

Dates for your Diary

Year 11 Synoptics Exams - Monday 6th February to Friday 3rd March 2023

Half Term Holiday - Monday 20th February to Friday 24th February



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

From politics to public debates to sporting successes to university trips to Oxford, this weeks newsletter is jam-packed full of the amazing opportunities at President Kennedy School.

Congratulations to our Year 12 Public Speaking Team who won the Coventry and Warwickshire U18 Rotary Public Speaking Competition - a fantastic achievement. Also to Matthew, Ismail, Eren, Shifa and Yusuf for their achievement in the hotly contested Physics Olympiad.

Students also enjoyed the Spanish play this week. Spanish is very popular here at the school and their enjoyment was evident. Thank you to the MFL department. A great week!

Wishing you all a restful half term break and we look forward to seeing back on Monday 27th February.

Ms Rooke, Headteacher

Coventry Youth Speaks Competition

Congratulations to our Year 12 Public Speaking team who claimed first place at the Coventry Youth Speaks competition beating 7 other Coventry schools. Esha Sandhu, Harman Aujla and Harveen Kaur debated the topic, "The jury system is

fundamentally flawed in reaching a just verdict". Their 15 minute presentation was flawless throughout and had the audience at Sidney Stringer school transfixed. Well done girls and they can now look forward to the next round with confidence.

Mr. Finlayson, Leader of Enrichment



Physics Olympiad



2023 has started with celebrations here at President Kennedy School with our Year 13 Physicists achieving success in one of the most challenging Physics competitions in the world - *The British Physics Olympiad (BPhO)*.

The BPhO shows a profound depth of development and skill in Physics along with a determination to solve hard physics problems.

This paper is a challenge and is not an A Level replica. It is a very tall ladder of skill, ability and preparedness, which students climb until they grind to a halt.



BPhO
British Physics Olympiad

We are thrilled to announce the results of our Year 13 entries:

Matthew Taylor achieved Silver. Ismail Rafique achieved Bronze I and Eren Geridonmez achieved Bronze II. Shifa Zaheer and Yusuf Kusum achieved Commendation.

Well done to all that took part!

Mr Green, Leader of KS5 Science

Reading for Pleasure

Students from both Year 7 and Year 8 were invited to attend an evening event centred around **'Reading for Pleasure'** earlier this month. This event was intended to foster a love of reading in students and to increase their positive reading habits as a resolution for the coming year.

The evening started with a warm welcome where students were given a raffle ticket, with a chance of winning a bundle of books provided by our librarians Mrs Ranchhod and Mrs Lindsey.

After a short presentation by myself and Ms Dowsing, students and their parents were invited to jointly participate in an interactive activity to read an extract from Roald Dahl's *Matilda*. Within this task, students and their parents were encouraged to follow the 'before, during and after' reading process, using their strategies for reading cards which are routinely used in lessons. At the end of the evening, students were given the

opportunity to head to the library to take part in a 'blind book borrow' experience where students chose a library book stored in a gift bag, based only on a written description. Students resisted the temptation to look at the book and seek out its front cover! We hope that all of those who attended had an enjoyable experience! Congratulations to the book bundle winners and also to the staff who helped ensure this event ran smoothly!

Parents wrote the following about the experience. We are excited to see you again soon!

"A really enjoyable and informative evening!"

"The whole idea was excellent and encouraged a great deal of interaction. It was also good to know that pupils are getting regular reading tests."

Miss Tovey, Teacher of English



Year 7 Visit the University of Oxford

On Friday 3rd February, Year 7 tutor group Oxford had the opportunity to visit Keble College at the University of Oxford, accompanied by Mr Beladaci and Miss Connelly-Jones.

A fantastic day was planned by the universities outreach officer India, who organised for students to be part of an *'Aiming Higher'* talk, a tour of Keble College and Christchurch College and to quiz real university students on their experiences and courses.

This enlightened students into the process of applying to Oxford and Cambridge and the things that they can aspire to do and be if they apply.

As part of the visit, students had a lunch in the university dining hall - a lovely plate of fish and chips or pasta was served - just as if our Bridge students were students at the University of Oxford themselves. Students really enjoyed getting to know what a Russell Group University is and getting a taste of University life through learning about student loans, extracurricular activities and what a true day at university feels and looks like.

"I really enjoyed visiting Keble College because, even though it is really old, it is still standing. It is a home for the students and outreach officer India was very welcoming!" - Year 7 Student

Miss Tovey, Teacher of English



Year 7 Visit De Montfort University

Year 7 tutor groups York and Liverpool had the opportunity to visit De Montfort University in Leicester. A fantastic day was planned by the university outreach team!

The day involved a challenging competition tower contest, a tour around the university campus and a Q&A with real university students about what university is like.

On the day, students were invited to create their own spaghetti tower, where students had to work as a team to ensure their structure was resilient and stable. This demonstrated their

confidence, leadership and communication skills.

Student voice suggested that students strongly agreed to enjoying the experience and learned lots about university! Thank you to Mr Ratcliffe-Law, Miss Connelly-Jones and Miss Banova.

"I really enjoyed this trip because I got to learn more about university. It made me think about possibly going to go to university when I'm older." - Year 7 Student

Miss Tovey, Teacher of English

Member of Parliament Visits Year 12 Students

Last Tuesday we were delighted to welcome Coventry North-West Member of Parliament Taiwo Owatemi to our school. She spoke to Year 12 students about her life as an MP and what it is like to work in the House of Commons. After she spoke, our students were given the opportunity to ask questions in an open

forum which proved very interesting. Topics covered ranged from young persons mental health, the cost of living crisis and industrial disputes. Thank you Taiwo for coming in to see our students and providing them with such an enjoyable morning.

Mr Finlayson, Leader of Enrichment



Mi Personalidad

On Wednesday the 15th of February students in Years 8, 9 and 10 had the opportunity to watch a play in Spanish. The play was a huge hit with all students and it was fantastic to see students enjoying Spanish outside a normal classroom context.

The Spanish actors, from the south of Spain, included lots of

audience participation which made the play really engaging with everyone who watched it and students even had the opportunity to ask the actors questions at the end of the performance. An amazing experience for all involved and we can't wait to welcome them back next year!

Mrs Twyman, Head of Languages





Year 9 Netball Team Win again!

Well done to the Year 9 netball team who won 8-7 in a very close game against Blue Coat School on Monday.

Miss Michell, Teacher of P.E

Year 10 Rugby Team - Coventry Cup

Congratulations to the Year 10 rugby team who beat Coundon Court school 40-15 on Monday night and are now in the semi-finals of the Coventry Cup.

Mr Garlick, P.E Department

BOOK FAIR

SCHOLASTIC

in the school library

"Getting Children Reading"

From
Thursday 9th
March 2023
to
Thursday 14th
March 2023

**ALL BOOKS ARE
BUY 1, GET 1
FREE!**

Book Fair Opening Times:
Lunchtimes in the Library
During Year 7 & 8 English Lessons

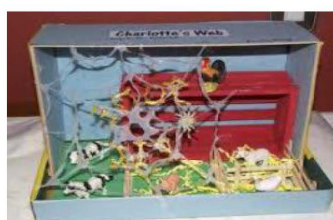
You may reserve and pay for them by
Tuesday 14th March 2023 (payment by CASH ONLY)



Design a "Book-in-a-Box" Competition

To celebrate **World Book Day 2023** this year, the Library would like you to get creative. We are inviting you to create your favourite book in a box.

Here are some examples to inspire you.....



Charlotte's Web by E B White



Harry Potter by J K Rowling

To enter the competition, please follow these instructions:

- 1 Choose a book that you have enjoyed OR want to design in a box
- 2 Design a box approximately the size of a shoe box (A larger box is OK too)
- 3 Design and decorate the box to represent your book – see examples above
- 4 Bring your finished box to the Library by **Thursday 2nd March 2023 – this is World Book Day**

Here are some examples of books you could use for inspiration.....



✳ Prizes will be awarded for the winning boxes ✳

Parent/Carer Survey

Thank you to all of you who completed the parent/carers survey that featured in last week's newsletter.

In order to build upon the great response from last week, we are extending the date for those of you who were unable to access it or were unable to respond in the time given.

As a school, we strive to 'build brighter futures' for our students and support our school in so many ways. This shows that you are as committed to this as we are. We'd like to make family engagement even better and make sure that our provision meets the needs of our families, students and staff.

You can help us form an even greater partnership between school and home by answering the questions on the attached survey. Your feedback will help us to make improvements to the existing provision and inform new initiatives where needed.

If you have more than one child at the school, please could you complete the form for each of them.

The survey is open until Monday 27th February 2023.

<https://forms.office.com/e/FS45gZmDSZ>

Many thanks for your participation and continued support.

