

NEWSletter

December 2021

Merry Christmas!

As we reach the end of the first term of the current academic year, we can reflect on some fantastic steps forward in a challenging time.

Successful Reviews

We have had a number of independent external reviews of our provision in school conducted by experts in their respective fields. These reviews included a King Edward VI Foundation Review of Quality of Education conducted by two experienced leaders in education who also work with OFSTED. Their report focused on six areas: English, History, Food Science, Graphics, PSHRE and Careers. The reviewers found all six delivered to a high standard by committed and expert teachers and found our young people to be focused and determined learners as shown by this comment on Food Science: 'Students are proud of the work in lessons which are frenetic with the amount that is being done'.

The review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities was led by the ex-headteacher of an outstanding special school, Chris Field, who also works with OFSTED. Mr Field commented 'It was a real privilege to visit the school' and praised our 'enthusiastic, committed and passionate team, who want the best for all your students including those with SEND.'

Our final review looked hard at the crucial area of safeguarding and was led by Ken Palmer, a nationally

recognised authority on safeguarding best practice. He noted 'I met with some members of the safeguarding and pastoral team on the day of the review, and it was evident to me that the school has a strong and effective safeguarding team who work well together. The Designated Safeguarding Leads have specific strengths in different areas which are used tactically for example proficiencies in mental health, early help, SEND and looked after children'.

Clubs, Teams, Educational Visits, Boosters and Bagels!

What continues to make our school exceptional is the extra mile our staff are prepared to go to provide those bits beyond what many expect schools to deliver. We have been running over twenty-five clubs each week (including Saturdays) this term. From Chess and Science Club to Self Defence and Dance, from Yoga to Singing Club. Despite the pressures of Covid we continue to expand these free opportunities and I will write to parents next term with exciting plans.



Our free healthy breakfasts in form time have been reintroduced this term, with around 50% of pupils grabbing a healthy bagel to start the day. Our Educational Visits also restarted in earnest, with visits to Nottingham, London, the Think Tank and Croome Park on the first 'trip day'. With the coming summer's GCSE exams on the horizon, staff have been running well-attended booster sessions for Year 11s who have been putting the extra support to use in the current practice exams.

Without wanting to tempt fate, despite the challenges of Covid resulting in some staff absence, we have kept every year group in school throughout the term. Whilst this has increased the pressure on teachers through extra cover lessons, our staff have coped superbly.

Mr Jones
Headteacher



King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls

Northfield, Birmingham B31 4BP Tel: 0121 464 8346 Email: enquiry@nsg.kevibham.org nsg.kevibham.org



YEAR 11 SCIENCE

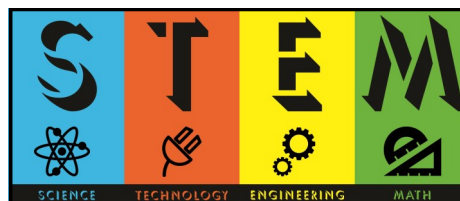
Year 11 pupils are continuing to prepare for GCSEs with a variety of in-class strategies, including revisiting investigations and developing mathematical skills. Boosters continue on Fridays 3.05-3.35 and we are keen for all pupils to attend as far as is possible. A number of pupils have demonstrated significant progress, particularly with chemistry calculations so far this term and a big well done to them for their hard work and commitment.

All pupils should now be regularly revising Science using the revision guides which they should all have. There are various resources, including more practise questions of different difficulty levels, on Moodle and Educake is also a great tool to continue to practise recall with. If you have any questions or would like some further support please do not hesitate to contact Mr Jackson via email or the school office.

Autonomous Vehicle Challenge



The Smallpeice Trust visited NSG on 9th November to lead an "Autonomous Vehicle Challenge" with 9GT and 9LZ. Pupils worked in teams of 6 to build and programme their vehicles before practising their pitching and presenting skills in Main Hall! We hope to host Smallpeice again later in the year as we continue to work with the Trust as part of our participation in the Lord Bhattacharyya Engineering Education Programme. Engineering can offer rewarding and enjoyable career paths to pupils and we encourage them to continue to consider those options when thinking about future pathways!



STEM club is a new extra-curricular offering this year. Several Year 8s have joined in so far to learn to use programmable engineering "Bees", they have learned to build Lego SPIKE and programme the models to carry out a variety of functions. They are currently building model rollercoasters. We hope to extend the club to more pupils and introduce a variety of engineering opportunities over the coming months!



Message from Reception

Could we please ask that if your daughter has to leave school during the day for any reason, could you please write a note in her planner and ask her to get it signed by her Year Head before leaving.

Lost Property - We have numerous items of lost property in reception. Please feel free to pop in and have a look if your daughter has lost her coat/glasses/bottles etc.

BIRMINGHAM MOSQUE VISIT

Year 11 GCSE RE students had the exciting opportunity of visiting Birmingham Central Mosque on Wednesday 8th December. It was a fantastic chance to make the links between our classroom learning on beliefs and practices in Islam with real day-to-day life in the Mosque.

We were greeted by our friendly and engaging tour guide who firstly showed us the community room, the ritual of Wudu before prayer and a model of the Prophet's Mosque in Medina. We also talked about the holy pilgrimage of Hajj; all areas we have been studying as part of the GCSE.

We were then shown the prayer hall where we saw the most magnificent



chandelier and were shown the key parts of Salah (prayer in Islam). Finally, we were given some light refreshments and a presentation on key Muslim beliefs. We

were also given some work packs to take back to school to aid us with our learning! We are really grateful for Birmingham Central Mosque for the opportunity to visit.

Year 11 were praised by the tour guide on their respect, engagement and politeness and they certainly were excellent representatives of our school!



Log onto our website where you will find a link to check if you are eligible for Free School Meals in a matter of minutes, alternatively use the link:- www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham

Free School Meal allowance is added to your child's account automatically so there is no way of anyone knowing any child is on FSM. Any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date with all the exciting events happening in school.



@KEVINorthfield



King Edward VI Northfield
School for Girls

Whole School Activities Day

The whole-school activities day on the 23rd September was a huge success and a welcome return after the events of recent months.

Most of Year 11 visited the National Justice Museum in Nottingham to learn more of the history of law and justice, linking to British Values in the curriculum.

Meanwhile the geographers visited the Carding Mill Valley National Trust property to gain first hand fieldwork experience!

Year 10 had the opportunity to visit some of the main sights in London exploring from Hyde Park, across Green Park to Buckingham Palace and St. James Park. From there they ventured past



Parliament and through Whitehall to Trafalgar Square and Covent Garden. They then crossed to the South Bank over Waterloo Bridge and finished at

Shakespeare's Globe! A long walk but an excellent way to take in the main landmarks and the geography of the capital.

The National Trust's Croome Park hosted Year 9 for the day.

The former secretive RAF base saw the development of radar and the first automated landing of an aircraft but today makes for excellent walking around the large Capability Brown landscape. A sunny day saw an enjoyable walk to take in the gardens, complete with a huge variety of exotic

plants and trees, the landscaped boating lake and a beautiful view from the hillside seat overlooking the main house. A big well done to the pupils for completing a long walk while taking in the English countryside!

Meanwhile, Year 8 visited Birmingham's very own Think Tank to learn about history and science in the city and beyond. They also visited a show about the Universe and enjoyed the interactive



outdoor area.

Year 7 took part in a "This Girl Can!" day with a

variety of activities in school to consolidate the message of the day, including yoga, boxing, rugby and pound fitness.

'London is the place for me!' The Year 10 London trip

Back in late September, the English Faculty took all of Year 10 to London for a day's whistle-stop walking tour of our nation's capital. Here, Daniella and Rose reflect on their experiences:

On the coaches to London, there was a collective atmosphere of anticipation showed through the loud, raucous, chatter and laughter. The weather for the trip was amazing and warm sun filtered in through the windows, highlighting our trip into London.

When we arrived, the traffic was notoriously bad. My classmates waved at pedestrians and at one point we looked down to see a man on his motorcycle with a full printed paper map attached to his bike like a satnav! This made us crack up. While on the coach we could clearly see the Dorchester Hotel, the London Eye, Houses of Parliament and Big Ben in scaffolding up close from the street.

When the coach stopped to let us off, our teacher led us to a meeting point not far from the Globe Theatre. He excitedly pointed this landmark out to us, inspiring talks of Shakespeare's plays while we set off walking along the path next to the River Thames.

We reached Waterloo Bridge at quarter past one. When passing over you could see the London Eye again in the distance from our vantage point. Back on the streets, we passed the Lyceum Theatre where 'The Lion King' was advertised on

banners. We were making our way towards Covent Garden where we were free to have lunch and do some shopping for souvenirs. During our time at Covent Garden there were several performances taking place at the West Piazza. I got to see a person limbo under a flaming bar!

From there we made our way to Trafalgar Square and marvelled at the huge fountains, National Gallery and Nelson's Column before walking down The Mall towards Buckingham Palace. It was a surreal experience looking at the palace: you see images of it all the time, and seeing it up close was thought-provoking. The lustrous golden angel atop the Queen Victoria memorial was mesmerising and we saw the Queen's guards changing over. Just before we set off again, towards where the coaches would pick us up, we had a large year group photograph in front of the gates with some of the teachers!

Overall, I had a lovely, jam-packed day! I felt like it bought me closer to my classmates and teachers while letting me visit famous landmarks and explore a new, different environment with my friends.

Daniella

When we went to London, it was a very humbling experience in the sense that we got to truly indulge in the London that we know in books, for example, 'A Christmas Carol' and 'The Ruby in the Smoke'. And, of course, London was not in bad condition. But the fact that we went to London physically gave you a taste of what it was like to live in London. Especially when it came to certain areas we walked, where there were little alleyways that made you think of how tight and bustling it would be to live there. So, in general, going to London is especially important for the sake of your education and to see England from another angle. So, I guess the more you travel the more you learn. Oh, and when you go, make sure you take photos because the attractions there are unmissable.

Rose



Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

The Attendance Team

Miss Woods has recently been appointed as Senior Learning Mentor with the responsibility for attendance. Her role is to work with pupils, parents and staff along with outside agencies to support pupils to achieve good attendance levels and help them to overcome any barriers to attendance.



Alongside Miss Woods are **Mrs Telfer** (Monday and Tuesday) and **Mrs Cund** (Wednesday-Friday). Both cover the Attendance Officer role working alongside our Year Heads. Each morning attendance is marked, noting any absent messages and calls including Parentmail messages. If a reason has not been received for any pupils absence then a truancy call will be set up to alert parents of the absence.

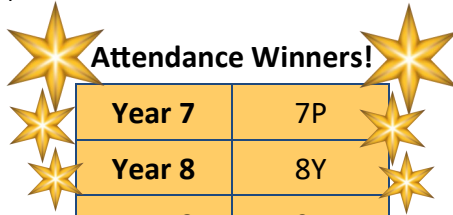


School Attendance

It has been lovely to see pupils returning to school this term and start to see them enjoy more of a normal school day after the pandemic. We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, carers, and pupils for continuing to support good attendance throughout these difficult times. Many pupils are ensuring that they attend every day. Congratulations go to the vast number of pupils who have achieved and met our school target of 97% attendance and above, and well done to those who have achieved 100% attendance since our return in September.

Form Group Attendance

Well done to the following forms that have led the way this term with attendance. At the time of writing this, the forms below are currently in the lead with the best attendance in their year group. We still have a few days to go though, and other form groups are busy chasing this lead to win a form prize. Let the battle commence!



Attendance Winners!

Year 7	7P
Year 8	8Y
Year 9	9P
Year 10	10W
Year 11	11G

100% Attendance Focus Week

Throughout the week 13th-17th December, we have been focusing on 100% attendance. To celebrate the week, we will be holding a prize draw on Friday. To be entered for a chance to win one of the £20 gift vouchers available or a small prize in form, pupils simply needed to attend every day this week. Every pupil who achieves 100% attendance for the week will be entered into the prize draw with an extra bonus for pupils who have

achieved 100% attendance this term. Pupils who have 100% attendance for the term have already been entered and will receive a further entry if they keep up the good work and achieve 100% for the last week.

The prize draw will be held on Friday 17th December and winners will be announced by the end of the day.

Good luck!

We would also like to take the opportunity to highlight the importance of attendance. It is vital for all pupils to attend school daily. Every day counts! Attending school every day has a direct impact on pupils getting better grades and gives pupils a better chance of achieving their full potential. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to develop important social skills and friendships and have a significantly higher chance of leaving school with good qualifications, setting them up for a strong future.

Attendance Tips!

Here are some of the things that pupils can do to improve their attendance:

- ◆ Get plenty of sleep and go to bed at roughly the same time every night
- ◆ Avoid phones, games and TV before going to bed
- ◆ Set an alarm. Allow enough time in the morning to get ready
- ◆ Eat breakfast and be ready for the day
- ◆ Keep on top of homework so that you know you are organised for the week
- ◆ Pack your school bag and sort out uniforms the night before
- ◆ Get involved in school life. Join extra-curricular clubs. The more you contribute the more you get back
- ◆ Book appointments where possible out of school hours or at the end of the school day
- ◆ Talk to school staff if you are worried about your attendance.

We would like to take this opportunity to also remind parents and carers of the process for reporting absence. Parents/Carers are required to contact the school on the first day of their child's absence. Parents/carers can report absences by phoning the school or by using the absence feature on ParentMail. Should you have any questions or concerns with your child's attendance, please contact school.





SEND TEAM



As many of you know we have expanded the SEND Team here at KEVI Northfield School for Girls. **Ms Davies** is our qualified SENDCO and works Monday-Wednesday each week.



Assistant SENDCO and works Wednesday-Friday. We have a team of 6 Teaching Assistants able to provide nearly 130 hours of classroom and intervention support each week, their specialist areas are listed.



Miss Harvey
SEMH, First Aid
Diabetes



Miss Neath
Cognition & Learning,
First Aid, Homework
Club



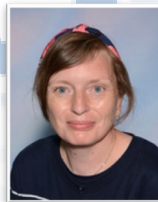
Mrs Lawrence, joined the school from the Communication and Autism at Birmingham Local Authority in September of this year and she is the school's



Miss Collins
Cognition and
Learning
7 Literacy



Miss Croft
English as an
Additional
Language
Support



Miss O'Grady
Cognition and
Learning



Miss Clarke
Cognition and Learning

CAREERS

Year 10 and 11 took part in a careers fair in October. We had representatives from all the local colleges and sixth form colleges as well as training providers talking about apprenticeships. Year 11 also had an



assembly about apprenticeships with ASK to prepare them for it. There were also representatives from the armed forces and the police talking about careers in their organisations. Pupils came out full of information and plans for their future.

All Year 11s were given the opportunity to have a practise job interview with an employer. we had volunteers from BHSF, Balfour Beatty and some of our Further Education partners.

Pupils had to apply for a position in BHSF and interview for it. To prepare,

pupils had to look at the job description for the role, write a letter of application and a CV. They also

had to research the company to make the experience as real as possible. The feedback from employers was overwhelmingly positive for our Year 11s, describing them as confident and well-spoken young people. Hopefully this experience will be of use for our pupils in the future!



Christmas Card Competition

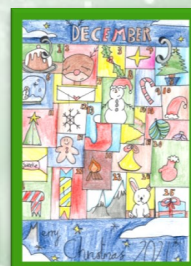


A competition was held for all pupils to design a Christmas card, which will be used as our official 2021 Christmas card. The winning card will be sent out to local primary/secondary schools and the local community, designed by Melissa Year 9. Melissa receives a voucher along with Mozhan, Maisy, Caitlin and Stephanie who were runners up. Over 100 entrants received a certificate and small prize and a selection were also entered into The House of Commons Christmas Card Competition whereby local primary and secondary schools were invited by

Gary Sambrook MP—Northfield Constituency to participate. The winning card will be sent to the Prime Minister & people around the constituency. Thank you to all pupils who took the time to enter.



WINNING CARD



RUNNERS UP

