



KINGSBURY HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 11 NEWSLETTER

Week commencing: 01/06/2020

Message from the Year Leader

Week 11 has brought Kingsbury High School some devastating news. Mrs Hilary Dimond who many of you would have known, sadly passed away last week not from Covid, but from a long standing illness.

Mrs Dimond worked in the Lower School and many of you who arrived in Year 7 would have had the pleasure of interacting with her. She was a kind and patient person who worked tirelessly to ensure her colleagues had all the support they needed. She will be dearly missed by both staff and students alike. The legacy she is leaving behind is not of fame or fortune, but of a strong black female who lived by standards, carrying herself with care, dignity and humility consistently. Her character is something we should all be aspiring to have.



The Headteacher has written a letter this week informing parents of the sad news. Consequently, the school will be closed on Thursday 18th June as a mark of respect to both staff and students. On this day, please take a moment to pause and remember not only Mrs Dimond, but others within our school community who have lost loved ones recently. If any of you need any support please do not hesitate to contact us by sending an email. Although we are not physically back at school, we are still here for you and can support each other emotionally.

There are ongoing BLM protests in cities and towns across the UK this weekend. There is a concern that members of Britain First, a far right political group will be organising protests alongside the current one. **It is advisable not to attend protests or demonstrations as these could be a breach of lockdown laws. The threat of COVID-19 still remains and it is important that you keep yourselves and families safe.** I mentioned in last week's newsletter that there are a number of constructive ways to get involved and speak up about racism. Please use these methods to raise awareness.

There have been a number of birthdays since the last newsletter; **Happy 16th Birthday** to: Dinisha H and Briyan B.

Don't forget to send in any images for the Digital YearBook to my school email address: jermaine.hamilton@kingsburyhigh.org.uk. I have seen some great pictures, please keep them coming!

Our next Newsletter will be on Friday 19th June 2020.

Message from the Stage Leader

This has been a very difficult week for the KHS family, as we have all been shocked and saddened by the death of Mrs Dimond. I will miss her kindness and sense of humour, particularly when we would talk about football and West Ham United, the team we both support. Mrs Dimond and her family are in my thoughts and prayers, may she rest in peace.

Even as we begin our preparations for the return of some year groups to school, thousands of people have continued to take part in the anti-racism protests around the world following the death of George Floyd. That members of the BAME community are breaking social distancing guidelines in the middle of this pandemic where they are at greatest risk perhaps shows the strength of feeling on this issue.

Violence at the protests is wrong, not only for the damage it causes, but because it becomes a distraction, and allows other people to change the conversation away from the real issues so they don't have to deal with them.

The focus has started to widen away from police brutality and general racism, and onto other more uncomfortable areas that brings the history of this country into question. In Bristol a statue of the slave trader Edward Colston was pulled down and thrown into the harbour. The statue had been controversial in that city for many years. In central London, the statue of Sir Winston Churchill in Parliament Square was sprayed with graffiti.

One reason many people from minorities are far behind nowadays is not because of now - it is because of then. It is the stories of yesterday that are shaping the stories of today. The stories of empire, slavery, colonialism and oppressing people, that brought this country great power and wealth. The story of how the British Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries was built on cotton and the labour and resources of others - cotton from the colony of India or from the slave society of the USA.

These are the stories about this country that too many people simply don't know, and this lack of education plays a part in racism in the UK and our discussions about it. Great figures from history are often contradictory, complicated people, and all sides of their character and achievements should be known.

Churchill was undeniably a great wartime leader and protector of freedom who defeated the Nazis. But he also believed strongly in the British Empire and colonialism, with an imperialist attitude and policies that were a significant factor in the Bengal famine of 1943 where 3 million people starved to death. Ignoring the sins of the past creates more sins for the future. This country must be more honest about its past, and publicly talk about those episodes of its history, like the Bengal famine, that people are not taught about.

We are in a better place than we were years ago, but the unfortunate reality for many minorities is that they still have to work twice as hard and endure twice as much to get half as far. We need more people of BAME backgrounds in certain professions, especially in the upper levels. BAME people must get involved in all the institutions of this country, so their voice can speak for itself and is heard.

The Manchester City and England footballer, Raheem Sterling, who grew up in Wembley, has previously spoken out about the racist abuse he has suffered and earlier this week gave an interview on the BBC. He spoke movingly about the lack of BAME representation and equal opportunities in the football industry, I thoroughly recommend you watch it, it starts at 18 minutes:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000jykh/newsnight-08062020>

One thing that does make me hopeful is that the protests have been racially diverse, with large numbers of non-BAME people taking part and showing solidarity. Perhaps this means more people will want to talk about these issues, and to realise that talking about racism and complicated areas of history is not an attack on any one persons' ethnicity or country. That hopefully people will listen with an open mind and put themselves in someone else's shoes, and feel more comfortable with being uncomfortable.

To realise that this is not just "their problem", but is "our problem", for all of us.

Stay home as much as possible, Stay safe, Stay strong!

Message of the Week

Saaleh Abanur of Year 10 wrote the following poem as his reflection on the events in the US and the Black Lives Matter movement. Massive respect and thanks to Saaleh for such an emotional and powerful piece of writing:

No Justice, No Peace, No Racist Police. No Justice, No Peace, No Racist Police.

Chants that we hear, Chants that we cry ,Chants that we hope will never ever die.

It's all for equality, It's all for our rights, It's all for the ability to not let our existence be an oversight.

His death was the product of a corruption that's been institutionalised, Coded into the system and thus rationalised.

His death was at the hands of those who promised to "protect with courage" and "serve with compassion," Yet that all that could be seen was their lack of a suitable reaction.

I can't breathe, I can't breathe, I can't breathe. For 8 minutes and 46 seconds Derek Chauvin knelt on George Floyd's neck.

I can't breathe, I can't breathe, I can't breathe. George Floyd was murdered for what was allegedly a faulty \$20 cheque.

I can't breathe, I can't breathe, I can't breathe. In normal cases a minor crime but because of the colour of his skin.

I can't breathe, I can't breathe, I can't breathe. Floyd had to die. Let the protests begin...

They wonder why we protest, They wonder why we riot, They wonder why we won't stay compliant to their little system that keeps them in power and the law biased.

White privilege exists, it's undeniable, But why it exists is unjustifiable.

As humans, we're made equal, But just because of the colour of our skin we become "inferior people."

They hold our rights and they hold our freedom, Because of this there's clear disparities in the system.

Of which Black People are a major victim, And all of this is just to keep us weakened.

We want Justice. We want Peace. Please get rid of the racist police.

We want equality. We want our rights. Please don't let our existence be an oversight.

We accept that All Lives Matter, But that's not something we can pursue

Until they finally realise, Black lives do too!

Careers Advice and Guidance

Ms Connie Collie (Connexions Advisor) will be available on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday between 9:00am and 3:00pm. Many of you have asked for help to write your CVs/Cover letters, completing college and apprenticeship applications, answered questions about university applications and what to do if things don't quite work out as planned. She is not currently in school but continues to work from home and can be contacted via email: connie.colli@kingsburyhigh.org.uk or on the phone: 07584 270 467.

If you are 16 years old, you can apply typically for part-time jobs. If you haven't done so already start working on your CVs. All eligible 16 year olds will receive their National Insurance numbers in due course. There are a number of supermarket chains who are recruiting at present. These include: Aldi, Tesco, Asda, M&S, Morrisons, Lidl and Waitrose. If you are considering applying, please familiarise yourself with the rules of Child Employment: <https://www.gov.uk/child-employment/restrictions-on-child-employment>

Exams & 6th Form



Ofqual has provided official information about grading for this year's GCSE exams. Please watch attentively!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXuDOrtJY1Q&feature=youtu.be>

Please do continue to use the Google Form to send any questions to about Exams and 6th Form/College: <https://forms.gle/J1wREj3EtoBmMthM6>

Bridging Work Information

Bridging work was sent out by email this week. Please read the information provided and direct any concerns or questions to the 6th Form team.

Useful Links

What to do if you're anxious about coronavirus -

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/#dealing-with-self-isolation->

If English is not your families first language there are COVID Guidelines in most community translation available from: <https://www.covidmessageforall.com>
Please pass on and share your families and friends so everyone one can understand and keep safe and healthy.