

Dates for your Diary

Monday 8th December - Year 11 Christmas Carol Performance, 3 to 4:30pm (Half Yr11)
Wednesday 7th December - Year 10 Celebration Assembly - 9:30 to 10:30am & 1:45pm to 2:45pm
Wednesday 7th December - Y7 Movie Night - 3pm to 5pm
Thursday 8th December - KS3 Careers Fayre - 12pm to 3pm
Friday 9th December - Year 9 Celebration Assembly, 9:30am to 10:30am & 1:45pm to 2:45pm



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Another exciting week at President Kennedy School, where we not only celebrated our successes on the sporting field, but also celebrating our rich cultural diversity at the school through the wonderful Pan African Festival. It was a truly inspiring event as students performed songs with cultural significance and wore clothing representing their national heritage.

We have received a wonderful letter from the Belgrade Theatre congratulating our Year 7 Bridge Students on their recent performance of *The Tempest*.

This edition also recognises past students and their achievements as our current students were inspired by Zak at Harvard and Ryan as a military photographer in the RAF.

How proud we all are of our students, past and present.

Wishing you all a great weekend,

Ms Rooke, Headteacher

President Kennedy Celebrates First Ever Pan African Culture Festival!

On Wednesday 23rd November 2022, President Kennedy School hosted its first ever Pan African Culture Festival.

The event was a showcase of the best of Black British, Caribbean and African culture with regards to fashion, music, dance, art and food.

The Festival was the brainchild of the **Fabulous Club**, a group dedicated to celebrating the school's cultural diversity, when they were asked how they would most like to celebrate Black History Month.

After a warm welcome from our MCs Deja Bailey and Hannah Richards, the evening kicked off with a fashion show in which our models represented their nations of heritage with their traditional garments and flags.

Our models were: Cordelia Akata, Zuriel Assafuah, Cheryl Bortey, Jeremiah Cudjoe, Rosemary Cudjoe, Fadil Dabre, Vanessa Danso, Deborah Fofie, Gillian Forkuoh, Afia Frimpong, Michelle Kirk-Asante, Fares Mudhai, Arnold Ofori, Constance Nwokeocha, Anna-Rachel Quayson, Shanice Rogers and Shante Rogers.

At the interval, our guests, performers and volunteers had the opportunity to taste some divine West African food provided by the Nigerian restaurant AGG on Far Gosford Street.

The array of dishes included: Jollof, Fried Rice, Egusi Soup, Pounded Yam, Chicken Drumsticks, Suya (Beef), Turkey wings, Samosas, Pies, Fried Prawns, Puff Puff balls.

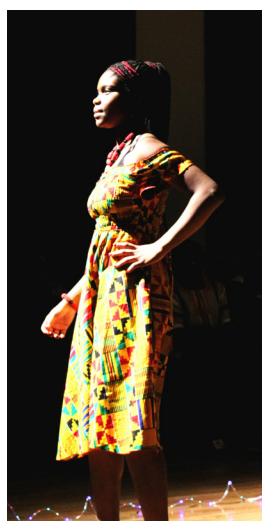
The second act included beautiful solo singing performances by Amina Sharmarkey with *'I choose you'* and Cordelia Akata with *'Scars to Your Beautiful'*.

Dave's iconic and symbolic masterpiece *'Black'* was performed by the duo of Zuriel Assafuah on the drums and Fares Mudhai on the keyboard and vocals.

Stefania Adoma and Emmanuella Boadi did an Afrobeat dance routine as a duet to the infectious melody and beat of *'On the Low'* by Burna Boy.

An Afrobeat dance troupe from year 8 raised the roof of the building with a scintillating dance routine to *'Wololo'* by Babes Wodumo featuring Maphintsa.

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Pan African Culture Festival

Commendations go to: Rosemary Cudjoe, Chanelle Goremucheché, Deborah Fofie, Gillian Forkuoh, Michelle Kirk-Asante, Constance Nwokeocha, Daniella Mensah, Keneth Opoku, Anna-Lee Quayson, Shanice Rogers Shante Rogers and Hannah Wachira.

Shanice Rogers represented her southern African heritage with a performance of the Zulu song 'Easy to Love' by Bucie.

Arguably the stand out performer of the night was Fabulous Student Lead, David Samura, who sang four different pieces. His first was a solo rendition of 'All to me'. He and his fellow Fabulous Student Lead Emanuela Brown sang a duet of the soulful 'Best Part' by Daniel Caesar featuring H.E.R.

David's church choir graced us with their presence and angelic voices. The first of their performances was 'Killing Me Softly With His Song'.

The climax was 'Stand Up' from the film 'Harriet', a biopic about African American former slave and hero Harriet Tubman.

This was performed by David and his choir, and their rousing performance received a rapturous standing ovation from the audience.

At the end, the performers, who had put in such hard work were able to celebrate by dancing to some contemporary rhythms.

This truly was a **World Class** event for students, parents and staff, to learn experientially about other cultures.

We are fortunate at President Kennedy School that we have such a diverse Black community with students hailing from countries including Jamaica, Barbados, Grenada, St Lucia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi, Congo, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

This might just be the start of a new tradition at our outstanding school.

Team Fabulous



Harvard University Research on the Teaching of the Holocaust

On his first Thanksgiving Day in the USA, former student Zak Adams interviewed a number of current President Kennedy School students for his initial research project as a Harvard University student. Although he is set to Major in Mathematics at Harvard, in his induction Zak has opted to research a topic close to his heart in the way that schools teach the Holocaust with greatest success.

In a two-hour Zoom call led by Zak, he listened carefully to the experiences and feelings of students in Years 8,9,10 and 12, prompting them with engaging questions about what they have learnt and the way they have learned it.

There was, of course, an ice-breaker session to begin with as our students grilled Zak on what it is like to be a student in the USA. He opened a new set of possibilities for his younger audience, proving that there really is life, not only outside of Coventry, but beyond the ocean. He is simply loving life in Massachusetts, working with people from all around the globe and getting seriously hooked on American football. He also reported on the build-up to the England v USA World Cup fixture.

Our students spoke candidly about their experiences of learning about the Holocaust. For some of the members of the group, this included meeting Peter Lantos, survivor of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, who visited President Kennedy School last academic year.

Although much of the interview centered around the value of films and drama on the subject, there was a real consensus that Holocaust education was essential and had to reflect what the victims went through. To Ella Adejinmi in Year 8, it was important that she had been able to see "beyond statistics" about this period of history adding that meeting a survivor was a "privilege" that helped her come to terms with what happened in the 1930s and 40s. Chelsea Omateyo in Year 9, expressed the view that some things in life can be "so large they are almost incomprehensible" and that it was important to be able to ask

questions about emotionally difficult subjects.

Our Post 16 representatives Erin Ford and Lily Marsden shared their views as older students, reflecting that film and drama could help us "see through the obvious and stereotyped" but commented on the need for "emotional maturity" before a young person can fully benefit. That we should continue to share the testimonies left behind by the millions of victims to give them individuality and personality beyond the names of the camps and the numbers of victims who perished there, remains an ongoing challenge for us as we continue to explore this vital educational theme.



In return for us providing this interview, Zak will be coming back to President Kennedy School during his winter break in January to talk to Post 16 students about wider options. He has also welcomed emails from the students he interviewed offering support and guidance.

We hope this connection with Zak and Harvard continues to provide inspirational opportunities for our students. Our thanks go out to Zak and the students who contributed so well- Laxshan Vasikumar, James Colledge, Ilan Thowfeek-Faris, Ella-Adora Adejinmi, Poppy Bailey, Ryker Hourihan, Shanice Taylor, Alicja Hemperek, Deborah Fofie, Chelsea Omateyo, Hannah Richards, Aisha Malik, Inaya Rafiq, Erin Ford, Lily Marsden.

Mr Finney, Teacher of History

Future Entrepreneurs

Matt Adam, Founder and CEO of **'We are Digital'** gave a presentation to our Year 10 BTEC Business students about entrepreneurship.

We Are Digital, UK's top digital leaders, help the whole of society by empowering people with access, training and vocational skills in all things digital and online.

Matt explained how and why he decided to start up his own business, followed by a short Q and A session. Students can now use this information to help them with their first piece of assessed coursework in February. They have also been inspired to start their own businesses, as micro start-ups have no age barrier!

"Thank you, Matt, my favourite thing that inspired me was that you should never give up, and things will be hard, but you

should carry on" **Anojei Mathimannarajah**
"Thank you, Matt, for helping us understand what it takes to be an entrepreneur" **Abbie Clarke**

"Matt was down to earth and gave me an insight into the true world of business" **Arun Dyal**

"Thank you, Matt, this was really helpful in understanding the business environment" **Jaidan Surhar**

"It was really interesting learning about what a real entrepreneur does, and what their inspiration is" **Rehaan Hussain**

Thank you Matt for giving up your time to come and speak to us.
Mrs Petrak, Leader of Enterprise



Year 7 Visit Nottingham University

On Friday 25th November, students from Nottingham and Manchester tutor groups went on an educational visit to the University of Nottingham, as a way of broadening their horizons and opening their eyes to potential future pathways. A fantastic day was planned by the universities outreach officer, which included a tour of key locations around the university campus, an interview of student ambassadors currently studying at the university and finding out about all of the different courses and societies that the university has to offer.

As part of the visit, students were invited to create their own university, considering all aspects such as courses, societies, accommodation and campus set up. This allowed students to

use their new-found knowledge on university to create their own. Some students created a university inspired by electric robots whilst others continued the school's name and created their own 'President Kennedy University'. The two groups with the most imaginative and impressive ideas then presented to the rest of the group, which demonstrated their confidence, leadership and communication skills. A huge well done to all!

Students left feeling that university is definitely an option for them and are now one step closer to their future! Thank you to both Miss Connelly-Jones and Miss Banova for supporting on this trip!

Miss Tovey, Teacher of English



Military Photographer Visits Students

We had the pleasure of inviting Ryan Murray an ex-President Kennedy School student, who is now in the Royal Air Force as a Military Photographer.

He spoke to both Year 10 and 11 Photography students about his challenges and achievements leading him to the Royal Air Force and becoming a Military Photographer.

It was insightful and amazing hearing his stories and seeing his wonderful photographs. The students were very inspired and were able to understand that anything is possible.

Mrs Gallagher, Teacher of Photography



Mixed Fortunes for Football and Rugby Teams

This week saw mixed fortunes on the sporting front. Year 9 played out an entertaining football game against Cardinal Wiseman on Monday, which we ended up losing 3-2.

Tuesday night saw the Year 7 rugby team travel to Warwick School, President Kennedy School led early in the second half, but a lack of experience and a some players tiring led to a 45-25 defeat. On Wednesday night, Year 8 football team hosted Sidney Stringer School. President Kennedy School raced into a 3-0 lead before Sidney Stringer clawed 2 goals back the game could have gone either way, before President Kennedy School grabbed a fourth in the final minutes.

Mr Garlick, P.E Department



'WE ARE SUCH STUFF AS DREAMS ARE MADE ON'

The Tempest
by President Kennedy School
at Belgrade Theatre, 7th November 2022
appraised by Ffion Glyn

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you, President Kennedy School for your marvellous interpretation of The Tempest as part of the Autumn 22 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a great night at the theatre, and I'd like to take this time here to mention a few things that I really loved!

I loved how this ensemble worked together, using your voices and bodies to create the magical world in which this island exists. You made sure we in the audience paid attention from the get go, with your striking storm sequence (your commitment to the Brechtian elements throughout ensured that it flowed naturally). Other moments that stood out were how you repeated some of Prospero's words during his first speeches, the dogs attacking Caliban, Stephano and Trinculo - and the striking ending. Having the chorus chant 'do it' before Prospero broke his staff was a touch of genius, which heightened what a significant decision this is for him.

You took great ownership of the play, and it had your clear stamp on it. From the asides, when characters broke the fourth wall to talk directly to the audience, to creating your own musical landscape. This production was uniquely yours - and was all the richer for it.

You created some wonderful characterisations, using your physicality and your voices to help the audience differentiate between all the different groups that we meet on this island. From Prospero, who was so commanding to Ferdinand and Miranda, so gentle when they meet; from the gentry shipwrecked, to the foolishness of Trinculo, Stephano and Caliban - each group had its own clear identity. (I particularly enjoyed Spanish Trinculo and Stephano, and the 'man or fish' scene was a particular highlight - congratulations to you all!

Finally, I'd like to commend you on your focus and your professional attitude throughout the day. You were a pleasure to work with, and if you keep this level of commitment up, each one of you would be an asset to any professional theatre company in the future.

This was a magical and mesmerising The Tempest by a focused, committed company.

We're thrilled to back in a theatre with you again this year and have been so impressed by your commitment, bravery and resilience. We hope that you and your teachers are very proud of what you have achieved.

Looking forward to seeing President Kennedy School in the next Festival!

**THIS WAS A MAGICAL AND MESMERISING TEMPEST
BY A FOCUSED, COMMITTED COMPANY.**



Tips on Social Media...

Get ready for a digital festive season

This festive season, set your child up for online safety that lasts the whole year. Whether you're gifting a new device or one that's new-to-them, make sure you set it up before you wrap it up with step-by-step guides and a personalised online safety plan.

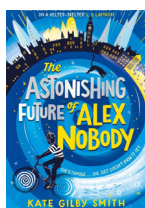
Explore our guidance below to gift yourself peace of mind as they play and share in new and different ways over the holidays.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/childrens-online-safety-this-festive-season/>



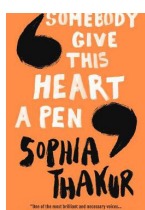
FANTASTIC BOOKS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM...

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



The Astonishing Future of Alex Nobody by Kate Gilby Smith

On the day Alex was born, crowds surrounded the hospital. On her first day of school, people spied from the gates. And recently, strangers came to watch her perform in her school play... as the llama. But why? Alex has always been a nobody. Then a mysterious boy named Jasper starts at school and he alone seems to know the answer. But before he can tell Alex, he disappears... into the year 2100. Can Alex brave traveling into the future to discover what's happened to him and to unravel the secret of her own astonishing destiny... before time runs out?



Somebody Give this Heart a Pen by Sophia Thakur

From internationally acclaimed performance poet Sophia Thakur comes a powerful new collection of poems exploring issues of identity, love, loss, family and faith.

Sophia Thakur began performing poetry at the age of sixteen, and is known for her strong narrative voice and emotional empathy. Her remarkable debut encourages young people to look outside of themselves and to explore their own hearts' journeys through poetry.

Both books are available to borrow from the School Library.

Library Staff