



Kings Langley School News

Issue 13

A note from the Headteacher

We get to reflect back on a very busy but successful end to the term with school shows, awards evenings, the annual Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day, end of year reward assemblies all finishing with the staff guard of honour to send our young people off on their Christmas break.

The students and staff involved in Matilda this year ensured those who attended from our local primary schools for the matinee performance and our two evening performances saw the many talents of the students at Kings Langley School. The show brought a real warmth and buzz to the school and our local community this year. A huge thank you to all involved, putting on a show of this size is a real challenge at times with numerous rounds of auditions, 2 full weekend rehearsals, 58 music cues, 60 head shot photographs, 62 measurements for costumes, many teachers and staff involved throughout, and of course the support of parent taxi drivers! The students really brought the house down with their fantastic moments, teamwork, camaraderie and many laughs throughout. Well done to the school's art departments for all their efforts with a special mention to Miss Abbott, Ms Carr, Miss Little and Mr Davies.

School Events

Tuesday 19th December

Christmas jumper day /
school Christmas lunch

Wednesday 20th December

School closes at 12.55pm

Thursday 4th January 2024

Whole school returns
Y9 report home

KINGS
LANGLEY
SCHOOL

Progress on site with the developments for our infrastructure and development projects are going well. The sixth form centre is now fully operational, and we have seen a huge increase in external applications this year so we know it will be full in September! Progress on our all-weather surface remains positive with contractors only 1 week behind their original March 1st, 2024, deadline. We know the students are desperate to use this facility and we know from external bookings for the surface that our entire community will benefit from this facility. We have held meetings with potential catering contractors this term, and this will progress to the next stage of presentations to Governors and students early in the new term for an April 2024 start with the new catering provision for our student body. Finally, we have also completed a heatmapping activity of our WiFi in school and will use this now to ensure that in the summer term the WiFi is upgraded and finalised over the summer holidays where all the curriculum, will then be uploaded to SharePoint for our entire student body to utilise.

Key completion dates:

October 2023 – Sixth Form completed.

March 2024 – All weather surface completed.

April/May 2024 – New catering contract in place.

August 2024 – Upgraded high speed WiFi in place for all stakeholders.



We have two teaching staff leaving at Christmas, Mr Lewin is relocating to Portsmouth. He wanted the students to know if we could move the school to Portsmouth, he would love to stay. The same is for Mrs O'Hanlon who is moving to a school where she can walk to work every day! We wish both of them the best of luck in their new schools and thank them for all their efforts. Joining in science is Miss Fitzpatrick, who is relocating from Nottingham and Mr Bryan joining us as Head of Sociology and Psychology from a London school due to relocating to Watford.

A final plea for stocking fillers and last-minute presents! There are a number of students finishing this year with missing equipment or uniform who we are supporting at the moment. Please can we ask that all parents ensure that their child returns with a full set of equipment and a complete uniform including school shoes:

<https://www.kls.herts.sch.uk/assets/Equipment-list-.pdf>

<https://www.kls.herts.sch.uk/assets/School-uniform-April-2022.docx.pdf>

I would like to wish our entire community a wonderful Christmas break and New Year. Thank you for all your continued support of the school and your child, these are very exciting times at the school in our drive to ensure we unlock our student's potential.

We return on Thursday 4th January 2024.



Best at Bedrock! Week 14

All of these names have been placed into a prize draw which will be drawn at the end of the term.

Highest points earned in each year group

- Kane- 7G (99 points)
- Sastika- 8A (96 points)
- **Adam- 9P (207 points)**
- Liam- 10A (89 points)
- Harry- 11A (55 points)

Highest progress made in each year group

- Roman- 7C (177%)
- **Sam- 8A (1660%)**
- Adam- 9P (587%)
- Katie- 10C (26%)
- Ryan- 11A (245%)





Recognition

Being noticed for doing something positive or achieving something

Students of the Week w/c 11th Dec

Drama	Luke 9A
For demonstrating outstanding stickability this term.	
English	Eva 10A
Excellence and effort in creative writing.	
Graphics	Benjamin 11G
Excellent CAD development work.	
History	Sammy 8G
Brilliant enthusiasm and engagement in history lessons, she is aa superstar!	
Library	Max 7G
Great enthusiasm for library leading.	
Modern Foreign Languages	Maisie 8P
Maisie works really hard and consistently gives her work 100% effort.	
Music	Jack 8A
Successfully passing his grade 4 piano exam with merit and being a superstar music ambassador.	
PHSE	Terri 12 MOY
Excellent contributions in PSHE lessons. Keep it up!	
Physical Education	Freddie 7D
Outstanding effort in games lessons.	
Product Design	Levi 7G
For excellent work in Product design and a really good attitude.	
Psychology	Ellie 13ELL
For the top-grade achievement in her addiction topic test this week. Well done.	

Philosophy, Religion, Ethics	Finley 7D
For excellent engagement with all issues covered so far this year.	
Sociology	Keren 13ELL
For excellent engagement and detailed answers to revision questions in class.	
Textiles	Maddison 7C
Transfer print painting.	
Year 7 Head of Year	Lily 7C
For her hard work and dedication in the lead role for the school production of Matilda.	
Year 11 Head of Year	Phoebe 11G
Consistently modelling the character traits encouraged by the school.	
Key Stage 5 Head of Year	Samaira 13LIY
For all her networking skills and being nominated for Rising Star.	

Well done to all of our students who have achieved 'student of the week'.

Drama News - Matilda

Hopefully you were lucky enough to see the show live, but here are a few photos to show you what you were missing if you didn't!

As I write we have just completed a dress rehearsal for students from Abbots Langley and Kings Langley Primary school. It was a fantastic effort by all the cast and crew who really pulled together to give our visitors a steller performance. We now have 2 nights to go (Thursday and Friday) for our paying audience and then everyone can enjoy a well earned rest (If they can get any peace with the songs running through their heads! "We are revolting children, living in revolting times, we sing revolting songs, using revolting rhymes etc etc"!)

Ms Carr



We are extremely pleased and proud of all of our cast for their hard work and determination throughout the whole of the production of Matilda. They rehearsed for many hours and they were all superb in the three shows. As well as two evening performances, they performed an afternoon matinee to two of our local primary schools who came to watch. Well done to everyone involved!

Photos by Todd Y13



Community Spirit and Volunteering



We are incredibly proud of a large number of our students who participate in the community events and volunteering opportunities that we hold at the Sixth Form. On Sunday 17th December, we had the privilege of a group of local residents of a senior age, join us for a Christmas afternoon tea through the charity Re-engage.

At this event, several of our students served refreshments to our visitors and enjoyed chatting to them, as well as enjoying games of bingo and producing some art.

A HUGE thank you to all our students who attended; our visitors were extremely grateful.



Weekly Character News

Quote:

It's fine to celebrate success but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure. *Bill Gates*

Focused Character Traits and Reflection Questions:

Hopefulness	<i>Hope is so personal, so even if your answer is small, remember that's OK. How can you savour that hopeful moment of positivity in your day today?</i>
Compassion	<i>Why do I choose to act compassionately? Does it depend on the circumstance and the people involved?</i>

Themes for the Week:

- Celebrations
- Family and Friends

Opportunities and Activities:

So as we come to the last three days of the school term, we still have the Christmas dinner and Save The Children Christmas Jumper Day on Tuesday to look forward to. We are collecting money for Save the Children either via Scopay or students can bring in their £2 donation. We do not want the £2 to be a limiting factor, despite being for charity, for students being able to join in the jumper festivities, so if you are in need of the £2 then please do keep it, but let your child wear their Christmas jumper.

A quick Grinch reminder, that this is not a non uniform day, so the bottom half of the uniform is expected and if students are wearing a Christmas t-shirt, a blazer should be worn too.

Our final day brings Christmas assemblies which celebrate and recognise the successes of students for attendance, awards and colours, competitions to name but a few. We will be watching an excerpt of the fabulous Matilda production, listening to a motivational talk from Mr Fisher and ending with a roof raising Christmas Carol.

The final bell of the day will bring a goodbye line up by staff for students to walk through as they leave for the holiday break. Hopefully this break brings good times with family and friends, and some hope and resolutions for 2024.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!



Character: Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is a fictional reindeer created by Robert L. May. Rudolph is usually depicted as the ninth and youngest of Santa Claus's reindeer, using his luminous red nose to lead the reindeer team and guide Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve. Though he **initially receives ridicule for his nose as a fawn**, the brightness of his nose is so powerful that it illuminates the team's path through harsh winter weather. This changes the way that Rudolph is treated and brings much hope to all those who read this story and consider themselves different.



- To all those Rudolf's out there, your path is awaiting you – know that there are roles for all of us and that you can make a difference.
- To all the other reindeers, do you show different looking reindeers equal respect, kindness and compassion? Do you ever think about how you would feel if it was the other way around?



Make the world better with a sweater!

TUESDAY 19th DECEMBER 2023

Christmas jumper and bottom half uniform or
Christmas t-shirt + blazer and bottom half uniform

£2 donation



Dance News

Congratulations to Narayah 8P for her accomplishments with her dance squad, they attended the GDO world dance competition last weekend where her team was successfully awarded first, second, and third prizes in their street dance categories.

Her next competition will be the British Championships in 2024.



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BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

Christmas is less than two weeks away and schools are breaking up for the holidays. During term time, the routine of school and work sweeps many families through one week to the next. But at Christmas, we are thrust into much closer quarters with one another and have to adjust to a slower pace, an intense amount of “family time”, and a much emptier calendar.

Loneliness can be an issue for many people at Christmas. When everyone around is moving between family gatherings and social occasions, a lack of companionship and close connections is felt a lot more keenly. Children can feel lonely too, away from their friendship groups.

Dr Kathy Weston’s podcast on [Emotional Literacy At Christmas](#) is a great starting point for preparing to navigate the highs and lows of the festive period.

Our [Coping Menu](#) provides suggested activities for children experiencing difficult emotions: it could be a valuable go-to if loneliness hits or tempers fray over the Christmas break. You might feel the holidays are already packed with activities and obligations, but it can still provide structure and calmness to think about what you’d like to achieve. Our [School Holiday Planner](#) can help, and is a great way to ensure there’s time for recharging batteries and maintaining connections and friendships.

If family life becomes stressful or difficult over the holiday, our [Family Audit Template](#) can help you to take a step back and consider what might be going wrong. Completing these reflection tasks only takes a short time but they’re a great way to take stock.

For younger children experiencing isolation or loneliness, our [Loneliness Book List](#) can help them talk through feelings and be more confident. If older children are struggling emotionally, our webinars on [Raising A Resilient Teen Boy](#) and [Understanding Girls](#) provide a wealth of insight and helpful advice.



And finally: thank you! We are so grateful to our parents and families for their questions, suggestions and feedback throughout the year, and for making Tooled Up such a rewarding experience.

Have a wonderful holiday however you celebrate, and we'll be back in 2024!



[School Holiday Planner](#)



[Emotional Literacy at Christmas](#)



[Coping Menu](#)



[Family Audit Template](#)



[Loneliness Book List](#)



[Understanding Girls](#)



[Raising A Resilient Teen Boy](#)

School Council

As a School Council, we have been very busy this term kickstarting our multiple committee projects and working towards our various goals to make our school environment the very best it can be.

Our various committees focus on different intents and visions we have for the school and all of which have projects in mind to start work on this school year.

The Environment Committee, (Adaya, Deniz, Emily, and Jack) are set to invite members of Sixth Form to merge ideas on how to environmentally improve the school even more.

The Charity Committee, (Sophie, Chase, Maisy, Emily, Jai, Sybella, Adaya, and Solomon), are keen to set up more charity events this year as previous events such as the charity walk, and Superstars event were so successful.

The Wellbeing Committee, (Ella, Sophie, Sofia, Alisha, Masie, Emily, and Harvey), are planning to introduce more wellbeing support within the school. This would be working towards actions such as increased physical activity in school, exam support, individual's support sessions, and much more.

The Curriculum Committee, including James, Chase, Sophie, and Deniz, have been discussing introducing a wider range of GCSE and A-Level options in the future, aiding more students in working towards a desired career.

As well as our committees, we are also working towards a couple of smaller, but just as impactful, projects.

Deniz, James, and Alisha have discussed establishing some career based extra-curricular clubs in order to support students who are exploring their post-16 or post-18 options.

Ana-Louiza, Sybella, Sofia, and Adaya are set to work with Bold Voices (the school's equality champions for combatting gender inequality and sexual harassment) to share ideas from the school council to the group.

We are excited to start all our projects and hope they will be effective in their intent to enhance the school.



If you would like to communicate any issues, thoughts, or ideas to us please feel free to talk to your Form Captain, Mrs Harris, or attend a school council meeting to share your thoughts.

Ana-Louiza 11P

School Council



KLS Christmas Market

I am sure you are aware that the Friends of KLS held a Christmas Market at the school on Monday 4th December 2023 which I am happy to report, was a really successful evening.

HOWEVER, this event would not have been possible without the support from the many stallholders, colleagues and parent helpers who gave their time on the night to support us. Special mention goes to our 6th Form students, whose commitment was outstanding. The stallholders were very grateful and really impressed with their friendliness and for all the help and assistance given to them during the evening.

Also thanks go to the staff and students who organised and performed the wonderful musical entertainment to start the evening, to Ms Scanlan who was responsible for the Christmas cake competition and of course the students who baked and decorated some amazing cakes.



We had a diverse range of goods on offer from cards, jewellery, handmade crafts, toys and decorations. Also confectionery, cakes, prints and frames also home fragrances, chutney's, candles and diffusers, cosmetics, skincare and bath products and home décor. Not forgetting seasonal wreaths and table decorations! We even had members of staff running stalls offering Indian spice mixes, knitted items made by Ms Hill and the school knitting group and Christmas decorations made by Mr Housego and the technology department.

Despite the fact that so many people are experiencing some serious financial difficulties at the moment, it was good to see such a large number of stallholders who gave their time to be with us, many of which had been with us in previous years. Almost all mentioned the lovely atmosphere the market created and in most cases, the friendly welcome they received.

Last but not least, THANK YOU to everyone who came along on the night it wouldn't have happened without you! All in all it was definitely worth the time and effort but most importantly it has raised some much needed funds for the school.

We wish you a very peaceful and happy Christmas.

Stay safe!

Raffle Winners

Hamper - chocolate, snacks, alcohol	Zaria 10C
£50 John Lewis gift voucher	Ava 8A
M&S spiced sugar plum gin liqueur	Henry 12DLK
Cherry and almond decorated fruit cake	Filip 7D
1 gold service inside and out car valeting voucher	JJ 8A
Stand up paddle boarding lesson or hire for up to 2 people	Holly 8J
Rose and lavender bath salt sachet	Mr Shephard
Rosemary and elderflower shower gel and rejuvenating frankincense hydrating cream	Madison 9P
Gift set containing necklace, 2 ceramic teddy bears, pink pot	Daniel 9P



Music News - Drumming Club



The music department would like to set up a drumming club which will run on Monday lunchtimes. As this will be run by a specialist teacher, there will be a cost associated. To ensure that we can cover the cost of the session we need to determine the level of interest before we 'book' the teacher. If you would like your child to be involved, please use the form below to register your interest **by Tuesday 19th December 2023**. If there are sufficient students interested then the teacher will be booked and the club will appear on SOCS, at which point there will be a charge for the session. Depending on the number of students interested this would be £35 per term maximum (minimum of 8 students), decreasing in cost the more students who are involved.

This is an exciting opportunity that would suit experienced and new drummers alike so please do sign up if your child would like to use their drumming skills further! It is also an excellent opportunity for GCSE musicians who need to organise an ensemble performance. <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oaY-mCpPm0KlbYLNnQDOOHOROdFoCu5Dn5394s-gANVFUODZFOE9ZVFJEUDk0Vk4xVjhRVUtGSkVaOSQIQCN0PWcu>



Library News - Celebration of Library Leaders

This week, we recognised the achievements of our student Library Leaders who have either completed their initial library training course or made significant progress in student leadership.

Initial training - **Bronze** badge:

- Brian 8T
- Eduard 8D
- Harriet 8J
- James 8A
- Logan 8T
- Rebecca 8J
- Roma 8J
- Sheryl 10A

These students regularly help out in the library, serving students at the main desk and stationery shop counter, and shelving returned books. They also help to keep the library tidy and get new books ready for the shelves.

Further development – **Silver** badge:

- Benjamin 8C
- Joseph 8T
- Risika 8A
- Sam 8G
- Oscar 8G
- Sophie 9D

These students can be relied upon to help regularly, with a high level of customer service, without needing to be asked or reminded. They are involved with training and mentoring new members of the library team. They may also be beginning to take on more complex tasks, such as adding new books to our online catalogue, or supporting staff members on duty.





STEM Challenge

This week's challenge:

Nick has a box of ornaments that he uses to decorate his tree each year. All of them are blue, except for six. All of them are green, except for six. All of them are red, except for six. How many of each colored ornament does Nick have?



Answer next term.

Last week's challenge:



How can you cut a round cake into 8 pieces using only 3 cuts of the knife?

Answer:



**YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY**

This week's jackpot winning numbers are:

78405 & 857123

Both of our supporters won £30.00 in the draw!

Remember to check your email to see if you've won!

If you haven't signed up yet visit our lottery here - <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/kings-langley-secondary-school>



Bedrock Young Authors Competition 2023

Take us on a journey with you...

Theme: Journeys

Entries close: 12th January 2024

Word Count: 200 words

For ages: 6-16



- Your story featured in the Bedrock digital library
- £250 book voucher for your school
- A Bedrock goodie bag



- £100 book voucher for your school
- A Bedrock goodie bag

Winners will be announced 1st February 2024

You can enter as many times as you like in either category, fiction or non-fiction.

Please email your entries to Mrs Butt by 10th January 2024 with your name, age, form and story name.