

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

I was interested to read today a report released by the National Audit Office (NAO) which revealed there are 292 schools that have not been inspected by The Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) for over a decade. All 292 of the schools identified in the report are currently judged to be some of the very best state-run schools in the country. The report findings, part of a wider evaluation of the performance of Ofsted by the spending watchdog, puts pressure on the government to make changes.

So, if all these schools are the best, why is there a concern?

Well, in 2011 the government made the decision that all schools who were judged by Ofsted to be "Outstanding" would be exempt from inspection as long as there were no concerns. This was passed into law through the Education (Exemption from School Inspection) Regulations which came into force in 2012.

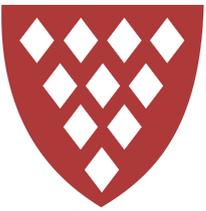
Quite rightly, concerns expressed in the NAO report revolve around the fact that some of the schools may perhaps no longer merit their legally protected position meaning that Ofsted can have difficulty in getting in to have a look. The NAO report is full of financial data, graphs and figures, however the report did strike at an Achilles' heel for me when I read it.

You won't fail to notice that KCC, as an outstanding school is one of the schools protected by the 2012 regulations. You might also spot that the last time KCC was inspected by Ofsted was in 2008 and therefore one of the 292 schools identified in the NAO report. Hopefully you will also have noticed that in every year since 2008 the College has improved what it does, how it does it and how well its pupils achieve and excel. But let me fill in a little more of the detail. In 2011 we were recognised by being awarded National Teaching School status, which we hold to this day; in 2016 we were recognised again and awarded Research School status; in 2017 we were recognised for our excellent work with disadvantaged pupils and asked by the DfE to mentor schools regionally to support improvement. Our students' exam performances over the last 3 years placed the College well inside the top 10% of schools nationally at both GCSE and A Level and amongst the highest performing schools in the South West.

As I write this, over 200 young people are sitting in front of their RE exam paper having worked hard over the last three years to get there. Almost all of them will already have sat around 10 exams in the last 10 days with perhaps as many as 14 exams yet to complete after the holiday, and they (and their A Level counterparts) have been fabulous, simply fabulous.

So, while my KCC colleagues and I don't have the power to change the opinions of an NAO report or influence any decisions made by Ofsted or the Department for Education, we can make sure that we continue to be the very best we can be and hope that you are proud to have us as part of your community. Our young people certainly make me proud each and every day!





Equality and Diversity Week

KCC celebrated its third annual Equality and Diversity week during the week of April 30th-May 4th. It was a week of activities and assemblies designed to raise awareness of issues around Equality and Diversity, both in our community and across the world. The 6th Form Equality and Diversity group contributed greatly to the week by planning activities for younger students to complete in tutor time and baking cakes for the Equality and Diversity break time get together in the library.

Introduction of new Sixth Form Study Supervisor & Careers Co-ordinator

My name is Fiona Bennett and I have recently joined KCC in the above role. I am here, keen and happy to help all 6th Form students with their independent study skills, work experience opportunities, careers planning and enrichment programmes. I can be found in the 6th Form Study Room and contacted on:
fiona.bennett@kingsbridgecollege.org.uk
Tel: 01548 852641 ext. 112.

I look forward to meeting as many students and parents as possible in the future!

Year 13 Prom

The Year 13 students are looking forward to their Prom, which is being held at Dartington Hall on Wednesday 27th June. The Year 13 Leavers Assembly on Friday 25th May also promises to be an eventful occasion! Good luck to all our leavers.

Duke of Edinburgh Gold success

Three students who completed their A-Levels last year have completed their Gold Award: Abby Newman, Molly White and Joshua Budgen. On May the 17th Joshua went to Buckingham Palace to collect his award.

Sporting Success

Huge congratulations to the U15 Kingsbridge Girls Rugby Team who are National Champions following their win against Leake 27-12 last month!

16 of the squad are students here at KCC They are: Georgia Groves, Gemma Cadle, Tilly Ryall, Tilly Doyle, Erin Foley, Bella Hartley, Chloe Hemmins, Maddison Lidstone, Izzy Partridge, Hallie Reid, Lana Sharam, Molly Thomas, Cat Walker, Evie Walker, Daisy Womack and Corri Friend.

Indoor rowing is part of the biggest ever South West Rotary Youth games. Around 10,000 young people aged 8 to 18, both able-bodied and disabled, take part in the journey towards the Games each year.

Well done to the KCC Rowing team: Ellie Langman, Will Cottrell, Jake Goode Gray, Lottie Cussak and Oscar Minty who have qualified for the Games summer finals, which will take place in Dawlish on the 7th July. We wish them the best of luck!

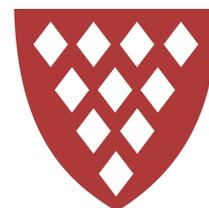
Congratulations to Sam Stewart who has been selected for the GB Biathlon team (swim-run-swim) and could go to the World Championship in Madeira in June. What an amazing achievement!

Year 12 Work Experience

Many Year 12 students have successfully found their work experience placements for the week of 16th – 20th July.

For those students who have not yet secured a placement I would ask that they prioritise researching and contacting companies at which they would like to spend the week. This is an incredibly valuable opportunity for students to gain experience in a work place environment and be able to speak to people in employment about their working regimes, etc.

If any student would like some assistance with this research, please ask them to see Fiona Bennett in the Sixth Form Study Room asap.



A busy time for 6th Form Music

It has been a busy time for our 6th Form musicians...

Year 12 Music Tutor Group - Charity Event at The Barn, South Milton

On Saturday 10th March, members of the Year 12 Music Tutor Group hosted an evening of musical performances in aid of the charity "MIND". The event was held at The Barn in South Milton and featured solo and group performances from members of the tutor group, as well as other 6th Form students. The students organised every aspect of the event and gave some brilliant performances. Over £900 was raised for charity and everyone who attended the event felt truly inspired by the commitment and professionalism of this tutor group.

Year 13 BTEC Music - Final performance at Avon Mill Garden Centre

On Tuesday 27th March, the Year 13 BTEC Music students gave their final performance at Avon Mill Garden Centre. As part of their course, the students were required to organise every aspect of this event, including venue booking, finance, sound and lighting, marketing, refreshments etc. In addition to organising the event, each student also took part in some group performances and each presented a 20 minute solo set. Everything about the evening was professionally organised and every student performed their solo set to an extremely high standard, demonstrating the progress they have made throughout the course. This really was an opportunity for these very talented students to shine and showcase their musical skills, as well as their professionalism as musicians. This was a great way to bring their musical experiences at KCC to an end. We have really enjoyed working with them and they should feel very proud of their achievements. The students involved were Jess Hardy, Lucy Gill, Freya Hoban, Sam Roberts and Alfred Holt.

Six Year 13 philosophy students attended the first Exeter College inter-schools Philosothon on Wednesday 28th March.

Philosothons encourage students to investigate complex philosophical and ethical questions using 'Communities of Enquiry'. In the process of preparing and participating in Philosothons, pupils have the opportunity to develop higher order thinking and communication skills.

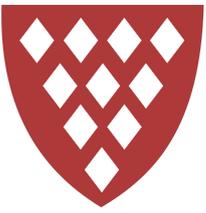
Important as debating skills are, the model of Community of Enquiry is different and seeks to develop rigorous skills of dialogue, where every voice is heard and every idea is taken seriously.

The students demonstrated the following skills:

- The disposition to care for good reasoning and intellectual honesty
- The ability to criticize ideas impersonally and to accept the impersonal criticism of one's own ideas
- A willingness to listen with an open mind to the ideas of others
- The capacity to identify and tackle problems
- An interest in exploring ideas
- A willingness to take the intellectual risk of offering ideas for evaluation

It was a fabulous opportunity for the students to both revise key areas of their A Level philosophical studies and to practically apply their knowledge to a series of ethical and philosophical critical inquiries.

The students from KCC delivered their arguments with passion and precision. So well done and congratulations to: Kai Tebay, Mia Fellowes-Town, Emily Dickinson, Megan Perrins, Max Howard and Henry Rodwell Lynn!



COLLEGE TERM DATES **2017-2018**

Summer Term

Mon 16th April - Fri 20th July 2018

Half Term

Mon 28th May - Fri 1st June 2018

Non pupil days

Mon 23rd July 2017

Tue 24th July 2017

Wed 25th July 2017

Autumn Term

Tue 4th September - Fri 21st December 2018

Non pupil days

Mon 3rd September 2018

Fri 19th October 2018

Half Term

Mon 22nd October - Fri 26th October 2018

We currently have the following vacancies: catering assistant, mobile cleaner, IT support staff, purchase assistant and resource assistant. These positions are all based at KCC, however there are more vacancies within the multi Academy Trust.

Please check out the Education South West website for detailed job descriptions, as well as information on how to apply: <https://www.educationsouthwest.org.uk/recruitment>

The KCC PTFA ladies Fun-Athlon is back by popular demand!

Saturday 23rd June - Cycle, walk, paddle and chatter around South Ham.

Application forms can be downloaded from the school website and need to be returned to the school reception with your £30 entrance fee by 1st June.

If you have any questions, please contact Sonja on: sonjaharrow@icloud.com or call 07775 828041

Kingsbridge Gymnastics Club has some vacancies available for new members; this is a very rare occurrence!

Please contact Annie Rundle on: gymlist@outlook.com, or 07803 774448 for more information.

Take a walk on the Wild Side with the South Devon Dangerous Dads! Saturday 26th May 2018, from 1pm to 4pm.

Cost: by donation—No booking is required
Meet: Outside The Tourist Information Centre in Kingsbridge. TQ7 1PG

The Dangerous Dads are on the hunt for the signs of spring with a wild walk on Saturday 26th May, and then some fire-lighting and campfire cooking. They'll also be on the look-out for animal tracks and edible food when they explore a local green lane with the help of an expert. They will also be finding out what can and cannot be eaten in Devon's hedges – this includes showing the children how to pick stinging nettles without being stung. At the end of the walk, dads and children will create a campfire and cook up some of the greens they have collected.

For more information, please contact: Ian Blackwell at: info@dangerousdads.org.uk
South Devon Dangerous Dads is a social enterprise supported by South Hams Children's Centres and Action for Children.