



KINGSBURY HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 6 - December 2014

Challenge 271



A teacher at Kingsbury High School will embark on a gruelling challenge to cover 271km in just five days. The physical Education teacher, Gary Froy will run three 40km marathons and cycle two 75km bike rides to cover the distance.

The challenge aims to raise awareness and money for Kidney Research UK. Gary's five day challenge, #challenge271, will take place during 26th – 30th May 2015, but Gary launched the project in school on the 3rd December 2014: a year after the loss of his father, Colin Froy, Police Constable 271, Hertfordshire Police.

Gary said "Dad sadly passed away in December 2013 after a long battle with illness. Not only did Dad have Cancer and 3 Heart Attacks, but also Kidney Failure which eventually cost him his life.

"Dad spent over 4 years on Kidney Dialysis at Watford General Hospital. This long, boring process was mentally challenging for Dad, as he had to give up work and would often leave in great pain. As things worsened, Dad was required to wear an Oxygen mask to sleep, whilst he lost the feelings in his hands and feet meaning it was impossible to drive and very painful to even walk.

"Dad sadly lost his battle at 6.31pm on Tuesday 3rd December 2013. Dad was a hero, a man who would do anything for anyone else and now is the time for me to give something back. I will be looking to raise a large sum of money to help find a cure, in order that other families don't have to suffer as we have."

Year 8 students at Kingsbury High School will be supporting Gary throughout the challenge by running a number of fundraising events within the school.

If you would like to support Gary, visit his justgiving page. <https://www.justgiving.com/challenge271/>

Hour of Code



Kingsbury High School participated in an Hour of Code between the 8th to the 14th December. The Hour of Code campaign aims to demystify computer science for students across the country by taking them through introductory tutorials that can be completed online.

Teaching & Learning Champion, Paul Fuller, said "Many business organisations and key individuals realise there is a growing demand for people that can write code and those skills need to be taught in schools and developed early on."

Brave New World



On Thursday 4th and Friday the 5th of December 88 students from Kingsbury high school and ten students from the Village school performed in a school production of Brave New World, which showcased the diversity of the school and the community. Students performed in dance, drama and music pieces all produced in extra-curricular clubs run at Kingsbury High. Artwork was produced by students and they created a beautiful back drop for the show. It was a fantastic performance and the students appreciated the parents/carers and staff for coming to watch them.

Message from Mr Waxman

Dear parents, carers and members of the community,

As we approach the festive season, it's great to be able to share some more good news with you.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that our GCSE students had continued to perform well despite many changes nationally and in the school. We have just received the national comparisons of results for all schools and I am delighted to be able to tell you that Kingsbury High is once again in the top quarter of schools nationally for the progress students make between the ages of 11 and 16 – at the 21st “percentile” to be exact.

We are also described as “significantly above” the national average for the percentage of our students who gained five A*-C grades (69% compared with a national average this year of 55%).

Of course, we'd love to be higher still and we will be aiming to further improve our results this year.

Away from the numbers, I was delighted to attend the recent production of “Brave New World” which brought together performances in dance, drama and music. It was great to see such a good sized audience, so good in fact that I struggled to find a seat – a nice problem to have!

The arts are very strong at Kingsbury High and very important to us. We know that the greater number of our students tend to study Maths and the Sciences at A level but the arts and sport bring something so different to the school and are a crucial part of our students' experience. I write this just before our final “Excel Day” of the term: it is through days like these that we provide many of the opportunities which enrich our students' learning. Such experiences depend on the commitment and good will of our staff; Excel Days require additional preparation and a high level of intensity on the day: I'm sure you will join with me in thanking my colleagues for all that they do to broaden our children's horizons.

We finish this term at **12.30 on Friday 19th December**. That will be non-uniform day for Years 7-9 only.

Next term starts for students at **10.00 on Monday 5th January**. Students should go to their form rooms first.

I hope you and your children have a great Christmas holiday and I look forward to seeing you at one of the parents' evenings we hold for each year group over the coming months.

Jeremy Waxman OBE

Institute of Physics Awards Dinner



Kingsbury High School's Sixth Form student, Jade Constantinou, was selected to co-host at the Institute of Physics (IOP) annual awards dinner which took place on Wednesday 15th October 2014. Jade spent her summer volunteering at, and signing up to, various Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) organisations including the Science & Technology Faculties Council; spending a day at the University College London's Observatory with Teaching Fellow in Astronomy, Dr Steve Fossey; a two week internship at Laing O'Rourke; and applying to the Social Mobility Foundation's Aspiring Professionals Programme, where she was introduced to the possibility of becoming an orator for the IOP's prestigious awards ceremony.

The selection process involved an interview where Jade was up against students from various colleges. Jade was successful and was selected alongside, A Level Physics student, Renato from Woodhouse College in Finchley.

Jade said “I received an email informing me that I had been chosen to be one of the orators for the event. The institute had never used students to present the awards before, so we had a lot of preparation in rehearsals. We wrote our own introductions and we had to know how to say all of the technical terms and names of the award winners correctly. It would have been quite embarrassing if we had mispronounced any names in front of all these great physicists and scientists.

“It's been an amazing experience. Most people wouldn't get the opportunity that I had and I'm really, really grateful that I got it. It's been a really good insight into making connections; working; building up my skills; and knowing how the real world works. In the future I definitely want to pursue something in the Physics sector. It has really inspired me to represent Physics more and to represent women going in to Physics.”

Dr Frances Saunders, President of the Institute of Physics, said “We were delighted to have Jade and Renato join us for the dinner. It was wonderful to have two such enthusiastic physics students with us for the evening. They did an incredible job and we're very grateful. Kingsbury should be proud to have such a confident ambassador. I wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.”

Parent Forum & Friends of Kingsbury High



On Thursday 23rd October 2014, parents and carers attended a forum where they were able to air their views and concerns about topics ranging from the cleanliness of the school; to questions about maternity cover.

All areas outlined in the forums have either been resolved; are being resolved; or are under review.

Pamela Muir, Director of Finance and Business (pictured above) chairs the forums and said "Like parents, the governors; leadership; and staff at Kingsbury High have high hopes for our students' futures. We want to unite in this and find ways to make what we do even better to give our students a platform for being the best they can be. In order to achieve this, we encourage more parents and carers to get involved in our forums and in Friends of Kingsbury."

Parents/carers at Kingsbury High School are very much part of our school community and, as such, automatically gain membership to our parent teacher association known as Friends of Kingsbury High School.

Members can volunteer as much or as little as they like whether it be organising fundraising events; helping at school events; or joining discussion groups.

Our next Friends of Kingsbury High School meeting will be held on **Thursday 15th January 2015** in the lower school library at 6pm. Our next Parent Forum is on **Thursday 5th February 2015**. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

If you have any suggestions and/or would like to get more involved, please contact Pamela Muir pamela.muir@kingsburyhigh.org.uk

Stageseen Scripted



Students at Kingsbury High School have been tapping in to their creative writing skills during a number of playwriting sessions. Stageseen Scripted, run by Mousetrap Theatre Project, is a writing scheme where deaf and hard of hearing young people work with a playwright to produce their own scripts, which are then performed by actors on a London stage.

On Wednesday 5th November the students spent a full day at Matilda the Musical as a stimulus for this project; they took part in drama workshops; were taken on a tour of the theatre; and performed a signed version of the show's best known song in front of the whole cast, before watching a sign-interpreted performance of the show.

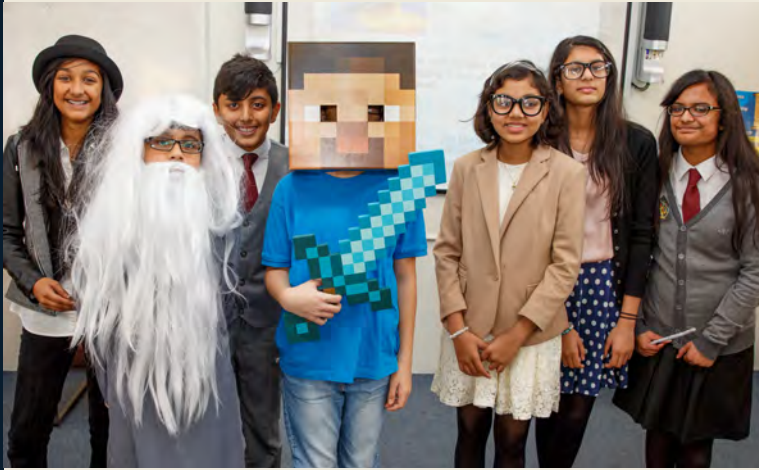
Back in the classroom, students then spent five, weekly, sessions with award-winning playwright, Evan Placey, where he helped them produce their own written scenes, which were performed at the Leicester Square Theatre on the Tuesday 9th December 2014.

Evan said "I had a brilliant time working with the students at Kingsbury High School. It was a privilege to watch as their creative ideas took root and grew across the sessions, and also to see how their confidence with themselves as writers and dramatists grew alongside that. I am very much looking forward to accompanying the students when they see their words and stories brought to life by professional actors on the stage."

Stageseen is one of 17 projects run by theatre access and education charity, Mousetrap Theatre Projects.



Reading for Pleasure Day



On Thursday 20th November Year 8 students took part in a 'Reading for Pleasure Day' designed to encourage and celebrate reading. As well as dressing up as their favourite characters, students took part in a range of stimulating activities including storytelling and role playing to remind them what they love about reading.

At the end of each session, students added their ideas to a reading tree where they wrote their favourite characters on the leaves; memorable events on the twigs; favourite book on the trunk; and favourite quote on the roots.

Parent Governors Needed

Are you interested in how the school runs? Could you give up time to help?

Kingsbury High School needs 3 parents to join our governing body. Governors work with the Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team to ensure the school is providing excellent education for our children, and help make decisions about how the school is run. Governors can be parents, staff or from the community and fulfilling the role is both a serious undertaking and enormously rewarding.

We attend 5-6 evening meetings a term, and each take a special interest in a year group or subject area by meeting with department or year heads during the school day. Parent governors bring their experience as parents with children in the school, as well as their work and life experience.

Our recent Ofsted inspection said that governors worked well, and we need to keep that going. The parent voice is vital around the table.

If you would like to be involved, please complete the application form on the website.

As parents we want the best for our kids, and as parent governors we can help make that happen - so Kingsbury IS the best school for miles around.

Liz Philpots

Parent Governor, Kingsbury High School

Alumni Feature - Sonia Devji



Sonia left Kingsbury High School in 2011 and is currently undertaking an internship with Action Against Hunger.

As part of Kingsbury High School's Future First network, Sonia volunteered to come back for the Sixth Form open evening held in November to deliver a short talk about her experiences of Kingsbury High School's Sixth Form to prospective students and parents.

She said "After taking a year out to retake some modules and decide on an appropriate degree, I eventually found myself studying Politics and

Alumni Feature Continued

Media at Bournemouth University. Currently I am working as a Social Media and Journalism intern with Action Against Hunger, on a year in industry as part of my degree. I honestly couldn't tell you where I'll end up in 5 years time, because 3 years ago I didn't know I'd be this happy. What I do know is that Kingsbury High will lay down a solid foundation to allow anyone to become anything they want to be."

Kingsbury High would love for more former students to be part of our ever-growing Future First network and would be grateful if you could share the following link on your social media pages: <https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student-search>
#kingsburyhigh #futurefirst