

Kingstone High School Newsletter

Christmas 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been my honour to take up the post of Executive Head at Kingstone Academy Trust. In my short time here, I have been struck by how much effort has been put into improving Kingstone High School over the last few years. The additional push that staff have had to make during these difficult times, in order to minimise the impact of COVID 19, has been exemplary. You can have full confidence in Mr Butler and his team to provide the best education for your children, regardless of the circumstances we face, now and in the future.



I am already working with the secondary staff to plan for the future of KHS, both this current year and the ones to follow. For example, we have internally recruited five new Heads of Year to provide more capacity in supporting our students through any difficulties they may have. All five have already started to make an impact and the increased capacity provided for the pastoral leaders has started to be used more proactively. There is more to be done but time will show our commitment to ensuring all students are able to overcome any barriers to reaching their potential.

We are currently reviewing our COVID 19 protocols and how we manage a transition to a more normal approach once testing and vaccines start to make an impact on our working practice. This is coupled with a review of our curriculum offer to ensure that it is fit for purpose as we move into the 2020s and beyond. I look forward to a time when we can meet freely and I can get to know as many of you as possible, in a post pandemic world. However, until that time comes, please be assured that your children are in good hands.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and of course please stay safe. **David Bennett**

Food Bank Donations

The students of Kingstone High School have shown true Christmas spirit by donating food for the Hereford Food Bank. Having been organised by the school council, 495 items of food were collected over 3 weeks. On Thursday 17th December, the Head Girl and Boy along with the Deputy Head Girl and Boy, loaded the school mini bus with the donations and the food was then taken to the Kindle Centre in Herford. Emilie, Josh, Lauren and Nathan helped to unload the donations, filling 4 trollies worth. They then had a short tour of the food bank, learning about how the food parcels are then distributed. The kindness shown by everyone who has helped to organise, donate and pack the food for this worthy cause should be very proud of the positive contribution to our local community.



HERE COMES A NEW WOOD!

A new wood is springing up to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Kingstone High School. Year 7 students planted more than 100 trees on land at the bottom of the orchard.

This is the start of a natural woodland which the pupils will add to each November until they have

planted an area of woodland covering in the region of two acres. The wood will include glades and rides which will encourage a rich mixture of wildlife and plants. Before the students went out to get planting, the school held an assembly about the value of trees, not least in fighting climate change, led by Mr Cook.



Executive Headteacher :Mr David Bennett. Head of Secondary: Mr Lee Butler
Contact KHS Tel: 01981 250224 email: khsadmin@kingstoneacademy.co.uk
Look at our website for more information www.kingstoneacademytrust.co.uk

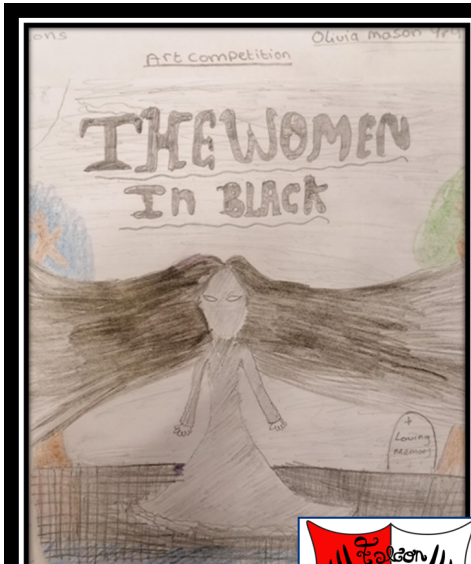




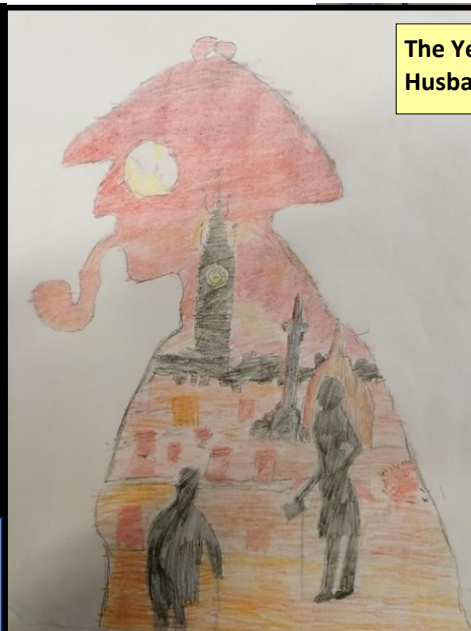
The first group of 10 students have now completed their time at Jamie's farm. jamiesfarm.org.uk

Our school was chosen to be the first to experience 1 day a week for 6 weeks instead of the usual 4-night residential course. The students have done incredibly well, have behaved impeccably and learned a lot about themselves and each other. I am particularly impressed with the way they embraced the work and listened and supported each other at the meetings. They are all a credit to the school. Mrs Seymour





The Year 9 winner is Olivia Mason



The Year 7 winner is Abi Husband

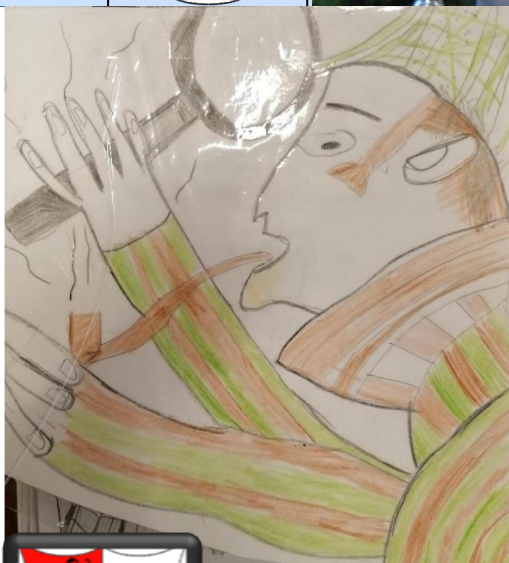


The year 8 Winner is Pippa Rockall

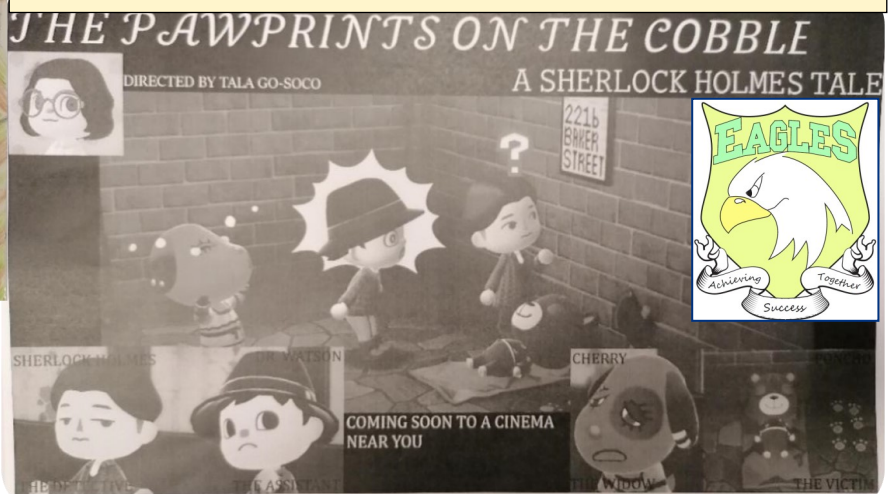


KS3 English and Art Competition 2020

Using their English text from last half term students were asked to create something inspired by their reading. It had to be an original piece of art work but that could be downloaded images altered to make something new or something hand made. Students earned points for their house and some even won prizes. Miss Starling



Here are two examples of highly commended entries from Bailey Daw and Tala Go-Soco in Year 7



Celebration of Success – December Roll of Honour

In order to celebrate student success and effort every month staff from each subject will be nominating students who have produced good pieces of work or who have shown fantastic effort in completing a piece of work. The roll of honour for December has been put on the website. Well done to all those students who have worked hard. See **TEACHING & LEARNING / Student Roll of Honour**

COVID NOTICE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hopefully, everyone shall stay safe this Christmas but just in case any of your children do test positive for COVID 19 please follow the guidelines below.

If your child tests positive for COVID 19 up to and including Wednesday 23rd December, please contact me at the following email, which will be manned from 9am to 12pm on each of those days.

dbennett@kingstoneacademy.co.uk

I shall then be able to notify the appropriate authorities and the school team can contact any other families that may be affected by your child's result.

Please also note that if any child has to self-isolate within the last 10 days of the holiday, prior to return on the 5th January 2021, you shall need to contact the school on the 5th. This is to inform us of the nature of their absence, not for us to contact anyone else.

18 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware recent government announcements have declared that schools will be at the centre of a new testing regime to combat COVID 19. Unfortunately, due to the lack of information, at this short notice, we do not yet know the finer details of the programme.

What we do know at this time is that only certain students will be in school on the first day back on Tuesday 5th January 2021. These will be

- **Year 11;**
- **specifically designated vulnerable students (who shall be contacted separately);**
- **any children whose parents are key workers. For clarification this means any children who have all adults with parental responsibility, within the household, designated as key workers.**

All other students are to stay at home unless directed to attend on a particular day. It is currently expected that the remainder of students will return on 11th.

Due to the current proposals different year groups may attend to receive a test but this will be organised closer to the start of term. This is because there are several key pieces of information still missing; this includes when the tests will be arriving in school, how they will be stored, who will be administering the tests and what training will they receive. These logistic issues coupled with a need to have a follow up test three days afterwards means that there will certain restrictions upon who can be tested and at what time. Please note that these tests are not compulsory but we shall be working on an opt out approach. Therefore, if you do not wish for your child to have a test you need to inform us of your wishes.

When we know more, we shall confirm which year groups shall be attending on what day. You may not receive this information until the 4th January but we shall endeavour to get it to you sooner if at all possible, via email. Please be patient and we shall update you with the full picture when we have it. We are dependent on receiving updated details from central government.

Yours faithfully

David Bennett

Executive Headteacher