



Ken Stimpson  
Community School

Staniland Way  
Werrington  
Peterborough  
PE4 6JT

t: 01733 765950  
f: 01733 765951  
info@kscs.org.uk  
www.kscs.org.uk



Acting Principal: Mr R. Lord

Chair of Governors: Mrs B. Holland

RLD / CAW

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Dear Parent/Carer

It is with great pleasure that I write my first newsletter as the Principal of Ken Stimpson Community School. I look forward to continuing to work with the students, parents and staff at our school to ensure the very best of outcomes for everyone concerned.

### **SPRING FAIR NEWS 2010**

Our annual Spring Fair will take place on Saturday **13 March 2010** from 10.00 a.m. until 12.00 noon in the Assembly Hall. A range of stalls and sideshows will raise monies for the school and the Sue Ryder Trust. The Trust supports people with specialist palliative, end of life and long-term neurological care needs. Each year they provide 4 million hours of care to people living with cancer, multiple sclerosis, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, stroke and brain injury.

Please look out for:

- The Learning Centre – they will be operating a Scaelectric competition run by the club developed from a bid to promote a sustainable social enterprise;
- Design and Technology who will have made fridge magnets that will be on sale;
- “Kenny Cafe” will also operate with the assistance of students selling refreshments and cakes!
- “Allykatz” the school’s jewellery-making business will have a stand selling their bespoke jewellery; and finally
- Students involved Young Enterprise will be present selling an exciting range of products alongside one of the school shop teams.

Please try and come along and support – anyone wishing to donate any unwanted gifts or items should hand them into the school Reception by next Wednesday. In order to raise a worthy total for our fund raising weekend we will be having a Mufti day on Friday 12 March 2010. For a donation of £1 students will be entitled to wear non-school uniform.

I do hope you will be able to support these events.

### **Exambusters**

Parents/Carers of Year 11 and Post 16 students are cordially invited to attend this year’s Exambusters evening on **Monday 22 March at 7 p.m.** The purpose of this evening is to ensure that parents/carers are briefed on the preparations that are taking place for this year’s public examinations within school and to share advice and tips in terms of how they can help out at home at this vital time.

## **SAM Learning**

The school subscribes to SAM Learning for your child. The service, which is accessible to all staff and students, covers a wide range of subjects across the curriculum and can be used both in school and at home. Students can log in and complete interactive tests, exam practice questions and exam papers, while staff can assign homework and monitor students' progress. SAM has a proven track record: studies have shown that using the service leads to better exam results. Last year students across the country who used SAM Learning achieved 6.9% more A\* - C grades than students who did not use the service!

Using SAM enables us to easily identify and monitor discrete groups of students in the short and long term. Attention can be paid to students who are supported learners, gifted and talented, or have English as an Additional Language, for example.

SAM Learning offers a wealth of content to help us with improving our students' learning. If we want to focus on specific learning objectives we can assign homework tasks that include revision exercises, exam questions practice and past papers. With a proven track record in improving exam results, it is a good way to prepare our students for their examinations.

### **Access details**

Students are able to access the service at anytime and anywhere. It is available to them in school, but also at home, in the library and school ICT suites. All they need to do is visit the website and enter their unique login details.

Website address: [www.samlearning.com](http://www.samlearning.com)

Centre ID:	PE4 KS
User ID:	Date of birth followed by two initials: first name then last name. Example: 010896DJ is the User ID for David Jones born 1 August 1996.
Password:	Initially same as the User ID, Learners are encouraged to change this to something difficult to guess.

It is advised that students keep a record of the access details in their Planner.

## **Patsy Arlow Memorial**

On Friday 12 February a dedication ceremony was held for Patsy Arlow, Catering Manager at Ken Stimpson Community School, who lost her brave fight against Breast Cancer on 6 June 2009. Patsy never complained and was always smiling, happy and courageous. She is dearly missed by all but especially by those who were privileged to know her personally. The idea of the Herb Garden began with a discussion on how we could celebrate Patsy's life for staff and students. It seemed fitting to create the Herb Garden with Patsy's dedication to her job and the canteen staff and students could use the herbs in their meals and Food Technology work. The Herb Garden was created from some of the money raised by The Learning Centre via cake sales and the non-uniform day for Breast Cancer Care.

## **Student Voice**

We are really proud at Ken Stimpson Community School to have the opportunity to listen and act upon the advice given to us by our very active Student Council. Over the last term and a half there has been a wealth of opportunity for students to voice their views on how we, as a school, incorporate their ideas into our whole school improvement agenda. For example, the Leadership Team have committed themselves to meeting a diverse group of students over lunchtimes to listen to their ideas for the improvement of our school in a variety of areas.

As a result of this feedback, we have been able to identify six key areas where students will work with lead teachers to make real and significant changes over the coming months:

These areas are:

- Uniform and Tutoring
- Teaching and Learning
- Campus and safety improvements
- The adoption of new technologies (ICT; software and technology in general)
- Enterprise initiatives; community support and charities
- Rewards and visits

Your son/daughter will be invited to attend a range of meetings to shape and influence these key areas which will help us make the school even better.

## **Business and Enterprise Update**

The spring term has been a wonderfully busy time, especially for enriching a wide range of students through our Business and Enterprise specialism. I am delighted to share with you a range of activities that are currently happening or that have taken place this term.

- Mr Abbott, Head of Business Studies, is currently entering selected students in the “Make Your Mark with a Tenner” competition, whereby students have the month of March to make as much money as they can with £10.
- Mrs Ayre, our Enterprise and Community Coordinator, accompanied students from Ken Stimpson and William Law School to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Enterprise Learning Partnership launch Conference at Huntingdon on 5 February. The students shared their enterprise activities with the other schools present. Activities shared were the primary enterprise “bag for life” and the Yr 9 DT “Design a Carrier for a Personal Item” project. At the conference the students met Max McMurdo founder of [www.reestore.com](http://www.reestore.com) and a successful participant of Television’s “Dragons’ Den”.
- We also are planning to develop an eco-committee in order to apply for the Eco-Schools Bronze Award. These are continuous projects. Ecovert FM, our facilities management partner, has agreed to build the raised beds and install water butts. We will submit a bid for the “Fruitful for Schools” project, whereby successful schools are issued with fruit trees to form an orchard; the project will last for 3 years.
- We are currently liaising with the local sheltered housing to develop a programme of activities which involve students and community members. This could result in a

Christmas Party where members of the community are served lunch by students and participate in a sing song. More details to follow!

- Mrs Ayre has been working exclusively with John Lewis on a Spring/Prom Fashion Event using our Year 11 students as models. Interviews have already taken place and seven students and three members of staff will be representing the school on Thursday 22 April at John Lewis.

### **Home Access Grant – ICT**

This grant has been launched by the Government to enable certain families to buy a computer and internet package. The programme is aimed at those who need it most. If you answer yes to the three questions in section one and yes to at least one question in section two below, you could be eligible for a Home Access Grant.

Are you a parent or guardian responsible for a child

- who is in school years 3 to 9, which normally means age 7–14?
- who attends a state-maintained school in England full-time?
- who has not already had a computer from a Home Access Grant or any other similar programmes, such as Computers for Pupils?

AND

Do you receive **at least one** of the following?

- Free School Meals for your child
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income Support
- Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and an income of less than £16,040
- Guaranteed Pension Credit (not Savings Credit)
- Income-based Employment Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

You can telephone the following number **0333 200 1004** to ask for an application pack and instructions. Alternatively, you can go online to request an application pack by visiting the following website: <http://www.homeaccess.org.uk/>

**Further guidance will appear on our website ([www.kscs.org.uk](http://www.kscs.org.uk))**

### **Little Angel's Pre-School**

There are currently vacancies at the pre-school on our campus. The session times are Monday to Friday from 9.15 a.m. until 12.15 p.m. All staff have the relevant qualifications and funding is available the term after the child's third birthday. Please feel free to drop in for a visit. Tel: 01733 751571 / 571238.

### **Would you like to improve your English?**

For more information about new classes and for a short test, we can offer support at the Werrington Children's Centre (next to Welbourne Primary School). Please telephone 01733 864780.

## **A word from the Governors**

The Governing Body are pleased to be welcoming back Mr Nick Shaw at the next Full Governors' meeting on 23 March. We still have one Parent Governor vacancy. If you are interested then please contact Mrs Chris Ware, Clerk to the Governing Body on 01733 383658.

## **Uniform Consultation**

At present we are evaluating our School uniform and will be asking our students, parents/carers, staff and governors to undertake a questionnaire to measure their feelings on this issue during this spring term. The philosophy we have towards our students should be reflected in our uniform. We challenge our students in Years 7 and 8 to acquire the skills and attributes to be successful as "professional" independent learners in Years 9 to 13.

We believe our students should have a uniform that represents their maturity and aspirations and which creates a very positive perception of the school in the community. Further Information will be posted on our website in the very near future. Please complete the questionnaire and play a role in the design of the new uniform.

## **Key Dates**

Monday	8	March	A Level PE Moderation
Monday	8	Mach	Parents' Forum. 7.00 p.m. in the Conference Room
Tuesday	9	March	Exam Performance Dance Evening
Tuesday	9	March	French Experience Day
Thursday	11	March	GCSE Dance Exam
Thursday	11	March	AS / A2 Results published
Friday	12	March	Non-uniform Day
Saturday	13	March	Spring Fair
Wednesday	17	March	GCSE PE Moderation
Wednesday	17	March	Business visit to Cadbury World
Thursday	18	March	GCSE PE Moderation
Thursday	18	March	Post 16 Subject Consultation Evening
Friday	19	March	Year 8 Distributed home
Monday	22	March	KSSA Exam Buster Evening
Monday	22	March	Year 11 and Post 16 Photographs

Tuesday	23	March	Year 8 Parental Consultation 1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Tuesday	23	March	GCSE Dance Moderation
Wednesday	24	March	Young Enterprise External Exam
Wednesday	24	March	Year 8 Parental Consultation 4.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.
Thursday	25	March	Post 16 Collapsed Day
Thursday	25	March	KS3 Gifted and talented Parents' Evening
Friday	26	March	End of Term
Monday	12	April	School Opens

May I remind you that school closes for the Spring term on Friday 26 March and reopens for the Summer term on Monday 12 April.

Yours faithfully

Richard Lord  
**Principal**