



Useful Dates

16 Dec	Senior Prizegiving
17-18 Dec	Years 10-13 Drama Residential Trip
17 Dec	House Talent Show
17 Dec	First Lego League Competition
18 Dec	Sixth Form Cinema Trip
19 Dec	Christmas Carol Service
19 Dec	LAST DAY OF TERM
6 Jan	Staff Training Day
7 Jan	FIRST DAY OF TERM
8 Jan	Year 12 Parents' Evening at St George's Academy
10 Jan	Year 9 PSHE Careers Day
10 Jan	Mongolia Trip 'Meet the Leader' meeting
14 Jan	Year 9 Open Evening
16 Jan	Youth Council

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the final newsletter of this calendar year. Firstly a big thank you to those parents who responded to our whole school surveys earlier this term. You can read about some of our findings later in the newsletter.

As the term draws to a close and with much to celebrate we hope your daughter enjoys the school festivities. This week we enjoyed the Christmas School concert, the school Christmas lunches and celebrated with local senior citizens at the annual afternoon party. Next week is our annual Senior Prizegiving ceremony as well as our end of term service in St Denys' Church and our more informal end of term celebration assembly with our talent show winners, and staff pantomime. Please do be sure to take note of the end of term arrangements sent out to you via Weduc last Friday whatever year your daughter/son is in.

Finally I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas full of good cheer and family celebration.

Mrs J Smith
Head of School

Book Lovers at the Kids' Lit Quiz

On the 14th November, Kesteven and Sleaford High School participated in the 'Kids' Lit Quiz' competition for the fifth year in a row. We took part with two teams, each with four students, and travelled with two teams of students from Carre's Grammar School.

The Kids' Lit Quiz is an annual international literature competition for young people between the ages of 10-13. Teams answer 100 questions based on various types of books and characters, for example Classics, Nursery Rhymes and Modern Fiction. Winners of each heat go on to National Finals, and winners of those finals attend the World Final - this year, the final will be held in New Zealand!

We took part in the central England heat and, while we did not win, all teams did extremely well. One of the Year 7 participants, Chiara, described the trip as 'an amazing experience' and that she will 'treasure it forever'. Another pupil describing the trip explained that 'the preparation process was lovely' and that she would 'certainly do it all over again'.

We were very lucky to have the opportunity to take part in this wonderful event and it could not have proceeded

without the planning, help and organisation from Ms Natley and Mrs Gibson. Thank you very much for taking us!

I would truly recommend this reading adventure to Year 7 and Year 8 next year.

Emily 7APO



Pictured: the 2019 KSHS Kids' Lit Quiz teams: Abi, Emily, Josephine, Chiara, Rosie, Marith, Florence and Bianca. With Wayne Mills, the founder and quiz master of Kids' Lit Quiz.

Whole School Survey

Many thanks to the 136 parents who took the time to complete the recent two question whole school survey. Along with Mr Law (Executive Head) I have read every response and we have met as a senior staff team to draw some conclusions. Mr Nick Gibbons (Chair of the Local Governing Body) met with the Student Council last week to discuss the findings from student responses too. In January the findings will be shared with the Local Governing Body. We realise how many surveys, from a range of organisations, people are invited to complete each week and are conscious of 'survey fatigue'. We asked two questions:

1. What does the school do well?
2. What could the school do better?

In no particular order the list below features comments that regularly recurred:

What does the school do well?

- Quality of teaching
- Pastoral support for the students
- Behaviour of the majority of the students
- Management approaches
- The broad and balanced curriculum offer
- Enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities for students
- The culture of the schools - we are friendly, happy, welcoming, supportive nurturing and inclusive places to work and learn
- Communication between home and school
- The quality of food in the dining room
- The transition into Year 7 and Year 12
- Collaborative working cross the RCT schools

What could the school do better?

- Quality of teaching in some classrooms
- IT facilities
- A desire for more consistent policies across both schools e.g. around mobile phone use, lockers
- Facilities and resources
- Transport - cost and service
- Marketing

An equal number of parents commented favourably on the use of Weduc as our electronic form of communication as said they would like a different system. As many parents also said there was the right amount of homework set as those who thought there was too much. We will continue to monitor these aspects of school organisation.

Students' positive comments were around teaching quality, pastoral support and quality of food. They said they felt safe and knew who to go to if they were experiencing problems. They saw possible improvements in a desire for more relaxed uniform rules, the school continuing its work on supporting the mental health and wellbeing of students (though there was lots of recognition of the work done in this area in the past 12 months), the price of food in the school dining room and a desire for shorter lunchtime queues.

Next steps

Our focus on high quality teaching will always remain a constant focus for us. We were delighted with the recent Department for Education data that tells us that as a school our students make significantly better than expected progress at GCSE, even considering their strong starting points in Year 7. On average our students last year made half a grade more progress than expected in each of their subjects. This gave us a progress 8 score of +0.46. We are never complacent however and know that students are a great barometer of good teaching. Last week, along with subject experts from other schools and a lead Ofsted inspector, we visited lessons in English across different year groups and this week we will visit Art in a similar way. Pupil panels are a regular feature of such teaching quality assurance work. Reports and recommendations are always shared with the Governing body at each meeting.

Those of you who are kindly donating to the Robert Carre Trust fund know that we are using your generous donations to contribute to our IT asset replacement programme. We eagerly hope for some more settled political decisions too in the light of the recent general election and the promises of extra and much needed funding for schools. IT replacement is high on our priority list. In the meantime students are benefitting from new computer suites in Art and in the Design and Technology/Business Studies departments, installed in April and September this year.

This week in school I will announce to students the banning of the use of mobile phones (apart from with explicit permission from teaching staff for learning purposes inside the classroom) from the start of next term. This rule will bring us in line with other local schools and takes into consideration the increasing number of concerns we have about young people's dependence on their phones and the number of pastoral issues we deal with in school as a result of frequent social media use. A further letter will be shared with all parents along with a copy of the revised policy.

Finally we have undertaken a study of the lunchtime queues and made some adjustments to ensure the most efficient system including two, rather than one, point of entry for students. Students have been consulted and three different systems trialed over the course of the term.

I will continue to keep you updated in coming months in this newsletter.

Mrs J Smith
Head of School

Discover Your World of Books

There are many different ways to access books, but spending time exploring what to read next is essential in order to become a fulfilled reader. There are several ways that students can develop the skills to achieve this.

A visit to the school Library is always a good place to start; a broad collection of literature that is specifically selected with young readers in mind, and with Library staff on hand to recommend genres, series and authors – students can also recommend to each other based on their own reading experiences. The Library catalogue can be viewed via the school website, and this can be useful when planning what to read next. The E platform reading app also provides access to additional titles, and is great for reading anytime and anyplace.

Local Libraries are a fantastic resource for readers of all ages, and throughout our region we are fortunate to still have thriving Library services in place. Visiting Libraries as a family will reinforce how important and enjoyable reading is to us all.

On line resources are playing an increasingly large part in enhancing reader experiences. Fantastic Fiction is a useful website with author and title information, and handy links to what to read next. Goodreads is an online book club, allowing you to link to friends and family with recommendations and reviews, and the Radio 4 book club can be accessed via the BBC sounds app. Amazon also contains useful reviews and links to what others have read and purchased.

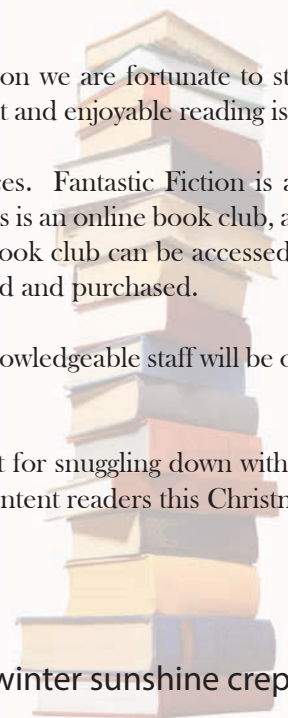
Finally – a visit to a good quality bookshop can inspire even the most reluctant reader. Knowledgeable staff will be on hand to recommend titles, and there is usually a coffee shop too!

With the days being so short, and the holiday almost upon us, the conditions are perfect for snuggling down with a good book. Hopefully there will be books and book tokens in stockings a plenty, and many content readers this Christmas time.

Mrs C Gibson
Learning Resource Centre Manager

“The rooms were very still while the pages were softly turned, and the winter sunshine crept in to touch the bright heads and serious faces with a Christmas greeting”

Louisa May Alcott: Little Women



LIBRARY

OPENING HOURS
MON-THURS 9.00-5.00
FRIDAY 9.00-4.30

SCHOOL UNIFORM



UNIFORM DIRECT (LINCOLN) CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Offices and stores close at 5pm on Friday 13th December 2019
and re-open on Thursday 2nd January 2020

Online orders will be processed immediately on our return

Wishing all of our schools and customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Parents will now have more choice about where to buy school uniform as a new shop (formerly Sleaford Clothing Company) is opening in Sleaford on Thursday 2nd January 2020:

SJB UNIFORMS

2 Market Street, Sleaford NG34 7SF (Tel: 01529 400429)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Thanks to the volunteers for their assistance with the training days in November and December. With approximately 180 students attending each of the days it was a challenge to get all of the training completed in the two days.



Catch-up sessions for those who missed the first day have been running at DofE club weekly and sessions for those who missed the training on Saturday will commence at the 15 January DofE club.

Any student who has not completed the training will not be eligible for the expeditions.

The first of two DofE drop-in days will be held at Northgate Sports Hall on Saturday 25 January. Any student or parent will be made welcome. Catch up training, eDofE assistance or expedition planning can take place on this day; the time is for you to decide how to use it but help will be on hand.

I look forward to seeing so many students through their expeditions in 2020.

Mrs M Walker
Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-ordinator

Shoebox Collection

The Interact Club organised a Rotary shoebox collection earlier this month. Rotary provided us with 100 boxes. We filled most of them with items you kindly donated. The Rotary Club have now collected them and they are on their way abroad, mainly to Eastern Europe.

We would like to thank you all for your items for the shoeboxes. It spreads happiness and provides the essentials to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Interact is very busy at Christmas, we are in the process of organising the annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party and also a food bank collection.

Please support us in helping people at this special time of the year.

Charlotte (9F)



Spotlight on Sport



Lincolnshire Secondary Schools Gymnastics Championships – First place for KSHS U16 Team

On Sunday 8th December, twelve gymnasts across Years 7 to 10 competed against other Lincolnshire Schools in the Lincolnshire Secondary Schools Gymnastics Championships.

For a number of gymnasts, this was their first gymnastics competition and also first time representing the school. Every gymnast performed exceptionally well in their routines and on the vault.

The U16 team came first and scooped up the Gold medals. Kennedy (10W) won Gold at Level 3, Amy (10L) won Gold at Level 2, Izzy (9W) won Silver at Level 2 and Chloe (10F) just missed Bronze at Level 2 by .1.

In the U13 competition, Erin (8W) won Silver at Level 3 and Rebecca (8F) won Silver at Level 3.

Well done to all.





English Schools Football Association - U15 Football Team

The U15 Football team travelled to play Skegness Grammar School in the 5th round of the ESFA league. After winning 5-1 they have made it through to the 4th round where they are yet to hear who they next face. Both the U15 and U16 team have made it through to the last 32 schools in the country. Good luck to all!

Netball - Sisters in Sport Plate Competition

The U14 and U16 Netball teams are progressing well in the Sisters in Sport plate competition with wins over St George's Academy and Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School, they have both made it through to the next round.

Well done and good luck to both teams.

			Results			Score	Place
			Age Group	Opposition	Date		
Upcoming Fixtures			Netball				
Age Group	Opposition	Date	U16	SNS plate competition v KGS	Tuesday 26 th November @ KGS	44-11	Won
Cross Country			U14	SNS plate competition v St George's	Wednesday 20 th November @ St George's	41-25	Won
County Competition	County zones	Saturday 18 th January @ Burghley House	Football				
Futsal			U15	Toot Hill	Tuesday 26 th November @ home	4-0	Won
Year 8	KSSA Tournament	Thursday 9 th January @ St George's	U15	Skegness	Tuesday 3 rd December @ Skegness	5-1	Won
Year 7	KSSA Tournament	Tuesday 14 th January @ St George's	U14	George Spencer Academy, Notts	Friday 22 nd November @ George Spencer Academy	0-5	Lost
			Volleyball				
			U15	KSSA Tournament	Thursday 5 th December @ Carre's	Won v Sleaford Ruskington Lost v Sleaford St George's	TBC
			Gymnastics				
			All years	KSSA	Sunday 8 th December @ Priory Academy, Grantham	U16 1 st place	2 x Gold medals 2 x Silver medals 1 x Bronze medal



Student Sporting Success - Cross Country

Anna (7KDU), Sophie (8L) and myself took part in the Lincs Cross Country League together representing Sleaford Striders.

We raced in the under 13 girl's category, over 4 events. On each race we accumulated points from the number of races we competed in and the placings we achieved.

Overall, we finished in 1st place. Awards will be given at the County Champs in January.

Madeleine (7MC)



GROWTH MINDSET NOMINATIONS

25th November to 6th December 2019

Staff are invited to nominate students who have demonstrated a Growth Mindset in the past few weeks. This might have been in lessons, in clubs, in tutor time or simply around school.

Please note we already award bi-annual subject badges and merits for good academic work, effort and improvement. These Growth Mindset nominations recognise those who show resilience (academic or otherwise); who aren't afraid to get things wrong and learn from it; those who have a go, take themselves out of their comfort zone or show that even if a task is tough they will persevere.



Subject area	Student being nominated	Tutor Group	Staff nominating
Computing	Emily Chambers	9A	Mr S Mulligan
Computing	Isobel Coles	11A	Mr S Mulligan
Computing	Georgia Cowling	11A	Mr S Mulligan
Computing	Becky Creedon	9A	Mr S Mulligan
Computing	Ash Edwards-Stuart	10F	Mr S Mulligan
Computing	Sophie Flintham	9F	Mr S Mulligan
Computing	Bethany Lenton	11F	Mr S Mulligan
Computing	Agatha Redgrave	9L	Mr S Mulligan
Computing	Leah Roxby	9L	Mr S Mulligan
Computing	Nicole Topham-Clark	9W	Mr S Mulligan
Computing	Isobel Weller	9W	Mr S Mulligan
English	Rosie Brill	7MC	Miss G Walters
English	Olivia Cepelak	7BM	Miss G Walters
English	Isabel Lyle	9F	Miss G Walters
English	Freya Simpson	10W	Miss G Walters
English	Emily Swan-Dennis	8W	Miss G Walters
French	Nawaal Aasim	8A	Mr A Shivas
French	Bella Aitken	9A	Mr A Shivas
French	Madeleine Banks	7MC	Miss A Beckitt
French	Vaishali Bansal	7MC	Miss A Beckitt
French	Amelie Collier	9L	Mr A Shivas
French	Alex Lorkievicz	8F	Miss A Beckitt
French	Jessica Pettini	11L	Mr A Shivas
French	Holly Walker	7SFE	Mr A Shivas
French	Neve Woodman	11W	Mr A Shivas
Geography	Leah Scott	8W	Mrs S Livingstone
Geography	Alisha Siddy	8W	Mrs S Livingstone
Geography	Jemima Townsley	8W	Mrs S Livingstone
Geography	Niamh Turner	8W	Mrs S Livingstone
German	Hunter Edwards-Stuart	8F	Mr L Rooke
German	Isabel Lee	7KDU	Mr A Shivas
German	Bianca Nastase	8L	Mr A Shivas
Maths	Rachel Shields	7APO	Miss N Byrne
Pastoral	Flo Birkby	7MC	Mrs J Pankhurst
Science	India Baldam	8A	Mr N Periam
Tutor	Keira Beeson	10A	Mr L Rooke
Tutor	Lucy Blair	10A	Mr L Rooke
Tutor	Lucy Croft	10A	Mr L Rooke
Tutor	Alex Duffy	10A	Mr L Rooke



12 Smartphone Online Safety Tips

FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

The Christmas season has finally arrived and soon many of you will be opening your presents in the hope that Santa has listened to your request for the latest mobile phone or smart device.

Owning a mobile phone can be fun, but it's important to use it safely and responsibly. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that you set up your phone securely, keep your personal information private and enjoy using your phone in the healthiest way possible.

1 ALWAYS SECURE YOUR PHONE WITH A PASSWORD

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your phone without your permission. Make sure your password is memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share it with your parents just in case you forget it.

2 DISABLE LOCATION SETTINGS

This can usually be done from the device's privacy control settings. Disabling location settings means that your phone can't be tracked by others and strangers can't tell where you are when you're using it. It also helps to save battery.

3 ALWAYS USE A SECURE WIFI NETWORK

When you use your WIFI at home usually it is a secure network that only you and your family know the password to. Public networks, like those in coffee shops, can be accessed by anyone which means that people could potentially hack into your device and access your personal information without you realising.

4 ONLY PAIR WITH BLUETOOTH DEVICES YOU KNOW

A Bluetooth connection with another device means that you can send and receive data wirelessly. For example, you could listen to music wirelessly or receive pictures and videos from your friends. However, pairing your phone with a device you don't know means that you could be sharing personal information with a stranger or could leave your device open to receiving viruses.

5 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE

Before downloading any new apps, always check the age-rating of the app. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain things that aren't safe for you to see.

6 BEWARE OF BECOMING ADDICTED TO YOUR PHONE

Your phone can be fun to use and it's easy to become too attached, whether it's keeping in touch with friends, discovering new features or downloading the latest apps. Remember it's always good to talk in person, go out and have fun and get regular exercise. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just your mobile phone.

12 DON'T SHARE YOUR NUMBER OR YOUR DEVICE WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW.

Never feel pressured into sharing your phone number with people you don't know and don't lend your phone to strangers or keep it where others could get hold of it. Look after your device and always keep it hidden from sight to avoid it being stolen or broken into.

7 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

Using your phone for too long, particularly in the evenings, can make you feel tired at school, affect your concentration and make you lose interest in other things in life. Only use your phone at certain times of the day and don't use it close to bedtime. You can set a 'screen time limit' via the settings on your phone. This will help you stay fit and healthy and means that you will still be able to focus and perform well at school.

8 THINK OF OTHERS WHEN TAKING PHOTOS

Don't take embarrassing photos of other people on your phone. If other people get access to the photo and share it with more people, it could make that person really upset and treated as a form of bullying. Always be mindful of the photos you take using your camera and who you share them with.

9 MAKE SURE YOUR PARENTS SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'

This means that you will be able to use your phone safely and securely and won't accidentally do things you shouldn't do. The best time to do this is when you get a new phone or device so that you're protected from the very beginning.

10 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR PARENTS IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE

Sometimes, even though your phone is really secure, you might see something you don't like, or someone might contact you who you don't know. If this happens, always tell your trusted adult like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and advise you on what you should do next.

11 DON'T TEXT AND WALK

This might seem like a strange thing to say but it can be dangerous to stare at your mobile phone whilst walking outside alongside busy roads or bicycle paths. In some cases, children have been knocked over by cars or cyclists because they haven't been aware of their surroundings whilst texting or playing games on their mobile devices.

