



**Kirkby Stephen Grammar School**

*A co-operative Academy*

# NEWSLETTER

[www.ksgs.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.ksgs.cumbria.sch.uk)

Issue 123, May 2021



Eden Valley  
Sports Partnership

## Outward Bound Activity Days

Year 9 and Year 10 students took part in two days of outdoor challenges on 25th and 26th March. Students spent the whole day with instructors from the Outward Bound Trust on the school playing field experiencing team building opportunities, developing skills and having fun.



"We took part in an Outward Bound day where we learnt various skills such as problem solving, team building, how to build a shelter and how to start a fire. Apart from the weather we all had a great day"

Liberty Bainbridge Year 9

"My favourite activity, there was a piece of rope laid on the ground, at the end of the rope there was a bucket, you had to get a golf ball and a rubber ball to the bucket using plastic pipes. The best thing about the day was when we made a fire with cotton wool and petroleum jelly"

Leon Veitch Year 9



Dear Parents, carers and students,

Well, what a few months it has been since our last newsletter before Christmas!

Not only have we all had to navigate an eight week national lockdown but we have had to manage a mass lateral flow testing programme and a return to school with greater restrictions such as wearing masks in classrooms. In addition to this, Year 11 and Year 13s were told by the government that they wouldn't have to do exams because they were cancelled. However, they have spent the last six or seven weeks doing continuous assessments in classrooms to the extent that they probably wish that they could have done full exams instead.

All of this has been a huge burden on students, parents and staff. We will probably not know how great an impact it has all had on us until the next school year when we will, hopefully, be coming out the other side of the pandemic. Despite this I am optimistic about the prospects for our students in the future. I am optimistic for the following reasons:

1. The overwhelming majority of them managed superbly with the challenges of remote learning during lockdown. They turned up for their timetabled lessons when they were live and they completed and returned the work they were asked to do. Some students even prospered during lockdown by completing more work than they normally do in school. Inevitably there were some students who struggled with remote learning either due to self-motivation, organisation, or anxiety caused by social isolation. In some cases students had problems with technology, although in most cases we were able to help them by loaning out laptops that we bought thanks to a grant awarded to us by the Westmorland Group, who are great supporters and friends of the school. In the survey that we asked you to complete so many of you said how much better our remote learning offer was this lockdown compared to last year due to the schedule of the school timetable and the greater contact between our staff and students.
2. As parents you supported your child or children fantastically during the winter lockdown and you worked very well with us to resolve any problems that occurred. I hope that we maintain this good partnership now that we are back at school.
3. The teaching and support staff of the school worked extremely hard and very effectively to maintain high quality education for our students throughout lockdown. This did not happen by accident. The staff had to undergo an intensive programme of training and practice in the autumn term to learn how to use Microsoft Teams well enough to be able to teach face-to-face and through work uploaded to the platform. Some took to this like naturals whilst others found it a more challenging process. But they all put a great deal of thought and effort into the remote education they provided for our students. They also learnt a lot about the capabilities of remote learning that will benefit them and the students in future. There were numerous staff working brilliantly with the students that were attending our Hub School in Years 7 to 10. The support that they provided to them was amazing. I know because I was at school throughout this time. KSGS is very lucky to have such dedicated and high-quality teaching assistants and non-teaching admin staff.
4. I believe that we are likely to be back at school for good now or at least I fervently hope that we are. I also believe that if students attend regularly and are positive in their approach to work and school life, we have enough time to ensure that the two lockdowns do not disadvantage our young people greatly. I know that the staff will work tirelessly to prevent this.

So, there are four reasons for optimism.

As you can see from this newsletter, we have still managed to offer a few enrichment activities to vary students' school diet, although not as many as we would like. We are beginning to offer optional lunchtime sports clubs for students and will look to see what else we can introduce in the second half of the summer term, providing that the government roadmap allows us to do so.

I would like to end by thanking staff, students and parents for all of your hard work and support over the last few months. I would also pay homage to the staff for their fortitude and their ability to learn fast and adapt quickly in the most unfamiliar of new playing fields.

I am sure that we all look forward to some freedom in the summer whatever that looks like.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Hartley

Headteacher







**The annual Presentation Day Awards and Trophies were presented by Mr Hartley, Mrs Steels, Mrs Wealleans and Mr O'Doherty by touring the school and presenting awards to students in their teaching bubbles. The prize winners from Year 12 are shown in the photograph.**

**National Anti-Bullying Week** During the 2020 autumn term, Year 7 students completed a programme of study about 'Managing Social Relationships' in their Personal Development lessons. To tie in with National Anti-Bullying week from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November, students talked about the impact of bullying on individuals and their families and discussed ways of tackling it. All Year 7 students wrote a newsletter article as part of their assessment. The following article is an amalgamation of work written by Madeline Bainbridge, Chloe Murphy and Marshall Repton.

In PD we have been learning about how to stop bullying, which form of bullying is more severe and what the effect is on people's lives. Bullying can be common in school playgrounds, where the bully either teases, steals things, physically hurts you or makes inappropriate remarks. If for example, 'Jimmy' says he got tripped over whilst playing football, then this is not bullying. But if someone constantly does one or more of the things above, or cyber bullies you online, then that is classed as bullying.

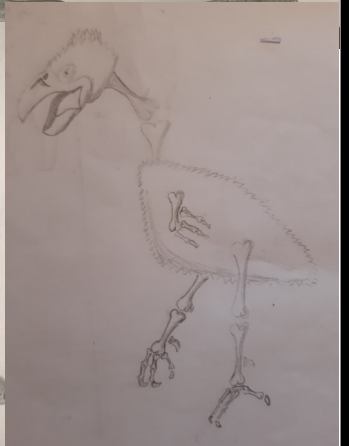
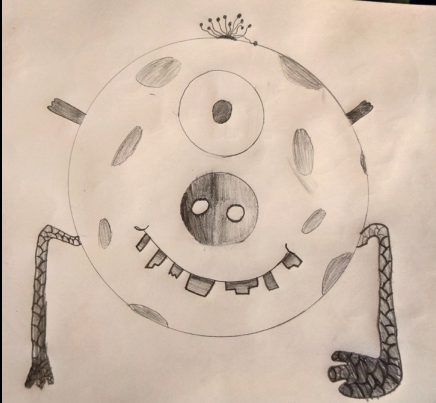
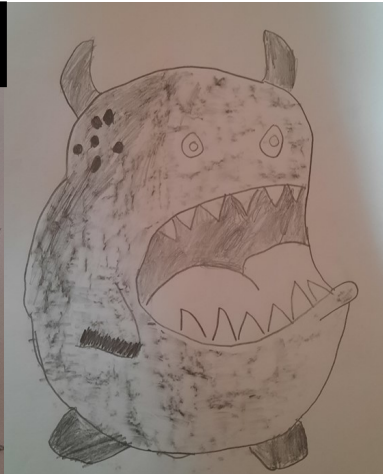
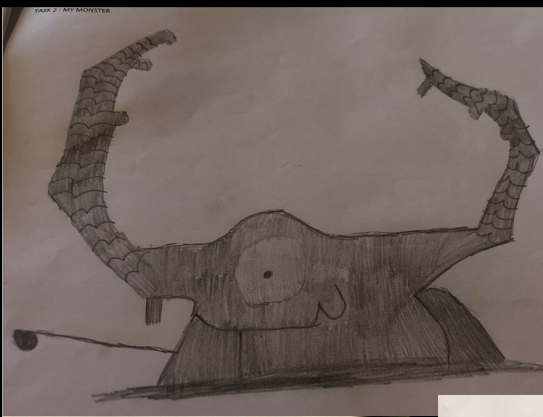
Being bullied can affect people in lots of different ways: like getting hurt, losing valuables, changes within your friendship group, the way you feel about yourself. It might make you want to change yourself in some way or lead to anxiety and maybe even depression. These things will all have an impact on a person's home or school life. For example, when you come home from somewhere you might be miserable and want to stay in your room, then the negative vibes could also spread to your family. Also you could miss out on things, stop joining in or could even start fights with others.

Bullying is one of the worst things that can happen to a human, but there is a way to stop it. If you tell somebody you trust, they can help you get through it. Tell a teacher or an adult. If you are scared or nervous then ask a good friend to help you or call Childline 0800 1111. Nobody should have to deal with bullies or getting hurt. If you are currently bullying someone then stop now and apologise, because you could be badly affecting someone's life or their mental health.



**Years 7, 8 and 9 have completed art work projects at home during their Art lessons.**

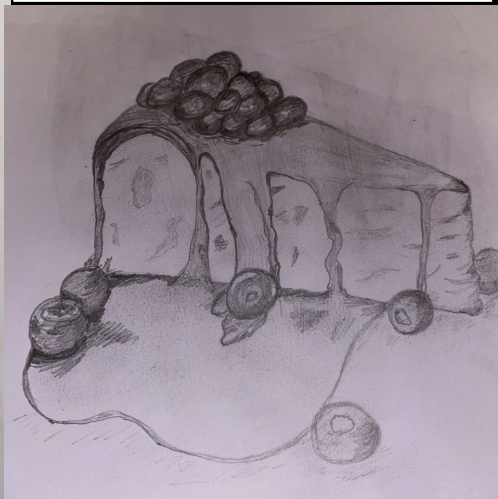
### **Year 7 Monster Designs**



**Year 8 photography task — Looking at the Artist Ben Heine, add your drawing into a photograph to create a message or change the photo**



### **Year 9 Food Studies**





Teaching Drama from home in lockdown has certainly been a test of Mrs Whitehead's creativity. Year 9 rose to the challenge in a workshop on stage lighting, creating some amazing lighting designs for Little Red Riding Hood, using sweet wrappers, torches and such like. At KSGS Mrs Whitehead believes that it is important for her Drama Students to gain skills in all areas of drama and theatre including lighting and sound design, makeup, puppetry, directing, set design and much more.



## **The Personal Development department at KSGS has been very busy since January, marking special events and following national initiatives.**

27th January marked Holocaust Memorial Day. To recognise this international day, Year 7 students learnt about what the Holocaust was as part of their 'Faith in My Community' topic and Year 8 did some work looking at the complexities of the Holocaust. They looked at images of individual people taken before the persecution of the Jewish population in Nazi occupied Europe began. They were able to relate to the people in the photographs, looking at similarities and differences in the images depicted. We then discussed the different people involved with aspects of the Holocaust and tried to identify victims, by-standers, perpetrators and resisters. Year 8 quickly realised that trying to label individual people from their actions was not that easy, as there were often a lot of background facts or motivating factors to consider. This was a really useful activity to promote critical thinking skills, empathy and awareness of moral issues.

National Careers week 1st to 6th March. Lots of excellent careers based activities occurred during this national week across KS3 and KS4. Year 11 were looking at managing their online presence in relation to careers and higher education. Year 10 were writing CV's and cover letters to try and secure a work experience placement for week of 14th to 18th June. KS3 tried to identify their own skills and qualities and had also career conversations at home with family members about the world of work.

In March it was also National Justice Week and I signed KSGS up to take part in the 'Big Legal Lesson'. The theme for KS3 students was law making and the Coronavirus Act 2020. Students were taught about how laws are made, why emergency legislation is necessary, in which situations it would be introduced and some of the pros and cons of the current Coronavirus Act. The theme of the Year 10 KS4 Big legal lesson was the Coronavirus Act and Human Rights. Here students discussed which rights could justifiably be curtailed or removed in certain circumstances and were introduced to the concept of absolute rights. They then considered the impact Coronavirus emergency legislation has had on different sections of our society and debated whether or not Broadband should be made free for all citizens in the UK.

Finally in the run up to Census day on 21st March, Year 7 to 9 students learnt all about what the census is, what kind of information is collected and how this data is used at both a National and local level. All KSGS students were also given the opportunity to take part in the online Religion and World Views Census 2021. This online survey was initially designed by an RE teacher at William Howard School, Brampton to gather the views of their students. However, other Cumbrian schools including KSGS took the chance to get involved to find out the views of students across the county. I'm very interested to find out how KSGS students responded!! Joanne Sutterby Subject Leader Personal Development





### **Abe Butterworth – ITT Student working in KSGS**

“I’m currently at Durham University (it’s my 4th year there). I studied Geography and Education in my first three years and I’m now completing my PGCE - a course to become a qualified teacher.

As part of this, I need to have experience in schools and I’m getting mine at KSGS - it’s been brilliant so far. It was a challenging start, I had to go straight into teaching online without meeting any of the students in person so I’m glad to be in school now. It’s good to actually get to know the people I’m teaching! Starting with Year 7, I’m building up my teaching timetable, with the help of Mrs Thompson and Mrs Sayers, so that, by the end of June I’ll be teaching Years 7 to 12.

I’m a local lad myself, I grew up in Appleby and went to school there, so it’s good to be working in a similar school. It’s great teaching Geography here - we’re lucky to have lots of students who love discussing the

land and how it is used. This links in to the part of the job that I find most enjoyable, talking to students about their aspirations - whether that be using the land and working on the family farm or discussing a new opportunity that they might not have considered.

Looking ahead, next year, I’m starting a job in London. It will be a different experience, a world away from Cumbria, but I’m hoping to learn a lot and continue developing my career.

Hopefully the rest of my placement goes smoothly (with no more lockdowns) and I can continue getting to know everyone at KSGS.”

### **Georgina Beesley – ITT student teacher at KSGS**

I am a trainee teacher in Modern Foreign Languages from the University of Cumbria and I have been at KSGS working in the Spanish department with Miss Vela-Castro since January. I am a mature student having worked in the Telecommunications and Banking sector for the last fifteen years. I’ve always wanted to go in to teaching and use my languages and after getting some experience in a few schools in Lancashire last year, I was confident that this was the right career change for me.

It has been an interesting and challenging start to my placement having spent the first few month's teaching students remotely. Now that schools are open again it has been great to get back into the classroom and finally meet the pupils and get to know them all a bit better.

Outside of work and studies, I am a mother of two young children who keep me very busy! I have also recently moved back from Australia having lived there for six years so I am now reacclimatising to the British weather!

Next year I will be starting a new job working in a school in Blackburn. I am looking forward to putting all my training into practise and of course learning more as I develop and grow as a qualified teacher. Working at KSGS has been a great experience and I am very grateful to all the staff for the support they have given me so far on my placement.



### **Year 8 Geographers raising money for Comic Relief 2021**

As part of their Connections to Africa topic, Year 8 completed a sponsored mile to raise money for Comic Relief. They raised £151.02 This, along with the funds from non-uniform day, £202.76, forms a



final, financial connection to people in Africa. Great effort Year 8! Cath Thompson Joint Subject Leader for Geography





**A big thank you to Julie Bailey the inspirational lady behind the campaign to 'Cure the NHS' following on from the Mid-Staffs health crisis who recently gave up her afternoon to host a TEAMS video call with our Year 12 Health and Social Care students as part of their research into Health, Safety and Security in Health & Social Care.**

Julie Park (their teacher) has been in touch with both the production company and Channel 4 to try to get hold of a copy of a drama first shown on Channel 4 (in December 2019) called The Cure. Unfortunately, when both avenues did not lead to a successful outcome it looked like the opportunity to discuss the case of Bella Bailey was lost.

Not to be defeated Julie managed to get hold of Julie Bailey, who kindly sent a copy



of the book, which Julie is now busy turning into an audio book for the students. Working on the assumption that 'never ask, never get' Julie then went on to ask Julie Bailey if she would join a lesson, which she immediately agreed to.

The students have had a very worthwhile afternoon with Julie Bailey listening to the issues behind the Mid-Staffs health crisis and the deaths of hundreds of patients. Hopefully they can now use this practical knowledge in their studies.

'It is always good to get outside speakers in, it helps to bring the learning to life', unfortunately with COVID restrictions this has been particularly challenging. However students in Yr12 and Yr13 have managed to benefit from not only Julie Bailey, but also talking to local undertaker Damon Steadman from Walkers Funeral Directors, Appleby who talked to them about Infection Control in the deceased, and to nurse practitioner Rachael Faustino who talked about Infection Control in a hospital. A big thank you to all speakers who took the time to help our students.



**Year 7 IT Project Lego** – IT Students in Year 7 with the help from Mrs Park have been busy designing a computer game using coding via makecode.com, they then downloaded their games to a handheld Kitronik console, a class vote will be held to choose the best game. Over the next few weeks, there will be a competition to design a front cover for the winning game. Watch this space!



**THE SHOW MUST GO ON** Despite all the Covid-19 restrictions and challenges, on Tuesday 30th of March Year 13 Drama Students completed their final practical exam. Each student had prepared a monologue of their choice to interpret, rehearse and perform.

Ellie Hall chose to opt for set design and has created an amazing site-specific design to enhance Alex Cottrell's intense and disturbing performance of Lady Macbeth. Martha Hill, a student from AGS, attends KSGS for A-Level Drama delivered a wonderful rendition of Gwendoline from the play 'The importance of being Earnest' in full period costume.



Both Inigo Crowson and Poppy Eld opted for more comical performances and thoroughly entertained the audience. Finally Poppy Tams delivered a very believable performance of Sheila from the play 'An Inspector Calls.'

Thank you to Mr Alderson for his technical support and to the D.T department for helping with the set.

Mrs Whitehead  
(Subject Leader for Drama)

## RACE TO BASE

The PE department, along with 10 students, ranging from Years 7 to 10, took part in the virtual Race to Base. They raised almost £200.00 for the Great North Air Ambulance. Mrs Paul, Head of PE offered huge amounts of encouragement to the team, completing over 78 miles herself. Mr Luke, PE teacher covered a staggering 38 miles in one day, running over the Howgills. The team finished off walking along the old Railway line in Kirkby Stephen, through Hartley and finishing back at school.

Overall the team walked over 520 miles during the month of March, this is equivalent to walking to the RVI in Newcastle and back to both bases 4 times.

Michelle Brunskill PA to SLT Team

