



Issue

11

Tuesday 7 March 2017

Diary Dates

Thursday 9 March 2017

Year 7 Parents' Evening 4.30pm — 7.00pm

Tuesday 14 March 2017

Parent Forum 5.30pm — 6.30pm

Tuesday 21 March 2017

Year 11 Parent Information Evening
5.30pm — 6.30pm 'Preparing for exams'



ABSENCE REPORTING 01536 741857 — OPTION 1

Please report pupil absences as early as possible each day on the main Academy telephone number—01536 741857. Select option 1 (Please note — a call to the Academy is necessary on **EACH** day of absence).

Message from the Principal

Welcome to our latest newsletter. As always you will find lots of important information contained within and news of the incredible work and achievements our staff and pupils have completed.

If you are a parent of a Year 11 pupil(s), you will know that the revision and intervention programme is well under way. We are now regularly seeing 100+ Year 11 pupils staying behind at the end of the academy day in order to complete revision and master classes. What is increasingly heartening is to hear pupils say they are staying because they value the extra time and effort that the staff are putting in and that they know it is benefitting their education, rather than because they need to attend in order to go to the Prom! In that vein I was reminded that hard work and a positive attitude are key to success when I heard a poem read out on Radio 5 just before Huddersfield Town's FA Cup fifth-round replay against Manchester City. The poem is called 'Thinking' and was written by Walter D Wintle, it reads:



*If you think you are beaten, you are
If you think you dare not, you don't,
If you like to win, but you think you can't
It is almost certain you won't.*

*If you think you'll lose, you're lost
For out of the world we find,
Success begins with a fellow's will
It's all in the state of mind.*

*If you think you are outclassed, you are
You've got to think high to rise,
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.*

*Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man,
But soon or late the man who wins
Is the man WHO THINKS HE CAN!*

There is no substitute to hard work and a positive mental attitude, a belief that by working hard pupils can and will succeed on the summer exams. It is increasingly positive and encouraging to see our pupils embody this message as they work hard and take advantage of the opportunities being made available to them by the Academy staff. Well done to Year 11, and thank you to their teachers. Keep it up!

Mr A Burton (Principal)

HELP IN IMPROVING OUR ACADEMY

Dear Parent/Guardian

May I ask for your help in improving Kingswood Secondary Academy?

We are constantly trying to improve the education that we offer the pupils of our school and are now at a stage in the school year where we need you to tell us how well you think we are doing and how we can improve the things that are important to you.

Please spare 10 minutes to complete a questionnaire by going to:

<http://survey.qj-assessment.co.uk/s/l48Z2/>

and logging on using the password which has been emailed to you. If we do not have your email, and consequently haven't received the password, please contact Joanna March at the Academy with your email address and we will send the password to you.

By completing the questionnaire, you will be telling us how you think we should be spending our time and resources, to make our Academy the best that it can be for your child.

Each completed questionnaire is vital in finding out what parents think. Your answers will be treated in the strictest confidence and will make a difference to how we run the Academy and plan for the future.

With thanks in anticipation of your help.



LIVE LOUNGE

As you are aware, auditions for Live Lounge took place before half term break. We are in the middle of going through the process of informing people who have successfully made it to Live Lounge to prepare them for the show in a few weeks time.

This year's Live Lounge will showcase musical talent from all years across the Academy and will take place on Wednesday 22 March 2017. It will be hosted in EP8 from 7.00pm to 9.00pm, with an interval half way through. Watch this space for more information!

Year 11 BTEC Music Group

STUDY HUB

Just a reminder that the 'Study Hub' is available to all pupils in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) from Monday to Thursday 3.10pm – 4.10pm in Sixth Form and offers:

- * Good IT access
- * Free resources
- * A calm and purposeful environment to work
- * Staff availability
- * Supported self-study

CYCLE STORAGE

Pupils who arrive at the Academy on a bike are reminded to always leave it securely locked.

We suggest that bikes are left in one of the three shelters closest to the Academy as these can be clearly monitored by CCTV.



YEAR 7 BASKETBALL

On Thursday 23 February 2017, the Year 7 boys basketball team competed in the county basketball finals at Arena Sports, Kettering.



All of the boys did themselves, and the Academy, proud and showed great resilience throughout the day. The competition was tough for the duration of the tournament with Kingswood coming up against the likes of Northampton School for Boys and Latimer Arts College. There were stand out performances from Harry Mitchell, Lewis Raine and Luke Best which ensured the team finished in 4th place. They team has shown fantastic commitment and enthusiasm to the extra-

curricular basketball club and we will look to build on this success as the year goes on. The squad included :

Harry Mitchell
Mason Price
Sam Rattigan

Lewis Raine
Leon Brooks
Seyitan Showunmi

Alfie Colyer
Louis James

Luke Best
Taylor Farrell

PARENT FORUM

The recent meeting of the Parent Forum took place on Tuesday 31 January 2017. The meeting was chaired by Mr Lawson, Deputy Principal, and the main topic on the agenda was 'Showcasing pupils' work'.



After discussing matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting, which included on line payments, the reward system, vacancies on the AAC, road safety and extra-curricular activities, Mr Lawson gave a short tour of the Academy for the Forum to see the pupils' work displayed in the corridors and in classrooms. Suggestions were then made about how to further showcase the work. The main topic on the agenda for the next meeting is 'Reports and Parents' Evenings' when Mrs L Hedges, Assistant Principal and responsible for Parents' Evenings, will be invited to attend.

The minutes of this meeting are available to view on the Academy website. The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 14 March 2017 at 5.30 pm.

SIXTH FORM TRIP TO GAMBIA FEBRUARY 2018

As you may be aware, for many years the Academy has supported a village in The Gambia, West Africa. We are again organising to take a group of Sixth Form pupils to Penyem, Gambia, during the holiday in February 2018. This is an amazing lifetime opportunity to visit a lower income country and see the local people living their daily lives. Pupils will see the running of the school, medical centre, solar farm and experience how people go about their everyday lives, with the chance to help cooking, wash, and collect the vegetables and grain.

Planning for the trip is in the early stages, with places limited to 15 pupils, allocated on a 'first-come first-served' basis. Mrs Commons (Head of Geography), Mr Robertson (Head of Sixth form) and Miss E Carroll (Humanities) will be taking part in the trip, and it is likely that additional staff may also take up this wonderful chance to visit The Gambia. The cost of flights and bed and breakfast hotel accommodation, airport transfers in The Gambia, transport to the village, insurance etc will be approximately £950-£1000 per pupil. A non returnable deposit of £200 is required, with the balance to be paid by the October 2017 holiday.

Letters containing all of the details for the trip are available from Mrs Commons or on the Academy website.

For full details of the charity please visit www.northamptonf.blogspot.com.

SPREAD A LITTLE KINDESSS CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

The week from 6 – 10 February 2017 was Children's Mental Health Week and the Academy spent the week with dedicated assemblies and specific form time activities based on the mental health of our pupils. As part of our 'celebration' of this issue we were involved in 'Challenge Tessa'. Tessa Parkinson (from the Mental Health Stigma Programme) met Year 7 pupils on Thursday 9 February dressed in a white jumpsuit and bearing balloons and leaflets for our pupils to read. Tessa's aim was to visit as many schools and Academies in Northamptonshire as possible who would stamp her suit with their name to raise awareness of this important issue. Sam Rattigan stamped her suit and we discussed the concept of "stigma" in relation to Mental Health in order to get pupils thinking and talking about mental health and the difficulties people face when dealing with problems in their lives. The pupils had their photograph taken with Tessa at the front of Academy.



On Friday 10 February, 50 balloons were released from the front of the Academy sending a message to everyone that schools and Academies in Northamptonshire are working to support the mental health of all our pupils. To show Kingswood's commitment within the community we set ourselves the challenge of making 1000 paper cranes (a Japanese legend that grants the maker a wish if they make 1000) to be displayed in Reception. By 3:10pm on Friday 10 February pupils and staff had made an unbelievable 1143 cranes, with more arriving. This will form a stunning visual representation and send a clear message that as an Academy we will help and support anyone with a mental health concern or issue.



EMERGENCY CADETS

We are delighted to announce the start of the Kingswood Emergency Cadets in April. This will give pupils the opportunity to be trained by members of the Police, Fire and Ambulance Service for 10 week modules.

The training will require pupils to work at the Police Station and Fire Station, and to understand how all the Emergency Services work together. This will be a truly exciting opportunity and it could culminate in gaining a recognised qualification in Leadership and

Teamwork. The initiative will launch at our Academy which will be the first for Corby! Training will take place each week on a Thursday and all participants will be issued with uniforms that can be worn during the Academy day when training is scheduled.

It is open to pupils in Year 9 and above. If you are interested in joining then please see your Year Team or alternatively see Mr Van Lier in the Atrium any day during Break 2.



KNIFE CRIME

This week (1 and 2 March), Year 9 and 10 assemblies were organised and run by The Northants Police Force, tackling issues such as knife crime, safety and gangs. PCSO Steve Coles was accompanied by Laura Shaw delivering a mixture of information, interactive work and video footage to cover all of these areas. The videos were of good quality and showed how a 17 year old had become involved in a gang set up that led to him putting himself and his family in grave danger. Another story was how a young 13 year old girl also become involved with a gang who used and then also abused her and forced her to carry out hideous crimes. She was detained at the end of her story. All in all the videos were very informative and quite hard hitting without being graphic.



The message centred around being sensible and staying safe. Pupils were also given details of an organisation approachable by either email or leaving messages anonymously, if they see or hear anything or anyone who is at risk, themselves included.

The feedback afterwards from pupils was very positive and the sessions were very well received.

HOW TO BE FOOD SMART



As part of a project being run with the Youth Sport Trust (PE2020 project), we are a trailblazing Academy with a group of pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 who are health and wellbeing champions.

As part of this project, we spent the day at Leicester Diabetes Centre with Dr Deirdre Harrington who is based at the Leicester General Hospital.

The Health and Wellbeing Champions have now designed a programme and delivered this to all Year 7 pupils in form time. This included increasing awareness by playing diabetes bingo whilst watching a video clip, playing diabetes truth or false, and then making the pupils sugar smart by measuring the sugar content in drinks.

The project has been so successful we are looking at now rolling it out to Year 8 pupils.

MAGICAL CREATURES IN THE WOODS

Sunday 19 March 10am—11am and 12pm—1pm
Meet at the woodland cabin by the Corby Boating Lake



Back by popular demand, a second chance to take part in a workshop lead by **Kurt Laurenz**. After hearing woodland myths and legends be inspired to create your own magical creatures and draw them onto pre-blackened slides ready to be projected down by the Corby Boating Lake as part of the Our Woods Festival Finale in May.

Tickets one price for all £3.50 available from the Core at Corby Cube or pay at the event.



**KINGSWOOD
SECONDARY ACADEMY**

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The Kingswood Secondary Academy is one of the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust Group of Academies