



Message from the Headteacher, Mrs Conefrey

This year's newsletter reflects all the hard work and commitment shown by the whole school community over the past year. In September 2020, we were full of hope as we embarked on our timetable B – an adapted version of the school timetable that allowed for bubbles, staggered ends to the school day, separate eating areas for year groups and remote learning, where necessary. It has been a humbling experience to observe how flexible all staff have been throughout the year as we faced challenges and constant change as a direct result of the pandemic.

With the support of all the staff in school, we have continued to provide our students with the best education and experiences we could despite restrictions.

The theme of confidence has been a focus and we believe that this has never been more important. Time away from their peers has undermined the confidence of some of our young people and we endeavour to improve this for them daily. Our pastoral and Inclusion teams have worked tirelessly to support those who have struggled, and this is appreciated greatly.

Memories of this academic year are wide and varied: the exciting return in September, the disappointing closure to the majority in January, the reopening in March, the self-isolation rates, the testing centre, the lateral flow tests, the masks and of course the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) for Year 11 and the mock exams for Year 10. Whichever aspect of school I think of, I do so with pride and with a smile on my face. We had to re-steady the ship on return to normal school in March and we know that our efforts paid off. The students benefited from this and this newsletter showcases just a flavour of some of the experiences our young people have had this year.

May I extend a huge thank you to the staff, governors, trustees and the RLT central team for their support as we approach the end of another academic year and may I offer an even bigger thank you to all our students and their parents/carers for continuing to show commitment to Kirkby High School.

Yours faithfully

Mrs R Conefrey
Headteacher

Personal Development



In terms of personal development, we had a great **Day of Action** in June when the whole school went 'off timetable' for the day and attended workshops on:

- personal skills & qualities, the Unifrog platform and careers opportunities;
- LGBTQ+ history, and the origins of Liverpool Pride;
- Motivation and happiness, courtesy of the inspirational Action Jackson

Form groups have also enjoyed weekly PD and Reflective Friday sessions this term, on topics as diverse as families, FOMO & social media, Black Lives Matter and British Values – The Rule of Law.

Meanwhile, all students (as well as staff and parents & carers) were given the opportunity to share their views on RSE and we thank you all for your input on this. Your views were valuable in shaping the new curriculum and policy, which you'll hear more about in the new academic year.



Vibe UK Two cohorts, one in Year 7 and one in Year 9, were invited onto the Positive Vibes programme in which they had to complete challenges in order to improve their skills both individually and as a group. The challenges were both physical and mental and both years passed with flying colours.

Here is a photo of the Year 9 cohort after they had been on their "Celebration Event", which included virtual climbing challenges, games of pool and table tennis and finished up with a trip to play ten pin bowls in Superbowl, Widnes.

Year 10 News

This has been another exciting term for Year 10. As students move towards Year 11, they have continued to take their studies, mocks and careers advice very seriously. Form time has also been a wonderful environment for students to ask questions and ask for advice about their futures. Based on these discussions in form time, our special award for outstanding independence and enthusiasm went to Rhys Jacobs (10E1a) *pictured right*.



Our former student Philip McGuinness offered amazing acting advice to our Year 10 GCSE Drama students. It was wonderful for them to see a local Kirkby actor and former student offering such valuable performing guidance.

It has also been very exciting to see a large number of students applying for the role of student prefects. Students are currently in the process of selecting who they would like to represent them in the roles of head boy/girl & deputy head boy/girl. All of the students have demonstrated our 'Kirkby Child' values consistently throughout the election process.

Year 10 have excelled themselves with their hard work and effort during their mock examinations. Well done Year 10 on your focus and dedication this term.



Year 7 News

Year 7, have made an amazing start to life at Kirkby High School. The maturity, determination and resilience shown by every student has been outstanding and it has been a pleasure to watch them grow this year. During the current climate they really have shown our Kirkby Child values each and every day. They have developed lots of new skills, in-particular the computer skills they needed to access online lessons.

Although Year 7 have had limited opportunities to attend and participate in extra-curricular clubs this year we have certainly made up for it over the spring and summer term. Students have participated in art, music, Spanish and humanities clubs during their lunchtimes and have got fully involved in our sports clubs after school. Our Year 7 boys & girls have participated in their first football matches with the girls' team coming second in a tournament. We have also had some of our Year 7 students representing Kirkby High school at a recent athletics competition with the girls' team coming first.



For our Summer term drop down day, Year 7 took part in workshops focusing on careers, LGBTQ+ and aspirations. They were given an amazing opportunity to work with Action Jackson. Year 7 loved this last session and got fully involved in what Action's session was all about. It was lovely seeing and hearing some of our students who we thought lacked confidence speak up in front of their peers. Action left Kirkby High with lots of new fans.



Cabbage Patch Kids



We have finally started our gardening project with a £500.00 donation from Merseyside police, and the help and support from P.C. Jane and P.C. Emma, who have also donated items such as compost and various seeds and plants such as pumpkins and tomatoes. We have bought gardening tools and seedlings to plant in our homemade raised beds which have been made from recycled pallets, plus one made by Mr. Glover with some wood from our Technology department. The food grown will be used in school for catering projects and distributed in the community.

Year 9 News

This school year has been a challenging one for KHS, (obviously the lockdown put severe restrictions on every school), but it has not stopped us working with numerous agencies. Alongside all this, a Year 9 cohort of girls has been using creative writing and drama to explore risk-taking behaviour and peer pressure. We had a trip out recently to celebrate the Year 9 completion of the Positive Vibes programme. The students were taken to Our Place youth centre in Huyton to have a fun morning with various activities including virtual wall climbing games, pool and table tennis. Later on, they were taken to a bowling alley in Widnes where they enjoyed numerous games of bowls, competing in two different teams.

Nature Therapy

As a pastoral team we made increased mental health referrals to the school counsellor following the return from lockdown. As an intervention we have put our 'nature therapy' sessions in place to combat stress and allow students to self-regulate. The mental health benefits gained from being in a natural setting has been well documented. The first session took place in June 2021 and was a great success.



MFL

Miss Suthers delivered a Spanish session on MS Teams for our gifted and talented students in the feeder primary schools in May 2021. The students thoroughly enjoyed the session and we look forward to seeing them face to face during our transition days in the new academic year.



A weekly Year 7 lunchtime Spanish club has been running since April 2021 by Miss Suthers. The focus

of the club has been on geographical and cultural aspects of Spain and other Spanish speaking subjects.

Humanities

Mr Carroll has continued the hard work of maintaining the status of Beacon school for Holocaust education and the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education. He managed to secure funding for some resources to use in the Year 9 history topic on the Holocaust. The books were delivered to school during lock down and will be used next academic year to enhance the delivery of the curriculum.

During the lock down we provided Year 7 with some online extracurricular ideas in place of a dinner time club. This ranged from educational films/programmes to websites they could access at home. Once students were able to return to school, we ran a Year 7 history club on a Friday dinnertime which allowed students to build relationships with other members of staff outside of the classroom/their bubble.

English

Despite the limitations surrounding Covid, the English faculty hosted a range of activities for students. Competitions included the Y7 Bookmark Competition and the National Crossword Day competitions where Mrs Gibbons devised crosswords based on the texts students were studying in class.



Every single student in every year group received a reading book to enjoy during the January to March lockdown. Students chose from selected titles and books were delivered to students' homes. Y11 students were also delighted to receive their 'Macbeth' folders which were personally delivered by Mr Foy.

Rewards and awards featured this year with a record amount of postcards being sent home to students to praise and encourage good work.

Next year (restrictions permitting), we hope to make up for our lack of trips and excursions. We are already looking at local theatres and venues to find suitable activities. The opening of the Shakespeare in the North Playhouse in 2022 should provide ample opportunities for our students.

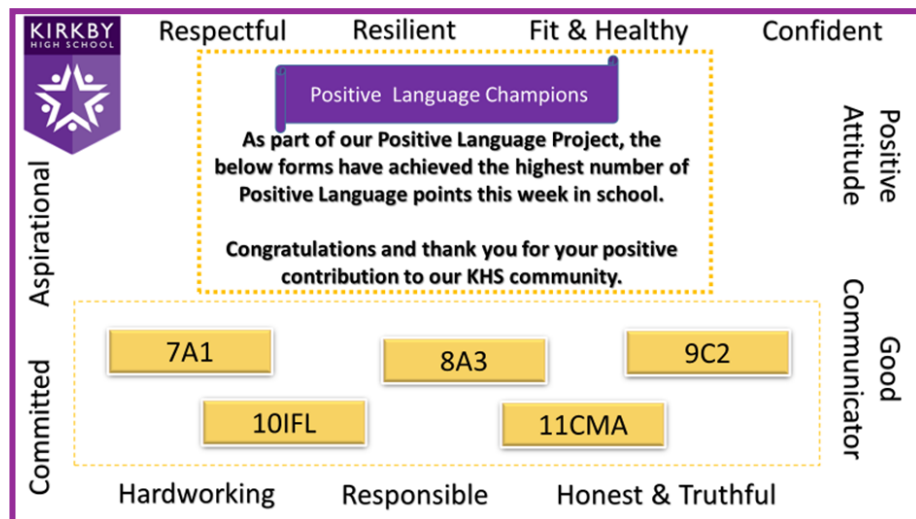
The Positive Language Project

This year, we have had a real focus on praising students and recognising their efforts around school and in lessons. This commenced with a hybrid approach, both by using Class Charts and communicating with Heads of Faculty and Heads of Year. Students with the highest number of positive points would either receive a telephone call or post card home, recognising and rewarding this fantastic achievement. Students' names were also celebrated via social media, with weekly reward slides shared via our school Twitter.

As the year progressed, the idea of rewarding students developed further, and we launched the Positive Language Project in April 2021 as part of the wider-school return.

The idea of the project was to develop students and enable them to express themselves effectively to a range of audiences, making them aware of not just what they say, but how they say it. This was achieved in a variety of ways, such as through form time PD sessions, assemblies and also the weekly tutor group challenges, with staff having to guess the students' positive language secret mission.

Students were also provided weekly strategies, such as how to really 'listen' to others, pausing before responding and the importance of body language. Staff awarded students positive points, and forms with the highest number of points were celebrated and shared via Twitter and the wider community.



Faculties are currently collating a list of their key positive phrases, and we will be creating displays around school in September with the types of positive language that we wish students and staff to use.

Year 10 Mock Exams

We are so proud of the way in which Year 10 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 have 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.



Knowsley SNAP (Sports, Nutrition, Active Play) will return for the School Summer Holidays, in collaboration with Vibe, Volair and sector partners. The SNAP summer programme will involve many fantastic community organisations and providers who will also be supporting families during the Holidays. The sessions have been funded by the Department for Education's Holiday Activities and Food Grant. Keep up to date by visiting <https://www.oneknowsley.org/snap-free-healthy-living-activities/#HAF2021>

Music



The music department was awarded Music Mark School status in recognition for our valued commitment to music education and a broad and balanced curriculum. This is the third year in a row we have been awarded this. In addition, despite a hard year with a lack of practical work and long periods of self-isolation, we have achieved our second highest GCSE numbers in the last six years at least.

We have planned a trip for the end of September to the British Music Experience to boost confidence and understanding about career opportunities in the music industry, which has been made possible by securing a grant from the Knowsley Music Service. We have added onto the end of this day a visit to Liverpool Empire Theatre to see "Beauty and the Beast", with the opportunity to meet the cast backstage after the show. This is being opened to all GCSE music students and some extra students to boost confidence and creativity in the arts.

PE AND DANCE

Clubs and competitions:

It has been a sad year not being able to run clubs, however, as the safety has been reviewed in the last term we have supported the delivery of a Year 7 cross curricular clubs programme running a multi sports club every Tuesday and Thursday. We also have been able to set up a Year 7 netball club and a Year 7 gymnastics club ran by the Beth Tweddle satellite club that is based at Kirkby High School. It has been lovely to see the Year 7's begin to understand what normal school life looks and feels like with clubs and competitions. We have also been able to take part in the Knowsley SSP Year 7/8 girls football, Year 9 boys' football and the Area athletics competition where we had some success across all events.



Year 9 and 10 LIPA dance

At Kirkby High School, we have very strong links with the widening participation programme that runs from LIPA (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts). This programme is designed to engage students from Year 9 upwards who have an interest in dance, drama or music and introduces them to the opportunities that being part of LIPA can offer them.

This term, we are lucky to have two professional dancers who are delivering several sessions with Year 9 and 10 to boost confidence, develop skills, create resilience and open the window of possibility to our students by joining the LIPA programme. It has been fantastic to see my Year 9 and Year 10 classes engage in new styles of dance and enjoy the new experiences offered to them.

Knowsley Athletics

On Thursday June 10th, we were able to host the Knowsley Athletics. It was so lovely seeing lots of students from Kirkby High School and All Saints being able to participate in a school competition again. Each team from Year 7,8 and 9 all took part in 4 events: one jump, one throw and two track events. The winners were Year 7 girls, Year 9 boys and Year 9 girls. The attitude and determination from all teams were excellent.

Mathematics



In spite of the disruption caused by covid restrictions this year, the mathematics department have still been able to enter 20 students in the Junior Maths Challenge, with the UKMT in April. Students from Year 7 and 8 sat a 1 hour challenge paper in covid secure conditions.

The paper encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Junior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think. We are very proud of how much effort the students made with this challenge. Students who are in the top 40% nationally receive a bronze, silver or gold award and we are pleased to say

that Kayden Chambers in Year 7 gained a silver award, and Kaan Kushkulu in Year 8 gained a bronze award. Well done.

Staff have worked extremely hard to provide assessments for Year 11 that adhere to JCQ rules and regulations. We have tirelessly marked and moderated work to provide TAGs for our Year 11 students. All of this hard work was celebrated by three members of the department as we were able to support the Year 11 students on their farewell Blackpool trip, which was a fantastic success.

We have collected all our old student text-books and are sending them to charity. The charity will donate them to students and teachers in Africa to improve their quality of education.

Next year in the whole school calendar we have added term dates to celebrate maths and numeracy. We will celebrate national maths week in November, Pi day in March and national numeracy day in May. We are currently in the process of sorting out activities and prizes for these events.

Year 8 News



Year 8 have transitioned back into school well since having their Year 7 integration cut short by the pandemic. They have enjoyed their Personal Development sessions and formed strong bonds with

their form tutors over the current academic year. Year 8 has amazed us by earning nearly 250,000 positive points to date. They are a year group that really embraces rewards and have chosen some of these themselves, whether it be sweets or queue jump passes for lunch time.

Members of the year group have been able to take part in several programmes including Bullybusters and the Arts Award. These programmes have run alongside targeted intervention for students and have been based on the needs of students inside and outside of school. These interventions were on offer through the Year team, the Inclusion department and also through our School Engagement Officer.

Year 8 have made a positive impact through the student parliament. Each form has form representatives who always bring a host of fantastic discussion points to our year group meetings from their classes. All students are represented through the student parliament and have suggested changes, such as to the lunch routine, and other ideas that have been enacted in school. The Year group have also welcomed a number of new students during the year. They have done our school proud in welcoming them to our Kirkby High School community.

Year 11 News

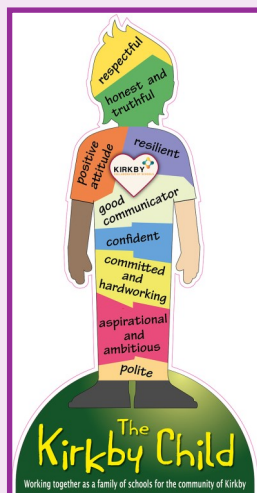


In June we arranged a reward trip for Year 11 to Blackpool Pleasure Beach to give them a good send off from KHS and leave them with some lasting memories of their time here. 141 students benefitted from the experience and every single student had a great

time on the day. We were grateful that we were able to fully fund this trip for the students. The broken down bus simply added to the experience for most and allowed them to have even more time with friends and staff outside of school. The following day, we hosted a 'Leavers' Assembly' for Year 11 where students received their memory book, faculty awards and certificates. They also had some valuable time to say "goodbye" and sign each other's school shirts. We also managed to fund the leavers' memory book which was designed and printed by an external company and was very professional indeed. It contributed to the many ways in which we show the students how much we care for and value them. One of the most consistent references in the memory book was of the trip to Blackpool in Year 9, so hopefully, they will have another positive experience to add to their formative years.

Following the assembly, students were dismissed and we later received a lovely email from a member of our community, commending the behaviour and conduct of our fantastic Year 11s. We wish them all good luck for the future.

Kirkby Collaborative Celebration of Achievement



The Kirkby Collaborative is the family of fourteen schools that work in partnership in Kirkby. The Collaborative provides educational opportunities to over 5000 Kirkby children.

In the past, Knowsley Local Authority held an annual Celebration event for all schools in Knowsley; however, they no longer had the capacity to organise such an event. Realising the importance of the tradition of recognising and celebrating the achievements of the pupils of the town, the Headteachers of Kirkby took the decision to arrange an event for Kirkby Schools in 2013 and the tradition was continued. The 2021 event will be our eighth annual Kirkby Collaborative celebration.

Each school nominated a number of pupils to receive an award.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic

we could not host our traditional event. Instead the awards were presented in a small ceremony in school.

This year the collaborative introduced the Kirkby Child Award. Each school has nominated one child to receive this prestigious award. The 14 winners of the award were those who best represented the nine core values of The Kirkby Child.

Big congratulations to Maria, Ava, Alex, Amelia, Kai, Luis, Joshua and Hannah for being nominated for their hard work and determination.



Holiday Pattern 2021-2022

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	Holidays
	Bank Holidays
	Inset days
	INSET twilight payback

*The additional holiday on 6th December is in lieu of the extra bank holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which falls in the May half term