

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 5th December - KS3 Reading -Evening Main Hall 5pm to 6pm
Thursday 7th December - Apprenticeship Evening - Years 10, 11 and Post 16 1pm - 5pm

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Developing character through PRIDE is central to our school values here at President Kennedy School, and in this edition of the newsletter, yet again, demonstrates the range of talent and opportunities on offer for all of our students.

The Year 7 Macbeth cast were amazing on Monday and had the opportunity to perform at a professional theatre; The Belgrade. Well done all.

Student leadership has flourished in Post 16 this year and this is epitomised by no other than Gracie in Year 12 who is advising the whole school council and using her leadership skills which she has honed through her World Class Schools and the D of E Youth Ambassador role. How amazing - well done Gracie.

As well as student leadership, the school Alumni under the direction of Miss Rejali is growing momentum.

We welcomed back Leah Lawrence this week who is inspiring future Psychology students. It was lovely to listen to her experiences.

It is great to read about Year 8 entrepreneurship as well as the popular Chess club, both of which develop problem solving skills in our students.

Finally congratulations to Janice in The Bridge for being the BHM champion and expressing so eloquently why Steve Biko was her hero. Thank you and well done.

Ms Rooke, Headteacher

Year 7 Perform Macbeth

The Macbeth cast from The Bridge had a wonderful day on Monday 27th November at The Belgrade Theatre.

They experienced a professional Technical and Dress Rehearsal in the morning for their production of Macbeth and participated in a workshop with a professional director in the afternoon.

The workshop really helped develop their character roles and gave them lots of confidence for the performance on the very same evening.

Feedback given on the night was fabulous!

Ruth from The SSF said,

"The Macbeth cast approached the production with maturity, landed their lines with clarity and projection and showed excellent characterisation. The ensemble was 'tight' and they worked well together as a team."

A great success- Well done!

Mrs Arnett, Student Leadership and Character - The Bridge



Duke of Edinburgh Youth Ambassador

"I am currently a DofE UK Youth Ambassador. This role involves helping to ensure that DofE is as inclusive as possible.

Throughout my time as an ambassador I have had the opportunity to develop fantastic skills, participate in workshops and attend incredible events. I applied as a Bronze Award holder and the application process involved written and visual submissions. For example I reflected on my DofE experience by submitting both a video as well as some written responses. Following this I attended a virtual interview and shortly after was accepted onto the programme and attended a welcome session virtually.

My role began in June, and so far, I have had the chance to participate in certified 'BodyTalk' training and as a result, being accredited in public speaking by the prestigious company. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to participate in a motivational workshop led by Darren Edwards regarding his charity work as an inspiring adventurer and even received a signed copy of his book "*Strength Through Adversity*".

I am really passionate about inclusivity within the award, and hope to ensure that all young people feel that the award is accessible for them. Therefore, I have attended many focus groups ranging from those facilitated by the 'Countryside Code, Mind' in order to ensure the award is inclusive.

This has been a great chance for me to reflect on my DofE journey, but also an opportunity for me to gain a greater understanding of how everyone's DofE experience is unique and individual to them. I even had the chance to attend a focus group regarding the design of DofE merchandise and helped to ensure the design was applicable to young people.

Last month, I had the chance to attend media training facilitated by the DofE media team, and will potentially get the chance to feature on a local radio station or newspaper following this workshop.

My work with the 'Countryside Code' will even involve some

creative surprises that will be announced in the coming months. I have also had the chance to be on the judging panel for the 'Trailblazer of The Year Award' at the 'This is Youth Awards 2023', which was a great achievement. It was particularly important to me to ensure young people's inspiring work was appreciated through this opportunity and the panel also had some amazing individuals such as The Baroness Grey.

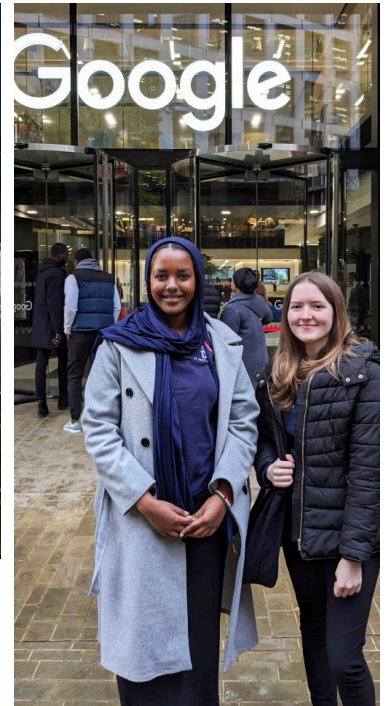
In early November I had the opportunity to attend the DofE Beyond CV: 'Youth Without Limits Live' event at Google HQ, as a DofE ambassador. This event involved creative workshops regarding the way in which DofE is so much more than a sentence on your CV, and instead the skills you develop are transferable within employment.

This professional networking event was an opportunity to hear from those most successful in their field, listening to keynote speakers such as Tim Campbell from The Apprentice.

In addition there were live panel events held involving workers from Google, London Fire Brigade and Amey. Personally, I found this incredibly interesting as I volunteer at my Local Fire Cadets, progressing through the ranks to an instructor, as part of my Silver DofE. Therefore, I really resonated with the fire-fighter from London Fire Brigade who wants to truly ensure inclusivity is present throughout the brigade. Most amazingly though, I was able to be involved in a presentation at Google HQ alongside other ambassadors in front of over 300 people regarding personality types. This was an incredible chance to develop my public speaking skills and confidence but also an amazing opportunity to work collaboratively with other ambassadors.

I am currently attending mental health awareness workshops as part of my role and will hopefully be receiving mental health first aid training in the near future. In May next year I will have the opportunity to attend the Gold Award Ceremony in Buckingham Palace as an ambassador which is very exciting and an opportunity I am definitely looking forward to."

Gracie Fitzsimons, DofE Ambassador.



Warwick Scholar, Leah Returns To PKS

On Wednesday 22nd November we welcomed one of our ex students, Leah Lawrence into school to speak to our Year 12 Psychology students.

Leah graduated and is currently studying for a Masters degree in Psychology after successfully graduating from Warwick University this summer.

Leah came in to speak with our Psychology students about her decision to study Psychology and her experience of being a "Warwick Scholar".

Warwick Scholars is a programme offered by Warwick University which is designed to help you to gain a place at the university by maximising your academic potential, developing skills that will help you to succeed in further education and providing insight and experience of what it will be

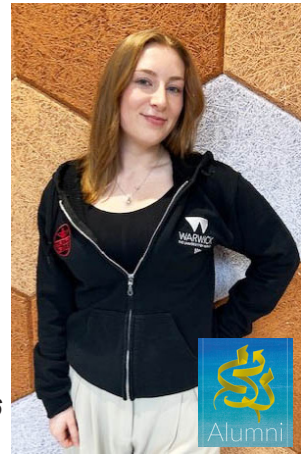
like to study at Warwick University.

Successful candidates who apply to the programme will receive a guaranteed offer of between 2-4 grades lower than the standard entry requirements and a 50% tuition fee discount for each year of study.

They also receive a bursary of up to £2,000 per year to support you with accommodation or travel.

Applications for year 12 students interested in Warwick Scholars will open in March 2024, and more information can be found on the Warwick University website.

Mrs Mitchard, College Director, Post 16



Year 8 Enterprise Students Develop



Congratulations to Year 8 students Summer Jackson, Nikita Chauhan and Hasan Iqbal, who are one of the first Year 8 cohort to be awarded a certificate for demonstrating key skills in a practical setting.

At President Kennedy School we encourage students to develop skills of independence, problem solving, teamwork and communication to ensure they are as ready as possible for whatever career they decide upon.

Students following this short course

have now developed their ability to communicate with their peers and adults effectively in a school and home environment.

Students have improved their decision-making skills which will lead to them making sound and considered decisions throughout their school and adult life. These skills are important in order to be successful in the ever-changing work place of the 21st Century. Well done Year 8!

Mrs Petrak, Business Department

Chess Tournament

I was very impressed and proud of the turnout, commitment and resilience to the first round of the chess tournament on Tuesday. Students from Year 7 to Year 11 participated in over fourteen games.

The games concluded with checkmates, stalemates and resignations, with some players demanding rematches!

The tournament will continue next Tuesday (anyone can join part way through) where our players will continue to play for first place!

Mr Rawlings-Gould, Teacher of Mathematics and Physics, Chess Club Coordinator



Black History Month Competition Winners

For Black History Month (BHM) this year we asked students to tell us who their BHM Champion is. We received lots of fantastic entries which made judging the competition very difficult, but we are excited to announce the following winners:

1st Prize

Janice from Year 7 whose BHM Champion is Steve Biko.

She wrote:

"Steve Biko was a South African civil rights activist who fought for an end to racism and apartheid in South Africa. Biko planned and led at protests and despite all the hate he was getting he still continued to fight for what was right. Sadly, Steve Biko was caught by police and was beaten brutally to death. I will continue to honour this man because he was trying to make a change in his country".

Runners Up:

Joshua who wrote about Barack Obama

Harris who wrote about Mary Seacole

Pamir who wrote about Muhammad Ali

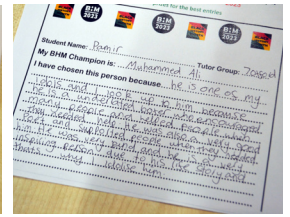
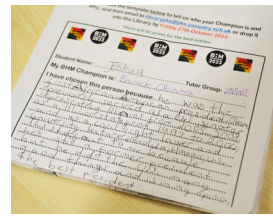
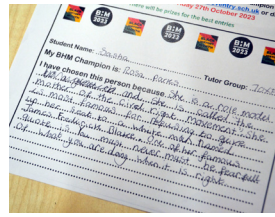
Kia who wrote about Malorie Blackman

Sasha who wrote about Rosa Parks

All winners will receive Amazon vouchers.



Library Staff



The Library

At President Kennedy School

FANTASTIC BOOKS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM...

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



The Girl Who Saved Christmas by Matt Haig

Set on Christmas Eve in 1842, goodwill is lacking in Victorian London. When Amelia wants a wish to come true she knows just the man to ask - Father Christmas. But the magic she wants to believe in is starting to fade, and Father Christmas has more than impossible wishes to worry about. Upset elves, reindeers dropping out of the sky, angry trolls and the chance that Christmas might be cancelled. But Amelia isn't just any ordinary girl. And - as Father Christmas is going to find out - if Christmas is going to be saved, he might not be able to do it alone.

All I Want for Christmas by Beth Garrod



US-based Elle is a social-media influencer - posting year-long festive posts for her fans. But sometimes online attention isn't all it seems from the outside; with a family who are constantly on the move, and so-called friends putting pressure on her to increase her following, she decides to swap places with one of her followers for the holidays.

Holly lives in a small village in England, and LOVES Christmas more than anything else. Nothing is going to get in the way of this year being the BEST Christmas ever. Nothing! But when her mum announces she's selling their house, and Woody decides they should go on a "break", her plans for the perfect Christmas start to crumble like over-baked gingerbread people. Will swapping with Elle be Holly's perfect opportunity to escape? And far from home, will they both find all they want for Christmas?

Library Staff

Both books are available to borrow from the School Library.