

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 27th September Y10 Welcome Evening, Main Hall, 5:30-6:30pm
Wednesday 28th September Y8 Welcome Evening, Main Hall, 5:30-6:30pm
Thursday 29th September Y9 Welcome Evening, Main Hall, 5:45-7pm



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

This week's edition highlights some of the amazing *World Class* opportunities that students experience here at President Kennedy School.

The Costa Rica expedition was a life changing experience for our students and the pictures illustrate what an amazing time they had, as well as highlighting the importance of community service.

Thank you to the History department and students who made a thoughtful display highlighting the tributes paid, celebrating 70 years of service and highlighting many of the events during the Queen's reign. A very poignant tribute.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Ms Rooke, Headteacher

Costa Rica Expedition



On the 5th of July we travelled to Costa Rica. We travelled as a group of 15 consisting of 8 students from President Kennedy School, 4 from Our Lady of Sion Independent School, 2 teachers and our team leader, Anna.

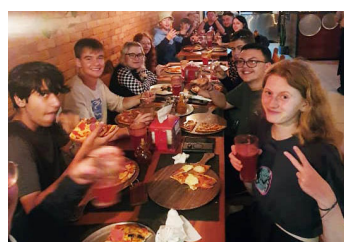
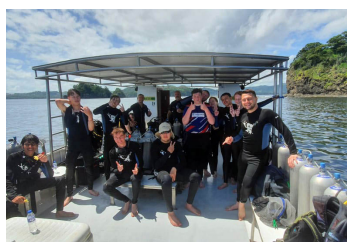
Most of us had never met before, fortunately we had plenty of time to bond on a 52(!!) hour journey via the USA, Ecuador and Panama before eventually reaching Costa Rica.

We spent 4 weeks travelling around the country, engaging in community development and environmental conservation projects across Costa Rica. Some of the projects included:

- Reforesting areas of mangroves to help store carbon and mitigate against climate change in Guanacaste.
- Improving a local community health centre for local residents in Cuajiniquil.
- Helping with the construction of a community SEND centre to support vulnerable people in Terraba.
- Building a "monkey bridge" to help with the safe passage of monkeys across a busy road in Cano Negro.
- A rest and relaxation trip to Monteverde which included a tour of a local coffee plantation and a night hike.

The trip culminated in an adventure activity where we got the opportunity to qualify as an PADI Open Water Diver. We were lucky enough to see sting rays, octopus and white tip reef sharks during our 3 open water dives in the Pacific Ocean.

Mr Graham, Teacher of Geography and Mrs Elliot, Teacher of History



Long to Reign Over Us

We would like to extend our thanks to all members of the school community who contributed to this very moving tribute to the 70-year reign of the Late Queen Elizabeth 2nd. This includes those who researched and sent in contributions to the wonderful timeline of key events throughout the Queen's reign, those who braved an unexpected chilly wind to fix the timeline up in time for the state funeral and those who stopped to read some of the articles and reflect on their most cherished memories of the period and a life of service.

It was a fitting tribute to the consistency of an era spanning rationing and the Lyons Corner House to Dua Lipa and Fitbit. You do not have to be a monarchist to appreciate the history and the dignity of reign which transcended the popularism, or even egos of other public figures of the time.

It was wonderful to witness pupils and staff finding a place on the timeline to correspond with their birth. So, whereas Year 7 students were huddled around the London Olympics and the Obamas, it was sadly more a case of the Beatles and Bobby Moore for some of us. Some of the smaller things were a wonderful reminder of the 'human touch'; the marmalade sandwiches, the handbags, the corgis and the famous parachute jump with James Bond all finding a place on the timeline.

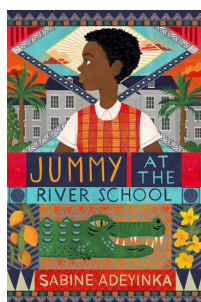
The school fully appreciates the thought and care that went into all contributions and we hope, that in a small way, it helped our young people come to terms with such a huge turning point in our nation's history.

Mr Finney, Teacher of History



FANTASTIC BOOKS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM...

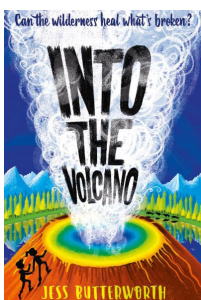
This week the Library's recommended reads are....



Jummy at the River School by Sabine Adebinka

Jummy is excited when she is accepted to study at the prestigious River School, but her less fortunate best friend Caro is only able to go there to work.

Jummy has won a place at the River School, the finest girls' boarding school in Nigeria. Nothing can dampen her spirits, not even when she learns that her best friend Caro won't be joining her. By the Shine-Shine River, school is everything Jummy dreamt of, with friendly new girls, midnight feasts and sporting prizes - but when Caro suddenly arrives at the school to work, not to learn, Jummy must bring all her friends together to help.



Into the Volcano by Jess Butterworth

An adventure set on top of a super volcano, about coming to terms with grief, letting go of anger at the world and finding hope and joy in the most unexpected of places. 11-year-old Emma and 12-year-old Sebastian live halfway across the world from each other, but when a terrible shooting leads to the loss of people close to each of them, they end up meeting in the Rocky Mountains. Bonding through their shared grief, they quickly become friends, and decide to search together for an elusive rainbow pool as a way of saying goodbye to the ones they lost. But they soon find themselves lost on top of a super volcano, dodging bubbling mud spots, steaming hot springs, and rainbow filled calderas. As rain threatens, they're forced to construct a makeshift camp and encounter moose, wolves and a grizzly bear. But when they run out of food, their adventure becomes a race for survival as they try and find their way out of the wilderness.

Both books are available to borrow from the School Library.

Libray Staff

