



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Dear Parents/Carers

The new year has started at full speed with plenty of activities organised by keen members of staff, which have been appreciated and received well by the students.



As part of our careers focus this term, we have had the pleasure of welcoming back many successful ex-students who have shared their experiences so far. The careers focus culminated in a careers fair which was attended by all year groups with positive feedback from all. My thanks goes to the staff and external visitors who helped make this happen.



I am delighted that we are now able to share the outcome of our Ofsted monitoring visit which took place at the beginning of December, this coincided with the performance tables in which the improvement of pupil's outcomes from this school have been recognised. My team and I will continue to work hard to provide the education that your children deserve, and I thank you for your support with this in reiterating the behaviour and values that we expect of all students. With this in mind, I need to draw your attention to the fact that some students are not conducting themselves in a safe and respectful way when walking or cycling to and from the Academy. We will be reiterating the message with students in school and I ask for your assistance in ensuring your child knows to cross roads safely and be respectful to pedestrians and road users.



Our Year 11 and Year 13 students' exams are on the horizon, revision sessions are taking place in the half-term break, it is vital that they take advantage of these booster sessions to enhance their outcomes in the summer.

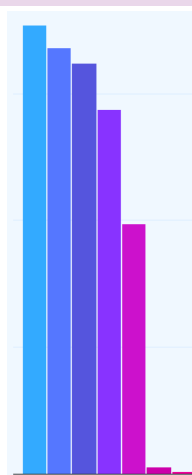
With best wishes for a restful half-term break.

Tony Segalini

Associate Principal

EPraise

Congratulations to Year 7 who are heading up the leadership of Epraise points followed in turn by other year groups.



■ Year 7 ■ Year 8 ■ Year 9 ■ Year 10 ■ Year 11 ■ Year 12

CALENDAR

Monday 25th February

First day of Term 4

Thursday 7th March

Year 8 Parents' Evening

11th & 13th March

Year 10 DTP/MENACWY Injections

Thursday 14th March

KS4 Curriculum Evening for Year 9 Parents

Tuesday 2nd April

Raising Attainment Evening for Year 11 & 13





KSA is third most improved school in Northamptonshire

Government figures on secondary school performance based on Progress 8 scores shows that Kettering Science Academy is in the top three most improved schools in Northamptonshire.

The Progress 8 score tracks students to establish their level of progress, measuring their grades at the end of primary school with their GCSEs outcomes at secondary level. Using this measure as an indicator of performance, KSA has achieved a significantly improved score of -0.14.

Associate Principal Tony Segalini said: 'This year has been an exciting year for results at KSA, having already achieved our best ever set of GCSE results over the summer. I am delighted at this year's improved Progress 8 score, which is another example of how KSA continues to go from strength to strength. I am really proud of both our students and staff at KSA as we work to fulfil our mission of being the best we can be.'

CEO Dr Andrew Campbell said: 'This has been an exceptional year of results, both at Trust and school level. Kettering Science Academy is clearly on the upward trajectory that the Trust and the senior leadership team have worked so hard to achieve.' To read more please go to the following link: <http://www.ketteringscienceacademy.org/news/?pid=6&nid=1&storyid=2469>



Ofsted says 'effective action is being taken' to drive improvements at KSA

Ofsted has said that senior leaders, governors and the Brooke Weston Trust are taking 'effective action' to make improvements so that Kettering Science Academy can attain a 'good' inspection grading.

The report, following a one day monitoring visit, said that Associate Principal Tony Segalini and senior leaders have a 'clear, uncompromising vision about improving the quality of education' and are 'ambitious for pupils and what they can achieve.' This aim is shared by staff who are 'supportive, enthusiastic and want the school to improve.' Students 'talk eloquently about their aspirations and appreciate teachers' work to help them achieve their potential.'

Ofsted's findings focus on leadership, teaching, the Sixth Form and students' views of the school. It says that the Brooke Weston Trust has 'provided effective support in improving all aspects of the school'. Governors 'are well supported by the Trust' and have 'improved the effectiveness of their work to challenge school leaders.'

To read the report following the monitoring visit please click the link below

Link: <http://www.ketteringscienceacademy.org/news/?pid=6&nid=1&storyid=2465>





Year 8 students develop ways to tackle knife crime

Year 8 students recently took part in the in-school stage of the Northamptonshire County Schools challenge. The students spent the day using a business approach to develop creative ways to tackle a social problem by coming up with products and services in response to this year's theme 'Knife Crime'.

The students took part in basic first aid and trauma training learning how to perform CPR and treat stab wounds. The session taught students a valuable skill and gave them a more in-depth understanding on the topic. The students then worked in groups to develop their ideas, creating prototypes and putting together pitches, which presented to a panel of judges made up of PCSO Alex Franklin, representatives of the fire department and their fellow peers. Top ideas included panic buttons, promotional posters, T-shirts and songs.

The three best ideas were then discussed in more depth with the judges before one team were selected to represent the Academy at the semi-finals.

The winning group were announced as 'Leave the Knife Behind' and they will now take part in the semi-finals, held at the Northamptonshire Police Headquarters in June. Here the team will pitch their ideas in front of a group of judges and will get to visit the dogs unit and fire service. If the team make it through to the finals, they will showcase their idea and business plan in a 'Dragons Den' format to a panel of business, public sector and community leaders for a chance to win £2,000 to develop their idea into a reality.

Northamptonshire Police runs the event in partnership with Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue and Crimestoppers. To read more please follow the link below.

Link to article: <http://www.ketteringscienceacademy.org/news/?pid=6&nid=1&storyid=2471>



KSA 'Careers Term'

Here at KSA we have launched our first ever 'Careers Term'. During the course of term there will be a key focus on teaching students about the range of jobs available within different Industries.

Each week the focus will be on a different department who will plan a series of events for every student, from Years 7-13, to get involved in. At the beginning of lessons students will learn about careers related to the subject, the qualifications needed and the pathways they can take. Guest speakers will also feature heavily throughout the term. Already, Steve Jackson a sports journalist who works for Sky has visited the Academy and Chair of Governors Steve Barton has spoken to students about apprenticeship opportunities.

If you feel you could offer an insight into a career and would like to do an assembly, then we'd love to hear from you. Please contact our Careers Department

careers@ketteringscienceacademy.org.

To read more please follow link below.

Link: <http://www.ketteringscienceacademy.org/news/?pid=6&nid=1&storyid=2467>





Harvard student Sam Blackman returns to KSA

Sam Blackman, a former student of Kettering Science Academy, who won a place at Harvard, returned to KSA to talk about his experience studying at one of the most prestigious universities in the world.

He started by telling Year 12 and 13 students about the application process. He was first accepted on to a fact finding visit through the Sutton Trust USA programme and embarked on an arduous application process, which saw him submitting five assignments to Harvard just a week before he sat three A Level exams. He was supported throughout by staff at Kettering Science Academy, notably the then Head of Sixth Form and Vice Principal Kirsty Farrar.

Only the top three per cent of students win places at Harvard and Sam is now taking 12 different modules over the next four years, as part of the Liberal Arts curriculum. His current timetable focuses on life sciences, rhetoric and calculus.

He told the Sixth Formers 'University is something completely new and scary, but it is also great fun. You are going to make a lot of friends across all subjects. Some of you might be wondering if it is right for you. It crossed my mind as well. University is a massive advantage, there are degrees in everything so to be able to say you have a degree is a huge advantage, but it is not the be-all and end-all. If you are worried about missing out on that grade, or going to university and hating it, it's OK, there are other options. You really need to pick something that is right and special for you.

For more on this story click on the Link: <http://www.ketteringscienceacademy.org/news/?pid=6&nid=1&storyid=2461>





Former student gives talk on regenerative genetics

Harvard student Sam Blackman gave a talk about regenerative genetics when he spoke to a group of students at his former school, Kettering Science Academy.

Sam, who has been at Harvard since last summer, gave an overview of genetics research to Sixth Formers and students from Year 10 and 11. He talked about early experiments into cloning and how subsequent research and DNA/RNA manipulation, means that genetic diseases, such as diabetes, may soon be eradicated. He also outlined how scientists are investigating the plausibility of limb regrowth following amputation, and talked about some of the barriers that will have to be overcome before that becomes a medical reality. Read more, click on the Link: <http://www.ketteringscienceacademy.org/news/?pid=6&nid=1&storyid=2464>



Students receive research award at LEGO competition

A team of 10 students, from Years 7-10 took part in the regional heats of the FIRST LEGO League competition in Market Deeping.

The competition theme 'Into Orbit' required students to demonstrate engineering skills by building and programming a LEGO robot. The robot was then used to complete various missions on a play table in order to gain points. Team KSA completed three missions early on and then quickly learnt how to programme their robot to complete the fourth. Consequently the team scored the highest number of points a team from KSA has ever achieved in the competition.

Throughout the day, the team were also judged on core values including participation, investigation, problem solving, co-operation and teamwork as well as a research project. For the project, the team had to research a problem based on long term space travel for humans and come up with an innovative solution which they had to present in front of a variety of judging panels and other teams. Team KSA came up with a design for an irrigation and germination system for growing food plants on long space journeys and at the destination. After researching current growing systems used, the team started to build prototypes out of cardboard and rockwool. After modifying the prototype several times, the boys designed and built a growing container using a 3D printer and fine tubing. The team impressed the judges with their idea and were awarded the trophy for 'Best Project Research.' To read more click on the link below.

Link: <http://www.ketteringscienceacademy.org/news/?pid=6&nid=1&storyid=2466>



Unwanted uniform

If you have any unwanted uniform in good, clean condition that can be re-used by other students, we would be grateful if you could please bring in to the Academy. Thank you



Naim returns to Kettering Science Academy

Former student Naim Sheikh returned to Kettering Science Academy to deliver a physics workshop to a group of Sixth Formers and high achieving maths students from the lower years.

Naim, who achieved three A* grades in Further Mathematics, Mathematics and Physics and two A grades in Chemistry and Italian last summer, is now studying a four-year physics course at Durham University. He spoke to the students about 'moment of inertia' which he demonstrated by rolling a ball down a plank and got students to make predictions using both A Level and Degree Level equations.

Naim said: 'I introduced a new idea, 'moment of inertia', and then created an experience where the best way to understand it was to predict values and compare them with measurements from an experiment. Moment of inertia is a mathematical description of the distribution of mass in an object. The simplest example would be when we have a ball rolling down a slope, in which we have to consider how the ball itself rolls, on top of its normal linear motion.'

'I tried to simplify the concepts using diagrams and tools so that it could be understood more easily. The session took about an hour and a half and there were 15 students there. I hope it was useful for some of them, but more importantly I hope they all enjoyed learning something new.'

'I am from Italy and so I was at KSA only during Sixth Form. I managed to make friends pretty quickly. The staff are very friendly, with particular mention to the librarians and Mrs Farrar as she helped me a lot with my university applications. I have really enjoyed the first few months of university. I have made friends and the work is just as difficult as I hoped it would be. Without a little challenge university would definitely not be as interesting!'





Scholars club

Scholars club will be starting next term and will run until the end of the year. The club will take place on Wednesdays after school in the lecture theatre and will be 45-60 minutes long.

Each week a different presenter will introduce a new topic that is not found on the curriculum. The aim being to stretch students' minds and increase their knowledge on new interesting topics. These are available to all year groups.

KS3 students are expected to attend at least 3 sessions before the end of the summer term, KS4 and KS5 can opt into topics of interest to them. Please see the schedule below.

Term 4

27/2 Exoplanets—Dr Kirk

6/3 Orchestral conducting—Mr Farrar

13/3 Eskimos loads of snow—Mr Bean

20/3 Archaeology—Miss Davenport

27/3 Orangutans and the jungle—Miss Kedie

3/4 Ethics and politics philosophy—Mr Norwood

Term 5

24/4 Micro Business—Mr Jones

1/5 German reunification—Miss White

8/5 Battle of Waterloo—Mr Segalini

15/5 Origins of language—Miss Mason-Saunders

22/5 Criminal Justice System—Miss Farrar

These will be listed on the website with the after schools clubs as a reminder.



BelieveBig2019 is launched

Believe Big, a competition that inspires students to invent life-changing ideas that create a positive impact on the world, has been launched to students at Kettering Science Academy.

The initiative, which is run by 7 Billion Ideas encourages students to think creatively and produce entrepreneurial material to market their innovative concepts to panels of judges. As well as producing presentations, posters and prototypes, students will also be required to create a jiggle, a new feature of the competition that has been launched this year for the first time.

The students will now have set time over the next 6 weeks to work on their ideas in teams before presenting them to a panel of judges. The best ideas from the school will then go through to the Brooke Weston Trust Grand Final later this spring where our teams will compete against other secondary schools in the Trust.





The Sports Journalist visits KSA

Freelance sports journalist, Steve Jackson recently visited Kettering Science Academy to talk to students studying PE about careers in sports and journalism.

Steve works for a range of media outlets in radio, television, newspapers, magazines and the Internet. He has interviewed some of the biggest names in sports and has worked with companies including Sky Sports and ITV. Steve spoke to students about his personal career route and about his roles with sky sports and radio stations in reporting on football around the country. The students then had the opportunity to ask him any question they had.

Link to article: <http://www.ketteringscienceacademy.org/news/?pid=6&nid=1&storyid=2472>



Jo Evans becomes SLE in English and Leadership

Congratulations to Kettering Science Academy's Head of English, Jo Evans, on her designation as Specialist Leader of Education.

It will enable her to pass on her skills in English and Leadership to other schools who can request her expertise, either for a one-off project, or as part of a longer term strategy.

Jo has been a teacher since 2003 and joined Kettering Science Academy in 2013 as second in department, before having a rapid promotion to her current role just six weeks later!

She said: 'I love being head of English: it's relentless but rewarding, challenging and inspiring and I am so lucky to lead a team of really dedicated and talented teachers who are always striving to make a difference.'

Link to article: <http://www.ketteringscienceacademy.org/news/?pid=6&nid=1&storyid=2473>





Students inspired by Medical Mavericks

On Friday 8th February a group of our Year 11 and 12 students took part in activities that allowed them to explore healthcare science based careers.

The students, who were keen to find out more about working for the NHS or in the medical profession, were able to carry out similar jobs to those which healthcare professionals do on a daily basis. Some of the activities the students took part in included recording and printing an ECG of their heart, measuring each other's blood pressure and conducting respiratory tests.



The session allowed students to gain an insight into what it would be like to work in the industry. They learnt about NHS careers as well as the qualifications needed for specific jobs and the routes they could take into them. Students also had the opportunity to speak with recent graduates from science, health and medical courses.

Link to article: <http://www.ketteringscienceacademy.org/news/Default.asp?pid=6&nid=1&storyid=2475&action=saved>



Year 5 'Space and Forces' topic is launched at KSA

Year 5 students from Compass Primary Academy recently visited our Academy to take part in library activities and rocket demonstrations, giving them an interactive introduction to their new topic 'Space and Forces'.

In the science department, students discussed some of the gases they knew and talked about which ones might be useful for rocket fuel. Mrs Oliver and Mr Stock then showed the children a variety of exciting demonstrations. These included the gas tests for hydrogen, which makes a squeaky pop and the gas tests for oxygen, which made the flame relight every time the students blew it out, Elephant's Toothpaste which is used to show the difference adding extra oxygen in hydrogen peroxide makes to a reaction, igniting methane bubbles to show how much energy is stored in the gas and finally a controlled launch of a methane rocket.

Link to article: <http://www.ketteringscienceacademy.org/news/?pid=6&nid=1&storyid=2476>





KSA receive NCS Bronze Award

KSA were recently presented with the National Citizen Service Bronze Champion School status at this year's Year 11 programme launch assembly.

The Champion School statuses of Bronze, Silver and Gold are awarded to schools based on the percentage of students who participate in the programme.

40 students from last year's Year 11 cohort took part in the scheme which required students to dedicate four weeks of their summer holiday to the project.

At the beginning of the assembly NCS representative Alex Nightgale presented the award to Mr Baines before talking about this year's programme. Students saw a video clip of some of the activities they could take part in before being told about the four phases of the scheme; Adventure, Discovery, Social Action and Celebration. During the four week project, students will get to visit an adventure centre, take part in university workshops and devise a community project.

Link to article: <http://www.ketteringscienceacademy.org/news/?pid=6&nid=1&storyid=2477>



Students can now sign-up to take part in the programme on one of the below dates by going to <https://www.ncsyes.co.uk>:

- 1st July
- 8th July
- 15th July
- 22nd July





Careers Fair

To end careers 'Term', we held our first ever careers fair which provided a wonderful opportunity for our students to explore their options beyond school. Throughout the day Year 11 students took part in a variety of workshops led by professionals from industries such as hospitality, games design, accountancy, law, criminology and forensic science. Students from Years 7-13 visited the careers fair throughout the day to talk first hand to professionals working in a range of industries and also had the opportunity to speak with representatives from local colleges and universities to find out more about the courses they offer and grade entry requirements.

Thank you to all the companies that came to support the day and led workshops with our students.





Nut Allergies

We have several students in the Academy who have severe nut allergies. Please be mindful of this when sending your children in with their packed lunches and avoid sending in nut products if possible.

Thank you.



Safeguarding information

Please be assured that if you or your child have a safeguarding concern this can be taken to any member of staff who will be able to record and report it securely so that it can be handled by our safeguarding team, who are:

Mr Tony Segalini – Designated Safeguarding Person

Mrs Claire Greaves, Mrs Kirsty Farrar, Dr Andy Kirk, Mrs Jane Watson – Designated Safeguarding Managers

Mrs Deborah Thomas – Designated Safeguarding Lead



Collecting Students for Appointments within the school Day

Collecting Students for Appointments within the school day. Please be reminded that if your child has an appointment within the school day, you must notify us in advance and they must be collected from reception by a person who is listed as a nominated contact on your child's records. Please notify

reception@ketteringscienceacademy.org of the appointment time and who will be

collecting your child as soon as you are able to. Thank you.



Car Parking

Can we please remind all parents/carers to consider others when parking your cars at dropping off and collecting times at Kettering Science Academy. We have received complaints from residents in the area who have been inconvenienced by parents' parked cars left in the way of driveways and limiting the access to their homes.

We also ask for you to drive with care within the school car park, speed restriction signs have been added as a reminder. Thank you for your co-operation with regard to these matters.



Contact Details

Please remember to let us know if your contact details change so that we can keep our system up-to-date. You can email reception with any changes:

reception@ketteringscienceacademy.org

Thank you.