



# NEWSLETTER

9th October 2020

www.kshs.uk

## Useful Dates

9-11 Oct	Duke of Edinburgh Year 12/13: Silver Practice Expedition
21 Oct	Year 13 Geography Field Trip (NEA)
21 Oct	Year 7 & Year 10 Virtual Settling In Evening 4.00pm-7.00pm
22 Oct	Year 13 Geography Field Trip (NEA)
22 Oct	LAST DAY OF TERM
23 Oct	Staff Training Day
23 Oct	Year 7 & Year 10 Virtual Settling In Afternoon 1.30pm-3.30pm

Dear Parent/Carer,

After an interesting and testing September I hope I am not tempting fate when I say it seems to have been a calmer week in school this week. We do realise that remote learning will be a way of life for students and staff for some time to come so we were delighted with the feedback from Year 11 who reported a positive experience on online learning in the wellbeing survey we asked them to complete at the end of their period of self-isolation. Mrs Hunt along with Senior Team invited Year 11 to join us for an online review before their return to school on Wednesday and as ever we were impressed by students' commitment to their learning and the intelligent questions they asked about mock exams, the summer exams, coursework and other opportunities. We look forward to welcoming 9F and a handful of other Year 9 students back next Friday.

Thankfully it's not all about the pandemic as you'll see from the super news of student participation and events in school below. I hope that Year 7 and 8 families enjoyed the spoils of the KSHS European Bake

Off and we look forward to meeting parents virtually soon at the online settling in evenings. We are also making plans for the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form virtual Open Event and look forward to sharing details of all these events with you. Finally please do be aware that our school website has a lot of information about supporting your child with their wellbeing. If you have some time do take a look here <https://www.kshs.uk/site/page.asp?ID=101>.

Stay safe,

Mrs J Smith  
Head of School



## THE GREAT EUROPEAN BAKE OFF!

Saturday 26th September was European Day of Languages. We were a little limited in the activities that we could do this year but pupils in all years had the opportunity to take part in form time quizzes and other activities.

We also held the Great European Bake Off. Pupils were asked to make cakes or desserts with a European theme - the entries were outstanding! We had all types of entries; some went for cupcakes or huge cakes with a European theme, whilst others produced cakes and desserts which originate from a variety of European countries. The only disappointing thing was that we weren't able to taste them all! However, lucky families and friends got to try them out and some pupils charged them for the pleasure, raising almost £100 for the Macmillan coffee morning which was on 25th September.

A massive thank you to all of the pupils who entered and to their families for providing ingredients and donations.

Judging the entries was extremely difficult but the final top 5 were:

1. Eva and Zahra (7A)
2. Josephine (8BM)
3. Evie (7L)
4. Eve (8BM)
5. Lucie (8MC)

Some of the fantastic efforts are pictured here.

Mrs L Samworth  
Teacher of MFL



EUROPEAN DAY OF  
LANGUAGES



On Sunday 27th September, as part of the school Macmillan campaign, we planned to bake some European themed cakes and sell them around our street. A quick trip to the supermarket with mum and three hours of baking with the help of Leen and our little brother Adam, we had created almost 30 delicious cupcakes with French and German flags for icing. We then went for a walk in our street knocking on doors and were amazed by the generosity of our neighbours who helped us raise £68.81 for such a good cause, with plenty of cake left for us to enjoy. It was a really enjoyable and rewarding day.

By Eva and Zahra (7A)



Eva 7A



Zahra 7A



Mary 8MC



Amelia 8BM



Bethany 8BM



Betsy 7L



Ellie 8KMB



Emily 7A



Evie-Sioux 7W



Freya 8BM



Evie 7L





Eve 8BM



From Top to Bottom, Left to Right.

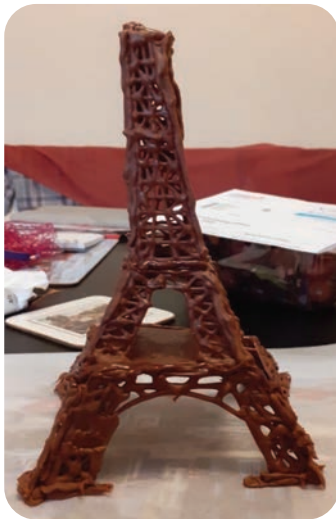
- United Kingdom
- Portugal
- Ukraine
- France
- Spain
- Czech Republic
- Latvia
- Switzerland
- Finland

Holly & Heidi 7L



**ITALIAN  
APPLECAKE**

Isla 7W



Zoha 8MC



Josphine 8BM



Lola 7W



Lucie 8MC



Lucy 7W



**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

## Library News

The Library celebrated National Poetry day on October 1st. All students have received in their email inbox a fantastic new poem that has been written this year; *Alone Together* by Victoria Calleja captures brilliantly the challenges we are all facing in 2020 and whilst acknowledging the presence of fear and uncertainty she nevertheless conveys a strong message of friendship and positivity. Poetry has become an increasingly popular genre this year, with many turning to it for escape and relaxation. I hope that you enjoy taking a moment to read this fantastic poem.

*Alone Together* - Victoria Calleja  
There are gaps and walls between us,  
Yet we're close because we care,  
And the distance is diminished,  
For there's one enemy we share.

You know your friends all have their struggles,  
So you try to hide each tear,  
But there's no use holding back;  
It can unite us too, our fear.

We are alone but still together,  
Each one faced with the unknown,  
And our friends we must rely on  
As news chills us to the bone.

And yet fear feeds on our weakness,  
Births the darkness in our mind.  
We can choose the hopeful path, and  
Some sweet solace we might find.

It's our actions that define us-  
Our thoughts, our will, our ways.  
We are all in this together.  
Soon there will be better days.

**NATIONAL  
POETRY  
DAY 2020**  
See It Like a Poet



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Throughout October the Library will be celebrating Black History Month. The collection on display to browse and borrow from has been curated in collaboration with the History Department, and includes a brand-new edition of David Olusoga's *Black And British- A Short, Essential History*. There is a wide selection of fiction and nonfiction to explore that is suitable for all reading abilities, and I encourage all our students to make some time this month to include in their reading something from this collection.

Mrs C Gibson  
Learning Resource Centre Manager



# PTA

It has been a difficult time for the KSHS PTA as we have not been able to meet since the March lockdown earlier this year and all our fundraising plans had to be cancelled. We are in the process of planning a virtual AGM and once this has taken place we will try to plan some limited fundraising activities.

In the past the PTA have raised several thousand pounds each year which has been used to support school departments and extra-curricular clubs with materials and equipment that does not come out of the normal school budget. We have recently raised money to replace a number of IT projectors, we have paid for motivational speakers, PSHE day outside speakers, a trampoline and training for PE. We also funded the replacement of the window curtains in the school hall and helped to fund the dining room extension. We also pay for the student planners each year.

We would like to try and continue fundraising within the limits of our 'new normal'. We are

looking at holding some kind of limited civvies day - wearing a piece of clothing in a colour or fancy socks combined with a Bags2school collection if possible and raising money for charity as well as the PTA. We also hope to set up a pre-loved school uniform 'virtual shop' in the near future. The PTA have also raised money in the past through the 100 Club where members buy numbers and a random number is selected each month to win. Once the AGM has taken place we will be sending out application forms for the 100 Club via Weduc.

We do hope that you will continue to support the PTA this year, even if it is just by buying a 100 Club number or supporting an in-school fundraising activity. If you would like to get involved in any aspect of the PTA we are always looking for new committee members and fundraising ideas.

Please contact us at [pta@kshs.uk](mailto:pta@kshs.uk).

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs B Fleming  
KSHS PTA Chair



## CHARITY CAMPAIGN AWAKENS TEENS TO THE VALUE OF SLEEP

Award winning voluntary organisation, The Sleep Charity, launched its brand new online 'Teen Sleep Hub' on 1 October. At the heart of its campaign 'Teen Sleep Matters' is aimed at promoting the importance of sleep for young people's mental health.

Ahead of World Mental Health Day (10 October) the launch of the Teen Sleep Hub - aimed at teenagers, not parents - addresses the link between poor sleep and mental health as well as the triggers for sleep deprivation and the practical strategies that can be put in place.

The online provision means young people can now access sleep support no matter where they are. It features sound knowledge and helpful advice to get a good quality night's sleep and for those who want to know a little bit more, the eBook 'You and Your Sleep' can be freely downloaded from any device.

To find out more please visit:  
[www.teensleephub.org.uk](http://www.teensleephub.org.uk)



# A Neighbourhood Plan for Sleaford

## Get on board and have your say!



Sleaford  
Neighbourhood  
Development  
Plan

The route you take to work, where you park, your bus route, the cycle paths you use, where you live, where your children play, your allotments, your schools and the shops you use are all the result of planning.

A working group consisting of both Town Councillors and community representatives are tasked with developing a neighbourhood plan for Sleaford ensuring the views of local people are at its core.

Neighbourhood plans are very much a plan for the community undertaken by the community and carry real weight when planning decisions are made at District Council level.

The first opportunity to have your say is to take part in this very short baseline survey that will enable the group to begin to understand the issues, challenges and most importantly what people value about Sleaford.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Sleashort>

Find out more:

[www.sleafordneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](http://www.sleafordneighbourhoodplan.co.uk)

## Spotlight on Sport

### **Lottie Wells (11W) – Football**

The nominees for the Sleaford Town Awards were judged recently and Lottie Wells has won the Young Sports Individual Award.

The presentations will take place outside the Town Hall with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the sponsor of each category.

Well done Lottie!

# GROWTH MINDSET NOMINATIONS

21st September to 2nd October 2020



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.

<b>Subject area</b>	<b>Student being nominated</b>	<b>Tutor Group</b>	<b>Staff nominating</b>
Biology	Isabelle Hanwell	10F	Mrs L Martin
Biology	Harriet McIlwaine	10L	Mrs L Martin
English	Leen Abdallah	10A	Mr J Cassidy
English	Fathima Alam	9A	Miss N Willers
English	Madeleine Banks	8KB	Mr J Cassidy
English	Jersey Case	10A	Miss N Willers
English	Amelie Collier	10L	Mr J Cassidy
English	Caitlin Ford	11F	Mrs C McMeel
English	Evie Hardbattle	11F	Mr J Cassidy
English	Bella Hesketh	7F	Miss N Willers
English	Bethan Hingley	10W	Mr J Cassidy
English	Lydia Ibbs	11F	Mrs C McMeel
English	Aminah Khan	8KDU	Mrs C McMeel
English	Hope Mussell	9L	Mrs C McMeel
English	Tilly Taylor	8KB	Mr J Cassidy
English	Ella Waring	10W	Miss N Willers
French	Nadrah Al-Yasa	9A	Mr A Shivas
French	Chloe Blyth	7A	Miss A Beckitt
French	Amelia Clark	9A	Mr A Shivas
French	Amy Clarke	9A	Mr A Shivas
French	Amelie Cunnington	9A	Mr A Shivas
French	Phoebe Harrison	7L	Miss A Beckitt
French	Liv Neasham	8APO	Miss A Beckitt
French	Nicole Topham-Clark	10W	Mr A Shivas
French	Reese Ward-Walters	9A	Mr A Shivas
Maths	Aminah Khan	8KDU	Miss H Renard
PE	Mallory Barnatt	9A	Mrs J Stacey
PE	Mimi Fisher	8BM	Mrs J Stacey
PE	Emily Harris	8BM	Mrs J Stacey
PE	Evie Taylor	7W	Mrs J Stacey
PE	Aggie Webb	9W	Mrs J Stacey
Tutor	Leen Abdallah	10A	Mrs L Martin



## What parents & carers need to know about...

# AMAZON ALEXA

Alexa is an artificial intelligence (AI) software assistant created by Amazon in 2014 through which smartphone, tablet and smart device users can issue voice commands and ask questions in a range of languages by issuing the 'wake' or activation word Alexa. It can be accessed in several ways and is integrated into a growing number of 'smart' products including speakers, phones and clocks. Once viewed as expensive gimmicks, Alexa is now one of the most used voice assistants in the world.

### Privacy concerns

By their nature, AI voice assistants involve the collection of large amounts data. How this is stored and the uses to which it is put has aroused growing concern. Experts also worry about who has access to voice recordings, which in 2019 the company admitted sometimes included employees of Amazon and its commercial partners. There is also the more general anxiety that internet voice assistants might record private conversations and not only commands or questions.

### Age-inappropriate content

Using Alexa as a speaker to play your favourite songs is one of the most popular uses for the device. However, without any parental controls in place, Alexa won't filter the lyrics so it's possible that children could hear something they shouldn't. Similarly, Alexa isn't always able to identify who or what age the person is who is issuing a voice command so if children ask a question which might not be age-appropriate, the chances are they're likely to get an age-inappropriate answer.

18+

### Insecure devices

The devices and their background services are another worry, which can have software vulnerabilities that make them insecure in complex ways. In 2020, for instance, researchers discovered that the services to which Echo products connect were insecure, potentially allowing hackers to access personal information such as voice conversations. In 2017, researchers were able to directly hack an Amazon Echo to send audio to attackers. Amazon has a good record of fixing security problems when they are discovered but it is never possible to find every problem.

### Changing Tech Relationships

In a 2019 report published by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, concerns were raised on the disruptive effect that voice assistants and smart speakers, such as Alexa, were having on the way that children interact with technology. From building sentiment and forming relationships which could encourage them to overshare personal details, to a fear of consuming content driven by commercial algorithms and an inability to assess reliability, how Alexa operates could considerably change children's relationship with technology in both the short and long term.



## Safety Tips

### Check privacy settings

It's possible to delete Alexa's recordings either entirely, or for a given period, with the instruction "Alexa, delete everything I said." Alternatively, set up the Alexa account privacy settings for that account to delete recordings every three or 18 months. Existing recordings made using the Alexa app can be deleted via Settings > Alexa Privacy > Review Voice History. A final tweak is to turn off the setting that allows Amazon to 'use voice recordings to improve Amazon services.'

### Control voice input

If privacy is paramount, one idea is to locate Echo devices in only one room rather than having several throughout the home. In addition, Alexa can be activated only when it is needed by manually turning off the microphone on Echo devices between use. Users can tell when Alexa is in listening mode as an indicator light should appear or an audible tone should sound.

### Set pin code

Amazon account users can order items from the company using a voice command, for example "Alexa, buy some toilet paper." To counter accidental use or misuse and avoid racking up big bills, this can either be disabled or protected with a PIN code (it should be noted that this is an audible PIN however, so is not as secure as a typed code).

### Look out for 'Skills' apps

A big appeal of Alexa is that thousands of companies have created apps, which Amazon calls 'skills', that add useful capabilities, often integrations with other products or services. These are installed by asking Alexa to 'open/play/start' the skill. For example, a travel skill might be installed to check and automate checking train times and hotel bookings. However, it's important to remember that each of these might have a different privacy policy. A cautious approach is to install as few as possible, de-installing ones no longer in use.

### Talk about technology

As more and more homes install voice assistants and smart speakers such as Alexa, it's a good idea to talk to children about safe use of technology. Talk to them about what Alexa can be used for, how useful it can be and how to use it properly. Use it together to begin with and discuss any concerns they might have. Always make sure that children know to never share any personal or sensitive information and that if they need to talk about anything, they should always speak to a trusted adult.

### Meet our expert

John E. Dunn has edited and written for numerous computer and technology magazines since the early 1990s, most recently Which Computing, The Register, Forbes.com, Techworld, Computerworld and Naked Security. He is a specialist in online cybersecurity and cybercrime and their growing effect on education, young people and the public.

