

# Welcome to the KHS Newsletter Autumn 2023

KIRKBY  
HIGH SCHOOL



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we reach the end of 2023, I would like to wish all our families a very special festive season. 2023 has been a year of change for Kirkby High School. The whole school community wished Mrs Conefrey our best wishes for her new role and I was delighted to continue my journey at this wonderful school as Headteacher.

We have had a busy start to the school year. We enjoyed welcoming our new Year

7 students into our school. They have made a fabulous start and I know really enjoyed their team-building activities on their induction days. Year 8 have shown great resilience in assemblies and also participating in the IntoUniversity aspirational programme. Year 9 were involved in various activities for anti-bullying week and several students have been successfully appointed as Respect Ambassadors. Year 10 have made a positive start to their GCSE courses. Year 11 have shown great confidence in their mock exams and several students have completed leadership training at West Lancashire College.

The last couple of weeks have been filled with Christmas trees, festive music and an amazing production of Aladdin. The cast were professional, dedicated and talented. It was an amazing show and I thank our Creative Arts staff team for the opportunities they provide to our young people.

I would like to thank the vast majority of parents and carers who support the high standards and expectations we have at Kirkby High School. All young people respond more positively when they are given clear boundaries and when all the adults in their lives are on the same page. The majority of our students continue to display our Kirkby Child values every day. Please ensure you read the recent letter from Mrs Turner so your child is ready to return to learning in January. It is important that all students return with their school bag, books and planner. Please continue to ensure your child **Maximises their Potential** by attending on time every day. Missing lessons means missing vital learning.

Happy Christmas,

*Mrs A Dobson*  
Headteacher



We are Chloe and Kai and we are Head Girl and Head Boy at Kirkby High School. We have had a busy term representing the school in several different events and are already looking forward to what the year ahead brings.

We have been promoting the Kirkby Child values of Resilience, Confidence, Respect, Aspiration and are excellent attenders. We want to encourage other students to attend school every day and maximise your potential.

In the new year we are going to visit our local primary school with the rest of the student leadership team to deliver training sessions based on leadership skills.

We wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and we will see you in the New Year.

*Chloe and Kai*

## OUR 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.



# YEAR 7



As part of our 'Zero Hero' campaign, 21 Year 7 students were rewarded with a visit to the Knowsley Christmas Pantomime. The students were rewarded for their amazing attendance this half term, all achieving 0% absence since the half term break.



This half term, a selection of our Year 7 students returned to their primary schools alongside Mrs Dobson to present attendance awards to the current year 6 pupils. In total, 7 students went to local feeder schools to talk about their transition from primary to secondary school, as well as present brand new Samsung tablets.

## Year 7 girls took part in their first ever netball tournament.

The girls scored some amazing goals along the way and finished in 3rd place overall.

## Year 7 Transition Team Building

Throughout September and October our Year 7 students attended our Transition Team Building morning as a form. This was a morning of exciting offsite activities such as archery and fire making that allowed our students to build their resilience and confidence as well as getting to know their peers.

Thank you to Mr Foy and Mrs Ellis for organising these wonderful events for our students.



# YEAR 10

As we have made the transition from KS3 to KS4, it has been lovely to see Year 10 display our Kirkby Child values 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.

It has also been so much fun celebrating attendance winners each week in assembly. Each week, forms competed to win the attendance trophy. Well done to 10EKN and 10EKE who are at the top of our leaderboard for the lowest 0% attendance. You've got to be in it to win it!!

This term in form we have discussed the Kirkby Code in depth and considered the Kirkby Child values. Our Year 10 representatives met with Miss Pimblett to represent their ideas. The meeting was very informative and purposeful. Our form assemblies have commenced this term which focus on one Kirkby Child Value at a time. 10DHA made a great first assembly, focusing on the theme of resilience. The assembly was informative and very well presented. Well done to Mr Harvey and all students involved.



## The Inclusion department have had a very successful start to the year.

Year 10 students recently tested their life skills with a trip on the train to Liverpool where they were able to visit the Christmas markets and visit the food court at St Johns.

The inclusive sports team have continued to practise boccia ahead of a competition in the New Year.

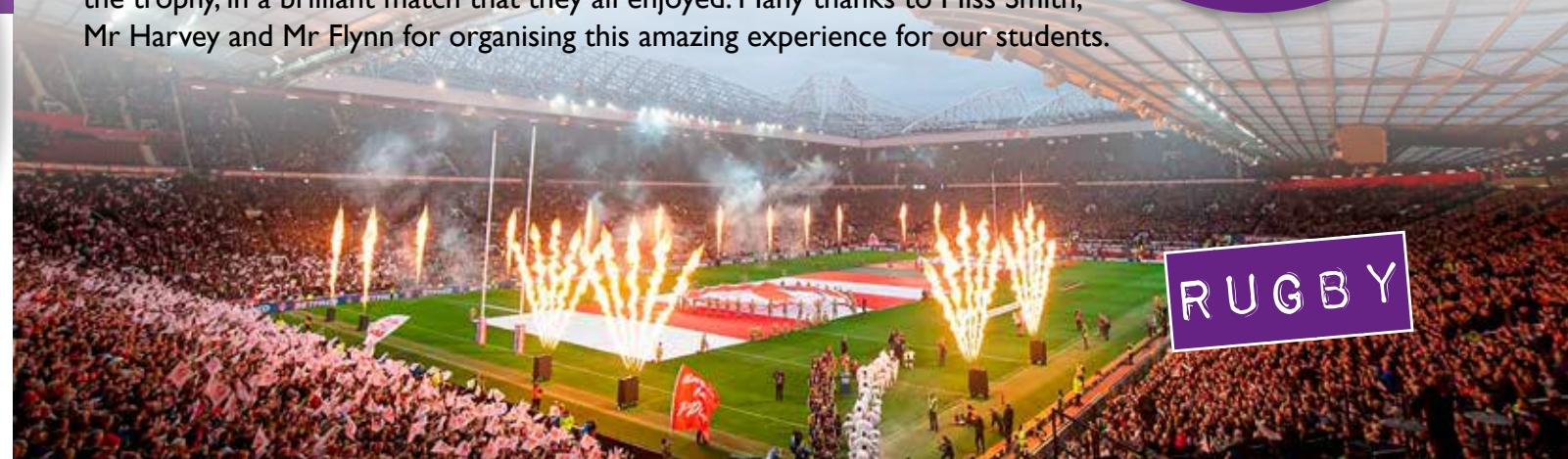
Students accessing the Kirkby Child Room have taken part in activities to commemorate Armistice day and Black History month. Students have continued to develop their social skills through various activities including our popular chess sets.

Our new cohort of Year 7 students have had a successful induction to the Inclusion department and are now fully engaged in the intervention on offer and the lunch time provision provided.



## In October, a group of our keen rugby supporters attended the Super League Grand Final at Old Trafford.

Our students watched Wigan Warriors defeat Catalan Dragons 10 – 2 and lift the trophy, in a brilliant match that they all enjoyed. Many thanks to Miss Smith, Mr Harvey and Mr Flynn for organising this amazing experience for our students.



RUGBY

# Maximising our Potential . . .





## A big congratulations to our Year 7, 8, 9 and 10/11 Netball teams who have all competed in the Knowsley Netball Tournaments this term.

We have gained silver and bronze medals and are incredibly proud of the girls showing their commitment and netball skills throughout each competition.

A particular congratulations to the Year 8 Netball team who have been at every training session since Year 7 and were only very closely beaten by All Saints in their final game.

Round 2 will commence after Christmas.



## Yet another great day with our community seniors.

Nearly 50 local seniors and carers enjoyed a fun filled Christmas Party event in KHS, which included bingo, raffle prizes and a selection of Christmas songs, sung by our very own Elf on the Shelf, one of our Year 11 students.

A huge thank you and well done to all the staff and students who prepared, cooked and served the home-made food and hot drinks and catered to all our guests' needs. We had some fabulous compliments and feedback, so Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and let's do it again next December!



DRAMA

## This has been an amazing term in drama.

KS3 classes have focused on the horror genre, life on the streets and the seven deadly sins. GCSE classes have worked incredibly hard on their performance work. Year 10 focused on 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell and Year 11 devised emotional pieces based on the various themes. Well done to all our students on such amazing performances.

Some of our gifted and talented Year 9 actors, have begun working with Imaginarium Theatre. Students have focused on Jane Austin's Pride and Prejudice in workshops and produced drama based on the key themes.

Finally, this term, we saw a whole new world of 'Aladdin' unfold on stage. Students and staff worked tirelessly this term to bring a little magic to Kirkby High School at this special time of year.

The Creative Arts team would like to thank you all for attending and hope that you enjoyed the show. Special thanks to all the cast, crew and parents. We couldn't do it without you.

Musical Theatre will commence every Tuesday in Dr2 3-4pm. Come along and have fun as we go from page to stage.



# YEAR 9

Year 9 started this year with hard work and enthusiasm.

As part of our Anti-Bullying work, Year 9 students were involved in a number of projects. Students created their own drama piece, raising awareness of bullying. They performed their theatre in education piece to Year 7. They gave a fabulous performance and were then hot-seated by Year 7 students.

Our Year 9 RESPECT ambassadors worked hard with Bully Busters. Our ambassadors aim to continue to raise awareness of the issue in 2024.

A huge well done to the newly elected Year 9 form representatives. We are looking forward to holding more meetings after Christmas!

Have a lovely break Year 9 and see you next year.



Well done to Year 9 students who have successfully completed the AIMS project and were presented with their course certificates #keepupthehardwork.

# YEAR 8

We had a fantastic assembly from 8FVO on the meaning of resilience, 5 students stood up to talk to the year group about Derek Redmond and his story and how we could use this as inspiration to prepare us for the future.

30 students were chosen to take part in the Into University programme and have been involved in powerful sessions around higher education with the Into University team.



# Maximising our Potential . . .



# YEAR 11

Year 11 have recently completed their mock exams in preparation of their GCSE Exams in the summer term.



During the term, there has been several Year 11 trips. In October, 30 students had the opportunity to visit Dolly Hall in Wales where students' behaviour was brilliant.

The student leadership also took part in a training session trip to West Lancs College where students were taught about what it means to be a good leader and we are going to deliver this training to our local primary schools next term.

Keep up the good work Year 11 and there will be more trips in the New Year. We also are looking forward to our school prom which has been booked for June.

**In October we held our second annual Careers Fayre, which was a fantastic success.**

All students in our community had time to meet with local employers and education providers as they develop their aspirations for their future.

Students in Year 10 and 11 were able to think about the pathway that their GCSEs will lead to.

Our Year 9s were able to use this opportunity to discuss which option choices would be best for maximising their potential and our Year 7 and 8 students were able to start thinking about where their time at Kirkby High School might take them.

Thank you to Mr Merrett for organising this excellent event for our community.

CAREERS

**FIND YOUR OWN WAY**

**Last week 30 Year 11 students went to TenPin Bowl in Southport for being awarded the top points in the year group.**



**IntoUniversity iu**



**Our first groups of Year 7, 8 and 11 students attended their first workshops with IntoUniversity.**

- This is a programme designed to build the aspirations and academic confidence of students and covered topics such as maximising memory and education choices post 16.
- The IntoUniversity facilitators commented on how confident and respectful our students were.

## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

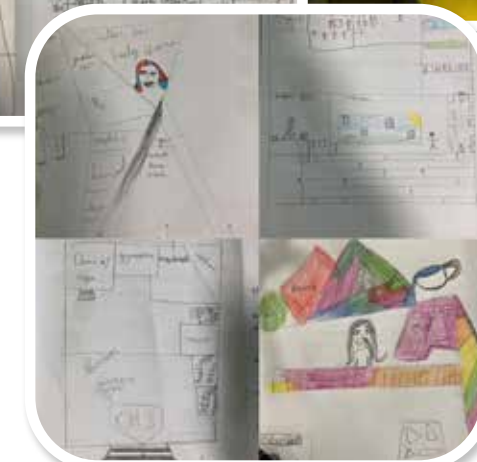
**It has been a busy term for personal development at KHS, with lots of interesting learning taking place.**

Year 7 classes have made a positive start to their time, covering healthy choices and understanding empathy; Year 8 and 9 enjoyed extended form sessions on e-safety and Black History Month; Year 10 have looked at drugs and the law and county lines, and Year 11 classes looked at RSE, risk taking behaviour and money management.

Meanwhile, we welcomed primary classes from Westvale and Eastcroft, who looked at what to expect in high school, even designing their own dream schools and Kirkby Child statues.

Rainbow Club relaunched too, taking place every Thursday lunchtime in PD1. Jess and Chris from THinK came in to gather views on an exciting event taking place in Knowsley next summer, and they delivered assemblies about their service.

We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy & healthy 2024!



**We have enjoyed welcoming in a professional dancer, from LIPA this term.**

Bethan has worked with our Year 10 and 11 GCSE Dancers and more recently with our Year 9 dancers. Bethan is a professional dancer who works for LIPA but also often travels to London dancing for the Royal Ballet, West End Theatre Shows and other National Dance companies too.

We have close links with LIPA who run a 'Widening Participation' programme to highlight how our students can gain access to their free programmes introducing our students to the world of dance in a post 16 and professional setting.

We are proud that one of our Year 10 students has successfully interviewed to be part of the programme and we have Year 11 students applying for places in year 12 and 13.

DANCE



**Maximising our Potential . . .**

**Kirkby High School are delighted with the number of families we have been able to support this term.**

With the support of MCKS Charitable Foundation UK, we are able to continue with the Kirkby High School Pantry Cupboard. The aim is to provide our families with store cupboard essentials at no cost at all. We have supplied families with items such as cereals, cereal bars, biscuits, long-life milk, part-baked bread, tinned items, noodles, pasta, pasta sauce and toiletries.

*The pantry cupboard runs each Thursday from 3.30pm—4.30pm*

If you are on low income and unable to afford furniture or white goods, there are a number of ways that we can support. We have additional support that we can access if you need new beds or bedding.

Contact Mrs Rigby for further information  
0151 477 8710 [admin@kirkbyhighschool.net](mailto:admin@kirkbyhighschool.net)



**We are excited to let you know that Kirkby High School will be working towards The Wellbeing Award for School.**

This provides formal recognition that a school has met very high standards of provision for emotional wellbeing and mental health. It provides schools with a rigorous framework for implementing a range of strategies to bring about positive change for the wellbeing and mental health of the whole school.

**If you are interested in working with us, please let us know**

WAS

promoting emotional wellbeing and positive mental health

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