

Dates for your Diary

Barclay Life Skills for Post 16 students - Thursday 25th April 9am to 3pm



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

This week we welcomed Herby and Tinkerbell into our school! We are delighted to be working with Madrigal Animal Encounters, who provide an exceptional experience for our students. Students have been learning about these different animals and building confidence in the process. Not sure about the snakes next week though!

An important part of developing our students into confident adults is preparing them to be financially secure and independent. Post 16 and their parents were invited to a crucial information evening which provided important information on funding available for Post 18 and university.

I am delighted that Harman, one of our Post 16 student leaders has started an environmental project in Post 16 as part of our successful student leadership programme. What a legacy Harman is establishing, and is like many of our students, an asset to the school - well done!

I wish you all an enjoyable weekend,

Ms Rooke, Headteacher

Animal Handling Experience with Madrigal Animal Encounters

President Kennedy School in conjunction with 'Madrigal Animal Encounters', will be conducting a series of interactive animal handling experiences. These are 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 two rabbits; Herby who is two and a half years old and Tinkerbell, who is nine. Tinkerbell developed cataracts and is completely blind.

Look out for next weeks edition when Claire from [Madrigal Animal Encounters](#) will be bringing in some Corn snakes!!

Miss K Sandhar, Inclusion Pastoral Manager



Transport for West Midlands: West Midlands Road Safety Action Plan Survey

The deadline for completion is 10th May.
Click on the link below to access the survey:

<https://wmroadsafety.commonplace.is/>





Recycling Initiative Kickstarted by Post 16 Student

Post 16 student, Harman approached Ms Rooke wanting to introduce a more robust recycling process into the school. Ms Rooke supported the idea and located £300 for Harman to spend on new recycling waste bins.

After careful consideration, Harman has started her recycling initiative with five bins; three for paper and two for mixed recycling (plastic, aluminium, and card).

Harman is now considering where the best location within the school will be for the bins.

As a school we already recycle, with about a third of our waste processed by Tom White wastes recycling plant. Harman's initiative will contribute to the overall ratio of recycling. As a school we plan to increase our recycling year on year.

The site services team will monitor the use of Harman's new bins, and if successful we will introduce more special recycling waste outlets within the school.

Well done to Harman, you are a credit to President Kennedy School and to the school environment!

Mr Milliner, Facilities Manager



Student Finance Evening with WizeUp

Before Easter, Post 16 students, parents and carers were invited to attend a Student Finance evening presented by Mike Flack from *WizeUp Financial Education*, a Financial Education charity.

This informative presentation provided an insight into applying for finance to fund University education at Post 18. Student Finance is the official government funding you apply for in order to pay for university tuition fees or living costs while studying.

Attendees were given comprehensive information on what student finance is, how to apply, how much they could be eligible to receive and when and how it is repaid after finishing University, including details of the earning threshold before repayments are made.

An emphasis was placed on this loan being more of a 'Graduate tax' than a debt. There was also the opportunity for questions at the end.

Students in Year 13 who will be starting university autumn 2024 should now apply at Apply online for [student finance](http://studentfinance.gov.uk) (www.studentfinance.gov.uk) to ensure that they have finance in place for the start of their course.

For anyone interested in finding out more information related to supporting a child at university and the process of applying for student finance, please have a look at these useful links:

WizeUp Financial Education

<https://wizeupfinancialeducation.co.uk/>

Save the Student

<https://www.savesthestudent.org/student-finance>

GOV.UK - The best place to find government services and information

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

Mrs Wilkinson, Futures Leader and Post 16 Progression



Holiday Absence in Term Time

From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid within 28 days**.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.

Any leave of absence during term time will not be authorised. In exceptional/unavoidable circumstances the Headteacher may authorise a request once a leave of absence form has been submitted.

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

Mrs Morse, Attendance Officer

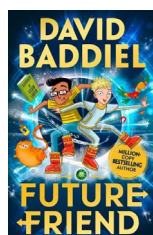


The Library

At President Kennedy School

Fantastic Books and Where to Find Them...

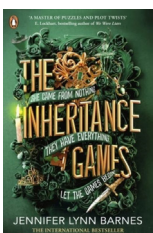
This week the Library's recommended reads are...



Future Friend by David Baddiel

2019: Rahul Agarwal is a genius inventor and his family owns a warehouse full of stuff he can use to build his crazy gadgets. So, he should be happy. But Rahul has one BIG problem: he's lonely. 3020: Pip@256X#YY.3_7 is lonely too - and can't even leave her Living Space due to the extreme heat outside. Until the day that Pip explores a glowing ring in a lab and finds herself in a warehouse in 2019.

Together Rahul and Pip are no longer lonely. But they have a whole load of new problems. Including finding a way back to 3020. And just maybe - saving the world...



The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

She came from nothing. Avery has a plan: keep her head down, work hard for a better future. Then an eccentric billionaire dies, leaving her almost his entire fortune. And no one, least of all Avery, knows why. They had everything. Now she must move into the mansion she's inherited. It's filled with secrets and codes, and the old man's surviving relatives - a family hell-bent on discovering why Avery got 'their' money. Now there's only one rule: winner takes all. Soon she is caught in a deadly game that everyone in this strange family is playing. But just how far will they go to keep their fortune

Both books are available to borrow from the School Library.

Library Staff

