

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thanks again for all your support this term. It's certainly been a challenge. We are having to cope with the continued adaptations to deal with the pandemic, whilst at the same time trying to keep some sense of normality in teaching and pastoral care. A number of parents have sent us messages of thanks and support, and these have helped to boost our morale, particularly when we had to take the unwanted step of asking some pupils to work remotely last week.

I am concerned that the New Year will bring further pressure. The main issue is always staff availability. Covid guidelines, particularly testing and subsequent periods of isolation puts pressure on our staffing. This is combined with high demand on supply agencies. We take every step to try to keep as much continuity in learning, with the right teachers, but I cannot pretend that it's ideal at the moment.

I sent a letter earlier this week explaining why we have to have a **staggered start in January** to undertake testing. Please do read the letter for the start dates for each year group. Remote learning will take place from 4th January for any year group which has a staggered start.

There are things that we miss doing and I am hopeful we can bring them back sooner rather than later. Trips, visits, more sporting fixtures, drama and music productions and live parents' evenings all help to build relationships with pupils and parents. We need these things back to support the culture and ethos. Let's have some hope for the Spring.

The **revision** buttons for **Year 11 and Year 13** are now on the website for parents and students. The Year 11 one is on the [home page](#) and the Year 13 is on the [Sixth Form homepage](#).

Many thanks for all your cooperation this term with supporting our students to meet our expectations around being '**ready, respectful and engaged**'. The majority of our students have sustained really high standards over this term in line with our values and we appreciate your support.

At the start of the new term in January, we will be resetting and refocusing on the importance of being 'ready' both physically (by wearing the correct KJS uniform with pride) and practically (with regard to having the correct equipment and by being on time to learn by being punctual).

For some students it may be necessary to use the Christmas break as an opportunity to 'reset' and to consider ways in which they can ensure that they have a positive and consistent approach to our values and expectations from the offset in the New Year. We ask that any uniform issues including incorrect footwear (only black shoes are acceptable), inappropriate hair styles/colours and piercings are addressed over the holidays so that on our return students can start afresh in a positive way

Despite all of the pressure there are still some great things going on. I've selected a few below.

Very best wishes to you and your family for Christmas.

Carl Sugden
Headteacher

DT Department news:

Freddie in Year 10 has got through to the National Final of The Inspiring Culinary Generations (ICG) "Aspiring Student Chef" Competition. The final will be taking place at the Culinary School in Bournemouth in January and is judged by a panel of professional chefs chaired by Lesley Waters. The ICG Competition is a National Competition designed to acknowledge and encourage excellence in the catering Industry and the home. Freddie will be cooking venison, in a stout reduction, served with

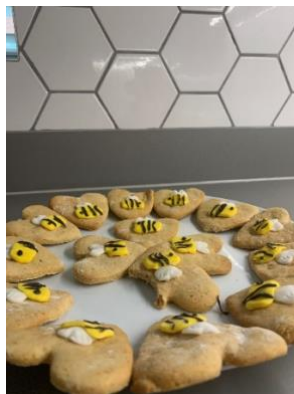
roasted cauliflower, turnip puree, pickled blackberries and radishes, wild mushrooms, toasted seeds, and a garnish of red sorrel. Please see the photo below:

Well done Freddie, this is a fabulous achievement and we wish you the best of luck!



German department news:

Following the success of Great British Bake Off on the TV, Mrs Allison decided to replicate German Week with Year 8 and 9 students. Students were tasked with making Honigkekse (honey biscuits) and some students even created some German cakes and bakes. A special mention goes to Max, Rex, Daisy, Neve, Isla and Matilda for their amazing efforts!



German Exchange 2021

At this time of the year we would normally be matching KJS students of German with students at our partner school, Brüder Grimm Gesamtschule, in Bebra. Given the current situation, we can't travel to Germany, so a 'virtual exchange' has been the way forward. Thirty students in Year 9-11 have completed profiles which has enabled us to match them up with students of a similar age in Bebra. Some students are already in touch and are emailing each other and others are still awaiting correspondence from their new German friends. Let's hope that a virtual exchange will help keep our very longstanding partnership alive!

Christmas Hampers:

A huge thank you to all pupils and parents who donated groceries for those in need in our community this Christmas. The response was overwhelming.



Science Club:

Science Club started again in November. Year 7 and Year 8 pupils have enjoyed some hands-on activities including fire writing, elephant toothpaste, making conducting play dough and matchstick rocket. It will resume on Wednesday 12th January after school.

