

KHS News

Message from the Headteacher, Mrs Dobson

Dear Parent/Carer,

This year has certainly been a year of great change! Thank you to all our Kirkby families and the local community for your continued support and especially from February as I embarked on my new journey as Headteacher of our wonderful school. Following our Ofsted 'good' judgement in July 2022, our focus as always this year was on continual school improvement and I am delighted to share some highlights with you in this summer newsletter.

I would also like to thank the whole staff body for their continued hard work and commitment to our young people. This year we have developed our new mission 'Maximising Our Potential' and it is inspiring to see all the opportunities offered to our students, within lessons and through extra-curricular activities. I hope you enjoy reading about our celebrations and successes.

Alongside our mission, we have also consulted with all students, parents, carers and staff to launch our new Kirkby Child values: Respect, Resilience, Aspiration, Kindness and Confidence. These values are essential to our school's vision: 'A community driven by high expectations and mutual respect providing all individuals with the belief and opportunities to succeed now and in the future'. Alongside

this, we have launched our new Kirkby Child rewards system. Staff have awarded rewards stickers for displaying our Kirkby Child values and students have subsequently received a variety of prizes ranging from certificates to gift vouchers, and even school trips.

As always at this time of year, it is always sad to say goodbye to members of our school community. We thank those colleagues who are leaving us for their commitment to Kirkby High School. We also wish our Year 11 students the best of luck for their futures. At the same time, we look forward to September when we welcome new staff members and Year 7 students as they join our Kirkby High School family.

I am so proud of what we continue to achieve and I look forward to the new academic year in September.

Have a restful summer.



Mrs A Dobson
Headteacher

Key Dates - Autumn Term 2023

Monday 4 th September	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 5 th September	All Year groups return to school 8.45am
Tuesday 12 th September	Open Morning 9-11am
Wednesday 13 th September	Open Morning 9-11am
Thursday 14 th September	Open Evening 6-8.30pm
Thursday 28 th September	Year 7 Progress and Aspiration Evening 4.00-6.30pm
Thursday 5 th October	Year 11 Progress and Aspiration Evening 4.00-6.30pm
Tuesday 17 th October	Careers Fayre
Friday 27 th October	School finishes for half term
Monday 30 th October to Friday 3rd November	Half Term break
Monday 6 th November	Students return to school

Year 7 News

As always, our Year 7 students have had many opportunities this year and have taken them all in their strides. From their very first term when they took part in their team building days as a form class, our students have displayed confidence and resilience when experiencing new things and adapting to new environments. Since these very first few months, some of our students have had opportunities such as visiting Edge Hill University, competing at various schools across the county in sporting competitions, and taking part in drama performances on our very own Kirkby High School stage. Lots of our students in Year 7 have shown eagerness and excitement to grasp all that secondary school life has to offer.



It has been a pleasure to watch each one of them flourish and embody our Kirkby Child qualities. Their hard work has been recognised and rewarded through our Kirkby Child stickers. As the year draws to a close, the year team and year group eagerly look forward to our end of term celebrations with the annual trip to Blackpool and highlighting all the successes this group has achieved. For example, Daniel (pictured left) has been a brilliant role model for our year group and was given the opportunity to represent our school in the recent transition evening where he encouraged new Year 6 to 7 students to be brave like him and enjoy everything that Kirkby High can offer.

Miss Peacock and Miss Ellis have very high expectations and believe that Year 7 have met each one. They are a brilliant group of students who have worked extremely hard and created an exceptional standard for the next year group to enter in September 2023. We look forward to watching the current Year 7s grow and enter into the next steps of their secondary school journey here in Kirkby High.



PE and Dance

Year 9/10 Dance Enrichment

We have excellent links with LIPA (Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts) and the Lowry CAT (Centre for Advanced Dance Technique). We were extremely lucky to welcome a dance teacher from the Lowry CAT who delivered an excellent days of choreography workshops to our Year 9 and 10 dance students. The sessions allowed the students to explore key contemporary dance techniques and then independently develop their own choreography in smaller groups. It was inspirational to have a professional dancer in to inspire the dancers of our future! Miss Hamer and Miss Cowley.

Netball Club



We wanted to say a big congratulations to all the girls and boys who have joined in our Netball Club since September. We have had some success gaining first and second place in the Knowsley Netball Tournaments and been impressed with the commitment that the students have shown attending club every Tuesday night. Miss Hamer and Mrs Keary

Drama News

Well done to all of our Year 7 students who created their own silent movies. Year eight who have worked hard discovering the mysterious world of 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'. Year 9 have explored acting for TV and Film. From 'Stags & Hens' to 'Friends', Year 9 received advice from actors & directors in the industry. Our GCSE students



have been working hard preparing for performances from 'Blood Brothers'.



Our musical theatre club focused on different musicals and films. Students performed their pieces at our amazing Creative Arts night in June. Miss Gill and Miss Cowley are so proud of you all.

The hard work and effort of all our students in Drama has been amazing to see. Well done everyone.

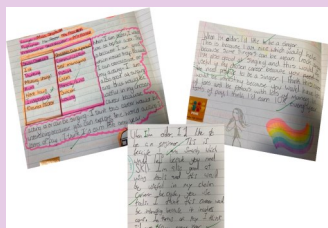
Personal Development

Topics covered in class this term have included gambling, careers, protests and whole school sessions this term have been delivered too – both on hate crime, by the Anthony Walker Foundation, and Mr Greenbank, who delivered assemblies on the theme of Drugs & The Law. We also invited **Bully Busters** to speak to Y10 classes on ‘what we say and how we say it’, discussing language choices.



ANTHONY
WALKER
FOUNDATION

Work experience was a success with some excellent feedback on students in a variety of placements. Several local primary schools were also able to experience PD in a secondary school setting when they joined us for sessions on transition, and what to expect in high school, even money management awareness!



Rainbow Club on Friday lunchtimes has gone from strength to strength, with average attendance of over twenty students each week. In the summer term we held sessions delivered by THiNK (Teenage Health in Knowsley) in conjunction with Merseyside YA, on various topics, including how to be an ally and

pronoun badgemaking. **If you want to find out more, Jess and Chris (from THiNK) run sessions at Westvale Community and Youth Centre, Richard Hesketh Drive, Kirkby, L32 0TZ every other Thursday at 7:15pm**

We also worked with a PhD student from Manchester Metropolitan University who was conducting research into bullying, and we will receive an individualised school report as a result.



English Faculty News

Talk for Tuesday PODCAST CLUB

‘Talk for Tuesday’ is a weekly meeting of students in the English faculty. We are able to discuss a wide range of topics and are able to speak freely without judgement from our fellow members (except if it’s about school lunches, of course!) We enjoy talking to the teachers about many things such as motivation and why they chose to become a teacher. The group is a great way to build confidence and expand our knowledge about various subjects like global warming. We hope to inspire others to take pride in their education and their school. We hope to expand our podcast to all year groups, so everyone has a voice.

Ava Winterson (Year 10)



The Reading Zone

Students in Year 7 have taken the lead in developing the Reading Zone into a more attractive and welcoming place to sit and enjoy a good book. They have purchased fairy lights and other decorations as well as organising the shelves into coloured co-ordinated sections.

Pictured: Faye and Isla.

Year 11 revision and exams



Year 11 students showed huge commitment to their studies by attending Tuesday after school revision, holiday classes and Saturday school. The students’ attitude to learning and maturity made these sessions incredibly enjoyable for both students and staff.

↔ *Cuppas in the English office*

Aaron being a quizmaster ↔



Year 8 News



This has been another exciting term for Year 8. Form time has been a creative environment for students to focus on our Kirkby Child Values. We have also continued to see Kirkby Child Values as the focus of our form assemblies, which have been successfully delivered with confidence.

At the start of this year, Liam Balmer was chosen to be our year 8 school council representative. Liam has represented the views of year 8 pupils at school council meetings and has done an excellent job.

In July, we finished the year with our rewards assembly. It was a wonderful celebration for all of the hard work and dedication of

students in Year 8. Huge congratulations to Nell Barrington and Oscar Magee Lindop who were our overall Kirkby Child winners for this academic year.



As part of Anti-Bullying week 2023, our Year 8 Respect Ambassadors continued to work hard with Bully Busters. Our ambassadors aim to continue to raise awareness of the issue in 2023-4 #Dontsufferinsilence

Year 8 have excelled themselves with their hard work and effort this year. Keep up the hard work.



Art and Design



In art and design, students from across the different year groups took part in life drawing sessions when Cheshire falconry were invited into school.

Students were brave enough to get close up and produced beautiful sketches of a

number of different wild birds. This experience was such a success that we plan on repeating it next year.

Please look out for Kirkby High school artwork that is currently being displayed on the hoarding for the new Kirkby train station.



Year 9 News

This year for Year 9 marks the start of an important journey, as Year 9 embark on their chosen options subjects. The options process is the beginning of the journey for our students as they start their GCSE studies. Over the current academic year, students have formed strong bonds with their form tutors and subject teachers. This term, Year 9 have displayed our Kirkby Child Values; kindness, confidence, aspiration, resilience, and respect, all of which have led to over 50,000 achievements points being awarded. This has all contributed to maximising our potential!



Year 9 have made a positive contribution to our school through the student parliament. Each form has their own form representative who attends parliament meetings to discuss with senior members of staff. These students have suggested changes to the lunch menu, how we can improve mental health, rewards in school amongst other things. Students have participated in art, music, geography and history clubs during their lunchtimes and have been fully involved in our sports clubs after school. Our football team has had many victories this year, including taking part in the Knowsley football tournament.

Miss Pimblett and Mr Byrne are extremely proud of the year group's achievements this year. We have high expectations of each one of them and feel that they are continuing to develop the Kirkby Child Values that will take maximise their potential in Year 10.

Trips and Visits

Dolly Hall

For the first time since the pandemic, Dolly Hall has opened its doors to



Kirkby High School. Year 9 students have been offered a weekend away in Wales to explore nature, the local community and get to know each other outside of school. The staff at Dolly Hall and in the local community have given our staff wonderful feedback about how kind, confident and respectful our students are.

Year 10 News

Year 10 have made a fantastic transition into KS4.

Students have recently begun their mock exams and are approaching these with great maturity and resilience. We are looking forward as a year team and year group to start Year 11. There have been many extracurricular opportunities for Year 10. Many of these opportunities focus on access to Higher Education.

Alongside gaining advice and guidance on future careers through trips and visits, Year 10 also took part in a week's work experience, organised by Mr Merrett. Many students attended our feeder primary schools and we received fantastic feedback from these schools about our students' positive can-do attitude. Students also attended placements at local business such as a local golf club, café and retail shops. The feedback was extremely positive and we were very proud of them all.

Year 10 have just completed their applications to be a member of the Student Leadership Team. It was a great pleasure to watch all candidates excel in their applications, interviews and speeches to the year group. All candidates showed all the Kirkby Child values and we are immensely proud of them all. We have appointed a Head Boy/Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy/Head Girl, six senior prefects with responsibilities and links with Gifted, Able and Talented, PE/PD and Wellbeing, Careers, Rewards, Creative and Cultural Capital and an Inclusion representative. We also have six student leaders linked to each year group in school as well as a group of prefects.



Gifted & Talented

The Gifted, Able and Talented programme has continued this academic year. Mr Knowlson has now been successfully appointed to take on this role for the next academic year. Year 9 and 10 students have worked with external company Shaping Futures. They have completed sessions on accessing higher education and study skills advice. Students are due to attend Carmel College, Winstanley College and University of Liverpool during the summer term. Students have also supported with students transitioning to secondary school as we have visited all seven feeder schools and delivered sessions on what life is like at Kirkby High School, where Year 6 students were able to ask some questions and alleviate any worries they may have had. They were all fantastic ambassadors for our school. Our seven feeder primary schools were also invited in to attend sessions with several of our KHS teachers. These included literacy and numeracy, science, MFL and history challenges.



Future Geographers



Year 10 and 11 students took part in GCSE fieldwork trips. Both groups had lovely weather for our visit to Kirkby Town Centre to look at regeneration. However, the heavens opened for our visit to Dunsop Bridge to complete the river study. Both year groups had enjoyable experiences completing the fieldwork.

