

Special Edition!

Dates for your Diary

October Half Term - Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to our special edition, which showcases many of the wonderful opportunities students experienced in the summer term. We simply couldn't fit them all in at the end of the year!
A massive 'shout out' to Ms Kirkham and the amazing commitment to DofE at PKS. They truly provide lifelong memories as well as develop exceptional leadership skills.

We were blown away by the professional, World Class whole school production of 'Chicago Teen', at the end of term. Ms Walsh and Mrs Camby, yet again, produced a show worthy of the West End! What a talented cast - it was exciting, dramatic and moving. Well done all.

We held our 2nd Ethics Conference in the last week of term for over 300 Year 12 students across the Trust (President Kennedy School, Barrs Hill and Stoke Park). Professionals from across numerous fields of expertise posed ethical questions and scenarios for the students to discuss. The conference was closed by Peter Lantos, a Holocaust survivor. It was an incredibly moving experience. Lots to catch up on, and we will resume our weekly editions next week.

I wish you all great weekend.

Ms Rooke, Headteacher

CHICAGO TEEN!

The cast of CHICAGO Teen took to the stage to a full and appreciative audience. The atmosphere was electric and the finale bow ended in a standing ovation. The students worked so hard on such detailed and difficult choreography, characterisation and vocals. The talent on stage made it hard to believe it was a school production. Lead roles delivered with maturity and class. The team work, passion, commitment and resilience shown by every single cast member was amazing but above all they were kind and supportive to each other!

To say we are proud would be an understatement! WELL DONE ALL. Thank you to our PKS community for constantly supporting us. We look forward to seeing you at our next show.

**Miss Walsh
Leader of Performing Arts**



Ethics Conference

On Wednesday 17th July 2024, President Kennedy School hosted their second annual Ethics Conference.

The Ethics Conference provides Post-16 students with the opportunity to attend lectures and seminars with professionals from many different fields. All Year 12 students from President Kennedy, Stoke Park and Barr's Hill schools attended the day.

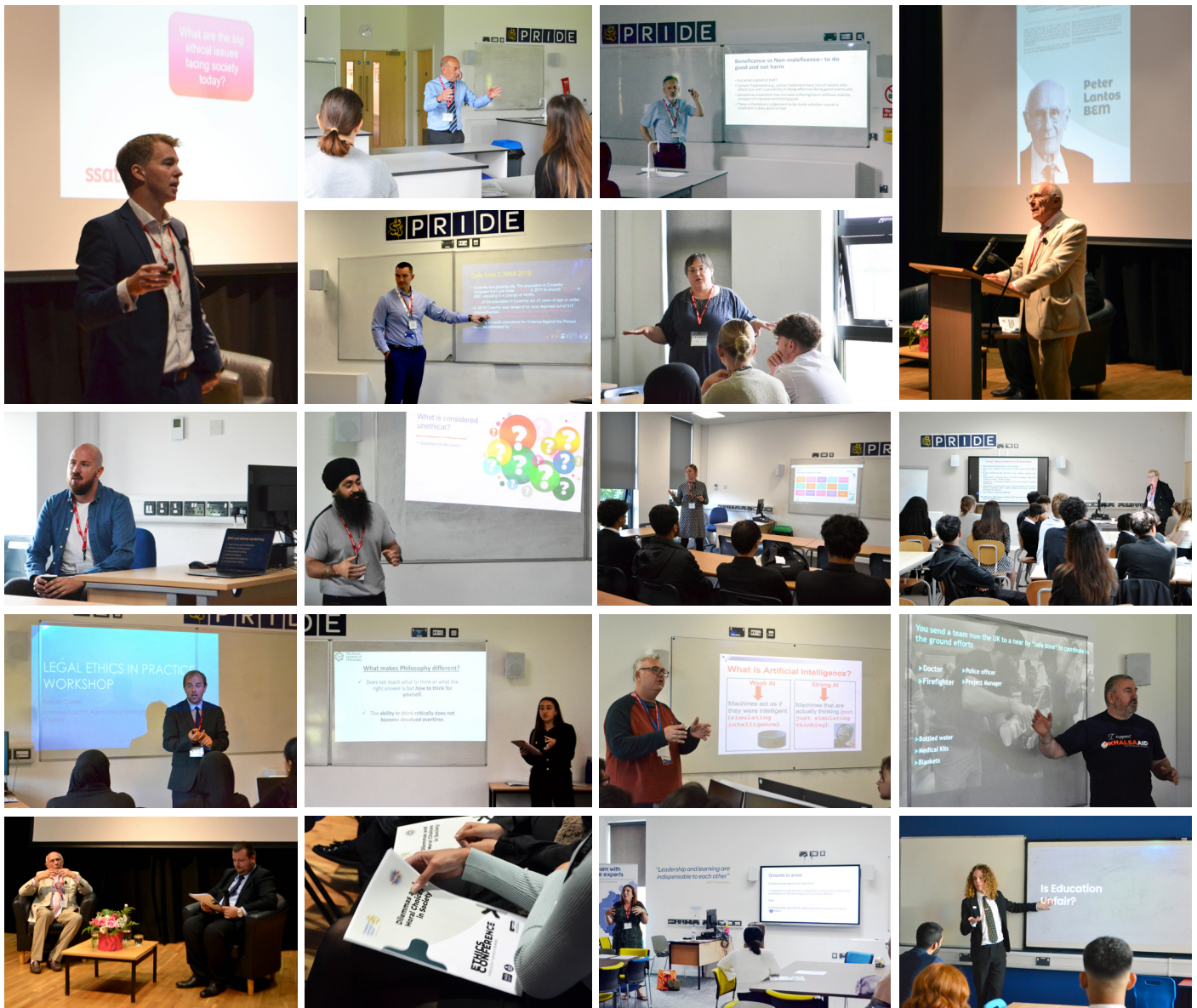
They began their day listening to the first keynote speaker, Dan Belcher. Dan is an education specialist and leads on the SSAT's leadership programmes. He delivered a insightful talk on the impact of ethics in education and asked students in the audience thought-provoking questions to get them to consider their own values. Students then attended two workshops of their own choice based around their future career aspirations. There were workshops held on theology and the Holocaust; social care; sustainability; medicine; law; politics; violence prevention; philosophy; education; policing; charity; AI; marketing and finance.

All workshops explored the role ethics plays within these fields.

Speakers ranged from President Kennedy School alumni, Jas Bhambra, to local councillor Esther Reeves. In total 19 professional speakers delivered talks across the course of the day. Students ended the day by listening to an incredibly moving keynote speech from Holocaust survivor, Peter Lantos. Peter spoke about his experiences in concentration camp Bergen-Belsen.

To end the day, Mr Lane began a question and answer forum with Peter, then students from the audience were invited to ask their own questions to Peter. It was a truly moving and memorable experience for all students involved. It was a truly remarkable experience for Year 12 to be able to learn from so many industry professionals.

Sophie Rejali, Teacher of Religious Education and Leader of Personal Development in Post-16





**PRESIDENT KENNEDY
SCHOOL**

Gold DofE in Snowdonia

Yr13 completed their Gold DofE Expedition in Snowdonia.

Four determined Post 16

students took to the Snowdonia national park to complete their 4 day expedition. We set off from school on the Friday only for the school minibus to break down an hour away from our accommodation. After being recovered by breakdown, having pizza and chips, students settled down to try and get a good night sleep.

Students set off on their expedition with the weather not looking good, but moral high. This was going to be the hardest part of the expedition, but the students had planned the route knowing what was in store. After a tough day, they were exhausted, cold and wet.

Day two showed better weather and an easier route to navigate and walk. Team work skills played as big a part as the physical fitness needed in getting the groups through the next two days, completing the expedition. Once all the other sections of the award are completed, these students will be off to Buckingham Palace to receive their award.

Miss Kirkham, Teacher of Design and Technology, Centre Manager of Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Bronze DofE Take to the Warwickshire Countryside

Over the weekend of 13th-14th July 46 year 9 students completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Assessed Expedition. The weather held out with ideal cool conditions for walking. Students showed great resilience and put the weeks of training to good use.

For some students this was their first experience of camping, but all used their common sense to entertain themselves after making their evening meals.

Students now need to make sure that they have completed the three other sections (Skill/Volunteering and Physical activity) to achieve the award.

Miss Kirkham, Teacher of Design and Technology, Centre Manager of Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Robot Wars

Once again students in our Year 8 STEM club have been designing and building ant-weight battling robots to compete against other schools in the “**Robot Wars**” competition.

Robot wars has run for three years now and this year’s robots were even more creative and better built than those that came before them. On the 14th of June six President Kennedy School students took part in the secondary school qualifying heats at The Hinckley School. Up against a fantastic range of well-built robots, the students found it difficult at first to adapt to battling in an arena with the cameras on. The students were able to persevere and two out of our four robots were able to qualify for the Robot Wars Finals on the 5th of July at Marchant Cain, a supercar parts manufacturing facility in Coventry.

In the finals, the competition was tough but, all of the students worked extremely hard to keep themselves in the competition and keep their robots in a fit enough state to compete.

Congratulations to Dara with the robot “AI-X” seen in the pictures was able to win the “Battle Royal” bringing another trophy back to the PK robot wars collection.

I look forward to next years event and even more destructive designs. Thanks to Dara, Natalia, Veronika, Ashmeet, Susanne and Tephillia for being committed students all year and showing fantastic PRIDE at both of the events.

Another special thank you to Russell Smith for his hard work and dedication to get events like this off the ground and for all of his support developing the robots.

Mr. Taylor (Leader of STEM)

AI-X



Entrepreneur of the Month

Congratulations to Year 13 BTEC Business student Zuzana Vceckova who has set up her own very successful online vinted clothes store.

Zuzana has given us her personal entrepreneurial journey, and shown examples of how she has used her academic knowledge and the soft skills of independence, resilience and problem solving. These are the skills President Kennedy 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 started to sell clothes, shoes, bags from my wardrobe that I didn’t want or didn’t fit anymore. I am very mindful of the huge mountain of clothes

that are being put into landfill every year. I am also very worried about the environment. My love for fashion and my concerns for the environment was the idea behind my business venture.

I have a site on Vinted zuzana160107 where I sell quality fashion clothes . I enjoy being an entrepreneur because I am using the theoretical knowledge I have gained in my Business lessons to earn some money, to be financially independent.

When I complete my BTEC level 3 courses in Business and IT, I intend to work in industry as an electrical engineer in a local company “.

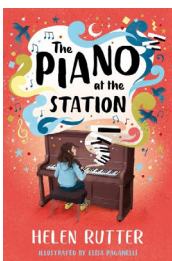


The Library

At President Kennedy School

FANTASTIC BOOKS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM...

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

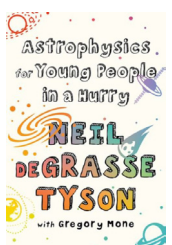


The Piano at the Station by Helen Rutter

Lacey’s smart tongue and quick temper are constantly getting her confined to isolation at school. But there’s a lot more to her that most people never see.

When Lacey gets sent to lunch-time music lessons to keep her out of trouble, she discovers a love and talent for the piano that opens up a whole new world for her.

Just as she’s really beginning to make progress, her music teacher has to leave, which throws Lacey back into turmoil. Will she go back to her self-**destructive ways or will music offer her a way to save her from herself?**



Astrophysics for Young People in a Hurry by Neil DeGrasse Tyson

Neil deGrasse Tyson has become one of the most recognisable and respected figures in science. In this adaptation of his number one bestseller Astrophysics for People in a Hurry, Tyson has for the first time-served up the universe in a handy, portable package designed specifically for young readers.

From the difference between a star and a supernova to what matter and dark matter really are, Astrophysics for Young People in a Hurry will turn young people into budding experts on the fundamental rules and unknowns of our universe. Along the way, Tyson’s characteristic wit ensures a journey packed with fun.

Both books are available to borrow from the School Library.

Library Staff