



KPS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2022

ISSUE 2



Zara, Year 11

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As a new Headmaster, I am very grateful for the warm welcome that I have received. Throughout this term, I have been blown away by the sense of community that is shared across all three of our sites, and the warm relationships that exist between our staff, students, and their parents. Our recent school video is a fantastic testament to the spirit of our school and our incredible students.

Each evening, I look forward to speaking with our students at the boarding house; a particular highlight for me was taking them to Knightsbridge for a shopping trip one Autumn evening.

I hope that you will enjoy our Autumn Term Newsletter, and that it gives you a sense of all of the exciting things that we do here at KPS. I wish you the very best for the festive season, and a wonderful New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2023!

With best wishes,

Stephen Mellor, Headmaster

In This Issue...

Autumn Events 2

A Sporting Season 3

The Start of a Journey: Year 7 4

Drama & Music 5

Sixth Form 6

Boarding 7

KPS Gets a Close Up: School Video 8

A KPS Christmas 9

HRH Queen Elizabeth II 10



AUTUMN EVENTS

Black History Month

Our Humanities department arranged a fantastic week of cultural activities in honour of BHM, enabling our students to explore the contribution and achievements of those with African or Caribbean heritage. Students enjoyed a music assembly celebrating an eclectic range of Black artists, from Beyoncé to Isaac Hayes; examined the history behind the 2018 Marvel film, 'Black Panther'; took part in a book club dedicated to Black literature; and designed a Black History 'quilt' to display in the Lower School. Our Sixth Form Drama students also explored scenes from Roy Williams' play, 'Sing Yer Heart Out For The Lads', exploring the subject of racism in football in the early 2000s and today.

Remembrance Day

To mark Remembrance Day this year, students took inspiration from Wilfred Owen's iconic WWI poetry, creating their own acrostic poems using a letter from the word "trench" to begin each line. Mr Callard also spoke to students about his ancestral connections to the conflict during our weekly Sixth Form assembly. Across both sites, our students have generously contributed to the Poppy Appeal, raising proceeds to support the Armed Forces community.

Languages Week

This year, we celebrated Languages Week with a variety of events and competitions celebrating the multilingualism of our international community. Our pupils were given a special KPS Passport, receiving stamps for each event that they participated in. There was French karaoke, K-Pop Anime art club; a Foreign Film screening; and a school-wide game of Kahoot in the theatre! As our students learn new languages, they are opened up to new ways of thinking, allowing them to access new cultures and connect with people from all over the world!





Y7 Fencing Workshop

A SPORTING SEASON

The KPS Fantasy League

Throughout Games lessons this Autumn, students have participated in competitive intra-house fixtures, representing themselves as individuals and as mixed teams within their own year. The cohesion, confidence, and technical skill on display has been stronger than ever, and this has no doubt been encouraged by the exciting new initiative which was introduced by the Sport Faculty this term: The KPS Fantasy League. With over 1000 minutes of gameplay this Autumn, students were able to secure points with football-related successes such as scoring a goal (+5 pts), assisting a goal (+3 pts), and keeping a clean sheet (+10 pts), as well as bonus points for strong leadership skills, teamwork, tactical awareness and other exceptional sporting behaviours. With over 2200 goals, 1600 assists, and 200 clean sheets 'scored' over the last 6 weeks, our students rose to the challenge and exceeded our expectations.

On Guard!

This term, Year 7 students had the opportunity to take part in an exciting Fencing Workshop under the guidance of a British, European and Commonwealth champion. Students learnt the basic rules and core concepts of this highly technical sport, before engaging in some friendly competition with their classmates!

Further Afield

With a special focus on students' mental health and wellbeing, our Hit the Ground Running and Winter Wellbeing Walks have provided a great opportunity to start the day on a more social note, spending time outdoors in Kensington Gardens enjoying the company of peers and teachers.

Winter Wembley Visit

To round off our football focus in Games, as an end of term treat, Years 7 to 11 enjoyed an exclusive-access VIP private tour of the home of British football – Wembley Stadium! Students' visited the players' tunnel where the shirts of football legends hang from the walls, climbed the steps of the stadium to the Royal Box, and viewed the press conference rooms and post-match interview area! An exciting and informative tour for both football enthusiasts and newcomers alike, we hope that it inspired our students to dream as big as they possibly can!





Year 7

THE START OF A JOURNEY

The first day of term brought with it a host of new faces with our new Year 7 cohort, and it has been wonderful to see them grow in confidence as they settle in to Senior School life. We asked some of our new Year 7 students to tell us about their experience of their first term at KPS - we can't wait to see how they continue their journey in the New Year!

My first term at KPS has been astonishing! Everyone's very welcoming, and classes have also been very enjoyable. I love all of the experiments that we get to do in Science, including dissecting a chicken wing. At this school, I get to try out so many different things!

TERESA

One of my favourite memories was when me and a couple of other Year 7s were picked to be photographed for the school's website! It's fun seeing yourself on your school's website walking around and talking with your friends!

JAKUB

The good thing about having only 9 people in my class is that there is not so many of us that you become invisible, yet there are not so few of you that you are always on display. At KPS, you also have exciting opportunities to go on school trips, like when we went to the Old Vic to watch A Christmas Carol, or in the first week, we went bowling for the afternoon. KPS has recently got a school dog called Reggie, and on some days if you go to the park, you can walk him and pet him. This is what I have enjoyed most about my first term at KPS!

KATHERINE



Christmas Concert

DRAMA & MUSIC



The Calling

Rehearsals are well underway for our annual school production! This year, our students will perform 'The Calling', which tells the story of Conor, a young boy who is helped through his struggles by a yew tree, which comes to life and visits him at 12.07. Throughout rehearsals, students have been working to the standards of a professional cast, even helping to create the lighting and live music for the show. The set is already being built and we are so excited to share our creations, which are sure to showcase the incredible talents that we have here at KPS.

House Music Competition

Every new academic year brings about a renewed drive for merits, and this year was no different! The House Music Competition was fiercer than ever - was it finally time for Fleet to be knocked off the podium? Well, a draw is close enough!

Fleet and Tyburn both emerged triumphant, with winning teams made up of musicians from across Years 7 to 11. Our judging panel, featuring Ms Kenyon, Mr Lightowlers and Ms Cebon, were so impressed with the exceptional quality of performances and artistic expression on display - a huge well done to everyone that took part!

KPS Christmas Concert

Our theatre was transformed into a Winter Wonderland for our annual Christmas Concert, with shimmering lights strewn throughout the room, bunting on music stands and instruments, and glorious mounds of snow on the ground. Students from across Years 7 to 13 performed a revue of holiday music, seasonal sketches, and timeless Christmas carols, offering a magical evening for the KPS community, which truly showcased our remarkable music department.





Year 11 visit KPS Sixth Form

KPS SIXTH FORM

New and Familiar Faces

It's been a busy term for KPS Sixth Form! In September, we welcomed our new cohort of Year 12s who have been settling in to Sixth Form life as they begin the A level programme. We were delighted to see so many familiar faces from the Lower School, as well as our new students who have joined us from other UK schools and overseas. On the first day of term, Year 12 enjoyed a welcome lunch at Pizza Express where they were able to get to know each other in a more informal setting before the start of teaching. It has been wonderful to see the many new friendships that have developed since then!

Our returning Year 13 students, meanwhile, have been busy working hard on their UCAS applications and personal statements, with teachers writing comprehensive references to support their applications. Many of our students have already received offers from their top choice universities, and we are incredibly proud of the motivation and discipline they have shown in getting their applications in with plenty of time!

Skills Expo

As part of our University and Careers programme, Sixth Form students enjoyed a trip to Skills London 2022, the UK's largest jobs and careers event for 14 to 24 year olds. Students were able to meet with a wide range of potential employers, offering up to 50,000 job and apprenticeship opportunities in a wide variety of industries, including culture, finance, health and medicine. This was a fantastic chance for our students to get a head start on exploring future career paths before they begin researching higher education options in the New Year!

Heads of School

We were delighted to announce the appointment of our two new Heads of School, Lee and Renée, earlier this term. Both bring with them an infectious enthusiasm for KPS Sixth Form, and are exceptional role models for their peers. They have lots of exciting plans for the Sixth Form and Student Council - so watch this space!

“

Our roles are about serving as a middle ground between students and teachers, and being a figurehead for the school. The most important values for me are making sure that student voices are going to be heard.

Lee, Head of School

”



Boarding House

BOARDING

Princess Beatrice House has been buzzing with activity since our students returned for the start of another academic year! For some, it was the rush of living abroad for the first time; for others, being reunited with their friends after a long summer apart. There to witness it all was Ms Southam, our dedicated Head of the Boarding House:

“

The boarding community has had a great start to the year with our returners welcoming our new students, helping them to settle in and forge new and lasting friendships!

We've kept busy with pumpkin carving, decorating both cakes and the boarding house for Halloween and Christmas, and getting out into the city – including a trip to Knightsbridge accompanied by our Headmaster, Mr Mellor!

The boarders have spent time with their tutor groups, getting to know students from all year groups and sharing their experiences with one another. We were thrilled to host day students and staff from the Sixth Form for the end of term party – the boarders enjoyed welcoming their fellow students into the boarding house and celebrating together.

Ms Southam, Head of Boarding

”





Kensington Park SCHOOL

"Welcome to Kensington Park School" (2022)

KPS Gets a Close-Up!

A visit to KPS is now possible from anywhere in the world with the release of our first-ever whole school video!



[Click here to watch](#)

Our in-house production team spent the summer term documenting school life and carrying out unscripted interviews with our students in order to create a portrait of Kensington Park School that accurately reflects the experience of our students and what makes KPS so special.

In the video, a diverse panel of students guides us across our three central London sites; the Lower School, Sixth Form, and Boarding House, showcasing our facilities, small class sizes, and exceptional system of pastoral care, all of which come together to place our students firmly at the heart of their own education. The interviews are presented entirely in the students' own words, as they genuinely convey their personal experiences of life at KPS.

We wish to our express our sincere thanks to all of the students that participated in the making of this video, and to all of those teachers that generously opened up their classrooms to us.



Alexis, Y11 interview



Video Still



SEASON'S GREETINGS

Jumping into the Season

Our 2022 Christmas Jumper Day was a festive smash this year, with students, teachers, and even our KPS Support Dog, Reggie, getting into the spirit! Christmas came early across both our school sites - our students were particularly amused to see the Headmaster's festive light-up jumper!

A Fleet-ing Visit to Winter Wonderland

Fleet were crowned our winning house this term, amassing an impressive 1100 merits, and were rewarded with a celebratory trip to Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park. Students enjoyed the various seasonal attractions, roller coaster rides, and festive food and drink with their friends - the perfect way to cap off a term of hard work and friendly competition!



The Great Christmas Bake Sale

KPS CAN, our student-run club dedicated to charitable causes and improving sustainability, demonstrated the meaning of Christmas this year as they offered students a delicious selection of holiday bakes, including fresh Panettone and Gingerbread Men, to raise money for this year's chosen charity, The African Children's Trust. They played festive tunes throughout the canteen and offered generous pitchers of delicious Hot Chocolate – all in time for the first arrival of snow!





Kensington Park
SCHOOL

IN MEMORIAM

Her Royal Highness
QUEEN ELIZABETH II
(1926 - 2022)

We will continue to follow HRH Queen Elizabeth II's example of kindness, resilience and unwavering commitment in all we do here at Kensington Park School.

