

Dates for your Diary

Christmas Break - Monday 19th December return to school on Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Thursday 26th January - Parent Consultation day - Students to come in only for their allocated appointment

Friday 27th January - Teacher training day - Students not in school



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

What an incredible few weeks, and term, we have had at President Kennedy School. As you can see from this bumper edition of the newsletter our students continue to make the most of the World Class opportunities here at this school as well as thrive in their learning. Please do visit our social media pages on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) as well as our school website to see all of the exciting opportunities students get involved in.

One of my favourite things this week has been spending time with our students who all received a hot chocolate and a cookie across all year groups to say well done for their hard work this term. They continue to be a credit to our community.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a lovely New Year,

Ms Rooke, Headteacher



Peter Lantos Returns President Kennedy School



On Wednesday 30th November, President Kennedy School was privileged to welcome Holocaust Survivor Professor Peter Lantos to the school to film a short piece that will be aired on the **BBC One Show** in late January. As part of the Echo

Eternal Project that the school have been engaged with since 2017, the school was gifted the testimony of Peter that was transcribed from an interview with journalist Natasha Kaplinsky.

Peter was transported to Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp as a young child and repeated the journey after retiring from his role leading research in Neuroscience at King's College. As part of a creative arts piece, supported by the Royal Conservatoire in Birmingham, students created a film that can be seen on YouTube entitled *'Make the Best out of the Worst'*, based on their engagement with Peter's testimony.

Please follow link to view <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HoD6yHNhA4>

The school also, as part of a 'Sharing Pledge' within the Echo Eternal Project, created an 'Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden' in memory and celebration of Peter's testimony and prison number at Bergen-Belsen, 8431.

The design and planning of the garden was centred on elements of Peter's testimony, the centrepiece of which is a Cherry tree that Peter remembers in his garden as a child.

Hays Education, who sponsored the Echo Eternal Project, gifted the tree to the school and it was planted in the Summer of 2022 by Peter and President Kennedy School Gardener Rob Bromfield. Rob and Peter have since become friends and correspond regularly, sharing the progress of the garden through the seasons.

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The visit on the 30th November was organised by the book publisher, Scholastic. Peter wrote his first book, *Parallel Lines: A Journey from Childhood to Belsen* in 2006. In January 2023, Peter, in association with Scholastic, is publishing a child's version, *'The Boy who Didn't Want to Die'*. The book describes an extraordinary journey, made by Peter, a boy of five, through war-torn Europe in 1944 and 1945. Peter and his parents set out from a small Hungarian town, travelling through Austria and then Germany together. Along the way, unforgettable images of adventure flash one after another: sleeping in a tent and then under the sky, discovering a disused brick factory, catching butterflies in the meadows - and as Peter realises that this adventure is really a nightmare - watching bombs falling from the blue sky outside Vienna and learning maths from his mother in Belsen.

All this is drawn against a background of terror, starvation, infection and, inevitably, death, before Peter and his mother can return home.

On his visit to President Kennedy School, Peter read to Year 7 students and answered questions. He was then reunited with Lily Marsden and Erin Ford from Year 12, who participated in the original project when they were in Year 8 and met Peter in the summer. Peter then chatted with Rob and toured the garden, all filmed for the *BBC One Show*.

The date when the film will be aired will be communicated with the school community once confirmed by the BBC, however, it is intended that this will be on Holocaust Memorial Day on Friday 27th January 2023. Watch this space.....!

Mr Mort, Director Futures Teaching Alliance

Keresley Acadamies Christmas Concerts at President Kennedy School

This week and last, we hosted our Adventure and Fantasy Team Christmas Concerts at President Kennedy School.

We had a warm welcome from staff and students, and our children and families loved attending such a professionally run concert. Gaynor Larkin, our Music Lead planned the event. Children took part in singing, dancing and instrumental playing.

A highlight for Adventure was children from two different school sites coming together to sing part songs.

A really great event, enjoyed by all.

Mrs Penlington, Headteacher - Keresley Grange & Keresley Newlands



PKS Students Meet Madagascan Students Live on Teams

A group of Year 8 students had the opportunity to speak to students from a local school in the Madagascan town of Mananjary. This was made possible through our links with the charity organisation Khalsa Aid.

Madagascar is in the midst of an emergency-level food crisis. The country has regularly been the victim of natural disasters but, following years of harsh weather conditions, June 2021 brought the worst drought in 40 years. This has devastated the yield of crops in the southern region, subjected 1.2 million people to food insecurities and 400,000 more in a critical state of famine.

Khalsa Aid were back in the coastal town of Mananjary after it was largely destroyed by two topical cyclones. This November Khalsa Aid delivered vital assistance. The purpose of the was to be able to deliver essential food products to families throughout the South. They are distributing to more than 200 families per day, providing each with resources to sustain them for at least 2 weeks. They are solely purchasing from local suppliers in a deliberate effort to support the local economy and farming trade.

Both of these industries have suffered greatly at the hands of the climate change and Covid-19 pandemic.

President Kennedy School students were greeted with a smile and gained much from the experience. Our students learned that children in Madagascar have up to 50 children per class and of mixed age range. Due to the number of students and the lack of facilities and classrooms they run two sessions. Meaning children often attend one session some attending in the morning and others in the afternoon. Children are not taught English, and their main spoken language is French.

Students also learned that Madagascan children do not have the same opportunities as them simply because they do not have the resources for extracurricular activities.

I would like to thank Khalsa Aid for all the hard work they do and to Marcus Lapsa who gave our students the opportunity to meet and share their experiences with the children of Madagascar.

Ms Birdee, Year 8 Pastoral Leader



Visit to Pinewood Studios

The Year 10 Media Studies cohort discovered the inner workings of the film industry last week, on an exciting trip to the *'Futures Festival'* at Pinewood Studios. Pinewood is the creator of thousands of block buster films such as *Star Wars*, *James Bond* and *Mamma Mia*, and the festival was designed to give students a taste the multitude of future careers in Media.

We listened to an inspiring talk by Glenn Freemantle, the Bafta and Oscar award winning sound designer behind such films as *127 Hours*, *Gravity*, and the *Fantastic Beasts* and *Where to*

Find Them, who shared some of the secrets behind bringing a film to life. After, we had the opportunity to try out some state of the art equipment including a 360° scanner, a green screen with teleprompter and professional camera equipment, as well as seeing a number of famous film props and characters! The students were praised by staff at the studios, who were extremely impressed by their behaviour and called them 'a credit to the school'. Well done all!

Miss Stentoff, Teacher of English



Students Help Out at Langar Aid

We had the opportunity to take another group of students to Langar Aid and they were very impressed with all the hard work the students did.

Well done to Aidan Wilkins, Indiana Davies, Ashleigh Layng, Libby Wills, Savanna Scott, Ben Brown and Alfie McCauley.

Ms Sandhar, Inclusion Pastoral Manager



Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

Our annual senior citizens Christmas lunch took place on Wednesday 14th December. It was attended by over 50 senior citizens from care homes in the community. They enjoyed a fabulous Christmas meal and were entertained by our school choir as well as playing Bingo.

The event was hosted by our head students and the Year 9 council, all of whom did a fabulous job. Such a lovely afternoon!

Mr Finlayson, Leader of Enrichment



CHRISTMAS EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- **Domestic Abuse – Safe To Talk** 0800 111 4998 In an emergency call 999, if you cannot speak then press 55 when prompted
- **NSPCC** - 0808 800 5000
- **CHILDLINE** - 0800 1111
- **POLICE** – 101 or 999
- **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub** – 024 76788555
- **Safeguarding Emergency Duty Team** - 024 7683 2222
- Report a crime online



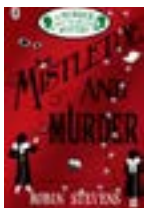
FANTASTIC BOOKS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM...

This week the Library's recommended reads are....



The Night I Met Father Christmas by Ben Miller

A boy's wish comes true when he meets Father Christmas and discovers how he came to be Father Christmas. Jackson knows all about the flying reindeer, he knows about the elves and the secret North Pole workshop, he knows about the magic that allows Father Christmas to deliver presents around the world in just one night, but there's one thing he doesn't know... how did Father Christmas become Father Christmas? That all changes when, one Christmas Eve, Jackson meets Father Christmas and hears his incredible story. So begins an enchanting fairy-tale into a magical snowy landscape, where Torvil, a mean-spirited and miserly elf, is about to discover the true meaning of Christmas. This might not have been the story Jackson was expecting but, as Father Christmas tells him, no good story ever is.



Mistletoe and Murder by Robin Stevens

Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are spending the Christmas holidays in snowy Cambridge. Hazel has high hopes of its beautiful spires, cosy libraries and inviting tea-rooms - but there is danger lurking in the dark stairwells of ancient Maudlin College. Two days before Christmas, there is a terrible accident. At least, it appears to be an accident - until the Detective Society look a little closer, and realise a murder has taken place. Faced with several irritating grown-ups and fierce competition from a rival agency, they must use all their cunning and courage to find the killer (in time for Christmas Day, of course).

Both books are available to borrow from the School Library.

Library Staff

*From all at President Kennedy School, we wish you
a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

