



BUILDING KSA'S Cultural Heritage

Creativity is being nurtured at KSA with the building blocks for the Academy's cultural identity now firmly in place.

In the last two terms, a number of new initiatives have been developed to support students in the expressive arts, paving the way for the move into the Academy's new build where students will have access to the latest equipment and facilities.

From the Academy's unique partnership with Intersales Music Teaching to a host of Christmas performances and shows, students are helping to create a long-lasting legacy of the arts.

The Academy recognises that, alongside academic achievement, it is also important to develop the whole student – their creativity, their imagination and their individual talents.

This year has seen the return of the popular Rock School in another collaboration with Intersales. There have also been two Christmas shows, including a Brooke Weston Partnership concert, and a variety show organised by a student.

Photography has become a popular choice for students and teacher Mike Leski has also been working with Primary pupils to teach them the basics of how to use a camera.

With the new building offering even more opportunities for KSA to develop art and culture, there are plans for a music technology course to be introduced and partnerships with local drama societies.

This edition of Under the Microscope is packed with examples of how our students are being encouraged to explore their creative side – read more on pages 12, 13, 15 and 19.



Getting in the Christmas Spirit

Twelve shepherds, fifteen angels, six snowflakes and ten stars all made an appearance at the Primary's eagerly-awaited Christmas Nativity. The two Reception classes – Ladybird and Butterfly – have been busy preparing for the two shows on December 7th and 8th. The show, called Whoops-a-Daisy Angel, features an unlucky angel who can never get a job – until she's given the task of spreading the message about the birth of baby Jesus.

All the children learnt songs from the Whoops-a-Daisy soundtrack, published by Out of the Ark Music. Learning Leader Rebecca Walker said: *"The children were a bit nervous but very excited about doing the shows. Some of them had lines to learn and they did very well."*



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Ofsted Inspectors Rate Curriculum as Good

Inspectors have acknowledged the "clear drive for improvement" following the Academy's first full Ofsted report. Areas rated as good include:

- The capacity for sustained improvement;
- The extent to which students feel safe;
- The extent to which the curriculum meets students' needs;
- The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement;
- The quality of provision in the Sixth Form.

For more details on the Academy's Ofsted report visit www.ketteringscienceacademy.org.



LETTERS FROM THE PRINCIPALS

Dear Parents/Carers

This has yet again been a very busy term with a successful Ofsted, many new exciting events and the realisation of a new curriculum for Years 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Ofsted was a success as it not only realised the good work in many areas of the Academy but it also confirmed that the Academy is heading in the right direction. One of the major concerns for Ofsted was attendance and we are working very hard, through the House system, to ensure that students attend regularly as all evidence shows that regular attendance ensures better results. We have included some information in this edition of Microscope to highlight the need for 100% attendance (page 10).

You will also have seen that the lead in this edition focuses on how the Academy is beginning building a cultural heritage with events which highlight success at performing, showing and telling. The partnerships the Academy is building with such organisations as Intersales Music Teaching are also beginning to come to fruition with more and more students performing in concerts. This is also filtering through to success at GCSE with the establishment of 17 students taking GCSE music in Year 10 and many musicians demonstrating their talent in lower years. The huge success of the Children in Need charity show also demonstrates that there is a wealth of talent at KSA. This was one of a number of events which helped raise £2,360



We have completed yet another incredibly busy term! The Ofsted Inspection seems such a long time ago, but we have already successfully addressed some of the issues we were advised to improve:

- The pupils are making tangible progress in phonics, reading and numeracy. They have settled very well into their new groups and enjoy working with children of different ages. The pupils' recent assessments have shown an improvement in every year group. Keep up the good effort, boys and girls!
- Their progress in reading has enabled them to access more challenging work in other subjects because they use their phonics knowledge to attempt unfamiliar words
- We have introduced a new art syllabus which ensures that, each year, pupils learn increasingly complex aspects of colour and design, as well as studying various artists.

Staffing

Staff have advised that they are pleased they decided to teach in 'new' year groups this academic year. They have all enjoyed teaching different aged pupils and have each brought fresh ideas to the learning environment.

Mrs Greaves is making progress and is definitely

for this worthy cause.

Not only is music developing strongly but also photography and this was evident in the first summer arts show, which will be repeated this year. The success of photography as a curriculum subject demonstrates that students want learning to be new, exciting and stimulating.

The building of a cultural heritage will take time but Kettering Science Academy is putting the foundations in place which will, when we move in September to the new build, mean that we can make full use of the drama, dance and music studios. It will mean that we can host our own shows and use our own state of the art facilities to show off the great talent which exists here.

As this Christmas and the New Year draws close, Kettering Science Academy ends 2011 in good shape. Its curriculum has been identified as 'good', its students have been praised by inspectors for their behaviour and its staff have worked hard to ensure their teaching and learning meant the best results ever achieved at this Academy and its predecessor schools. We will move forward into a challenging 2012 knowing that the hard work of all staff and students is paying dividends.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a very safe New Year.

Martin Campbell – Principal – Secondary Phase

much better. I am still not sure if she will be well enough to return to work in January but I shall keep you informed.

Uniform

Many of you are aware that Kettering Science Academy has raised several concerns with the suppliers about the quality of the school uniform. We are due to hold another meeting shortly and I will update you on any news. Thank you once again for your patience.

Finally

The last two weeks of the Christmas term were packed with rehearsals, productions, carol services, assemblies and presentations of certificates. By the time you read this letter, the donkey and stable will have been packed away, the shepherds' headdresses returned to their duties as tea-towels and the angels' wings folded up for another year. I am sure that you have lots of photos to add to your memories.

Thank you for all your support and help. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will welcome your children back to school on **Wednesday 4th January 2012** (we are not having a training day after all on that date).
Best Wishes

Anne O'Neill – Principal – Primary Phase





FOCUS ON SCIENCE: Solar Electricity Project for Gifted Pupils

Pupils who have shown an aptitude for science and maths have been taking part in an exciting project with Secondary Phase students. A group of Year 6 and 7s have been developing their research skills and scientific thinking with a five-week study of solar electricity. The aim was to make their own solar-powered car following observations, data collections and independent research. KSA received solar car kits from the Institute of Physics after taking part in an Extreme Physics challenge at Easter. It is hoped that the project will lead to each pupil being awarded a bronze CREST award from the British Science Association.

Daria Mariott was among those taking part. She said:

“It’s fun – we get to do more experiments and we can learn more. We’ve worked with different chemicals and equipment.”

The programme was organised by Katie Edwards, Science Subject Leader for Primary, and Louise Oliver, Science Specialist Project Manager for Secondary.

PRIMARY INFORMATION

Term Dates

Fri 16th Dec	Last day of Term
Tue 3rd Jan	Teacher Training Day
Wed 4th Jan	Academy re-opens to pupils
Fri 10th Feb	Last day of Term
Mon 20th Feb	Training Day CANCELLED
Mon 20th Feb	Academy re-opens to pupils
Fri 30th Mar	Last day of Term

School Lunches

Hot school meals are currently being taken in the Secondary Phase restaurant. This has been a great success with the children being able to have greater variety in their choice of food which has seen an increase in the number of children having a hot meal at lunchtime. The children were asked for their opinions:

“They are nice dinners like pasta with tuna and yummy puddings”

Tyler Hull – Year 1

“We have a different variety of food”

Charlie McCarthy – Year 3

“You get to have jacket potatoes and choose a filling”

Manuela Entiriwaa – Year 5

School Uniform

The website for school uniforms has changed to www.yourschooluniform.com with the email address schoolco@yourschooluniform.com.



Little Fishes

This year we are pleased to be able to offer swimming to all year groups from Year 2 to Year 6. An opportunity arose to be able to have two regular weekly slots at Kettering Swimming Pool. This meant that we could open up swimming to more year groups and offer the children more chances to swim throughout their time at Kettering Science Academy. The children are really enjoying it. Please do make sure that the children come to school in appropriate clothing for when they walk to and from the pool.

Spring Terms	Tuesday afternoon	Year 3	Both Classes
	Thursday afternoon	Year 5	Mrs Jackson
Summer Terms	Tuesday afternoon	Year 6	Both Classes
	Thursday afternoon	Year 5	Miss Blakeley

NURSERY: Who We Are

The Nursery children have settled into the Nursery very well. We began the term by following our first topic which was 'All About Me!' This involved getting to know each other, drawing around each other and then comparing sizes, who was the tallest and the shortest. We also painted small and large lifesize self portraits. We have also recently been exploring the topic 'Bears'. The children have enjoyed acting out the stories, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. The children have dressed up as bears, painted bear pictures and have had teddy bear picnics! On Children in Need day we all went spotty and decorated biscuits with spots!

Tracy Sheridan – Nursery Teacher



RECEPTION: Our Clothes

In Reception, we have been learning all about clothes this term. We started our topic by talking about our favourite clothes, we brought them in and had our very own fashion show! It was great fun and the teacher even took photos of our poses at the end of the catwalk. We investigated which materials would keep dry in the rain and tested them with lots of water. Some were better than others!! In the outside area, we washed our doll's clothes and we found out that if we put bubbles in the water then it cleaned them much better. Watch out Mums and Dads, the children will be doing the washing at home. We have all had great fun this term.

Rebecca Walker – EYFS Learning Leader and Reception Class Teacher



YEAR 1 Celebrations

Year 1's topic this term is 'Celebrations' and we have been extremely busy! We have held our very own wedding, had a visitor in to talk about Diwali and another visitor to talk about Thanksgiving too. We have celebrated Mickey Mouse's 82nd birthday and we held a carnival parade in his honour! In science we have been looking at light and dark and exploring reflective materials and sources of light in our very own dark dens! We have also been busy rehearsing for our Christmas production with Year 2 – Ned's Christmas Discovery. We are all very, very excited this term!

Claire Yarland – Year 1 Teacher



YEAR 2 Great Balls of Fire

We have been extremely busy in Year 2! We have learnt so many different things but our favourite part was learning in our topic 'The Great Fire of London'.

We painted cardboard boxes to resemble Tudor houses and lined them up in the playground as if they were on Pudding Lane. We chose a house to be the bakery and set fire to it! We watched the flames spread to the other houses. It was exciting and scary!

Melissa Warman and Andrea Maloney – Year 2 Teachers



YEAR 3 Getting Our Teeth into Learning

This term we have been learning about chocolate. Our entry point was a taste test of lots of different flavours of chocolate. We tried a variety of different flavours of chocolate, including dark chocolate, milk chocolate and chilli chocolate. We worked with a partner who guided us around the class room; we were blindfolded to help our taste buds really pick out the different flavours. As we tasted the chocolate we rated it out of five on taste – some of us did find the strange flavours a bit hard to swallow!

In our topic lessons we have followed the journey of a cocoa bean from the rainforests to being inside the chocolate bars we buy from the

shop. It travels a very long way and goes through many different locations on its journey.

James Bates – Year 3 Teacher



YEAR 4 Treasure

We kicked off the year learning about 'Treasure' as we became mini archaeologists. We explored the history of Tutankhamun, dug for buried treasure and created our very own treasure islands after reading about the adventures of *Miranda the Castaway*. The term leading up to Christmas saw Year 4 finding out about different inventions and inventors. We had great fun watching the wacky inventions in Wallace and Gromit, finding out about Alexandra Graham Bell and creating our very own wall clocks. We also spent a great deal of time explaining how different inventions worked and even though

we found this a tricky genre to focus on, we enjoyed playing with games, lego and electrical circuits so that we could explain how they worked to our peers. As part of our RE topic this term we were pleased that we were able to have a visit from Major Paul Doust of The Salvation Army who shared with us information about the charity work in which they carry out. The Major's visit enabled us to see how lucky we are and to gain a better understanding of the vital support given to people in less fortunate situations than ourselves.

Katie Edwards – Year 4 Teacher



YEAR 5 From Ancient Greece to Science Adventures

In Term 1 we looked at 'Ancient Greeks' which was a really active topic that linked into lots of curriculum areas. We learnt about ancient democracy compared to the systems we have now and we also looked at Greek myths. In Term 2 we have been looking at how the brain works and different learning styles as well as the functions of different parts of the brain. Our topic 'How We See Things' saw us investigate how we view the world through art and we studied impressionist painters and pop art culture. In science, we ran Mission Incredible where we had to solve problems,

including how to make a rocket to send a rescue flare up after we escaped from a castle!

Liz Blakeley – Year 5 Teacher



YEAR 6 Looking Back on History

For our new topic on 'Leaders of the World', Year 6 has been finding out about World War II. We investigated the causes of the war and looked at the different leaders. We have found out a lot about life in Britain during World War II and we did drama work about an air raid before writing a diary entry. We have created some works of art linked to the Blitz. Pictures by Owen Meagan and Maicey Davies.

Caroline Leeming – Year 6 Teacher



Donation to KSA: **Music to Our Ears!**



The Primary's music programme is being developed thanks to a donation of £100. The money, which has been donated by the K Factor talent show competition, will go towards music books so that the whole of Year 5 can be taught by Miss Blakeley how to play the recorder. Music Co-ordinator Claire Yarland is also setting up an ocarina club that will meet either at lunchtime or after school. She also successfully applied for the Silver Sing Up award, which recognises the effort KSA makes to incorporate music and singing into the curriculum.



Staying Safe on the Walk to School

KSA pupils will be hard to miss on the walk to school thanks to a donation of reflector badges which they can pin to their coats or bags. With the dark nights closing in, pupil safety is a priority and when Alison McPhie in the Secondary Phase heard that Heart FM and Northamptonshire Police were giving away the badges, she went online and ordered some. Heart FM Angels dropped off 390 badges and PCSOs Brinsley Elliot and Michael Roche gave an assembly on the importance of road safety and the Green Cross Code.

KSA Marks **National Heroes Day** in Style

Children paid homage to the great and the good from history and the present day as part of National Heroes Day. Pupils were invited to dress up as their Heroes and donate £1 to the military charity, Help for Heroes.

Many of the Academy's younger children have studied Florence Nightingale and so several of them chose her as their hero for the day, while older pupils were inspired by other role models such as Einstein (one of the Primary Phase's five House scientists) and Robin Hood.

The staff also dressed up: Mrs Sally Cattell, who works in the main office, came dressed as Lady Olave Baden-Powell, pioneer of the Girl Guide movement. Teacher Miss Rebecca Walker dressed as Emmeline Pankhurst, who campaigned for women's right to vote.

And the little girl in red in the photo? Her name is Eris Compton and she came dressed as Miss Walker, because her teacher is her hero. Miss Walker said she felt very honoured.



Record-Breaking Amount **Raised for Children in Need**

Students across both phases of KSA helped to raise a total of **£2360** for Children in Need – the most ever collected.

The Primary Phase raised £400 with children coming dressed in colourful and imaginative

mufti outfits, including a life-size Pudsey Bear. Thanks to all students and families who supported this year's appeal and made KSA's contribution such a significant one.



Photographs
by Sixth Former
Kealey Squires.

New Online Reporting System for Students

Students can now confidentially report any concerns or issues they may have thanks to a new online reporting system.

The Sharp System, which can be accessed through the Academy's website, allows students to fill in a form detailing any problems they may be experiencing in school or even in their community.

The idea is that the Academy can then tailor any

activities or talks around the issues being flagged up by the student body or their concerns can be passed to any relevant agencies.

Although the reports can be made anonymously students are urged to leave their contact details so that they can receive the support they need.

KSA's Sharp web page includes information on issues like health, bullying and community.

There are also videos featuring England

footballer Rio Ferdinand and other celebrities.

Students can make a report by visiting www.ketteringscienceacademy and following the link on the left-hand side of the secondary home page.



EXPANDING PROGRAMME OF After-School Activities

An increasing number of after-school clubs means there is now plenty for students to choose from.

One of KSA's aims is to develop a broad and varied enrichment programme so that students can gain new skills after school hours.

The most up-to-date list includes Rock Choir and Rock School, Photography Club, Fitness

Club, Astronomy Club, Year 11 Driving and Road Awareness, Science Club, French and German Power Up, DT Club in Graphics and Resistant Materials.

There are now more than 30 clubs run by staff after school – see the Academy's website for details.

Students Graduate from the Children's University

Two students were awarded bronze by the Children's University scheme thanks to the activities they take part in outside of school.

To receive bronze, 'graduates' must have completed 30 hours or more of accredited after-school activities.

Rachel Keevil, in Year 8, is a member of the Castle Theatre in Wellingborough with the Castle Youth Theatre Middles group and she also belongs to dance and netball clubs.

Sophie Campbell, who is in Year 9, also picked up a bronze award thanks to all the hours she notched up with the Helen O'Grady Dance Academy.

KSA is looking to get more involved with the Children's University scheme and will put on more accredited clubs to help students graduate.



School Uniform

The website for school uniforms has changed to www.yourschooluniform.com with the email address schoolco@yourschooluniform.com.

Make the Most of Connexions Advisors

Students who want advice and information on their study pathways and career options can get additional help from Connexions advisors who visit KSA each week.

Alan Sheffield and Lucy Holmes, who work for the young people's advisory service, can be found in the library on Tuesdays and Thursdays, normally all day.

They are there for all year groups but specifically for Year 11s and also Sixth Formers who may need a little extra help before making any decisions.

Alan and Lucy make students aware of all the options and courses available to them as well as assisting with applications and discussing career ideas.



Free School Meals

For every child registered for free school meals, KSA receives £488 this year. The Academy uses this money to reduce class sizes and improve personalised provision so it's important that those families who are entitled are registered. Even if you don't want your child to have free school meals you can still register.

To find out if you qualify (you must be in receipt of certain benefits) call Northamptonshire County Council's free school meal team on **01604 236656**.



Term Dates

Fri 16th Dec	Last day of Term
Tue 3rd Jan	Teacher Training Day
Wed 4th Jan	Academy re-opens to students
Fri 10th Feb	Last day of Term
Mon 20th Feb	Academy re-opens to students
Fri 30th Mar	Last day of Term

Here are some of the letters received from parents in the last two terms:

Mr Campbell,

We wanted to express our appreciation for the very informative and helpful evening on the 20th. We appreciate the time and energy that went into the evening and the self sacrifice of the many teachers that supported it. The Internet Safety session was a real eye opener, and the English lesson was just like being back at school again! We forgot what it feels like to be in a classroom environment and this gave us a new understanding and empathy for what our daughters experience on a daily basis. The standard of teaching is just excellent and very impressive. We were also very impressed by Mr Shepherd's talk; if only we had experienced a maths teacher like Mr Shepherd, we would have found maths to have been really relevant and useful and you never know we could have come away with an A*!

We are delighted that our girls attend KSA and would like to thank you for making their senior years enjoyable, worthwhile and rewarding.

Dear Mr Campbell

We wanted to write and thank you for the wonderful work that you and your colleagues have achieved at Kettering Science Academy. We have had three children go through Deeble Road School and have watched the school change drastically.

The way our son has grown since the school became an Academy has really impressed us. The uniform change marked a huge impact in the pride he took in himself, along with the relationship he struck up with his teachers. He exceeded all our expectations with his exam results and we would like to thank you all for your commitment and hard work.

We hope the school continues to go from strength to strength.

Mr Campbell,

My wife and I, along with our daughter, attended your open evening and found it to be a somewhat surprisingly enjoyable and informative experience. We attended a similar open evening 2 years ago at the Science Academy when my elder daughter was choosing which secondary school to attend and I have to say we were amazed at the different, vastly improved impression we got of the Academy. We (including my Year 6 daughter) were that impressed that she would like to put KSA as her first choice of secondary school.

A message from one of the Academy governors:

Just to say how much I enjoyed the Year 11 presentation evening on Thursday. The speaker was excellent (made me think about my own experiences) and it was good to see the young people receive their awards.

Staff are to be congratulated on the achievement of these youngsters. I was impressed by Jordan Lovell who I talked to. He is embarking on an apprenticeship in Engineering and is a good example of what can be achieved by youngsters when motivated and inspired by their teachers before encountering the reality of work and the outside world.

Dear Mr Campbell

I would like just to say how pleased my husband and I are that our daughter has had a wonderful first year at your Academy. She is so happy and seems to get along with all the students and teachers. We have just received a fantastic report about her from members of staff.

If you would like to comment on an Academy event or achievement please email wcoles@ketteringscienceacademy.org.

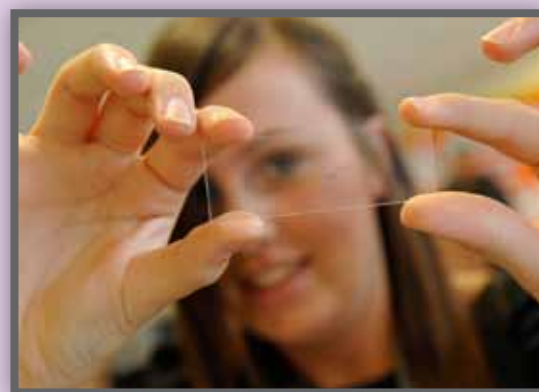
Open Day for Year 6 Families

The growing success and popularity of Kettering Science Academy was evident in the significant number of families who attended our open evening this term.

More than 800 people paid a visit to the Academy to find out what life is like here at KSA and to see what is on offer to help children succeed.

Weekly tours also proved to be popular, with lots of families taking the opportunity to look round our Academy during school hours.

Date for the diary: Saturday 7th January 2012 – Cognitive ability test for all applicants to KSA.



What our students think of life at Kettering Science Academy:

"It promotes friendship between younger and older children and that makes it easier for younger ones to settle in. The lessons are good quality and interesting."

Joe Smallman, Year 8

"The tutoring system is positive because you make friends in different years and they look out for you like an older brother would. The teachers are always looking for ways to improve and find better ways to help students learn more."

Morgan Aspinall, Year 10

"Teachers and other students encourage you to do better. At the start of each lesson you know what you will achieve and how you will achieve it – having targets helps you to keep moving forward."

Abhilasha Kapur, Year 10

Attendance: Every Day Counts

Every lesson of every day matters – that’s the message to families as KSA steps up the campaign to ensure students make the most of their education.

Although attendance has improved, there are still some students who are missing out on vital learning because of absences.

Principal Martin Campbell said: *“Holidays during term time is still an issue as well as a number*

of students who have one or two days off every term, which means they miss one or two weeks every year.

“It could boil down to missing one formula in one lesson that could make a difference of one mark in an exam, which then affects the grade that you need as a platform to go onto further education or to get a job when you leave school.”

Every week, Mr Campbell meets with the Head of each House to discuss the 20 students with the lowest attendance. Contact may then be made with their parents and the Education Welfare Officer could get involved.

Mr Campbell said: *“The key year is Year 11 – you just can’t miss a day at such a crucial time.”*

ATTENDANCE FACTS

Achievement:

- 17 days of school missed = could potentially mean at least 1 GCSE dropped (on average)
- 17 school days missed = 91.1% attendance for the year
- 34 school days missed = 82.1% attendance for the year

Holidays:

- A 2 week holiday means you can’t get more than 94.7% attendance that year, and you miss 40 lessons... that’s a lot to catch up on
- Holidays/leave of absence taken in school time are not authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Late Arrival at School

When your child arrives late at school, he/she misses the teacher’s instructions and the introduction to the lesson.

Frequent lateness can add up to a considerable

amount of learning lost, and can seriously disadvantage your child. (See table below) **School begins at 8.45am... Please help your child to be punctual.**

MINUTES LATE PER DAY DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR	EQUALS DAYS WORTH OF TEACHING LOST IN A YEAR
5 MINUTES	3.4 DAYS
10 MINUTES	6.9 DAYS
15 MINUTES	10.3 DAYS
20 MINUTES	13.8 DAYS
30 MINUTES	20.7 DAYS

Attendance Percentage Over The Year	Equivalent Number Of Days Missed	Equivalent Number Of Weeks Missed	Equivalent Number Of Lessons Missed
100%	0	0	0
95%	9½	~ 2	38
90%	19	~ 4	76
85%	28½	~ 6	114
80%	38	~ 8	152
75%	47½	~ 9½	190
70%	57	~ 11½	228



All students should aim to be in school by 8.40am.

Driving the Message Home:

Our Education Welfare Officer

Education Welfare Officer Martine Boyd has been working closely with KSA to reduce absences and work with families.

Martine, who now works across all three academies in the Brooke Weston Partnership, said attendance has improved thanks to new measures taken by KSA but she said: *“Parents need to see education as a priority and that they have a legal responsibility to send their children to school. We have students who are*

having a day off every week and they don’t see a problem with that.

“We look at the barriers that could be stopping them from coming to school. What we’re now doing on a termly basis is sending out letters reminding parents of the definition of a persistent absentee.”

Another area Martine will be looking at is punctuality. She will be manning the Academy entrance in the coming months and she will

be contacting the families of persistent latecomers.

Martine doesn’t just deal with attendance and lateness – she also covers welfare issues and families can request her help.

To speak to Martine call **01604 361365**.





Attendance Recognised and Rewarded

Sanger is the latest house to launch a scheme to recognise students who achieve 100% attendance.

Those students who come to school every day in a week receive a celebratory postcard the following week.

The certificates were originally issued to the most successful forms but it was felt that students who notch up 100% attendance in

other forms were missing out.

Head of House Hannah Sambrook said: *"Although it's still quite a new idea to Sanger, students do notice when they don't receive a certificate so it's having a positive effect."*

Year 11 student Judian Hypolite (pictured) said: *"I think attendance is important because it gets you ready for Sixth Form and having a job. You need to have that attitude even while you're still in school."*



Some of the 100% attendance stars from Sanger

Other Sanger News:

Bronwyn Ryan (Sanger charity rep) and her family organised a beetle drive this term. We would like to thank everyone who went to support this and of course the whole Ryan family for their continuing support of the House charity – £120 was raised for Macmillan. Thank you and well done.



Socrates rose to the challenge brilliantly when they were asked to fill Smarties tubes with 20p pieces in aid of the house charity.

Each form was given two tubes of the chocolates, which they took great delight in devouring. A steady trickle of 20ps from students helped to fill the tubes, with Socrates 5 (pictured) filling theirs first and raising the most amount of money.

Socrates are also holding a cake sale on the last day of term which has been co-ordinated by Chloe Kingston, Arlette Brockway and Curtis Mason.

Money raised will go towards the Northamptonshire and Warwickshire Air Ambulance.



There were treats galore when **Da Vinci** students held a fair trade sale this term. One of the themes of CAPS has been fair trade and what

shoppers can do to support food producers in developing countries. **Da Vinci** put their learning into action and sold hot chocolate, Christmas cards and their own hand-made decorative boxes full of chocolates. Head of House Hazel Dodd said: *"It has developed students' awareness of what fair trade is as well as their ability to work as a team and meet deadlines."*

Money raised will go to the house charity, KidsAid, along with £85 raised in the first term from a cake sale.



Student Produces First House Newsletter

The first house newsletter has been designed by **Hawking's** PR representative, James Lewis.

He spoke to members of staff, organised photographs and designed the template to put together the first termly newsletter, which gives details of house points, events, charity news and comments from new Year 7 students.

The Year 11 student spent about two weeks working on the project after school and he has now been asked by Principal Martin Campbell to help the other four houses develop their own newsletter.

James said: *"I think it's a good idea because it shows the student point of view and our opinions. I hadn't done anything like this before and getting all the information*

together was harder than I thought it was going to be. Even just setting up a photo of the Year 7s in Hawking took quite a while.

"Writing is not my strongest point – I'm better at the IT side of things – so I'm hoping it will help me with that.

"Doing things like this helps you to work more independently."



Each house has once again linked up with their partner house over in the Primary Phase. Each form in **Franklin** has been

busy making Christmas cards to hand out to members of **Franklin** in Primary. Themed around 'The Eight Days of **Franklin** Christmas', the activities were led by Nicole Vaccaro and Kel Khan (pictured making a start on the cards).



ICU Days Prove to Be Fun, Creative and Challenging

The latest round of ICU days were designed to embed the house spirit and to provide new learning challenges.

Day one saw each tutor group work together to complete a series of tasks to encourage teamwork and collaboration. The activities included a photo scavenger hunt, creating an outfit out of recycled materials, producing door plaques and coming up with a house cheer. The day was organised by the Heads of Houses and Head of Socrates Fran Allan said: *"The theme of the day was to re-establish the house spirit and to help forms to gel and work together as a team."*

On the second day, each department organised a day-long activity and students were given a choice as to which they would like to participate in.

Intersales Music Teaching helped students set up bands through its Rock School programme while another group heard from visiting author

Mark Robson and put together their own piece of creative writing.

In languages, students learnt Italian phrases and then designed a quiz and had to come up with creative ways to present what they'd learnt, which saw one group perform a rap to the rest of the class.

There was also a journalism project where students were challenged to put together a newsletter.

In humanities, history buffs looked at medieval weapons and developed their own while geography students examined how Kettering could be improved.

A debating group learnt how to formulate and put across an argument while a series of maths activities in the main hall saw students complete challenges to 'buy' equipment to be able to build a wind turbine.

There were also lots of projects focussing on house identity and ethos.

Student Report on ICU Days

One of the ICU choices was languages. In languages students enjoyed a day in Italy, learning the Italian language and eating some Italian foods as well as some other food from different countries. They learnt simple phrases like hello and goodbye. Mr Reid, head of organising the day and creating the PowerPoint for learning Italian, thinks the day went well.

Jospin Sebastian Ramesh Year 10 said: *"The day was very enjoyable. I think they planned it out very well. My favourite thing of the day was the food tasting because you got to taste food from all over the world."*

Overall the day in Italy went very well and all students enjoyed it as much as I did. I hope the rest of the school had a nice day.

Megan Reech – Year 8



Visiting author



International food tasting



Designing House posters



Student George Benamore said:

"The ICU days are really interesting because you get involved in different sorts of activities. It's different to normal lessons."

Record-Breaking Amount Raised for Children in Need

Students across both phases of KSA helped to raise a total of £2360 for Children in Need during ICU days – the most ever collected.

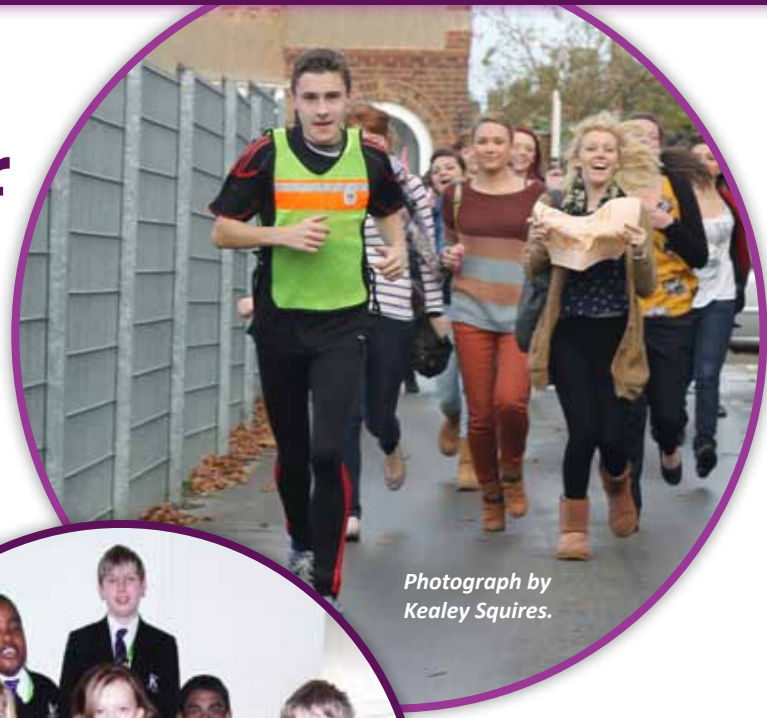
Head Boy Luke Pomfrett led the Sixth Form's fundraising drive at lunchtime, while a variety show organised by Year 11 student Sharon Kawonga also raised money for the charity.

Sixth Former Jason Underwood ran the nine miles from his home in Weldon to KSA and then back again after school to do his bit for Children in Need.

Jason, who has been running in his spare time for years, is a member of Corby Athletics Club but specialises in the shorter distances of 400m and 800m.

A group of Sixth Formers armed with banners and placards cheered Jason on as he rounded the corner onto Deeble Road. His efforts have so far raised almost £300, including a £50 donation from Principal Martin Campbell.

Meanwhile, a trio of singers (pictured below) held a musical marathon to raise more than £300. Naomi Anderson, Marybeth Douglas and Katie Goodwin came up with a more unusual fundraising activity – they could only communicate by song during the school day. From selling cakes at lunchtime to taking part in revision sessions, the girls' tuneful notes could be heard throughout the day.



Photograph by Kealey Squires.



**£2360
Raised!**



Photograph by Kealey Squires.

Launch of KSA Wellbeing Zone

A new online tool designed to help staff and families lead healthier lifestyles has been launched at KSA. The KSA Wellbeing Zone has been set up to offer information and support for employees and parents of our students who want to lose weight, improve their health, get fit, eat healthily or manage stress. The free programme includes:

- Personalised training programme
- Weight management plan
- Healthy eating and nutritional advice
- Stress management techniques
- 10-minute wellness plans

- General information and advice
 - National discounts and services
- It also includes 20% off monthly fees at LA Fitness.**

Vice Principal Justine Mitchell-Bunce, who has got the programme up and running for KSA, said: *"It's an opportunity for our staff and parents of students to have access to this free online resource, to help them lead a healthy, balanced lifestyle. Many of things on there, like the eating and exercise plans, can be personalised for you. It will help to support our parents as well as the staff here at KSA."*



Some of our Heads of Houses and Vice Principal Jill Gummer get thinking about healthy lifestyles

Five a Day

An example of how to incorporate five a day into your meals:



- Breakfast:** Bowl of porridge mixed with a handful of raisins
Glass of pure orange juice [2 portions]
- Snack:** Apple [1 portion]
Biscuit
Cup of tea
- Lunch:** Cheese, pickle and salad sandwich
Handful of cherry tomatoes [1 portion]
Can of diet cola
- Snack:** Banana [1 portion]
Small bag of unsalted nuts
- Dinner:** Chicken stir fry with noodles and mixed vegetables [1 portion]
Fruit yoghurt

[Total = 6 portions]

Register for free at:

<http://kettering.wellbeingzone.co.uk>

and use this organisation code: KSA1

The service is not suitable for under 18s.

KSA Joins London 2012's Get Set Network

KSA will be allocated tickets to the Olympics after successfully applying to join London 2012's Get Set network, a national education programme.

The Academy had to demonstrate its commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic Values, which include sports festivals with the other Brooke Weston Partnership academies

and its Sports Leaders programme. The Academy is also further developing its sports activities, with plans for a sports committee and magazine that will be distributed across the Partnership academies.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) awarded the Academy a plaque and certificate to acknowledge its involvement in the London 2012 education programme.

The Academy now joins schools and colleges across the UK as members of the special London 2012 community – the Get Set network – and will receive access to exclusive competitions and 2012 Games related opportunities over the coming years.

Being part of the network also means that sporting events at KSA could be shown on giant screens at both Olympic venues and venues across the country showing the games.

Through the programme, the Academy has already been twinned with a school in Nigeria, which will offer students a host of learning opportunities and a greater understanding of the wider world.

PE teacher Lee Haywood (pictured left), said being part of the Get Set network will mean more opportunities for students. He said: *"I wanted to join the network to develop the way our Academy celebrates the Olympic games. As an Academy, we feel we would be able to offer many valuable ideas to other schools wishing to develop athletics and Olympic values."*



Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values

SPORTS NEWS

The last two terms have seen KSA's sporting stars come into their own with some fantastic results. Here are some of the highlights.

Year 10 Boys Basketball Team: District Champions!

The boys' basketball team finished undefeated and comfortably won their group, beating Prince William, KBA and Latimer. They then had a tough draw against Bishop Stopford in the semi-finals and ended up winning 12-4. In the final they played CBA and beat them convincingly without even conceding a basket.

The players involved were Tom Martins, Balazs Komarniczky, Harry Camozzi, Mason Hoath, Jo Edwards, Aaron Currie and Bradley Harris-Bruce. PE Teacher Michael Oldershaw said: *"Well done to all of the team as this is a massive achievement for KSA basketball."*

Year 10 Football

Some great results in the last few months which included a 6-1 win over Kingswood. The goal scorers were Connor Towell (3), Jake Clark (2) and Harry Camozzi. Another highlight was the 4-0 win over Brooke Weston Academy, with Harry Camozzi named man of the match.

Year 7 & 8 Girls Football Team: League Winners

The Year 7/8 girl's football team have had a successful season, finishing top of their league. In one match against King's Cliffe Middle School, Captain Erin McNamara scored six goals in a match that ended 13-0 to KSA.

Last month, the squad attended a district tournament and competed against seven other schools in the district. Top goal scorer Erin McNamara helped to ensure KSA won all of their games and earned their place in the final.

KSA 1 – 0 Buccleuch

KSA 3 – 0 Kingswood

Montsaye 0 – 3 KSA

KSA faced CBA in the final; it was 0-0 at the final whistle so extra time was required. The final strike of the ball found its way into the net and CBA won 1-0. Well done to the squad for all of their hard work and determination throughout the season and to Chelsea Towns for her coaching.

Girls Basketball Year 7 & 8

A terrific performance from the team saw them beat The King John School 78-8. The top scorers were Erin with 16 baskets and Jodie with 10. Well done to every member of the squad – Megan Wilkinson, Erin McNamara, Tanya Kueya, Jess Firman, Jodie Lovell, Teresa Perez and Rachel Keevil (c).

Anybody interested in joining the team should see Miss Charlton.



Footballer Thrives At Peterborough United's Centre of Excellence

A promising footballer has started his second season at Peterborough United's Centre of Excellence.

Ethan Lee is part of the under 14s line-up that plays against teams from Arsenal, Tottenham and QPR.

Ethan, who is in Year 9, trains twice a week and plays on Sundays as a centre

midfielder for the Championship club.

Ethan said: *"Being part of the centre of excellence develops your football skills but also your skills in life because you have to be more responsible."*

Ethan is one of only two players who have been offered a contract when he leaves school.

New Music Tuition Programme

A drive to develop an exciting, well-rounded music programme has seen the Academy team up with Intersales Music Teaching.

A wide variety of peripatetic lessons are now available to students, including guitar, saxophone, banjo, cello and piano.

The unique partnership between KSA and Intersales will enable students to learn from tutors who are also performing musicians.

There will also be an emphasis on shows and performances to develop students' talent through opportunities throughout the year.

In addition, all students at KSA have the opportunity to take part in a five-week Rock School, whether they are new to music or are more experienced musicians.

Rock School teaches budding musicians how to play in a band, develops their practice techniques and gives them the opportunity to play well-known songs. It culminates with a

performance at the end of the course.

Music teacher Ruth Reider said: *"We are trying to make music lessons more accessible to everybody so anyone can have a go and experiment with music. We've got lots of new instruments now available and we want KSA to start expressing itself in a musical way by starting things off with a bang."*

"The aim is to have an orchestra established before we move over to the new building. We'd also like a band, a choir and any other club that students would like to set up."

"Music is great for stimulating the mind and it can help students to learn in different ways, which could aid their studies."

Music tuition leaflets are available from student reception and also on the Academy website.

Intersales Music Teaching



Responsibilities, Behaviour and the Wider World

There have been a number of themes to CAPS lessons over the last two terms, with each house spending a number of weeks looking at issues like relationships, democracy and fair trade. Here we look in more detail at what students have been learning.



A Place to Learn

In this topic, students were encouraged to think about what helps them to learn. They also discussed what they expect from their teachers and what are their own responsibilities.

They were challenged to develop a 'code of conduct' for classrooms and spent time looking at Ofsted's criteria for an outstanding lesson. Students were also asked to review a lesson plan.

Learning objectives:

- To learn what exactly makes up a positive and successful learning experience
- To learn about different learning styles and needs
- To learn how to plan lessons
- To learn how to give praise and critical feedback in a positive way

Fair Trade

Students covering the fair trade theme have looked at the differences between rich and poor countries and what makes one country wealthier than another. They then examined how fair trade can help and how fair trade producers can make more money from their goods. Forms looked at case studies and how they as consumers can support the aims of fair trade. It culminated with a sale where each form had to sell a fair trade product, looking at it from a business perspective as well as the fair trade ethos.

Learning objectives:

- To learn what fair trade means and what fair trade products are
- To learn about economic and business terms
- To learn about social and moral dilemmas surrounding money
- To learn how to become a critical consumer of goods and services in both economic and social terms.



Voting & Democracy

The idea of democracy and what it means was explored by students during this topic, with an emphasis on the local area. They looked at the roles of councillors and MPs and also compared a democracy with a dictatorship. Issues like council tax and other council funding sources were investigated as well as how the money is spent. Students looked at the idea of democracy in the wider world and the different systems operated in different countries.

Learning objectives:

- To learn about the importance of voting and participating in democracy
- To learn how the School Council makes a difference to your life in school
- To learn about local government; how it is managed; who is involved and their roles and responsibilities
- To learn how you can become a more active and responsible citizen both in school and in your local community



A Safe Learning Environment

Solvent abuse, online relationships and the risks associated with knives are just some of the topics to be covered in this topic. Students will debate whether the dispersal law is fair and will write a report to the government about the impact of knife crime on individuals. They will also explore attitudes to drug users and find out more about how young people are at risk of being 'groomed'.

Learning objectives:

- To learn about safety issues connected to the local community such as road safety, bullying, internet safety, gang culture and drugs
- To help raise awareness of the potential risks that young people face in the 21st century
- To help students learn how to reflect on their own choices and behaviour
- To enable students to learn how to avoid/handle potentially risky situations

Wish You Were Here

The theme of holidays will be used as a platform from which students will study tourism and its effects. They will look at government warnings about visits to certain countries and issues like conflict and natural disasters as well as the idea of a 'holiday from hell'. Students will explore whether countries are better off with or without tourism, where the money from tourism goes and what makes an eco-friendly holiday.

Learning objectives:

- To learn about your consumer rights and a company's responsibility to you as a consumer
- To learn about the impact of poverty on communities and the environment in the developing world
- To learn how to help people living in the developing world
- To learn about the impact of tourism on the environment



Relationships

Each year group looked at different themes in this topic to help them get a better understanding of relationships and growing up. Year 7s and 8s have thought about stereotypes and how relationships are affected by the way you behave. Year 9s learnt about the laws relating to sex, how to behave in an appropriate way when discussing sensitive issues and the different forms of contraception. Year 10s looked at the implications of being a young parent while Year 11s looked at similar themes along with the reasons behind delaying sexual activity.

Learning objectives:

- To learn about the physical changes that occur when growing up
- To learn what makes a positive relationship
- To learn about the advantages and disadvantages of different types of contraception
- To learn about Sexually Transmitted Infections



Year 11 Success Celebrated at Awards Evening

A celebration evening was held at Kettering Science Academy to honour GCSE students following a significant rise in the numbers achieving top grades this summer. The Academy held a Presentation Evening on Thursday, September 29th to recognise the high achieving and hard-working GCSE students who either excelled in a subject or demonstrated a commitment and determination to succeed.

This summer, 71% of the year group achieved 5 or more A* to C grades, compared to 54% last year. Principal Martin Campbell told the students and families who attended the evening:

"This increase means the Academy has one of the fastest growing percentage rates in the country. There are a number of students here who ensured that this school achieved its highest-ever rate of A*s and As.

"Although results aren't everything, they allow you to make choices. This evening is about achievement and success – not just academic success but those who had the right attitude. They had a 'can do' attitude rather than a 'that will do' attitude."

The top prize – Highest Achievement Awards – went to Jatinder Singh, who achieved the highest number of A* to A grades, and Ania Straus, who exceeded her targets in 8 subjects and picked up 7 A*s and 4 As.

The guest speaker for the evening was Nathaniel Peat, who has visited KSA previously with his company, The Safety Box. Nathaniel, who is an entrepreneur, pilot, musician, martial arts expert and public speaker, told the students to shake off any limitations and to always aim high.



Jatinder and Ania

This summer, 71% of the year group achieved 5 or more A* to C grades

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge



Congratulations to all A level maths students in Years 12 and 13 who competed in the recent UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) Senior Maths Challenge.

Forty students took part in the one and a half hour national challenge which is designed to extend and develop their mathematical thinking and understanding.

Five students achieved Bronze Awards. Congratulations to Christian Dobson who achieved a Silver Award with the highest score in the Academy.

Year 9, 10 and 11 students will have the opportunity to take part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge in February. Then Years 7 and 8 will take the Junior Maths Challenge in May.

SENIOR TEAM MATHS CHALLENGE REGIONAL FINALS

I had the pleasure of taking four of our brightest Sixth Form mathematicians to the regional finals of this prestigious competition at Solihull College. Our representatives were Ellie Walker, Christian Dobson, Levi Allthorpe and Euan Lindley who all approached the quite daunting task in completely different ways; Levi was a little bewildered but excited, Christian optimistic and confident, Euan pessimistic but humorous and Ellie the epitome of swan-like calm and grace. Our four were up against the best Sixth Form mathematicians in the midlands, from state and private sectors, grammar schools,

selective comprehensives, church schools and the like. They were unfazed and performed supremely well, facing up to three consecutive high-powered challenges with focus, purpose and great teamwork.

In the end, though, a few minor slips and the promise of a place had gone. Well done to those students and also to those students who took part in the rounds to get us there in the first place. It's great to know that students at KSA can mix it with the best!

Martin Shepherd – Assistant Vice Principal

HELPING MORE STUDENTS Achieve in English

A group of Year 11 students have been developing their literacy skills thanks to a new intervention programme that has been set up to assist their learning.

Last year, staff recognised that the 10 students needed additional support to help them with English.

The students are now well on their way to an Entry Level Certificate in English and a level 3 qualification will help to secure them a place at college.

They have been looking at advertising, the language in the world of work and the prose and plot of the Terry Pratchett book, *Johnny and the Bomb*.

Katie Smith, Head of English, said: *"The group has really excelled this year. They've had focussed teaching and tasks that are much more manageable. They've been working really hard and the majority of them are already working at level 3. They are enjoying lessons and progressing more."*

A group of Year 10s have already started on the intervention programme.



Big Increase in Number of Sixth Formers Opting for Science Subjects

KSA's specialism in science is paying off with record numbers of students opting to study the subject at A Level.

This September, the number of Sixth Formers taking biology A Level doubled to more than 40 students. It was the same story with chemistry, with 23 students now opting for this science course and there are three times the number of students now studying physics with a class of 24.

The figures are the highest ever recorded by the Academy and is testament to its efforts to encourage more students to choose science as an academic pathway and a potential career.

This summer, 86% of Year 11s achieved two GCSEs in science graded A* to C – a figure that was well above the national average. Head of Science Jacki Cook said the introduction of a triple science GCSE award has helped to spark students' interest and the impressive GCSE results led to more students continuing their studies into Sixth Form.

Mrs Cook said: *"I think the triple GCSE motivated them and meant that they are better equipped to move onto A Level. The aim is to make sure these figures keep on rising and that more students have the option to go on to study science subjects at university."*

SCIENCE REVISION SESSIONS ATTRACT MORE THAN 200 STUDENTS

Students have shown dedication and enthusiasm for their science studies by turning up in droves to special after-school workshops.

Science teachers put on a series of sessions this term to help students in Years 9, 10 and 11 prepare for modular exams.

They proved to be very popular, with 232 students turning up for the first lot of sessions earlier this term.



THE KSA SHOWS

A Christmas Carol

KSA students put a twist on a popular Christmas tale and showcased their growing talent thanks to the partnership with Intersales Music Teaching. The show, which was based on *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, with musicians and singers representing Christmases past, present and future.

It was a chance for students attending Rock School and peripatetic lessons to put into practice what they have learnt. They were joined by Intersales' own choir, which rehearses at KSA. Year 10 student Sam Docherty is studying GCSE

music and receives free piano lessons thanks to the new music programme with Intersales. Sam, who has also played the guitar for five years, said: *"The lessons are good; they're more laid back than piano lessons I've had in the past and it's easier to learn. Normally when you go for piano lessons, you think orchestra-style music but here you get to play the kind of things you'd choose to play."*

Intersales Music
Teaching

Singers and Musicians Unite for Brooke Weston Partnership Concert

Musical stars from the three academies in the Brooke Weston Partnership came together for an evening of Christmas song.

Singers and musicians from Kettering Science Academy, Corby Business Academy and Brooke Weston Academy performed at the carol concert at the Salvation Army hall in Kettering on December 8th.

It follows the success of last year's carol concert which was very well attended.

This year, students from KSA recited readings and the Senior Choir, which meets after school on Wednesdays, also took to the stage.

There were individual performances, including

soloist Kayleigh Tucker in Year 8, who sang. The Primary Phase choir played a central role in the evening too.

Aaron Panther-Howell, Head of Expressive Arts, said: *"Staging a concert with the other two Academies really makes you feel like you are part of the bigger picture."*

"We've already started to build on our orchestra so we're aiming to get those musicians involved in the Partnership's Christmas concert in the future."

Brooke Weston
Partnership

Student Organises Variety Show for Children in Need

A magician, a clown and street dancers were just some of the acts starring in a variety show organised by a student to raise money for Children in Need.

Sharon Kawonga, who is in Year 11, decided she wanted to raise money for the charity and organised much of the show, which was held at the Masque Theatre in Barton Seagrave.

Sharon held auditions for the show in school in October and put through 19 acts, including solo singers, bands and dancers. Other students will

be helping out on the night by carrying out front-of-house duties.

Aaron Panther-Howell, Head of Expressive Arts, said: *"Sharon approached me with a creative idea to raise money for Children in Need. She's been part of the whole process, from the auditions to creating the programmes and running order to designing the tickets. She's done brilliantly."*



Students Use Science as a Theme for New Build Artwork

Visitors to KSA's new build will be wowed by a giant periodic table that is being designed and produced by gifted and talented students.

The group have been working with two professional artists to produce designs to represent some of the elements in a project that is using art to reflect the Academy's science specialism.

It started with a visit from Dr Samantha Tang from the University of Nottingham who helped students to explore some of elements through experiments.

This term's ICU days were used to continue their research of elements and then film a short presentation on their findings.

They had to come up with an image that represents their chosen elements, which will then be produced in the form of a print or photograph.

Artists Belinda Holden and Vanessa Dell of HoldenDell Projects, who are working with Willmott Dixon on artwork for the new building, are working alongside art teacher and lead-coordinator Emma Brooks and science teachers Melanie Jolliffe and Daniel Healey.

The design of the remaining elements will be split across the rest of the school and will include teachers' designs.

We look forward to seeing the end result.

Sporting Achievements:

LET US KNOW!

The PE department is putting together a notice board to show off students' achievements with pictures and a write up about their success.

It will be updated regularly so staff are keen to hear from parents and students about their successes outside of the Academy. You can contact the PE Department by emailing lhaywood@ketteringscienceacademy.org.



Seeing Law and Order in Action



GCSE Sociology students spent a morning at Kettering Magistrates Court to gain an insight into court proceedings.

The group, which has been studying crime and deviance, were first shown round the building and received a talk on what goes on in court.

They then heard sentencing for two cases and when students returned to school, they recreated the trial and used other students as the jury. They had to put across both sides of the case before the 'jury' decided the outcome.

KSA Awarded Full International School Award

The steps taken by KSA to ensure students develop an awareness of international issues have been recognised by the British Council. The Academy has now achieved the full International School Award thanks to the multi-cultural programme that has been developed. To gain the full award, the Academy had to implement seven curriculum-based international activities, within or outside of lessons. This included Gifted and Talented students in Year 10 taking part in a European debate at County Hall in Northampton. Once of the most exciting initiatives has seen KSA link up with schools in Saudi Arabia and students attending an after-school club produced

videos to be sent to their counterparts there. As part of the award, teachers have been adding more international elements to their schemes of work.

Humanities Teacher Natasha Franklin, who put the award application together, said: *"It shows our community that we encourage internationalism and we encourage our students to understand other cultures. We want them to build relationships with people from other countries and not shy away from doing so."*



Business Students Gain Insight into the Workings of a Company

A group of Year 12 students visited Kettering Park Hotel to get an insight into how the hotel works for use in their Business coursework.

We were given a tour of the hotel by Rebecca Noad, the Human Resources Manager, followed by a Q&A session where students grilled her about the recruitment and training processes at the hotel and how they are affected by competition and the current challenging economic situation.

The Academy has worked with Kettering Park Hotel for many years, and previous groups have worked with Avon, Carlsburg and Cransley Hospice.

We are always looking for new businesses to work with to add the real world aspect to theory that students learn, so anyone who would like to help out providing those business links please contact Jay Mitchell-Bunce by emailing jaymitchell-bunce@ketteringscienceacademy.org.



Jay Mitchell-Bunce –
Head of Humanities and Business



FRENCH Dunkirk Trip

Plans are underway for a Year 7 trip to Dunkirk to help demonstrate to students the importance of learning a foreign language. The trip on May 30th will include a visit to World War II sites such as the Dunkirk Museum and a World War II bunker. French lessons leading up to it will focus on preparing

students for the day trip. The remaining balance of the trip – £35 once the deposit is paid – must be sent in by Friday March 2nd. If your child receives free school meals you might be entitled to help with funding towards the cost of the trip – contact the Academy for more details.

Cambridge Trip Brings Languages to Life

A tri-lingual activity trail around Cambridge will see gifted and talented students work alongside French pupils in a real-life learning experience. A group of 20 talented linguists will join students from the Academy's partner school in France for the special project, which will incorporate French, German and English.

It will take students around the key features of the city centre and will also include a visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum.

French teacher Aine Egan, who has organised the trip with colleagues in the Modern Foreign Languages department, said: *"Taking part in something like this means that students are in*

touch with languages in an authentic context. The language becomes real and current to them and they get to meet French students who are the same age as them with the same interests.

"It will also help to instill in KSA students that the University of Cambridge is accessible to them.

"When the students return they will take the new language skills they have learnt into the classroom and teach the rest of the class."

The visit is part of KSA's plans to establish a Comenius programme – an EU-funded exchange

programme that centres on two-year active learning projects and study visits to France and Germany.



Principal's Leadership Challenge Launched to Sixth Formers

Year 12s have been challenged to explore the qualities and roots of leadership through a presentation to a panel of senior members of staff. Principal Martin Campbell launched the challenge in which students have to debate the question: Are leaders born or are they made? The judging criteria includes academic research, personal reflection and presentation skills. Alex York and Ethan Waterfield (pictured) will present their research and conclusions together. They are both Air Cadets – Alex is a Junior NCO and Ethan is a Senior NCO – which has already given them leadership experience.

Alex said: *"I think we'll compare two leaders, Winston Churchill and William Wallace, and look at how we think one was born a leader and one was made. We'll look at how leaders are made, through opportunities and how they are brought up. I think a good leader is someone who can get their point across and is confident in giving orders without alienating people. They also have a presence."*

Ethan added: *"Doing something like this help you to become more confident in public speaking and helps to improve*



presentation skills. We'll be focussing on clear communication and getting our point across in an interesting way."

New Head Boy and Head Girl Appointed



KSA's new Head Boy and Head Girl are looking forward to their new roles as ambassadors for the Academy. Year 13 students Adelle Northern and Luke Pomfret were selected for the positions after they applied at the start of the year. The pair will now represent the Academy at functions throughout the year, such as parents' evenings, and will also give a presentation to Year 11s about life in the Sixth Form. Luke, who is taking business, IT and leisure A Levels, is planning to start an accounting apprenticeship when he leaves school and he felt the Head Boy role would give him

an extra experience. He said: *"I think it's a positive way to stand out from the crowd and to develop my leadership and organisational skills."* Adelle is studying A Levels in history, politics and biology and was a member of the Sixth Form Environment Committee last year. She said: *"Through the Environment Committee we made quite a few changes that were appreciated – the Head Girl position is another role to help more people and make a difference. I want to become more confident in speaking to large groups because I want to become a teacher."*

Studying at Degree Level

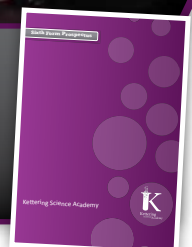
Sixth Formers have been developing their independent study ready for university by taking degree-level modules. Most of the Year 13 students who sat the Open University units now have their results back – with the majority passing. Last year they chose a subject to study and after carrying out their own research, they had to complete an online assessment. Nathan Stevenson (pictured) opted for the module 'Darwin and Evolution' and

had to conduct a study of snails, identifying different breeds. Harshil Patel studied 'An Introduction to the Universe' because he thought it might help with his future studies while Courtney Morson looked at the obesity epidemic through the module 'Understanding Human Nutrition'. Courtney said: *"It's a good introduction to how it will be at university and it also shows universities that you can work independently, without help from people at school."*



Sixth Form 2012

The open evening for next year's Sixth Form was very well attended with around 300 people turning up to hear what KSA has to offer. There are a range of new courses starting next year – visit www.ketteringscienceacademy.org for details. Speak to Mrs Watson if you want to talk about your options.



Prepare to be Amazed at Jamie's Latest Show

A magician is busy preparing for his first solo show, which is inspired by illusionist Derren Brown.

Sixth Former Jamie Docherty has been performing magic professionally for a number of years and is now looking forward to his first show, 'Deception', a psychological illusion show. The 90-minute show at the Masque Theatre on March 3rd will involve audience participation incorporating mind-reading and hypnosis. The show will also count towards Jamie's A Level in Performing Arts. He said: *"I've done a few stage shows with other people or as part of another*

show but never on my own. I watched a friend's recently and just thought, that's what I want to do. I'm hoping it will go well – I have put a lot of effort into it and everything is already planned out."

Jamie has performed at Northamptonshire Police and RAF functions and he already has a busy schedule over the Christmas period when he will be performing at a number of parties and company events. There are 224 tickets available for 'Deception' – tickets are £5 and can be bought online at Jamie's website, www.jamiedochertymagic.co.cc.



Students Pick Up Award For Efforts To Tackle Bullying

An anti bullying group received an award thanks to its involvement in KSA's campaign to stamp out bullying.

The Academy achieved the Anti-Bullying Foundation Award from the Anti-Bullying Alliance earlier this year.

Two students who have been pivotal in the work carried out by KSA's Action Against Bullying Forum received the award in September from Northamptonshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Cllr Andrew Grant.

Bronwyn Ryan and Kirsten Marshall (pictured) were invited to the Northampton Saints rugby stadium to collect the award, along with the handful of other schools.



To achieve the Foundation Award, the Action Against Bullying Forum completed a survey of parents, teachers and students to get a picture of the present bullying issues.

Among other initiatives, cards were handed out to all students with details of who to contact if they had any concerns.

Now the group is aiming for the gold award and an action plan is being drawn up to take a whole-Academy approach to anti bullying.

This could include assemblies on bullying by students, an anti bullying code displayed in each classroom and an anti bullying song competition. Director of Specialist Learning, Lore McIntyre, who accompanied the girls to the ceremony, said: *"I want to congratulate all the Heroes for all their hard work. We have a lot more work to do to achieve our goal of the gold award but today's conference gave us lots of ideas and we've already come up with an action plan."*

Kirsten said: *"We were pleased to get our award because it means all our hard work has paid off. Our aim is to help anyone who has any problems and let them know what support is available."*

The Action Against Bullying Forum is made up of students, staff and the Chair of Governors.

Street Soccer Champions

Students Lukas Blackwell and Ethan Lee fought off competition from across the country to become the UK National Street Soccer Champions 2011 earlier this year.

The two boys took part in a competition organised by Streetwise Soccer which ran regional qualifiers all over the UK.

Each winning team was then invited to battle it out against other regional winners for the title of best street soccer team in the UK at the grand final at Wembley.

The boys' team was crowned winner, a fantastic achievement for them. Well done.



Dancers to Perform in Professional Stage Show

Three dancers from KSA are to appear in Alice in Wonderland at the Royal & Derngate Theatre in the coming weeks.

Luke Overson, Ellie Boyle and Hayden Carter are all members of Patchwork dance company in Kettering. They are part of a group of dancers who will join professional actors for the show at the Northampton theatre, which seats around 500 people.

In total, the trio will appear in five shows over the Christmas period.

This particular version of Alice in Wonderland is based around a talent show and Luke, Ellie and Hayden will appear as part of a group called Jam Tarts. Their dances will incorporate a section of ballet with urban and street dance.





Jess Teaches Martial Arts to Danish National Team

Jess Sanderson, who works in KSA's restaurant, spent a weekend in Denmark teaching a rare form of martial arts. Jess, an expert in Tang Soo Do, and her father were invited over after the team heard that they teach Chil Sung, a less common form of martial arts. She took a seminar of adults and children which she thoroughly enjoyed.

Jess is now busy planning a 210 charity bike ride – the Eleanor Cross ride – for her dad's 50th birthday.

Sixth Former Leads the Way with Poppy Appeal

A Sixth Former spread the message about the importance of Remembrance Sunday after contacting the Royal British Legion (RBL). Courtney Morson, whose dad has served in Afghanistan, Iraq and Northern Ireland, wanted to raise awareness of the Poppy Appeal. The RBL put her in touch with its Northamptonshire co-ordinator who advised her on what she could do to help, including selling poppies around school. Courtney made displays about Remembrance Sunday and the work of the RBL which she put up around the Academy. She also volunteered to collect donations at Tesco. She went round each form selling pin badges, poppies for cars, wristbands and the traditional paper poppies. She said: *"As my dad is in the army, I've always been very aware of the Poppy Appeal and I thought I would try and publicise it round school."* *"People were interested in what I was doing – a lot of them still thought that the Poppy*

Appeal is just about the world wars, instead of also helping those who have been in Iraq and Afghanistan. A lot of them don't think about the reality that there are people in this school who are old enough to have been sent to war and come home injured or without any legs."



Students Lend a Hand at the Green Patch

A new partnership in the local community has been formed between KSA and the Groundworks charitable organisation based at the Green Patch on the Grange estate. The Green Patch is in the heart of the Grange and Avondale ward in Kettering. It is an inspiring environment which offers a safe and enjoyable place for people to grow organic vegetables for the community. Year 10 Wider World and BTEC Vocational Studies students have been working on a variety of projects there. Students are making a new duck enclosure, rebuilding a chicken coop and making new signs to direct members of the public around the Green Patch. Students are encouraged to work as a team and come up with original ideas to help the Green

Patch become a more well known facility on the Grange estate. Alison Philips, who coordinates the Green Patch, is very impressed with the enthusiasm shown by students, saying: *"Everyone has got stuck in and really worked hard. We hope to see more students from KSA. They are a credit to the Academy."*

Michael Elvin – Foundation Learning Tier Co-ordinator



Trio Taking Part In Kenyan Volunteer Project

Three Sixth Formers who will spend a month helping communities in Kenya have got their fundraising off to a flying start. Shaun Chivers, Elisha Taylor and Ellie Warren have to raise £3,500 each to take part in the Camps International project next summer. They decided to take part after the organisation visited KSA earlier this year and gave a presentation about what was involved. While their exact itinerary has yet to be decided, the students know they will be helping communities on school and house building projects and they will be sleeping in tents or huts. They have already raised about £1,700 each and they continued their fundraising efforts at the Academy's open evening where they sold cupcakes. They also organised a fancy dress Halloween disco for Year 7s and a Christmas disco. Elisha said: *"We decided to go to Kenya because we think it's a one-off chance. It's not often you get people coming into school and offering this opportunity. It will also be good to help other people and make a difference to their lives."*

Shaun added: *"It will give us a grasp of what other cultures are like and how they live. It's something you see on television but don't really get to experience."*

The Sixth Formers have already held car boot sales, competitions and have taken part in sponsored walks to help reach their target.

Chess Champ

Tommy Winstone won all six of his matches at a recent chess competition and also won the under 12 category. He has now qualified for the Junior Chess Championships in London at the end of December. **Good luck Tommy.**

New Build Celebrates Milestone

Representatives from agencies developing KSA's new £28m building gathered last month for a 'water-tight' ceremony to mark the latest crucial stage in its construction.

The building is due to be handed over to the Brooke Weston Partnership in just seven months.

Craig Reason, the Project Manager at Willmott Dixon, welcomed on site guests including Sir Peter Simpson, Executive Principal of the Brooke Weston Partnership, Cllr Andrew Grant, portfolio holder for Education in Northamptonshire and Paul Baxter and Ruth Saxton from Nicholas Hare architects who were behind the design.



KSA Welcomes a New Governor



This term we welcomed a new face to our governing body – Peter Tiktin. Peter is currently Senior Assistant Principal at Brooke Weston Academy and teaches physics and science.

He is retiring next summer but it was felt that his wealth of experience, particularly in the teaching of science, would be a huge benefit to KSA.

Peter has been a teacher for 41 years: the last 13 years have been spent at Brooke Weston and prior to that, he worked for 12 years at what is now Lutterworth College.

Although he is stepping down from full-time teaching next August, Peter is hoping to carry on teaching on a part-time basis, as well as continuing his own study of the sciences.

New Chair

This term saw Alan Short step down as chair of governors. We would like to thank Alan for all his hard work and we wish him well. The new chair is Steve Barton – for more details on the governors visit the Academy's website.

Feedback

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of Under the Microscope. To put this magazine together we rely on information from students, staff, parents and carers so if you have anything that you would like to feature or have any feedback then please email

mmills@ketteringscienceacademy.org / 01536 532700

Former Students

Take Up IT Apprenticeships

Two former students who expressed an interest in a career in IT are settling into their new roles as IT technicians at KSA. Kyle Burke and Josh Slater now work full time at the Academy and are also taking an IT practitioner apprenticeship course at Tresham College.

Kyle said: *"The Principal interviewed every Year 11 last year about what they were going to do next – I told him then that I was looking for an IT apprenticeship but I couldn't find anything suitable. A couple of weeks later he approached Josh and I and offered us the positions."*

Josh said: *"We've been dealing with everything – we installed a whole computer room in Primary in two days when normally it takes a week."*

Kyle added: *"It was a bit strange at first, seeing the other side to school and looking at IT in a different way. There's been a lot to learn, especially about the network side of things, but it's been really good."*

"The opportunity we have been given is better than others who are on our course at Tresham because of the move into the new school building next year. We will get to see a network built from scratch which not many people get to see."

