

Dates for your Diary

Monday 15th April - GCSE Exams begin



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

There is certainly an entrepreneurial feel to this weeks edition. Preparing students for the wider world is such an important part of our outstanding curriculum and plays a crucial part in developing a sense of PRIDE and student character.

Please do look into the amazing and creative opportunities the free Open University courses provide which many of our students from Year 8 to Post 16 participate in. It's incredible.

Thank you Rob, who has been liaising with Smart Learner on developing our wonderful garden. Please come and visit when you next attend the school.

You will find some important facts about how attendance matters, directly impacts student's learning and how it can also develop a student in so many other important ways, including preparation for the world of work. Please talk about this at home. Attendance matters.

I wish you all an enjoyable weekend,

Ms Rooke, Headteacher

Smart Learner Driving School - Blackcurrant Bushes

Smart Learner Driving School continue to support the development of the Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden at President Kennedy School with more planting work completed recently.

Following on from the fifty flowering cherry trees that are establishing themselves in the garden, the fruit tree orchard comprising of ten apple trees is starting to show plenty of new spring growth. We now also have twenty blackcurrant

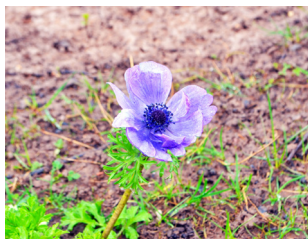
bushes which have been planted in the garden.

Smart Learner Driving School have a commitment to offset their carbon footprint by way of providing trees and bushes to local organisations.

All of these trees and fruit bushes that have been planted will assist with this commitment. These trees and bushes will provide a lasting legacy for future generations to both enjoy and provide a healthier environment.

Rob Bromfield, School Gardener

SMART LEARNER



Open University/Open Learn

Congratulations to Year 8 students Ria, Jeyani, Dara and Aishvanth who have successfully completed an Open University, Open Learn course in a modern foreign language.

Ria has been awarded a Certificate of Participation from the OU Open Learn in Spanish, Jeyani and Aishvanth in Tamil and Dara for learning Mandarin Chinese.

By learning a modern foreign language, students become valued and productive employees or entrepreneurs in the work



force. These are the skills President Kennedy School students are encouraged to develop, as these skills will be needed in order to be successful in the ever-changing work place of the 21st Century.

"I really enjoyed having opportunity to complete these free courses and develop my Spanish skills further." Ria

"The free course on OU was just what I needed to develop my knowledge on the Chinese language. The course has allowed me to learn many new terms and characters in Chinese (considering that I started a year ago). It has definitely inspired me to keep doing the rest of the courses alongside my other language programmes." - Dara

If students who are over the age of 13 wish to gain an OU Open Learn Certificate of Participation in a subject discipline they wish to study further, please follow the link below:

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>



OpenLearn

Mrs Petrak, Business Teacher

Entrepreneur of the Month

Congratulations to Year 13 BTEC Business student Jeevan Birdie who has set up his own very successful DJ business.

Jeevan has given us his personal entrepreneurial journey, and shown examples of how he has used his academic knowledge and the skills of independence, resilience and problem solving. These are the skills President Kennedy School students are encouraged to develop, as these skills will be needed in order to be successful in the ever-changing work place of the 21st Century.

"Hi I am Jeevan and my business is called DJB. I have been a DJ since the age of 6. My skills of multi-genre mixing have given me a great advantage of why I stand out from the rest."

I am able to DJ for various events, whether it is a private party, nightclub, wedding or a birthday party. As the business owner, I consider myself dynamic, forward thinking and not afraid to take risks in order to succeed.

The role of being your own boss gives me a sense of accomplishment and success.

Some of the celebrities I have played for are Ed Sheeran and a few other well-known DJs and Punjabi Rappers including AP Dhillon. These opportunities have given me an advantage over other DJs, having established myself in the right way.

After Post 16, I intend to do a course in 'Apprenticeship in Business Management', whilst continuing DJing at the weekends. "

Mrs Petrak, Business Department



No Chairs Shakespeare

On the 19th of March, Year 8 classes 8B1 and 8A1 were given the opportunity to visit the University of Warwick as part of a programme called 'No Chairs Shakespeare' which enables students to re-imagine Shakespeare plays on stage.

Students were tasked with creating their own play based on the play 'The Taming of the Shrew' that they had been previously working on in lessons as part of their learning journey 'Looking through a Critical Lens'.

We were given seven weeks to prepare with the visitor from the university, Ms Rechtiën - who taught our classes various skills to develop their thinking as well as prepare them for elements of their GCSE exam course later in their school careers.

Students were placed into groups and were tasked with planning, writing and rehearsing their scenes to perform for parents who were invited as spectators.

My group re-imagined 'The Taming of the Shrew' as a dating show to evaluate who was the best couple in the play which was determined by a series of questions. This put a modern spin on a play over 300 hundred years old!

Bisma Arfan, Year 8 student



Careers Event

Year 7, Year 8, Year 10 and Post 16 students had a careers fair on 21st March 2024 to support them in starting to think about their career pathways, aspirations, GCSE options, Post 16 options and the wider world of work. The providers that attended were made up of universities, colleges, training providers and employers.

Students asked questions and collected information to help them start to understand the world beyond school e.g. apprenticeships, traineeships, employment, college courses

and alternative education.

The feedback we have had from students has been very positive and has supported them to start to make decisions about their future.

The feedback we have received from employers has been nothing but positive, praising our students for their behaviour, how smart they were and attitudes to obtaining the information.

Miss Worwood, Leader of Careers



Animal Handling Experience with Madrigal Animal Encounters

President Kennedy School in conjunction with 'Madrigal Animal Encounters', will be conducting series of interactive animal handling experiences. This experience is an opportunity for some students to experience nature and educational learning in a safe, supervised, secure and hands-on way.

We believe these sessions will greatly benefit our students, as they learn best from first hand experiences, exploring and learning using a range of activities, allowing them to build a

sense of independence, high self-esteem and pride.

Health and safety considerations are always of paramount importance to 'Madrigal Animal Encounters' and involvement in the experience requires that certain medical conditions are reported to staff prior to the commencement of the sessions.

This week students got to meet with some gerbils!

**Miss K Sandhar
Inclusion Pastoral Manager**



School Attendance Matters

At President Kennedy School it is our belief that good school attendance provides our pupils with the best chance of a bright and successful future.

We ask that you please make every effort to avoid booking medical and dental appointments during school time. Where this is not possible, disruption to learning should be kept to a minimum and a whole day's absence avoided for am or pm appointments

WHY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Regular school attendance is an important part of giving children the best possible start in life. The aim should be to attend 100% of the time.

Research shows that pupils who attend school regularly achieve at higher levels than those who do not attend regularly, and they also have wider life chances. Attending school on a regular basis also helps to develop:

- ↳ · Friendships
- ↳ · Social skills
- ↳ · Life skills
- ↳ · Career pathways

Missed days in school can have a significant impact on all the above.

Yearly attendance	Yearly days missed	Yearly learning hours missed	Learning hours missed during school life (YR-Y11)
100%	0	0	0
97%	6	30	360
95%	10	50	600
90%	20	100	1200
80%	40	200	2400

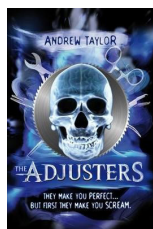


Fantastic Books and Where to Find Them...

The Library

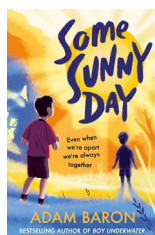
At President Kennedy School

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



***The Adjusters* by Andrew Taylor**

When 14-year-old Henry's mum loses her job, they are forced to move to Newton County - a small American town where everyone seems just a little bit too perfect... While Henry's mother settles into her new job at the Malcorp Complex that dominates the town, Henry finds himself at odds with the strange, conformist world that Malcorp's owner, John Mallory, has created. At school, the students around Henry are all super-intelligent and physically powerful, but eerily detached and totally respectful of all authority. As his suspicions grow about Newton's "special education" program, Henry breaks into the Malcorp medical centre with his two misfit friends, searching for answers. But none of them could have ever imagined what they'd find behind the closed Malcorp doors.



***Some Sunny Day* by Adam Baron**

Cymbeline Igloo is bored. Bored of home learning, bored of lockdown, bored of not being able to do anything. And to make things even worse, his mum accidentally gave away his favourite football shirt. But then Mrs Stebbings, the beloved school cook, is taken into hospital, and suddenly coronavirus seems much closer to home. When Cym starts a project all about Mrs Stebbings' childhood in World War II, he can't know that it's the beginning of something incredible and even dangerous. Exploring the place where her street once stood, he finds a tent, a strange girl wearing his shirt and a mystery that will change absolutely everything. Because the past is more present than Cymbeline can possibly know and the most amazing thing is how much one small person can do right now.

Both books are available to borrow from the School Library.

Library Staff