students and parents.

This half term we have also introduced challenges for staff and students with prizes available. Our last student winner was Charles Lynes-Condon (Yr11) who won a Liverpool one gift card. Well done Charles!

Here is the challenge if you would like to try it for yourself.

Tweet your answer @kirkbyhigh

$$\text{Building} + \text{Building} + \text{Building} = 12$$

$$\text{Building} + \text{Building} + \text{House} = 18$$

$$\text{Factory} + \text{House} + \text{House} = 26$$

$$\text{House} + \text{Factory} \times \text{Building} = ?$$

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

IT'S ALL
ABOUT YOU



Following the extended period of home learning students received during the 2019-2020 academic year, one of the alterations that we made to our school timetable was to extend our morning form time, providing students with a detailed Personal Development programme. Through these sessions, we want to develop our students' mind-set, attitudes to learning and establish a recovery programme to instil a confidence in our student community.

We have prepared and delivered a variety of sessions, such as:

The European Day of Languages
British Values – respect
Bully Busters
Self-esteem and Confidence
Lifelong Skills

During half-term 2, following feedback from our students, we tailored some sessions for Years 9 and 11 to provide them with specific support, preparing Year 9 for the GCSE options process and assisting Year 11 in their mock exam preparation and college applications.

Our Personal Development programme will continue after Christmas, and we look forward to delivering these sessions to our students.

The Importance of Attending School

Attendance remains a priority at Kirkby High School, and following the period of home learning in the last academic year, we are keen to support our students as they continue on their learning journey. There is no replacement for lessons delivered by specialists, and staff are working hard to provide both engaging and challenging lessons in school to ensure all students continue to progress.

We continue to promote positive attendance, with things such as weekly post cards sent home to students with improved attendance and forms recognising and celebrating outstanding attendance during registration and via their form notice boards.

In the build up to Christmas, we launched our KHS Attendance Race to 18 competition. The idea is for students to get to 18 points as quickly as possible, with points awarded to students arriving to school each day and on time. The quicker students reach 18 points, the more of a chance they have of winning. There are £500 worth of prizes across the year groups, and the draw will take place on Friday 18th December, with the lucky winners being presented their prizes.

Our next attendance competition will be launched in the Spring term.

Every day 
COUNTS! 

**School success starts
with attendance**