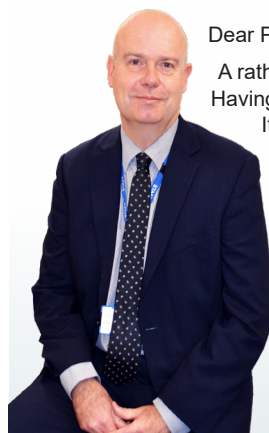


Dates for your Diary

Summer Break commences - Monday 25th July to Tuesday 6th September 2022 (Return to school on Wednesday 7th September)
Last day of term Friday 22nd July - Students finish at 1:30pm



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

A rather emotional moment for me this week signing off for my final newsletter as Head teacher. Having said, there is so much to celebrate this week, so it feels like a fitting last one.

It feels especially fitting given that it celebrates our status as a 'World Class School' and in doing so, profiles many of our wonderful World Class students; my congratulations to you all.

I must make special mention of Gracie in Year 10 for her multiple nominations and successes - well done Gracie, we are all proud of you.

Our Year 7 girls have won a highly competitive City Rounders competition and at the other end of the school, we say congratulations and farewell to Zak Adams who is on his way to Harvard...if that's not World Class, I don't know what is!

Finally, our whole school production provided a wonderful night for all last Thursday, especially a rather emotional Head teacher at the end. As usual, the cast were amazing.

Thank you everyone for everything, it has been an absolute pleasure and a privilege.

Wishing you all a great summer break,

Mr Clayton, Headteacher

World Class Schools' Symposium 2022 - President Kennedy School Re-awarded World Class Quality Mark accreditation

On 6th July 2022, President Kennedy School was re-awarded World Class Schools Quality Mark re-accreditation at an Awards Ceremony at St Marylebone School, having successfully passed a rigorous student-led assessment process to prove they have consistently maintained a World Class standard of education since their last accreditation assessment two years ago.



Both Holly Delaney and Gracie Fitzsimons were shortlisted for the *WCS Assessor of the Year award* – both students plan to assess other schools over the next couple of years to ensure that other schools across the country are classified as World Class.

The premise is that if our school is truly World Class, then our students should be able to demonstrate this in whatever context they find themselves. A HUGE thank you to all of our amazing students who were involved in this year's re-accreditation at the assessment centre: Gracie Fitzsimons (Year 10), Cyrus Mathur (Year 7), Ethan Moongo (Year 8), Abshara Piratheeban (Year 8), Finlay Lomas (Year 8) and Arya Bassi (Year 9). Another massive thank you goes to the following students who submitted all of their achievements this year to the WCS desktop app: Jayden Thorpe (Year 10), Serena Bassi (Year 7), Eleanor Whitelock (Year 9), Srinithi Thavarasa (Year 8), Cordellia Akata (Year 8), Tanishka Siva (Year 10), Apinayaa Ramanan (Year 8) and Kayla Milbourne (Year 7).

Shanice Rogers, Caitlyn McLaughlin Wood and Kara Gough were also shortlisted for the *Student of the Year award* for their fantastic efforts within school this year. Kara was presented with a certificate because she always ensures the sophistication and formality of her language through the use of her ACES sentence starters which allow her to contribute in a more professional way.

Caitlyn and Shanice were awarded because they have shown extreme organisation and methodical planning skills this year when they helped to co-ordinate the technical stage effects of our Year 8 Shakespeare *'The Taming of the Shrew'* production, alongside the University of Warwick.

"We're incredibly proud of every student who represented their school and were delighted to have the opportunity to thank them and award them in person at the Awards Ceremony." **Miranda Perry, Director of WCSQM.**

However, Gracie Fitzsimons achieved the award for the overall Student of the Year for her commitment to all six World Class characteristics. Gracie is the epitome of a World Class student. In her *WCS Alumni committee role as the Chair of Human Sciences*, Gracie independently launched the new World Class Futures campaign this year and she has somehow also found time to participate in the WCSQM Assessment Centre representing her school. It is our World Class students that make our school truly World Class!

At the Awards Ceremony, students were invited to collect their schools' reaccreditation plaque, and there were also awards for student participation in the Student Character Campaign and other fantastic opportunities throughout the year.

Continued overleaf...



World Class Schools' Symposium 2022 - President Kennedy School Re-awarded World Class Quality Mark accreditation *Continued...*

On the day of the symposium this year – as well as the awards presentation – students also had the chance to participate in a number of workshops and debates centered around the following theme: *how can we use social media as a force for good?*

Students from different schools had the chance to explore different Sustainable Development Goals with the help of experts and each-other. In the context of social media, they discussed potential solutions to big problems like global hunger, conflict and environmental degradation. Our students explored how social media could be used as a tool to promote peace and social justice. Our PKS team created a concept board for an initiative called '#AbortLies' which looked to eradicate fake news around gender equality and inequality. Our students truly showed themselves to be World Class and presented their ideas to the other schools within their group.

"The annual Symposium was an incredible chance to develop skills of networking and teamwork. As Chair of Human Sciences at the WCSQM Alumni Association, part of my role was to encourage Alumni recruitment. Therefore, during the day I networked with various students and staff members, encouraging their voices to be heard through the

opportunities available within the Alumni Association. During the awards ceremony I was nominated for all of the awards available including Assessor of the Year, Student Workplace Characteristic and Accreditation Team of the Year. Additionally, I won Student Character of the Year and was greeted with Qualified Assessor's Award. I particularly enjoyed the day as it was an opportunity to get to know new people and promote campaigns such as World Class Futures which I have pioneered." - **Gracie Fitzsimons (Year 10)**

"The symposium gave us the chance to share our opinions about world issues amongst professionals from various lines of work as well as meet like-minded students from across the country. I collected my award for being a world class assessor and received recognition for reaching the shortlist for 'Assessor of the Year'." - **Holly Delaney (Year 12)**

"The World Class Schools symposium provided me with the opportunity to meet, listen to and interact with people with varying skill sets, and to learn about how they use their experience in a variety of fields to talk about and solve real problems, whilst encouraging us to get involved ourselves." - **Bradley Gostick (Year 12)**



Year 7 Rounders City Champions!

The U12 rounders teams arrived at the tournament with the knowledge of fierce competition ahead. The competition was tough, but our Year 7's played like they never had before and with each game secured a win, beating 5 schools to get through to the semi-finals against King Henry VIII school.

The team was nervous but determined. They gave a tremendous performance and ended up winning the match by 2 rounders to take us to the final against Bablake School.

The team gave a sensational performance (Miss Truman cried with joy) in the final and won against Bablake school! This made our team City champions and they have made **President Kennedy School history** by being the first Year 7 team to win this competition!

Special mention must go to Captain Lacey Rowley who did a fantastic job motivating and leading the team and Sydney Jones who got player of the match for every game!

Well done all for this *fantastic* achievement!

Miss Truman, P.E Department



Zak - Harvard Bound!

On the 31st of December 2021, I officially sent off an application to Harvard. After just over 3 months of waiting, a big red box appeared on my application screen: "There has been an update to your application status.". Then, with one click, the box changed and was replaced by "#Congratulations2026".

I had just been accepted to Harvard!

Having been accepted on April 1st, it was only 3 weeks later until I first stepped into Harvard square, for 'Visitas', the accepted student weekend. I was able to meet classmates, current students, and faculty; I was also fortunate to take a tour around Widener Library and attend lectures!

My application to Harvard stemmed from my desire to keep breadth and depth integrated within my studies. While I still applied to the UK for mathematics, and I still aspire to obtain a degree (a *major* in America) in mathematics, I also aim to gain another qualification in history to show my passion and versatility in both STEM and humanities. I cannot wait to spend the next 4 years of my life as a Harvard student, continuing to learn and experience things I never previously saw possible!

Zak Adams, Year 13 Student



We Will Rock You - A Sell Out Success!

The cast of 90 students performed **We Will Rock You** - young @parts at The Albany Theatre to a sold-out audience last Thursday. The atmosphere was amazing! The students were professional, kind and a joy to work with. The talent shown was incredible!

Such an amazing evening finished off with very special performance from staff and students to thank Mr Clayton for being a great headteacher and to wish him well on his retirement. Thanks to all that came to watch! We're extremely proud of every student who took part. MASSIVE WELL DONE!

Miss Walsh, Leader of Performing Arts



Chabeel Day



To celebrate 'Chabeel Day', President Kennedy School Year 8 and Year 9 students helped distribute cold drinks to students as they left school for the day.

The drinks were kindly donated by the charity *Langar Aid* in celebration and to commemorate the sacrifice of the 5th Sikh Guru, Guru Arjun Dev Ji. Chabeel Day is celebrated all around the world by Sikhs.

This to remind us that we must always rise above adversity and challenging times (Chardi Kala) and to turn a negative into a positive.

Ms Birdee, Year 8 Pastoral Leader



Cambridge Professor Inspires Students

Almost 50 of our students from Years 10, 11 and Post 16 attended a recent presentation given by Professor Tim Chesters from Clare College, Cambridge.

He spoke to our students who are interested in applying to Oxbridge and other high-tariff universities and in particular the importance of having a strong, well-structured Personal Statement to support their application. He emphasised the need for students to engage in super-curricular study, that is, to study their subjects in greater depth. This can be done in a number of ways such as listening to podcasts, reading articles and journals, watching TED Talks, watching webinars, doing MOOCs, etc.

Many suggestions for these can be found on *Unifrog*, our fantastic careers platform that all of our students have access to. A number of our students in the past have gone on to study at Oxford and Cambridge and we hope this presentation has inspired many more to consider this as an option.

Mrs Fawcett, Careers Leader



The Library

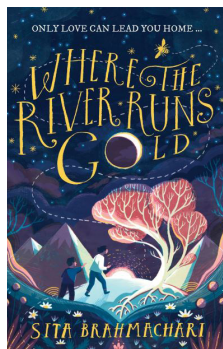
At President Kennedy School

Fantastic Books and Where to Find Them...

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

Where the River Runs Gold by Sita Brahmachari

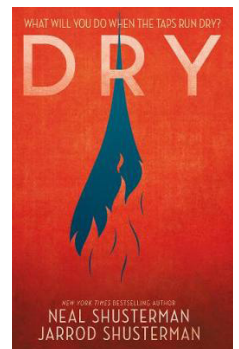
Two children must risk everything to escape their fate and find the impossible... Kairos City was beautiful once, before the storm. Now the flowerbeds are built over with brick, the bees are long gone and children are sent to Freedom Fields to pollinate crops by hand for the good of the nation. Eleven-year-old Shifa knows her twin Themba won't survive this harsh existence for long: they have to escape. But then she uncovers an impossible secret. If she can protect it on their perilous journey home, Shifa could change everything.



Dry by Neal Shusterman

When the water runs out in their state and their parents vanish, Alyssa and her brother seek the help of their neighbour and attempt to survive.

The drought - or the tap-out, as everyone calls it - has been going on for a while. Life has become an endless list of don'ts: don't water the lawn, don't take long showers, don't panic. But now there is no water left at all. Suddenly, Alyssa's quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation and violence. When her parents go missing, she and her younger brother must team up with an unlikely group in search of water



Both books are available to borrow from the School Library.

Library Staff



Have a **great** Summer Break from all the staff at President Kennedy School and we wish Mr Clayton a **very, very happy retirement; we will miss you!**

See you all in September!