



# Kingsdown School

“Innovative Education, Traditional Values”

## InTouch

Newsletter 2/December 2017

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to our end of Term 2 InTouch magazine. Term 2 for our school has flown by. That said, there have been many significant milestones and achievements for everyone associated with the school. Together we have successfully:

- Embedded our new and improved Behaviour for Learning Policy.
- Developed the profile of our Attendance strategy which has led to a 5% increase in our whole school statistic.
- Completed a highly successful two week Year 11 Mock Examination period. Indeed on day one Year 11 attendance was 97.2%.
- We have been delighted to be able to continue to say that we are fully staffed with fully qualified and highly experienced staff. In January we welcome Miss Winwood to our PE team, Mrs Hamilton to our Maths team & we welcome back Mrs Green from her maternity leave.
- We have continued our ongoing focus on improving the quality of teaching and learning. Every teacher has been observed and received high quality and personalised feedback in supporting them to further develop their practice.
- We have developed our links with our local networks. I have met several times with our Cluster Primary Heads and have met termly with our local Secondary Headteachers. Additionally the support and challenge from the RLT has had a significant impact upon further developing and deepening the quality of provision for all.
- Throughout September – December we have hosted a number of high profile events – most notably the Literature Festival as well as numerous sporting events.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our teachers and support staff at Kingsdown School. Without exception they have all embraced the new chapter at our school. Their hard work, dedication, commitment and teamwork has been evident to see each and every day. Additionally I would like to thank all parents and carers who have attended information evenings and supported us in our partnership to support your sons and daughters. More recently thank you for your support with the recent disruptions caused by the weather, it was truly appreciated.

Please be reminded that we finish on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm. Please also take note of the following dates and times below.

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January will be a Teacher Training day and thereby closed to all students.
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January only **Year 7 & 11** students will be required to be in school at 1.30pm.
- Every student in **Years 8 – 10** must be in school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January from 8.30am – 10.40am. **Years 7 & 11** will need to be at school from 10.40am. Normal lessons will resume from 11.00am for all students.

Wishing you and your family a very peaceful and restful Christmas.

I look forward to meeting you early in 2018.

With very best wishes and thanks again for your ongoing support.

*Mrs Leigh-Bennett*

# Uniform at Kingsdown School

A reminder of the uniform that is to be worn at school:

<b>Trousers</b>	:	Plain black trousers, normal cloth, full ankle length and standard fitting
<b>Skirt</b>	:	Plain, black, knee length
<b>Shirt</b>	:	Plain white, short or long sleeved with collar attached. (To be tucked in at all times)
<b>Tie</b>	:	School tie, red and black striped, worn conventionally
<b>Jumper</b>	:	Official School Jumper with Kingsdown logo - not to be tucked in
<b>Shoes</b>	:	Plain, black, polish-able, low heeled sensible design with no visible logo
<b>Socks</b>	:	Plain white, black or dark grey
<b>Tights</b>	:	Plain, black, dark grey or neutral
<b>Outdoor Coat</b>	:	Plain, sensible coat, raincoat or anorak, no sport stripes ie Adidas

The following are not allowed:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sweatshirts</li><li>• High heeled shoes</li><li>• Denim</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sports Shirts</li><li>• Canvas shoes</li><li>• Hoodies</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Boots (including ankle boots)</li><li>• Tracksuit tops</li></ul>
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<b>Jewellery</b>	:	Limited to one earring in each ear lobe (plain stud), one signet ring, one charity bracelet and watch
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The following are not allowed:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nail varnish</li><li>• Make-up</li><li>• False/acrylic nails</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nose studs or other body piercing</li><li>• Bracelets</li><li>• Fashion accessories</li></ul>
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<b>Hair</b>	:	Only natural hair colours are acceptable. Shaven patterns should not be worn
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## Parking at the end of the school day

We would kindly request that parents/carers be considerate to the local residents when parking in the Kingsdown Gate area for school pick up.

We would like to remind you that there is parking available at the Kingsdown Sports Centre. Many thanks.

## TEAM SPORTS AT KINGSDOWN

Representing your school in a sports team is an extremely proud moment for any student. Here at Kingsdown we pride ourselves in giving students an extensive range of opportunities to play for a variety of sports teams throughout the academic year.

The school year kicks off with the Rugby season for the boys. Rugby is also taught in lessons and training after school happens in Term 1 so students can hone their skills and put these skills into increasingly competitive situations.

For the girls it is Netball which kicks the academic year off. Kingsdown has had many successful league winning teams in Netball over the years. Off the back of this success a netball academy was set up to push the elite students and promote further technical and tactical development.

During Term 2 Basketball season starts for the boys whilst the girls continue with their Netball fixtures.

Term 2 also sees our annual cross-country qualifications in PE. The top 10 boys and girls from each year group will be entered to represent the school at the Swindon School Cross-Country Championships. This leads on to qualification to the Wiltshire and South-West competitions.

Whilst those basketball teams that are still in cup competitions finish their season in Term 3, the boys and girls pre-season training and friendlies take place in preparation for the football season commencing in Term 4.

During the summer Terms boys and girls athletics competitions occur at the county ground. This falls in line with athletics in lesson time and after school athletics clubs.

There is also Cricket and softball for the boys and Rounders fixtures for the girls. Attending clubs and team training is key to being chosen to represent the school teams throughout the year. Below is the outline of the school teams during the school year.

If students are unsure when training or fixtures are they should speak with their PE teacher. Also look out for Dance competitions throughout the year of which Kingsdown is always well represented.

### **Term 1 – Rugby (B), Netball (G)**

### **Term 2 – Netball (G), Basketball (B) and Cross Country (B&G)**

### **Term 3 – Basketball (B)**

### **Term 4 – Football (B&G)**

### **Term 5 and 6 – Athletics (B&G), Cricket/Softball (B) and Rounders (G)**

## Sports Update

### PE CLUBS - Term 2

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>Netball Academy</b> (All years) Netball courts Mrs Wright	<b>Basketball</b> (All years) Sports Centre Mr Mason/Mr Shepherd	<b>Fitness</b> (All Year) Fitness Suite Mr Shepherd
<b>Dance</b> (All years) Dance Studio Miss Harris	<b>Dance Elite</b> (Selected students only) Dance Studio Miss Harris	<b>BTEC Catch Up</b> (Year 10/11) C2.7 Mr Mason
<b>Football Year</b> (Year 7/8) 3G Mr Sharp		<b>Hockey</b> (All years) 3G Miss Maller

All clubs run from 3.15-4.15pm approx.

## Lunchtime Sports Activities

Day/Year Group	7	8	9	10/11
Monday	Old Gym - Table Tennis	New Gym - Dodgeball	3G - Football	3G - Football
Tuesday	3G - Football	3G - Football	New Gym - Dodgeball	Old Gym - Table Tennis
Wednesday	New Gym - Dodgeball	Old Gym - Table Tennis	3G - Football	3G - Football
Thursday	3G - Football	3G - Football	Old Gym - Table Tennis	New Gym - Dodgeball
Friday	x	x	3G - Football	3G - Football

Year 9 Rugby Team finished 5th out of 8 in the tournament held at Supermarine RFC on Thursday 9th November. The team beat Wootton Bassett and drew with Commonweal putting them through to the next round where they lost to LPA. The team were fantastic and player of the tournament was Matty Ashman.



## Swindon Schools Cross-Country Championships 17'

**Kingsdown students shine** on a wet, cold and muddy November morning. 42 students in total represented Kingsdown School on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November at the annual Swindon Schools Cross-Country competition hosted by Nova Hreod Academy. The adverse weather did not prevent a fantastic turnout with hundreds of runners from schools in and around Swindon competing to win the prestigious race and qualify for the Wiltshire trials later in the year. The distances varied from 1.6 miles for the younger age groups to 2.3 miles for the older students. The course was extremely muddy in parts and students had to be sure of their footing when running through the forest. Kingsdown Schools' very own Katie New and Jack Collins won the boys and girls minor races. Kingsdown runners also had 3 of the top 5 students in the minor boys race including Raff Brackenbury in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Harry Edwards in 4<sup>th</sup> place. Notable other performances were Kieran Dunne and Jayden Wilson finishing in 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> out of 100 students respectfully. In the girls minor race Luci Dimond finished in a respectable 10<sup>th</sup> place out of 95 runners. Jasmine Passmore finished in 11<sup>th</sup> position in the junior girls race. Top runner for Kingsdown in the junior boys was Sam Cleary who finished in 13<sup>th</sup> place. Pryce Keeble finished in 12<sup>th</sup> position in the inter boys race and Alice Neighbour finished in 9<sup>th</sup> position in the inter girls race. Keep an eye out for photos on [yoursportswindon.com](http://yoursportswindon.com). All photos will have the water mark on but can be purchased through the website. Congratulations to all the runners for representing Kingsdown with immense pride – well done to you all.



Katie New 1st place Girls Minor Race



Jack Collins 1st place Boys Minor Race



# Exam Invigilator vacancy

## Exam Invigilator Casual Work Contract Approximately 8 weeks of the year

### Lead Exam Invigilator

*£9.24 per hour plus holiday allowance*

### Exam Invigilator

*£8.11 per hour plus holiday allowance*

We are looking to recruit reliable, excellent communicators, who are able to work under pressure to join our Exam Invigilation team to oversee our examinations. This is a casual contract which would include attendance of Team Meetings and Training Events.

Exams are the most important and stressful events in the life of a learner. That's why it is so important they are managed in the correct way. Invigilators are crucial to this process; ensuring exams are conducted in accordance with Exam Board and School Regulations. Working as a team, invigilators contribute to ensuring a calm environment for the exams, giving candidates confidence in the process.

Kingsdown School is part of a Multi Academy Trust and joined the River Learning Trust on the 1st September 2017. The successful applicants will join the School as River Learning Trust employees.

Kingsdown School is a mixed 11-16 Academy situated on the eastern outskirts of Swindon. The most recent OFSTED inspection commented "Leaders provide a curriculum that is broad and balanced. A notable strength of the school is its care for pupils facing particular difficulties, the work the school does to support pupils' personal development and well-being is good".

Kingsdown School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced DBS Disclosure.

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Like us on Facebook!



@KingsdownSchool



[www.facebook.com/KingsdownSchoolSwindon](https://www.facebook.com/KingsdownSchoolSwindon)

# HONDA THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

On Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Gareth Coomber and I took 15 Year 10 Computer Science Students to the HONDA plant. The students were absolutely engaged from the moment we arrived at the HONDA south gate until the moment we left. The tour was conducted by Darren King the Education link for HONDA. We walked around the plant and traced a car in production from not existing to being test driven. The whole experience was fantastic and allowed the students to witness Computer Science in the real world.

At the end of the tour Darren spoke to the students about the HONDA apprenticeship scheme which will be launched for Year 11's in the next couple of weeks. This year HONDA will run a Business apprenticeship scheme as well as the traditional engineering. I left with a great feeling of how impressive these apprenticeships are. A five year programme which starts at 16 on £13,500 and finishes at the age of 21 with apprentices in full time employment, lots of benefits such as pension, qualifications/experience, car options and a salary of £27,000. Year 11 tutors should definitely spend some time showing this scheme to their tutees.

During the morning before visiting HONDA I met with Shona Taylor who is the Employment and Skills Officer at Swindon Borough Council. Through Shona and the Careers and Enterprise Company our school is going to be paired with HSBC, Swindon, who will provide us with an Enterprise Advisor and also £2750 of funding. We can use the money for guest speakers, motivational speakers, hosting industry, event/trip planning and anything else that will benefit our students.

If you have ideas or wish to use our Enterprise Advisor then please do let me know.

Mr Mays

## Message from Chair of Governors - Lynne Scragg

As we approach the Christmas break, I would like to take this opportunity to share some reflections on the first third of the school year.

It has been an honour to witness and be part of the transformation of Kingsdown School. Staff, students and parents have worked really well together to embed our new culture of high expectations, pride and ambition. Behaviour has greatly improved and the school has a very positive feel.

My thanks go to all staff for their continued dedication and energy and to my fellow governors for their commitment to supporting the school's improvement. Colleagues from the River Learning Trust have also been a huge support. Thank you too to those parents/carers who have joined Mrs Leigh-Bennett and I at the drop in meetings we have held. Your observations and feedback are always welcome.

I wish you all a peaceful, joyous Christmas and here's to a brilliant 2018 for Kingsdown School.

# Parent Governor Vacancy

## BE PART OF A NEW CHAPTER AT KINGSDOWN SCHOOL

**As a parent or carer, you naturally take a keen interest in your child's education. Now here's your chance to have a say in key decisions at our school and to make a real contribution to the local community - by becoming a Parent Governor.**

Research shows that Governors are often perceived as intellectual, middle class and of an older generation, and many people feel that they couldn't be a Governor because they don't think they fit the image. But what we really need is a good mix of people from our local community, from all walks of life and backgrounds, who can bring different viewpoints, experience, skills and fresh ideas and enthusiasm with them.

School Governors make important decisions with regards to the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school. Committees and Link Governors support and challenge the senior team on all aspects of school improvement and the student experience.

If all of this sounds rather daunting, remember that school Governors are drawn from all walks of life, and no specialist knowledge is required, the key qualifications for anyone considering the role of governor is an interest in education and a commitment to Kingsdown. There is a broad range of support available to Governors, including newsletters and publications, termly briefing documents, websites, helplines and training, with some specifically tailored for new Governors. Our more experienced Governors are very willing to provide mentoring advice and information.

Governing bodies act corporately, meaning that they are collectively responsible for decisions. The emphasis is very much on collaboration with other Governors and the Headteacher plus our colleagues from The River Learning Trust. The amount of time devoted to governance varies, but an average might be one governing body meeting per term, plus one or two committee meetings, a link visit and some preparatory reading. All meetings are held in term time only.

Governors report that they derive a range of personal benefits from the work - indeed, many find the role enormously rewarding. These benefits include; the chance to acquire new skills and upgrade existing ones, undertake an exciting and challenging role, meet new people and work together towards a common goal.

Governors also report immense satisfaction that they can help make a real difference to children's lives.

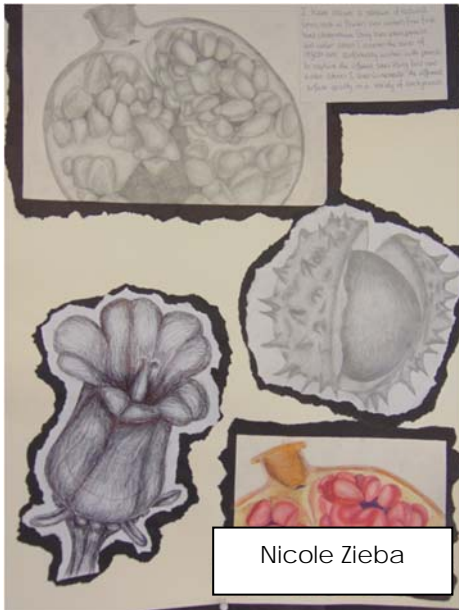
If you feel you may be interested in becoming a Governor at Kingsdown School please contact the school via email to [head@kingsdownschool.co.uk](mailto:head@kingsdownschool.co.uk) or for an informal discussion with the Clerk to the Local Governing Body telephone 01793 837101.



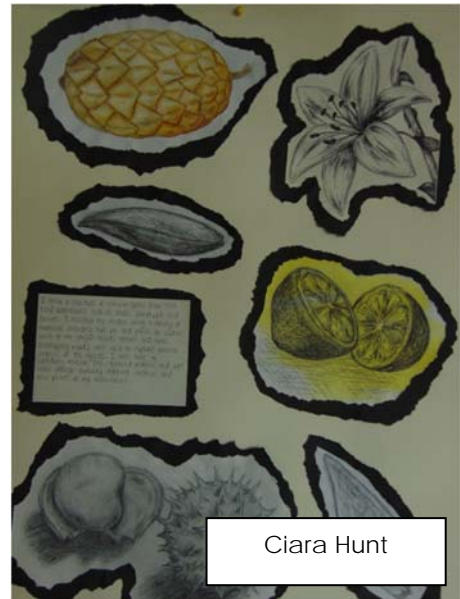
Year 10 students have been exploring drawing and painting this term. Their focus has been on how to mix colours and layer paint whilst looking at shape, proportion and surface quality.

As they move from this section of their foundation course into January, they will begin to work in a GCSE sketchbook.

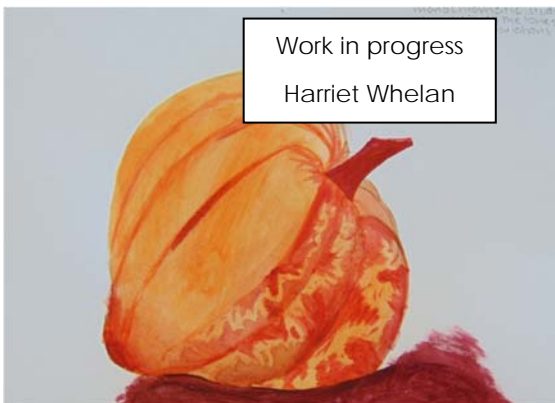
It is here that they will draw upon the skills they have learnt this term to work independently across all the GCSE assessment objective.



Nicole Zieba



Ciara Hunt



Work in progress  
Harriet Whelan



Work in progress  
Emily Foggin



Work in progress  
Ciara Hunt



Work in progress  
Teagan Lipska

## Discover Wushu with Freddy Paillard, British Champion 2017



Freddy Paillard and his course of Kungfu Wushu, offer a new showcase in Swindon.

Freddy, the new British Champion in 2 categories, is a professor convinced of the benefits of the Wushu, a complete discipline, "which is not only a sport but also a lifestyle".

Wushu means martial arts in Chinese. The most important is to join all aspects of fighting (internal and external), without dissociating any of the practices (health, well-being, leisure, self-defence and competitions).

Freddy, trained in France, USA and China, 4th DUAN, former competitor and former head of the Wushu development in Normandy. He arrived in the UK 1 year ago. "Kungfu Wushu Academy" classes are taught by fully qualified professional instructors.

Classes are open to all levels (beginners and advanced): men, women and children. Members will practice Kungfu Wushu (modern and traditional, shaolin, Chinese kickboxing "Sanda" and self defence (Jeet Kune Do).

### Course details:

Every Wednesday 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Kingsdown School Sports Centre (Fitness Studio), Ermin Street, Stratton St Margaret

Contact : 07713 132888

[info@kungfu-academy.com](mailto:info@kungfu-academy.com)



## Free Microsoft Office

All students at Kingsdown can download the latest Microsoft Office for free on their home computers and devices while they are a student here.



To download the software, when on your home computer or mobile device, visit <https://portal.office.com>, and sign in using your student email address and school password. The next page will have a button at the top titled 'Install Office 2016'.



## Literature Festival

Last month Kingsdown took part in the Swindon Literature Festival. Kingsdown invited and welcomed five authors including David Cousins and Stan Cullimore. At the same time over 250 students from The Grange, Ruskin and Colebrook visited Kingsdown to hear some wonderful stories from these authors. Students from Year 7 – 9 had the chance to listen to these engaging authors.

Stan Cullimore has published over 120 books and spoke to students about the importance of thinking the impossible. He reflected upon his visit and said "It was lovely to visit your school and to meet you, your staff and pupils. I would love to come back and help you get the place wildly over-subscribed!"

David Cousins shared passion about every student needing to read widely and borrow ideas from a wide range of authors. He thoroughly enjoyed his day and said "Thanks very much for taking the time to write to me. I'm delighted to hear that the response from your students has been positive. I really enjoyed my day at Kingsdown. It was a real pleasure to meet and talk to Years 8 and 9, and the writing workshop I ran with the Year 9 class was one of the most enjoyable sessions I've had this year – I was very disappointed when we had to pack up!"



Your students were a real credit to the school and I was made to feel very welcome by everyone I met – the English department even gave up some of their lunch break to talk to me!

The Literature Festival is such a great opportunity for students to meet and work with different practitioners and, judging by the feedback I've received, does seem to have an impact. Let's hope we can all keep it going for another ten years! Thanks and best wishes"

Kingsdown has a fantastic Learning Resource Centre led and managed by Lin Curtis and Maggie Longthorne.

We are already looking forward to next year's Literature Festival.



# News from the Learning Resource Centre



The 6<sup>th</sup> November marked the start of our week long Literature Festival and what a fantastic week it was! This is just a very small snippet of what the week held in store for our students! ...



**Monday**

Our Book Quiz team pitched their knowledge against teams from all eleven Swindon Secondary schools and came 4<sup>th</sup>...only 6 points from the top spot! Well done to Suraya, Jake, Matthew, Reuben, Rachel & Abby!



Our Book Quiz team, pictured with Quiz Master & Author, Joffre White!

*"What I enjoyed about the quiz was that we got to compete against other schools in Swindon and meet an author. It was also a lot of fun!"*

**Tuesday**

**Our Headline Event!**

An excited audience of 600 students including 50 Year 7s & 8s from Kingsdown School, enjoyed a fantastic presentation from acclaimed author, Jonathan Stroud, at the Wyvern Theatre. Jonathan's new series of books, 'Lockwood & Co' will shortly be televised!



**Wednesday**

On Wednesday, we welcomed Year 4, 5 & 6 students from our partner primary schools when they were treated to an afternoon of stories, songs & laughter with children's author & musician, Stan Cullimore!



Stan, pictured with some of our helpful Year 7s who were on hand to welcome our primary school visitors!





# News from the Learning Resource Centre



Thursday

Award-winning author, **Dave Cousins**, spent the day at Kingsdown on Thursday and absolutely enthralled our Year 8 & 9 students with his inspirational talks! Dave's relaxed manner and motivational words had students queuing up to chat to him afterwards and the LRC has been busy with students wanting to read his books!



*"Dave was really interesting and the workshop was great! Everyone really enjoyed it!"*

*"I thoroughly enjoyed the assembly that Dave presented for us. After working with him, he taught me so much on how to write a story and what to think about while writing*



Dave's year group talks were followed by a Creative Writing workshop with a group of Year 9 students.

*"It was a fun way to learn. It got us thinking about how to write creatively."*

Friday



Friday saw the arrival of Performance Poet, Ash Dickinson, who made a welcome return to Kingsdown School to hold his poetry workshop with our Year 7 students, and having been entertained and inspired by Ash's love of words, our Year 7 students could not wait to compose and perform their own haiku poems! Ash said, "It went really well, everyone got involved and they wrote some very good poems in such a short amount of time!"

*"Ash's poems were really good and I liked him giving us the chance to write our own poems and share with other people."*

Meanwhile....a group of our Year 8 students headed off to Lawn Manor Academy for a multi-school event to see author and patron of reading, Joffre White, give a motivational talk about the importance of reading, writing and the power of words!

*"Joffre was really funny. I really enjoyed seeing an author and would love to see more authors!"*

## Inter-school Competitions!

We are very proud to announce that Kingsdown School had two winners in the Literature Festival's inter-school competitions! **Hannah Cooper, Year 10**, was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the upper school category for the Creative Writing competition! The entries were judged by author & Patron of Reading, Joffre White.

**Year 7 student, Liam Broome**, was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the lower school category for the Illustration competition, judged by professional artist, Fred Blunt!

This is a fantastic achievement by both our students, bearing in mind that entries were included from all eleven Swindon Secondary schools! Liam & Hannah's entries are on display in the LRC!



Hannah & Liam were awarded their prizes by Swindon's Mayor at the special Prizegiving Ceremony at The Platform on 24<sup>th</sup> November.





## Library Ambassador 2017-18!

Congratulations to Year 11 student, **Rhys Elks**! We are delighted to award Rhys the title of Library Ambassador this year!

Rhys has been an outstanding Student Librarian since Year 9 and has been enthusiastically involved in many LRC events and activities, including our Riveting Readathon and World Book Day quiz as well as several Literature Festival events. Rhys was presented with his prize by our Head Teacher, Mrs. Leigh-Bennett. Well done and thank you Rhys!

**Learning Café...**do you have prep work/revision to do? Why not visit our Learning Café after school? The LRC is open until 4.30pm Monday-Thursday and until 3.30pm on Fridays.



Key Stage 3 students....please remember to have your Accelerated Reading book with you in school every day! It is recommended that students read for a minimum of 30 minutes each day to enable them to make good progress with the AR programme. Parents and carers are able to monitor their child's Accelerated Reading progress by using the Home Connect feature of the programme – just go to the website:

<https://Ukhosted61.renlearn.co.uk/1916582/HomeConnect>

and use your child's log in details to view their account.

The support of parents and carers in encouraging their child to read regularly is important to help with their progress.



## RECOMMENDED READS



These are just some of the books our students have enjoyed reading over the Autumn term...

"I really enjoy the **Henderson Boy's books by Robert Muchamore**, because they are about a spy unit in World War II and they are full of espionage, action and humour. They also link to my enjoyment of history and contain lots of information about weapons, vehicles, rankings of soldiers and the way the war panned out."  
**Bradley, Year 9**

"My favourite books I've read this term are the **'Noughts & Crosses' series by Malorie Blackman**. I think it is very interesting and shows life from a completely different point of view. It is also very emotional in some parts but is the best series I've read and I really enjoyed it."  
**Rachel, Year 9**

"The six book series called **'The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flame'** hooks you into a new look on mythology and famous historical characters while having an immersive storyline!"  
**Matthew, Year 8**