

Key Stage 3 News Letter – January 2019

Pupils in Key Stage 3 have come back to school in the New Year with extremely positive and growth mind-sets. They have fully absorbed themselves into lessons and have embraced the opportunities offered to them by our KASE curriculum.

In Learning for Life lessons, pupils are focussing on the very important topic of Mental Health. They have had access to fabulous learning materials including: What is mental health; managing feelings; being resilient and reaching out for support. We value all pupils' contributions in these sessions.



Inspirational Speaker

Year 8 girls received an inspirational talk from Lyndsey Cole around issues of mental health and channelling negative energy in to something positive. Lynsey has been on many adventures; she is a cold-water swimmer, adventurer, environmentalist, writer and a speaker. Our girls learned how to be positive in challenging situations.



The Hara

Key Stage 3 started the week with a performance from the band 'The Hara'. Pupils enjoyed their music and many got up to dance! The band members also talked to our students about the importance of them being themselves and not changing due to the comments of others. Again, many of our pupils were inspired.



Peter Pan – Trip to Birmingham Hippodrome

On Friday 26th January, pupils from Year 7 went to see Peter Pan. It was a truly traditional pantomime with something for everyone! Particular favourites from the performance were a giant flossing dog and the Timbuktu Tumblers who performed daring stunts with a variety of apparatus! Our pupils were extremely well behaved and a credit to the school. Well done all!



Clubs

We are pleased to announce another addition to our extensive choice of clubs for pupils – Bouldering Club for KS3. Instruction on rock climbing will be given to our pupils and a chance to use our fabulous indoor rock-climbing wall.

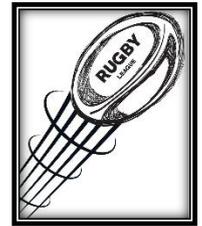


A Student Police Community Group has started at Ipsley. Eight Year 8 students, who are also Student Safeguarders, attend the group and are currently finding out about key issues relevant to them now. This is a unique opportunity for pupils to work with the Police and have a student voice on issues that are important to them.

PE

Boys are working hard to improve their basketball skills; girls are working on their hockey. All pupils are learning on how to improve their fitness. A particular pupil favourite is seeing how far they can row on our rowing machines!

Netball and Hockey Clubs are running on Mondays. Ruby sessions held by a **Redditch Rugby Club** coach are taking place on Wednesdays. Basketball Club runs on Wednesday lunchtimes; Year 8 basketball matches are being played on Wednesday and Thursdays after school.



English

In Year 7 English pupils have continued to study Shackleton's expedition to Antarctica on the Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition. Pupils have researched crewmembers and written logs assuming the role of their chosen crew-member.



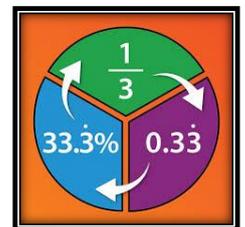
Pupils were very excited to hear the news that there is currently a team attempting to reach the boat, Endurance, where it was lost during the expedition. This information was very timely as the pupils were writing creatively about being stuck in the ice of the Weddell Sea.

Year 8 pupils are looking at writing to persuade and argue. Pupils have chosen an item from a scooter, a bike, climbing shoes and ski equipment and have written advertisements for eBay. Pupils were then asked to sell their chosen items to other members of the class. Next, pupils will be joining Lord Alan Sugar in an Apprentice Style challenge. Each week the groups will be set a challenge and they will have to produce TV advertisements, persuasive speeches and campaigns that match the task and purpose.



Maths

Year 7 pupils are looking at the topic of fractions, decimals and Percentages. They have been exploring the relationship between these aspects of maths.



Year 8 students are studying the topic of Algebra and have been substituting into expressions, solving equations but also forming equations from worded problems.

Music

Year 7 pupils have started learning about **Blues** music and are taking full advantage of our brand new class set of guitars! Year 8 students are also benefiting from our new guitars, and are learning about **Reggae** music. We are learning **Three Little Birds** as an ensemble.



In extra-curricular music activities our **House Band** is preparing for an exciting opportunity to visit a recording studio by learning a short repertoire of rock and pop songs. Ukulele club has been buzzing recently and we've had some of our KS3 pupils being mentors for the KS2 ukulele club! Members of our **Performance Troupe** are starting their preparations for Pyramid Concert with this year's theme of 'Celebration'.

This is just a snap shot of what is going on in Key Stage 3. We look forward to writing our next news -letter very soon.