

Dates for your Diary

Year 10 Synoptic Assessments - Monday 16th March to Friday 20th March
Easter Break - Monday 30th March to 10th April



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

What an incredible, busy and productive first two weeks back. Once again, students have been demonstrating PRIDE, RESPECT, INVOLVEMENT, DETERMINATION, and EXCELLENCE in all they do and our staff have been amazed at how well they have been focusing on learning.

On Monday of this week, we had external visitors come in and talk to students about how they feel in school and were stunned to hear about the exceptional support our students receive. We also reported our recent parent survey findings to them, which noted that over 98% of you felt your child/children feel safe at this school. Whilst we appreciate that things can and do happen in school, it is important that we keep communicating and work together to help Build Brighter Futures.

Finally, we had Alison Cope come into school this week to deliver an assembly on knife crime to Year 8 and 10. This was particularly timely as there has been an incident in the local community that has upset and impacted our Kennedy community. This is why it is so important that we put on events like this to help inform students and to keep them safe and healthy.

I look forward to sharing World Book Day pictures with you all next week.
Have a great weekend,

Mr Lane, Headteacher

Lessons from Auschwitz

Many of you might enjoy the TV programme 'Race Across the World'. For two of our Year 13 students, Ceeley Flaherty and Dhruvi Parekh, there was a real-life experience on 10th February to mirror anything experienced on this programme, covering a journey from home to Southern Poland, and back again, all within an action-packed 24 hours. From a brutal check-in time of 4.30am at Birmingham Airport, to the long coach journey from the ancient city of Krakow to the former death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau, it was impossible not to feel guilty about the comfort of such a journey, given the realities of the reasons for taking part. The privilege of being able to learn from the experts of the Holocaust Educational Trust about the importance of continued learning of and commitment to the testimonies of those who first made the journey there, was not lost on our two representatives.

The Holocaust can be defined as the murder of approximately 6 million Jewish men, women and children by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during the Second World War. During this project, we have learnt to humanise each and every one of these victims and survivors by learning about their lives pre-war and how they were affected when Nazi persecution of their communities ended in tragedy for many families, showing that these men, women and children aren't just a number within the millions but are individuals.

On arrival to Krakow, we started our long coach journey towards Oświęcim, the very place where millions of the Jewish community, the Roma community (referred to as 'Gypsies') and many homosexual and disabled people were imprisoned in the concentration and extermination camps of Auschwitz. The Auschwitz complex is made up of three camps, KL Auschwitz I, Auschwitz-Birkenau II and Auschwitz-Monowitz III, and we visited two of them. Our first stop was Auschwitz I, which now serves as a museum. Inside, we saw prisoners' belongings such as shoes, suitcases with the prisoners' names on, and other personal items such as coloured pots and pans the Jewish community used for religious practices. Along with this, other rooms contained photos taken during the war, showing the mass amounts of people within the camp and their individual lives pre-war, before being deported to Auschwitz and stripped of their identities. One of the most heart-breaking displays was a room filled from wall to wall with hair that had been shaved from prisoners, as

well as unique prosthetics that were taken from deportees on arrival. We were guided around the museum and learned about the horrific brutality of the officers and the inhumane conditions prisoners were forced to endure, such as being assigned jobs to work in gravel pits as a way of labour punishment in extreme weather conditions. Furthermore, Families were separated on arrival, and many never saw their loved ones again, further increasing fear into the prisoners.

There were many concentration and extermination camps involved in the 'Final Solution', to exterminate all Jewish communities in Europe. This leads to our final visit, Auschwitz-Birkenau II, where millions of innocent victims were killed in one of the largest industrialised murder camps within the three camps of Auschwitz. One of the most shocking facts was that observing one minute of silence for every person who died at Auschwitz-Birkenau alone would take three years. The scale of the camp is difficult to comprehend, even from within the camp entrance we couldn't see the end of it, with the camp being around 1.7 square kilometres which is roughly 240 football pitches. The railway tracks run directly into the camp towards the gas chambers, which deportees arrived on and were forced to be labour workers or sent to these chambers and later cremated, the remains of which can still be seen from when the Nazis attempted to destroy evidence. We also viewed the remains of the barracks that the Nazis attempted to destroy as they retreated, but they were unable to completely erase what had been built. Because of this, the site remains preserved so that students like us can visit, learn, and share these experiences with others.

Around 7.00pm, our day ended with a memorial to honour and remember the innocent victims who suffered simply because of who they were. We gathered together and read poems written by the victims of the Holocaust to remember their message for future generations. We lit a candle and placed it on the railway tracks as a small act of remembrance for those who lost their lives in the Holocaust. This was a very fitting end to an incredible day which we will never forget and feel privileged to have had the opportunity to take part in.

Ceeley Flaherty and Dhruvi Parekh, Year 13



Year 8 Students Compete in the Senior National Reading Champions Quiz 2026

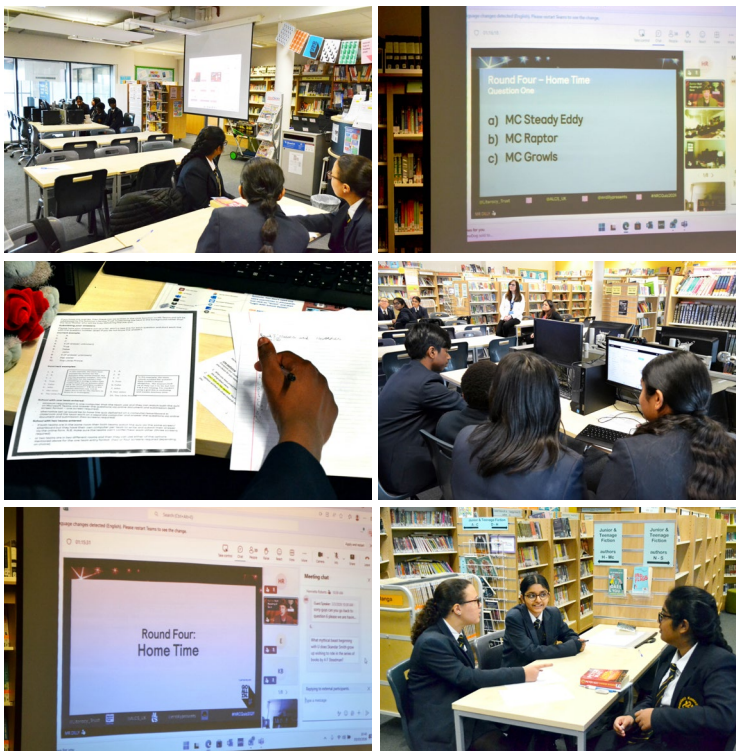
This week our Year 8 Library group participated in the West Midlands Heat of the **Senior National Reading Champions Quiz 2026**. #NRCQuiz2026

The National Reading Champions Quiz was established by the National Literacy Trust (NLT) to encourage and motivate students who enjoy reading and is a competition which tests knowledge on children's books.

For more information see: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/events/national-reading-champions-quiz/>

The students that took part were Melissa, Timi, Seyon, Esha, Saanvi, Krystal, Shayana and Sabriyah.

Our teams competed against 25 other Schools and did really well against some very tough competitors. All the students that took part really enjoyed the experience.



Alison Cope

This week Year 8 and 10 were very fortunate to have a presentation from Alison Cope. Alison Cope is the mother of Joshua Rivera who was murdered in 2013.

She now works tirelessly to help prevent youth violence by sharing her son's unique life and death story to help educate young people on the realities and consequences of youth violence. Her powerful presentation conveyed the importance of prevention, the emotive realisation of how choices affect loved ones and how young people retain hope for the future. Alison explained to the students how important it is that they

think very carefully about what they put on social media and the impact it can have. She also talked about making good choices in all areas of their lives.

This is the third year Alison has spoken to our students and it is always one of the most powerful presentations staff and students have seen.

For more information about the work Alison does, click on this link: <https://www.alisoncope.com/>

Mrs Murray, Director of Student Experience



Chinese New Year!

The kitchen staff were busy on Thursday, preparing for the Chinese/Lunar New Year by treating staff and students with a special Chinese menu.

Both staff and students agreed that this was a lovely way to celebrate this prosperous occasion. Gong hei fat choy!



BOOK FAIR

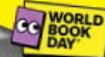
SCHOLASTIC

in the school library

"Getting Children Reading"

Monday 16th
March 2026
to
Thursday
19th March
2026

**£1.00
DISCOUNT
OFF EACH BOOK
PURCHASED IN
CELEBRATION
OF
WORLD
BOOK DAY**



Book Fair Opening Times:
Lunchtimes in the Library

During Year 7 & 8 English Lessons in the Library

Books can be reserved and paid for by
Thursday 19th March 2026 (payment by CASH ONLY)

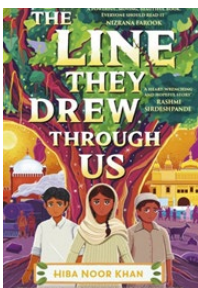


The Library

At President Kennedy School

FANTASTIC BOOKS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM...

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



The Line they Drew Through Us by Hiba Noor Khan

Three best friends are born on the same day under miraculous circumstances. But by their twelfth birthday, Jahan, Ravi and Lakshmi's lives are about to change forever.

The British announce Indian independence and draw lines of Partition that tear apart the country, and the friends.

One of them flees, one of them disappears, and the other is left wondering, could a miracle bring them back together?



Running My Own Race by Abena Eyeson

Kofi dreams of being a professional athlete - but he soon finds following your heart isn't an easy road. Kofi's mum is determined he's going to be 'somebody'. But when Kofi is given a place at a prestigious private school because of his athletic ability, everything changes.

Under pressure from his mum to make the most of his academic opportunity, his best friend who doesn't want him to change, his community to make them proud, and a rival who will do anything to make sure Kofi doesn't outshine him - Kofi isn't sure where to turn

Both books are available to borrow from the School Library.




Library Staff

PRESIDENT KENNEDY SCHOOL PRESENTS...

MUSIC SHOWCASE 2026

WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 2026 6PM

Tickets available
now via  **ticket
source**
please see
below:



**A music showcase featuring our vastly talented bands,
soloists, duets, vocalists and percussionists!**

ADULT £4 CHILD £2

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