



Another busy fortnight...

It has been another busy fortnight here at Kelmscott school, I can't believe that half term is here already. **The past two weeks has seen two exciting partnerships develop** with businesses we have been having tentative conversations with.

The first partnership is with 6KBW College Hill barristers in the city. Mohsin Zaidi who is a former student of Kelmscott school and one of our associate governors is very keen to partner with us. Mohsin came to the school last week and delivered a workshop to a lucky group of Year 9 and Year 10 students who were given advice on delivering a speech and public speaking in general. Students performed their speeches twice, receiving feedback after the first speech; their second speeches had improved considerably and all of the students enjoyed the workshop very much.

The second partnership we are developing is with an international firm called TransferWise. They are based in Shoreditch and are a global company that are looking to make transferring money across the globe something that is free for all of us. They came to speak at a Year 9 assembly to talk about technology computing and coding. Year 9 who are about to choose their GCSE options found this very informative and interesting. **TransferWise also launched a competition on the day to win a brand new laptop.** Students have been asked to pitch ideas on a topic decided by TransferWise, the best three students will be chosen and taken to the TransferWise offices to present to TransferWise and Kelmscott staff in order to win the laptop. **TransferWise were also kind enough to donate some MacBook Pros to us, as a school we are very grateful for their support.**

Both 6KBW College Hill barristers and TransferWise are very keen to provide some business mentoring for our students too. Plans are afoot for a pilot business mentoring scheme to begin after the Easter holidays with a small group of Year 10 students, we then hope to be able to roll this out to the current Year 9 later on this school year. Students will meet with their business mentors both here and at the mentor's place of work, the mentor will advise the student on all aspects of their student life and give the students the benefit of their experience.

Very exciting news to report is that Kelmscott is expanding. The local authority are very pleased with the progress the school has made this year and as a result of high demand, 30 extra students will be beginning in Year 7 in September of this year. **In order to be able to cope with the increased number of students, a new activity studio is being built at the front of school, and a number of classrooms are being refurbished.** Work begins just after the February half term and is due to be completed in time for the start of the new school year in September.

Last week we also received confirmation from Year 6 families of their choice of secondary school. **Kelmscott had the largest improvement, in terms of numbers, of any school in the local authority;** over 300 families chose Kelmscott as their first, second or third choice. **This is a great increase on the numbers in previous years, testament to the fact that the local community believes Kelmscott to be an excellent school to send their sons and daughters to.**

Last week was also Year 11 Parents Evening; many thanks to all the families who took time out of their day to attend. Students and families now have a really good idea of what Year 11 students need to do to maximise their chances in the GCSE exams this summer. Sticking with Year 11, **the Art exam took place last week; it was wonderful to see the creative talents of our students on the day, I am always highly impressed with the quality of work that they produce.**

I was lucky enough to escort a Year 11 student down to the Whitgift School in Croydon on Thursday. The student has the opportunity to study at the Whitgift in September for his sixth form studies as part of our SpringBoard program. The school is a truly stunning institution with incredible facilities and willingness on the part of the staff to develop well rounded confident and capable young adults following their sixth form education. **The young man in question is very excited about the prospect of studying there and is even more determined than ever to work hard to get the best GCSE results he can to confirm his place at the school.** Very soon we will begin to have conversations with the current Year 10 about the possibility of them joining the SpringBoard program, watch this space.

We welcomed a borough behaviour specialist into school on Friday last week. He had heard the exciting work we have been doing with our behaviour systems at Kelmscott and had been told by many people that the behaviour at Kelmscott is exemplary. He spent the whole day with us, in lessons and in our Inclusion Centre chatting to students and staff. **He is now writing his report that he hopes to share with other schools in the borough who he believes can learn from the way we manage our behaviour.**

Finally, two pieces of good news; firstly, **our boys became the borough volleyball champions last week and will now go on to represent Waltham Forest;** well done to all involved. Secondly, **Mr Beckford, one of our Geography teachers, had his book published; the book is called The Girl Who Shone Like a Star** and it is based on a true story about a young lady with cystic fibrosis, and how she overcame the struggles and battles with her health, to triumph. **We are very proud of Andrew's achievements.**

I wish families a happy, healthy and safe half term holiday and look forward to welcoming students back at the usual time on Monday 24th of February

Mr Sam Jones

February 14th 2020

