

A Message from Mrs Thrower



I am sure that you will agree with me that it is lovely to finally enjoy some sunshine. Just when Covid restrictions are lifted for us in the UK there are unfortunately other areas of deep darkness in the world to worry about. However, the school is doing well and has seen an increase of staff this term to match the increase of pupils. We have now hit the new limit of 60 pupils. A big welcome to staff and pupils who have joined us this term. Sadly we had some weather damage on our CCTV but that is all repaired now and hopefully over the next couple of months we will get our outdoor gym equipment and picnic benches installed. I hope that you, our wider community, have a lovely Easter break. I know that we are all looking forward to spending time with our families and friends. We return after the break to a busy term which includes GCSE exams and excitingly Knightsfest. This is a great opportunity, which we've missed over the last two years, for us all to get together. It's on Wednesday 20th July, so please save the date!

The Soup Movement



This term, the whole school has been reading a book called "The Soup Movement" by Ben Davis. All have been enjoying reading the book together and talking about the story and how it is written. There are some themes which are quite challenging, but ultimately the book is about the positive feelings a person can experience when being kind and making a difference to the lives of others, even in just a small way. Mrs Sylvester and Mr Bidwell had the excellent idea of recording staff and pupils reading chapters and produced, with the permission of the author, an audiobook, which is available as a podcast on Spotify. Listening to this is a great way for all to enjoy the book even more!

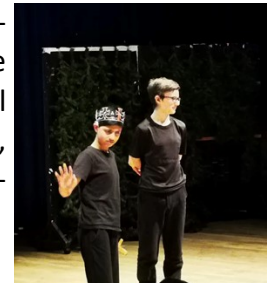


Macbeth



Theatre Week took place just before the half-term break. All pupils, with the exception of the Year 11s were off timetable working towards performing an adaptation of Macbeth. There were lines to learn, rehearsals to attend, props to be made and sword fighting practice replaced the usual PE!

The week's activities culminated in a live performance in the Monk's Walk School Drama Studio, for families, school staff and other invited guests.



It was great to see the evident enjoyment of all the pupils and the confidence, particularly of those who can be more reserved. To their credit, all were undeterred by

the fact they had had very little time to practise in the drama studio. Pupils did a great job remembering their lines and cues and the casting ensured all had the opportunity to participate fully. The production was fantastic and deservedly received an excellent response at the time from the audience and later, with much positive feedback received.

We look forward to seeing all pupils back in school on Tuesday 19th April.



Careers Update from Mrs Blake

Its been another busy term for careers events. Animal Behaviourist, Adem Fehmi, came in to talk to the pupils about the route he took to the job he now has. He talked about his education, his experiences (both in the UK and abroad), his appearances on TV and Social Media, and of course, his animal training. He even showed the students some dog training at lunchtime with the help of our school dog, Kobe!



In January we had the ELSA "Get Work Ready Day" where pupils took part in a series of work-related challenges, found out about a range of jobs and industries, as well as practising their interview skills. We had volunteers from Fortem, the Royal Navy, Computacenter, Tesco and GSK running the sessions. Pupil feedback included "I now know what questions I might be asked in a real interview for a real job" and "I learnt how to give a good first impression"

In March we had the "ELSA & The Army Day". Pupils learnt lots about life in the Army and saw the equipment that the soldiers wear. All those who tried on the bullet proof vest were surprised at how heavy it was!



Pupils all took part in a range of skills-building activities to prepare them for the working world. One activity involved having to make a small vehicle, given the parts and limited instructions. There was great teamwork seen as the pupils set about the task. It was particularly good to see younger and older pupils working so well together.



Pupils asked a range of excellent questions and were thoroughly engaged throughout. "There is teamwork in everything; it is a life skill" was the observation from one pupil after the event. The comment from another of "I really enjoyed the morning and I hope the Army can come again soon!" said much about the success of the event

Finally, our KS4 and KS5 students had an assembly, last week, with the AIM group about Apprenticeships and T Levels to hopefully, give them further insight into their future options.

Sports Desk!

Knightsfield entered three teams into the National Deaf Football Championships which took place in Derby, in early February. The Senior Boys were impressive, making it to a third successive final, where they were disappointed to lose. The Junior Boys (see picture of team below) also played well and reached the semi-finals. It was the first time Knightsfield had taken a girls' team and they really enjoyed themselves, and did well to come mid-table in a league format competition.



The National Deaf Swimming Championships took place on Tuesday 1st February, at the London Aquatic Centre, an amazing venue at which to have the opportunity to compete. Knightsfield came third in what was a very tight competition, with only 4 points separating the top 3 places.



Post 16 News



One of the Enrichment sessions at Knightsfield, that has been very popular with our Post 16s again this year is Food with Mr Puntrello. Students enjoy choosing what they will make and all have developed their cookery skills and improved the pace at which they work. Last week Noah and Dylan chose to make fish dishes (pictured above), which were apparently very tasty. Grace, who has chosen to go on to study Catering next year at West Herts College, made some amazing Yorkshire puddings!

