

NEWSletter

Merry Christmas!

What an enriching and exciting term it has been once more! Students eagerly seized the opportunities to venture beyond the confines of the classroom and explore places of educational significance that truly enhanced their learning experiences. Once again, our dedicated teachers have been hard at work ensuring that these valuable excursions come to fruition. This term, Year 7 have visited the Walsall Art Gallery and Arboretum, Year 8 visited Twycross Zoo, Year 9 travelled to Croome Court National Trust, Year 10 explored Stratford Upon Avon and Year 11 had trips to Carding Mill Valley for Geography and Nottingham Courts.

As always, I want to emphasise the critical importance of parents taking school attendance very seriously. It's well-established that inadequate attendance is the primary contributor to academic underachievement, constraining opportunities for higher education and employment paths, and significantly impacting future life prospects. To the large number of children (151) who have achieved 100% attendance in this term, a big well done and thank you to you!

Unfortunately we have to say a sad farewell to two long standing members of staff. Mr Jackson, our Head of Science, will be leaving us to take up an exciting role with an exam board. Mr Jackson


joined the school as a freshly minted newly qualified teacher in 2009. In a few short years he had taken over the leadership of what was then a Science Faculty in trouble. He has worked relentlessly to improve standards in Science, transforming the curriculum and helping many pupils achieve their ambitions of moving into Science-based careers like medicine. Mr Jackson will be deeply missed. Also goodbye to Mrs Reeves, our Assistant Head, also leaves us to begin a new role in the leadership team of a prestigious school. Mrs Reeves has been with us even longer than Mr Jackson and is in fact our longest serving colleague having worked at our school for very many years.

In that time Mrs Reeves excelled as a PE Teacher, Head of Year 7 and Transition before taking on the massive role of leading pastoral care and safeguarding within the school. Mrs Reeves has been an invaluable asset to the school and her departure will leave a massive gap.

As we anticipate the Christmas break, we also set our sights on the upcoming year, 2024. While taking pride in our accomplishments, we remain resolute in our commitment to achieving even greater success for our students in the year that lies ahead.

Mr Smedley

FAREWELL!



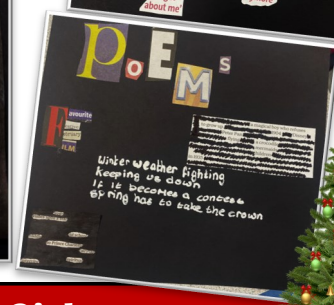
I have worked at King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls (previously Turves Green Girls' School) for 24 years. When I started in 1999, the school looked very different to how it does now- not a mobile phone in sight and a dark green uniform for KS3! I am sure that many of you who were pupils here will remember, like me, the days of the heating breaking down in winter and buckets beneath the cracks in the ceiling when we were still housed in the old building. How far we have come!! We are now housed in a state-of-the-art brand-new building and are part of the prestigious KEVI Trust of schools. As many of you will already know, I am leaving at the end of term and I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you. I genuinely believe that this school is special, a place where staff, parents, carers and the local community work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children that attend here. The pupils here make me laugh on a daily basis (and sometimes cry!!) and I will genuinely miss them. I wish you all the very best for the future. Erica Reeves

Creative Writing Club

The new NSG Creative Writing Club launched in November with a great turnout of fantastic young writers from Years 7-9. So far, they have launched a Winter Writing Competition 'One Winter Evening...' as well as creating some fantastic cut-up and black-out poetry! There will be more fun writing workshops every Monday in Room 28, more

competitions throughout the year, and a group anthology being published at the end of the Spring Term. Ask Miss Norris for more information if you are interested in joining.

Miss Norris



CAREERS

Careers Day

Pupils in Years 7 to 11 were given a chance to speak to Employers, Further Education and Higher Education establishments in October. We had representatives from the NHS, construction apprenticeship providers, local colleges/sixth forms and universities. Pupils were given questions/tasks to complete so they would engage with every visitor and find out what they could offer them in the future. Pupils came away with a greater sense of what their options are post 16 and what they need to work towards to take advantage of the many opportunities Birmingham can offer them.

Mr Keylock



Mock Interview Day

Pupils in Year 11 have been working on interview techniques to get ready for college interviews and job interviews for when the time comes to apply for work. In lessons they have been thinking about how to conduct themselves in an interview, what to wear and how to answer general questions. In November, we brought in 25 employers to give them a practice interview. Pupils were given a time slot and they were given an experience of an interview. Despite many pupils feeling nervous beforehand, the feedback was really positive, with employers praising pupils attitudes and conduct. This experience will give them confidence for any future interviews.



Mr Keylock

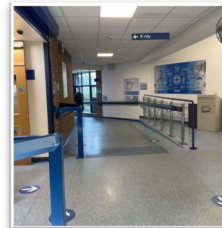


Work Experience

Over the October Half Term, 3 students in Year 10 applied and were successful in being offered a 4 day work experience at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital. Wadza, Oluwalademi and Victoria embraced the opportunity and immersed themselves in the field of medicine in the hope they would be inspired even further in their ambition to enter a medical profession.

to talk to us about their job and what it entails- this is a real insight to a career in the medical profession. We did lots of practical work and got to practice CPR and bone drilling. At the end of day 4 we each received a certificate of participation that can be used as evidence as work experience for the future- what an invaluable opportunity we had!

Mrs Elliott



Here is what the girls said about their experience;

“We were given an extensive tour of the hospital and started off with some team building tasks. Different specialists in their field came

Hello Mr Jones,

I am one of the many students who finished in 2022, I've recently come back to collect my textiles work which was when I ran into Mrs Southall and just discussed with her how my life has been since leaving (which was eventful I'll let you know), telling her how I'm doing in my A levels and how I'm applying to Russell Group Universities where I'm planning to study Pharmaceutical Sciences or Pharmacy (I haven't quite decided). My secondary school experience has definitely played a role in how I've grown as a person and the type of person I've become.

Thank you,
Hope Abumhenre
Class of 2022

McCANN BIRMINGHAM



A big thank you to McCann who are a global company, one of the biggest advertising agencies in the world for giving our Year 10 Graphics class the opportunity of working with you this month. McCann have worked with clients to design adverts for companies such as Coca Cola and Just Eat to designing some of the latest adverts such as Kevin the Carrot for Aldi.

Our Year 10 pupils worked with professionals in the advertising industry from creative directors, researchers,

business leaders, the PR team and the media team. They worked on a live brief of a current client, cross country trains and presented to the professionals at the end of the day. Both the agency and myself were super impressed by how well they all did. So a huge congratulations. Check out the video of their day on our website

<https://nsg.kevibham.org/curriculum/art-technology/graphic-design/>

Mrs Tucker



ASPIRE EXPERIENCES - Miss Hufton



Years 8 and 10 Aspire groups went to Blackwell to develop their team building and resilience skills. Despite some being reticent to participate at the start everyone played a role, whether it was climbing or being

in charge of anchoring their partner using a rope and belay. They had to work in close partnership when crate stacking to support each other as they climbed higher in pairs on narrow wobbly crates. On Giant's Ladder teamwork was also essential to both scale this obstacle and to encourage each other



when struggling with the height. Well done Year 8s, who exceeded the height reached by the Year 10s on both obstacles. Everyone returned home with both a sense of achievement and having had a great time.



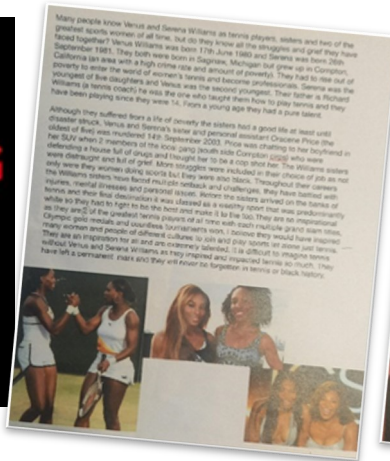
Year 10 Aspire students had Professor Mike Coleman from Aston University to talk to them, some students from King Norton Girls' School and Lordwood Girls' on Wednesday 27th September. His major research includes the use of human cellular systems to replace animal testing in research to increase the reliability of this research. He applies this to study and therapy of neurodegenerative diseases. Despite this topic being very academic he managed to illustrate it clearly with some humorous references to make it more accessible to GCSE students. He also discussed how working as a Scientist requires team work and how this is vital to his approach to research in Toxicology. It was a fabulous opportunity to hear from someone working in the top of his field to inspire our students to aim high.

IRWIN MITCHELL

Year 9 Aspire students are currently participating in the Envision Programme. This is a social action project where they work with an Envision mentor and visit business mentors based at Irwin Mitchell, a law firm in Birmingham City Centre. They are working on a project to increase cultural awareness within Northfield School for Girls. It has required them to develop confidence and independence by approaching the canteen staff and senior leadership team to get agreement on their projects. They have interviewed other students about their culture, collected feedback from students through a

questionnaire and delivered a week of culture, including adding foods to the canteen menu to increase the representation of the cuisine of the different cultures represented within NSG. This Social Action Project will culminate in an inter-school competition held at Birmingham City Football Club on Tuesday 23rd January 2024. It's fabulous to see the growth in their confidence, public-speaking and independence. Well done to everyone involved in Envision and to those students who kindly participated and shared their experiences of their culture.





This year, Black History Month bearing the theme "Celebrating Our Sisters", aimed to shine the spotlight on the contributions of black women in their communities in the UK and even on the global stage. And why, one might ask? Why the bother? This is because the contributions of many black women have often been overlooked, trivialised, ignored, or even silenced.

How did our school honour Black History Month this year?

Several activities took place throughout the month. For example: Afro beats dance sessions with Ms. Adey; BHM assemblies with Mr. Yentumi; our teachers shared with students black

women they celebrate and why they found them inspirational. Students did the same and some of these have been displayed for all in the school to read. It was so admirable to see a wide array of black women being celebrated; from the well known to those known more personally like friends, teachers, neighbours and even family members. Students also participated in a creative writing competition on the same theme. The winners were: Lacey (first place), Tabitha (second place), Paige and Sienna (joint third). They received some lovely presents and golden tickets meaning they get to go on the next golden ticket trip outside school. Congratulations to the winners and all who participated.

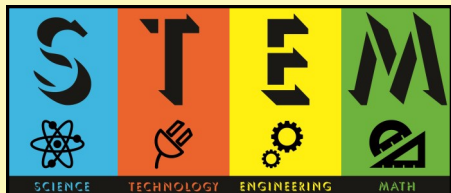
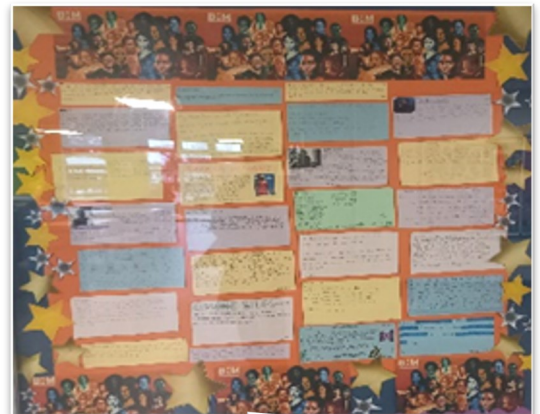
from a wide variety of fields. From publishing pioneer Jessica Huntley, musician Dame Shirley Bassey to black women in the military, politics, the entertainment industry, STEM, sports, business, social activism, finance, health, and those who have revolutionised the way black girls view, accept, appreciate, and style their hair. Copies of the magazine are now available in the school library for both students and staff to read.

Thank you to everyone for engaging in BHM activities this year and may we propose to proudly celebrate black women all year round.

Mrs Pearson



BHM's theme this year is particularly significant for our school because it is important for our students to have female role models, women they admire, and who inspire them. Hence, it is vital that we continue to shine the spotlight on these deserving black women who often do not receive as much recognition for their work and contributions to society. The Black History Month Organisation published a magazine that celebrates black British women



Miss Sheppard, myself and five pupils from Year 10 attended the Lord Bhattacharyya Engineering Education Programme Celebration on 7th December at the National Automotive Innovation Centre at the University of Warwick to showcase our engineering work and see what other schools in the programme have been

working on! We heard from schools, visited their stalls and also visited several STEM employers.

The LBEEP programme has helped us to facilitate various activities and equipment in school, including PIPER computer kits, LEGO Spike, Snap electronics kits, speaker kits, hydroponics stations for growing fresh herbs for Food Science, a 3D printer, an air track for physics, engineering kits (including hovercraft and boats) and an orienteering kit. We will also be involved in a special Medical Mavericks session and receive some medical related

equipment this year. Several STEM days, with another to follow in February, and CREST awards have also been run.



We look forward to seeing some of our pupils considering engineering and solving the challenges of tomorrow in their future careers.

Mr Jackson

READY STEADY COOK

were awarded Chef of the Term Year 7 Daisy and Brooke, Year 8 Renee and Shyanna, Year 9 Isobel and Madison. Well done !

Miss Carroll



The Food department have been busy in December making a range of Christmas bakes; Yule Log, Gingerbread, Christmas Tree Brownies and Shortbread Christmas Trees. Cooking club have also joined in the fun making and decorating Christmas sugar cookies. We have had a busy and productive term with some excellent outcomes. The following pupils

“Cockles and Mussels alive alive oh!”

We were delighted to be one of 250 schools in the UK that received top quality rope-grown mussels, courtesy of the Food Teachers Centre - 2,000kg of mussels were sent to schools! Our school was one of the lucky schools.

It's part of the Fish Heroes project, which encourages young people to learn about,

cook and taste fish. This allowed the opportunity for some of our lucky GCSE Year 10's the opportunity to prepare and cook top quality rope-grown mussels in two styles Thai-Curry and Garlic Mariniere this week. Most of the students had never tasted mussels before the experience, and were thrilled with the results. Along the way, our

students were also able to learn about how nutritional, seasonal and sustainable the shellfish were. We would like to extend our thanks to the Fish Heros Project, Offshore Shellfish Ltd, River Teign Shellfish and DFDS Global for such a fantastic opportunity.

Miss Carroll



GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS women's aid

until women & children are safe
www.womensaid.org.uk

As the holiday season unfolds, our school has been buzzing with the spirit of giving and compassion. In an inspiring display of empathy, each form group took up the challenge to create the most heart warming shoeboxes for Women's Aid this Christmas.



The initiative, led by Miss Sheppard and supported by enthusiastic students, aimed to bring joy and comfort to those in need during the festive season.

Students from all form groups eagerly embraced the opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

From essential toiletries and cozy winter accessories to handwritten cards and festive treats, the shoeboxes were carefully curated to brighten the spirits of the recipients. The commitment and dedication demonstrated by our students reflected the true meaning of the season – spreading love and hope to those who may be facing challenging times.

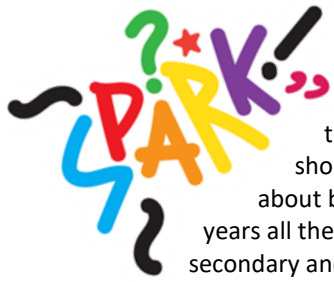
Women's Aid, were extremely grateful to receive these thoughtful gifts as a reminder that they are valued and

supported by a caring community. The collective effort put forth by our students not only demonstrates their capacity for empathy but also underscores the importance of extending a helping hand to those in need.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this wonderful cause. Your generosity has made a meaningful impact, and together, we have made a positive difference in the lives of others.

Mr Chesterman





Spark! are dedicated to our mission that all children should be buzzed about books, from early years all the way to secondary and beyond. We hope to engage all young readers, particularly reluctant readers and those with limited access to books, and ensure everyone can see their diverse communities reflected in the books we choose. Ultimately, we are looking for books with heart.

How it works? Spark! are an award where the children decide the winners! Once the shortlisted books are announced in early January, it's over to

schools and children to read, react and vote on the winners of the Spark! Book Awards.

We will be looking for a panel of Pupil Judges to help read the shortlisted books and help decide which one is the best! Judges will have the opportunity to virtually meet the authors, ask them questions, enter competitions and attend the virtual awards ceremony in July 2024, where you will find out which books has won.

If you are interested in representing King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls as a judge, please talk to Mrs Dunnaker in the Library by February 2024. See across for the Longlisted Titles, the 12 Books of Christmas, which would make fantastic Christmas gifts for any pupil.

Mrs Dunnaker



Hi **GRAPHIC NOVELS** Hi

Keep an eye out in the New Year for our fabulous new Graphic Novels Section in the Library which has been stocked with 120 brand new titles available to borrow now!

STUDENTS WOW IN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Students from across Music and Dance rounded off 2023 in style last Thursday at the NSG Christmas Concert. Participation was incredibly high with over 70s students performing in solos,

duets or ensembles in a variety of both music and dance styles. The

dance department provided three dances; one from Year 7 after school club, one from Year 9 after school club

and then a final dance from the Year 10 GCSE class. The Year 10 dance proved to be a highly aspirational dance for all of the younger years that saw it with not a step out of time, cartwheels and a lift at the end! From the Music department came a very eclectic mix of performances from Reggae to Samba and a good portion of festive cheer. Alongside showcases of what the students have been doing in class, we also saw performances from our afterschool clubs including School Ensemble and School Choir. Head and Deputy Head Girls Grace and Aimee



performed a dazzling performance of 'In The Bleak Midwinter' which will likely be their last school performance before their GCSEs and the whole event was finished with a performance of Merry Christmas which included everybody that had appeared in the show that night!

Mr Dolan





NEXT GENERATION AWARDS

Thursday 12 October saw a fantastic performance from six of our Year 8 pupils at the Next Generation Awards, held at Highbury Hall: Frankie, Berachah, Poppie, Lilly May, Lillie Mae, and Sophie-Grace. The judges from the Birmingham Civic Society selected their project (to educate young people in the local area about the dangers of knife crime) as the winner of the £1500 start up grant ahead of other competing Birmingham schools, describing it as "unique and powerful". They were mentored by Ms Mohand throughout the process, bringing the very best out of them. Well done, girls!"

The Next Generation Award is a long-standing Citizenship scheme run by the Birmingham Civic Society. It encourages young people to become good citizens by allowing schools to present their ideas for projects which will benefit their local community.

Mr Sweeney



Poppy Appeal

Thank you for donations to the Poppy Appeal, King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls raised a massive:

£109.29

Mrs Smith in reception crocheted some beautiful poppies and sold them in school to add to our donations. She is hoping to do more next year to allow more people to buy them.



Christmas Card Competition

A competition was held for all pupils to design a Christmas card, which has been used as our official 2023 Christmas card. The winning card has been sent out to local primary/secondary schools and the local community, designed by Alexis. Alexis received a voucher along with Veronika and Aimee who were runners up. All entrants received a certificate and small prize. Thank you to all pupils who took the time to enter.



WINNING CARD



Congratulations also go to Alaika and Veronika who came runners up for the MP's Christmas Card competition.



SOCIAL MEDIA

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



WORRY WORMS

Chrysalis is a mentoring group that was set up nearly 20 years ago to help students socially and emotionally in school.

Mrs Murphy and our Chrysalis group have been busy raising money for a local U7's grassroots team 'Arden Forest Little Lions' who have been left with no funds for kit's by selling crocheted worry worms. Over £90 has been raised so far. Merry Christmas from

Chrysalis



The Nutcracker

On Wednesday 6th December Miss Adey and Mrs Reeves took 20 pupils to The Birmingham Hippodrome to watch The Nutcracker ballet. For some of the pupils, it was their first time at the theatre or their first time watching a ballet. All pupils enjoyed themselves and enjoyed the experience of the magic of the ballet.



SPORTS UPDATE

FOOTBALL

Year 7/8 football team took part in a KEVI football tournament at King Edward Five Ways. This is the first time they played together as a team and they came third overall. We lost one game, drew one game and won one game, with Maggie scoring a goal for us. Player of the match was our goalkeeper Maisy for her excellent saves.

Miss Adey



Daisy in Year 11 has just won Junior Champion of Champions in Autograss racing as well as



winning Junior Special Champion. The image shown is Daisy in her own car which she maintains herself. She is an excellent mechanic as well as a racing driver. Daisy races in the junior special category where she competes with other young people across the country. Autograss is a non-contact motorsport that takes place on an oval track (approximately 400 metres) using a natural soil surface.

Mrs Campbell

NETBALL

Netball this year has been a massive success, with at one point 45 pupils turning up to training on a Tuesday evening. Our new Year 7 team have remained unbeaten in all their games, having won 3 games and drew one, with the draw being the first match they played together as a team. There has also been successes with the Year 8 team who won 3 of their games, and narrowly lost their fourth. Netball has proven to be massively popular this term, and there will be an opportunity for all 4 teams to play in the district



tournaments which takes place in the New Year.

Miss Barstow

GOLDEN GIRL - Jaeda-Lei

We'd like to wish a huge congratulations to Jaeda-Lei one of last years Year 11s who recently competed for Great Britain at the World Junior Trampoline, Tumbling and DMT Championship, held right here in Birmingham.

Jaeda-Lei was able to secure GOLD in 15-16 age tumbling final, making her the first gymnast from her club to have secured a second World Age Gold. She stormed her way into the finals after qualifying in 1st place and maintained

her placing throughout the final rounds to be crowned World Age Champion.

Jaeda-Lei successfully balanced school life and her training while she was a pupil here and we are so, so proud of her commitment and determination.

Mrs Hughes



Our PE extra-curricular clubs have been a big success this term, with more pupils than ever attending regularly. Pupils are enjoying collecting signatures to record their attendance in their Stay Active booklets. Each pupil who has received 20 signatures this term has gained a ticket to our first Glow in the Dark Dodgeball event! Students also have the opportunity to collect a bronze, silver and gold Stay Active badge, to wear with pride on their blazers. Please encourage your child to come along to PE clubs and look out for the spring clubs which will include fencing, squash and boxing!

Mrs Vizor

Governors

We would like to welcome three new Governors, Rebecca Varney - Co-opted Governor, Jenny Adey - Staff Governor and Rachel Edwards - Appointed by The Trust to the Governing Board. All to serve on the Governing Board for a period of four years.

Rebecca, Jenny and Rachel all bring skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls.

STAFF/NEWS

We welcome the following staff who will be joining KEVI NSG in January.

Teaching

Mr Simon Housley (Teacher of Science)
 Mx Camille Johnsen (Teacher of English)
 Mr Yasser Ishaque (Head of RE)
 Mrs Louise Sanders (Teacher of Food Technology / Food Science)

Mrs Lisa Colvin-Grieve (Assistant Headteacher - Pastoral)

Miss Katie Lonsdale (Teacher of PE/ Cover Supervisor)

Support

Ms Sophie Rogers (Cleaner)
 Ms Kirsty Graham (Receptionist)
 Miss Reme McAlister-Willie (Teaching Assistant)
 Miss Ibtisam Dirie (Science Technician)