



@KMSchool

Kirkburton Middle School



# KIRKBURTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020



### Word from the Head

It was with great excitement that I wrote in the school newsletter for the first time as Headteacher at the end of last half-term. Closing with the words 'I can't wait to see what the next six weeks bring', I don't think anybody could have imagined how different things would be at the end of this half-term. When I found out the school would be without heating for nearly a fortnight in February I didn't think things could get much worse, we know they did. As the coronavirus outbreak turned into a pandemic we saw school trips abroad cancelled, extra-curricular activities suspended and then finally the full closure of the school. Whilst this has most definitely been one of the most challenging periods of my career to date, something I'm sure I have in common with many people across the country regardless of their profession, there have also been many highlights to celebrate. It has been a real privilege watching an organisation and community pull together in a time of great adversity in order to ensure everybody is well looked after and nobody is forgotten. The school staff have been fantastic and every one of them has regularly gone the 'extra mile' in order to ensure pupils feel safe, secure and happy in their learning- always thinking of others before themselves. It was humbling to see how many of them came forward volunteering to work during their Easter break in order to run our critical worker emergency childcare club. Our pupils have also been a real credit to the school and their families, stoically dealing with the challenges the term has thrown at them and always maintaining a calm and focused approach to their learning. We have also been extremely grateful for the ongoing support of parents and the wider community. The African proverb says 'it takes a village to raise a child' and we have most certainly seen this in action during these difficult times.

Despite only being in school for four weeks, we have accomplished a great deal this half-term. The highlight for me was the Kirkburton Middle School Sport Relief Cycle Challenge where, as a school, we cycled a grand total of 818 miles in four days. It was great to see everybody get involved; pupils, staff, parents and visitors, all helping to raise money for a good cause. On the music front, there have been many reasons to celebrate. Well done to all those who achieved success in graded examinations and also to those who showed great courage to put themselves forward and compete in external competitions. Although sporting opportunities have been rather limited this half-term, with a number of events being cancelled, our pupils put on a great showing at the West Yorkshire Schools cross country finals in Leeds.

In school, we have continued to focus on ensuring all pupils display the very highest levels of behaviour, both within and outside of the classroom, on a daily basis. In order to reduce time lost moving between lessons, pupils now carry their bags around school with them. Early indications are that this is having the desired effect. We have also moved our afternoon classtime from the end of the day and this now takes place immediately after lunch. Whilst we had to cancel a number of the curriculum enrichment trips that we had planned for the end of term, Year 7 pupils found out more about of the television industry works during a talk given by a Grandparent who is a TV scriptwriter and director.

Can I once again thank everybody for all their support this term and I wish all those connected with the school a very Happy Easter. There is no expectation for pupils to complete school work over Easter however we may set some optional challenges/ projects to both pupils and parents busy. We all very much look forward to see everybody on our return to school whenever that may be. Best wishes, Mr Taylor.

### Staffing update

We are delighted to announce that Miss Charlesworth gave birth to Ezra Henry on 14<sup>th</sup> March – both doing well. I'm sure parents and the wider community would like to join us in passing on our best wishes. Some happy news during these difficult times. We recently said goodbye to Mrs Dignan who has been teaching girls PE this half-term. We are extremely grateful to Cherie for her service to the school. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Kerr (Assistant Headteacher) and Mrs Joyce (Head of PE) to the school after Easter and we hope it's not too long until they can enjoy their first days inside the school building.

### **OFSTED Update**

We are still awaiting our first monitoring visit from OFSTED following the full inspection back in October. In the meantime, representatives from the Mast Academy Trust have met with the Regional Schools Commissioner on two different occasions in order to outline the current improvement plans for the school and to discuss all the actions taken to date. The feedback received have been positive and we are confident the school is on track to make the necessary improvements needed. Whilst we must ensure our OFSTED rating improves, our key focus in on ensuring every child who attends Kirkburton Middle School feels safe, they are happy and they achieve the very best possible educational outcomes. If we meet the very high standards we set ourselves as a school, a successful OFSTED inspection should hopefully be a formality. Specific actions this half-term have included-

- Mini subject inspections across the school
- External support for subject leaders from a school improvement partner
- Governor training
- Our first parents' forum meeting
- Ongoing careers work including a trip to Huddersfield New College for all Year 8 pupils

### **Groupcall Xpressions App**

In order to save money resulting from ever increasing SMS text messaging charges, we will soon be launching the Groupcall Xpressions app in school. The Xpressions app allows us to send instant messages to parents for free and works in a similar way to Whatsapp and other online messaging services. We are currently piloting the app with our parent forum group and hope to roll this out to the full parent group in the very near future. We will send a letter out with further details once we've completed the parents' forum trial.

### **Parents' forum**

We recently held our first KMS parents' forum. There was a great deal of constructive discussion and ideas about how we can work together to move the school forward. Topics included; rewards, behaviour, extra-curricular activities, home-school communication, information for new parents and much, much more. Thank you to all those who supported with the event and we look forward to our future meetings. Please contact school if you would like to be involved.

### **Parent Pay**

Thank you for your patience regarding refunds via Parent Pay – the finance department are currently working closely to claim via insurance and then refunds will be processed. Many thanks.

### **Accelerated Reader**

We are delighted to welcome more Accelerated Reader Millionaires. A huge congratulations to the following pupils who have read over a million words-no easy feat! Well done, Accelerated Reader Millionaires!

There are many other students who are very close to hitting this mark- so keep going, KMS.

Jasmine - 4,215,089  
Summer W- 3,397,161  
Amelia B - 2,579,781  
James W - 2,115,951  
Monty B - 1,851,514  
Arjun M - 1,441,276  
Ryan L - 1,363,622  
Georgia M - 1,211,200  
Joseph B - 1,053,965  
Maisie P -1,046,379  
Ben R - 1,039,755  
Ava M - 1,019,458

### **Maths Department**

I hope you are well and enjoying some of the time off, being with your family and the fantastic weather too! Of course, doing some of that school work too! Remember, we are likely going to be off for a while and, although there will be more work set, you don't have to rush it all to be done straight away.

Try do as much as you can by yourselves, don't stress your parents too much! Remember you normally have four maths lessons and one homework a week, and some of that would be the teacher talking, so don't spend hours everyday on it! If something good comes of this horrible situation, it could be that you become a lot more independent and resilient at working by yourself!

Take care, stay well, keep your mind and body fit!"

## Maths Easter Enrichment Year 8

Watch a 'Maths' Film.

Here are a few possibilities:

1. A Beautiful Mind (PG)
2. The Man who knew Infinity (PG)
3. Queen of Katwe (PG)
4. Moneyball (PG)
5. Stand and Deliver (PG)
6. The Martian (PG)
7. October Sky (PG)
8. Hidden Figures (PG)

### 1. A Beautiful Mind

After John Nash, a brilliant but anti-social mathematician, accepts secret work in cryptography, his life takes a turn for the nightmarish.

### 2. The Man Who Knew Infinity

The story of the life and academic career of the pioneer Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan, and his friendship with his mentor, Professor G.H. Hardy.

### 3. Queen of Katwe

A Ugandan girl sees her world rapidly change after being introduced to the game of chess.

### 4. Moneyball

Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane's successful attempt to assemble a baseball team on a lean budget by employing computer-generated analysis to acquire new players.

### 5. Stand and Deliver

Jaime Escalante is a mathematics teacher in a school in a Hispanic neighbourhood. Convinced that his students have potential, he adopts unconventional teaching methods to help gang members and no-hopers pass the rigorous Advanced Placement exam in calculus.

### 6. The Martian

An astronaut becomes stranded on Mars after his team assume him dead, and must rely on his ingenuity to find a way to signal to Earth that he is alive.

### 7. October Sky

The true story of Homer Hickam, a coal miner's son who was inspired by the first Sputnik launch to take up rocketry against his father's wishes.

### 8. Hidden Figures

The story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program.

## **Maths Easter Enrichment for ALL**

During the Easter break we are asking pupils to make/bake something nice for the people they live with. It can be based on an Easter theme or just to be great fun. It is an ideal opportunity for the pupils to apply their mathematical skills of measurement, reading scales, proportion and ratio, as well as their creative and scientific skills. They could make a cake, biscuits, and buns or use their imagination to make something else. You and your child/ren can bake together or they can work independently (as long as they remember to wash up and wash hands!)

Please upload photos of your amazing efforts to twitter or email the school office so we can all share your masterpieces. Good luck!

The Maths Team.

## **PE**

With only having had four weeks of school since the last newsletter was published, there hasn't been too much chance to fit in as much sport as we'd have liked to have done at Kirkburton Middle School since then. Add to this the bad weather, which seemed to continue into the first few weeks after February half-term, and of course, the recent coronavirus pandemic, and unfortunately sporting opportunities have been uncharacteristically limited.

One event that did take place was the Strictly Pennine Dance Festival at Lawrence Batley Theatre on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February. The girls represented KMS fantastically well and put on a superb display. Their behaviour was impeccable and they should be immensely proud of themselves. Well done girls and thank you to Miss Austin for choreographing the performance and coordinating the evening.

Following an extremely wet week or so, the West Yorkshire Cross Country Finals at Temple Newsam had to be pushed back seven days to Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, due to poor ground conditions. Both the boys' and girls' year 6 teams performed impressively on heavy terrain and put in determined runs for the school.

The year 7 boys' football team drew 1-1 against Salendine Nook on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Despite going 1-0 down within the first minute, they rallied to dominate the game, in particular the second half, creating numerous chances. Unfortunately, the opposition goalkeeper was in inspiring form and they couldn't convert one of the opportunities to find a winner.

Other events to fall victim to coronavirus concerns were the West Yorkshire sports-hall athletics finals (due to take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at Huddersfield Leisure Centre, to which we were taking both a boys' and a girls' team for all three year groups), several year 7 football matches and a year 6 Mini-League football tournament. We hope we will have the opportunity to fulfil these commitments in the future, but as much as we love sport at Kirkburton Middle, everyone's health and safety is paramount and comes before anything.

We hope you are all well and staying indoors as much as possible- don't forget to incorporate at least 30 minutes of exercise into your daily routines!

## **Science**

British Science Week took place 9-13th March and was a fantastic success! There were activities for the students to take part in at lunchtimes and lots of interesting displays to see. On Monday was Biology; we looked at lots of samples under the microscopes and got our hands on some bones and x-ray pictures. Wednesday we concentrated on Chemistry and some exciting reactions including making Elephant's Toothpaste and reacting Coke with Mentos in the garden. Friday saw us thinking about Physics; we saw how convection currents can make tissue paper float and looked at different models of paper airplanes and how it affected their flight. Students also ran a fossil display at Pupil Reception throughout the week.

Thank you to all those that took part and particularly to those who helped with the activities!

## Music Success

Mrs Sunderland Music Festival News and Success

Congratulations and Well Done to:

Georgia P (Year 7) who took part in the Mrs Sunderland Music Festival in the Disney section for the Vocal solo, singing 'Colours in The Wind' from Pocahontas. Georgia was awarded THIRD place.

Mabel B (Year 6) who took part in the vocal solo class singing a song called 'London Birds' and received some very positive, encouraging comments and feedback from the adjudicator. Well done Mabel.

Ruby M (Year 8) who took part in the Vocal solo class singing 'Almost There' from 'The Princess and the Frog'. 'You captured the bluesy style very well; this suited your voice well. Good rhythmic sense and good attack. Good physical energy too. A confident and assured performance. Well done, Ruby'. (Adjudicators remarks)

Ruby also took part in the Piano solo class. 'You understood the mood and style well and there was good attention to the detail. A very good account of the piece. (Adjudicators remarks)

Poppy F who took part in the vocal solo class, singing 'In my own little corner' from Cinderella. 'A very charming performance, diction was good and communication of the sense was impressive. Pitch was very secure'. (Adjudicators remarks)

Melissa M in Year 7 who took part in the Mrs Sunderland Music Festival singing with Honley Girls Choir. They sang two songs, 'Sing' and 'Some things are meant to be'. They were awarded SECOND place. Well done, Melissa.



## Music Exam Success

Congratulations and well done to:

Jessica W (8E) passed her Grade 2 Piano exam with MERIT.

Ava M (year 7) who passed her grade 2 Piano exam with DISTINCTION

Michael G Y7 passed his Piano Grade 1 with DISTINCTION.

Dan J Yr7 passed his Grade 4 Bass Guitar with MERIT.

Ruby Mc (Year 8) passed her Grade 4 Piano exam with DISTINCTION.

Emma W (Year 7) passed her grade 2 singing exam with MERIT.

Stanley M who passed his Grade 3 Trombone exam with DISTINCTION.

Finlay Dickson (Year 8) passed his Grade 3 RSL Level 1 Award in Popular Music Performance on the Drums with MERIT.

## Music

I hope you are keeping safe and well and managing to organise your day with your home schooling.

Just a message to say, remember to set aside time for daily instrumental/vocal practice. Tweet some of your performances on the school website, if you get chance. Miss Kaye

Music Update: From Mr Kingham (Musica Area Manager, Shelley). Pupils who have instrumental/Vocal lessons - check out the Musica Kirklees youtube channel where you will find lots of tutorial videos for you to use at home.

Here is a link to the launch video. [https://youtu.be/c\\_5PO5kN5F0](https://youtu.be/c_5PO5kN5F0)

Preview YouTube video Musica Kirklees launches series of tutorial videos for pupils to use in their practice at home



Just a message to members of the teaching group who have singing lessons and/or instrumental lessons, remember to set aside time for daily instrumental/vocal practice. Tweet some of your performances on the school website, if you get chance.

## Careers

Our year 8 students have visited Huddersfield New College and were taken around by students of the college to see their super facilities such as a professional drama studio and an amazing sports centre. The teachers welcomed our students into the classrooms and invited them to ask questions and have a really good look around. The feedback from the staff that went was mainly positive unfortunately one group had a shortened trip due to the coach – apologies for that mix up.

During National Careers Week our teachers put up posters to let the students know all their previous jobs. I bet there were some surprised faces when they learned their new Head Teacher had once been a lettuce picker. The students also worked with their subject teachers on Careers in the Curriculum for the starts of most of their lessons.

The students have had some informative assemblies on our local labour market (where the good jobs are) and what Apprenticeships are all about.

Finally, at the start of the term, our KS3 students met with Judge David Dixon, who visited from Sheffield Crown Court. Judge Dixon spoke to the students about a career in Law, answering many questions the children had. A few lucky students also got the opportunity to try on the clothing worn by a Judge! Judge Dixon spoke to the children about justice and types of crime. He spoke in detail about knife crime, reminding students of the consequences involved.

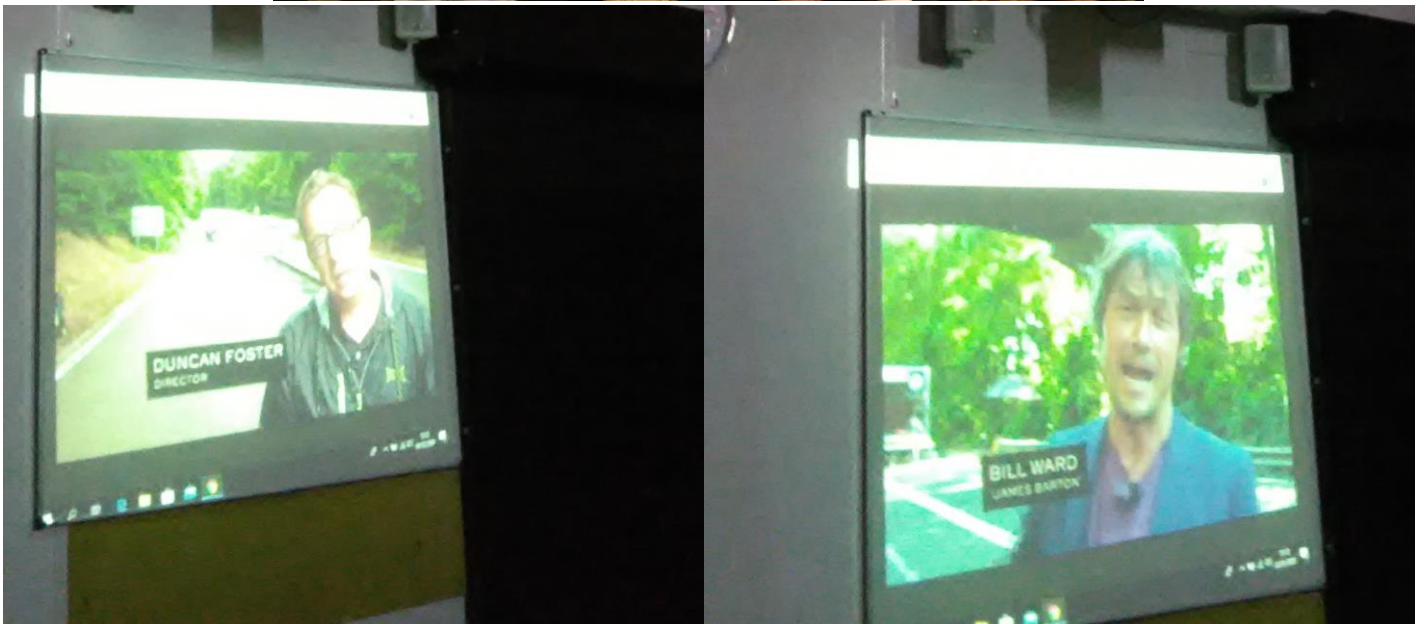
We have lots more planned for next year.

## English department

Whilst studying *Midsummer Night's Dream*, students were able to improvise, explore and act out key scenes from Shakespeare's comedy, students then received an opportunity to see how this fits in with the world of work. This time, it was the world of media and entertainment. Duncan Foster who works for ITV and has served as a director/scriptwriter for iconic programmes like *Coronation Street*, *Benidorm* and *Emmerdale* gave students exclusive access to his showreels, behind the scenes footage, professional scripts and interviews with actors.

Many students found the session very informative, interesting and were amazed with how reel or real the scenes looked! They would definitely recommend this experience to other students. Duncan also held a question and answer session with the students at the end of his visit. Students quizzed him on his background, his favourite moments and his salary- of course!

As a school, we were very lucky to have him in school. We thank him for his time, dedication and giving the students this amazing opportunity.



## Log in information

### Class charts

Parent log in

<https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>

Parent guide

[https://pages.classcharts.com/wp-content/uploads/Class\\_Charts\\_for\\_parents\\_guide.pdf](https://pages.classcharts.com/wp-content/uploads/Class_Charts_for_parents_guide.pdf)

Full school homework calendar

All pupils should have a code to allow them to access Classcharts for homework, or for work for those pupils who are self-isolating.

If you are not able to access your Classcharts, you can still access the work from the school homework calendar, via the link below.

[https://www.classcharts.com/homework/calendar/Kirkburton\\_Middle\\_School](https://www.classcharts.com/homework/calendar/Kirkburton_Middle_School)

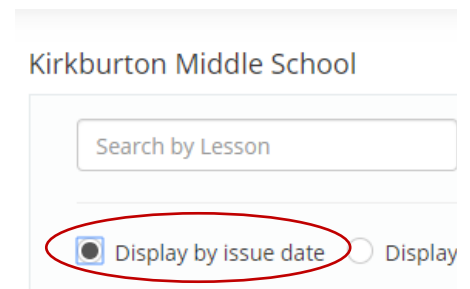
When the homework calendar comes up, click “Display by issue date”

This will show the work that has been set this week.

Use the PREVIOUS and NEXT buttons to check other weeks.

As the calendar shows all homework for the school, it is useful to filter them using the white boxes at the top.

E.g. in the “Year” putting 6 would show only Year 6 work.



Kirkburton Middle School

Search by Lesson

Display by issue date  Display

Kirkburton Middle School



Search by Lesson

Search by Subject

Search by Teacher

School website school closure information page

[https://www.kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk/?page\\_id=343679](https://www.kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk/?page_id=343679)

How to contact staff

[www.kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk/?page\\_id=9833](http://www.kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk/?page_id=9833)

Full staff list

[www.kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk/?page\\_id=16](http://www.kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk/?page_id=16)



## Coronavirus Explained

### Children's guide to coronavirus

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-guide-to-coronavirus/>

### Coronavirus explained for young children

- 1- <http://www.millfields.hackney.sch.uk/uploads/2019/Corona%20Virus%20Info%20for%20Young%20Children.pdf.pdf>
- 2- <https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Story-about-Coronavirus.pdf>
- 3- <https://hes-extraordinary.com/teach-kids-about-coronavirus?fbclid=IwAR0wBrFK1CFGVR1wDann0pfXC8k6Df5qzGXeY4zU9qR4RzFA1XiD74KjSxw>

### Coronavirus explained using images and Makaton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OS8vbjr2-Q&feature=youtu.be>

## Coronavirus and Well-Being

### Well-Being - children

Government advice on supporting children and young people.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

During this time, many of us may be experiencing a range of emotions. To support young people with this, Young Minds have released this information:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/>

### Well-Being - adult

As adults, it is also important for us to take care of ourselves. This website may be useful:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

You may also find information on the following website particularly useful. The Young Minds A-Z covers a wide-range of areas including anxiety, anger, gender identity, divorce, self-esteem and much more. It is available on our website or via the direct link below:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/>

Please note there is also a Parent Contact section that includes a telephone number as well as contact form:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/contact-us/>

### Looking after your mental health

- 1- <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak>
- 2- [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51873799?fbclid=IwAR1MZL-PMjPq3i5MMCHX\\_IB0l-vFuiX8Cx\\_3xPFTLD-bSgtooOo1-0axz-l](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51873799?fbclid=IwAR1MZL-PMjPq3i5MMCHX_IB0l-vFuiX8Cx_3xPFTLD-bSgtooOo1-0axz-l)

## Online safety

Whilst away from school, many pupils will be spending more time online. We will continue to share online safety messages and tips via our Twitter feed and Facebook page. Further information and support can also be found via the links below.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Sadly, the online fraudsters have spotted an opportunity with the current coronavirus situation. Please use the link below to find out more about the scams that have been identified so far.

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/swgfl-cyber-security-advice-during-coronavirus/>

*Goodbyes*

are not forever,  
are not the end;  
it simply means

*I'll miss you*

until we meet again.