

John Kyrle Prospect



Spring 2017



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

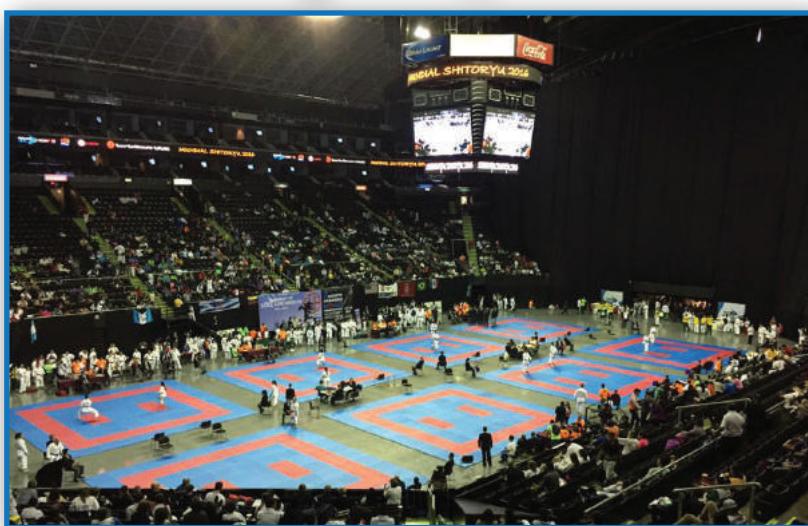
Headteacher: Nigel Griffiths BA (Hons), National Leader of Education, FRSA

KARATE World Championships

In October 2016 I attended the WSKF (World Shotokan Karate Association) World Championships in Monterrey, Mexico, as part of Team England.

This was an extraordinary experience and something I have aspired to do since I started practising the martial art 10 years ago.

Throughout those years, my determination has led to me to receive my black belt, begin to teach classes of my own and now to compete at a world level.



The competition brought together many great athletes from countries such as Russia, Japan, USA, Argentina and many more. Team England came back with a bronze in Team Kata and a bronze in Team Kumite. The collection of great competitors and excellent martial artists have opened my eyes and inspired me to work even harder in the years to come.

As well as competing, we also managed to enjoy the sights and experiences Monterrey had to offer, thoroughly enjoying our stay in Mexico!

Reg Jurkevicius Yr 13





Letter from the Headteacher

Dear All,

Welcome to the latest edition of Prospect showcasing some of the activities in which John Kyrle students and staff have been involved. As you can see, there's been a lot going on! Could I once again take this opportunity to commend local community groups, including sports clubs and other voluntary organisations, for the excellent work they do in providing safe and valuable experiences for our young people.

As I write, it's the end of January and, hopefully, by the time you receive Prospect, the worst of the winter weather will be behind us (Cardiff City will have moved out of the relegation zone in the Championship and Wales will be motoring in the 6-Nations!). To be honest, I'll just settle for good weather.

As part of her continued drive to encourage students to think about their future career path, Mrs Knapper has asked a few of us to deliver assemblies on what encouraged us to teach. We aren't using this as a drive to increase the numbers of teachers - although I have told students if they are thinking of it, it's a great job and they'll be in demand. The aim has been to share our stories. Your sons and daughters can tell you about the frame of reference in my assemblies and my conclusion that, in the final analysis, we are the sum of the decisions we make.

Our job in school is to help pupils make the right choices. We aim to equip them with the attitudes, knowledge, skills, understanding and qualifications to move on to the next stage in their learning and employment. We call it **Happy, Healthy, Successful**. Underpinning it all are excellent students and my committed and hardworking staff. I remain incredibly proud and privileged to lead this school.

We are held to account by many groups. These include governors, the Local Authority, the Department of Education, Ofsted, the Education Funding Agency, politicians both local and national, and the community in which we work. Ultimately, however, the people we answer to are students and parents.

Your children get one shot at secondary education. We want that to be of the highest standard. If anything falls short of this, I know you expect us to address it. Fortunately, this is rare. As you can see from Prospect, our exam results, the new buildings in which we have invested, our continued popularity with our catchment students and those from further afield (and my face constantly in the papers!), we do well. We are not, however, complacent and always strive to improve. Your views are important to us. We will shortly be issuing the bi-ennial **Education Perceptions Monitoring** questionnaire and I will write asking for your support in completing this.





John Kyrle High School

& Sixth Form Centre

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

Ledbury Rd, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 7ET

Tel: (01989) 764358 | Fax: (01989) 565766

Email: admin@jkhs.org.uk | www.jkhs.org.uk

Current parents can also complete the online Parent View questionnaire available via our website. Many thanks to those of you who have already completed this, and also to those who follow us on Twitter. If you haven't signed up for either, please do so.

Mrs Davies has persuaded many of us to appear in another one of her films to promote World Book Day. The group I was in had to work unscripted. I chose the method acting approach. It's about minimalism. This is the style adopted by Steve McQueen and Kevin Costner. I looked a bit like them in the film as well. Apart from in any way whatsoever.

Has everyone got over Brexit and President Trump? We have, but the thing that shook me was the news that I mustn't have my toast so brown now. What's next, I wonder? Seriously, whatever happens in the next few years, I want you to be confident in us and the standards of care and education we offer. Tell us if you think there are areas we can improve and don't feel shy about telling us if you are happy. I'll share it with people - and then take all the credit. You know me, Mr Media Spotlight!

Best Wishes,
Nigel Griffiths

Nigel Griffiths
Headteacher



SPORTING ACTIVITIES

Girls' Football



Girls' football training takes place every Thursday after school. It is a great opportunity to learn new skills, get fit and have fun! We also enjoy competition and this year we have played against Whitecross High School, where the Year 7/8 team won their match 3-0. The Year 9/10 team drew 0-0, but this was a great achievement considering Whitecross had county players in their team.



If you are interested in football, come along on a Thursday or speak to Mrs D'Arcy Nassau for more information - new members of all abilities welcome.

Boys' Hockey

Despite the freezing conditions, probably the coldest temperature this year, the Year 7/8 and Year 10 boys played great games of hockey against John Masefield High School at the end of January.

The older boys were very good at using space and width with accurate passing. They all played extremely well with James Wells leading as a very good captain. Aekudom Abbott was impressive in defence and showed excellent tackling skills. George Aubrey played goal keeper and tried his best, unfortunately the team lost 6-2.

The Year 7/8 team were missing one of their star players which meant they played without subs. This was their first match and they were overwhelmed in the first half. They lost 6-0 but only let two goals during the second half. Ben Phipps-Booy was spectacular in defence.

We look forward to the future development of boy's hockey.



Synagogue Visit

A group of Year 12 students, accompanied by Mr. Phillips and Mr. Wardale, visited Cheltenham Synagogue as part of their A-level Religious Studies in early October.





Swimming Gala

I am very proud of all the competitors that took part in a swimming gala against Cheltenham Ladies' College. Each school can enter two swimmers in each event and points are awarded according to the finishing positions. This year we are lucky to have nine swimmers who belong to the City of Hereford Swimming Club. Phoebe Ruck came first in the 50m breaststroke with a time of 41.34 seconds. Freyer Phelps won the 50m backstroke in 37.29 and Jasmine Holt won both the 25m butterfly in 15.75 and the 50m front crawl in 33.32.

The points were totalled for each age group with JK U12s winning by 1 point and U13s by 4 points. The scores for the relays and the open event meant that we lost the overall event, John Kyrle scoring 81 to Cheltenham Ladies' 91. Many of the swimmers were dropped off at Ross swimming pool to continue training with the squad. I would like to say thank you to Mr John who was a great help on the pool side making sure the swimmers were in the correct lanes before the event.



In the months leading up to Christmas, Years 7 & 8 students were busy decorating shoe boxes and collecting lots of small Christmas present items to fill them. Small, practical items such as toothbrushes and gloves are also added to the boxes which are part of the Operation Christmas Child appeal. Samaritan's Purse have been running this appeal for over 20 years, to provide many less well-off children in developing and war-torn countries some joy at Christmas time.



Thanks to the students' generosity and organisation by school staff, many boxes were prepared and passed on to the collection point in Hereford in order to be sent off to 2016's destinations.

The group spent around an hour learning about both the history and the features of the Synagogue. Although the Synagogue was first opened in 1839 many of the fixtures and fittings are older (dating from around 1760) with the Ark, Bimah and Pews being donated by a London community whose Synagogue was being re-ordered.

A-level RS is a popular option at JKHS; last summer 100% of students achieved A*-B grades in the subject.



Outstanding History Projects



Throughout the Autumn Term, Year 9 have been constructing trench diaries as part of their work on World War One. It has been especially powerful this year, with the centenary of the Battle of the Somme leading to a special focus on that infamous battle.

As always, the Year 9 John Kyrle students treated the topic with respect and reverence and produced some exceptional work.

Alongside their lessons, the students were required to empathise with the soldiers on the Western Front to create a trench diary charting the life of a British or German soldier. Apart from some advice and examples, the students were given a creative licence to take the project in whatever direction they chose. This led to some remarkable work!

Over 200 diaries were submitted, each showing their own flair and individuality. From soldiers being thrilled by the chance of becoming a hero and volunteering in the first few days, to others reluctantly conscripted in the later stages of the war, the students really thrived with the freedom they were given. Not only did they use the knowledge they gained in lessons, but they also completed extensive research outside the classroom.



Many spoke to family members who could give anecdotal and personal stories to enhance the authenticity of their diaries.



Two pupils from 9A particularly stood out for their efforts. Katie Smith and Emily Davies both created pieces of work which required hours of research, an incredible imagination and dedication to the task. I believe these two deserved a special mention due to their commitment to the task and desire to research and investigate the experiences of millions of soldiers. They are already formidable historians and have a bright future in the subject as they both look to continue their studies at GCSE.

This project provoked many emotions for both the students and myself. Many felt proud to remember those who had fallen and sacrificed their lives for others, whilst others felt a degree of sadness for the fate of the character they had created, acknowledging that their fiction was ingrained with reality.

I found myself moved when marking the diaries due to the amount of endeavour and commitment the students showed. I felt that not only did the task improve and enhance their historical skills, but was a fine tribute to the memories of those who had fallen.

Mr Hotchkiss





LIONS INTERNATIONAL

Peace Poster Contest

Every year students in Year 8 take time to reflect on peace among people of the world, and this year was no exception. The Art Department led the year group through a 'Celebration of Peace' project, culminating in an A2 poster illustrating the theme.

For the past two decades John Kyrle Art Department and the Ross-on-Wye Lions Club have worked together to inspire Year 8 students to illustrate their vision of world peace through pictures - no words - no language barrier.

An exhibition of this work was held at the Ross Library throughout January. It included very highly commended and highly commended outcomes, 44 posters in all.

The opening night was attended by many parents and students, school governors, the Ross Lions and the Mayor of Ross, Cllr David Ravenscroft, who wanted to show his support for the creative arts.

The work was outstanding. Colourful images containing all manner of symbols of peace; hands held together, doves, greenery, diversity, unity, the peace sign and love hearts covered the students' work.

First place winner was Lottie Wright whose poster depicted a 'peace of cake' followed in second and third place by Beatrix Attwood and Indiana Sharp. Each was awarded a prize and praised for their outstanding achievement and creativity. All work was of a very high standard and the students did both John Kyrle and their parents proud.

Sean Delahoy thanked the Art Department for all their hard work and outstanding teaching. Head of Art, Miss Kelly Davies, thanked the students for making the judging a difficult task, saying their effort and enthusiasm were to be commended. She thanked the Lions and her department for all their hard work and support.



Winner...
Lottie Wright



Biennial Ski Trip

Wagrain, Austria



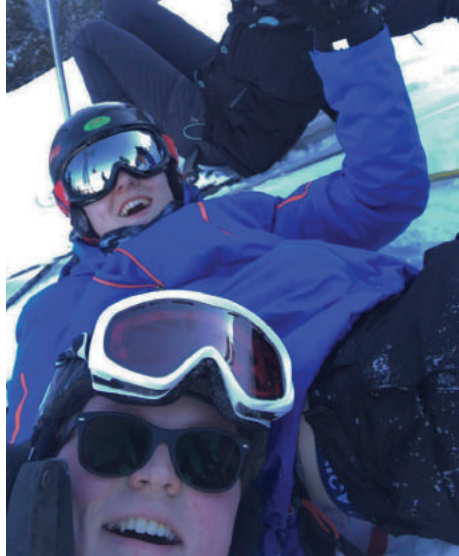
The recent ski trip to Wagrain, Austria, was an unreserved success with 50 students and 7 staff enjoying six days of outstanding skiing and social activities over the Christmas/New Year break.



www.jkhs.org.uk



Good early-season snowfall and constant snow on the first day left the pistes in excellent condition and for the majority of the week the group skied with clear blue skies overhead.



Highlights of the week included;

- * Both beginner groups getting on to the main slopes so early in the week
- * The intermediate and advanced groups getting the opportunity to ski the majority of the resort over the week
- * Good snow and sunshine all week
- * Great entertainment facilities and food at the hotel
- * The ice hockey match in Salzburg
- * The ten-pin bowling night
- * New Year's Eve games and the rendition of Adele's 'Someone Like You'
- * Mr Elias' New Year's Day onesie
- * The excellent ski instructors
- * The daily 'Idiot bunny' and 'Crash jacket' nominations and awards
- * Seeing a different side to the teachers.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Rio Olympic Games

I consider it a huge privilege to have been able to go to Rio De Janeiro and in contrast to a normal 'holiday', I was fortunate enough to witness the world's first-ever South American Olympic Games. Of course, after the spectacular games of London in 2012, Rio had a tough act to follow.

It was thought highly unlikely that an LEDC (low economically developed country) like Brazil, with minimal facilities and a lack of financial support, would be able to compete with Britain's previous games. As melancholy as it makes me to tell you, this proved to be true, demonstrated by a lack of infrastructure around the games' sites and scaffolding over half-finished stadia.

There is a contrast between the image most people have of Rio and the reality. The shameful truth is that it's really not what you may think. Behind the beautiful image of clear-blue ocean and bright-yellow sand of Copacabana, there's something that is never shown, but sadly I saw every day. Looking left from Copacabana out of my window, I saw people carrying cardboard, which I later learned were their beds. I saw people outside the food shops just sitting there with crying children and begging for something to eat. I found it so strange how two different worlds could be so close.

I don't want to contradict the fact that the Olympics in Rio were, by all means, incredible. I just get the sense that the country wasn't in an economic position to hold the world's largest sporting competition. It caused a huge level of protesting throughout the city of Rio, arguing that the money used for the Olympics, could be put to better use.

A shocking fact for you is that 50% of people in Rio de Janeiro do not have access to running water, a rather startling figure really isn't it? Maybe the large sum used for the games could instead have supported the country with major issues affecting its people, such as healthcare.

However, it has to be said, Rio did pull it off. All in all it was a fantastic games. Most of the structures that were built were incredible. In particular, the white water rafting course, which I was lucky enough to go and see, was fantastic. The stadium had a beautiful view overlooking the whole of Diadora, which was where a lot of the events were situated in Brazil.

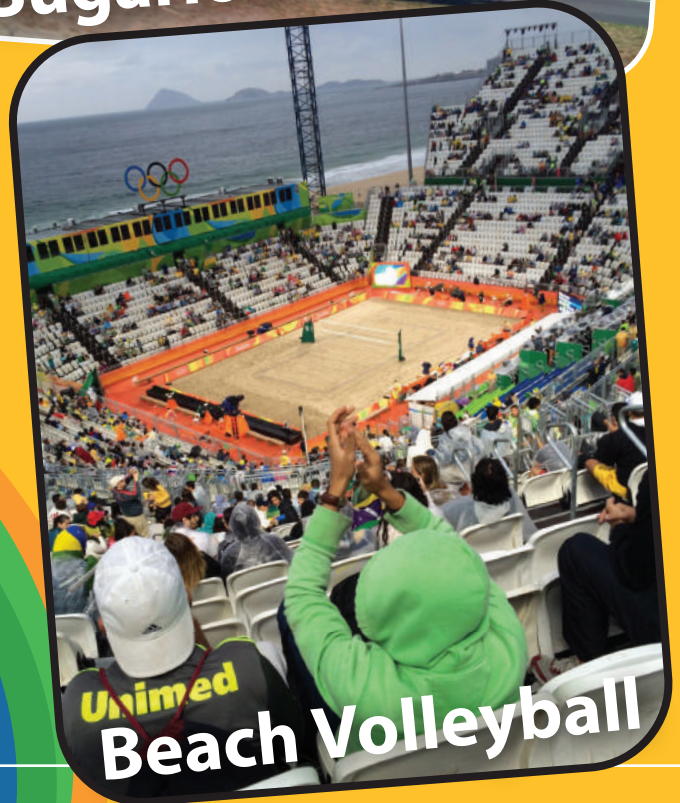
Equestrian Stadium Diadora



Sugarloaf Mountain



Beach Volleyball



NATIONAL CANOE SLALOM UPDATE

A group of JKHS students who attend Wydean Canoe Club have been taking part in canoe slalom in national competitions and have been making rapid progress through the national ranking system. Last March we featured several of these students who had been selected to join the Southern Regional Talent Squad.



Canoe Slalom is not age categorised. All ages have to compete against each other and adults within separate male and female divisions. This is to ensure every competitor reaches the same standard to be allowed to move on to more challenging white water for safety reasons The league system is similar to the football league with a premier division followed by divisions 1 to 4. To reach division 3, athletes need to have gained a good level of competence and fitness. To reach division 2, athletes need to be training regularly (2 to 3 times per week) and be finishing in the top 3 in 5 races. To reach Division 1, athletes need regular training and access to the artificial white water courses built for the Olympics and World Cups at Lee Valley, Cardiff and Holme Pierrepont (HPP).

Name	Div.	Age	Rank in div.	
William Lafford (K1 Men)	1	J16	91st	Started Yr in Div 2. Promoted & now in English Youth Development Squad
Daniel Lafford (K1 Men)	1	J16	106th	Started Yr in Div 2. Promoted & now in English Youth Development Squad
Jacob Burton (K1 Men)	1	J16	135th	Started Yr in Div 3. Promoted & now in English Youth Development Squad
David Mitchell (K1 Men)	2	J14	36th	Now only racing in K1 as has decided to concentrate on C1
David Mitchell (Canadian Single C1)	2	J14	8th	Started Yr in Div 3 & now in English Development Squad
Lydia Lafford	1	J14	54th	Started Yr in bottom of Div 2 and made good progress into Div 1
Felix Newey	3	J12	12th	Making good progress and narrowly missed out on promotion to Div 2

& ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Selaron Steps

This brings me on to travel in Brazil, so different from London. For four of the nine days I was there, I had to catch a number of metro trains (like the underground system we have) to get to Deodora to watch the events. It was not untidy, unhygienic or indeed badly organised. However, I am not a fan of crowds and as you can imagine, there was a huge number of people trying to get on (I'm presuming to watch the events or just to go to work). I found it rather uncomfortable, it's just the way I am I guess.

It's quite the antithesis of Britain in some ways. For example, on the metro, people are so open and willing to talk to you, unlike places like London where people just put their heads down and make no effort to start a conversation with you. In Rio, roughly 90% of people speak good English, whereas here in England most people only speak English and very rarely another language fluently.

Finally, I just want to say what a beautiful country Brazil is, and how much it's trying to progress from the current state that it's in. We, as a nation and individually, can learn so much from Brazil by looking to the future and striving to achieve more. In fact as our school motto states *'Carpe Diem'*:

Through all the poverty, gun crime and violence, there is a light at the end of the tunnel for this amazing country, for *'Tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today'*.

Ralph Verney Yr11



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Choral Scholarship

I have been a member of the choir at St Mary's church, Ross-on-Wye for four years. In September last year I was awarded the first-ever Choral Scholarship at St Mary's. The award, which is worth £480 a year, is intended to be used to offset the cost of music tuition outside the choir. The award is available to those who have passed grade 3 in any instrument and are keen to commit themselves to the choir.

Earlier last year I passed the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) Silver Award, which was formally presented to me at a choir festival in Hereford by the Bishop of Hereford.



Outside the choir, I take singing lessons with Yasmine Hazelle and have recently taken the ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) grade 4 exam.

Cameron Hill Yr 10

Fundraising

Year 11 students, Thomas Gwynne, Ralph Verney and Charlie Moore, recently volunteered to have their heads shaved as part of Macmillan Cancer Support's 'Brave the Shave' fundraising campaign, each for their own personal reasons.

Macmillan help people living with cancer, and their families receive essential medical, practical and emotional support.

BRAVE THE SHAVE



Ryan-Luke Davies, Year 10, is a member of Ross Cadets and hopes to following in his Grandfather's and Great Uncle's footsteps by joining the Royal Marines. His uncle, a WW2 veteran and Legion d'honneur recipient, sadly died last July from prostate cancer, aged 93. Ryan decided to raise money in his uncle's memory and his sponsorship for Macmillan Cancer Support has totalled an amazing £1500!

Golf Champion

At the end of September, Year 9 student, Abbie Bishop, competed in the British Schools Golf Championships and was crowned the British Schools Ladies Junior Nett Champion. She gained a gross 83, nett 57 medal score to take the title and reduce her handicap to 24.



Abbie plays for Ross-on-Wye golf club where head professional, Tim Hall, said; *"her dedicated and committed attitude to skills practice, as she strives to become the best that she can, reflects so well on her personally"*.

She took up the sport aged 7, has already gained recognition through her selection for county training within the Gloucestershire Ladies' County Golf Association; winning Under-14 best nett in the county Championships and in their Junior Olympics Open.



Work Experience

I'm Rose Brennan, a 14-year-old student in Year 10. I recently spent time at Salisbury Museum in Wiltshire doing work experience and it was absolutely amazing! I had hoped to go there for work experience, and I was overjoyed when the e-mail came through from the museum, saying that I was able to come.



I stayed with my amazing Gran all week, and I'm quite surprised that she managed to put up with my endless jabbering about history and Star Wars and what I had done that day.

"Herefordshire? Wow, what a long way!" was a phrase that I heard nearly every day, although I never tired of it. In fact, it caused a rather funny coincidence – the 'Salisbury from the Meadows' artwork by Constable was visiting and had just been to Wales!

During my time there I helped with two awesome school groups who learned about the Stone Age and the Saxons; archived some objects; shadowed an exhibition steward and an engagement volunteer; catalogued some costumes; helped with the outreach programme and conducted gallery observations. Everything that I did was really enjoyable, and I loved doing it!

Everyone who worked with me was really kind and treated me with a lot of respect! I didn't feel like a nerdy teenager who's awful at maths and has no common sense – they made me feel like someone with responsibility, whom others were trusting with work. I'm definitely going back next Summer!

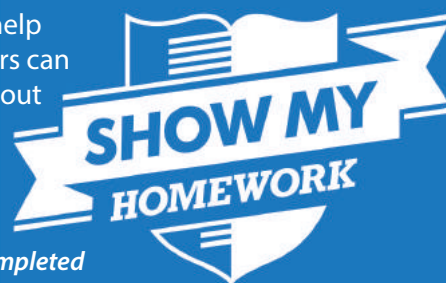
I'd like to thank Mrs Knapper for getting me organised and communicating with the museum, and to Mrs Gooch for writing my reference!

SHOW MY HOMEWORK

We are excited to have launched Show My Homework in school; an online tool to help staff, students, parents and carers keep track of homework. By using SMHW teachers can ensure that students and parents/carers always have the information they need about homework, available via the web, mobile and tablet devices.

Show my Homework has great benefits for students:

- *view homework due on a to-do list and stay organised by marking off tasks as they are completed*
- *receive automated reminders before homework is due*
- *it's accessible 24/7, with a useful free app available for iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch and Android*



It's even possible to view homework without needing to log in! However, for students to fully access their account, they will only need their school email details.

Parents are able to create a parent account ready-linked to all childrens' homework calendars, and have received a letter with instructions for setting up an account in the Autumn term.

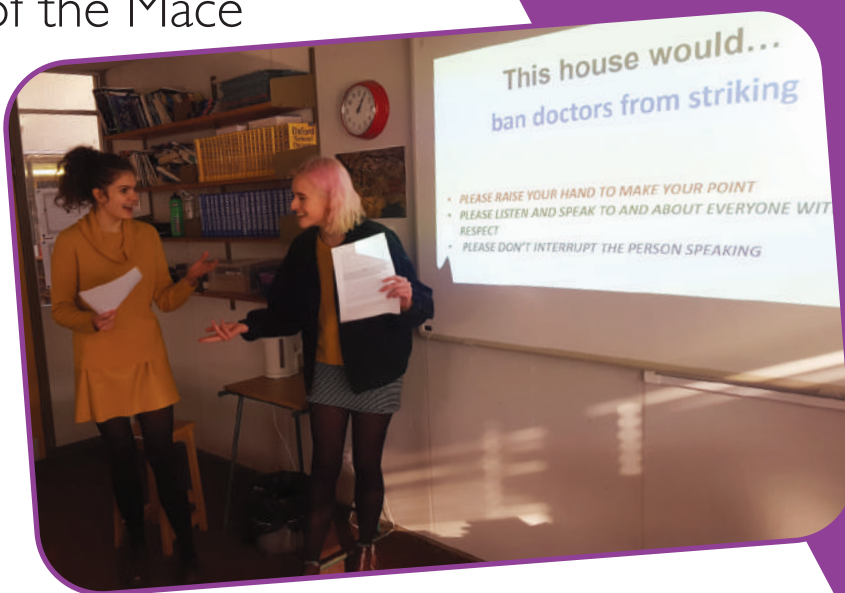
The Show My Homework brand was launched 5 years ago, and it has grown enormously (1500 schools in 23 countries use the software every day) and has evolved multiple products and services.

SMHW has been well received within the school, by students and staff alike, and we are sure it will continue to be an asset for the school community as a whole.

Success in the first round of the Mace

'the only way to learn it, is to do it.'

The other teams were also very good: two boys represented Fairfield and bravely argued against the students from Hereford Cathedral on the subject of footballers' wages. It was discovered afterwards that they were only in Y9 - a tremendous achievement to debate in such a competitive environment!



The subject of the next round, hosted by Malvern St James, was ***'This house would ban doctors from striking'***. Nina & Alice opposed the motion, presenting to JKHS staff and governors first to provide a pressured environment to practise in; they won the round and go through to the regional finals!



Join the debate...

JKHS sixth formers continue to meet every Tuesday in the English Department to discuss topical events and issues. Some of the more-popular debates this year have been *'Trump can unite a divided America'*, *'The UK should have a points-based immigration system'* and *'The voting age should be cut off at 85'*, amongst many others. While sixth formers run and advertise the debate club, via posters and social media, they are keen to attract younger members with a lively interest in current affairs.

Any interested parties from Years 10 and 11 are welcome to come up to rm 26 on Tuesday lunchtimes.



Hereteach

Exceptional Education

Get into Teaching with School Direct

School Direct is a school based training programme with the Hereteach Alliance of schools. John Kyrle High School is a partner school with the Alliance and has trained many Herefordshire teachers in the past, some of whom have become permanent members of staff at JKHS. (www.hereteach.org.uk/school-direct)

Why train with us?

“...from the first day you are welcomed and introduced into the school and begin to feel like a part of the school as a teacher and not a trainee.”

School Direct Trainee 2015

We promise:

- * A guaranteed job interview at the end of the course should a post become available in any partner school across the Alliance
- * A variety of teaching experiences utilising a range of high quality schools (primary, 11-16, 11-18, urban and rural contexts)
- * A wide range of subject specialisms
- * High employability and retention rates with teachers remaining in the profession
- * Unique experience within a Special School Setting and a Post-16 Setting
- * Strong professional school-to-school relationships enabling support throughout training and into your NQT role
- * Outstanding Lead School (three consecutive inspections)
- * Engaged, motivated students and low exclusion rates
- * Envious location including beautiful rural surroundings with market towns and vibrant city centres
- * Long established, positive relationship with University of Worcester (www.worcester.ac.uk)



Hereteach Alliance, Wigmore School, Ford Street, Wigmore, HR6 9UW

Tel: 01568 770323 email: teachingschool@wigmore.hereford.sch.uk
www.hereteach.org.uk

Diary Dates 2017

23rd Feb: Yr9 Options Evening (6-8pm)

8th-12th Mar: Yr 12 Geology Field Trip

9th Mar: Yr 13 Parents' Evening

10th Mar: JKHS World Book Day
Yr10 Reports to parents

16th Mar: Yr10 Parents' Evening

17th Mar: Yr11 Interim Reports to Parents

20th-24th Mar: Yr13 Pre-public Exams (tbc)

1st-6th Apr: Yr12 Biology Field Course

7th Apr: Yr12 Reports to Parents

10th-21st Apr: EASTER HOLIDAY

10th-13th Apr: EASTER SCHOOL
(Yrs 11, 12 & 13)

1st May: May Day Bank Holiday

12th May: Yr11 Prom (tbc)

15th May-29th June: GCSE/AS & A2 Exams

29th May-2nd June: Half Term

9th June: Yr9 Interim Reports to Parents

19th-30th June: Yr10 Exams

29th June: New Yr7 Induction Day (& Parents' Evening)

30th June: Yr13 Leavers' Dinner

3rd & 4th July: New Yr12 Induction Day

6th July: Art & Tech Exhibitions

7th July: Sports Day
Yr8 Reports to Parents

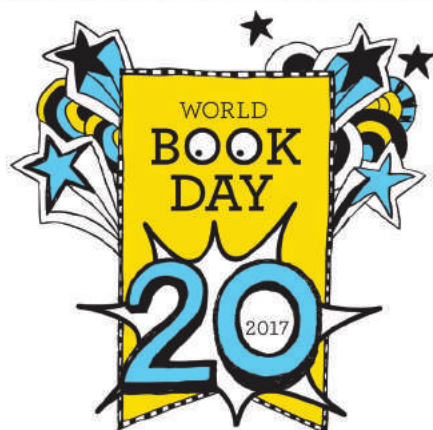
13th July: Yr12 UCAS Evening (tbc)

21st July: Yr7 Reports to Parents
Yr10 Interim Reports to Parents
Term ends for Summer Holidays

17th Aug: AS/A2 Results Day

24th Aug: GCSE Results Day

*Dates may be subject to change.
Please see the school calendar on our website:
www.jkhs.org.uk/news/calendar, for further details.*



*JKHS celebrates
World Book Day
on Friday 10th March 2017
more details to follow...*



*Start thinking about
your costume!!*

**DO
SOMETHING
BOOKY**