

School reception is now closed for the summer.
Should you need to contact us, please do so by emailing Reception@pks.coventry.sch.uk.
As the office is not fully staffed every day, we will respond as soon as we are able.

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

In the final edition for this academic year, I would like to start by saying a huge thank you for all of your ongoing support. President Kennedy School is a special community and one that offers exceptional experiences for our students. In this week's newsletter you have the opportunity to see the fantastic experiences students have been involved in.

For me a particular highlight has been the whole school production of Grease at the Albany Theatre. Having so many of our students perform on a professional stage was a wonderful thing to see and I am extremely grateful to our fantastic performing arts department for all of their commitment and dedication. I've said this before, but performing arts is at the heart of President Kennedy School and we value all of the opportunities that our students get to experience.

I'm also very grateful for all of the work the History department have put into place for our students. As you can see from the pictures and articles there have been several fantastic trips, projects, and workshops. Students have been buzzing about what they have been involved in and have shown a great amount of PRIDE in the way in which they have conducted themselves.

Finally, my thank you to all of the staff that have offered so much over the past few weeks and the past academic year. This is how we build brighter futures for our students. Have a great summer!

Ms Rooke, Headteacher

Grease is the Word....

The cast of **GREASE** took to the stage, at The Albany Theatre Coventry to a sold out audience. The atmosphere was electric and finished with a standing ovation. Each student worked so hard, demonstrated team work, kindness and determination. The amount of talent on the stage was unreal!!

What a show and what a cast! A massive well done all.

Miss Walsh, Leader of Drama



Sherbourne Fields History Project

“The Sherbourne Fields History Project I presume”

“If we could, we would give them a job”

These were the words of a teacher from Sherbourne Fields Special School about a group of President Kennedy School students. It was a reference to the skill, the empathy and the sense of purpose they demonstrated during 2 very different school days which have left them with some wonderful memories.

The event in question was the return of the hugely popular and successful History Project at Sherbourne Fields Special School, which has lit up the summer term for groups of Year 9 President Kennedy School students for a generation.

It was an "*Empire into Commonwealth*" theme this year. In brightly-coloured period costume, our Year 9 students arrived with an array of props and ideas ready to deliver. The result was great fun! For 2 days we helped to inform, entertain and educate Key Stage 3 students at Sherbourne.

For the students at Sherbourne Fields, there is always something special about new groups of young people who visit and support them. They thrive on the spirit and energy of our students. For our own students there was a different sort of challenge; finding the confidence, ideas and personality to appreciate the individual needs of a wider society and help them participate and enjoy history.

This does not come without great effort and preparation. The group worked extremely hard in the weeks before the project to prepare stories and resources to help the young people they were waiting to meet. The team gave up lots of their own time to engage with this process; they developed their own distinct costumes, from Queen Victoria to a lion! They also worked on their own versions of classic tales of Empire, resistance and increased multicultural awareness.

There was ample opportunity to appreciate and share the customs, artwork, music and dance that has enriched our lives.

The sensory nature of learning at Sherbourne Fields was something our students were able to quickly adapt to. In a reworking of the classic Empire tale of Stanley's search for Livingstone in the African wilderness, students had to identify the sounds of the jungle. In looking at the establishment of Australia as a penal colony, they were introduced to physical nature of work and punishment on the prison ship and on the chain gang. This included teaching sea shanties to the Sherbourne students.

We also attempted to demonstrate the transition from Empire to Commonwealth, covering famous protests against the British Empire such as Gandhi's salt tax protest in India.

As in previous years, our Year 9 students were impressed with Sherbourne Fields, the change in routine it provided them with and the opportunity to meet new people and have greater responsibility for their own learning.

Reflecting on her own experiences, Shanice Rogers said "*it was such a beautiful experience. I would go back any time as it was such a burst of joy to work with those people.*"

Alex, Melissa and Lucy were also still buzzing from the experience. They spoke of the "*friendships and connections*" they had made and felt they had proved they "*had the skills that are needed to work successfully with children in the future.*"

They also recognised that they had "*overcome their own embarrassment*" and proved they could present, re-enact and entertain others without any fear of looking silly. This was huge confidence builder for the whole group and a perfect preparation for the challenges of GCSE.

The History Department would like to thank the class of 2023 for their great contributions:- Nina Chudy , Lucy Copeland, Melissa Stone, Giovanni Di Pietro, Keerthana Khrishnaraj, Alex Thompson, Denis Rupita , Poppy Nicholds, Karis Jasarevic, Landon Jones, Shanice Rogers, Eliza Birch, Ishmael Hussain.

Mr Finney, Leader of History



World War One Virtual Reality Workshops

President Kennedy School students in Year 9 and 10 participated in virtual reality workshops, in partnership with our link to *Time Travel Education*, to provide our students with an insight into the conditions of trenches during the First World War.

Our workshops were led by Richie, an ex-Royal Army Medical Corp serviceman, who was dressed for the occasion in complete World War One soldier uniform! Students were encouraged to wear headsets and were transported to experience the conditions in trenches, going 'over the top' and treatment and care in a Casualty Clearing Station.

This was a great experience to help Year 10 revise their content on Medicine on the Western Front and set a fantastic foundation for Year 9 studying GCSE History next year.

Miss Bayton-Timms, Teacher of History



A Weekend in France and Belgium Visiting World War One Battlefields Sites

Over the weekend of 24-26th June, 41 Year 9 and 10 students accompanied by Miss Bayton-Timms, Mr Ross, Mr Casbourne and Mrs Elliot, spent a weekend in France and Belgium visiting various sites from the First World War.

On our first day, we visited Tyne Cot cemetery and Passchedaele museum. Our pupils were able to walk through a trench system and see the living conditions within the trenches. On Sunday 25th, we visited 6 different sites in 34 degree heat! But our students were impeccably behaved, with the memorable sites being Hill 62 trenches and the Essex Farm cemetery where we visited a casualty clearing station and the youngest recognised soldier's headstone.

We spent our evening at the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate where our school representatives, Nina and Ameera, placed a President Kennedy School wreath. After this, our pupils were rewarded with a visit to a Belgian chocolate shops which went down a treat with staff and students alike!

On our return to our accommodation, we completed a quiz, football and basketball matches and even a facemask pamper

session for Mr Ross and Mr Casbourne! On our departure from Belgium, we headed into France to visit the significant site of Hill 60 before a fantastic experience in the Wellington tunnels at Arras. On our return to England, students were awarded with their trip certificates for their fantastic participation, kindness and resilience. Our students were able to truly immerse themselves in a weekend of History where they learnt so much in preparation for their GCSEs.

We could not have been prouder of how they represented our school and we are already planning our trip abroad next year! *'This weekend we went on a once in a lifetime experience. We learnt so much and had so much fun.'* Arya Bassi, Year 10

'I feel like this trip to Belgium really helped me to properly understand the situations of soldiers in the war, and really learn to truly appreciate their efforts.' Mya Bains, Year 10

'I loved the trip it was wonderful experience would love to go again. Richie, our tour guide, and the teachers were brilliant.' Navraj Sahota, Year 10



Six! The Musical – Trip to Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre

On Tuesday 20th June, 35 Year 7, 8 and 9 students took part in a trip to see Six! The Musical at Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre.

The production is focused on the six wives of Henry VIII retelling their stories and celebrating 21st century 'girl power'.

This was an amazing opportunity for students to make cross curricular links between history and performing arts. As part of the history curriculum, students have looked at Henry VIII and his wives and this production allowed them to broaden their knowledge on the subject whilst focusing on the dance routines, music and acting from a performing arts perspective. The students showed PRIDE throughout the evening and

represented the school in a professional manner.

For some, this was the first time they had been to a theatre with one student saying that *'this was my first trip to the theatre and it is one I will never forget'* whilst another remarked *'the songs and dances were incredible and some nearly made people cry'*.

As a follow up to this, I have launched a competition for students to reflect on their experience by creating a piece of work, with the winner receiving a voucher. The work will be put on display, alongside examples of other history enrichment.

Mr Ross, Teacher of History



Ethics Conference

Our first annual Ethics Conference proved to be a huge success. Students from Year 12 across the Trust schools attended and thoroughly enjoyed the range of workshops they could attend and the expertise of our guest speakers.

The conference began with two keynote speakers, Dan Belcher SSAT and Guy Rippon Aston Villa, followed by two workshops and a range of expertise in literacy, policing, marketing, charity,

sustainable development, local and national politics and philosophy. The conference was concluded by Peter Lantos, a Holocaust survivor, who gave students a captivating talk about his life story.

What a fantastic event enjoyed by staff and students alike, and we look forward to hosting another next year.

Mr Finlayson, Enrichment Leader



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver Expedition to the Peak District

This week, twenty students completed their Silver DofE expedition on the Staffordshire Moors in the White Peak District area.

After travelling up on Tuesday morning, four groups embarked on a first day of hiking from their start point at Tittesworth Reservoir, near Leek, with the aim of finding their campsite.

The rain began to fall early on...and was relentless. A day in unfamiliar territory, wet feet and heavy rucksacks led to a few heavy hearts when striking camp. Energy was raised a little after dinner and then it was time for as good a night's sleep as possible.

The dawn chorus meant sleep was cut shorter than perhaps was required but at least the rain had slowed. After breakfast, the rain was back and leaving the campsite was a bit of a slog to begin with, but a lower-level route for the day and a positive afternoon forecast meant groups reached the end point for day two in good time and managed to enjoy a rest in the sunshine at a lovely waterside picnic spot.

Back at camp, food was cooked and rapidly consumed before washing lines were constructed to utilise the last of the day's

sunshine for drying out wet kit. Learning from the experience of yesterday, the groups took to bed early to recuperate for the final day.

Spirits were massively raised on the final day when all of the students rose to a dry day with sunshine peaking through the clouds. Today's route was across the top of 'The Roaches' and with some navigation techniques finally 'clicking', all groups met checkpoints in very good time and in equally good spirits.

Both of these much improved from the previous two days. Taking checkpoint by checkpoint, students began to appreciate the magnitude of their achievements, taking in the scenery and later spotting the points they had been walking along as we drove past on the way home.

As always, thank you to all of the staff who gave their time to support this expedition, but most of all, huge congratulations to all of the students who took part and should take away an immense amount of pride in what they have achieved over these three days. Well done.

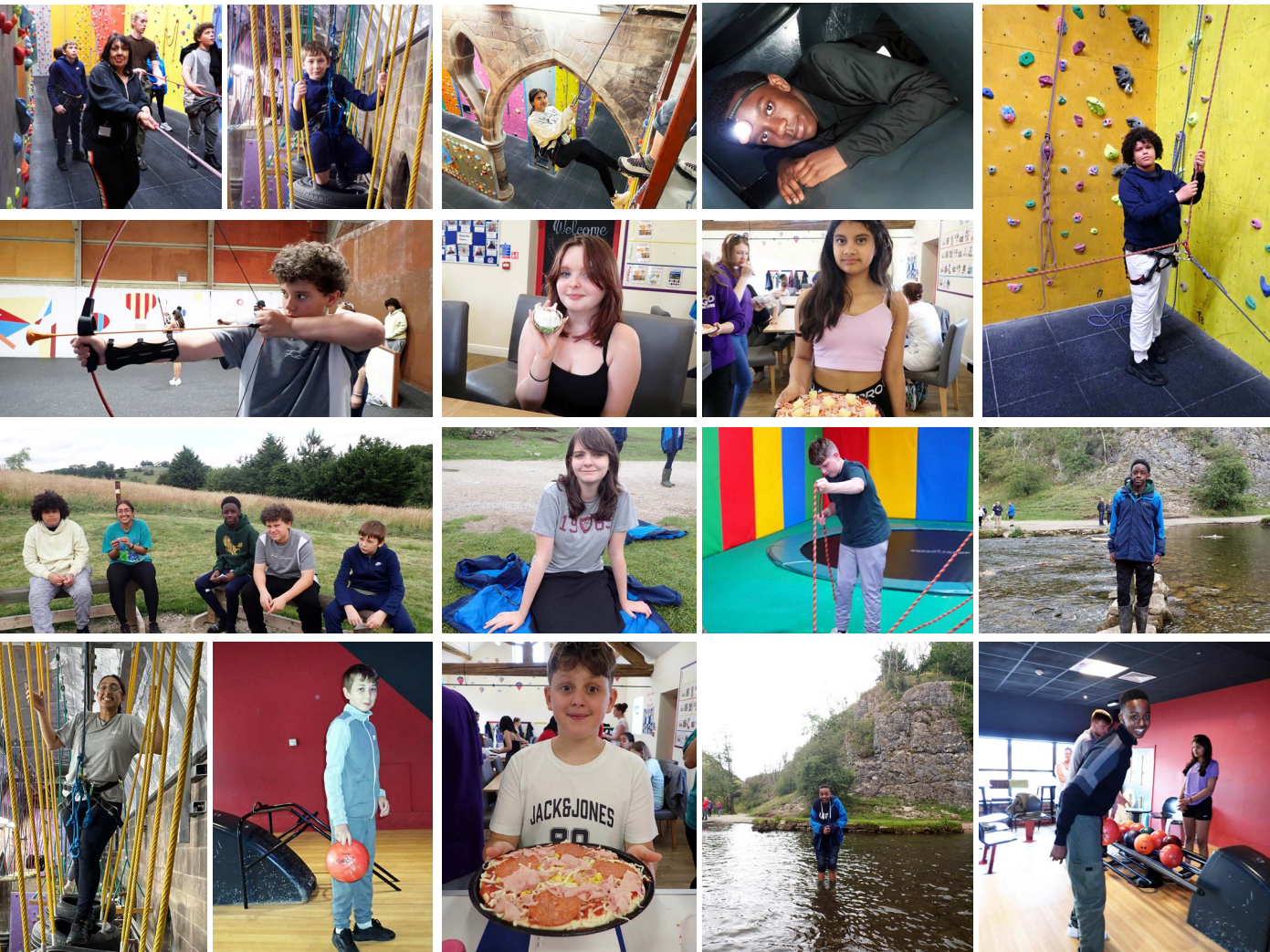
Mrs Sly, DofE Leader



Go Beyond

The students had an amazing time and had so much fun. Thanks to the volunteer at Go Beyond who organised all the activities.

Miss Sandhar, Inclusion & Post16 Pastoral Manager



Maths Challenge

An amazing morning with Year 6 students from Parkgate. Year 10 Students, organised, planned and played a huge part in this event, showing student leadership at it's best!

Mrs Dhanani, Assistant Headteacher, Curriculum, Teaching and Learning and Higher Attainment



Sociology at Wolverhampton University

On Wednesday 5th July 2023, Year 12 Sociology students visited the University of Wolverhampton, hosted by Dr Hamilton. The remit was to provide students with an insight into life as a university student and experience the rigours of higher education.

"I found it a productive school trip. We captured a deep insight into a sociologist's cognitive standpoint" - Corey Williams.

The students attended a range of lectures, along with students from other schools and colleges, delivered by professors within the Social Science department.

"It was interesting to explore my subject further, and I'm looking forward to studying sociology at university. I'm grateful that I have been provided with is opportunity by Miss Mattu and Mr Taylor." -Aneeka Khan

Overall, the students found the visit very beneficial, and subsequently look forward to attending their next university Open Day in the forthcoming future.

Jack Lyons and Jacob Grove



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