

John Kyrle Prospect



Autumn 2018



John Kyrle High School & Sixth Form Centre
"A specialist Technology, Modern Foreign Languages & Learning College"

Headteacher: Nigel Griffiths BA (Hons), National Leader of Education, FRSA



High Performance at A Level and GCSE

To shamelessly steal a headline about us from the Ross Gazette this August:

JKHS Celebrated Success in the Sun

Students took more demanding, new-style exams at both A Level and GCSE. Their success was a credit to themselves, their families, the school and the community. Once again, over 60% of A-Level grades were at A*-B. At GCSE over 50% of students gained strong passes in English and mathematics, well above the local and national average.



Nigel Griffiths praised his students for their hard work. He commended his teaching, support staff and trustees for their commitment and the care they showed students enabling them to achieve so well. Mr Griffiths also thanked families and the community for their support of students and the school.





John Kyrle High School

& Sixth Form Centre

Headteacher: **Nigel Griffiths BA (Hons), FRSA,**
National Leader of Education

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Dear All

Welcome to the first edition of Prospect for the school year 2018-2019.

I've only been allocated a single page because, and I quote the editorial team: 'There are far more important and interesting things to read.' I know my place! 😊

The site staff, led by Andrew James, together with what seemed like countless contractors, worked tirelessly over the summer improving facilities for students. We have fully redecorated the school hall and I look forward to you seeing it when you join us for parental consultation evenings, concerts and plays. We have also resurfaced the outside eating area, fully refurbished the modern foreign language classrooms and installed new doors throughout the school. In addition, there has been a full upgrade of the fire-alarm system.

Term has, as ever, begun well. We have been joined by over 250 new Year 7s and over 160 new students into Year 12. We also welcomed 18 new staff for what I know will be another successful and interesting year.

In my assemblies with students, I have explained that we are changing Personal Social and Health Education this year. It is now to be called 'Happy, Healthy and Successful' and we want more student input into the topics we discuss. We have already planned sessions about keeping safe, including online, in relationships and keeping free from extremism. We will look at British values of tolerance, respect for all faiths, justice and democracy, and how to keep fit both physically and mentally. In addition, we will look at a range of future career opportunities. Students have requested sessions on 'Fake News', Brexit and money management. We will deliver these with staff, students or external speakers. Should parents/carers have any ideas on other topics to cover, I'd like to hear from you.

Please remember, you can meet with me or a member of my senior team without appointment on any day between 8.00 - 8.20, and by appointment at any other time.

Best Wishes

Nigel Griffiths

Nigel Griffiths
Headteacher



Children's Wellbeing Directorate

Director: Chris Baird

Sent via email

Mr Nigel Griffiths
Headteacher
John Kyrle High School

Please ask for: Lisa Fraser
Direct line / Extension: 01432 383043
E-mail: lisa.fraser@herefordshire.gov.uk

10 September 2018

Dear Nigel,

KS4 OUTCOMES 2018

Herefordshire Council is committed to keeping children and young people safe and to giving them a great start in life. Our ambition for children in Herefordshire is that they achieve the very best outcomes which place our county in the top 25% (or top quartile) of all local authority areas for all external measures.

I am writing to congratulate pupils, staff and school leaders at John Kyrle for all of your hard work over the last academic year. This has resulted in outcomes at John Kyrle exceeding the FFT 20 target in English and maths combined at Grade 5 and above. This is a fantastic achievement – well done! You are clearly making a difference to the life chances of young people in your care.

I look forward to working with you on another successful year in Herefordshire.

Yours sincerely



LISA FRASER
INTERIM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT & SKILLS

CC Mrs D Strutt, Chair of Governors



SEA CADETS

My name is Josh and I'm a cadet at the Ross and Monmouth Sea Cadets. I have always wanted to be a navy diver and that is why I joined the sea cadets, two years ago, when I was 10 years old. I hope to go straight into the navy after doing my GCSEs. You have to be 10 to join the sea cadets; this is as a junior and you become a cadet once you are 12. Now that my rank is cadet I have two uniforms known as *ones* and *fours*. Ones are for parade evenings and public events whilst fours are for general wear. Juniors only have one uniform.



JKHS Riding Squad goes from strength to strength!

The JKHS Riding Squad continues to put John Kyrle on the equestrian map! The squad enjoyed many individual and team successes when they competed at the National Schools Equestrian Association showjumping competition at Rectory Farm, Duntisbourne Abbots in early September.

Successes in the 60cm, 70cm and 80cm classes means that both teams and individuals have qualified to represent JKHS at the Regional Championship at Kings Equestrian, Bromyard in December and at the National Championships at Keysoe, Bedfordshire in October. This is an outstanding achievement for all involved but particularly for some of our new Year 7 members who were competing at this level for the first time. The sport demands that our students show commitment, courage and determination and we congratulate all our riders and look forward to celebrating more equestrian achievement in the future.

Ronie Thomas, Year 9, continues to be our equestrian trailblazer! In August, Ronie successfully defended her 2017 title when she and her pony Didi were once again crowned 70-75cm British Showjumping National Just for Schools Champions. Well done Ronie!

As always, our thanks go to parent, Zoe Thomas, who works so tirelessly to make these equestrian opportunities available to our students. Students who are interested in becoming squad members should see Mrs Russell in the English Department.



JKHS Riding Squad Members:

Ronie Thomas, Abbey Agami, Ruby Meredith, Sophia Powell, Lara Marshall, Archie Thomas, Evie Bennett, Zara Powell, Zoe Whitehouse, Verity Wallbridge and Lucy Powell,

Around the same time as I moved from junior to cadet I also earned my *Commodores Pennant*. This is the highest award a junior cadet can get. Three were given out around the same time and were the first of these accolades ever awarded at the Ross and Monmouth unit. I was extremely proud to get this.

In July our unit moved to new premises. We had a parade and lots of important people from the Sea Cadets, Navy and the local community came to celebrate with us. It was a great evening, although I was very nervous as I was responsible for the piping.

You meet lots of new people through sea cadets, not only in your unit but other units throughout the district and country at different events. We have lots of competitions such as football tournaments, swimming galas and a rowing/paddle sports regatta. During the summer we do rowing at the Dub near Ross, but this stops in the winter. There are lots of different courses you can go away on, to get all sorts of badges such as seamanship, powerboating and shooting, plus kayaking and wind sailing which both take a lot of effort, hard work and dedication. The courses are brilliant, you learn a lot, hopefully earn your badge and have fun. You also have the opportunity to do citizenship and The Duke of Edinburgh Award. A few weeks ago I went to Gloucester Sea Cadets for the weekend to do my Supervised Coxswain qualification and on the Saturday night we went to laser tag.

Josh Davies 80

Sea cadets has given me so much knowledge, allowed me to gain great skills, improved my confidence and given me friends for life! I joined a year and a half ago and in six months I will move from cadet to staff - I never want to leave cadets because they are like a second family to me now!

Since being in the sea cadet core, I have obtained many qualifications which I can take with me throughout life, including: basic first aid, kayaking and my bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. I have also been given the rare opportunity to go offshore for a week and sail around the coast in the boat John Jerwood, which will improve my seamanship skills. I am so excited as this is such a fabulous experience and probably my last chance before becoming staff.

Being a part of sea cadets means weekends are often filled with fun activities to make our cadet experience even more memorable: swimming competitions, seamanship competitions, the rowing regatta, district weekends and unit weekends away; the list goes on! I'm so happy I decided to join, it is honestly so much fun!

Alyssa Carrington S8



Budding singer-songwriter's first single release

Jack Morgan has been writing songs for quite a few years and has over a hundred to his name, but he has at last gone public with his latest song, 'American Dream'.

It was released on Spotify on 15th September (Parental Advisory Explicit Content) and had its school debut, with the edited radio version being performed, at the recent Prize Giving.

Jack, who both sings and plays the acoustic guitar, is currently studying music technology as well as history and ICT in the sixth form. He has ambitions to become either a sound engineer or music producer.

When asked about the experience of working with a professional on his single, he commented that, 'It was an inspiring experience and cool to see the peice grow into a fully mastered recording'. Jack has also been on the radio and played sessions for DJs as part of BBC 'introducing' programs and has plans to release an EP in the near fututre.



Jack is not the only accomplished singer-songwriter at JKHS. Other students of note are Year 13 bass guitarist, Will Lawn and Ella Jones, in Year 12, who has also been on BBC Hereford and Worcester's 'introducing' program and performed at the Malvern Mappfest.





25 Years of Friendship

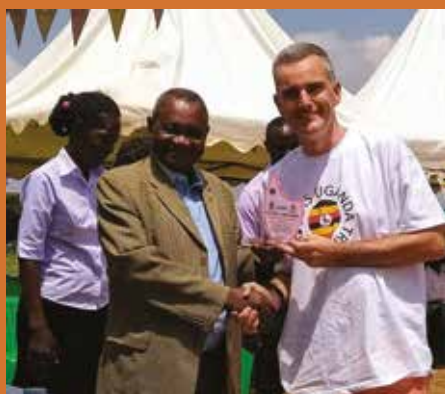
On the 17th of July 2018, a group of 17 pupils and four teachers departed John Kyrle High School and made the long journey to Kisiki College, Namutumba, Uganda. It was a journey that had been made 23 times before, but had grown immeasurably from the two pupils who had first trodden the path in 1994. A lot had changed in both Uganda and Kisiki in the quarter century that the friendship has existed between our schools, something that was made abundantly clear from the moment we arrived.

Following a few days acclimatisation in Jinja, we made our way to Namutumba, our home for the coming week. We were greeted with true Ugandan hospitality by the always welcoming and infinitely kind headteacher, Irene. We had seemingly interrupted a cultural festival in which the pupils of Kisiki were reciting poems and performing dances of their home tribes and families. We were to be the guests of honour, and were introduced and welcomed with incredible warmth. The theme of these performances was *'friendship'*, in which Kisiki pupils paid tribute to the link between our schools, and showed great appreciation for all we have provided for their *mother* Kisiki in our years of partnership. In our tour around the school it became obvious that the influence John Kyrle has on Kisiki runs profoundly deep, with buildings named after former teachers and patrons of the link. We couldn't help feeling moved by the first few hours of our visit.

The celebrations continued throughout the week. We played sports, danced and sang with the teachers and pupils. The John Kyrle football team fought back bravely to overcome a two-goal deficit and claim a three-all draw. Notable great performances from Jemma Clarke, Gracie Perry and Jackson Sharp who delighted the crowd with his 'floss' celebration. Throughout our time at the school we were treated to the best of Ugandan hospitality; James, Hope, Irene, Jennifer and Paul couldn't have done any more for us if they had wanted and for that we are truly grateful.

As well as celebration, we had also travelled to make a difference to the lives of those in Namutumba. We were privileged to be able to pass on the contributions of the Herefordshire primary schools, and can assure you that they are greatly appreciated. Some of the best memories we have are of the smiling faces and innocent laughter of those children who danced and sang for us as we arrived, and the faces of the John Kyrle pupils when asked to perform an unprompted recital of *'heads, shoulders, knees and toes'*.

One of the more moving events that we attended was the distribution of mosquito nets at Namutumba health centre. Those that received nets were hugely grateful, and we saw the value of all the generous contributions that the pupils of John Kyrle had managed to raise.



Our final day at Kisiki was one of enormous ceremony, in which the entirety of Namutumba was brought to a standstill to celebrate the silver jubilee of our partnership. We marched with the population of the town through the high street, waving and dancing along to the rhythms of the band.

Upon our return to the school, Irene revealed a specially commissioned symbol of our friendship; a sculpture of two hands clasped together, one white, one black.

Patrons and agents of the link, past and present waxed lyrically of the impact that we had made over the previous quarter century.

We were invited to share some of our favourite experiences in which our pupils did themselves and our school proud. We gave gifts in appreciation of the hospitality we had received and were given a token of appreciation to take back with us, which is now proudly on display at John Kyrle. We left the next morning with a greater understanding of the link between our schools and the importance of our annual visits, for which we are deeply privileged to have continued in this great tradition.



The adventure did not end with Kisiki, we also indulged in some awesome encounters with the nature and beauty of Uganda. We rafted down the Nile in Jinja, spending very little time dry, and then made our way up to Murchison National Park. We spent three days living in an untouched Eden, exploring the park and spotting the cast of the Lion King over two mornings. The afternoons were spent on the banks of the Nile and the evenings around the fire and gazing at the stars. We will never forget the sight of the sun rising over the horizon, reflected in the world's most fabled and iconic river.

The trip was masterfully led by Nick Wardale and supported by Helen Mather, Sophie Harding and myself. Special thanks must be made for the always reliable and excellent Suleiman and Bashir who drove us countless miles around Uganda, and of course for the hospitality of all those who took us in.

Thomas Moore

Sports Day

July 2018



JKHS held its 39th Annual Sports Day on Friday 29th June. In beautiful, warm conditions, there were some fantastic performances by all years and the event was finished by two amazing relay races by the Year 10 boys and girls. All events were well supported by an appreciative crowd of students and parents.

The inter-tutor group winners were:

Year 7 - 7J, Year 8 - 8R, Year 9 - 9R and Year 10 - 10Y

The Victrix Ludorum went to:

Year 7 - Macy Walker, Year 8 - Faith Robbins,
Year 9 - Sienna Griffiths and Year 10 - Ellie Lown

The Victor Ludorum went to:

Year 7 - Harry Daunter, Year 8 - Jake Ashly,
Year 9 - George Harrihy and Year 10 - Joe Thomas



Tennis Competition

Tennis players from John Kyrle battled it out in the school's annual tournament during the heatwave of June-July.

All the boys had played at least three matches to get to the final and all games were keenly contested featuring some excellent rallies, especially in the Year 9 final.

- In the Year 7's competition Niall Murphy was named the winner with Theo Leather taking the runner-up spot.
- Charlie Pope was crowned the Year 8 winner after beating Sam Balm in the final.
- Finally, a hard fought Year 9 final saw Jacob Gane take the crown after beating Will Hollis.

Head of PE, Mike Donoghue, would like to thank all the parents and carers for their support during the competition.



Diary Dates 2019

22nd Dec '18-9th Jan '19: CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

9th Jan: TED, No students in school

10th Jan: Spring Term Starts (all Yr groups)

10th Jan: Yr 11 Parents' Evening (and mock exam results)

14th-18th Jan: Year 12 & 13 Internal Exams

24th Jan: Yr 8 Parents' Evening

14th Feb: Yr 7 Parents' Evening

18th-22nd Feb: HALF TERM

28th Feb: Yr 9 Options Evening

5th-8th Mar: Yr 11 Food Tech Practical (date tbc)

11th-15th Mar: Yr 12 Geology Field Trip

14th Mar: Yr 10 Parents' Evening

18th-22nd Mar: Pre-public Exams

28th Mar: Yr 11 Parents' Evening (and mock exam results)

4th Apr: Spring Music Concert

11th Apr: Yr 13 Parents' Evening (and pre-public exam results)

15th-26th Apr: EASTER HOLIDAY

15th-18th Apr: Easter School (Yrs 11, 12 & 13)

3rd May: Yr 11 Dinner & Dance

6th May: BANK HOLIDAY

13th May-29th June: GCSE/AS & A2 Exams

27th-31st May: HALF TERM

Dates may be subject to change and if necessary updates will be posted on our website: www.jkhs.org.uk

JOHN KYRLE HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

Charles Dickens'

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (RE-BOOTED!)



Featuring
the music of

THE
BEATLES

Wed 12th Dec til Fri 14th Dec - 7.30pm