



THE PETRIBURGIAN 2024



Jemima Loatan A-level Fine Art

The King's (The Cathedral) School



School Officers:

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Head Boy:	Hugh Ludford
Deputy Head Girl:	Hana Cloke
Deputy Head Boy:	Dakori Lilly-West

	House Captains	Vice Captains
School:	Emmanuel Shodimu Lottie Tasker	Harrison Roberts Kaiya Shah Eliana Smyth Daniel Walling
St Oswald's:	Theo Forbes Eva Harwin	Caitlin Goodlip Saifullah Hussain Iqra Naveed Huw Nichols
St Chad's:	Josie Criddle Harvey Matthewman	Sophie Bicknell Elizabeth Eames Georgie Vassiliades Talaal Zubair
St Peter's:	Eleanor Mace Bert Papworth	Olivia Cutmore Josh Martin Oliver Muir Meredith Roberts

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Marcin Dykiel
Charlie Gamblin
Rachel Hancock
Emily Hansen

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Lynsey Mason
Rebekah Merrington
Emma Newcombe
Kyle Nosworthy
Justyna Prezezdziecka
Ruby Ray
Caroline Ruff

Kieron Sallabanks
Natalie Sieberichs
Ottavio Tanzillo
Dario Tanzillo
Tilly Wales
Georgina Walker
Rosie Wiles
Esther Wild

Goodbye and Good Luck to:

Edward Bainton
Maria Bajkowski
Helen Birch
Caroline Cadman
Paula Cooke
Julia Hartley

Matthew Holdsworth
Fiona Hopkins
Wan Johnson
Amy Jones
Claire McGrory
Jennifer Paddison

Beverley Payne
James Stubbs
Daniel Tarver
Lynne Thurlow
Tilly Wales
Claire Webb



Corey Mackrell-Hey A-level Fine Art

Every year, in our annual survey, we bravely ask staff, parents and students their opinions about life at The King's School – a range of questions about their lived experience of the School. The survey culminates with one question that as a Headteacher I probably care about the most – a question that simply reads "Are you proud to be a member of the School?" Thankfully the results again this year were very reassuring, although with no direct question forcing participants to explain their answer we can only speculate on why each member of the community thankfully feels this way. Hopefully this report however will provide some strong clues.

Today, I have had the pleasure of welcoming back to the School Mr. Michael Barcroft who was Headteacher of the School between 1974 and 1993. I often wonder if previous Headteachers felt they were being judged by an ever-growing list of measures which currently includes amongst many, exam performance, attendance levels, number of exclusions, progress in reading, retention numbers, number of applications to the School; and last year, and for the first time since March 2013, the dreaded Ofsted Inspection – an inspection that took place at the end of the summer term - just when staff thought they had made it through to the holiday!

Ofsted very kindly sent the School 5 inspectors in order to cover the wide number of areas they wished to review – quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, the Sixth Form and leadership.

For those staff and students who were in the School at the time my message to them was simple – I was not worried about the reality of what The King's School was

like but I was worried about the need to quickly demonstrate to strangers what we stood for in just two days, especially at a time when nationally only 17% of schools had retained their Outstanding rating. How do you capture the culture of this very special school, how do you demonstrate the talents of our skilled staff that care deeply, how do you quickly show that the vast vast majority of our students are incredibly friendly, kind and committed; and how on earth in just a few hours do you possibly explain the impact that key events such as House Music, Activities Week, Musical Performances, Sports Day, Mentoring or Charities Week, events that former students are still posting on Facebook twenty years later, has had on the character of our students?

So, how did we get on? How did Ofsted judge, not just the senior leaders, or our Governing Body or even our staff, but how did they judge you, our students, the core of this School on your attitude to learning and school life.

To put you out of your misery, I will read the opening paragraph of our report, with the rest following in a similar manner – a report that will be sent to all parents today. It read:

What is it like to attend this school?

The School provides the fertile ground in which pupils can grow in intellect and develop strength of character. Staff and pupils aim for excellence. They achieve it. Pupils achieve highly in all areas of education. This includes musical, cultural and sporting achievements which pupils and the School are rightly proud of.

A great opening paragraph and thankfully

the report continued in this manner. So after 11 years of waiting, I am delighted to announce that The King's School was again judged Outstanding in every single category.

It is a judgement that every member of The King's School Family should be truly proud of.

So despite the excitement of this judgement I am aware that the harshest critics of this school are not Ofsted but quite rightly our own students because ultimately the only thing that really matters to individuals is not Ofsted but your lived experience. This report I present today I hope is a small opportunity to celebrate all the wonderful opportunities staff provide for our students. A chance to go beyond Ofsted and, dare I say it, perhaps even Instagram!

Understandably for our students and parents, academic results have always been really important. This year both our GCSE and A-level students did themselves proud. Five or, seven years of secondary education culminating in some incredible achievements. At GCSE, nearly half our students achieved grades 7-9 and 90% achieved 9-4, comfortably the strongest results in the city and an amazing progress score which will place the School in the highest 5% of all schools for progress.

At A-level, 40% of all grades achieved were at A*/A and 66% at A*-B. The majority of our students progressed onto university to study courses as diverse as Marine Biology, Illustration, Sports & Exercise Science, Global Sustainable Development, Journalism, Agri Business Management, Paramedic Science and Interior Architecture, alongside more conventional routes such as Economics, English Literature, Law and Fine Art. This

year a significant number of students have successfully been accepted onto medical-related courses.

In addition to university courses the School has seen a growing number of students taking the opportunity to study a degree apprenticeship. These allow students the chance to work and study with the guarantee of full-time employment at the end of the course. Students have joined companies such as the Murphy Group, Caterpillar, and Saffreys Chartered Accountants, alongside public sector routes such as the National Highways – I have already told them to prioritise potholes!

2023-24 was a busy year for musicians at The King's School and we are truly blessed with our depth of talent. Pupils were involved in a wide variety of events and over 150 of our students benefited from individual music lessons. In November, House Music was keenly contested with over 400 students performing in our annual competition. There were some memorable performances including *His Dark Materials* by St. Peter's Orchestra, *Glorious* by St. Chad's Junior Choir, *Fix You* by St. Oswald's Senior Choir and *I'm Still Standing* by School House's Band.

The quality of music from everyone involved was extremely high and we look forward to hosting House Music in this special Cathedral this year. Congratulations to St. Peter's House, who eventually prevailed.

The highlight of the Christmas period was once again the Christmas Concert, where parents, staff and students came together to sing well-known carols and hear festive performances by over 150 students across our Senior Choir, String

Ensembles, Orchestra, Concert Band, the Jazz Ensemble, the Brass, Clarinet and Flute Ensembles, and of course the Cathedral Choristers.

In the Spring Term, musicians, dancers and actors came together for the amazing performance of *Chicago*, performing to sold - out audiences.

Despite the huge commitment our students have across their own music lessons and the formal events, we continue to be proud of their willingness to contribute to both the School and local community. In September a jazz ensemble supported our new Oktoberfest event, promoting German culture; in December our senior musicians performed Christmas music to appreciative residents of Castor Lodge Care Home; in March our musicians contributed to the Peterborough Asylum Fundraising event; and last but certainly not least our committed Cathedral choristers performed wonderfully throughout the year, even finding time to perform a newly-written song with other children from the city and, perhaps even more emotionally, performing on a Saturday night at Mrs Birch's retirement event!

It has been another fantastic year of sport at The King's School. Several hundred pupils have represented us, playing in 70 different teams across 11 different sports. The School has enjoyed its usual high level of success, so much so that there is too much to mention in detail, so here I summarise the highlights.

The Sixth Form were winners of the District netball tournament and the Year 8 boys' football team were Peterborough Schools' League winners. In the Peterborough Schools' Championships, we had 110 students involved, with 8 collecting

medals and 45 pupils selected to represent Peterborough at the County competition. In the team events we were winners of 5 out of the 8 categories.

Our table-tennis team were Peterborough Schools' champions and our U16 team were third in the National Schools' competition.

We were winners of the Year 9 boys' District badminton tournament and our trampolinists helped themselves to three medals at the annual competition.

Our Year 11 girls were winners of the Indoor Cricket League and both our U14s hockey teams enjoyed success in the National Schools' competition, with the girls reaching the semi-final of the Cup and the boys winning the Plate competition.

The Year 7 girls' football team won the Peterborough Schools' League and the U13 and U15 boys' cricket teams were both District League winners, both going on to represent Peterborough at the County finals, with the U15s finishing as runners-up and the U13s as County Cup winners.

At the City Athletics championships we again demonstrated our dominance, winning 5 of the 8 competitions.

Finally, a unique but valued element of our sporting programme is the Sailing Club at Ferry Meadows. They started last autumn term offering an RYA Stage 1 course on Friday evenings, which was extremely popular with six sailors passing and an additional 6 sailors passed RYA Stage 2 in the summer.

Trips and visits are an area of student experience where this School trumps more or less any other school in the country; it is providing students with a massive range of opportunities to engage in trips and visits outside school. Few other schools

could boast nearly a hundred different trips in one academic year. A small number of these trips form part of the course requirements, however the vast majority of trips are there to broaden minds, instil a love of learning, and of course to make strong memories with friends.

Students who enjoy learning languages, or about different cultures had their choice of some great trips – visits to Roman Baths or a residential trip to Montpellier. Students who enjoy the Arts welcomed the opportunity to see a range of styles in New York or visit Fine Art museums in Oxford or Photography museums in London. Students who enjoy Drama and English saw a production of 'Cabaret' in London, 'Richard the Third' at The Globe, and Luke Wright's Silver Jubilee Performance Poetry locally in Oundle.

Sports fans visited Wimbledon (where staff appeared keen to volunteer), the Ninja Warrior Course (where staff appeared less keen) and of course our amazing ski trip with over 60 students taking part.

And finally those, who like me, have a fascination with the outdoors had the opportunity to study both the local geography in Cambridge and Hunstanton but perhaps more impressively seeing up close the dramatic landscape of Iceland – thankfully just about avoiding the volcanic eruption occurring at the time!

Trying to sum up the range of memories and experiences on these trips is a challenge – Year 8 alone visited London Zoo, Warwick Castle, The Yorkshire Sculpture Gardens, Seaworld and The Imperial War Museum. As they move into Year 9 many of them have opted to visit the Opal Coast, the German Market or, if they are very persuasive with their parents, participated in the annual ski

trip.

But it was perhaps JD who won the prize for the largest number of trips; I think I counted 8 in total including hikes around Rutland Water and Castor and visits to the Peterborough Museum and Duxford War Museum. Some students even had time for the annual chopping of the School Christmas trees and the highly competitive pancake race, complete with strict rules of conduct!

And finally, a few reflections on arguably the pick of all our trips – the 3-week expedition to Morocco. Students trekked through the mountainous terrain of the High Atlas and visited the bustling stalls in the souks of Marrakesh. Highlights included exploring the local villages, bartering with stall-holders, taking refreshing mint tea, and trying local fruits, nuts and delicacies. Graciously, one student described the adventure saying 'I have loved experiencing how others live their lives, I will never forget this. Our guide encouraged me to live my best life and I will certainly try'.

Great moments and great memories. My thanks to all the staff involved in the running of these trips, many giving up time at weekends and during their holidays.

In addition to those trips and visits organised outside the classroom, last year students benefitted enormously from activities organised in school, designed to enrich each student's school experience.

As I reflect on just a small number of these, I feel a twinge of guilt for not referencing more.

It is hard to say which activities students enjoyed the most or which had the greatest impact in their thinking but I really hope they brought a smile to the students

Headteacher's Review of the Year

involved.

1. Some of these experiences focused on physical exertion. All of our Junior Department for example took part in the Cave Bus experience (yes, bouldering inside a bus, as you do) and all of Year 8 loved 'It's a Knock Out', which will bring back memories for some parents. Both were challenging, especially for the staff who were prepared to have a go, quickly being reminded how inflexible the body can become.
2. Some of the enrichments were designed to deepen students' understandings of our national culture. The newly introduced St. George's Day, hopefully now a regular fixture in the school calendar, gave students and distinguished guests a wonderful insight into the traditional food and sports around the different English counties. Apparently, there was sporting life before football.
3. Ensuring students feel well supported with their future career choices is a key target for lots of work and this School provides an enormous amount. Our Sixth Form Futures Day was a real success, welcoming over 20 former students back into the School. The most novel task prize was aimed at our prospective surgeons who had to sew up a banana (apparently there are lots of similarities); whilst the most popular visitor was the police dog, who thankfully seemed to love the attention.
4. We are still not sure which was the most demanding for our STEM students – launching a rocket through CANSAT, an engineering competition run by the European Space Agency or completing the Maths Challenge run by UKMT Maths Challenge. Regardless, students excelled

in winning a range of national awards. A special shout out to our Year 10 team, the youngest team to reach the National Finals and finishing 3rd overall.

Carrying on the great work of last year, younger students interested in STEM subjects also enjoyed the AE Systems Education Programme Roadshow, and the Year 8 Science Fair.

5. Being inspired by guest speakers has huge value for our students. Last year we were fortunate to welcome a large number of guest speakers into the School – and it would appear to be a good career move for the speakers themselves, with former student David Lammy beginning the year with our students and ending the year in one of the most prominent jobs in the government.

And finally for this section, our charity work, an area very much in line with our core value of generosity. Fundraising began during the Autumn Term with non-uniform days, collections at the Cathedral and a Christmas Jumper Day. Moving into the Spring Term attentions were focused on Charities Week - the weather was good and students had a wonderful time, taking part in activities such as: Cake Sales, Guess the Sweets in a Jar, Sports Matches, Pizza Sales, Guessing Games, Challenge, House Captain Soaking and a Student and Staff quiz. In total, funds raised for our school charities in 2023-24 was a record breaking £13,040.49. We also raised in excess of £1,500.00 for other charities.

Outside the hustle and bustle of daily life the School has continued to invest heavily in ensuring our facilities are a match for the high quality of provision. Last year we were delighted to open Henry's, our aptly-named eating area, which based on the

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speed students dash there at break and lunch, has been a huge hit; we invested significantly over the summer in our IT infrastructure, and were grateful to the work of colleagues to secure funding for a new fire system for the entire site (although I do remind students this now includes vape alarms); we have also continued to work tirelessly on smaller things in a budget sense but important for the overall running of the site – new toilet blocks and

certainly a lot of new paint.

So, as I conclude, I hope this report was a strong reminder of why we should all be proud. My thanks to all members of The King's School Family – from those colleagues who continue to support the School as alumni, those who give freely in their role as Governors, and those parents, staff and students who contribute a huge amount. My sincere thanks and let's hope for another great year!



GCSE Fine Art

Helen breezed, or perhaps breezed isn't quite the right word, more whirlwinded into King's in early 1997. She had applied for the job of Head of Physical Education and Outdoor Education to begin in the September, and by 5 minutes into the interview, both she and the interviewing panel were completely breathless: PE had been sorted in the first 2 minutes, but the curriculum, teaching methodology, pastoral care, school management, and future education policy had between them been covered in the following 3!! It wasn't quite what we had expected! And to say that we were rather overwhelmed is an understatement. Earlier this year, Helen and I were talking through pension entitlements and life after King's, and reminiscing, over a very nice Italian meal, washed down with, not surprisingly, a bottle of red wine, and in my case a lemonade. She said to me 'It wasn't my greatest day, was it? I didn't get it quite right.' As usual, this analysis was correct, as she had indeed left the interview..... without being offered the post! The panel sat stunned for some time, taking in what we had just experienced – a display of raw, undiluted energy, enthusiasm, commitment and.....talent. And that is exactly what we have had from Helen for 27 years! To finish the story, the panel had second thoughts, and invited her back. Her nervous energy now fully dissipated, her take-two performance was less raw, but equally vibrant and full of promise. She had the grace to accept the job offer..... and the rest is history. Her contribution to The King's School has been outstanding. PE took a little longer than the original 2 minutes to sort out, but it wasn't long before Helen was being internally promoted

to take on whole-school roles. As an AST, she took on an IT brief. I have recently had a message from a former colleague, now living in Thailand, and even more luddite than me, and that is just about possible, saying that however much he hated it at the time, Mrs Motivator Birch with warm encouragement and steely determined focus gave him the skills he would later use to start a second life and career, where he gratefully uses her lessons every day. Although she is an IT wizard, other technical aspects of life have not always been quite so trouble-free. Luckily, her cheerfulness, positivity and sense of humour have come to her rescue, even in the most trying of circumstances. I am thinking of issues with spatial awareness here, or was it just post-fixture tiredness? More than once I remember being presented with a bill to sign off, for a damaged minibus. I am not sure what it was about that front gatepost that Helen found so magnetic! Enough said. And who can forget that parking incident? Having reversed the minibus into a parked car on site, angry and frustrated, Helen went to investigate the damage to both vehicles, only to find that she was the driver of the first vehicle and the owner of the other! An 'own goal' you might say, but bang on target! Back to serious matters. As an Assistant Head, there is almost nothing that Helen did not turn her hand to, and with ongoing success. You name it, all the headline educational developments of the last 20 years. In my time, she did CPD, ITT, AFL, Safeguarding, KS3 Strategy, Professional Review and Performance Management, data interpretation, strategic development and improvement planning. Add in the timetable; charity

fundraising; fixtures, trips and tours, and my goodness you have a wonderful portfolio for applying for Deputy Headship, particularly in a school she had dedicated herself to, and come to love so much. As a classroom practitioner, she has from the beginning been second to none. What she did in Sport Studies she brought to Psychology! Her subject knowledge, preparation, use of resources and IT, her effervescent and passionate delivery explain her knack of inspiring all her students. Nobody could have prepared their students better for exams than the 'The Queen of Powerpoint and past exam papers'. And they knew it. To Helen have fallen some of the most difficult tasks that come with senior responsibility. I am thinking here of delicate and sensitive investigations into student safety and well-being, and

indeed allegations of staff misconduct. She undertook these bravely, and with typical supportive professionalism, sometimes to the detriment of her own well-being. Her engaging presence around the school; her support for everyone, students and staff alike; her fantastically hard work and driven commitment, her eye for detail; her terrier-like determination to set and achieve the highest possible standards, but above all for herself: have been the hallmarks of her contribution. She was determined from Day 1 to make a real difference to school life, and to all the individuals who make up our community. And she has done that throughout. A task achieved with distinction. Well done and thank you from us all.

Trevor Elliott
(Deputy Headteacher 1986 – 2016)

I have had the very great pleasure of sharing the Deputy Head experience with Helen, having been appointed at the same time 8 years ago. Our working relationship started from the evening of our interviews in November 2015 at Evensong in the Cathedral when one of the Governors engineered for us to sit next to each other. We are very different people, but I would like to believe that we have complimented each other. I am going to miss her terribly, and I believe that the whole School will too, probably in many more ways than we can imagine. Helen has said to me several times that her greatest wish on leaving King's is to know she has made a difference. So, I asked the King's School Family. We received a large number of responses, some I knew but

some were also before my time. Here are a few....

Adam Bowen

I hope you have a fantastic retirement! For all those years of our small chats and helping me throughout my school life (2015-2020), thank you for being there for me and everyone else!!

Sarah McGhie

Amazing woman, phenomenal strength and great pastoral lead. Everything I love about King's Mrs Birch embodies. The School has stand-out teachers, ones you always remember as a pupil (my list is too long to mention but Mr Elliott is no 1). For my daughters, Mrs Birch is right there and for me as a parent, too. Enjoy your retirement.

Gary Sansby

One amazing lady. I wouldn't have got through my GCCE's if it wasn't for her 'little chats'. Happy retirement, Birchy and thank you for everything you have ever done for the students of The King's School.

Grace Francis

Mrs Birch (Birchy!!) really is the definition of a teacher who goes the extra mile. The care, love and passion she puts into her role at The King's School is phenomenal. It wasn't until the Sixth Form that I really got to know her but I remember the time she made me laugh in a meeting when no-one else could even get me to smile! Or the time she brought her dog into a Geography lesson! I wouldn't be where I am today without her (and some other amazing members of staff) so thank you! Happy retirement and all the best, Mrs Birch!

Greg Smith

Legend as a teacher and then as a colleague later as well! I remember her bringing her dog to the games field when I was in maybe Year 10. Everyone was saying how cute he was and making a fuss of him. He was whimpering later and I remember Birchy really telling him off for "making pathetic noises". I think she just didn't want us to see her softer side but we all knew how much she loved that dog! She was a massive part of King's back then and even more so when I went back to teach there. A fantastic person who will be missed by many at the School for years to come. Wishing her all the very best for her well-deserved retirement.

Katie Mason

Mrs Birch (or Birchy, as we affectionally named her back in the day) was an absolute legend. I was lucky enough to have her for Sports Science A-level and as

a form tutor for a short while, as well as an amazing hockey coach. She was also our minibus chauffeur extraordinaire, whizzing us all to rounders, netball, hockey amongst many other sporting events. I remember the passion she had and support she gave me, encouraging me to fulfil my potential with my sporting ambitions but also, as a person. She is one of my fondest and lasting memories of my time at King's ('97 - '04). Thank you for everything Birchy!

Raphael Frascogna

Mrs Birch took me for GCSE PE and then A-level Sports Studies. The way those lessons were delivered really suited my learning style. I wasn't always the easiest pupil to work with - my attention span was easily challenged - but she always managed to engage me. Thank you.

Emily Roach

All time favourite teacher, who really knew how to get the best out of me! Helped that she was SUPER funny, too. Thanks for everything and congratulations on your retirement, Helen.

Jake Parker-Bishop

I imagine there are a lot of stories but here are a couple from me - the second is my favourite.

(1) Mrs Birch was a big advocate for me when I first joined King's in the Sixth Form. Having her pushing me along made a huge difference in outcome for me at King's and in general. I never asked her to do it and she wasn't my form tutor - she just did it as a matter of course. I also know she did this for other students who arrived from other schools and needed some help. It was truly excellent intuitive teaching and leadership. (2) Mrs Birch ran a lesson for us remotely waaaay before doing that was the norm. I was in Year 13, a few weeks away from

taking our final A-level exams. Birchy was dog sick, and I mean really properly ill, and had taken a sick day. To make sure we didn't miss a lesson she videoed herself teaching the lesson from her sick room at home and sent that video to school. Such was our loyalty to her and the process she had put together for exams we all sat in her classroom, played the video, did the work (including all the out-loud reading of the textbook!) and ran the lesson. It was incredible dedication and typical of her to make sure we got all the teaching she thought we needed.

I hope you would all agree that Helen has certainly made a difference to the lives of many young people at King's. She has also made a huge difference to many of the lives of the staff. As the Pastoral Deputy, Helen has taken her role very seriously and warmly welcomes all staff into her office for a little chat and a coffee. You leave her office feeling she has taken some of the weight from your shoulders.

I am going to try to paint a picture of Helen, she is the most unique person I have ever worked with - trying to collect anecdotes about her that she would be happy for me to share has not been easy, neither has it been keeping it brief.

Several times a week, Helen delights staff and students when she drops into their lessons greeting them with a warm 'good morning' or 'good afternoon, everyone'. She also does this in the corridors, as well as when we are standing outside the Sports Hall during Cathedral walkdowns, greeting every single student as they walk by.

One of the delights of Charities Week is the Sixth Form Quiz - she is a professional quiz writer and quiz master. But I don't know how many of you know that during Covid she also wrote and delivered weekly

online quizzes to the isolating congregation at the Cathedral. Helen's care for others is amazing.

Covid was a significant aspect of her tenure as Deputy Head and illustrated her caring nature in many other ways. She was responsible for the vulnerable students, inviting them into school and visiting them at home, when allowed. Our huge success with getting them through that period was, in many ways, down to Helen's leadership; they continued to follow the school curriculum and our students' engagement with work was far beyond what was happening nationally.

Whilst she has been extremely busy as Deputy Head, I have also been in awe of how she has continued to be the most dedicated teacher, for students doing both PE and Psychology. Students love her, as many of the earlier comments have shown, and she is at her best in front of a class of A-level students - entertaining, witty, and extremely well prepared to a degree where if she is called out of her class in an emergency, students are able to use her resources to teach themselves.

She is also the self-crowned PowerPoint Queen, willingly offering to improve anyone's presentations.

She has taken great pleasure in being responsible for the Choristers and maintaining links with the Cathedral. She knows each of the Choristers individually, from starting in Year 3, through to them leaving the School in Year 13 and supports them every week attending Evensong and Sunday services and congratulating them at School. She is a core member of the Cathedral Community. If you don't know already, they have asked her to help with the Cathedral's guided tours and she is going to do this as a double act with Lynne

Helen Birch Tribute

Thurlow – I am sure this will be extremely popular. I will certainly be booking an early ticket, and I suspect that there will be queues out into Cathedral Square.

Helen has also recently trained as a SIAMS inspector, and we are very grateful that she has offered her services when we are preparing for our next inspection in the next academic year. She has also used her deep-rooted faith and knowledge of scripture to write a new Vision and Values statement that captures the essence of The King's School's approach to spirituality. Another area where she has made a huge impact is achieving the School's accreditation for the Wellbeing Award, recently for the second time. I don't know how many pieces of evidence she collected, but it was in the hundreds. However, there is no doubt that this was far more than a paper-collecting exercise. She has spearheaded numerous initiatives

that look after the wellbeing of all The King's School Family. She has instilled her caring personality into the heart of The King's School, and that will be her greatest legacy.

I don't believe I have ever got on the wrong side of Helen; however, I was told there was a story about a fish being inserted into the exhaust pipe of a previous member of PE staff.

You may not be aware, but students have been asked to write poems for Helen. I have had the fortune to read some of these. I wanted to finish with what I believe is the best and captures the essence of Helen perfectly. I will warn you though, this will leave you with more questions than it answers.

Duncan Rhodes
(Deputy Headteacher Academic, from 2016)

Birchy

In the hallways of learning, where memories are made,
We cherish the moments, though they start to fade.

Yet some stand out, forever in our hearts,

Stories of laughter and your unique, caring art.

Once, nearly breaking Zimmer-Smith's window with a Mars bar,
Must have been refrigerated, it was brittle and hard.

In the PE car park, as he reversed on his way,

You snuck round the car, had something to say.

You made him roll down the window, caught him unprepared,
Told his mum he'd not handed in coursework, and he despaired.

His excuse on the spot, with five cars waiting near,

A moment of panic, yet your message was clear.

Another time, in class, Burty's head hit the desk,

You launched your board pen, a well-aimed test.

Helen Birch Tribute

It struck him awake, along with your shout,

A lesson in focus, no drifting about.

And who could forget, in the Sports Hall's embrace,

Dickens the terrier, leading a merry chase.

Lidgett running after him, calling his name,

As you continued to teach, you never lost your aim.

Through each funny story, each lesson, each call,

You've been a bright beacon, inspiring us all.

As we say farewell, know the impact you've made,

Will forever be cherished, your legacy stayed.

*This was written by Isaac Lidgett in Year 10,
with stories contributed by James Zimmer-Smith, Matt Purkiss and Tom Lidgett.*



Isla Mackie - GCSE Fine Art



Cheryl Broad

Cheryl Broad, former teacher, Head of History, Advanced Skills Teacher and Assistant Headteacher sadly passed away last year after a battle with cancer. She arrived at

The King's School as a part-time teacher of History in 1993. When her children, James, Matthew and Ellen (all educated here at King's) were older, Cheryl became full-time.

In all my years at The King's School, my favourite times were when Cheryl, or Broady as she was affectionately known, was present.

In all the communications received from former colleagues and the conversations with current colleagues there is a consensus of opinion. Cheryl Broad was loved, great to work with and will forever be a legend.

Simon Warsap shared his thoughts, echoed by Gordon Gunn, both members of the History Department under her leadership ... Simon wrote ... 'I worked with Broady for 15 years. King's was my fourth school and it was within Cheryl's department that I was forged. It was a superbly run 'show' and when Gordon joined in 2004, I knew we had a 'team'. I do not need to tell you about Cheryl's qualities, but when I say she was firm, focused, rigorous and caring, I hope you will agree. She was more than that; she was a force of nature. Her amazing laugh, her quick, wry humour; that Derbyshire accent; her no-nonsense, candid analysis and her gentleness too.'

Throughout her tenure as Head of

Department the GCSE and A-level History results were consistently among the highest in the School; a testimony to her brilliant ability, both as a classroom teacher and as Head of Department.

Her professionalism and effectiveness as a classroom practitioner were acknowledged with the award of Advanced Skills Teacher status, which she used to help colleagues develop their own practice.

For many years, Cheryl was Head of St Peter's House and served as a form tutor at the same time. It may be fitting that St Peter's won House Music in the year of her passing.

Jason Reece, also a History teacher with Broady wrote ... 'Most of my time with Cheryl was spent 'in exile' in two mobile classrooms in the car park and we soon became good friends... and remained so for 30 years. It is fair to say that there was a bit of a difference between our teaching styles, as I was then a callow youth and Cheryl was a seasoned teacher with plenty of experience of teaching in hard schools in Birmingham where, as she told me, kids skateboarded across the back of the classroom! She was very well regarded by all our A-level groups but they were also a bit scared of her and once sent me to see her to negotiate a collective extension to the submission date for an essay she had set!' Remarkably, Jason still lives! He can also remember their astonished reaction when, having asked her what she would have done with Tsar Nicholas and his relatives if she had been in charge of Russia at the end of World War One, she straightforwardly told them that she would have had them all shot as Lenin had done. 'I think it is fair to say that she didn't pussyfoot around in her judgement

of matters and that was one of her great strengths as a friend and colleague.'

Another former colleague, Sarah Dawson, shared ... 'I think something that stands out for me about Cheryl is when she told everybody that she had a black belt in karate - she kept an absolutely straight face and all the kids believed her! There was absolutely no messing with Cheryl. Sarah also wrote, which I think is just Cheryl ... 'I looked up to her because I really felt that she made the most of everything ... you know, from going to watch rugby matches to the theatre, to jazz, to meals out.'

Fellow historian Elizabeth Sefton wrote ... 'Cheryl was my work hero - she was so generous with her time and patience, I don't think I'd have stuck with teaching had she not been such an amazing mentor when I started; and she persuaded Gary Longman, the then Headteacher, to hire me, so I have her to thank for my 15 years at King's, which were amazing. I remember all the times we went to Flanders together and being surprised the first time I went, when she told me that the most important thing about the trip was knowing where the loos were on the battlefields - how right she was - they were few and far between! And I'm still following her advice to this day. She was funny, had an incredible sense of humour and huge generosity of spirit and I miss her loads.'

Sarah Sharman, nee Davies, wrote of how her students simultaneously loved her and feared her. Sarah remembered a time when she was with her Sixth Form tutor group. Cheryl put her two feet into the corridor and a boy said 'It's her, isn't it?' Sarah replied, 'Yes, I think so'. The boy responded, 'I knew it. I could sense her presence, she is going to kill me!'

CJB and I were Heads of Department together and members of the Senior Leadership Team for a number of years. I was highly delighted by her appointment as Assistant Headteacher, with responsibility of Key Stage 4, not just because I knew that she would add a great deal to the SLT team, but because I was able to pass over the 'gift', from one friend to another, of responsibility for 'Assessment for Learning', which we both hated!

Broady saw everything with an unnerving clarity, which she always expressed in summative and compelling terms. None of us were ever in any doubt about how she felt, indeed I know her husband, Neil, often said to her after she had discharged her feelings, 'So you feel strongly about this then, Cheryl?' This was the essence of Broady, she always felt passionate about our King's School Family and did everything to cherish and promote it in every capacity.

She was indeed the complete package, serving to the highest standard at every level. In her Senior Leadership role, she also had to fulfil what she referred to as a 'Mother's Role': Healthy Eating and Catering, the Medical Room and, of course, transport. Those who worked with her closely know how much grief the constant pantomime that was the no. 9 bus to Stamford and the 47 bus to Rutland caused her!

Broady was never afraid to get her hands dirty, arriving with her yellow marigolds and bleach, sleeves rolled up, ready for action. Her penchant or precision was echoed in her personal life, her cleaner commenting to Ellen, her daughter, that she was pleased that Cheryl had gone away for the week because at least she could see where she had been! She was always

Cheryl Broad - Obituary

immaculately dressed in the latest Hobbs outfit with matching accessories including brightly coloured tights.

One of her unknown roles was as co-founder of the 'Birchy-Broady Kennel Club'. If one or other of us were having a bad day, the other would send them to their 'kennel', i.e. office, and you were not allowed out until you guaranteed you would behave properly!

Broady was the self-declared benevolent dictator, no one would ever mess with her but she always had the best interests of students at heart. In one Year 13 Exit Survey one student described her as scarier than the Child Catcher in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!

Kathryn Denman and James Stubbs as Pupil Support Officer and Academic Head of Year can still see her facing the computer and then swinging round in her chair to launch

into a diatribe regarding the unacceptable behaviour of a member of Key Stage 4. Lucy Willis, Assistant Headteacher, remembers Broady's legendary top drawer - she'd ask you to wait a minute, open the drawer, apply bright red or crimson lipstick and a spot of moisturiser and then declare, 'Right, ready now then'.

And finally, Trevor Elliott, former Deputy Headteacher's, most poignant memory of all ... Cheryl was present on the occasion when students and staff were in St George's Chapel in Ypres when our school gave our own memorial plaque in honour of those Petriburgians who had lost their lives in that horrendous conflict. Cheryl read the lines of Siegfried Sassoon's 'Aftermath'... 'Have you forgotten yet? ... Look down and swear by the slain of the War that you'll never forget.'

Helen Birch, with Trevor Elliott

Paul Faupel - Obituary

Paul Faupel

The School is very sad to announce the death of Paul Faupel. Paul was an outstanding English teacher at King's between 1994 and 2017.



Paul joined us from East London and, although quite tentative at first, he very quickly showed the depth of ability and character that made him the excellent classroom practitioner he was. He taught English throughout the School and in the early days some KS3 History and Sixth Form General Studies, too. Over time he built up a particular bond with his colleague, Sue Paine, in A-level English Language and Literature. Their erudition and teamwork were outstanding, producing some of the best results in the School, indeed throughout the country.

As a teacher, Paul was kind, gentle, encouraging and empowering, always thoroughly prepared, ready to give time and support to any student in need. His quiet, inspirational style was hugely admired by all his students and colleagues, who saw in him a teacher of real commitment and dedication, ever supportive and ready to share his expertise. He had the uncanny ability of being able to pass on his passion for the English language and its literature to his students at every level.

Outside the classroom, Paul was for many years Housemaster of St.Chad's, as well as joining school theatre visits, a Classics trip to Italy and an expedition to Costa Rica. He took responsibility for the lighting for Junior Plays, and particularly effectively so in the Allies-Kerrison production of Purcell's 'Dido and Aeneas'.

As a man, Paul never sought the limelight. He was a very private person, modest, humble and understated. His main loves and pastimes were reading and the natural environment. At home he had several greenhouses with a considerable collection of orchids and succulents. He went bird-watching whenever he could, indeed he travelled the world to follow this hobby, to see flowers, birds, insects and mammals inc. in India, Cambodia, Guatemala and Africa. Closer to home he loved to walk in Ferry Meadows and Castor Hanglands, and was a keen angler.

Paul had suffered from cancer for some time, and bore his final illness with great dignity. Visiting him in his last days, our discussions always turned to The King's School; his eyes would light up with joy when he spoke of his time at the School and his memories of the pupils he had taught.

His funeral took place in the New Forest, former colleague and friend, Sue Paine, read W.B Yeats's poem 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree', which truly reflects Paul's interests and outlook on life.

Trevor Elliott

Wow, what a year! We have been honoured to serve as your Head Students for 2023-24, from the first day when Nate and Grace came to collect us, through to our last day handing over to the fabulous Andriana and Tom. It's been a role which has pushed us out of our comfort zones at times (a massive thank you here to Hana and Dakori, who have been incredible deputies and literal lifesavers – and to Dhiran and Megan, who we know will be the same!) but one which has been incredibly rewarding.

Starting off the year strong, Sports Day was once again an incredible day where the very best of the School was on show: not only in sporting accomplishments, but also in sportsmanship and community. We saw students cheering one another on (even people in different Houses!), throwing themselves into new events, and even litterpicking to keep our environment clean. And that's not to mention the House Captains themselves, who were working flat-out getting people to their slots with military precision, competing in their own events and representing their Houses, all under immense pressure. We were also amazed at the endurance on show by Chadwick and the Cookie Monster – persevering through a very hot day in very thick costumes! Congratulations to School House on winning the day, and to St Peter's and St Chad's for a nail-biting draw for the overall House Trophy.

There was no time for the House Captains to rest on their laurels though, as the new academic year saw House Music take centre stage. Now in Year 13, we were both staggered by the effort put in by every student and staff member to pull off a spectacular night of performances. Again, the best traditions of King's were

plain to see – from the classic chants to the hilarious video montages to the Captains' cheesy dad jokes. There were incredible performances from every House, but ultimately St Peter's were our deserving winners, with an exceptional Radio Gaga finale sealing the deal. While each of us were disappointed to not to see our Houses victorious, it was a truly special night seeing a St Peter's win after ten years without one.

Also during the autumn term, Speech Day was presented by Joe Mason, whom we were lucky enough to welcome back to school. Joe's message about never giving up on the UK's hopes at Eurovision, and his television career preceded the awarding of prizes to students past and present. Having now been through this year's Speech Day after leaving school, we have been reflecting on the importance of these days as markers of a school life. In a similar vein, we have come to appreciate the Cathedral as such a marker. Throughout this year we have been lucky enough to attend the Cathedral on some important occasions. On Remembrance Day, Hugh and Hana witnessed the laying of the wreaths, and were moved by the number of King's students present as various types of cadets. At Christmas, we were blown away by the talent on display, and left feeling very festive. And finally, we felt truly honoured to attend the Installation of our new Bishop, which was a special occasion for the whole city. This appreciation for the Cathedral is something we will both take with us in life, especially after our moving Leavers' Service this May.

As we moved into 2024, the pressures of exam season began to appear on the horizon. Suddenly, amidst the revision and

mocks and uni applications, it sunk in that we would in fact be leaving King's at the end of the year. In particular, the day we handed over to the new Head Students felt like the end of an era, remembering how we had felt (proud, excited and very nervous!) just one year before. Fortunately, School Week was yet again a great success, with pious faces, quizzes and ISOC's spectacular stalls being particularly memorable events. We also enjoyed a VERY chilly House Captain soaking (the weather didn't play ball!).

Throughout all of this, sports fixtures have been a great source of fun. From Ferry Meadows' cross country to hockey tournaments and rugby matches, there really has been something for everyone, and sport has continued to be a central part of school life, and of our lives (especially Alice's!)

Looking back on this year, we have been thinking a lot about what we will carry with us from our time at King's, and

from being Head Students. Certainly, an appreciation for a good hymn – Hugh still sings Jerusalem FAR too often! But on a deeper level, we have found ourselves very grateful for the community we had at school, which we carry with us now. The friends we have made along the way, and the things we have learnt both inside and outside the classroom have certainly shaped us both as people. The Cathedral continues to be a very special place in our hearts, as does the School's clock tower, which Mr Elliott was generous enough to show us. And above all, we recognise now what a special school we have been to. Now both at university, the values and traditions we have encountered in our School lives continue to mould us as (very!) young adults. The friends, teachers and members of the School Family who have supported us will stay with us for a lifetime. We have been proud to serve as your Head Students, and wish you all the very best in the rest of your school journeys.

Alice Bennett and Hugh Ludford

What an amazing year we have had! We arrived back to school in September with such enthusiasm and excitement. After overcoming the disappointment of the cancelled Sports Day, we were ready to take on the mammoth task of House Music. We had big shoes to fill (Shoes off if you Love School House!) as those before us had done so well. We started the task of scoping out the music talent in our House and we weren't disappointed! From amazing soloists to Yr7s and JD and their unlimited enthusiasm, we were off to a flying start. After what seemed like weeks and weeks of planning and rehearsals, lots of laughs and, let's be honest, a few tears, the night finally arrived. With the boys dressed in their tuxedos and the girls in their beautiful dresses (green, of course) we were ready. We were completely blown away by the calibre of all the entries and how well all the Houses performed. The support from the other Houses was truly amazing and the entire night highlighted what an amazing family we all are. The end of the evening came and the judge's announcement... WE WON! Well done everyone who took part - from the soloists, Senior Choir, Junior Choir, Band and Finale. To all the amazing musicians but also the people behind the organisation – working out the rotas and logistics and mopping up the occasional tears of frustration. Massive thanks to Miss Chantrell and Mr Smith for their support and supply of sweets.

Organising the house assemblies for the year was great fun and we had some amazing presentations from students and staff - a particular highlight being Mr Gunn and his gorgeous dog! Charities Week was also a fab highlight. Our assembly was held out in the cage - a good job considering

how messy it was! Students paid to pie the House Captains in the face - such fun even if we did all need to miss period 1 to have a shower- whoops! I think Miss Chantrell particularly enjoyed herself and spent more than she intended. Charities Week also saw us take part in the House Captains soaking and the Tug of War competition.

We have been very proud of the input members of the House have put into all the competitions this year, from chess (although St. Peter's were too good!) to Bake Off and course the merits total, which just kept climbing.

The final challenge of the year - taken on by the new House Captains was Sports Day. After last year's cancellation there was a bit of pressure. After garnering the troops, we ended up with a really strong team. The House team worked hard during the day to make sure all places were filled, and that the day ran without hiccup. For those less sporty students we also introduced a House Reporter, House Sanitation Experts (litter pickers), an Official Photographer and Journalist which went down really well and meant we had some great mementos from the day.

Emmanuel Shodimu & Lottie Tasker

It has been an honour representing St Chad's this year, as we have experienced so many amazing and rewarding opportunities. We have been incredibly lucky to have been supported by the phenomenal commitment and hard work of our House as we have achieved multiple victories and delivered many inspiring presentations.

Sports Day was a huge success as St Chad's members, Alice Bennett and Humphrey Frimpong were crowned Victrix Ludorum and Victor Ludorum, and many other victories including taking home the Senior Girls' Relay trophy.

Following on from Sports Day successes, a spectacular evening, full of outstanding talent was shared at the 2023 House Music Competition. Led by solos from George L'Estrange and Hana Cloke, St Chad's rendition of *Creep* by Radiohead claimed

1st place in the Senior Choir category. Other incredible performances included the St Chad's Band's musicians and singers, as well as pianists William Wu and Ollie Clair who accompanied both House Choirs. Ending the night was an uplifting finale performance of *Could Have Been Me* that was shared by all St. Chad's members.

Amongst all other memories made this year, particular highlights included: St George's Day celebrations led by the Year 12 team, pieing the House Captains in the face on a very successful Charities Week and finally sharing many victories at inter-house competitions throughout the year. We want to thank you all for such a fantastic year and wish the 2024-25 House Captains the best of luck as they lead us forward.

Josie Criddle & Harvey Matthewman

It was an amazing year being able to represent our beloved St. Oswald's for this year. We would like to thank everyone who has made such a fantastic contribution to all events this year, a special thank you to all our Year 13 students – your leadership and commitment have really pushed a community and built the St. Oswald's family.

St Oswald's were outstanding on Sports Day with many stand-out performances, including Nathaniel Norman and Ruby Hynes. Despite the poor weather St. Oswald's had terrific participation, and it was great to see pupils from Year 7 to Year 12 involved.

Although we didn't finish where we wanted at House Music, we are so proud to have won Band in a truly fantastic competition – well done to School for their victory this year! Although it was somewhat stressful, we had the most amazing experience, and

we wouldn't have changed it for anything! In other competitions, we celebrated success in chess (big shout out to George Adeyemi for winning overall!), Inter-house sports and Bake Off, just to name a few.

Our House Captains did lots of fund-raising around Charities Week and our annual culture day, where we saw Year 12 pupils singing and dancing in the Quad.

Good luck to next year's Captains, you will all do a fantastic job and carry the spirit of St. Oswald's forward in everything you do.

We would like to thank all of the St Oswald's staff for supporting us, and in particular Mr Holdsworth for his terrific contribution as Head of House, and we look forward to Mr Smith working with Mrs Taylor leading St Oswald's next year.

OZZY OZZY OZZY

Theo Forbes & Eva Harwin

It has been an amazing year representing St. Peter's House as House Captains and, as we hand over to the new six, we (Bert, Eleanor, Josh, Meredith, Oli and Olivia) would like to thank everyone in the House for their involvement and commitment, especially our fellow Year 13s and the enthusiastic Heads of House, Dr McAleese and Mrs Attwell.

There have been many great assemblies over the last year, with many of you making a great effort to join in and share the load, bringing your personal touch to the themes. One of our favourites was of course the Charities Week assembly, where students paid to pie us with cream, wax the boys' legs and Oli had his head shaved. We raised a superb amount of money, demonstrating how much you all wanted to splat us! Later that week all of our hardy House Captains turned up for the annual soaking.

Back in Summer 2023, our first challenge was to organise our team of athletes for Sports Day. The enthusiasm was fantastic; we won some of the prelims the week before, the Cookie Monster made an appearance to cheer us on and many of you rallied to bring us great success. After all of the hard work by the previous Captains, with the second in House Music and many other House point victories, we were very proud to collect the Annual House Cup alongside St. Chad's as Joint Winners.

For a new team of House Captains, though, the most anticipated event on the House calendar is undeniably House Music. We have an amazing depth of musical talent across the year groups in St. Peter's and a jam-packed schedule of rehearsals took over for the first Autumn half-term. We are very proud of the quality of pieces

we performed, with our Band's cool performance of Never too much and the winning orchestra piece *His Dark Materials* (Main theme). Special mention to Rishi Ghosh for winning Solos with his talent on the piano. Always a team effort and with friendship at our core, WE WON!!!! So happy – so proud – thanks for a great year.

Eleanor Mace & Bert Papworth



The Student Council is one of the best opportunities that every student can apply for, however it's seldom recognised for its importance by the student body; having a reputation for failing to get anything changed. Yet being on the Council again last year I can truly say that it has made significant improvements in many fields: How it's run – meetings and how/who it's led by; it's increased visibility – hosting small parts of assemblies and having an updated pinboard with more relevant information on it; the changes made to the School – naming of Henry's, and minor changes to the Charities Week; and the opportunities made because of being on the Council – talking to David Lammy.

The visibility of the Student Council in previous years was notoriously poor; everyone in the student body knew that the Council existed but also knew that the Council didn't achieve anything substantial for those the members represented. This, fortunately, isn't true anymore, the Council has become another well-oiled cog in The King's School Peterborough's machine. Our meetings are now more structured, with topics or issues in mind for the members to discuss alongside the Council's participants still being able to continue with their obligation – being a voice for their supporters. Additionally, a summary of the meetings is written up so that part of the Council can present the discussions to the School, taking a small section of assemblies to do so, effectively giving a half-term update on the decisions that the Student Council makes.

As for the changes made to the School we altered the fabled Charities Week, simply moving the date forward to the 2nd week of October as to better accommodate

the students that follow the religion of Islam as the original date for Charities Week happened to coincide with the month of Ramadan, preventing everyone from experiencing the full joy of Charities Week. Additionally, we had gained a new Dining Hall which had to be named, our Headteacher, Mr Harrison joined by Mrs Stringwell had joined the meeting and given the Council two different names to choose from for the new Dining Hall, Henry's was the name we chose. The Council has also given all its members the opportunity to talk with the current Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, which allowed all members from Years 7 – 13 to ask any question to Tottenham's MP. Speaking first-hand with a politician gave us all a fantastic insight into the tireless work that those at the forefront of our country must undertake.

Nicholas Bailey

Last year, the Student Council focused initially upon changing the visibility of the group and were involved in many exciting events. Firstly, we discussed the wellbeing of the School and what could be improved to make the students' results from last year's Council survey even more positive, including emphasising the school values. There were a number of ideas implemented to achieve this and gather more student opinion, for example during form time. We also focused upon changing the Student Council noticeboard which now has a photograph and the name of all representatives for the year to enable other students to know who to speak to if they have any ideas or concerns. The noticeboard also captures all the information/topics discussed in the meetings and the School Council email

address so students can share their opinion or concerns anonymously. In addition, we explored the different hymns sung during Cathedral Services. We presented our top 15 hymns to our form groups and then let them decide their favourite ones. This approach ensured everyone's opinion was captured with the aim of further improving the quality of singing during services.

As a Council, we had the responsibility of selecting the name for the new canteen. Suggested names were discussed during meetings before each member of the School Council voted for the most suitable name, sharing their opinions and ideas. 'Henry's' (after the School's founder, Henry VIII) was unanimously decided upon. We also discussed the types of food that were to be offered in the canteen, the monitoring

of queues and popularity of each canteen, plus which year groups would be allowed to use the various dining spaces.

Finally, we had the opportunity to meet David Lammy (former pupil and current Foreign Secretary) which was an incredibly memorable experience. It was fascinating to hear about his life so far and what his experience was like as a student at King's; helping to make him who he is today. We were lucky to be able to ask him questions too.

The Student Council covered numerous topics and improved many aspects of school life last year. It is an honour and a privilege to be part of the Student Council representing our peers.

Evie Drake



A-level Fine Art

Brilliant Burghley

In Autumn 2023, JD1 travelled by coach to visit Burghley House, exploring all the secrets that lay inside.

During their time there, they visited the ancient kitchen. Inside the kitchen they examined the turtle skulls that were found outside Burghley as the people that lived inside ate turtles. There was a fire which was next to the spit, which cooked their food as the 6 - 8 year old turned the spit. As the people that lived in Burghley were rich, they ate too much sugar and they had many jelly moulds because they couldn't eat well with bad teeth.

After that they went to explore some rooms. There was a room which contained a toilet on the male's side, but on the female's side there was no toilet.

Once that was finished, JD1 sensibly walked outside to start drawing the outside of Burghley House. Everyone really tried to draw in the details. They all enjoyed their time.

Victoria Afrooznia



Captivating Cave

We learned about cave art and tried it out for ourselves. We painted with our fingers

and mushed up fruit and vegetables.

JD2 brought lots of things from their houses like paprika, parsley and berries. We put them in a small bowl (pestle and mortar) and ground them up. Then we placed our fingers in the bowl and started to draw on the wall (we had hung paper there).

Everyone had a group and a picture to paint, although there was plenty of discussion about how to paint, what to paint and which colours to use.

All the children in JD2 were having fun and borrowing things from different groups and bringing it to theirs. Afterwards, the pictures looked amazing.

Jolaoluwa Ogunmokun and Fife Fagbule



Cave Bus

During the summer term we had a huge white bus on the yard. It was like a cave on the inside, but a bus. It felt bigger on the inside than the outside but once you went in, all you could see was a dark tunnel that felt like it went on forever. There were a lot of tight spaces, and it always seemed to be pitch black, but only if you turned off the torch that you were given just before you went in. There were lots of twists and turns. It really did feel like a cave. Mr Ludford wasn't allowed on it because he

was too big. It was very exciting, but overall real fun and I hope we do it again!

Orlando Esposito and Felix Hamilton-Box



Festive Fayre

On a snowy winter's afternoon JD1 and JD2 went to the main school to spend their money and have fun at the Christmas Fayre. There were different types of stalls such as games to win prizes, stalls to sell things and even a massive food stall.

People ate cupcakes and yummy treats. At the Fayre there was a corner full of games. One of them was throwing the ball at the cups to win a prize.

There was a Secret Santa, which cost £2 for a present and they had science kits, art supplies games and much more.

There was a stall that sold bracelets, that was quite popular and another that sold hair accessories. There were lots of decorations and festive Christmas songs.

The Christmas Fayre was lots of fun, and enjoyable for the whole of The King's School.

Stephanie Peacock and Sarinah Barrett-Millard



Creative Christmas Nativity

In JD Christmas time is always magical. During winter 2023 the Christmas Play included layered seating for the audience, so they all had a good view. The play was exciting for both the audience and the performers. We had lots of practice prior to the actual performance, to make it as good as possible. This year Mr Ludford had an idea to start when Mary and Joseph knocked on the door of the inns.

The play progressed to Mary giving birth to Jesus and then all the performers went behind the curtains to make a wonderful nativity scene.



We sang lots of songs throughout the play such as 'Once in Royal David's City', where some of the Year 6 performers did a solo at the beginning of the piece; 'Away in a

Manger' which spoke about the birth of the baby Jesus and finally 'Unto us a son is given'.

Ethan Bennett and Lauren Hemp

Tree Hunting

Of 61 pupils, 4 were chosen. Their names were: Florence, Theo, Sasha and Joshua. They were chosen to go and cut down a beautiful-looking Christmas tree to put school-made decorations on. It had to look stunning to put it in the church on display for everyone to look at. After they cut it, they even got to have a pocket hand-warmer, a piece of cake and a hot chocolate (they also cut two more for the senior school as well).

Adam Moore and Gabriela Moore



The Highlight of the Den Showdown

During the summer term, JD2 gathered in their houses to build dens on the field. It was – and might still be today – a unique summer's activity, which involves hard work, teamwork and fun.

In the mid-hours of the afternoon, JD2 walked briskly to a black shed containing all the den building equipment. Many children were electric with ecstatic joy, as Mr Ludford (the Head of JD) brought out the things we needed. After all the preparation was done, it was time to get rolling.

Huge bamboo sticks were laid out on the edge of the field, as all the school Houses (one house at a time) took the equipment they needed to make their den.

Then they got working.

Roars of excitement whizzed through the whole field as the hardworking students of JD2 in each House came together to make their dens, and it was very competitive. With all the hard work JD2 did, they ended with a smile in their own den.

Chimno Nwafor



Mummifying Madness

During autumn term 2023, JD2 mummified dolls by removing the organs that were placed inside them, then they wrapped the dolls in mod-roc.

Looking across the tables, JD2 noticed dolls, which they had to mummify. In groups of 4, they opened the packaging

that was surrounding the doll. Then they covered the table in sheets of newspaper and placed the doll on top of them.

Now they could begin removing the slimy organs. They discovered that they needed to remove the head to take out the brain using a paperclip. The other organs were hidden inside slits in the body, which they used their fingers to remove.

Soon each group collected a tray of water and a roll of mod-roc to wrap around the doll to replicate the mummification process.

Olivia Leopold and Florence Esposito



Flying Geodes

Last year, JD2 had the opportunity to take part in an interesting science experiment related to smashing geodes and uncovering crystals.

On one cold but bright afternoon, JD2 began to smash the white, shimmery geodes Mr Ludford had generously purchased from Morocco.

They used safety goggles, heavy hammers and chalk to draw circles and place the geode in.

Geodes smashed open some were harder

than others. JD2 were amazed as they peered inside the glistening crystals embedded in the rock.

Little pieces flew around everywhere!

It was a miraculous sight to see, a really amazing one!

Thywill Adeoye and Allegra Benjamin



Muddy Hike!

In July JD2 went on an amazing hike from Deeping to Glington.

It was a bright and sunny day, they were really lucky with the weather, although it was really muddy and wet, but luckily everyone was prepared. As they walked down a narrow path, they got to see some horses quite close on the other side of a fence, unfortunately it was really muddy and some people fell down and got covered in wet sticky mud, but took it in

good humour. We also went through 3 tunnels and some people brought moon balls to play with inside them.

Whilst walking through Maxey they had an opportunity to play in a great little play area and have a snack, too.

Although when they got back to school with tired legs and aching feet, they had all had an amazing time.

Nina Nassar and Harry Larham



Magnificent Museum

JD1 and JD2 travelled to the astonishing Natural History Museum in London. They used a gigantic double decker bus that fitted all the teachers and children. Once they had arrived they looked at different exhibits including the volcano section, human evolution, the dinosaurs and more.



After the museum visit, JD2 took a walk down the road to the Science Museum, to look at all sorts of different fascinating objects, like old cars, spaceships, rockets, old computers and so much more.

Afterwards, the children bought things from the gift shop as a souvenir.

Theo Collister and Giselle Goffe-Caldeira

Owl Pellet Parade

In JD2, the pupils rummaged through owl pellets (owl sick). Owl pellets are full of undigested teeth; streaks of mouse hair and ebony-black vole fur which also comes with a pile of bones scattered inside. They are created when a barn owl eats a rat, mouse or vole but the owl can't digest the fur or bones, so it deliberately throws up creating a small owl pellet.

Once all the bones were extracted, the children got some PVA and glued the bones onto a piece of dark green card to take home and show their parents.

Alexander Dickinson and Cecily Mitchell



Excellent Painting in JD2

During the summer term 2024, JD2 were given a given a chance to paint a double-bass, a clock and a guitar.

The grandfather clock was not working. All of them were spray-painted with pearl-white paint as a base coat.

At first, they were given a chance to design. Initially nobody had any ideas, but as the time went on, things were created.

Once the time came to paint, everyone crowded round the three objects like a dream come true and because there were three objects, JD2 split into 3 groups.

The further the time went on, the more discussions there were about colour, patterns and how to display it.

Finally, people agreed and JD2 started to make more progress towards the finish.

Whilst it took a couple of weeks, JD2 completed the double bass, guitar and clock, which are now on display in the Junior Department.

Ina Mikalauskaitė and Gabriel Aig-Imoru



Super Sports Day!

On a sunny day, JD Sports Day took place. All the Houses wandered over to the field. Soon pupils were stretching and mascots cheering.

Sprinters sprang up and raced for their House, while parents and pupils cheered for them, hoping they would win.

There were lots of novelty races, including a litter-picking race, and a late-for-school race. One girl had an amazing start but couldn't get the blazer on, so all the other girls overtook her.

Then we had amazing relays and an excellent Tug-of-War competition.

St. Oswald's won Sports Day for the second year in a row.

Kiki Morgan-Baxter and Luis Piqueras Sobieralski



Frying Pan Frenzy

As a tradition, on Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday), JD hosts pancake races for Years 3-6.

Everyone brings their pans and contributes with smiles on their faces. Parents and guardians can come and watch the children

Junior Department

race and have fun. There are separate races for each year, Years 3-6 girls and boys. All other pupils who are watching the races stand at the side and cheer everyone on.

There is a possible chance of a tie, if that happens, that whole race will be redone. Prizes are presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

If you get 1st, you will receive a pineapple and the legendary Golden Frying Pan.

Sasha Barnes and Angel-Louise Khupe



Fineshade Wood Hike



Flag Fen



Hills and Holes



JD1 Ferry Meadows

Junior Department



JD1 Bunting in DT



JD1 Roman Day Peterborough Museum



JD2 Peterborough Museum - Fossils



Marholm to King's Hike



Peterborough Museum WW2 Topic

Art

In December Year 10 Fine Art students went to Oxford to visit the Ashmolean Museum, where they saw the colour revolution exhibition and a series of large scale works by Flora Yukhnovich. Year 10 Photographers travelled to London, visiting the Photographers' Gallery and the Daido Moriyama and retrospective, and the V&A museum before spending the afternoon taking photographs around Chinatown, Soho and Leicester Square.

In October Year 12 also enjoyed a trip to the London Galleries, which launched their A-level personal investigations.

In February, Art, Photography, Design Technology and Drama students spent 5 days in New York where they visited

Art galleries and museums by day. The evenings were spent shopping and dining out in Times Square and watching Broadway shows: *Back to the Future* and *Six the Musical*.

In Year 10 and 12 Fine Art students attended the opening of the Ana Dumitru exhibition. After a lecture, students also participated in a workshop with the artist, making incised metal plates and winogradsky columns.

In May, 26 year 12 students exhibited their artwork at the Yarrow Gallery. Students curated their own show and participated in a group critique before opening the exhibition to the public.

Mrs. D Taylor

Biology

This year has seen the reintroduction of the AMGEN project for Y13. This is a project run in collaboration with Homerton College, Cambridge, where students have the opportunity to learn about manipulating genomes using techniques and equipment not normally available in the classroom - a real world experience for them, allowing them to put the theory they have learnt into practice.

Our amazing Y12 have submitted several exciting entries to the academic poster competition run by Imperial College London, on topics including the human heart and the advances in dental veneers. We have had great success in this competition in the past and I am excited to see what they can achieve.

Our field trip to study biodiversity was a

great success and this year the sun shone for us. Students had the opportunity to use equipment to measure the diversity of different plants and animals in an area and were then taught how to mathematically analyse that data and evaluate the biodiversity.

The Biology department continues to thrive and we pride ourselves on how supported we are by our staff. This year culminated in students volunteering to join us at a local primary school for the afternoon, where they ran activities for the Y5 and 6 students, including examining cells and designing and firing water rockets. The students enjoyed the challenge and were a credit to the school.

Miss. F Chantrell

Business & Economics

Our Business and Economics pupils have had an excellent year, culminating in good results and a number of students pursuing these subjects at a number of prestigious universities.

In Year 10 our GCSE Business pupils were involved in a range of business activities, both in and out of the classroom. The Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to participate in a Share Challenge, tracking the value of shares they purchased virtually, to see who could make the greatest gains.

They also had the opportunity to set up their own mini enterprises, creating a business plan and applying for a Tycoon loan from the Peter Jones Foundation. A number of groups were successful in their application, and it was pleasing to see the excitement and interest of the pupils in their pursuit of making their business successful, and ultimately making a healthy profit. For a number of pupils this was one of the highlights of the year, as they conducted research and ultimately bought stock-ready trade.

In the summer term GCSE Business pupils completed a piece of work putting together a plan for a proposed café in the local area. This 'My Café' activity involved pupils conducting primary and secondary research, and this year saw the pupils undertake a field trip into the centre of Peterborough, which has enabled them to add first-hand information to their plans.

Throughout the year Sixth Form students have run a very well attended Economics Society. The Year 13 students met weekly to discuss current topics within Economics and as we approached Year 13 exams and the A-level papers in the summer, the focus moved on to exam technique and how to approach each paper. Following the Year

13 students starting their exam leave we have had a group of enthusiastic Year 12 economists take responsibility for the Economics Society and they have already arranged a number of meetings.

Both A-level Economics and Business had healthy numbers of students attend additional lessons out of class time with Mr Smith and Mrs Willis.

Our Year 12 economists benefited from a presentation by Dr Emiliya Lazarova, Head of the School of Economics at the University of East Anglia, who spoke to them about studying Economics at university. This was an important event for many of our students, who found the presentation gave them the incentive to apply for Business and Economics courses later in the year.

Students in Year 13 prepared responses for a competition run by the Institute of Economic Affairs, reflecting on the macroeconomy and the likely economic outlook for the next two years, which proved to be a valuable revision exercise.

Finally, the department facilitated one of the activities for Year 8 in Activities Week, where we focused on employability skills and the hopes and expectations our younger pupils might have for their future careers. This was tied into an activity that concentrated on how charities raise funds and what they might be expected to spend their funding on.

Chemistry

The Chemistry department continues to grow with record number of students choosing A-level this year. This year's Y12 students have taken part in the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad, achieving bronze and silver certificates. We also carried out the Royal Society of Chemistry Analytical competition, where students compete in groups to analyse unknown chemicals, using a variety of methods.

In Spring Dr J McQuaid (Associate Professor of Atmospheric Composition, University of Leeds) spoke to students in Y12 & 13 about his work at the University and internationally around low air quality, pollution, tropospheric ozone & wildfires; giving students the opportunity to see theory in real-world research.

We also welcomed ex-students Imogen Ince and Willf Firkins back into the School

after their first term studying Chemistry at University. They spoke to Y12 students about their course and the breath of opportunity that Chemistry offers.

Many students chose Chemistry projects for their Y8 science research project and produced poster presentation topics as wide as flame colours, simulating volcanoes and the best recipe for slime.

(photos Mr C Dunn)



Classics

During 2023/24 the Classics department offered a range of trips to pupils in Year 13, Year 9 and Year 8.

In December Year 13 headed to the British Museum to study a range of prescribed material and to gather wider evidence for their Greek religion and Imperial Image units of study. They were also able to see artefacts from the period of the Bronze Age in the Mediterranean and the era of the Trojan War. These included the Panathenaia frieze, a Panatheanaic vase and a Caryatid column.

Then in February we took Year 9 to the British Museum for a study session and to do work in the Roman galleries. This fed in well to the Roman Britain topic we study which looks at the diverse ethnic makeup of the Roman empire. They were able to see artefacts we study including the tombstone of Regina and Barathes from Syria and the letter from Claudia Severa to her sister, the only letter written by a woman to a woman in existence from the

Roman world. They also saw a statue of the emperor Septimius Severus, the first African emperor of the Roman empire.

Finally we took Year 8 to Bath and Chedworth in June to see the Roman baths and the remains of a Roman villa. In Year 8 we study Roman baths, so it brought the topic alive to see the baths and the other objects found there. The Roman villa gives them an early insight into the Roman Britain topic we study in Year 9 and they were even fortunate enough to see one of the Chedworth snails, a direct descendant of the Roman snails brought to Chedworth that were a delicacy of Roman cooking.



Classics



Drama

Witness for the Prosecution and Mrs Doubtfire

In November our Year 12 and 13 Theatre Studies students travelled to London to see two West End productions: *Witness for the Prosecution* at London County Hall and *Mrs Doubtfire* at the Shaftesbury Theatre. *Witness for the Prosecution* was particularly special as the play is staged in a real court with members of the public being able to become part of the jury and read the verdict. This annual trip is a great opportunity for students to experience professional theatre in contemporary spaces where new innovations are constantly changing how directors and designers are bringing plays to life.



Woman in Black and Chicago

Also in November, all our GCSE and A-level students were taken to see *The Woman in Black* at Nottingham's Theatre Royal. The play was one of the longest running shows in the West End and this touring production still captured the imagination of our young audience. With incredible

storytelling, multirole and set design, this production both captivated and gripped our students with terrifying suspense. This show allows students to see how, with only two actors, creating believable characters can make ghost stories such as a this one, a believable thing!



Drama

In January we presented the annual whole school production. This year we invited audiences in to see our take on *Chicago: Teen Edition*. As ever, this show involved over 80 students across all aspects: performance, band and technical crew. The proudest thing for me this year was the student leadership across the board. Benjamin Sherriff (Y12) was our assistant Musical Director, Caitlin Goodlip (Y13) and Harvey Matthewman (Y13) were our lead choreographers and were supported by Miriam Markham (Y12) and Kayla McNealis (Y12) who choreographed a handful of

numbers, Isla Mackie (Y12) brought the stage flats to life and Gemma Martin (Y13) called the show as our Stage Manager. All of these students helped bring this fantastic show to life and with Mrs Varty, Mrs Lock and Mr Holbird bringing their fantastic contributions, it felt truly special. I'm very proud of the shows that I have produced during my time at King's and this was an excellent one to finish with. A huge thank you to all students who have given up their time to be part of these experiences over the past 7 years – I will cherish those memories fondly.

Back to the Future

In February we (again) took 100 Year 9 students down to London's Adelphi Theatre to see *Back to The Future: The Musical*. A fantastic experience was had by all as students get to see the technical feats that theatre can overcome as a fully-sized Delorian tears across the stage. I hope this show continues for many years so more of our students get the opportunity to see such an incredible production.



Design Technology

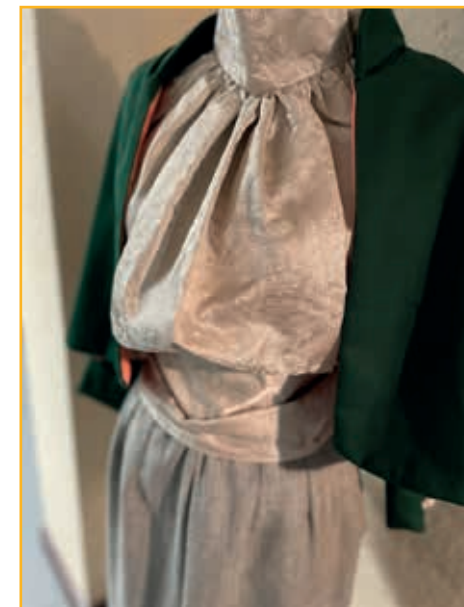
In his book *Humanise*, British designer Thomas Heatherwick decides that beautiful architecture is often a balance of both ORDER and CHAOS. On one hand things are carefully worked out, carefully planned, linear and predictable. On the other hand, we bow to nature, we accept the unpredictable and we embrace the messy.

This is a lovely illustration of Design and Technology as a subject. We prefer the word 'freedom' to 'chaos', but we see every day the healthy tension between being 'disciplined' and 'letting loose'.

Last year with Heatherwick's principles in mind, DT at King's restructured our assessment into two interdependent factors: EXPLORING and CREATING.

Before we create anything, first we EXPLORE. Last year students in Key Stage 3 worked with our new wonderful Food teacher Mrs Sithole to explore temperature, diets and cultural influences, to work with sharps and heat in the kitchen and to recall the science behind micro and macro nutrients. In Product and Textiles students learnt how to meticulously analyse products like Kinder Eggs and generated specifications for their own projects. They explored a vast range of materials and took part in processes like sublimation printing, lamination, steam bending.

Exploration is essential but it has a purpose; to CREATE. Last year students in Key Stage 3 made a stir-fry, Swiss rolls, Samosas and pizzas. In Year 7 students produced laser cut souvenirs, timber storage boxes, appliquéd pencil cases and entry-level sweet and savoury dishes. In Year 8 they stepped up the complexity of their cooked dishes, created multicultural cushions



using several finishing techniques, unique ideas for LED lamps and multicultural body adornment pieces. In Year 9 students undertook the Design Ventura design

challenge, worked with more precision in the workshop to produce a sweet dispenser and in the Textiles room to produce a



festival windsock. They also began to take more ownership of the dishes they were producing in food. At the end of the year all students took part in a design activity to honour the 2024 Olympics.

Amongst all this, many students attended our Drone, Scalextric and Textiles clubs and we embraced the growing culture of students using the DT creative spaces to explore and create their own projects – particularly making use of our new 3D printer. Students contributed to prop and scenery design for the school production of *Chicago* and helped to make our stunning Christmas display of a giant 24-window advent calendar, each with a handmade surprise.

Nothing gives us a better indicator of success in Key Stage 3 than the energy and commitment of our students in Key Stage 4 and 5.

Last year, alongside exploring a large volume of exam content, students in Years 10 and 12 undertook a range of theoretical and practical projects designed to stimulate innovation and fuel independence. Students in Food undertook scientific studies into topics such as health and nutrition, students in Textiles produced impressive fashion items made from recycled denim, and students in Product added 3D CAD and 3D printing to their toolbox of skills. Year 12 students also relished the chance to express their own personalities by making and customising scaled-up timber Lego figures. Towards the end of the year students enjoyed several trips – a highlight being the opportunity to go to the home of YouTuber Colin Furze to meet and greet and visit his underground bunker and tunnel system.

Students in Years 11 and 13 blazed



the trail in the NEA projects, working tirelessly to complete their projects, attempting particularly challenging briefs and working with fantastic levels of skill and accuracy. The 2023-2024 Art, Design and Technology Exhibition was dazzling, showcasing projects from notable students like Ogaga Ehwerhemuepha who reached new heights of challenge with Food, Preparation and Nutrition, Dylan Criddle who produced an unbelievable amount of iterated prototypes, Charles Gregory who integrated tensegrity structures into furniture, Faith Grant who produced a stunning piece of clothing which responded to the challenge of climate change and integrated self-recycled materials, Millie Denman who produced a wonderful apron which detaches to produce a kneeler for a gardener and Alex Woolley who developed an impressively engineered unit which not only melts plastic but also flattened it into usable sheets.

To give credit to our Sixth Form designers

by singling them out is too difficult. Ruby Cross, Eliana Smyth, Isabel Turpin, Laiba Sadiq and Anya Pinder set an unbelievably high bar in the Textiles department. And Oscar Smith, Aaron Castanetto, Joseph Ashton, Joel Waller, Ria Abbott, Kasey Law, Lottie Tasker and Georgia Bowen brought new levels of creativity, accuracy and a pioneering spirit to Product Design. Each product carrying its own story of order and chaos, of EXPLORING and CREATING. At the end of the year, the exam-group students were once again rewarded with astonishing results.

Too often the media presents us with unobtainable ideas of perfection. But Design and Technology at King's embraces both order and chaos. The subject forces people into creative corners and asks them to work their way out. Our currency is not perfection – it is creativity, confidence, and resilience. Come and see for yourself what it really means to be a Designer Maker at King's!

The English Department – Learning Opportunities Beyond the Classroom

The English Department has had a dynamic year, with a variety of trips and visits that have significantly enhanced the educational experience of our students.

Primal Wounds in Gold Lamé

Year 13 English Literature students, led by Ms Rutherford and kindly accompanied by Ms Karsten, piled into minibuses on April 19th to spend an hour with performance poet Luke Wright at the Stahl Theatre in Oundle, watching his 'Silver Jubilee' show. In his funny, revelatory and poignant poems, Wright examined his 'primal wound': having considered his babyhood adoption 'wasn't a big thing' throughout his life and his 25-year poetry career, he interrogated ideas about love, family, privilege and destiny through varied poetic forms, including a bit of drum n bass.



Ms Rutherford's class also saw 'Richard the Third' at The Globe on July 4th. The character Richard carries a primal wound of his own, given his arrival in the world 'scarce half made up'. Helen Terry, however, played him as a comedic super villain in gold trousers and studded codpiece. The topical political comments and sheer brutality undercut any risk of pantomime, but on the train home, Sixth Former Roxanne encapsulated our reaction: 'it was just so entertaining!'

Quantum Theatre Company Visits: 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Jekyll and Hyde'

We were fortunate to host a visiting theatre company twice last year: on both occasions performing versions of set GCSE texts for our Year 11 students. In December, they performed 'A Christmas Carol', which was a perfect way to explore Dickens' timeless tale of redemption and social conscience. The production's vivid



portrayal of Victorian London, and its moral lessons, resonated deeply with students, enhancing their understanding of the text and its historical significance.

In the Spring Term, the same company returned with a gripping adaptation of 'Jekyll and Hyde'. This performance provided a thrilling exploration of duality and human nature, themes central to Robert Louis Stevenson's novella. The live adaptation helped students visualise the story's Gothic elements and the psychological complexity of its characters, allowing them to further appreciate the author's aims and methods.



Overall, the English Department's trips and visits, along with the activities of the Literary and Poetry Societies, have really enriched our students' educational journey. These experiences have not only increased their understanding of literature and performance but also inspired a deeper appreciation for the arts. We look forward to continuing this tradition of immersive and engaging learning opportunities in the future.



Geography

Our Key Stage 4 and 5 Geography students have had the exciting opportunity to visit Iceland on a Fire and Ice Tour to see first-hand the tectonic activity and landforms. As part of the visit they walked in the rift between two continents, hiked on a glacier and walked behind waterfalls melting from the ice as part of a unique experience that supports their studies in GCSE and A-level.

Our curriculum at Key Stage 3 continues to inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people, that we hope will remain with them for the rest of their lives. To supplement their classroom learning we have taken students out of the classroom environment. Students in Year 7 had the opportunity to visit a local farm and find out about sustainable farming and farm diversification; they returned to the classroom ready to plan their own sustainable farm. As part of their studies on the rainforest, every Year 8 student visited London Zoo in conjunction with the Biology department to investigate animal behaviours and their adaptation to their rainforest environment. Students have also been using the school site for local fieldwork, Year 8 have identified the school site microclimate and Year 9 have been recording our carbon store in trees and

how our site affects the local water cycle. All students have the chance to come to Eco-Club on Fridays at lunch-time, run by our Geography Prefects. This year our focus has been on recycling bins and pen-recycling boxes.

At Key Stage 4 the OCR course is designed for those enquiring minds that want to find out about the people and places that make our world so fascinating. Each topic develops the skills to think, study and question like a geographer. GCSE students have been to visit Cambridge to decide if it is a sustainable city centre and to Hunstanton to see how sea defences affect coastal processes, whilst learning the practical study skills for their exams.

At Key Stage 5 Year 12 students have been on residential in Yorkshire for 4 days of fieldwork and study skills to prepare them for their Non-Examined Assessment (project) comprising 30% of their final grade. We have also offered them lots of super-curricular opportunities to develop the young adults on our course become wider thinking and more interesting students with lectures on subjects such as: Human Rights Think Tank, Making Cities Resilient to Climate Change & Improving Liveability, Distribution of Wealth, When



Year 7 farm visit to Moor Farm, Newborough



Year 12 Glacial Studies at Bridlington

Geography

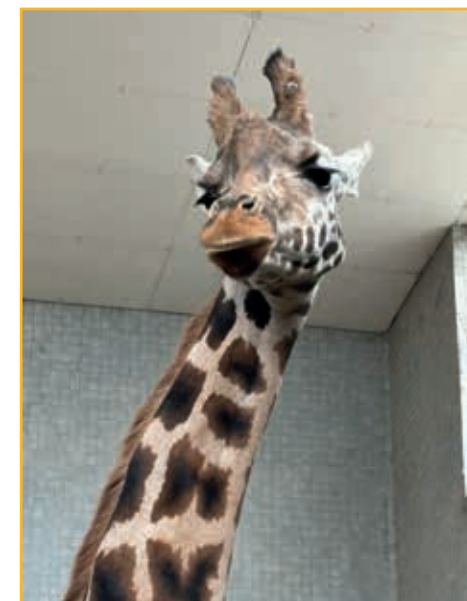
Hazards Meet- What Can Earthquakes Tell Us About Volcanoes? Understanding Climate Tipping Points & How They Interact and Ocean Acidification.

Additionally, all Year 12 took part in a Micro-lecture evening delivered to an external audience and sponsored by the Royal Geographic Society. Five students from King's gave 5-minute lectures on a variety of super-curricular topics of their choice: Issues in the loss of Indigenous language and culture, Lessons from Costa



Year 10 GCSE coursework, Hunstanton

Rica, Tokyo Synopsis, Urban Vertical Farming: Green Skyscrapers of Tomorrow and Where on earth will people live in the future?



Year 8 visit to London Zoo

Year 7 trip to the Cathedral June 2024

On a lovely summer's day in June, the Year 7s walked down to the Cathedral for a guided tour that informed us about how the reign of King Henry VIII (our School's founder) impacted the history of that iconic building in the heart of the city.

When we discussed Henry VIII in the context of Peterborough Cathedral, it was mainly said that he dissolved monasteries to earn money and to gain power over the church. Relics were also a main subject and we learnt about how the monks earned money for the church by creating "relics" that the public would pay to see. Some of the relics included pieces of the original cross, Thomas Becket's blood and body parts of the Saints.

Finally, we learnt about the creation of our School when the monastery was dissolved; it was a school for 20 poor boys of the city.

Overall, I really enjoyed the trip because it was very interesting and it is important to know the history of our School.

Before the theatre students were taken to have a look around the British Library and view some of its collections and its impressive internal architectural design. A fantastic experience all-round.



Year 12 trip to Cabaret May 2024

This year a group of Year 12 students attended the musical 'Cabaret' as part of their studies on Germany in the period 1919-1963. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it and it really brought home to the students the pressures that existed in early 1930s Germany to conform to a Nazi view of society. Both moving and shocking in places, the production had the students gripped from the moment they were directed down to the basement of the theatre by a burly London doorman and into a world that resembled that of a 1920s nightclub.

Year 13 Essay Prize – Athenaeum Club London

Congratulations to Alisdair Marshall in year 13 who collected a £100 prize money for his History Essay on Totalitarianism. There were over 400 entries and Alisdair was one of a handful to gain recognition for his essay. The award was presented at the Athenaeum Club in London. Alisdair was invited by the Club to do an Internship with them over the Summer.

Year 7 and 8 – Activities Week – History Trips

As part of Activities Week 2024 the History Department organised trips for Year 7 to Warwick Castle and Year 8 to the Imperial War Museum, Duxford. Year 7 experienced a jousting event between the opposing Houses in the Wars of the Roses and the highlight of the Year 8 trip to Duxford was making a documentary video in the Battle of Britain hangar. Some of the students were very professional. Though for Mr Gunn it was seeing a British Spitfire and American P51 Mustang do a fly past whilst enjoying a Flat White and an IWM cookie. Living the dream!



Year 11 Kenilworth Castle

In October 2023 the History Department took 110 Year 11 students to Kenilworth Castle as part of their case study on Heritage sites for the GCSE course. Students were able to consolidate their knowledge they gained in class. The castle itself is rich in history: the greatest lake castle in England, sited in 1100 to keep the Earl of Warwick in check, containing at one time the largest private chapel in England, witnessing the longest siege in English history and the backdrop for Robert Dudley's unsuccessful wooing of Elizabeth I. Apart from the rain the trip went off smoothly and the students had an informative if slightly damp time.



Maths

Last year was very busy again for the Mathematics department. We welcomed Mrs Collins to the team with all her wonderful new ideas, we had a trip to Alton Towers, a first for Maths and again we had a lot of success with the UKMT challenges.

In September Physics and Mathematics students from Year 13 visited Alton Towers for the day to enhance their study of motion and forces. They collected data on their phones during the rides to look at the G forces and acceleration that is experienced as you move around a roller-coaster track. They were also able to look at the shape of the track and how it relates to the movement of the car. It was a fantastic day with lots of screaming and a great opportunity to appreciate one of the many applications of Physics and Mathematics to the real world.

Also, in September we took part for the first time in the Olympiad for girls, we entered 4 students all of whom achieved at least a Bronze certificate.

There was much success again this year with both the Senior and Intermediate Challenges with record numbers of students achieving at least the Bronze award. Rishi Ghosh (10) did so well in these events that he was invited to attend a summer master class in Leeds at the UKMT headquarters.

In the Junior Challenge we entered 130 Year 7 and 8 students, some of whom were

doing it for their first time. Ali Taouabit got best in Year 7 with a score of 91 and a Gold certificate. Best in school was achieved by Year 8 student James Philipott with an almost perfect score of 125, closely followed by Benji Tinker in Year 8 who got 124, both of the Year 8 students along with 4 others made it through to the next rounds for their age group. We are still waiting for their results.

In March three of our Year 12 Further Mathematicians attended an AMSP SUMs Enrichment Day at the Centre of Mathematical Sciences in Cambridge. Becca Au, Izzy Sharpe and Ophelia Yu made their own way to the University, where they were greeted by a range of logic mathematical problems, which they need to work on in groups with other students from Cambridgeshire. During the day they worked on the applications of matrices to real-life situations known as speed networking. There was a careers showcase describing what to do after gaining a Maths degree and finally a mentor from the university gave a talk about the university entrance exam relating to the Maths-based subjects. The girls found the event very interesting and informative.

Looking forward to next year, we hope to run the Alton Towers trip again and as we did not hold our Annual Primary Maths Challenge, we hope to bring it back in summer 2025.

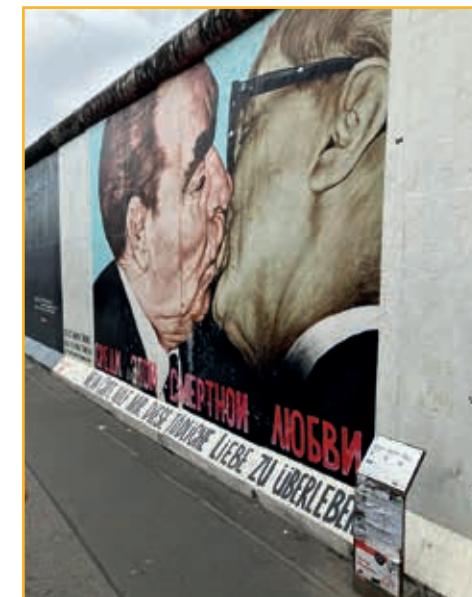
Mrs M Smith

Modern Foreign Languages

Our MFL team has continued to provide students in KS3, 4 and 5 with opportunities to explore different cultures: our Year 8 French classes had a look at different recipes from the French-speaking world for example. We also had some of our students experimenting with typical French recipes like the "Galette des Rois". We also organised our annual bake off for the European Day of Languages with some stunning entries.



We also continued to offer different residential trips. French linguists in Year 9 went to the Opal Coast for 4 days whilst German linguists went to the Christmas market at Aachen in Germany. Our older French students could also take part in our visit to Montpellier whilst our Germanists went to Berlin, Germany.



Many musicians have been involved in a wide variety of musical events during the year, with 49 pupils being awarded Half Colours, and 20 Full Colours.

In October pupils who participated in the successful Belgium Music Tour performed instrumental and vocal pieces in the Tour Celebration Concert.

In November over 400 pupils participated in House Music at the New Theatre. There were some memorable performances including *His Dark Materials* by St. Peter's Orchestra, *Glorious* by St. Chad's Junior Choir, *Fix You* by St. Oswald's Senior Choir and *I'm Still Standing* by School House's Band.

Over 150 pupils performed in the Cathedral in the Christmas Concert, which contained festive performances from the School Orchestra, Senior Choir, Senior Concert Band, the Junior Choir and numerous other ensembles.

The whole-school production of *Chicago* during the Spring Term was another highlight, with its talented cast and orchestra performing to sell-out audiences, whilst in the Spring Mid-term and Summer Concerts musicians from all the school ensembles, from the Junior Department to Year 13, performed to appreciative audiences.

In the Spring Concert in St. John's Church members of the Orchestra, Senior Choir, String Ensemble and Senior Concert Band performed Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Vaughan Williams' *Variations on a Theme of Thomas Tallis*, and a selection of high-quality chamber and solo music including movements from Bruch's *Violin Concerto* and Elgar's *Serenade for String Quartet*.

In June there was enthusiastic uptake of

new instrumental lessons from the Junior Department Year 3 Taster Evening. Pupils in JD 1 and 2 performed a première of a new hymn and two other original songs composed by Alexander L'Estrange, and several JD pupils also played in the Peterborough Music Hub Orchestra. Several King's string players - Grace Calcraft, Rachel Oldaker, Amelia Sandall, Liam Shaw, Sarah Weston, Olivia Leopold (JD), Ina Mikalauseite (JD) and Rachel Weston (assisting) - were also involved in the Benedetti String Day for Young Players at Jack Hunt School. In August Matilda Pearson will participate in the Orchestra Week at the Chetham's Summer Music School.

Musicians from The King's School remain in demand both for school events and in the local community. In September a jazz ensemble of Maia Meredith, Ben Sherriff and ex-student Andrew Greenleaves performed at Oktoberfest. In November there were performances of Christmas music by the Flute and Clarinet Ensembles at the Christmas Fair, and 11 pupils from the school - Janani and Janardhan Aravind, Anmol Bhardwaj, Skye Collard, Maia Meredith, Matilda Pearson, Ella Peasgood, Anika Ramakrishna, Meredith Roberts, Rhianna Waumsley and Sarah Weston - were involved in the Peterborough Youth Orchestra première of *Mimi and the Mountain Dragon* at the New Theatre.

In December a group of senior musicians organised by Gemma Martin, and including Natasha Holding, Eleanor Mace, AnnaMaria Barnes, George L'Estrange, Ayo Ogunyoye, Ayush Banerjee, Lydia Williams, Kerenza Treverton, Michaela Owusu-Ansah and Mrs Svoboda, performed Christmas music to appreciative residents of Castor

Lodge Care Home.

In March a group of senior students performed at the Peterborough Asylum and Refugee Community Association (PARCA) fundraising event. Ben Sherriff, Maia Meredith, AnnaMaria Barnes, Elizabeth Igbodudu, Mark Dall, Seb Ponte-Perez and Jack Firkins played songs by Jamiroquai and Stevie Wonder.

In June current and former Choristers sang at the Old Choristers' Association Annual Reunion. A string quintet, led by Miss McAuliffe, and the Cathedral Choristers performed at Mrs Birch's Retirement Event, and members of the Senior Choir performed at the Leavers' Service and the Leavers' Dinner.

Well done to all pupils who have taken music exams this year. Congratulations to Chloe Spires (soprano), George L'Estrange (cello), Claudia Bastin and William Wu (piano) and Meredith Roberts (oboe), who all achieved Grade 8 with Distinction. Well done also to all pupils who have performed in whole-school Assemblies this year, and thank you to Mrs Svoboda and Mr Holbird for their contributions.

Individual musicians from King's have continued to excel at regional and national levels. Rachel Weston and Farah Ashby

have continued to play alongside some of the best young musicians in the country through their involvement with the Trinity Laban Conservatoire and Royal Academy of Music Saturday Schools. Rachel was awarded the Vivian Joseph Prize for Strings and the Friends of Junior Trinity Prize, and was one of twelve successful applicants to take part in Mehem's Great Little Orchestra Course, a 5-day project in which students learn to lead music workshops for pupils with additional needs. Farah, who has gained a place at the prestigious Purcell Music School next year, won the Violin category in both the Bedford Festival of Music, Speech and Drama and the Bedfordshire Rotary Young Musician Competition. Farah, Rishi Ghosh and Janardhan Aravind also ensured that King's was well represented in top placings in the Oundle Music Festival. Meredith Roberts won a Platinum Award in the National Concert Band Festival Finals in Warwick, and Ella Peasgood performed in the National Youth Orchestra in the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall. Matilda Pearson represented England in the European Brass Championships in Palanga, Lithuania, playing Solo Cornet as part of Youth Brass 2000.

Dr M Ratcliffe

In October, Mrs White, Mrs Svoboda and Mr Owens accompanied the A-level Physicists and Mathematicians for a day filled with thrills and excitement at Alton Towers. Whilst enjoying the many rides the students videoed examples of circular motion and used an app to record the acceleration they experienced on the Nemesis. Once back in the classroom, they used tracking software to analyse motion, making links to circular motion.

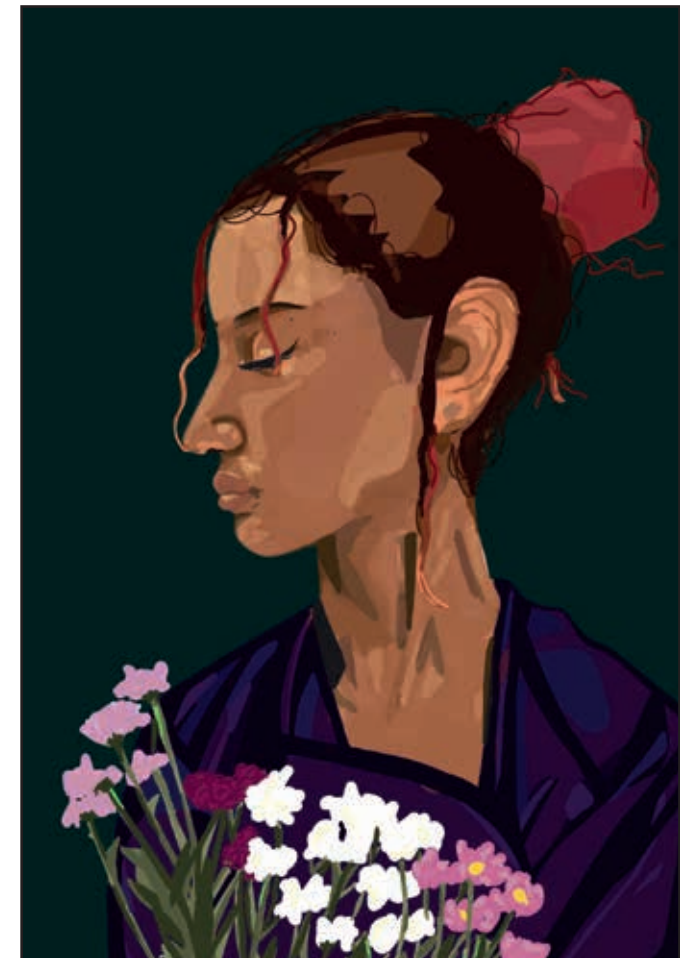
During the year, Physics students across Y11-13, all took part in the various British Physics Olympiad challenges. Our students continue to show how fantastic they are, with more Gold certificates awarded this year than in the previous one.

CanSat

Our third CanSat team of 2024 has now come to the end of their CanSat journey, taking the School's reputation to new heights. The CanSat competition UK asks teams of students to design, build and launch a satellite the size of a drinks can, called a CanSat. The project represented a cumulative input of around 70 hours of work over 6 months from October to April. For the second year running one of our teams, consisting of Mia Galkowski, William McAleese, Roland Christopher, Rishi Ghosh and Robin Turnham, secured a place in the national finals, beating over 240 other teams from schools across the country. They were placed 1st in the outreach category.

This year, our A-level students attended the Theology Society lectures in Peterborough on a range of thought-provoking topics, such as women in Christian art and issues in contemporary music-making in churches. Guest speakers from Oxford and Cambridge university, as well as Reverend Dr Rowan Williams delivered these lectures, which were well received by our high-flying students.

In another exciting development the RS department has made a switch for Y9-11 students, changing from OCR GCSE to AQA GCSE. This change will allow our students to engage in more social and moral issues applicable to the modern world, such as medical and environmental ethics, social justice and human rights and the nature of crime and punishment.



Ria Abbot A-level Fine Art

It has been another fantastic year of sport at The King's School. Several hundred pupils have represented the School, playing in 70 different teams across 11 different sports. The School has enjoyed its fair share of success, so much so that there would be too much to mention, so the highlights have been summarised.

A wide range of sports have taken place this term, ranging from friendlies and recreational events to cups, leagues and tournaments, in fact an incredible 52 different teams have played in over 100 fixtures or tournaments. Too many to mention so the following is a brief summary...

In the Autumn term

Rugby

Six teams were in action, with notable success for the U14 team who remained unbeaten and the U15 team who progressed well in the National Cup, before losing against a tough Gresham's team. The senior team have also been in action with very competitive matches against Bourne Grammar and Spalding Grammar.

Half Colours: Ben Smith, Thomas Willis, Oli Burpitt, Edward Goodchild, Hugh Ludford, Humphrey Frimpong, Kieran Griffin, Josh Martin, Jonathan Aig-Imoru, Nathaniel Norman, Euan Camelford.

Full Colours: Emmanuel Shodimu, Theo Forbes, Harry Pinguenet, Huw Nichols, James Garfield, Chris King, Bert Papworth, Jamie Hampton, Dakori Lilly-West.

Netball

7 netball teams were involved in league fixtures and tournaments. We had

our fair share of success in the District tournaments. Yr 8, Yr 9 and Yr 11 teams were all third, Yr 10 were runners-up and the Sixth Form team were winners.

Half colours: Maddie Downer, Georgia Anderson, Ruby Blakeley, Kayla McNealis, Suzanna Kananga, Diana Kiseru, Jade Ogunmola, Evie Hornsby, Georgia Coram, Lauren Attwell, Lara Treharne, Grace German, Emily Fitzjohn, Carys McDonald.

Full colours: Eliana Smyth, Hana Cloke, Josie Criddle, Alice Bennett.

Hockey

Lots of teams again in action, from JD all the way through to Sixth Form. Notable success includes the Sixth Form team qualifying for the East of England tournament and our U15 teams who were second and third in the Kesteven indoor tournament.

Half Colours: Setareh Robinson, Grace German, Isla MacKie, Emma Traylen, Evie Hornsby, Lara Treharne, Ruby Hynes. Vidushi Singhvi.

Full Colours: Alice Bennett, Georgia Coram, Josie Criddle, Emma Lincoln, Lauren Attwell.

Football

It's been a busy term for our football teams in both the Peterborough Schools' competition and the County Cup. 8 boys' teams, 5 girls' teams and 2 futsal teams have been in action, with a fair amount of success. The Yr 9 and Sixth Form teams were Peterborough Schools' semi-finalists and our U12 girls' team remains unbeaten in the County Cup competition. The biggest highlight, was the Yr 8 boys' team, who were crowned Peterborough Champions.

Half colours: Vinay Modhvadia, Seb Ponte Perez, Fin Eze, Jonathon Aig-Imuro, Harry Pinguenet, Chris Harrison, Josh Flatters, Oli Baldaro, Buddy Lamb.

Full Colours: Enoch Ekundayomi, Dakori Lilly-West, Lewis Wiles.

Cross Country

Students also took part in the English Schools' Cross Country Cup competing against schools from Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire with the Inter Girls and both Senior Boys and Girls qualifying for the regional round at Stowe School. In the Peterborough Schools' Championships, we had 110 students involved. Individually the following pupils all finished in the top three in their events and were therefore medallists: Iris Roberts, Ava Rose Smith, Jonty Anderson, Freya Harris, Ruby Hynes, Harry Collister, Freddie Muir and Felix Bowling. In total 45 pupils were selected to represent Peterborough at the County Schools' Cross Country in January. In the team events we were winners of 5 out of the 8 categories.

Half Colours: Lauren Attwell, Anya Pinder, Emily Fitzjohn, Georgia Anderson, Lara Treharne, Ella Farrington, Tom Oldaker, Harry Pinguenet, Mark Krolic, William Elliot.

Full Colours: Sophia Stead, Georgia Coram, Alice Bennett, Lottie Tasker, Josie Criddle, Sophie Bicknell, Hugh Ludford, Kieran Griffin, James Garfield, Chris Kings, Josh Martin, Bert Papworth, Felix Bowling.

Basketball

The Yr 7, 9 and 11 teams were all involved in the group stages of the Peterborough

Schools' competition and are all so far unbeaten, entering into the knockout stages in the new year. The senior team have also been in action in a series of local friendlies.

Half Colours: Jonathan Aig-Imuro, Kai Raymond, Emmanuel Shodimu, Panche Gurev-Markovachev, Enoch Ekundayomi, Tolu Olantunji, Harry Pinguenet, David Sanyaolu, Farley Green, Reggie Sampayan, Tomi Alabi, Reuben Adams, Mark Krolik, Anon Chitambria.

Table tennis

Several players from Yr 7 to 11 have been playing in a series of Peterborough School's tournaments. King's players have dominated the results with Lewis Wu and Wilson Zheng currently leading the individual competition. Lewis and Wilson, together with William Wu and Terry Zheng were also winners of the Cambridgeshire playoff and now go through to represent the County in the regional round of the National Competition in the new year.

In the Spring Term:

Badminton

At the Peterborough Schools KS4 Girls' singles tournament Vidushi Singhvi and Ruby Hynes were both 1/4 finalists. In the doubles Shante and Mealle were 1/4 finalists and Polly Anderson and Vidushi were semi-finalists. In the Boys' competition Max Hawtin and George Buckle were semi-finalists. In the KS3 Boys' singles Sid Raj was overall winner for the second year in a row.

Rugby

There was limited rugby action this term, but the Yr 9 and 10s were in action with convincing wins against a combined Hampton College and Hampton Gardens team.

Basketball

On the basketball court the Yr 9 boys' team were runners-up in the Peterborough Schools League and the Yr 7 boys 3rd overall. For the first time we have also had three girls' teams in action, with the Yr 9s finishing as runners-up. The Senior Boys were also in action with good victories against Uppingham and Jack Hunt Half Colours: David Shodimu.

Indoor Cricket

In the Peterborough Schools' indoor cricket league, the Yr 8 boys, Yr 8 girls and Yr 11 boys were all runners-up. The Yr 11 girls managed to go one better and were winners of their league.

Football

The U13 girls' football team managed to get to the third round of the National Cup and the Yr 7 team has reached the semi-final of the County Cup and are currently unbeaten in the Peterborough Schools' league, with both those competitions continuing after Easter. JD has also been in action with a Yr 5/6 indoor competition and a Yr 3/4 7-a-side tournament. Our Yr 8 and 10 Boys' teams were also in action in 7-a-side competitions, with the Yr 8s finishing third and the Yr 10s second.

Table Tennis

Perhaps our most successful team of the year so far has been our U16 Boys' table tennis team, made up of Lewis Wu, William Wu, Wilson Zheng and Terry Zheng. Having already won the Cambridgeshire competition they went on to win the regional finals in Nottingham. This was followed by a National semi-final in Grantham, where they finished second, which was enough to secure them a place in the 4-team National Final in Wolverhampton after Easter.

Hockey: The U13 girls' hockey team were runners-up in the South Kesteven indoor tournament and the U12 girls finished 1st and third in their South Kesteven indoor tournament.

Cross Country

26 pupils represented Peterborough in the County Schools' Cross Country Championships, with Iris Roberts 5th, Freya Harris 6th, Ruby Hynes 9th, Jonty Anderson 7th, Elizabeth Eames 7th and Felix Bowling 10th in their respective age categories. At the Anglian Schools' championships, 12 pupils represented Cambridgeshire and following that Freya, Elizabeth, Jonty and Ruby were selected to attend the English Schools' Championships.

Trampoline

A large team of 28 pupils represented the School at the annual trampoline competition, with three students winning medals.

The Summer term:

Hockey

Our U13 boys' and U13 girls' teams were both in action in the East of England state schools tournament, finishing 3rd and 5th respectively. The U14s were both in the National Schools' competition with the girls reaching the semi-final of the Cup and the boys winning the Plate competition.

Football

The season continued into the summer term with several of our girls' teams still in action. Both the U12 and U14 teams were County Cup semi-finalists, with the U12 team also winning the Peterborough Schools' league. We also had a visit from a Premier League referee, Steve Meredith, who led a Q&A session with a number of students to give them an insight into the world of refereeing.

Table tennis

Perhaps one of our most notable successes was our U16 boys' table tennis team, who despite being very young with one Yr 10, one Yr 9 and 2 Yr 7 players, managed to take on the best in the country at the National Finals and finished third overall. Well done to William, Terry, Wilson and Lewis.

Junior Department: Not to be outdone, JD also experienced lots of competitive sport with several festivals including NFL tag, 2 tennis tournaments and a girls' cricket event. Several of these events were also supported by Junior Sports Leaders from Yrs 9 & 10.

Tennis

We had several tennis teams in action

during the term, with 4 teams playing in league matches with some notable success. There were also several District tournaments with the U13 team finishing 2nd in their event.

Cricket

Another hugely successful term, with 4 teams in 6-a-side action, several involved in softball tournaments and 2 teams playing in league fixtures. The Girls' U15 team were County softball tournament runners-up. The U13 and U15 boys' teams were both District League winners, both going on to represent Peterborough at the County Finals, with the U15s finishing as runners-up and the U13s finishing as County Cup winners. The U13 team then went on to represent Cambridgeshire at the 4 Counties final, where they eventually finished as runners-up.

Athletics

It was a busy Athletics season too, starting at the beginning of the term with pupils competing in the Cambridgeshire Athletics Championships, with several taking medals. 4 teams were then involved later in the term in Track and Field Cup competitions, with the Yr 9/10 boys' team qualifying for the B final in their competition. Delayed from the spring term, we also had Fenland League cross country relays which saw our junior boys finishing 2nd, junior girls 3rd and inter boys 3rd. Finally at the City Athletics championships we again demonstrated our dominance winning 5 of the 8 competitions, including Yr 7 girls, Yr 8 boys, Yr 9 girls, Yr 10 boys and Yr 10 girls.



Peterborough Athletics Championships Yr7 Girls' Winners



Peterborough Athletics Championships Yr8 Girls'



Peterborough Athletics Championships Yr8 Boys' Winners



School House - Sports Day Winners 2024

Our school charities for last academic year were The BSSH Lion Hand Unit Malawi, Children of Adam, WaterAid and The British Heart Foundation. Over a series of events including Charities Week, a Culture Market, Non-uniform days and St George's Day celebrations we are delighted to have raised £13040.49

Activities across the year have included things such as: arm-wrestling, bake sales, guess how many sweets in a jar, a tuck shop, bead and bracelet making, busking, remote-controlled car time-trials, ISOC stall, pin the organelle in the cell, a charity shop & book sale, human dartboard, a push-up contest, guess who, a traditional food market, tug of war, a raffle, cream cracker challenge, guess the mystery object, Just Dance, water dunk, gift pong, penalty shootout, spin the wheel, spice

challenge, prefect gown raffle, bake off, House Captain soaking, a quiz, netball v rugby team match, Year 7 social, paper aeroplane making and nerf gun shooting. We are absolutely delighted with the record-breaking fundraising effort this year and are very grateful to all the staff, students, parents and local businesses that supported us.

In addition to our main four charities, our school community has also raised in excess of £1500 for Kidney Research UK, Centre 33, The Kite Trust and The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund. We have maintained our support for the food bank and have contributed to a local shoe box appeal. Our involvement with local and wider communities continues to be an important part of school life.

Power of Poetry

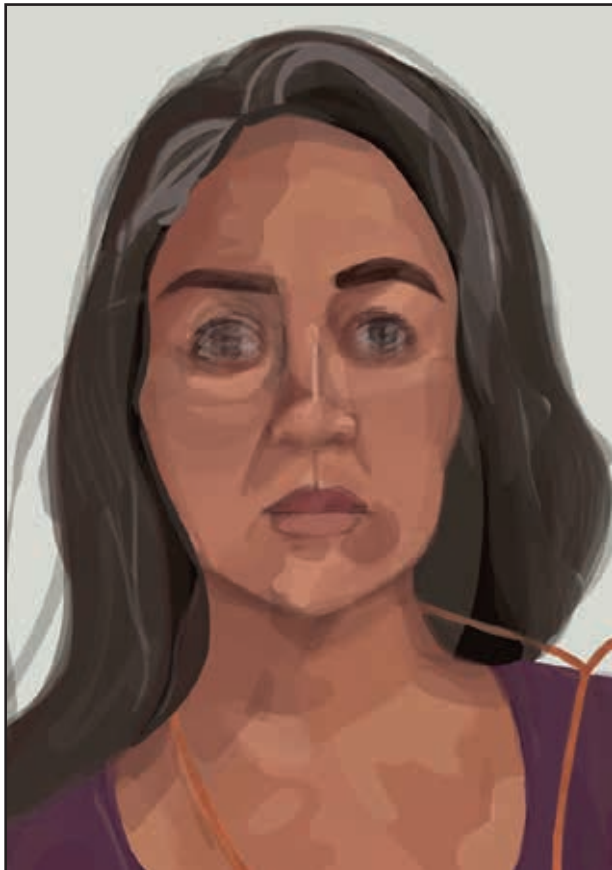
King's School Poet Laureates – The Power of Poetry

After the success of last year's Poet Laureate, a successor was enthroned this year! Following in Breannah Holton's footsteps is Karla Schneider, a Year 13 Literature student who is already herself a published poet, and who runs the Poetry Society each week with the aim to inspire younger students to appreciate and produce poetry.

Karla says "Poetry is the product of a passion and a longing for connection that

can be expressed in no other way. It is born from a desire to be understood, a desire to write something and have someone say 'Yes. That's it'. It is easy in the society that we live in to forget that we are here to do more than just work towards a set goal, but that we are here to wonder and ponder and try to know ourselves. Poetry is important to nourish the thing inside of us that feels."

Here is one of her recent poems, which was performed at the end of last year in the Cathedral Service.



Ria Abbot A-level Fine Art

Power of Poetry

Time is on My Side

The water, when I run my fingers through it, is clear
and glimmers of something brighter than the searchlights or the sun
You can see right through it, hold it even, if you care enough to try
and you could never tell from looking at it
all the blood that used to run through

When paradise isn't what you expected –
be grateful

Forbidden fruit bruises quickly
Hope wanders, but truth waits,
slides a hand under your face and lets you sleep the night through
when the pacifists pick up their guns
and the dogs turn back into wolves

Isn't it tiring being strong or nothing?
I want to be weak and still wake up in the morning,
stretch my bones and let them creak
There's fresh fruit in the bowl,
grown from seeds I planted last summer,
there's a light on at the end of the corridor
Time is on my side, even if you are not

Revenge brews on the bubbling line of the horizon
I thought it would be like an axe, whet on the cruellest oil stone,
but it's not
It's just some good people and a warm bed

If the beach is haunted,
swim there anyway
If there's an empty seat at every table,
eat there anyway
If the garden is riddled with hemlock, buzzed roots and old friends,
plant there anyway

Everything that's meant to be,
will grow back.

Sailing Club

September 2023 started with twelve sailors passing their RYA Stage 1 course on Friday evenings, running parallel to our normal sailing sessions. Then in the summer 6 sailors took the RYA stage 2. We now have a membership of over 40 students. In October, at the end of the season Benji Tinker was presented with the Garner Cup for the Most Enthusiastic Sailor, the David Runacres Memorial Sailing Shield for Improvement went jointly to Amy Farquar and Erika Marsland and The Commander Willis Steadfast Award went to Ted Brader.

We are particularly lucky to have some wonderful Sixth Form students volunteer to become sailing prefects, even though they may be prefects for other areas too; Kasia Tarver organised our end of season social Laying Up Supper for November, when over 70 sailors and their families came together for a celebratory dinner; Miriam Selleck spent every sailing evening teaching the younger sailors and volunteering her instructor's qualifications to great effect. Parents also volunteer and we are particularly grateful to Mrs Over who organised a shore-side BBQ in June with sailors and families staying to socialise and celebrate our achievements and to Mr Waller, Mrs Selleck and Mr Marsland who

drove the minibus to get sailors to Ferry Meadows every Friday last year.

It is thanks to the volunteering from staff, parents and older students that we regularly have all 20 dinghies out on the water full of keen sailors. It's also thanks to them that we are able to offer the King's sailors, of all years, a great opportunity to learn new skills and challenge themselves at sailing. Volunteers work hard as they help with driving mini-buses, rigging, launching and maintaining the equipment. Whether sailing or helping we all have fun and end each Friday with more food in the form of generously donated home baked goodies.



Friday night sailing
(light winds)

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

As part of the DofE students must complete and organise their own sections alongside expedition training. This really helps to develop the student's confidence, social skills, organisation and initiative. Students are required to collect evidence of these sections as they do them each week, this can be as simple as a picture of you doing your section and then an assessor's report is written in order to complete the section.

These sections are:

- Physical -The physical section of DofE is all about encouraging students to take part in physical activity not just to aid physical health but also mental wellbeing.
- Skill – During your DofE you are required to learn a skill. This can be anything from learning a language to taking a

lifeguarding qualification and everything in between.

- Volunteering – The volunteering section of the DofE is all about giving back to your local community. Students are required to volunteer for at least one hour a week.
- Expedition and Training – Students take part in two expeditions, a practice and an assessed as well as a training day to learn how to use equipment and plan their meals prior to the expeditions. These expeditions are two days long, where you are required to travel on foot carrying all the necessary equipment in backpacks. Once at the camp site, students must set up their own tents and begin preparing to cook their own dinner using a Trangia.

Alistair Oates

"For me the best part of DofE was the amount of opportunities that it gave me. For my skills section I taught Gaelic at school which I found incredibly rewarding and I also discovered new ways to teach and present information as a result. For my volunteering section I helped some of my elderly neighbours every Saturday morning which caused me to get to know more people in my local area and I felt that I was making a positive contribution to the community. For my physical section I wanted to improve my skills and confidence in rugby and I think that doing DofE led me to make progress that I would not have made otherwise. I really enjoyed the expedition and school gives all of the necessary training and information that we need. I would definitely recommend doing DofE and I am hoping to do my Gold award in Sixth Form."

William McAleese

"Going into my DofE I was already taking part in lots of sports activities and found myself outdoors in nature a lot. However, I discovered DofE has so much more to offer aside from the physical and outdoor side of the award. For my sections I played rugby, volunteered at my local pool teaching swimming, and started my lifeguarding training. My DofE helped open pathways for me that I didn't think would be as easily obtainable, for example as of January 2025 I will be a fully qualified lifeguard and I am still volunteering at my local pool teaching swimming. My DofE has helped me a lot in improving my organisation and social skills, as well as helping me realise what is possible if you put your mind to it. I am very grateful for the opportunities the DofE award has created for me, and I would strongly recommend to anyone unsure about doing it."

Gordon Smith – 1938-2024

Gordon was born in Broughton, Lincolnshire in September 1938, growing up a proud Yellow Belly. Moving to Peterborough in 1950, Gordon began his secondary education at The King's School, having passed his 11+. There he met his closest friend, Lance Barber, who would later be Best Man at his wedding.



As a natural sportsman, Gordon took part in many disciplines, including athletics, gymnastics and numerous team sports. He mainly played rugby and hockey at The King's School, representing both at 1st team level; the latter, hockey, becoming his first love. He would go on to play for the Lincolnshire County team, Loughborough Colleges 1st team, Peterborough City 1st team and, during his National Service in Cyprus, for the Middle East Air Force.

Gordon's National Service lasted from 1957 to 1959, with his only posting being to the island of Cyprus. A number of his school friends served at the same time in different squadrons, and regiments in the Army. Whilst he had very fond memories of his time on the island, there was a job to be done. There were times when the dispute between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, and the call for independence from British colonial rule threatened.

After returning to the UK in 1959, Gordon attended Loughborough Colleges, where he trained as a teacher, studying PE and History. This was the beginning of a life dedicated to education. While at Loughborough, he

met his wife to be, Margaret, at a dance in Scraftoft, where she was also training to be a teacher. They were together, when able, from then on, travelling everywhere on a Lambretta scooter Gordon purchased. His first posting, as a teacher, was to Eastholm Secondary School, now City of Peterborough Academy.

Margaret and Gordon married in July 1964, and after their honeymoon in the Lake District both moved back to Loughborough, allowing Gordon to complete his 3rd year of study, and his first degree. During this final year of study, he was in touch with Peterborough Education Department. Feeding back the latest information on Sports Hall design, he had a hand in the construction of Eastholm School's new sports hall.

During the latter half of the 1960s Gordon collaborated heavily with Peter Cannard, Head of PE at The King's School, to run athletics across the City. The relay teams the two put together were rarely beaten and the All England athletics competition the two managed was a real highlight.

Gordon and Margaret moved back to Peterborough in 1965, and to their present home in 1971. He was a passionate gardener and loved designing and developing both the vegetable plots, to supply his family, and landscaping the shrubs and flowers for pleasure. You could say, quite safely, that his garden became his escape from any pressures he experienced.

He eventually moved from secondary to primary education, becoming Deputy Head at Fulbridge Primary; taking up the headship a few years later. He dedicated the remaining years of his career to Fulbridge, retiring in July 2000. Retirement was good. He didn't abandon education altogether,

Geoffrey Walker – 1955-2023

Geoff Walker died in 2023 at the age of sixty-seven following a long battle with stomach cancer. He joined KSP in 1966 and was a bus boy as he lived in the village of Newborough. Geoff was a very amiable lad with an infectious laugh. He was a good all-rounder: he appeared in a number of school productions, was a fine singer, and a very enthusiastic member of the 1st XV Rugby and 1st XI Hockey teams. His classwork was not usually in the same league(!), but when he left King's in 1973 Geoff was fortunate enough to gain a place at Bede College, Durham. Following teacher training, he had a number of posts in primary education. Here he greatly enjoyed working with pupils on Drama projects. We extend our sympathy to his widow, Margaret, and to his children and grandchildren.

joining the Appeals Panel straightaway. He also took the occasional garden tour for the Cathedral and made time to explore his love of painting and listening to jazz.

For pleasure away from home, Gordon and Margaret discovered cruising on both ocean and river boats. They visited so many European cities over the years of their retirement together, but twelve days away was enough each holiday. He was always pleased to get back to his garden.

Gordon is survived by his wife Margaret and their two sons, Christopher and Jonathan, both of whom were also pupils at King's. There is a real family link to The King's School with Christopher's wife, Marsha, now the Head of Mathematics. Gordon and Margaret's granddaughters, Phoebe and Elizabeth (Libby) also attended KSP, completing, to date, a third generational link with the School.

OP. Christopher Smith

Year Of 1979 Reunion

OPs who joined the School in 1979, or later between 1979 and 1986, organised their own informal reunion at The Botolph Arms in Orton Longueville on Saturday September 21st. Amongst those gathering were: Clare Andrews, Shan Barcroft, Lara Bath, Dave Britton, Anna Cheetham, Peter Craig, Paul Duffy, Kate Eldred, Steve Follen, Kevin Groves, Sarah Hill, Phil Hodgett, Rebecca Hollis, Pat Jacques, Belinda Lea, Nicola Manning, Hazel Millard, Jenny

Peasgood, David Plummer, Mary Seaton, Alex Spires, James Wilkinson and Mark Popple, who had travelled all the way from San Francisco for the event! Former Deputy Headteacher and OPA Chairman, Trevor Elliott, was delighted to join them for part of the evening. The night was thoroughly enjoyed by all, with lots of renewed connections, memories shared and, it is hoped, possibilities to meet up more regularly. By coincidence, OP Ollie Robbins is 'mein Host' at The Botolph Arms and OP Philippa Critchley a 'regular'.



Mr Harrison approached the Archives volunteers with the idea of celebrating the age and history of the School, with an eye-catching and informative display of The King's School through the ages. Did the Archives hold sufficient interesting material to be able to put something together? What was technically feasible?

A fitting site was identified opposite the Archives display cabinets, and the area cleared and repainted, ready to provide the School with this enhanced historical focus.

Meanwhile, former Deputy Headteacher and now volunteer historian/archivist, Trevor Elliott, set about writing the text and finding appropriate illustrations, to mark the major landmarks of KSP 1541-2024.

Mr Dunn took responsibility for photographing the items chosen to feature in the display, as well as for the detailed technical aspects of the design and lay-out. Former student, David Mahoney, who has his own graphic design studio in Edinburgh,

offered his time and professional 'eye' and skills, to complete the project to the highest standard.

All project participants feel that the Wall is a spectacular, and most fascinating, addition to the School. We hope you agree!

Trevor Elliott



As Chairperson of The Old Petriburgians' Association, I am delighted to look back fondly on 2024. This year has been a remarkable period of growth and engagement for our association, thanks to the unwavering support of our former students.

Support for Current Students

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the numerous alumni who have generously given their time and expertise to support our current students. Your contributions have been invaluable in several key areas:

- **Careers Presentations:** Many of you have returned to school to share your professional experiences and insights, helping to inspire and guide our students in their career choices.
- **University Applications:** Your assistance in supporting students with their university applications and personal statements for UCAS has been instrumental in their success.
- **Mock Interviews:** We are particularly grateful to those who have conducted online mock interviews for students applying to selective courses. This support has been crucial in preparing our students for the challenges ahead.

Looking Ahead to 2025

In 2025, we aim to expand our mentoring efforts through the "King's Access Programme." We encourage all alumni to get involved in this initiative, which will provide even more opportunities for current students to benefit from your experience and guidance. The development of this programme has seen significant volunteer support from former students, and we are excited about its potential impact.

Events and Reunions

This year, we were fortunate to welcome a large number of former students back to King's for various events:

- **King's Hockey Festival:** Held in June, this event was a tremendous success, raising enough funds to support a new first team kit for the PE department. The new kit looks fantastic and is a testament to the generosity of our community.
- **Retirement Event for Mrs. Helen Birch:** We celebrated the retirement of Mrs. Helen Birch with an evening event that brought together many former staff and students. It was heartening to see so many members of our community come together to honour her contributions to King's.
- **Annual Reunion at The Brewery Tap:** On December 27th, we had almost our largest turnout ever for the Annual Reunion at The Brewery Tap. The event was a resounding success, with attendance levels returning to pre-COVID numbers. The support for our Association and the School remains phenomenal.

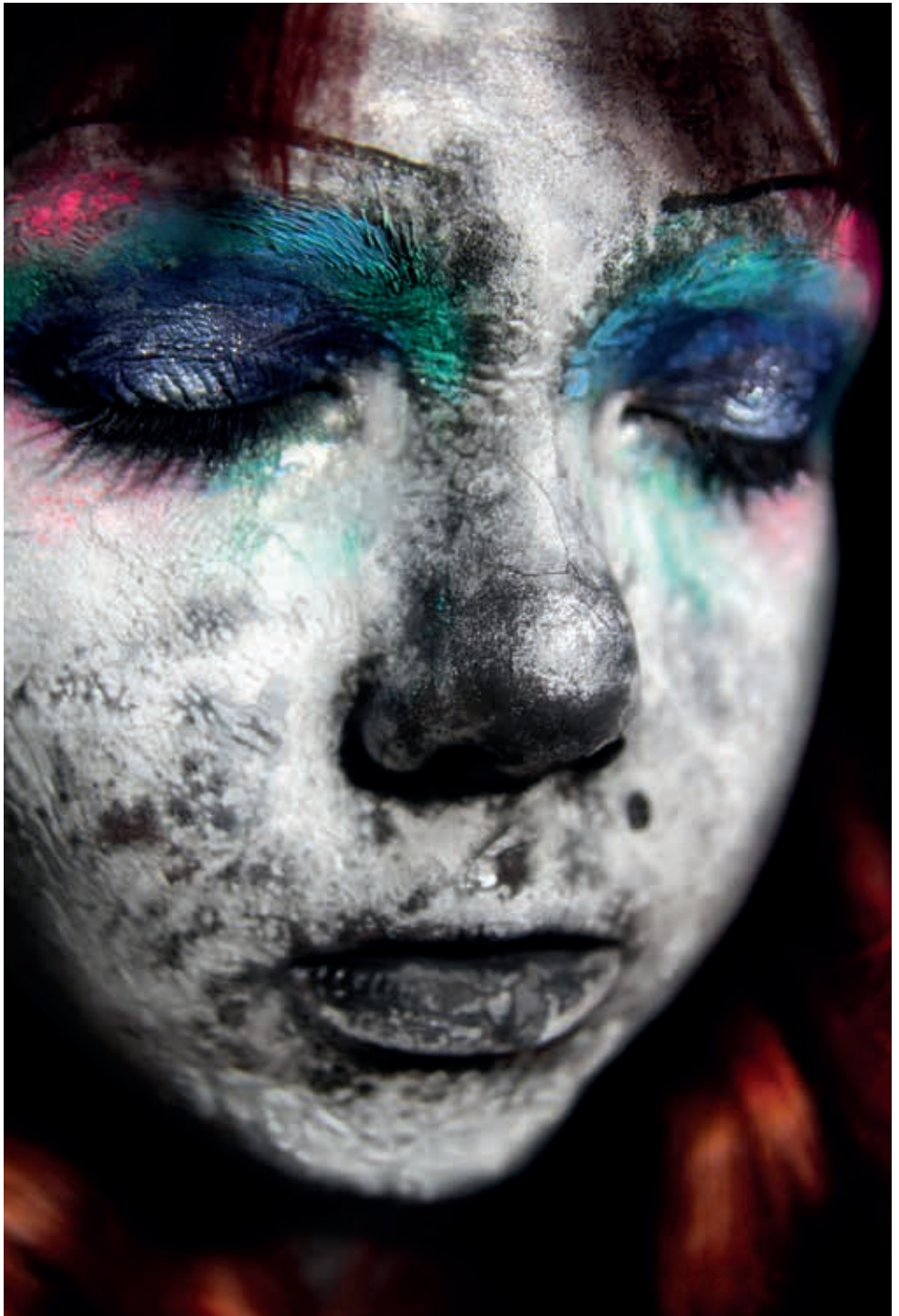
Stay Connected

As we look forward to 2025, we encourage you to continue following The King's School on our social media accounts. Stay updated on our activities and look out for new ways to support us in the coming year.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and dedication to The Old Petriburgians' Association. Together, we are making a significant difference in the lives of our current students and the broader King's community.

Warm regards,

Chris Dunn
Chairperson, The Old Petriburgians'
Association



Corey Mackrell-Hey A-level photography