

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 16th December - Traditional dress/Christmas jumper day - £1 for charity

Friday 17th December - School will finish at **1.30pm** for the Christmas holiday



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

It has been a very busy week indeed, especially in The Bridge. It is wonderful to see our students taking part in so many amazing activities. It is even *more* special when they are about serving our community.

These opportunities are so important in developing PRIDE and character which is part of our ethos at President Kennedy School.

Congratulations to all the students who have represented us so brilliantly for World Class School. I feel so proud!

I wish you all a good week ahead,

Mr Clayton, Headteacher

World Class Students are off to Oxford!



Following the success of our students in this year's annual essay writing competition for the World Class Schools' Quality Mark organisation, students had the chance to meet with Mr Clayton on the 2nd of December. This was in recognition of their fantastic achievements over the last few months, their commitment and their determination to succeed, beyond their experiences in the classroom. Students were presented with certificates that honoured their pride, involvement and excellence, and were commended for the fantastic work they have been doing.

Students' essay writing journeys started in July when they were presented with the thought-provoking essay question for 2021: **'How much can motivation from parents, or the important adults in your life, help or hinder your success?'**. With a disruptive year caused by the pandemic, this focus was especially reflective of the extra time we have had to spend at home with our parents and carers. This specific question prompted students to reflect on their own experiences of motivation in a range of ways.

The role of important adults in the lives of children, like parents and teachers, is a prominent theme in the books of children's author Dan Freedman, who decided on this year's essay question. His most recent novel, ***Unstoppable***, focuses on the

relationship of a father with his twins, and explores the impact he has on their success. This inspiration for the question will surely guide Dan in choosing his winning essay from the many that were submitted from a multitude of World Class Schools across the country.

President Kennedy School will find out if we have been triumphant once more at the annual World Class Schools' ceremony, with essays from both Arya (Year 9) and Abshara (Year 8) shortlisted for this year's final award. This celebratory evening will be a way to acknowledge the incredible time and effort that students have put in to their essays.

A huge well done to all students who submitted essays this year: Cordellia, Finlay, Abshara, Arya, Julia, Jessica, Mithula and Michael.

You are all World Class!

Miss Tovey, Teacher of English



Year 7 Visit Warwick University to Listen to Inspirational Ultra-Runner

A group of ten Year 7 students were lucky enough to be part of an audience at Warwick University to listen to the inspirational story of Nick Buttle, who ran a marathon in every country of the world. This was the first time that the university was able to invite students from secondary school back onto their campus since December 2019.

Students listened to Nick's inspirational story from being an under achieving child who struggled to walk, to becoming an ultra-runner and setting himself the challenge to run in every country in the world.

During his adventure, he had to run in war torn countries and told us that he had to wear two watches to record every marathon so that it could be recognised in the Guinness World Records.

Students were able to ask Nick questions about his life and the drastic change of lifestyle when the epidemic hit. Luckily, his record attempt finished before Covid-19 spread across the world.

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



Year 7 Create Christmas Hampers For Local Community



Year 7 The Bridge have been absolutely fabulous in collecting food items for Holbrooks Community Centre. The Student Council have led on it from the start. They came up with a competition where the first tutor group to bring in all the items on a bingo sheet, would win a prize: a lovely breakfast!

7 Warwick won that challenge, but still all the other tutor groups continued to collect the items. They have been brilliant from the start and really displayed their creative talents in putting together the hampers. Well done Year 7 for all your efforts!

"I loved making the hamper- it was fun and sparked my creativity!" **Ignacio, 7 Warwick**

"We created items for a Christmas Hamper because it would help the community. All of us enjoyed this because we knew it

would go to someone who really needed it."

Harvey, 7 Newcastle

"I felt good doing the hamper, as I know this is going to help people who can't celebrate Christmas with a big Christmas dinner. This is a good experience as it makes you think of others."

Nilash, 7 Cambridge

"Making and presenting the power point to my tutor group was the best bit!"

Charlie, 7 Manchester

"Community is a family that care for each other. I have many examples of where community is important to me - family, school and neighbourhood. We have helped our community and for that, I am proud. Always show PRIDE!"

Serena, 7 Oxford



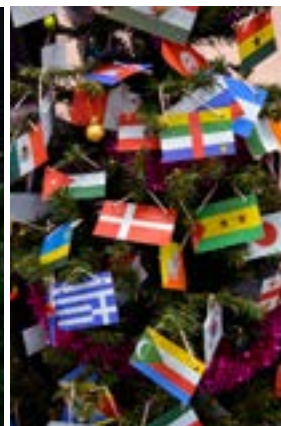
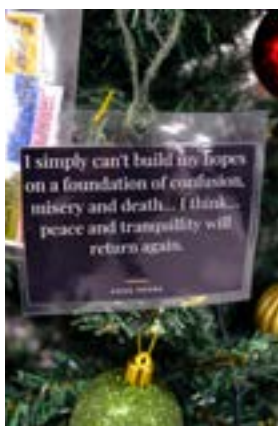
Mrs Arnett, Student Leadership and Character.

Coventry Festival of Christmas Trees

Thank you to all the colleges that entered a decorated Christmas tree into the Coventry Festival of Christmas Trees, all of which will be on display in Holy Trinity church over the holiday period.

Each decorated tree had a specific theme and will be part of a larger display from schools and organisations across Coventry, with the winning tree judged by the Coventry Rotary Club.

Mr Finlayson, Leader of Enrichment



Phillip Pullman Speaks with President Kennedy School Students!

On Wednesday 25th November, over 100 President Kennedy students attended a webinar with award winning author, Phillip Pullman.

'When we went into the hall, I was very excited as I was a very big fan of Phillip Pullman and loved his books. When the Zoom meeting started, Phillip Pullman explained his process for being an author and we started asking him questions, which was very intriguing. Overall, it was a fun and interesting experience.'

Ilan Faris, 7 Coventry



'In my opinion, this event was fun, educational and inspirational. The meeting was a great experience as it showed me that anyone can achieve their dream.'

We asked questions, and when he answered, it showed me how humble famous people can be. Phillip Pullman's life is truly inspirational. Overall, the meeting was really fun.'

Meadow Lawrence, 7 Newcastle

Year 7 Find Their Way with Future Grads Programme

In the *Future Graduate Programme* we took part in a very fun game where there were obstacles on the floor and you would be placed into pairs. One of you would wear an eye mask and try and make their way through the course whilst listening to their partners directions. The obstacles represented what issues they may encounter whilst at college or University.

We also completed a work sheet that had questions about what we wanted to do in the future. The visitors from Coventry University that came into school told us more about University life too.

I really loved it and am definitley going to stay in the programme. I'm looking forward to the visits in the future where I will get to see some of the campuses.

Keava Rigney, 7 Newcastle

The Coventry University Future Grads event was the most fun event ever! Why? Because we had to answer some questions which included whether we wanted to carry on education in Year 11 and I think the majority of us wanted to continue.

After we answered the questions in our booklet, we started to play a game which was really fun. Miss Eva set out a little maze and we had to go through it, with our partner who would tell us which direction to go in, being careful to not touch objects within the maze. I went through the maze twice and failed, but it wasn't about winning, it was about having fun, and we all had fun!

A big thank you to the Coventry University Grads and to Mr Townsend for picking me to be one of the participants. I am already looking forward to the next Future Grads event.

Daria Bucur, 7 Cardiff



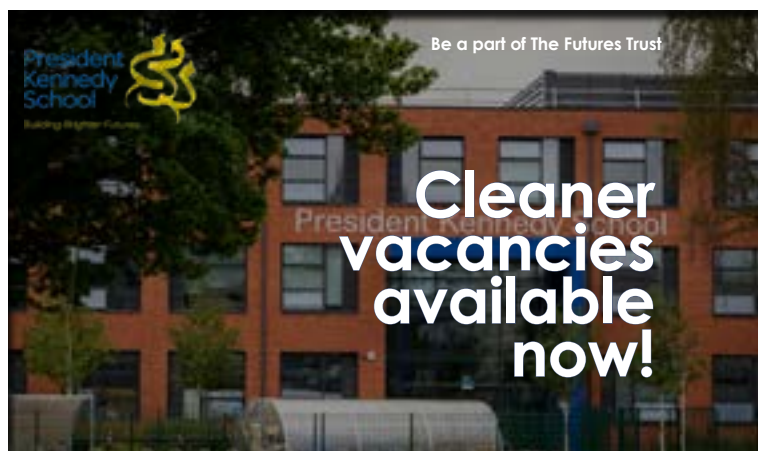
Thinking of a career in teaching?
Bursaries and Scholarships up to £26,000
available tax-free while you train.



Train at local Primary or Secondary schools
across Coventry, Warwickshire, Leicestershire,
Oxfordshire and Birmingham



Contact us today
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We are seeking to appoint two professional and motivated cleaners to join our team who are reliable, enthusiastic and flexible.

Cleaner (Two vacancies)

Grade 1 (£8,118 - £8,280 pro-rata) per annum (£9.25ph - £9.43ph)

20 hours per week. Hours can be flexible and negotiable

Term time only (38 weeks per year)

We are prepared to be flexible and can be negotiable.

The link to the cleaner vacancies, job description and the application form is on the job vacancies page of the school website:

www.pks.coventry.sch.uk

Closing date: Friday 14th January 2021

Building Brighter Futures

