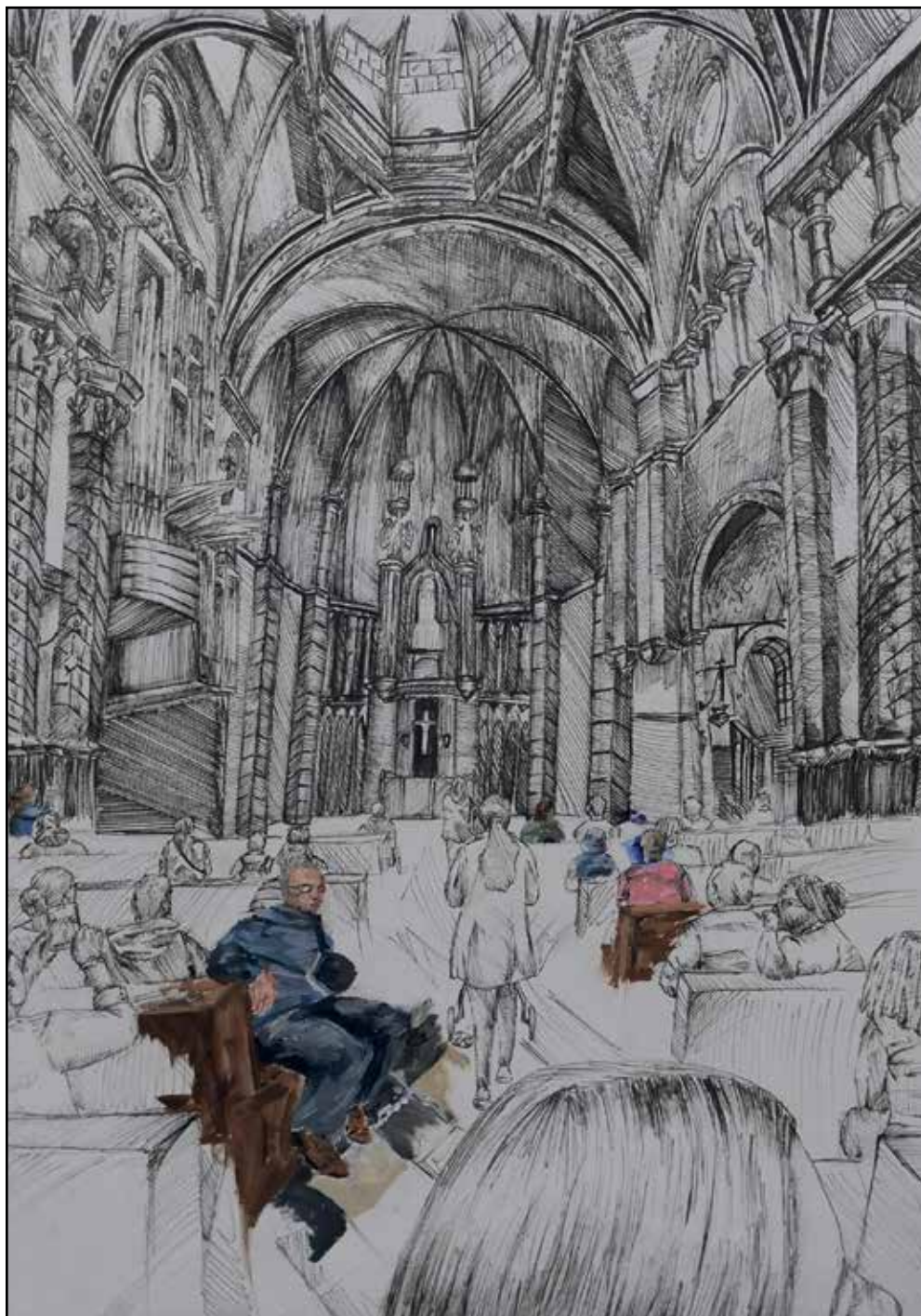


THE PETRIBURGIAN
2025



Finn Eze, A-level Art

The King's (The Cathedral) School



School Officers:

Head Students:	Tom Oldaker Andriana Ruda
Deputy Head Students:	Dhiran Jewootah Megan Ferris

House Captains

Vice Captains

St Chad's:

George L'Estrange
Poppy Wilson

Shree Pankhania
Harry Pinguenet
Matilda Pearson
Eve Robinson

St Oswald's:

Eli Bessent
Evie Hornsby

James Hornsby
Miriam Markham
Setareh Robinson
Kieran White

St Peter's:

Lauren Attwell
Elizabeth Igboodu

Georgia Anderson
Noku Gwaze
Ben Sheriff
James Wright

School:

Ayo Ogunyoye
Seb Ponte Perez

Erin Bliss
Mark Dall
Hana Ijioma
Tilly Stephens-Smith

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Comings and Goings 2024-2025

Hello and Welcome to:

Nida Aitq	Sean Douglas	Kyle Nosworthy
Gary Austin	Janine Farrell	Oliver Pengelley
Rachel Bain	Charlie Goodwin	Jessica Roberts
Kiri Baker	Emily Hansen	Alexander Spires
Daniel Barton	Khadijah Ismail	Danika Stevenson
Daniela Buckle	Eram Kauser	Georgina Walker
Sara Bull	Kris Kefford	Harriet Warren
Doug Cullen	Jamie Marchant	Helen White
Donna Cutforth	Sian Murphy	
Kate Docherty	Ashton Nicholls	

Goodbye and Good Luck to:

Valerie Bradley	Kris Kefford	Sue Pearce
Kate Clarke	Ikra Kouser	Natalie Ray
Kathryn Denman	Debbie Lamsdale	Julia Robinson (Blakeley)
Katherine Diver	Dash Manak	Jane Rutherford
Charlie Gamblin	Georgina Massey	David Stokes
Nicky Garrdo	Meg McCormack	Ottavio Tanzillo
Julie Gibbs	Heather Morgan	Dario Tanzillo
Janice Green	Derek Nimmo	Julie Tate
Nicola Harris	Cherry Palmer	Rosie Wiles
Jo Jones		

This year, in a desperate attempt to be organised, I made a start on this report far earlier than normal – unusually, I can actually tell you specifically when, it was at the end of the day on Friday 4 July just after saying a sad farewell to our much-loved colleague, Nikki Harris, who was retiring after 21 years of dedicated service at the School but not before supporting Mr. Criddle on the latest adventure – this time to Norway. I remember the week well, as we had all commented on how full, yet rewarding, it had been.

Whilst it was fresh in my mind, I quickly noted it down. It went something like this -

On Monday we welcomed 200 students to the School for our Sixth Form Induction, where sessions were led by a mix of our teachers and newly-appointed prefects. Over 600 students had applied last year to join our Sixth Form and we remain grateful for the strength of our reputation.

On Tuesday our Design students visited the house of Colin Furze, a local inventor who has taken social media by storm. Students marvelled at the weird and wonderful range of experiments and innovations he has created. Our Summer Music Concert, held in the School Hall, showcased the skills of over 50 performers including, and for the very first time, a small number of talented and brave students from our Junior Department.

On Wednesday over 30 students competed and achieved success at the City Athletics competition, the Year 7 boys doing particularly well. We welcomed what has now become our new Year 3 & Year 7 students, where they were superbly looked after by our prefect team and seemed to particularly enjoy the outside barbecue.

On Thursday Mrs. White and Mrs. Henson had worked wonders to rekindle an inter-house Swimming competition at the Lido, with School House winning a trophy not awarded since the 1940s. We waved off our Year 12 Geographers to Cranedale, where photo evidence would later suggest some students worked slightly harder than others.

On Friday we were delighted to start our day by welcoming 10 members of our local clergy to the School to meet with students and discuss opportunities for faith, spirituality and worship. Our younger students in JD enjoyed a day sailing at Ferry Meadows, whilst our Nottingham University trip was a great hit with older students, as was the food made by the Classics students who took part in the Great Roman Bake Off.

And finally and perhaps explaining why the planning of this speech did start at 5pm on a Friday night, our week was rounded off with a fabulous evening performance of *Grimm Tales* by our KS3 students – delivered to packed audiences; an opportunity for younger students to really develop their stage presence and confidence, and another new and hopefully long-standing addition to the already packed King's School calendar.

Today, it is my great pleasure to welcome back to the School my predecessor as Headteacher, Mr. Darren Ayling. I suspect he, along with all former and current staff, will have been smiling as I recalled the range of events that were completed in a mere 5 days of school life at The King's School, especially as this was the week just before our actual Activities Week!

This opening snippet of my speech also gives a small indication of why summarising

all the events over the last year is a particular challenge, I will aim to do my best and apologise in advance if I miss out some of your own favourites.

Understandably for our students, their parents and our staff, academic results have always been really important. This year both our GCSE and A-level students did themselves proud with overall results, somehow showing an improvement from the strong results the year before. Five or seven years of secondary education cumulating in another summer of incredible achievements. At GCSE, nearly half our students achieved grades 7-9 and 90% achieved grades 9-4, comfortably the strongest results in the city. Results that are a testament to the hard work of our amazing students and the skill and support of a dedicated teaching staff.

At A-level, 40% of all grades achieved were at A*/A and 70% at A*-B. The majority of our students were therefore excited to be able to progress onto their chosen university to study courses as diverse as Robotics, Ancient History, Fashion Marketing, Architecture, Musical Theatre, Chemical Engineering and Physiotherapy, alongside more conventional routes such as Mathematics, Economics, English Literature, Law and Fine Art.

Alongside the four students who will be starting at Cambridge University, a significant number of students were successfully accepted onto competitive medical-related courses.

In addition to university routes, 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 Barclays Bank, Carter Jonas, and ITI Group, along with public services, including the Cambridgeshire Police.

Whatever our students' personal ambitions, we wish them all the very best and it is great to see so many of you back today.

Anyone associated with the School will know however that this school has always been, and always will be, more than academic results. As in my press release, we aim to send all students into the world as well-rounded and confident members of the community. We are rightly proud of our links to our wonderful Cathedral, our Christian values, and the great range of activities outside the classroom that our students are eager to access.

2024-25 was a remarkably busy year for our musicians, with pupils involved in a wide variety of events and over 150 students progressing in their skills through individual music lessons. In September the Senior Choir joined with other local schools in the Annual Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving at Peterborough Cathedral.

House Music was once again one of the highlights of the year with over 400 students participating in this amazing event.

It was wonderful to see our prefects supporting each other so well and students taking on such a range of leadership roles. Ultimately, only one team however can win the much-coveted trophy and last year it was the turn of St. Peter's House. The quality of music from everyone involved was extremely high and we very much look forward to this year's event.

Our second musical showcase event of the year took place during the Christmas period. Whilst all our students had enthusiastically sung (or in some cases shouted) in the Sports Hall as they competed for the House Carol Singing trophy, it was, dare I say it, the more refined quality of music at our Christmas concert which was the most memorable.

Over 150 students were involved with performances from our Senior Choir, String Ensembles, Orchestra, Concert Band, the Jazz Ensemble, the Brass, Clarinet and Flute Ensembles.

No performances would be complete without contributions from our wonderful Cathedral Choristers, who represented the School magnificently through both a busy Christmas period and of course the entirety of the year. Our particular thanks to Chris Strange, who stepped into the role of Acting Music Director at the Cathedral throughout the year and did a great job.

In the Spring Concert the Senior Choir and Orchestra performed *Fauré's Requiem*, and the Chamber Choir sang *When Darkness Descends* in the presence of the composer, James Woodhall.

Alongside the two spring concerts our musicians were busy singing in local care homes, performing at the Plaisterers' Carol Concert in London, helping Old Choristers reminisce at their Association event, singing grace at the Leavers' Dinner, and of course providing lots of memories in the summer concerts with repertoires varying from Henry Purcell to Michael Jackson. And, of course, if all of that wasn't enough, our musicians were amazing at the one-off Cathedral fundraising event at the end of the year – more of that to come later. Finally in this section, many of you will

know that I rarely talk about individual accolades in my speech, however last year it would be remiss not to celebrate the achievements of Sarah and Rachel Weston, who participated in the National Youth Orchestra, Lydia Williams who won a place in the National Children's Choir, and Jasmine Barnes who performed superbly on TV in the final of The Young Chorister of the Year (we still think you should have won, Jasmine!). Amazing achievements and congratulations to them all.

In the Spring Term dancers, actors and musicians (including a 12-piece rock band) came together for the amazing performance of *Footloose*, to sell-out audiences. It was a difficult decision to judge whether we should be most proud about the level of quality in the performance, the leadership skills demonstrated by those students who had choreographed many of the scenes or just the sheer size of the cast. Watching the pleasure students got from performing was amazing to see. Next year we look forward to *High School Musical* with auditions due to start soon. If you don't know, *High School Musical* follows the story of two teenagers, as they navigate school, life, friendship and their passion for singing – it sounds like a perfect match for The King's School.

It has been another fantastic year of sport at The King's School. Last year over 300 students represented the School, playing in 70 different teams across 11 different sports. The School has enjoyed its usual high level of success, so much so that it is impossible to mention every achievement. I have therefore summarised the highlights.

In Netball our Year 11 Girls were crowned District Tournament Winners, with our Senior Girls placed third in the County Hockey tournament.

In Rugby our Year 9 Boys were Peterborough Schools' Champions and in football our Sixth Formers reached the 4th round of the prestigious National Cup competition. In Basketball our U12 Boys and U14 Boys secured District Titles. In Cross Country and then again in the summer Athletics our teams were winners in 4 out of 8 District competitions – an amazing success rate.

In Rounders our girls were both Year 7 and 10 District Winners, and in Trampolining we had three medallists at the Peterborough Schools' competition. In Badminton we were champions in both the singles and doubles competitions.

A unique but valued element of our sporting programme is the Sailing Club at Ferry Meadows, where over 40 students take part weekly. This year we hosted the Peterborough Schools' Regatta and entered 19 students in 14 dinghies. Congratulations to all competitors.

In Cricket our girls in particular had amazing success, reaching the Regional Finals at both Under 13 and Under 15 level.

Winning a national competition takes a huge amount of effort, skill and dedication. It was our great pride that last year we celebrated the achievements of a very modest group of girls who were the National Team Winners in Table Tennis.

And finally, well done to all those students (and indeed one or two competitive teachers) who took part in Sports Day. It was a lovely balance of competitive action and supporting moments. Congratulations to School House who won the JD competition and St. Peter's, who were victorious overall.

To all students who represented the School or their House we thank you for your

outstanding enthusiasm, commitment and pride.

If you speak to students about their best memories from last year they will often talk with enthusiasm about the wonderful experiences they had on trips outside the school. Last year students were able to enjoy an incredible range of opportunities with over 100 trips running from our youngest students in JD1 hiking around Bourne Woods to older students trekking across Norway.

Many of the trips we ran were, of course, linked to individual subjects in order to support students' understanding of the topic in a real-life context. Without hopefully being criticised for favouritism, this is well exemplified by our Geography team, who last academic year alone organised local trips to the farm and to the river at Castor, travelled a little further to study urban patterns in Cambridge and coastal processes at Hunstanton; braved even further still to Cranedale Residential centre to allow our A-level students to study the North Yorkshire environment, and then finally ventured internationally for a once in a lifetime exploration of Iceland.

The pattern of balancing local day trips with once in a lifetime adventures is the hallmark of the School's amazing trips programme. For every JD walking trip around Bourne Woods there is a theatre trip to London or a Poetry Live event in Leicester. For every day trip to our local University there is a residential trip to Rome, the Opal Coast, Flanders or a German Christmas market, and for every visit to Duxford Air Museum there is a ski trip to Austria or a World Challenge trek to Norway.

This year my particular thanks to Mr.

Armstrong for his tireless work in organising an amazing Activities Week that included two residential trips and a raft of in-school activities. Just like those huge events such as House Music, Christmas Concert and our School production, the King's Activities Week continues to offer our students a distinctive and we hope hugely enjoyable experience. A chance to make friends, experience new adventures and overcome individual challenges.

In addition to these trips, last year students benefitted enormously from activities organised to stretch them outside their comfort zone. For some that was completing the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze or Gold Award. For others such as those who took part in the CANSAT competition or the Chemistry and Maths Challenge it was pushing themselves even further into those areas of interest that were often linked to their career aspirations. For some students they were prepared to have their work publicly scrutinised (or more accurately publicly admired), like those amazing Art and Technology students in our Annual Exhibition. Other students not only took part in a public debate but did it in a foreign language!

For some their challenge came through mentoring, where over 100 Sixth Form students supported younger children in the school and local community; and for our younger students it was quite often just a case of throwing themselves with a whole load of enthusiasm into something new.

A school value that our students and staff

exemplified every day last year was that of generosity and this was the theme of my first assembly of the year. We are always grateful for the huge number of donations to the Food Bank appeal, a charity whose need has sadly grown significantly in the last few years. Our students had a great time taking part in the usual array of Charities Week activities, including the obligatory soaking of our House Captains. For the first time ever we enjoyed a teacher vs teacher dodgeball match, drawing in huge crowds but thankfully not becoming too competitive. With Charities Week alone raising £9000, along with hugely successful events such as the culture shows and non-uniform days, the School was delighted to achieve over £16,000 for charities across the year.

And finally, this year the School has been proud to play an active role in supporting our Cathedral in Crisis Appeal. In February we shared our love of the Cathedral in our non-uniform day, 10 staff jogged at various paces around Grimsthorpe Castle, and then students new and old joined together at a one-off music event at the Cathedral with our staff, as always doing us proud!

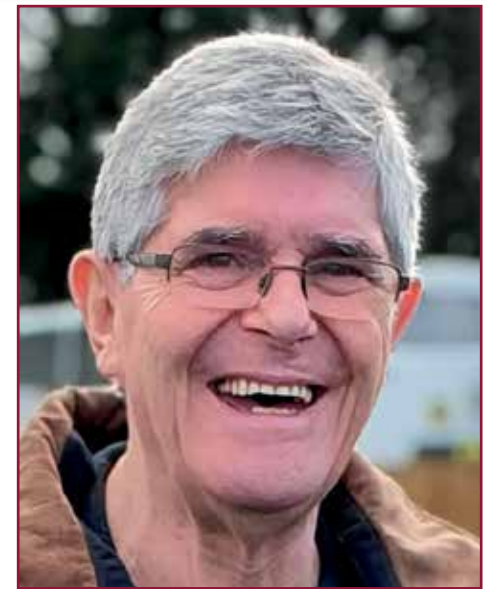
The school community, The King's School Family now looks forward to another amazing year and what can be better than a quick 10 mile walk!

That concludes my report for the academic year 2024-25. My thanks to Governors, parents, staff and of course students for making it such a success. Many thanks for listening and do enjoy the rest of the service.

When David joined KSP in 1970, his previous Head wrote 'You are fortunate to obtain his services, I shall lose him with very great regrets.' And my goodness, we were indeed most fortunate. David gave many years of top-quality service to our school community, and to the generations of students he taught, guided and served. Joining as an Assistant Master, as it was expressed then, to teach Geography at £1240 p/a, David and Caryl moved into the Minster Precincts, and he began his long, outstanding career here.

David was a leading figure in the development of King's. As one of the few staff to have held senior appointments on both the academic and pastoral sides of school life, he played a pivotal role in what the School in the 1970s and onwards set out to achieve, and to become. One colleague wrote – an all-round super man, and brilliant teacher, who made a massive contribution to KSP. He was a tower of strength in every aspect of what a KSP education was then, and building on that, indeed very largely what it still is today.

When I arrived as a young teacher, my earliest recollection of David, the Head of Geography, is a vision in walking boots and anorak, carrying clipboards and OS maps wrapped in rainproof plastic, striding off into the distance surrounded by excited 12-year-olds at Stibbington Outdoor Centre. He was 'in charge of the environment', and was off to 'do the environment', in the days before 'doing the environment' was the focus it perhaps is today. I recall too his love of Geology, obviously directly linked to his beloved 'Physical Geography', and being amazed by his collection of rocks and fossils that came out at lunchtimes and after-school in special classes. He was



a leader in fieldwork, before GCSE made fieldwork a must. Snowdonia, Scarborough, Swanage saw regular study-visits, often prioritised above family time and his own holidays. Neither must we forget his love of, and enthusiasm for, rugby, his Saturday afternoons coaching and refereeing the 2nd XV, who can forget the green shirt and fetching shorts!

As a Geographer, David was an enthusiast in all its forms, with a breadth of knowledge, hugely admired by colleagues and students alike. He was the guru of tectonic plates and glaciation, and inspired an ongoing love of the subject, and a desire for travel and discovery.

As a Head of Department, he was well-organised, with a wealth, I mean box-loads, and cabinet-loads of resources, a conscientious preparer, for himself and others, and thorough marker, a role-model and a meticulous example of a professional teacher. He was a great support for

his colleagues, in terms of materials, organisation and discipline. Nothing was too much trouble, whatever the cost in terms of his own time and effort. Sharon, a former colleague, wrote – ‘I was so fortunate to have benefitted from David’s love and curiosity of geography during the initial stages of my career. A huge inspiration who has definitely shaped the geography teacher I have become. I still make much use of the books he gave me’.

He brought the same strength, energy and attention to detail to his later pastoral role as Head of Sixth Form, and later UCAS Coordinator, post-his first retirement. In this role, he was second-to-none. He dedicated hours to hundreds, if not thousands, of university references, each crafted and amended in several versions, and written out long-hand; this established an exceedingly successful template, still the basis for the School’s system today. Generations of senior pupils have reason to be, and certainly are, grateful to David,

to judge by all the comments left in recent time on social media. He supported their academic progress, their personal development and ensured a smooth transition into life-after-school. He had, and made time for them all, making each one feel special. So many have written of his kindness, his calm supportiveness, and how he commanded respect without ever raising his voice.

As a colleague, and as a man, David was gentle, modest, courteous, always considerate of others, he never had a bad word for even the most trying or demanding of us. He had remarkable energy, tenacity and dedication, and total sincerity and integrity. He gave his all for his students, his colleagues and the School, and everyone who worked with him recognises that, and will forever hold him in the highest esteem and greatest respect. A superb teacher and a true gentleman.

May he rest in peace.

Trevor Elliott



Ava Rickard, GCSE Art

It was with sheer doggedness that we had pushed through Year 12, hoping to be given the chance to represent the School as Head Students. It was in April last year that we suddenly found ourselves in front of our Year group, justifying this yearning, but we passionately prevailed. The seven years of looking up at prefects who were bigger and older than us made the experience all the more surreal, as we tenaciously gripped our shiny new badges. In a somewhat debonair fashion, we walked into assembly to be greeted by our peers and thanked them with relief that they voted for us; a truly cathartic experience.

As we look back and reminisce with nostalgia, it certainly feels odd to be approaching the end of our seven years at King’s, but we would like to take a moment to reflect, appreciate and give thanks for all that we have been blessed with, especially in this last year serving as Head Students.

Towards the end of last year, as the summer term commenced, the first item on the agenda was Sports Day. Our new House Captains jumped into action, gathering their Houses to begin preparations, and the pressure was on. It was a lovely sunny day full of running, jumping and throwing, which finished with a win for School House! Also, very refreshing to return to the athletics track to support our peers for our final Sports Day. It was with great sadness to close the academic year with Mrs. Birch’s departure; a beloved teacher who would always pop in to each classroom, greeting us with a “hello everyone”. However, we were comforted by the fact that she would be back to run the Charities Week Quiz in October.

One of our first duties as Head Students was to attend, and speak at Speech Day,

an important service of the school year and our official debut of the new academic year. The day was spent having lunch at the Cathedral in the Knight’s Chamber with Miss. Ellen Ellard, a former pupil and sports broadcaster, as well as the school governors. Miss. Ellard’s inspirational speech about striving for what we want and not being afraid to choose a path that is different to others, as well as her recollections of her time at the School were memorable, resonating with us all.

However, it wasn’t all pomp and privilege: I think we speak for Megan and Dhiran (Deputy Head Students), as well as ourselves, in saying that getting soaked with buckets of water for charity wasn’t exactly what we had imagined our roles would entail. Nevertheless, Charities Week was an important part of this year, providing a moment to acknowledge and actively help those less fortunate than ourselves.

After Charities Week, the focus was on House Music, a wave of competitiveness washed over the school, as breaks and lunches were filled with rehearsals, with each House scrambling to perfect their pieces. The pressure was slightly intensified as it overlapped with university applications, perfecting personal statements and preparing for university interviews, all of which gave us some extra responsibilities to juggle; however, in true King’s School spirit we all persevered. A highlight of Andriana’s year was being able to conduct the School House Orchestra piece *An Aladdin Medley*. The event was held at the Cathedral, providing beautiful acoustics. Hearing everyone’s hard work come to life in this way was truly a transcendent experience, with St. Peter’s

House winning for the second year in a row! It wasn't long before the Autumn term was coming to a close and Christmas was in the air: we were all piled into the Sports Hall for an end-of-term assembly. Following on from the inter-house Christmas carol singing competition, the spotlight was thrown on House Captains to sing popular Christmas songs in karaoke style. To the delight of our younger pupils, Andriana even dressed up as Santa, handing out gifts to the House Captains from her sack of presents (what a committed Head Student she is!).

Another highlight of Tom's year from the Autumn term was attending the War of Words debating competition at King's Grantham, along with several other A-level French students. Even though it was conducted entirely in French, the public speaking experience gained through Cathedral Service readings and Open Evening speeches certainly came in handy. Soon into the Spring term, we attended Peterborough's Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration service at St. John's, where we heard heartfelt stories and speeches and witnessed a very multicultural wreath-laying, which consisted of Hebrew, Arabic and English. This, and the civic procession were truly humbling. We were even interviewed, alongside the Dean of the Cathedral, by a radio broadcaster, who was there interviewing members of the congregation.

Soon enough, mock exams were looming; we were reaching the end of our final Spring Term and had to begin preparing words of advice to the chirpy Year 12s, who were waiting patiently to partake in the Prefect lifestyle. But by this point, our perspectives on the School and even on

life, in general, had noticeably changed; our hearts had calmed; our identities were secured with King's values, and our names etched into the tapestry of what we can rightly call our first home. We were no longer debonair, and we understood what it meant to be a Head Student at King's: a humility-induced act of service. Overall, we have had a wonderful year and are so pleased to have been able to give back to all those who have given to us during our time here. We have learnt some lessons that we shall never forget and have been transformed for the better. Roll on exams!

Tom Oldaker and Andriana Ruda



What an amazing and enjoyable year we have had! We arrived back to school in September with such enthusiasm and excitement. After the success (again!) of Sports Day we were on a high. This year we decided it would be fun to get as many spectators involved as possible and had a team of journalists, litter pickers, photographers and cheerleaders, which made it feel like a real team event. Well done everyone!

Over the summer we had started to formulate a plan for House Music - we had so many ideas and songs to choose from - some of us had been thinking about this since Year 7! We had big Year 7 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 Year 7s 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 - unfortunately this wasn't our year, however the School House Band performing Adele's *Skyfall* was the talk of the evening - well done to everyone involved in that, especially Mollie who stepped in at the last minute. Well done to 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



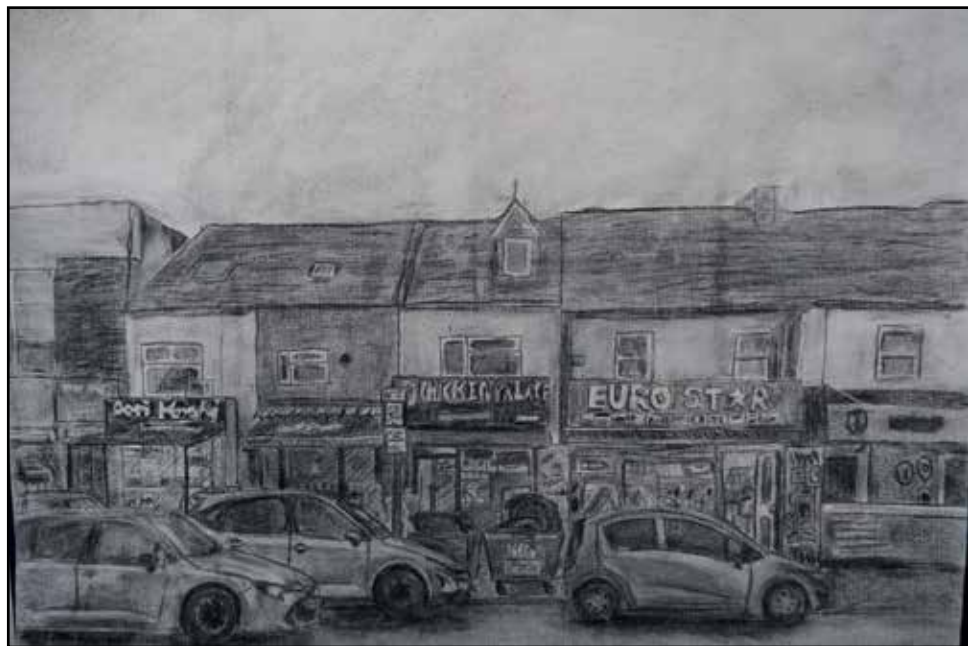
School House Report 2024-2025

thanks to Miss. Chantrell and Mr. Gunn 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 Fern the 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! Charities Week also saw us take part in the House Captains soaking - the change of time of year meant this was a bit chillier than normal but still good fun.

We have been very proud of the input members of the House have put into all the competitions this year - the Green Army is still going strong and now we pass the baton to the new House team...!



Mustafa Lodhi, A-level Art

St Chad's House Report 2024-2025



2024-2025, the year of the missing lion! Chadwick decided it was time for a 'holiday', leaving the six of us mascot-less for House Music. Luckily, we didn't let that stop us having the most amazing experience and we even managed to get his cousin Chadwood to join us to have a nap on stage!

We started our year leading the House with a very wet Sports Day. Events were delayed, the stickers with events times dissolved and anyone doing high jump got a very wet back but we all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It was a shame to only come in 3rd place; we would have loved to have won but it was a brilliant event regardless. The members of St. Chad's in the Junior Department made a fantastic effort coming 2nd overall in their Sports Day and winning the tug of war. Well done all!

Our next event was Charities Week which was brought forward from its normal week in March to the beginning of October,

meaning we lost some valuable lunchtime rehearsals for House Music but gave us a break we all needed! On the Monday, with the kind donations of many pupils and staff in the House, Matilda raised over £200 with an 8-hour sponsored silence. Wednesday's assembly brought the annual 'pieing' of the captains and other games, such as trying to score a goal against Chadwick. Little did we know, as we made our escape to wash the cream off in the cold Sports Hall showers, this would be the last time Chadwick would be seen. To round off a fantastic week with lots of money raised for the amazing charities, we spent a chilly Friday lunchtime being soaked with sponges and buckets of water in the House Captain and Head Student soaking. It was cold but brilliant fun!

Of course, the highlight of our year was House Music. We were not sure what to expect with it taking place in the Cathedral this year but with the amazing efforts of Dr. Ratcliffe and Mr. Jenkins, we all agreed

it was a fantastic venue. The evening began positively following Rachel Weston winning both the strings category and the overall solos competition held earlier that week. Being the House with the largest orchestra (of 35 pupils), we filled the Cathedral with the soaring melody, joyous trumpet fanfare and sonorous cello solo (played by George L'Estrange) of Matilda Pearson's arrangement of *Go The Distance*. We were delighted to win this category. Conducting an orchestra of this size and everyone performing so cohesively is no mean feat - well done Shree Pankhanial! Another highlight of the evening was our Junior Choir item *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* arranged and conducted by Matilda. Complete with Chadwood asleep on stage and actions from all singers, it was said to be a very enthusiastic and entertaining performance and won us another category! Thank you to all the children in the Junior

Department for their hard work learning their part separately in their morning break and coming to rehearsal with the rest of the choir in afternoon breaks. Also, thank you to Sarah Weston for leading sectional rehearsals with the Soprano 1's. Our Senior Choir item was an arrangement of *With or Without You* by George L'Estrange, ending with a beautiful solo sung by Megan Ferris. *Young Hearts Run Free* was a fantastic song for our large band of 16 members with the lead vocals confidently sung by Maelle Cavalec. We finished an amazing evening with our rendition of *Shut up and Dance*. We were so disappointed to lose to St. Peter's by half a point but we all have amazing memories which will last forever.

Thank you for such an amazing year as your House Captains. Let me hear you roar!

Matilda Pearson



What a year! Definitely one I will never forget, thanks to the abundance of amazing opportunities and memories the role of House Captain gave me, and I have no doubt all the other House Captains feel the same. Let's take a look back on this crazy year, with some of our favourite memories.

Sports Day

With Sports Day being our first major event as House Captains, we knew we were in for a fun time. Getting names signed up for each Sports Day event proved no hard task, with the inspiring enthusiasm and commitment of our Oswaldians once again proving to us why we are the best House (no bias here, I promise...). Honourable mentions go to Nathaniel Norman for winning the Sixth Form Boys' 100m Sprint, as well as, of course, Ruby Hynes for winning the Victrix Ludorum Cup. Sports Day was an amazing day to witness how involved, and willingly so, the pupils of King's become in House events, with different coloured

face paint according to each House, as well as ribbons and other accessories to show support. I will miss Sports Day greatly (even the 800m race, and I never thought I would hear myself saying that!), with Mr. Pinguenet's commentary and the fantastic food supplied by the catering staff. Getting to experience Sports Day from a House Captain perspective really just catalysed our passion for the House, especially in the House Captains vs teachers relay, in which we absolutely obliterated them!!!

Charities Week - October 2024

What a week! Only possible with the generosity of our House, we were able to pull off a Dunking Challenge in our Wednesday morning House assembly: questions were asked and one student was able to guess who they thought the question was about by dunking them head-first into a gross liquid of their choice: custard, rice pudding, baked beans or cream of mushroom soup. One of my highlights

from this day was Eli almost throwing up after being dunked into the cream of mushroom soup, and it was so valid - that stuff STANK. It's safe to say none of us have been able to eat baked beans since then, but our favourite thing about that was the fact that we raised £60 for charity, whilst having a laugh together as a House for some great causes. Furthermore, the annual House Captain Soaking only added to the fun, with our House able to take control and dump freezing cold buckets of water on us. It's things like this that I am so grateful to have experienced, thanks to being House Captain, being able to make a difference and encourage people to get involved, whilst having lots of fun and cheering on the Oswald's spirit.

House Music 2024

Most definitely the favourite event of the school year, House Music is the thing I, and no doubt many other House Captains, have dreamt of being in charge of since Year 7. I am so grateful to our amazing House for getting so involved, turning up to rehearsals sometimes multiple times a day, in order to hopefully produce the best-sounding music and HAVE THE MOST FUN! Although we may have come last, House Music in the glorious Cathedral was a night I will never forget, with our incredible Senior Choir item, a choral rendition of Whitney Houston's *I Wanna Dance*

with *Somebody*, as well as our WINNING FINALE *One Way or Another X Teenage Kicks*. Seeing Oswald's so enthusiastic and screaming our infamous OZZY OZZY OZZY chant as loud as possible truly reminded me how fantastic the House system is at our school, and I feel so grateful to have been a part of this House, as well as these truly unforgettable experiences.

Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Smith, thank you for being the most fantastic Heads of House we could ask for: your unwavering support and dedication have meant so much, and we are so lucky to have shared these experiences with you. To our House, thank you for creating memories we will never forget, for becoming such good friends with all of us and for getting so stuck in to everything, without us even having to ask. Events such as our annual Carol Singing Competition (which we won, woohoo!) and our Interhouse Sports Competitions have been testaments to your enthusiasm, fun natures and who we really are, not just as a House, but as a School collectively. We will miss this so much, but we know Oswald's is in safe hands with a fantastic new group of House Captains, to whom we wish good luck and fun times, as you create lifelong memories!

Once again, thank you, and for one last time...

OZZY OZZY OZZY...!



The six of us (Elizabeth, Lauren, Ben, Georgia, James and Noku) were so proud to receive our selection as House Captains. We were fired up with competitive spirit and ready to build on the previous year's success and get as many of the house involved, as possible.

Our first challenge as a new cohort of House Captains was to rally St. Peter's for Sports Day. We were very lucky to have such an enthusiastic House, who were up for the task, and they certainly delivered on the day. From great sprinting performances to exceptional throwing and jumping, we were so happy with the ability, but more importantly, the commitment on show. Everyone who took part should be really proud of themselves. We were able to secure a strong second overall and were very honoured to pick up the House Cup for that year end.

After a Blue win at House Music last year,

we were determined to keep that streak going, with most of us having imagined the songs we might pick for this since KS3! Our strength lay in the range of skills within the HCs and many of our fellow Year 13s who stepped up for lead parts. Rehearsals were well-attended, well-planned and efficient, as well as being lots of fun. It is an intense 5 weeks, and we had to plan for a new venue, with the Cathedral selected this year. It proved to be a spectacular venue for a WIN!! We scored very well across the board, winning Senior Choir with a brilliant version of The Beatles' *Eleanor Rigby*, our talented orchestral arrangement and some Band Treasure. It was a moment to remember forever when we were announced winners, but the best memories were sitting watching all of our fellow House Captains bring their song choices to life. #firstinfriendship

We were delighted to raise a whopping

£155 in one assembly during Charities Week, perhaps due to the desire of so many (Heads of House included..) to pie us with cream! Another part of Charities Week is the famous soaking on Friday, which we all enjoyed. The week was a great reminder of how well St. Peter's can co-operate for the greater good and we are lucky to have been part of it.

We'd like to give a massive thank you to

both our amazing Heads of House – Mrs. Attwell and Dr. McAleese, who have been so supportive and helpful throughout this process. Huge thanks to the whole House for getting behind us and putting your all into every event we've had this year. Keep it going with your fantastic new House Captains – Blue Power!

Lauren Attwell and Elizabeth Igbodudu



Mustafa Lodhi, A-level Art

The Student Council is only one of the many roles that King's has to offer, though an important bridge between students and staff. Our job is to listen to, and represent, our year group to a team of teachers and senior staff, in order to make decisions that affect the whole school body. But what does that look like? We Year 12 representatives - Bilal and Eleonora - are going to explore this in this article.

Who are we?

The Student Council is a team of 14 people - a boy and a girl per year group - who were picked by our peers as the people to represent our year group. We range from Year 7 to 13 and meet once every half term to discuss both changes we think the School should make and give opinions on changes that staff propose. We then try to find a middle ground between our perspective as students and the limitations adults have to work with to find something that satisfies both parties.

This means we work both ways: we, based on the whole year groups' suggestions, attempt to find common issues and staff works with us to fill those gaps. Meanwhile, staff will propose issues of their own and approach ours realistically to work out what we can do to make King's better. Ultimately, the shared goal is improving student and staff satisfaction.

How do we achieve this?

The first step, of course, is identifying the issues. This has been one of the most fun parts, and definitely the more hands-on bit: we have approached it by going personally to groups and individuals and asking directly what changes they would like to see as Year 12s. Our year group has been very collaborative, and often they will

approach us as soon as they can think of something, which we always appreciate.

We then compiled this into a list, choosing which aspects to focus most on and sending the list to our principal, Mr. Harrison, to discuss with us. We also picked an aspect to focus on that we saw as a recurring theme, which was the food options in the Sixth Form Café, and worked with that: we asked for more detailed feedback from students asking if they wanted to introduce new options and if they had any dietary restrictions that they should accommodate, achieving 63 responses.

We then sorted through every response putting them in a spreadsheet, which we presented in the latest meeting this May.

This is just an example of the kind of change we want to bring, but there have been many others: the introduction of Henry's, new WiFi for Sixth Formers, shifts in technology and in KS3 grading are just some of the things we have achieved in past years and this year.

What are the benefits?

The benefits of our Student Council are many and they extend beyond the communal advantages; of course, the obvious benefit is the increase in the quality of education and school life that our work gives both students and staff. There's always something gratifying in watching the work you've put in translate into something greater that everyone benefits from.

However, there are also more personal benefits: everything from the application process in itself (where we had to record a video that'd be shown to all of our year group) to the meetings and the work outside the Conference Room

The Student Council

has massively helped our social skills. It taught us to interact with people whom we'd never talked to (including each other!) and how to deliver our thoughts professionally, familiarising ourselves with what confrontation looks like; we learned to work as a team to solve problems, a skill we will undoubtedly use wherever we go.

Importantly, it taught us confidence. Putting yourself out there isn't easy, but stretching our comfort zones has been an

incredible skill to learn, and definitely one we'll continue to foster.

Being members of the Student Council is not just a responsibility – it's a privilege. It's hard not to feel a deep sense of pride in being the voice of our peers, helping to turn their ideas into real change. We're proud to represent Year 12 and excited to keep shaping King's into a school where every student's voice truly matters.

Eleonora Nieli and Bilal Khan (Year 12)



Reece Moore, GCSE Art

Madeley House - A Short History

Madeley House - A Short History

From serving as a home for Canon Ball and his family, to being a house for boarders at King's, all the way to being the Music Department at The King's School, Madeley House is a building that has stood the test of time. Madeley has created countless memories amongst students and teachers alike, so as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Madeley being the Music Department, we look back on how Madeley House has progressed throughout the years.

Canon Ball, born in 1833, was appointed as a vicar for St. Paul's in Peterborough in 1869. When developments for a new church began, All Saints', the Canon was reassigned to it and funded much of the building process. Having inherited a large sum of money from his family's ironworks in Shropshire, he was also able to build himself and his two sisters houses in 1885, in time for the church's finalisation in 1860. His home, Madeley House, was named after the village he grew up in, and was right next to the Clifton Villas, where his sisters lived. Whilst the villas have since been demolished, The King's School still owns the land they were once on, and the area now acts as a field for the Junior Department children to enjoy. Canon Ball's house was ornately decorated, and he was known to write his theological works in his study, although this room later became a dining room for Belgian refugees in the First World War. The house's versatility continues to be useful to the modern-day students, who know the areas better as classrooms and practise rooms than places to dine or sleep.

January 19th, 1937. Madeley House opens



Photograph of Helen Peppin sat outside Madeley



Photo recreation from student AnnaMaria

Madeley House - A Short History

as a boarding house to students at King's. It is here that young boys developed friendships for life, whilst growing into young men.

Their day would start at seven in the morning and end in bed at nine in the



Drawing room in Madeley House (approx. 1910-1919).



A photo of Madeley Office, in the same position as above, today (2024).



The Study Hut (early 1970s).

evening. The Boarding House created a strong sense of community, boarders were sorted into School House which led to strong competitive spirit within the boys. There was a hut in which younger years would study (although there was a pool table), and a sanatorium in which boys believed a ghost roamed. Here, new memories were created and have stuck in the hearts of the boarders, who remember it with fondness. In 1998, the Boarding House shut its doors. This was the end of a long era at King's. Then, Madeley was revamped into the Music Department in 1999.

Today, Madeley House hosts a variety of rehearsals for upcoming events, lessons for each student to hone their musical craft and, some would say most importantly, is seen as a place in school where musicians can relax and socialise. It is always a busy hub of organisation and activity and feels as though it has its own smaller community working together to achieve great things in the way of school assemblies, House Music and concerts.

Using the Boarding House's old dormitory block, the Junior Department was opened in 2011. JD serves as an early entrance into the King's education, and many of the



A photo of the boarders of Madeley House, with the Headmaster, Mr Mitchell (1939).

Madeley House - A Short History

students continue into the main secondary school. These students look back on their



Back of Madeley House (approx. 1910-1919).



Madeley House and the Junior Department from the side (2024).

time in the Department fondly.

Madeley House is truly a unique and personal place to The King's School. It is undoubtedly a thriving community that oozes talent and camaraderie through student success and ambition. Additionally, the exceptional teachers with their patience help to facilitate students' musical development and encourage them to pursue their own projects. With the history we have admired, we now look to the future, to the history yet to be, as Madeley is a home to memories.



Back of the Junior Department, formerly the Dormitory Block (2024).



Emma Lockett, GCSE Art



Emily Samuel, A-level Art

Junior Department

JD2 Hike from Castor to King's

After a 15-minute drive to Castor, JD2 walked for a few more minutes before passing wild blackberries. Mr Ludford told everybody it was okay to eat one, but it couldn't be below a certain height.

We headed towards Ferry Meadows and noticed a large number of fish beneath the first bridge we crossed. Then we trekked around the outskirts of Ferry Meadows, soon stopping for a quick snack on the bridge or the ground.

After a while we came across a place where we could hopefully see herons and grass snakes, but there were no snakes. After watching herons we stopped under the flyover, looking at the magnificent murals. Next to the flyover we saw tables and ate our lunch at them in the sunshine. Then we headed to the Peterborough Rowing Lake and spotted swans and seals, in three groups we went for a closer look, trying not to scare them. As we came to the edge of town, we fed swans with bread and watched them



land. Sarinah said, "I really enjoyed the trip, the seals were very fascinating and I would definitely go back again."

Florence Esposito and Gabriel Aig-Imoru, JD2

JD1 visit Peterborough Museum for their World War 2 Topic

They began their day by walking from school to the museum.

The children took part in and learnt about what it would be like living in World War 2. They went downstairs into the cellar and experienced what it would be like in a bunker whilst an air-raid siren could be heard.

Also learning about making do, they made their own toys using some cardboard, pipe cleaners and wooden pegs. Another activity they enjoyed was going into the museum garden looking for 'bombs' and learning how to safely move them. After lunch and before they left the museum, they had the opportunity to have a tour around the rest of the museum.

They really enjoyed the trip and thought it was the perfect way to learn more about their topic.

Nina Nassar and Harry Larham, JD2



Christmas is Coming! JD is getting ready for a joyful Christmas.

In the classroom of JD1, they created a long, colourful paper chain that was 37.4 meters long to be hung and decorate JD. It was linked to a Maths lesson on estimation. The whole of JD made snowman decorations out of Fimo to be put on the Christmas tree. Once made, these had to be carefully carried over to the kitchen to be baked.



Four pupils were chosen, one from each year to choose and chop down three Christmas trees for the School. Angel, one of the tree choppers, said, "I was really happy it stopped raining in time, it was very cold but I was wrapped up nicely and it was really fun!".

Also, in assembly the Christmas post elves were announced, they will start work on Monday.

Angel Khupe and Allegra Benjamin, JD2

Bethlehem's Baby

On Tuesday 10th December, JD performed an outstanding Christmas Nativity Play because they do not want people to forget the real meaning of Christmas.

Bethlehem The Musical was the perfect choice for the 2024 JD Nativity with roles varying from visiting families to the royal



mighty Julius Caesar and his daughter Julia Caesar. The play had a great number of songs for the children to sing and the split of parts worked amazingly. Here is how Fife thinks the play went and if she enjoyed it: "I think it went really well and everyone spoke clearly. I really loved my line, 'Flippin' Racket'!".

Sasha Barnes and Giselle Goffe-Caldeira, JD2

Terrible Tudor Times

On Monday 21st October JD2 went to Peterborough Museum to study the Tudors.

We left school at approximately nine-thirty. When we arrived, we learnt about two main things: Tudor clothes and Tudor medicines. While Year 5 learnt about the Tudor medicines, Year 6 learned about the Tudor clothing. Pupils dressed up as wealthy people from around that time.

Year 5 had to start with the gruesome bits. For example, if you had a toothache and you went to the barber surgeon, they would put ground up earthworms on your teeth! They also showed us what would happen if you had an arrow stuck in your bottom!

Then the two year groups swapped. We



also had the opportunity to go down into the cellar to see the remains of the original Tudor building. Finally, we were on to our last activity. We made Tudor roses out of coloured card, which was made into a makeshift necklace.

JD2 had an amazing day at Peterborough Museum!

Felix Hamilton-Box and Sarinah Barrett-Millard, JD2

Aeroplane Action at Daring Duxford

On 11/11/24, Remembrance Day, JD1 visited the Imperial War Museum at Duxford as part of their topic work.

JD1 arrived and began their day in Hangar One. They learnt the mechanics of aviation,



walked through Concorde then went downstairs. They sat under the Lancaster Bomber having their two-minutes of silence to remember those who have fought and died in wars.

Hangar Four was the next stop where they learnt more facts about WW2 and saw an Anderson shelter. Land warfare was their last visit where they saw artillery and saw the evolution of tanks.

JD1 were very lucky; throughout the day they saw different planes take off and land, including Spitfires and Hurricanes.

Leon said, "It was such a great day, my favourite part was in Hangar One when we went on Concorde."

Theo Collister and Kiki Morgan-Baxter, JD2

Beautiful Bourne

On Thursday 27th March, JD1 enjoyed a lovely walk in Bourne Woods.

They left school just after 9am all ready to

start their hike in the woods. The children were prepared for all weathers and were ready for a possible muddy hike. They made their way through some very muddy paths and were lucky enough to see a herd of deer and a number of toads. Lunch was eaten in the sunshine by the lake. Iliana said, "I enjoyed the trip, but I only liked the mud a little bit."

On Wednesday 2nd April JD2 enjoyed a hike around Borrough Hill Fort.

It was a great day for a hike, the sun was shining and it stayed dry, although there was a chilly wind at the top. The hike was enjoyed by all the children, it was great to climb some hills and see some great scenery.

Felix Hamilton-Box and Orlando Esposito, JD2



Sixth Form Art Trip to London

Last term, Year 12 and 13 Art students went on a trip to London. They visited galleries such as Tate Britain, The Photographers' Gallery, and The Royal Academy to gain inspiration for their A-level projects. In Tate Britain we saw multiple artworks, such as the Turner Prize and some first-time British artists presenting their work. In the Photographers' Gallery we saw the work of Letizia Battaglia on 'Life, Love and Death in Sicily'. In the Royal Academy gallery we saw pieces such as the architecture wall and 'Flaming June'. Stopping at Kingly Court, the students and teachers enjoyed a well-deserved lunch after trekking across London. They got around using the tube, thankfully nobody got lost and spent the afternoon around the Royal Academy gallery seeing the Christmas lights!

Mrs. Taylor



Year 12 : Yarrow Gallery Work in Progress Exhibition, Monday 19th to Friday 23rd May 2025

The "Work in Progress" exhibition gives all the opportunity to see how the Year 12 Art students work, from conception to creation and the exciting creative journey that takes place. The exhibition highlighted the strong culture of experimentation, innovation and debate. Within a dynamic and vibrant environment that encourages risk, originality and diversity in thinking, students are encouraged to challenge and develop their ideologies and practice, both collaboratively and independently. The exhibition is a tantalising chance to see students in the middle of this creative process. The School's WIP show provides an opportunity for students to share their work, learning more about each other's practice and enabling pupils to gauge a broader range of responses to their ongoing artistic practice. For visitors it is a wonderful way to see the artists of



the future, as their newest creations take shape. The work within the exhibition was a collaboration of three schools: Oundle School, Prince William School and The King's School.

Each student was allocated a gallery space to fill with current, complete and ongoing developmental work, to showcase their

working process. On Monday evening the show was launched with a private viewing for students and parents. On Wednesday there was an opportunity for the students to take part in a group critique. There was also a visiting artist, Jane Hindmarch, who gave a talk to the students.



Year 10 Oxford Galleries and Museum Visit – Tuesday 17th December 2024

Year 10 Fine Art students went to Oxford on Tuesday 17th December 2024 to view the Museums and exhibitions. At the Ashmolean Museum students spent the morning viewing the extensive general collection. The Ashmolean is the University of Oxford's Museum of Art and Archaeology, founded in 1683. Their world-famous collections range from Egyptian mummies to contemporary art, telling human stories across cultures and across time. Students then enjoyed the contemporary works on display at the Money Talks exhibition.



After lunch in the town centre at the Christmas markets, students spent the afternoon sketching in Oxford's Natural History and Pitt Rivers Museums.

This trip was the launch of the Artist Study project for students. It was an important opportunity to gather primary resources and inspiration. Upon their return students developed the themes for their investigation in a personal and creative way.

Mrs. Taylor



Year 11 GCSE Fine Art and Photography Exhibition Visit – Monday 13th January 2025

On 13th January Year 11 Fine Art and Photography students went on a day trip

to London to visit a range of exhibitions at the Tate Britain and Tate Modern, to help support the development of their component 2 externally-set exam.

It was very cold when students met early on Monday morning at the Peterborough train station. We first travelled to Pimlico and the Tate Britain with photographers exploring the exhibition 'Photographing 1980's Britain' and Fine Artists viewing this year's Turner Prize Finalists' Exhibition.

From here, students walked to Waterloo where we enjoyed lunch at the famous Waterloo food market and took photographs at the Leak Street Arches and Graffiti Tunnel.

We then moved down the Embankment to the Tate Modern, where students were given time to explore the general collection independently across the multiple floors of this impressive gallery.

During the day students were able to investigate contemporary artists who



could influence their projects and gather a range of primary-sourced images to help access higher assessment objectives from the start of their exam unit.

Mrs. Taylor



Costa Brava Trip

In October, the Art department embarked on their yearly residential with the aim of supporting students from Years 11, 12 and 13 in broadening their life experiences and developing ideas for future art works. This academic year, the visit was to the Costa Brava in Eastern Spain to visit a range of

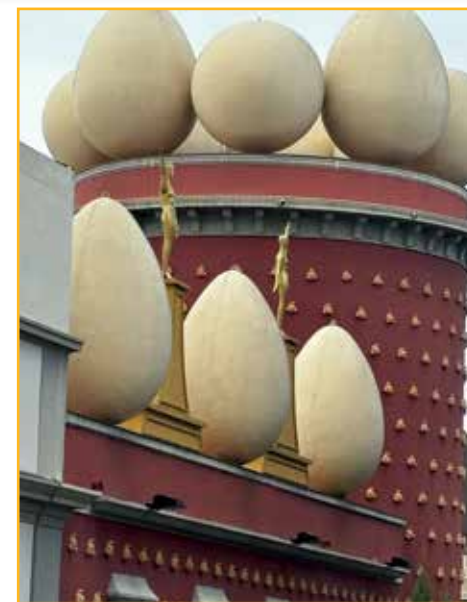
culturally significant cities.

It was an early start on Day 1, leaving the school in the small hours to catch our flight at approximately 7am. The airport experience was an education for some students, on what was allowed to pass through security. Apparently, a full bottle of hot chilli sauce in hand luggage is not an acceptably necessary item to take to the displeasure of one of the group. Once we boarded it was smooth sailing all the way to Barcelona airport where upon touch down, we were greeted by the warm late October sunshine. The transfer to our accommodation was quite long and provided ample opportunity for students and staff to catch up on some much-needed sleep, but it was well worth the wait as the town of Tossa de Mar was a glorious sea-side destination and our accommodation was very modern and pleased all travellers in the party. The rest of Day 1 was spent exploring the old town and the historic sea-fronted fort, as well as dabbling our toes in the Mediterranean Sea.

Day 2 started with a quick - and very nice - breakfast at the hotel, followed by hopping back on the coach for a day in Barcelona. The day was designed around the famous Architect Antoni Gaudi, one of the most influential figures on the history of the vast city. First stop was Parc Guell, a Sculptural Garden designed by Gaudi on the northern incline, with views overlooking the entire city. We had a few hours to wander around before jumping back on the bus and travelling into the heart of the city, for a spot of lunch and to experience the Sagrada Familia, the Basilica of Barcelona which has been under construction for over 150 years to date. After the awe-inspiring lunch views, the day trip concluded with

exploring the Poble Espanyol, a custom-built town within the city, showcasing the range of architectural and art styles from across the country.

Day 3 brought with it some slightly less amazing weather, but still lots of adventuring to be had. We boarded the coach once more and journeyed east to the town of Figueres, a lesser-known location with one big Art-based attraction, the Salvador Dali Museum – the largest collection of the famous Spanish artist's work in a single place in the world. After a morning navigating the windy staircases and the maze of corridors and small exhibition rooms, we travelled inland to the city of Girona to take in the sights of the city, including locations used in the filming of *Game of Thrones* and the oldest medieval wall walk in Spain. Unfortunately, we had our first taste of true October weather with a deluge of rain. Still, this did not dampen our spirits as we enjoyed exploring the



shops of the city centre before returning to our accommodation and partaking in an evening meal, sampling some of Tossa de Mar's local cuisine, Paella... Yum!

Our final day was not just a travel day. En route to the airport, we went on an excursion to the Monastery of Montserrat, a basilica and small town nestled high in the mountains and housing the famous Black Madonna – a pilgrimage for several thousand Catholics every year. After the rain of the previous day, we were rewarded with glorious sunshine and an exceptionally blue sky, perfect for views atop of the mountain. We ascended via train and explored the Basilica and adjoining Art Gallery before taking in the sights. A small group of students and staff also took the funicular to the peak of the mountain, which felt like standing on top of the world. After what ended up feeling like the cherry on the top of the trip for most, we were collected by the coach and descended the





windy mountain roads to the airport to start our long journey back to King's via Heathrow and the M25 night closures. All in all a fabulous trip, lots of happy students with memories and experiences to last a lifetime.

Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Goodwin

GCSE and A-level Artwork Exhibition

The Art and Design Technology departments opened for their annual exhibition on Friday 13th June. Both A-level and GCSE work was proudly displayed for visitors. The evening was a huge success. Congratulations to all our talented and hard-working students and a big thank you for everyone who



assisted in the curation of the show.

'There were lots of creative uses of media for example painting on books, paper mâché on a painting. There were lots of unique pieces and different styles.' Alice Baker, Year 7.

'I really like the exhibition; it has a large



range of different artworks'. Looie Ooi, Year 7.

'I think that the exhibition is creative and imaginative with each person making



unique art. A lot of paintings were surrealism and use bright colours.' Navya Muru, Year 7.

'My favourite was the painting by Lilja. I love how she put 3D snakes in the hair, representing Greek mythology.' Naomi Happy, Year 7.

'Wonderful. A large variety of pieces ranging from photography to painting to textiles. It was a lovely experience and I hope that the School will offer something similar in the years to come; it is clear that our School has the perfect education for Art students.'

Aoife Sheanon, Year 7.

Year 10 Art Trip to London

Arriving in London, we made our way to the Tate Modern to look at their latest gallery, the "Zanele Muholi" exhibition, showcasing the artworks and photographs taken revolving around LGBTQ+ rights and activism. Also, in the Tate were many other structures/artworks like the 'Open Wound' turbine in the centre of the museum.

Afterwards we went to the Photographers' Gallery, to see the "Letizia Battaglia: Life, Love and Death in Sicily" exhibition, which revolved around the Sicilian gang wars in the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s. Battaglia took photographs of the victims of the



gang wars, even getting threatened by the Mafia for publicising the victims.

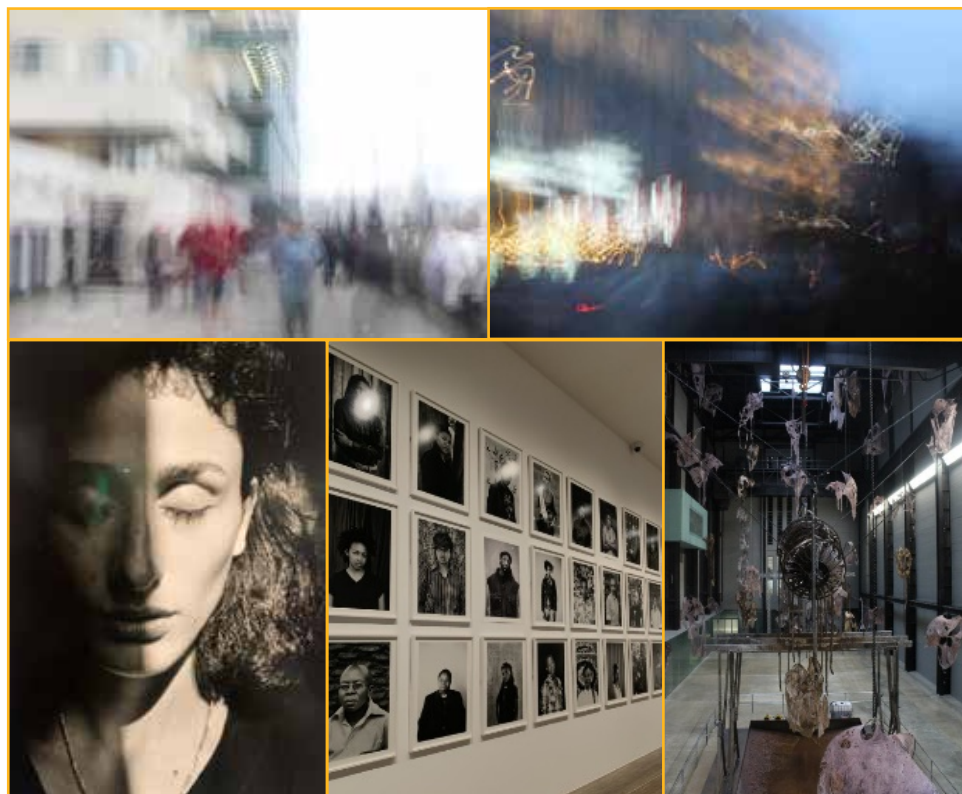
Later we proceeded to Carnaby Street, where we aimed to take images that emphasized the light compared to the darkness of the sky; also trying to capture Double Exposure images (where people/car/lights/things are moving in a blurred way).

We also visited the Christmas Market to capture images of the light and the

fountain nearby.

We use these images and edit them into the "Surrealism" movement, trying to capture the "Double Exposure" sub-section of the movement. The museums and walk around the city gave many opportunities and insights into interesting history/photography and future ideas for photography projects.

Emily Green, Year 10



Biology

We have had a great year in the Biology department and have finished by wishing our Y11s and Y13s good luck in their exams. We are excited to see what the future holds for these students and look forward to hearing all their exciting news.

The very busy Sixth Form cohort took part in the British Biology Olympiad this year, which was really fun and saw some students working well outside the confines of the specification and really challenging themselves. Two students made it through to the second round, which was really impressive. We are hoping next year we can involve the Year 11 students too in the British Biology Challenge.

Our trip to Ferry Meadows to carry out a biodiversity study was a great success with 78 Y12s attending, getting involved in studying the flora and fauna of this local parkland - we are so lucky to have this facility on our doorsteps.

Key Stage 4 students have taken great delight in looking after the new stick insects - they attempted to name them until they realised they all looked the same! They have been a constant source of fascination and amazement and have helped illustrate the topics of evolution and adaptation to our students.

We are looking forward to another fabulous year - we are very sad to say goodbye to Miss Robinson, who has been with us for 7 years but we are excited to welcome Mrs. Lamb and Miss. Chatfield to the department. We are actually welcoming Miss. Chatfield back as she was a student with us - we take that as a massive compliment that she is keen to come back and join us.

Miss. Chantrell

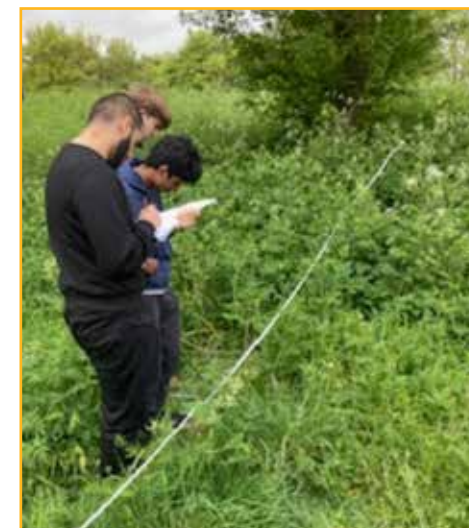
Year 12 Biology Field Trip

In order to be able to tick off all our practical skills, the Year 12 Biology students spent a day out at Ferry Meadows.

One of the topics in our course is biodiversity, which we had a heavy focus on during the trip. Both insects and plants were a part of our investigations, allowing us to gain a deep understanding of the distribution of wildlife at the park.

After an introduction from the very welcoming staff, we received an overview of all the different types of sampling. These include random sampling, opportunistic sampling and systematic sampling.

Firstly, we explored random sampling. During this practical, our focus was on how human activity impacts upon biodiversity. To investigate this, we placed pitfall traps at random intervals in two different areas, one of these being a high traffic area with a lot of human activity, whilst the other was an area of much lower activity. These pitfall traps consisted of paper cups which



we placed into holes dug into the ground, camouflaged with pieces of paper. Whilst we completed our other practicals, the cups collected any invertebrates which fell in. After recording how many of each species were in each of the cups, we used Simpson's diversity index to calculate which area had a higher level of biodiversity. This is where we learnt the difference between species richness and species diversity. Simpson's index looks at both the number of species found in a certain area and how even the number of species are. Surprisingly enough, our results concluded that the area with higher human activity had a larger number of insects, however, the area displayed lower diversity.

Unlike the first practical, our second investigation involved plants and systematic sampling. We changed our location to an area which contained several plant species. Our procedure involved using a grid quadrant and tape measure (30 metres) to explore how plant percentage coverage varied at different distances from a pathway. We integrated systematic



sampling by taking samples every two metres. Our results showed more species richness the greater the distance from the pathway it was. This was likely due to the decrease in human trampling.

After finishing our main practicals, we were able to use other equipment such as pooters and sweep-nets, which are crucial skills in our Biology course.

Overall, all Biology Year 12 students gained a deep insight into how biodiversity is measured and explored and the trip was a massive success!

Reka Peto and Anna Kwartnik, Year 12



Our Business and Economics pupils have had an excellent year, culminating in good results and many of our students pursuing our subjects at a number of prestigious universities, whilst others secured degree-level apprenticeships.

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. Students were successful in their application for funding in their mini enterprises, judged by the Foundation. Well done to all the students involved in this project!

In the summer term GCSE Business pupils put together a piece of work planning for a proposed café in the local area. This **'My Café'** activity involved pupils conducting research and concentrating on the three broad aspects of business that have been taught – business activity and entrepreneurship, marketing and human resources.

The current Year 13 students relaunched the **Economics Society**, which has seen Year 12 and 13 students meeting weekly to discuss current topics within economics and techniques that can be used in A-level Economics exams.

Shanzay Merchant (Year 13), one of the organisers and leaders of the Society explains:

Our Economics Society is an engaging group where students come together

to explore the world of economics beyond the classroom. There are regular presentations and discussions held, from inflation and government policy to global trade and different economic systems like capitalism and socialism. These sessions give students a chance to research, present their views, and challenge each other's ideas in a supportive and intellectually stimulating environment. Some of the presentation highlights include 'Zimbabwe's Hyperinflation' and 'How the Pakistan-India Conflict Affects Their Macroeconomies'.

Both A-level Economics and Business and GCSE Business have had healthy numbers of students attend additional lessons out of class time with Mr. Smith and Mrs. Willis, particularly when preparing for the summer exams.

Our Year 12 and Year 13 Economists benefited from a presentation by representatives from the **Bank of England**, who spoke to them about the role of the Bank of England, the impact of monetary policy on the macroeconomy, and employment opportunities at the Bank of England. 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 helped to facilitate one of the activities for Year 8 in **Activities Week** where we focused on marketing, finance, design and construction of a toy

car that would be aimed at a specific target market. Pupils had a great time putting their plans into action and producing a rocket-powered racer!

Year 13 student, Joe Cookson, described the Bank of England visit:

On Tuesday 10th December 2024, two representatives from the Bank of England gave a lecture to The King's (The Cathedral) School, discussing their role in the Bank of England and promoting its "Future Talents Programme" to the students.

Discussed was the Bank of England's role in governing Monetary Policy, particularly in relation to interest rates. One lecturer mentioned how he was previously on the committee responsible for analysing the impact of interest rates on the macro economy, including borrowing costs, investment, saving returns and inflation and shared his experience - at this point the students were tested about their knowledge regarding the state of the economy, and were awarded pouches containing £10,000 worth of shredded £50 notes if correct, highlighting another one

of the Bank of England's responsibilities in maintaining physical currency.

The other lecturer, who had previously joined through the Future Talents Programme, talked about his responsibility in ensuring banks have enough liquidity to maintain consumer trust, by running simulations on different banks at different severities, and examining how they would be impacted by a recession like the one in 2008.

Then discussed was how students could join the Bank of England post-18 through an Apprenticeship or an Apprenticeship degree, alongside the qualifications and salary they'd receive, where they'd be working (Leeds or London) and what their responsibilities would be over the 4-year period.

For the last 10 minutes, the lecturers took questions from the students and teachers alike including the programme and their career paths, how they eventually became involved with the Bank of England, and how the role of the Bank of England has changed over time.



The Chemistry Department continues to grow with further record number of students choosing A-level this year.

In January we had 57 students enter the RSC Chemistry Olympiad. This is a two-hour written exam paper that tests the students' chemistry knowledge beyond the curriculum. This year there was a variety of questions, as various as the powder used for the cartridges in clay-pigeon shooting, the chemistry of epoxy resins to the structure of the scents in Agarwood, also known as the 'wood of the gods'.

The students attended preparation sessions looking at the more complex chemistry they may encounter in the Olympiad and we were very pleased with the successes of the students. Though this competition is targeted at Year 13 students, most of our entrants were Year 12 and they achieved 4 Gold awards, 9 Silver and 25 students

achieved Bronze. Well done to all who took part and our thanks go to Mrs. Newbold for arranging this.

We also took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry Analytical Competition, where students compete in groups to analyse unknown chemicals, using a variety of methods. This year students were looking at a variety of tests for pollution in soil samples.

Out of 24 teams of 3 to 4 students, the winning teams were:

1st: Ismaeel Hussain, Ellie Ince and Jah Jones

2nd: Izzy Denny, Elfrida Nwafoba, Szymon Pytlewski and Victoria Zhuravel

3rd: Hope Falayi, Buyikunmi Kassim and Tez Pun.

Miss. K. Henson



Classics

Beyond the classroom we continue to offer experiences for our students in a variety of trips and clubs. Those in Year 11 and above are able to join Greek Club in order to learn Ancient Greek with Mr. Prideaux and sometimes the trainee teachers who join us each year. The group of those doing this consists both of those studying Latin and Classical Civilisation and those from other subject areas.

Over the past three years Classics Society has been growing and attracting students from across Years 12 and 13. Topics have covered a wide range of subject areas in the ancient world including Mesopotamia, Septimius Severus, Linear B and Women in the Ancient World.

We continue to enjoy the chance to make



the most of the opportunities available at the British Museum for our students. Both Year 13 and Year 9 have taken trips there to develop their knowledge. Year 13 are able to see first-hand many of the artefacts they need to study for Greek Religion and Imperial Image, as well as artefacts that enhance their knowledge of the Trojan War and its aftermath. These objects are able to bring the topics to life and mean they can talk even more knowledgeably about



the units of work. Particular favourites this year were the Parthenon sculptures and the Caryatid column from the Erechtheion on the Athenian Acropolis.

Year 9 were able to increase their knowledge of Roman Britain with a talk from one of the museum's education staff, as well as visiting the Roman Britain gallery. We also visited the Egyptian and Roman Empire galleries to give them a taste of the topics coming up later in the year.

Ms. A. Karsten

Athens

The first two days of our trip to Greece were spent in and around Athens. After arriving, we embarked on an hour-long coach ride to visit the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion, one of the country's most iconic archaeological sites. The site offers breathtaking views of the Myrtoan Sea and the Peloponnesos peninsula. As we stood at the temple, the rich history seemed to come alive, particularly its significance for ancient sailors navigating the perilous Aegean and Myrtoan seas. Once a beacon for maritime travellers, the temple now stands in ruin, with only 13 pillars remaining. Originally built in the 6th and 5th centuries BCE, it would have been a striking limestone monument reflecting Poseidon's power. The temple we visited, however, was a later reconstruction, completed in 444 BCE after its destruction by Persian forces under Xerxes I during the Greco-Persian Wars. The reconstructed temple, made of marble, features towering columns and painted motifs on its ceiling, designed to be seen from the sea. Despite its architectural grandeur, the view from the cliffside, stretching out over the sea, was equally captivating, offering a glimpse of the



landscape as the ancient Greeks would have seen it.

On the second day, after a night at the Candia Hotel, we took a visit to the great Acropolis of Athens, a towering monument dedicated to the ancient goddess Athena. When we made it up the mountain to the huge gatehouse (the Propyla), which overlooked the entire city, giving an intimidating sense of scale. As we walked in, the main building – the Parthenon – immediately drew our attention. It dominated the Athenian horizon and gave a view into what the ancient Greeks saw looming over their city. As we explored the site, we came across two other ancient buildings: the Erechtheion and the Sanctuary of Zeus poeios. The Erechtheion especially caught my attention due to the famous Caryatids supporting the porch of this building. Supposedly it acted as a shrine and treasury after being built upon the ruins of the Temple of Athena polias. However, the caryatids were a contemporary reconstruction, and the originals are located at the Acropolis Museum. During our visit to this museum, we noticed that one of the caryatids was missing. We later found

out that it had been relocated to the British Museum, and this sister stood alone in a corner of the museum; a depressing fact considering the story behind these statues. However, the Acropolis Museum also held numerous other wonders. This included a huge depiction of a few of Heracles' battles, such as his fight with Typhon or with the Lernean Hydra. All of these ancient wonders and artefacts, although they seemed simple, were some of the most amazing discoveries I and many others had ever seen. The history behind each object was so extensive that it left all of us stunned.

With the conclusion of our Acropolis visit, we made one last stop to visit the National Archaeological Museum. The main attractions at this museum were the original death mask of Agamemnon and the bronze statue of 'Zeusioden'. The death mask of Agamemnon (a king of the Greeks) was especially intriguing to us as we study 'The Iliad' by Homer in our lessons, where Agamemnon is leading the Greeks to war against the Trojans. The mask was the original one which he was buried in after his murder by his wife, Clytemnestra, and her lover in his own home - a site which we later



visited. The bronze depiction of 'Zeuseidon' was a more curious discovery for us. This reconstruction was officially deemed a statue of Poseidon; however, it is the subject of huge speculation for classicists and archaeologists on whether it is instead Zeus due to the lack of a trident or lightning bolt in its throwing hand. Nonetheless, this was another statue which gave that real sense of scale and made you feel small; giving a glimpse of its original intention on the Greek people as a depiction of their deity. With that, we returned to the Candia Hotel to rest in preparation for the next day's activities.

The third day was spent in the mountainous Delphi, which in ancient times was believed to be the 'navel of the world', the myth stating that Zeus sent two eagles flying in opposite directions and they met in the middle, where Delphi was founded at the 'centre of the Earth'. Located on Mt. Parnassus, we travelled to the Temple of Apollo, the god of light, knowledge and harmony, and the Temple of Athena, the goddess of wisdom, the spiritual focal points of Greece. The temple sanctuary was a large, roughly rectangular area enclosed by a wall. A sacred way lined with monuments and treasures wound up through the sanctuary to the Temple of Apollo itself, which housed the Delphic oracle in a chamber on the side. The monuments were offerings to Apollo erected by states or individuals in thanks for favours given by the god. The existing temple site includes only the foundation, some steps, and a few columns from a structure built in the 4th century BCE. We then got to explore Delphi Town, which was one of the main highlights of the entire trip. The town itself was picturesque, the charming old houses, the cobblestone roads, below the colossal mountains offered a feeling of

awe and excitement, truly making you feel like you are in a movie setting. The scenic overlook offered a panoramic view of the valley below, evoking a sense of serenity and peace.

During our visit to Olympia, we explored one of the most significant archaeological sites of ancient Greece. This site was a sanctuary dedicated to the worship of Zeus, the king of the gods and is known as the birthplace of the Olympic Games. It hosted the original Olympics over 2,700 years ago and perhaps most impressively; it was the home of the 12-meter-tall statue of Olympian Zeus - one of the ancient wonders of the world. We walked among the ruins of the ancient stadium, the Temple of Zeus, and the Temple of Hera, marvelling at the scale and historical importance of the site. At the Archaeological Museum of Olympia, we viewed statues, relics, and artifacts that provided deeper insight into ancient Greek religion, athletics, and art. The museum held some of the most impressive pieces of Greek craftsmanship including the statues of Nike of Paionios, Hermes and infant Dionysus, and the Pediments of the Temple of Zeus. The serene setting in the Peloponnese countryside, surrounded by olive groves and hills, adds to the timeless atmosphere of the experience. The visit offered a powerful connection to ancient history and the enduring legacy of the Olympic spirit.

Next was Mycenae, the ancient city located in the northeastern Peloponnese. Famously home of the Homeric hero Agamemnon, the city is rich in history. Situated on an impressive hill, the city was not only defensively sound but visually impressive in the landscape

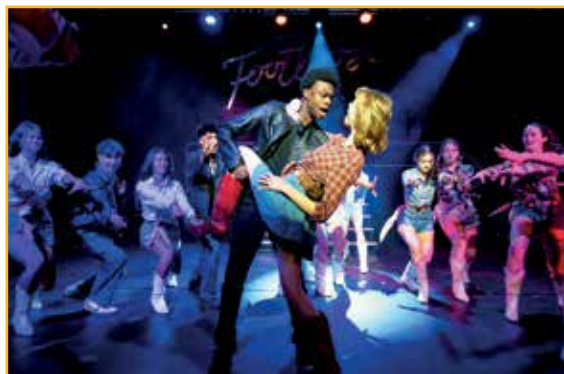
Our conclusion to the trip was in Tolon where we first explored the breathtaking

archaeological site at Epidauros devoted to Asklepios - the God of medicine. Beginning our day was the striking theatre at the Sanctuary of Asklepiion, built upon the small valley of Peloponnesus, where one's voice could be heard from any place in the theatre. This is regarded as one of the purest masterpieces of Greek architecture and to this day, 3000 years later, left us all astounded. Later we explored the rest of the vast ruin and encountered numerous temples and hospital buildings which helped provide valuable insight into both the might and grandeur of the Greek architecture, as well as the healing cults 3000 years ago. In the afternoon, we went down to explore the stunning and serene ocean-side town of Nafplio. Our visit began with an exploration of the various terraced houses, touristy shops and petite cafes, allowing ourselves to engulf ourselves in the rich and deep Greek culture. After enjoying some delectable lunch by the ocean, we trekked up an awe-inspiring, imposing mountain to the fort overlooking the town. The journey up hammered in the sense of grandeur of the fort and its sheer height over the landscape, however the simply astonishing view at the top made it all worthwhile. In the evening, we headed down to our hotel for a final good night's sleep. On the morning of our departure, we had one final archaeological site to attend in Corinth. Here our final look at Greek design was the acropolis upon the sanctuary dedicated to the fair Goddess of Beauty, Aphrodite, offered by Apollo. The various vast pillars and statues remaining even now even further exacted a sense of awe upon us as a final send off and farewell to Greece.

Zac Waller Year 12

Footloose

From the 29th to the 31st of January, the Hall at King's was transformed into the vibrant town of Bomont for a spectacular production of *Footloose*. The musical, which follows the story of Ren McCormack - a teenager who moves to a town where dancing is banned - was brought to life by a dedicated and talented cast and



crew of approximately 120 students.

The production was a true celebration of inclusivity and creativity. At King's, every student who auditions is guaranteed a role, provided they commit to the rehearsal process. This ethos was clearly reflected in the diverse and enthusiastic ensemble that filled the stage with energy and passion.

Choreography was a standout feature of the show, thanks to the incredible work of Sophia Conte, Elana Riley, Eve Robinson, Ophelia Sootheran, and Kayla McNeal. Their dynamic routines captured the spirit of the 1980s and had the audience tapping their feet throughout the performance.

Behind the scenes, Isla Mackie not

only painted the vibrant and detailed set but also served as an exceptional stage manager, ensuring the smooth running of each performance. The production also benefited greatly from the support of Robin Bennett, who served as Assistant Director, and Dr. Ratcliffe, who led singing rehearsals and directed the live band that accompanied the show.

The image captured from the final night shows the full cast assembled

on stage beneath a glowing "Footloose" sign, surrounded by colourful lights and set pieces—a fitting tribute to the hard work and joy that went into this unforgettable production.

Special thanks go to all the students, staff, and families who supported the show. *Footloose* was not just a musical—it was a celebration of community, creativity, and the power of performance.

Blood Brothers 25th March 2025

On 25th March, Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama students enjoyed an evening school trip to the New Theatre in Peterborough



to watch a live performance of *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell. This trip was particularly valuable as the students study the text as part of their GCSE Drama course. *Blood Brothers* tells the compelling story of Mickey and Edward, twin brothers separated at birth and raised in contrasting social environments. The play explores themes such as class division, fate and the impact of upbringing on personal identity. As the story unfolds, the audience is drawn into a powerful narrative that is both heartwarming and tragic.

Students found the performance both engaging and educational. Many commented on how seeing the play live helped them better understand the characters and themes they had studied in class. The emotional ending left a lasting impression and sparked thoughtful discussions in class afterwards.

Sixth Form London Drama Trip

In November 2024 our Sixth Form Drama and Theatre Studies students enjoyed an unforgettable day in London, packed with theatre, culture, and immersive experiences. The trip was designed to inspire students through exposure to

professional productions and the vibrant atmosphere of the West End.

The group travelled by train from Peterborough to London in the morning, setting the tone for a day full of excitement and discovery. The first theatrical experience of the day was a matinee performance of *Guys & Dolls* at The Bridge Theatre. This immersive production placed the audience right in the heart of the action, with standing tickets allowing students to move with the performance and engage directly with the dynamic staging. The energy, choreography and interaction made it a truly memorable experience.

After a short trip into Central London and a quick bite to eat, the group attended an evening performance of *Stranger Things: The First Shadow*. This visually stunning and emotionally intense production captivated the audience with its special effects, gripping storyline, and atmospheric staging. It was a standout moment of the trip, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended. The group returned to Peterborough by train, arriving just before midnight, tired but exhilarated by the day's events.

Sixth Form Theatre Trip to see The Glass Menagerie

On Tuesday, 2nd April, our Year 12 Drama and Theatre Studies students travelled to London to attend a live performance of *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams at

The Yard Theatre.

The Yard Theatre, located in Hackney Wick in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, is a distinctive venue housed in a converted warehouse. Since its opening in 2011, it has become known for its innovative and intimate theatrical experiences, offering audiences a unique perspective on both classic and contemporary works.

This visit provided students with a valuable opportunity to experience a professional interpretation of a key text in their curriculum. The production's creative staging and powerful performances sparked thoughtful discussion and analysis, enriching students' understanding of the play's themes, characters, and dramatic techniques.

Year 9 Drama Trip to see *Back to the Future*

In January, the Drama Department, accompanied by several dedicated volunteers, organized an exciting cultural outing for 100 enthusiastic Year 9 students. The group travelled to London to attend a matinee performance of the hit West End musical *Back to the Future*.

The trip was designed to enrich students' appreciation of live theatre and to inspire their creative engagement with the performing arts. The production, known for its dazzling special effects, energetic performances, and nostalgic soundtrack, captivated the audience and provided a memorable experience for all.

The Drama Department extends its heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who helped supervise the trip and to the students for their exemplary behaviour throughout the day, which was recognised

and acknowledged by employees at the theatre.

GCSE Drama Showcase

On the 17th of June, our Year 10 GCSE Drama students proudly presented a showcase of their devising coursework performances. The event was held in our newly-renovated Drama Studio, providing a professional and inspiring setting for the occasion. We would like to extend a huge thanks to the Friends of King's for their generous donation that contributed towards funding our new LED lighting system, Cham Sys lighting desk and theatre curtains.

The Showcase was specially arranged for our Year 9 students, who are considering Drama as a GCSE option. It served as both an exhibition of the creative work produced by our current students and an opportunity to inspire and inform the next cohort.

Each performance reflected the hard work, creativity, and collaboration of the Year 10 students, who devised original pieces exploring a range of themes and theatrical styles. The audience was engaged and impressed by the maturity and innovation displayed in the performances. The event not only celebrated the achievements of our Year 10 students but also gave Year 9 students a valuable insight into the expectations and rewards of the GCSE Drama course.

Mrs. G. Walker

Grimm Tales

Lower school students shine in enchanting production of *Grimm Tales*.

On Friday 4th July, the stage came alive as 140 students from Years 7 to 9 delivered two spellbinding performances of our Lower School production of *Grimm Tales*. With a cast of remarkable size and energy, the show was a celebration of creativity, teamwork, and storytelling at its finest.

The production featured original choreography created by our talented Year 9 students, adding a dynamic and expressive layer to the performance. Their movement work brought a fresh interpretation to the classic tales, enhancing the atmosphere and emotional depth of each scene.

Bookending the play were two original songs, beautifully written by Caitlin Parkes and Anisha Sithole. These musical pieces framed the production with a sense of unity and originality, showcasing the impressive songwriting talents within our school community.

Supporting the cast behind the scenes were Sixth Form Drama Prefects Jess Richardson and Toby Goodlip, who took on the roles of Assistant

Directors. Their leadership and guidance were instrumental in helping the younger students bring the stories to life with confidence and flair.

The performances were a huge success, met with enthusiastic applause and praise from staff, families, and fellow students. It was wonderful to see such a large and diverse cast working together, and every student involved should be incredibly proud of their contribution.

Grimm Tales was more than just a school play - it was a vibrant celebration of imagination, collaboration, and the power of performance. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Mrs. G. Walker



Looking back on 2024 - 2025

At King's, our Design and Technology (DT) department is guided by three key principles: creativity, confidence, and perseverance. We strive to ensure that our students can proudly say, "I am Creative, I am Confident, and I will not give up."

In an increasingly digital world, the role of DT is evolving. We are excited to explore how artificial intelligence (AI) can be integrated as a tool to enhance our students' learning experiences. AI is already becoming the talking point of the century, and while we are fascinated by its potential, we are committed to using it in ways that complement and enhance human creativity.

The emergence of photography in the 1830s and 1840s serves as a historical parallel. Many painters feared that this new technology would render their skills obsolete. However, photography not only opened up new creative worlds but also led to a surge in freedom and innovation in painting. Similarly, our DT curriculum has always been about connecting creative thinking with hands-on experience. While there is a need for a shift in skills, the creative potential of humans remains unparalleled. Design and Technology is vital, now more than ever.

I AM CREATIVE

Creativity in our subject is mainly evident when the 'ceiling' is removed from a design task. Last year, students in all year groups took advantage of the many opportunities to demonstrate their creativity. In KS3, students created recycled bags, multi-material lamps, cultural cushions, laser-cut souvenirs, windsocks and pewter cast pendants. Each project gave scope for

iteration and interpretation.

This year in Food Technology, students showcased their creativity and problem-solving skills. They adapted recipes for dietary needs, blending culinary traditions to create innovative dishes. Emphasizing sustainability, they used seasonal ingredients and reduced food waste. Creative plating techniques enhanced the visual appeal of their dishes and participation in our Food Club further honed their quick thinking and creativity. These activities have not only fostered creativity but also developed critical thinking and practical skills, preparing students for future culinary adventures.

I AM CONFIDENT

Witnessing someone who has mastered a skill is inspiring, but it can feel out of reach if we wish to emulate it. In DT we encourage students that mastery emerges when skills are developed 'one-step-at-a-time'. We encourage students to work in iterations – to make, then remake, then remake again building up confidence along the way.

Projects in Y10 and 12 particularly foster confidence in our students. This is a time when students can develop skills in preparation for their independent NEA project. In Y10 and 12, we saw fantastic responses to open briefs. In Textiles they were challenged to upcycle denim into a new garment and in Product Design students were given a choice of electronics and asked to create a housing or lamp to emit the light. In Y12 Product Design students were shown two methods of bending wood and given the challenge of making items using the processes. 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.

I WILL NOT GIVE UP

On one hand, there is no such thing as a finished product - there are always more iterations to be found. On the other, every creative endeavour needs an end goal. In DT, our biggest end goal is the hand-in and exhibition of the GCSE and A-level NEA projects. The exhibition demonstrates with great impact the resilience of each student who participates (and that of the staff!).

Particularly notable this year was the quality of the A-level Textiles projects. The result of time, patience and a love for the medium in which they were working. So many wonderful pieces of work to mention, but particularly impressive garments were made by Sophia Needham, Ruby Blakely, Maddie Downer and Emily Traylon.

In Product Design, Year 13 students created fascinating project contexts – Sam Kimber-Binmore created a launching device for a fixed wing drone, Lauren Attwell redesigned a gate latch for a wheelchair user, Hermione Rayner developed a wearable storage and system for Cub Scouts, Peter Lamidi developed a new way to capture memory and develop growth mindset through a nostalgic display fixture and Ebun Akinleye created a beautiful piece of furniture designed for a dancer that incorporates a mirror and storage.

The GCSE exhibition showcases wonderful work, demonstrating a broad range of

skills and competencies. Lottie Henchy developed a wonderful tennis rack storage bag, Yog Gyawalee created a foldable cricket bat, Sophie Austin made an unbelievably impressive garment inspired by K-pop culture, Reece Moore created a product that allows the user to adjust the angle of their wheelchair wheels to make it more suitable for sport, Arhum Nadeem made a tennis racket storage unit, Emily James created a beautiful piece of furniture designed for a dog to find treats in a maze and Robin Turnham created a farmyard jigsaw and storage container, utilising the 3D printer, the CNC router and many other hand skills.

In conclusion, our Design and Technology department at King's remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering creativity, confidence, and perseverance. Through innovative projects, hands-on experiences, and a supportive learning environment, we empower our students to explore their creative potential, build confidence through iterative skill development, and demonstrate resilience in the face of challenges. As we continue to embrace new technologies and methodologies, we are dedicated to nurturing the next generation of creative thinkers and problem solvers, who will confidently navigate and shape the future.

Mr. S. Holbird

English

This academic year has been another rich and rewarding one for the English Department at The King's School, filled with opportunities that have brought literature to life and deepened students' engagement with texts across all key stages.

Our Year 12 Literature students enjoyed a visit to the Richard III Centre, and Fotheringhay, where they explored the historical context behind Shakespeare's portrayal of the controversial monarch. This was followed later in the year by a cinema screening of 'A Streetcar Named Desire', featuring Gillian Anderson's acclaimed performance, which offered a powerful visual interpretation of Tennessee Williams' play and supported their A-level studies.

Year 13 Language and Literature students had the opportunity to attend a live performance of 'Hamlet' in Stratford-upon-Avon. Experiencing Shakespeare's tragedy in the town of his birth added a unique dimension to their understanding of the play and sparked thoughtful classroom discussions.

For our GCSE students, the department organised a trip to Poetry Live! at the New Theatre. This event featured readings and commentary from leading contemporary poets including Simon Armitage, Carol Ann Duffy, and John Agard, providing invaluable insights into the poems studied for their exams. In addition, a visiting theatre company returned to perform 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde' for Year 11, bringing Stevenson's gothic novella to life and reinforcing key themes and character analysis.

We were also delighted to welcome back Sue Baker, a former English teacher at

King's, who spoke to Year 9 students about her dystopian novel 'Calm'. Her visit offered a fascinating glimpse into the writing and publishing process and inspired many budding writers.

Throughout the year, the department has continued to promote a culture of reading for pleasure. A series of reading competitions and the launch of the Summer Reading Challenge encouraged staff and students to explore new genres and authors, fostering a lifelong love of literature.

The academic year concluded with our Year 7 'Shakespeare' days, a joyful celebration of Shakespeare's work. Students participated in a craft workshop and enjoyed a live performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by a visiting theatre company, making their first encounter with the Bard both memorable and fun.

This year's activities reflect the department's ongoing commitment to enriching the curriculum, supporting academic achievement, and nurturing a passion for literature in all its forms. We look forward to building on these successes in the coming year.

Mrs. A. Rhodes



Flanders 2024

In mid-October, Mr. Rhodes, Mrs. Rhodes and I had the honour of taking a group of Year 10 and 11 students to the Battlefields of World War I. Many of our readers will no doubt remember this trip with fondness and as a highlight of their time at The King's School, as it has been running for about 40 years: always accompanied by Trevor Elliott; formerly organised by the History Department as part of their curriculum and organised by myself (simply as a WWI enthusiast) since 2018. The fundamental aim is for every participating student to begin to understand something of what caused 888,246 British and Commonwealth soldiers to fall during the First World War.

Learning about World War I

As part of the English Curriculum, our Year 9 students learn something of the changing attitudes towards the war back home, and they go on to study poems in response to conflict for the English Literature GCSE. To reinforce this, the booklets for the trip included many of these poems as well



Stanley Spencer. Tea on Ward



as examples of artwork that illustrate changing attitudes.

We certainly learned a lot about the truth of World War I on our tour – especially from Trevor Elliott. A positive fount of knowledge, he explained the use of trenches to us; told us how the British forces seemed always to be on the lower ground; how the Allies' bombs did little to defeat the Germans who were 'dug in' below ground and about how, on 1st July 1916 – the first

day of the Battle of the Somme – some 19,240 British soldiers were killed; 38,000 wounded. He helped us to understand the events of the war and to marvel at how on earth – against all odds – the allies managed to bring the war to a close.

At Beaumont Hamel we were able to walk through a preserved battlefield, the site of the Newfoundland Regiment's unsuccessful attack on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The Regiment suffered 680 casualties (80%) within the



Stanley Spencer. Heaven in Hell

first 30 minutes of the battle, effectively wiping it out. Here, we learned how war has lasting effects, in that having lost a good many of its men, Newfoundland – an independent Dominion within the British Empire – arguably struggled economically, and consequently in 1949, it confederated with Canada.

Neuve Chapelle showed us the role that troops from an undivided India played in the First World War. Around 130,000 Indian soldiers fought on the Western Front between 1914 and 1915 before being transferred to the Middle East to fight for the Allies against the Turks. The memorial at Neuve Chapelle commemorates 4,661 Indian soldiers who fell in battle in this area of the Ypres Salient. Indian soldiers won 13,000 medals for bravery, including 12 Victoria Crosses.

Paying Respects

As you will know, as a school with a long history such as ours, we have lots to remember – and we certainly did that again on this trip. We can never quite get to all of the Old Petriburgians buried in Belgium and Northern France, but we get to a fair few.

The names of 34,948 UK and New Zealand soldiers who fought and died on the Salient after August 1917, and have no known

grave are recorded on the memorial at the rear of Tyne Cot Cemetery. It was here, that students found, learned about, and paid our respects to Old Petriburgians, Cyril Crick and Samuel Vergette, along with a private remembrance for one of our student's ancestors.



At Thiepval, small groups of students took charge of learning about and teaching each other about Frederick Moyer, William Scott, Frederick Smith, Horace Taylor and Frank Wadlow – OPs, and another couple of small groups sought and found their own relatives among the nearly 72,000 names who have no known grave and are recorded on the memorial.



The Langemark Cemetery is the only German war cemetery in the Salient. When it was created in 1932, there were no trees and part of the cemetery was a wildflower plantation, but over the years, the cemetery has changed, with the concentration of cemeteries to bring together the remains



of soldiers from other smaller ones. A mass grave containing more than 32,000 German soldiers is at the entrance and beyond that are horizontal markers recording nearly 14,000 soldiers, up to 25 individuals at a time. Our students were struck by the difference in the appearance of this cemetery to those of the Allies.

The Memorial to the Missing at the Menin Gate stands at the head of the main route that soldiers used on their way to the front line on the Salient. It records the names of 54,406 soldiers from Britain, Australia, Canada, South Africa and India who lost their lives in the Ypres Salient between



August 1914 and August 1917 and have no known grave. Officially opened in July 1927 in a ceremony attended by Lord Plumer (commander of British armies during the Third Battle of Ypres in 1917) and a group of 700 mothers who had lost their sons during the War. Plumer said of the names on the Gate: "He is not missing. He is here."

Those who have been to the Menin Gate for the Last Post ceremony will know that it's always a bit of a squash, but this year, it was even more so. The gate was undergoing major refurbishment and was, for the most part, covered in scaffolding, so we were unable to see Vernon Gaches' (OP) name as we usually do. Nevertheless,

it was still a significant part of our visit to take part in the act of remembrance that takes place every night at 8.00pm.

Did we just visit graves?

It might appear so, from my writing so far – but no, it wasn't just about graves and remembrance. You can imagine the excitement of crossing the channel on ferries; travelling to two different hotels with two separate rooming allocations; the walks in the evenings to the lovely restaurant in the centre of Douai (who coped admirably with our big group and its many changes to dietary requirements!). How about shopping in Belgium supermarkets for lunches; working in small groups to find eateries for a dinner, and exploring Ypres town centre for souvenirs? Add to that a muddy trek over ploughed fields to reach Sheffield Park and learn about the significance of PALS Battalions – complete with a visit from the farmer and his story of Judi Dench.

I think the students particularly enjoyed visiting La Boisselle to see the Lochnagar Mine Crater and going underground at Wellington Quarry to explore how tunnelling was put to good use.

Food for Thought

The whole trip was food for thought, but these moments stick in our minds:

The fence alongside the route into Lijssenthoek cemetery – one iron slat for each day of World War I, with markers for the number of dead at the nursing station on that day.

The Death Cells at Poperinge where we discussed why the British Army used the death sentence to punish its own men.



to contemplate. Hopefully, in sharing some small part of our trip, you might be gladdened to know that the tradition of pilgrimage to the Battlefields lives on. You might also be encouraged to get to know more about World War I and those who gave their today so that we might have our tomorrow.

Mrs. M. Warner-Bradshaw
Flanders Trip Organiser

I'm not sure we came to any firm conclusions, but we were certainly made to think, and we learned that it's not as clear cut as we might have thought.

The men still in the ground at the undisturbed Newfoundland Memorial Park. Lots of us struggled with the idea that, even though they know where the bodies are, the decision was made to leave them in situ for perpetuity.

Soldiers in the garden – the largest room in Talbot House.

The talent and delight of our young people – demonstrated so beautifully and poignantly at Talbot House in their chess playing, singing and piano playing, and by their questioning at all the memorials, but especially at Vimy Ridge with their wonder at the figures represented on the Canadian memorial.

I think that each and every one of us on Flanders 2024 was struck in different ways. There was much to enjoy; much



Mrs. Sue Baker writes about her Author Visit in November 2024

Once a member of The King's School Family, always a member of The King's School Family. It certainly felt like something of a home-coming when I arrived at the school one day last November – seven years after saying farewell in December 2017 and moving to East Yorkshire.

Things have changed since 2017, of course. I met my first audience, 180 Year 9 students, in Henry's, the new canteen building. In the years since leaving King's, I had fulfilled a long-held ambition and seen my first Young Adult novel, *Calm*, published; now Mrs. Warner Bradshaw had invited me back to the School to share something of the novel and its publishing journey with King's students.

The strangest thing was looking at the crowd of faces before me, in that familiar uniform, and not recognising any of them. A school's population turns over very quickly. But the staff – it was a joy to identify friends and colleagues as they shepherded students into the building.

Once everyone had squeezed on to the benches, I began to explain something of the novel's background and inspiration. It's a big space, that canteen, but students seemed to listen with interest and once we got on to questions, there was no stopping them. We talked about the joys of reading and writing, about dystopias and why we read them... there was even a question about pet rabbits, though I can't now recall its relevance (there is a dog in *Calm*, but the only rabbits are wild)!

The biggest buzz of the morning came when it emerged that I didn't yet have a

title for the sequel. On the promise of a mention in the acknowledgements if I chose their idea, I came away with dozens of suggestions that are now waiting for the manuscript to be completed. Will it be *Calmer*? Or *Storm* (on the basis that calm comes before ...)? *Panic*, *Chaos* and *Stress* were popular suggestions. Watch this space.

In the second session, I met Sixth Formers studying English at A-Level. There were more questions about the publishing process; we studied some of the blurbs I had written for *Calm* and discussed which was the most engaging and why. We thought about the enduring popularity of the dystopias and how writers use the genre to explore responses to some of the tyrannical and oppressive forces in the world. It was a privilege to speak with young people who are serious about their writing ambitions as I shared experiences of my own writing journey.

It was the middle of a school day, so most of my ex-colleagues were teaching once the talk had finished – but I was lucky that Mrs. Vaughan had a free period. She took me to the lovely new coffee hub in the Sixth Form block and we caught up for a happy half hour or so before I went on my way in the late autumn sunshine. I'm hugely grateful to Mrs. Warner-Bradshaw for organising the visit – and for my place in The King's Family.

Mrs. Baker was previously an English teacher at King's and was a KSP parent. She is now teaching English in Hull. She posts about her writing journey on Instagram/Threads: @author_s.j.baker, and Bluesky: @sjbakerauthor

All the Dry Blood

It doesn't feel over -
 The black ground has its mouth shut
 but hums through pursed lips and remembers
 Spent grenades strewn across it
 like walnut shells on Boxing Day
 And the fathers and sons
 with beds made in the mud
 Are none the wiser

The inhuman command still sings through him
 To run towards it,
 A festering, unassailable danger,
 men so obscured by smoke and sable
 that they are one ceaseless being
 Stitched together limb to limb,
 Run towards it

Sleep is a trap he'll never quite fall for,
 a beast with a kind name
 Nestles in the eye's violet niche and
 poses a true tenant long enough
 to let the plague tremble closer
 Rusting round the corners, his eyelids
 rasp when they shut,
 yet they do shut

Slowly but truly the shy crown of the sun
 usurps the night's edge
 Soon we will turn this land back over
 to its sinless mother; wet grass, buds
 and poppies with their butterfly wing petals,
 Something weak to lick new the tough
 A cut, four years deep,
 throbs down the spine of the country,
 But at least,
 this morning all the blood is dry

Karla Schneider Year 13

Geography

The Geography Department has been really busy this year after the outstanding Ofsted inspection and brilliant summer results in 2024 .

Year 7 students have been actively engaged in learning about countries in



Year 8 creativity at the up-cycling workshop

Africa through classroom presentations on their investigations. Additionally, they visited Moor Farm in Newborough to explore sustainable farming methods and farming diversity, which inspired them to plan their own farm business. Meanwhile, Year 8 students have focused on sustainable activities, participating in an upcycling workshop where they converted dry recycling into imaginative Christmas decorations for the City Council Christmas tree. As part of their rainforest studies, they also enjoyed a day at London Zoo, observing how tropical animals have adapted to their environment. In contrast, Year 9 students have delved into various topics, including the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull, the interrelationship between China and the world, and more recently, the carbon and water cycles within the school grounds.

GCSE Year 10 students embarked on field trips to Hunstanton, the Nene river at



Our King's School Christmas tree at the council offices, decorated by Year 8

Ailsworth, and Cambridge city centre to collect fieldwork data and practice their data-collection skills. In March, both GCSE



Hunstanton GCSE and Moor Farm Year 7

and A-level students had the exciting opportunity to visit Iceland, the land of Fire and Ice. One of the most memorable experiences was driving past Grímsvötn, which had erupted the previous year. As we approached, warning signs appeared on our mobile phones, and we saw newly-built 15m baffle banks surrounding the deserted town. Signs cautioned us not to stop, and the tarmac was still smoking. During the trip, we also enjoyed visiting several spectacular waterfalls, the dramatic coastline, Geysir, the Perlan Centre, a geothermal power station, a tomato farm, and taking a super-hot swim in the Secret Lagoon.

In November, the department invited Peterborough schools to submit micro-lectures from Year 12 students. Our students delivered presentations on topics such as The World Wide Web and Plastic: The Problem, alongside students from other schools, to an external audience. The successful evening was hosted by Honorary Chair Janette Ballard, a journalist and award-winning filmmaker. In July, the Year 12 students visited The Cranedale Centre in the Yorkshire Wolds to prepare their research and fieldwork skills before choosing an aspect of geography to investigate for their personal project.

The Department has also offered a wide range of super-curricular opportunities for A-level Geography students. These included sessions on Art Movements of the 21st Century – Climate Crisis by Sarah Wade, a lecture on how geology influences ecology and biodiversity by Dr. J MacDonald from Glasgow University, and a talk on how bacteria build in soils in extreme environments by Dr. M Hernandez from UEA, among others. A real highlight

was attending a lecture by Dr. Rob Larter on The West Antarctic Ice Sheet and its implications for the East of England, hosted



Iceland 2025

by the Civic Society at ARU.

The Geography department has worked hard to support the students at the school and offer them a rich and varied curriculum, so we were delighted to have Alex Mortimer, a Year 13 student from 2024, spend the majority of the year with us. She volunteered three days a week and became an invaluable member of the department. We are also grateful to Zain Chowdry, Kacper Jarzabek, Poppy Wilson and Emily Fitzjohn who were four of our Geography prefects this year and to Lauren Attwell and Charlotte Hope, who were not only Geography prefects but also ran the ECO-Club with Key Stage 3 students. We had an opportunity to visit ARU to see their award-winning design buildings and bring back ideas to Mr. Knighton, Premises Manager and Mrs. Ray, Chief Financial Officer.



ECO-Club at ARU

Peterborough Civic Society Lecture

On the 10th of March, we had the privilege of attending an insightful lecture held by Peterborough Civic Society on the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and its implications for the East of England; presented by marine geophysicist with the British Antarctic Survey, Dr Rob Larter. We learnt how even a small increase in sea-level rise from the melting of the Thwaites and the Pine glacier on the West Antarctic Ice Sheet can have such a detrimental effect on the East of England. Dr Larter focused on the reasons why the East of England is being impacted by rising sea-level. He touched on how this is exacerbated by the East of England being subject to land subsidence from the isostatic adjustment of the ground after the last glacial period ended 20,000 years ago. The Geography Department staff and the students who attended thoroughly enjoyed the lecture given by Dr. Larter and we are thankful to the Peterborough Civic Society for allowing us to learn about such an ongoing issue that we and future generations will face.

Ben Smith and James Hornsby 13MSG

Year 8 Trip to London Zoo

On the 12th and 13th of March, Year 8 attended an educational school trip to London Zoo. Enhancing their understanding of animal behaviour for biology and endangered species for geography, students had the opportunity to utilise the resources within the zoo to complete set tasks. One task included observing gorilla behaviour for 10 minutes, which was recorded onto their worksheet. One student had expressed

how astonished they were when observing how the huge gorillas had taken extra care when looking after their babies. To obtain a wide knowledge on endangered species, students had collected vast amount of data on many tropical rainforest animals. This allowed the year group to develop their independence skills when collecting information, as they used facilities that the zoo had provided to summarise onto their sheet. Apart from the hard work, students had amazing opportunities to interact with the animals, such as walking with the monkeys and the spiders. Many students enjoyed the butterfly enclosure and watching them flutter around them.

Zain Chowdry (Year 13 Geography Prefect)



Sustainable Sparkle: Giving Waste a Festive Second Life!

On Thursday 14th November all Year 8 students of Geography learnt about the

significant increase in our carbon footprint that Christmas creates, from food waste, extra packaging to CO2 increasing due to home deliveries and holiday travel. Perhaps Santa should stop coming? To help students re-think their view on Christmas waste, students were encouraged to bring recyclable materials from home and up-cycle them into Christmas decorations, making something from nothing. Workshops were run by Peterborough City Council, so look out for the Council website video of the event, starring Felix Guttman, Liam Reynolds and Lucie Newcombe of Year 8 and Geography Prefect, Lauren Attwell Year 13.

Mrs. S. Gray

Year 7 Farm Trip

On the 18th and 19th June in some very hot and dry weather Year 7 visited Moor Farm, in Newborough. Mrs Judith Jacobs, the farmer, gave us a wonderful insight into how farmers grow crops, keep their animals and look after the land. Students asked questions about animal welfare and learnt that all the food grown on the farm meets British Food Standards and can carry a Red Tractor logo. They found out about the sustainable farming practises such as field margins used to protect the water courses from farm chemicals and growing



phacelia, which is not a food crop but grown solely for maintaining biodiversity and pollinators in particular. Returning to school, students will use their experience to design their own farm suitable for the local conditions, with high environmental standards and possibly even an element of diversification.

Mrs. S. Gray



Iceland March 2025

The Iceland trip of 2025 was a huge success. Spread over 4 full days in the country, students had the opportunity to visit 19 of the best sites Iceland has to offer. Starting bright and early on March 21, 30 students



Geography

and 4 staff set off from school at 6.00 am to London Stansted.

We touched down in Iceland at 11.30 am, with Play Air, after which we met our wonderful tour guide and driver, Helgi and Thor. Jumping straight into the tour, we started on the Reykjanes Peninsula. We soon reached 'Leif the Lucky Bridge', a bridge between the Eurasian and Pacific tectonic plates, named after Icelandic explorer, Leif Eriksson.

We then moved on to the Gunnhver steam outlet, a geothermal hot spring where waters heat up to 300°C with a geothermal powerplant clearly visible in the distance. The next stop was the Perlan



Observation Deck. After ascending three flights of stairs, students reached the viewing platform which provided a 360° view of Reykjavik. After an extremely long day, we headed back into the centre of Reykjavik to spend the night at Hotel Cabin, rounding off a full day with a good night's rest. We made a detour to travel through the local village of Grindavik, victim to a recent volcanic eruption, students were fascinated to see the new lava deposits which had flowed between houses (on return, another eruption occurred!).

The second day was rather busy with us going on the Golden Circle tour. Starting

with breakfast at 7.00am, we departed through the snow to Thingvellir National Park, where once again we had the opportunity to witness the gap between two tectonic plates. Enjoying snowy weather and a brisk walk, students could see the evidence of where the two tectonic plates used to fit together, showing the jagged edges of the rock face.



The next stop of the day was to Friðheimar Greenhouse. Students were given a tour of the greenhouses, and a mini lecture about what they do. Using all geothermal energy, tomatoes are grown year-round using some of the highest technology. The greenhouse also employs thousands of bees to help with natural pollination, as well as supporting the mini-ecosystem they have created. Many students enjoyed treats from the 'little tomato shop', such as soup, fresh tomatoes, and some even

Geography



dared to try tomato ice cream. Others went outside to the farm, where two Icelandic horses were being kept.

Soon after we hopped back onto the coach to head towards Strokkur Geysir. As one of the most recognisable geysirs in Iceland Strokkur amazed all who watched, erupting every 4-10 minutes, up to a height of 20 meters. After a quick stop at the gift shop for some souvenirs, we made our way to Gullfoss, one of Iceland's most recognisable attractions. It was formed during the last ice age, and the water has the most amazing blue hue as it is run off from a glacier. The scenery was astounding, and many students were awe-inspired by the views. We then travelled to The Secret Lagoon which has a rich history, being home to the first natural pool with swimming lessons! Here students had the amazing opportunity take a walk around the geothermal hot

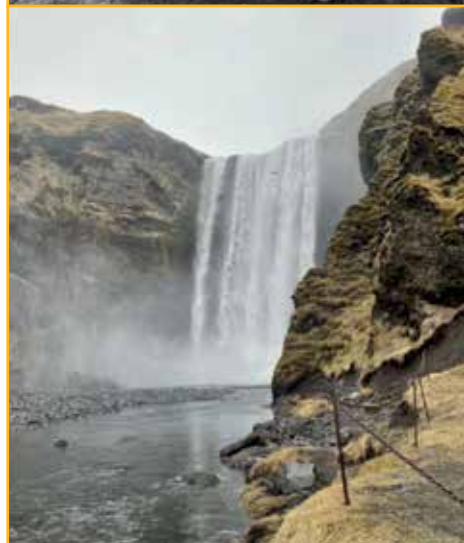


spring to see directly where the earth was releasing heated water that could reach up to 70°C (the lagoon itself is cooled to 38°C - 40°C). Students spent two hours in the mineral rich water, enjoying the calm and quite of the secluded area, as well as the relaxing, spa-like environment, before travelling to the Hellisholar cottages, which were situated right in front of the volcano Eyjafjallajökull, where they stayed in groups of 2-5.

We started the third day at the picturesque Skogafoss waterfall. An iconic waterfall 25 meters wide and 60 meters high, loads of spray came off from the bottom meaning there was an almost permanent rainbow at the base, the perfect photo opportunity!

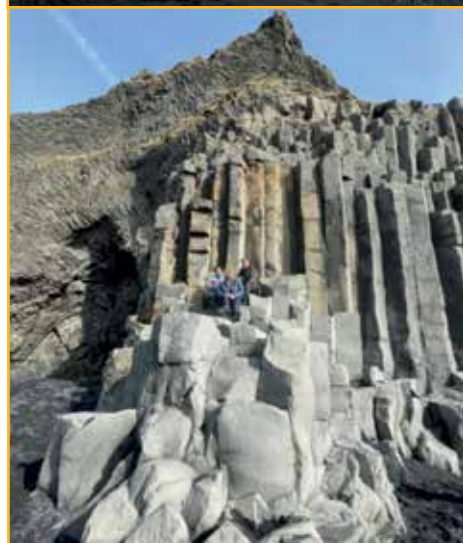
Our next stop was the Sólheimajökull glacier, where students were split into groups to go hiking up the glacier! Provided with crampons, helmets, and walk sticks, students were fully equipped





to hike. Each group had their own guide, with some getting farther up the glacier than others. After a lot of hard work, students made it just past the top of the mouth, having an amazing view of the surrounding landscape. Many students were able to consolidate their learning of glaciers, pointing out key terminology they had learnt.

After a short journey, students made their way to the small village of Vik, right at the southern tip of Iceland. A scenic village often used as a destination for movies and tv shows, students spent an hour walking around, admiring the local areas such as



Reynisfjara and Dyrhólaey. Reynisfjara is one of the most dangerous beaches in the world, famous for sneaker waves and the black "sand". Formed from volcanic action, students spent time on the pebble beach, admiring the geological formations such as a cave (similar formation to Giant's Causeway in Ireland), rumoured to have trolls living in it, as well as a stack off the coast. The formation of the cave is well-known in local folklore as being a group of trolls that were petrified when the sun came up, turning them into the stone pillars. Some students got slightly wet from the powerful waves, but luckily there were no casualties! From the beach at

Vik, students could also see evidence of the arch, stack, and stump at Dyrhólaey, solidifying their GCSE learning.

The last stop for the action-packed day was at Seljalandsfoss, a waterfall made from the run-off from Eyjafjallajökull Glacier. This particular waterfall is famous for having a pathway behind it that many student walked behind (some getting very wet!).



Day 4 focused on the more urban areas of Iceland, starting with The LAVA Museum, which was a fully interactive museum dedicated to the study of lava and volcanology. Many A-level students were enthralled with the museum, and a group of three students and three staff ended up being late to leave the museum as they were distracted by one of the displays.

We next went for a tour inside a lava tunnel, which is a hollow cave-like network from lava cooling on the outside, while the liquid inside drains away. Students could see a variety of colours on the wall caused by the different elements that can be found in the lava flow. We also saw many stalactites and stalagmites all around, as well as many icicles. The lava tunnel we visited is one of the longest and best-known in all of Iceland, having been



formed over 5,000 years ago.

We then stopped in at the Hellisheidi ON Power plant, to look at their Geothermal Exhibition. Students learned about how the company provides 50% of hot water to the capital area, as well as their other projects such as environmental care. We got to look at some treatment facilities, and see in action how they harness the geothermal energy and use it for humans without degrading the landscape. The final stop of the day was Reykjavik, where students had the opportunity to explore the capital in groups for 2 hours, before heading back to the hotel. An opportunity was provided to visit Hallgrímskirkja, the largest church in Iceland, as well as seeing the Sun Voyager sculpture, and the Harpa Concert Hall. Students wandered around the area, many visiting the famous rainbow street, as well as visiting shops and immersing themselves in the Icelandic culture. Students also had the opportunity to see some fantastic street art which could be found all throughout the city, as well as doing any last shopping for souvenirs. A final goodbye was said to our amazing tour guides Helgi and Thor, we then headed back to Hotel Cabin for our final dinner and night on the island, but not before a touching moment with the staff and students saying a massive thank

you to Mrs. Amps who organised the trip. Gifts were given, and it was off to bed for an early night as students had to be up at 2:30am to leave at 3:00am for the airport.

The final day in Iceland was hectic, with staff having to ensure over 30 teenagers were up, packed, and ready to leave by 2.30 am. Not an easy task. Still, everyone made it onto the coach for the final stretch

of the fantastic trip. As the coach ride was taking place in pitch black, after many queues and passport checks, all students and staff were safely on the plane, headed back home. However, Iceland had one final gift for us, the view from our windows!

Euan Over, Anika Ranikashan, Talitha Rees



Florene Evans, A-level Art

Cabaret Trip

A-level History students went on a trip to London to see *Cabaret* at the Kit Kat Club, an immersive production that offered a glimpse into both the decadence and instability of Weimar Germany. The journey itself was eventful - we navigated the underground with varying degrees of success, including in a brief moment of panic when some of the group found themselves on a different train. Thankfully, we reunited before reaching the theatre and had a lovely walk through busy London.

Once inside, the transformation of the Playhouse Theatre into a 1930s Berlin nightclub was striking. From the moment we stepped in, we were surrounded by dim red lighting, *Cabaret* performers, beaded curtains, and an atmosphere that merged the audience and the performance. The production itself was both captivating and unsettling, balancing moments of dark comedy with the growing tension of a society influenced by the ever-growing Nazi presence. The performances were outstanding, particularly the Emcee's eerie presence, played by Billy Porter, which underscored the play's deeper political messages.

Overall, the trip was both entertaining and thought-provoking, providing an invaluable cultural insight into the themes of our Weimar Germany studies, along with having a fabulous day out in London.

Lilly Bell Grove, Year 12

Visit to the Richard III Centre in Leicester

On the 21st May Ms. Rutherford and Mr. Gunn took a group of A-level English Literature and History students to the King

Richard III Centre in Leicester, and then to Fotheringhay, the birthplace of the much-maligned Plantagenet monarch.

Our students were able to explore how Shakespeare's literary creation has influenced the popular and persistent perception of Richard, and to consider where this matches with what is known of the historical figure. Our students learned about the historical context of the Wars of the Roses, and about the search for Richard's remains; we saw the ignominious shallow grave in which his skeleton was found. The Centre exhibits the details of scientific archaeological investigation into identifying King Richard through DNA, which lays to rest the myth that Richard was 'rudely stamp'd', 'deformed, unfinish'd' – a literary view that supported the Tudor Myth of saving England from an evil evidenced through physiognomy.

Not only is Fotheringhay Castle site the birthplace of Richard III, the Church has features which date back to the Plantagenets, and specifically the 'three suns' of the last generation before the loss of the crown to the Tudors. A Friend of Fotheringhay Church kindly showed us round the spectacular church, then we headed out to the castle mound – all that





remains – and our students declaimed their favourite speeches from the play.

Ms. J. Rutherford

Year 11 trip to Kenilworth Castle

This year, Year 11 History students were taken to Kenilworth Castle in Warwickshire for part of our course on Historic Buildings (Castles: Form and Function). The coach ride there took about an hour and a half and we arrived at Kenilworth for about 10am. It was dull (the weather, not the trip) but at least it was dry and we were taken around the castle in groups by Mr. Gunn, Mr. Lister and Mrs. Sanctuary. The castle itself is a ruin but you do at least get a very good idea of what it may have looked like from the parts of it that are still left standing. Much of it was actually destroyed at the end of the English Civil War when the castle was slighted, then parts of it sold off to soldiers who had fought in the war on Parliament's side. A formidable strategic fortress, which has the honour of being the scene of the longest siege in English history, it also

was the place where Lord Dudley tried to impress Queen Elizabeth I, with lavish accommodation and entertainments, in order to convince her to marry him. It was good to see in reality what we had only previously seen in books or on video clips, as we got the sense of how extensive it was and how the castle had been adapted over the years. After lunch and a walk around the gardens we had a short time in the shop before heading home. All in all, it was an enjoyable and informative trip that should help us understand even better how Kenilworth Castle developed over the centuries, before it eventually went into decline.

Olivia Gunn 11AM



It's been a whirlwind year for the Maths Department, packed with competitions, trips, and triumphs! Over 250 students took part in UKMT Maths Challenges, showcasing their problem-solving prowess and love for numbers.

We kicked off the academic year with the Girls' Olympiad for Years 12 and 13. A special congratulations to Ellie Ince and Becca Au, who both earned Distinctions—an impressive start to the year!

October brought the Senior Maths Challenge, where a remarkable group of students achieved Gold Certificates: Samuel Kean, William Wu, Ellie Ince, Okezie Emelogu, Charles Gregory, Ewan Camelford, Izzy Sharpe, Ayo Ogunyoye, Tomi Alabi, William Elliott, Harvey Wagstaff, Keiran Payne, and Michael Adams.

Many of these students progressed to the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo 2024, a demanding hour of advanced problem-solving. Well done to all who took part!

Meanwhile, Rishi Ghosh and Michael Adams advanced to British Olympiad Round 1, both earning Distinctions. After six hours of intense mathematical challenges, Michael received a Merit, and Rishi qualified for the next stage—an outstanding achievement!

In November, our Year 13 mathematicians teamed up with the Physics Department for a thrilling trip to Alton Towers, exploring the mechanics behind roller coasters. Learning has never been so exhilarating! December saw us bid a fond farewell to Mrs.

Manak and Mrs. Pearce, who moved on to exciting new opportunities. We thank them for their dedication and wish them every success.

January welcomed Mr. Austin to the team, who will step into the role of Second in Department this September. His enthusiasm and expertise have already made a big impact.

The Intermediate Maths Challenge for Years 10 and 11 saw 16 students earn Gold, with 10 progressing to the next rounds. Congratulations to: Erin Brassington, Janardhanan Aravind, Roland Christopher, Alvina Davi-Baskaran, Samuel Kean, and Benjamin Philpott, who all qualified for the Pink Kangaroo. Pranav Aggarwal advanced to the Hamilton Mathematical Olympiad, while Rishi Ghosh tackled the Maclaurin Olympiad, earning yet another Distinction.

In May, 120 students from Years 7 and 8 took on the Junior Maths Challenge, with 16 achieving Gold and 8 progressing to the Junior Kangaroo. A big well done to: Ali Taoubit, Alex Kirwin, Aarav Kendia, Arthur Burton, and Yusuf Adnan, who



all earned at least a Bronze certificate. Activities Week brought the excitement of the UKMT Primary Maths Team Challenge to King's. On July 7th, 14 local primary schools joined us for a day of puzzles, logic games, and relay races. Our Sixth Form helpers, proudly wearing red t-shirts, were instrumental in making the day a success. Congratulations to the winning team from All Saints' Church of England Primary School, and a huge thank you to all who participated! As the year draws to a close, we welcome Mr. Goodwin as a new

class teacher and Miss. Warnes, who begins her teacher apprenticeship. We also say goodbye to former Head of Department, Ms. Morgan, who has been a cornerstone of the department since 2008. Her tireless dedication and genuine care for students have left a lasting legacy. Whether she chooses retirement or a new adventure, we wish her all the best. Looking ahead to September, we're excited to welcome Dr. Windsor to the team—and yes, we're planning another Alton Towers trip!

Mrs. M. Smith



Clara Cloke, GCSE Art

Modern Foreign Languages

The Languages Department has worked hard again this year to make the students' learning come alive. We took nearly 150 students on residential in France or Germany. In early October we took 50 Year 9 students to the Opal Coast, Northern France. In December, we took 45 Year 8 and 9 students to Aachen, Germany for our yearly visit to the Christmas markets. Finally, in May, we took 50 Year 8 students to the Opal Coast.

Additionally, 4 of our Year 13 students took part in a Debating competition in Grantham in the Autumn term. One of our students was awarded the Speaker of the Day prize. Our annual Bake Off competition to celebrate the European day of languages had some amazing entries from students of all key stages, as well as teachers. 11 Year 9 students worked all year towards the Language Leaders' Award, teaching peers and students from the Junior Department various languages such as Chinese – Mandarin, Norwegian, Portuguese and Spanish. Finally, in the Summer term, our Year 10 French and German students took part in a Business Language Champions' event, when they had to launch a campaign, marketing British sweets to a French or German market.

Opal Coast

Our usual Opal Coast visit saw some changes this year. We visited Northern France twice during the academic year, first with Year 9 in the Autumn term and the second time in the summer term with our Year 8 students. The itinerary remained similar for both visits: Nausicaá

– the largest aquarium in Europe where we spent the whole morning discovering the wonders of the seas and oceans, as well as the impact of Man on these fragile ecosystems. We also visited a bakery, where our students were taught about the baking of the traditional baguette. Our Year 8 students also had a go at shaping some croissants. We all left the bakery with a croissant to savour on the coach! Finally we visited a snail farm in one of the neighbouring villages. Our unusual farmer explained some of the secrets of snail-farming and our bravest students also tasted some of the farmers' snail recipes. Students also had some evening activities such as crepe-making. What a gastronomic treat for our budding linguists!

Mr. A. Mandin



The War of the Words Challenge

On 7th November 2024, four of our Year 13 students paid a visit to The King's School, Grantham to take part in the War of the Words Debate Challenge - all in French!

The King's School Peterborough started off with a bang, winning a prize in the very first activity of the day - matching speeches to their respective famous speakers. Later, the students took part in two debates - one prepared and one not - discussing various social and political issues, such as whether religion is the true enemy of science or whether politicians should be held responsible for their behaviour on social media platforms. Students were marked on the logic, clarity and originality of their arguments, as well as their body language and foreign language skills. Out of around 10 teams, our school arrived in third place, only 1 point short of qualifying for the final! The speakers were commended for their good sentence structures, high content and extensive vocabulary, with a couple of students even being singled out for their lively, compelling and 'passionate' performance. Out of a myriad of candidates, the individual debating prize was awarded to Tom Oldaker, who was praised for his usage of gestures and natural talent at the lectern.

A highlight of the day was when the students received professional training in public speaking (discussing factors such as posture and eye contact), as well as a speech on the importance of languages by a visiting keynote speaker, Paul Hughes, who also led a couple of activities to

help the students practise their acquired speaking skills.

The event was a fantastic opportunity for the students to hone not only their linguistic skills but also prepare for what may lay ahead of them at university level. They were able to develop their public speaking and presentation skills in another language – skills which are greatly valued by employers - and extensively research interesting topics. Albeit very tiring, the challenge was exceptionally enjoyable and educational, providing both a boost of confidence for the students and a reason for pride for the school.

Amelia Demkiewicz Year 13

Aachen Christmas Market 2024

On the evening of December 5th, 43 Year 8 and 9 students, along with Mrs. Shortland, Dr. Combrink, Mrs. Stoelhorst, Mr. Pinguenet, and Mrs. Streeter, set off at 9:30pm for our annual Christmas Market trip. After a night-long bus and ferry journey, the group continued through France, Belgium, and the Netherlands before reaching our hostel the following morning. The ferry crossing this year will certainly be remembered by many – to put it mildly, the sea was a little rough!

After arriving, we headed straight to a traditional café in the heart of Aachen's historic centre for a well-deserved breakfast. Following that, we visited the Christmas Market, where students roamed the town square in small groups. They delighted in picking out gifts and enjoying festive snacks, all while practicing their German language skills.

Later, the students took part in a quiz



around Aachen Cathedral, the burial site of Charlemagne, and marvelled at the stunning octagonal architecture. They also picked up new vocabulary such as Dom and Wolf.

In the evening, we returned to our hostel for dinner and enjoyed a very peaceful night.

The next morning, we left Aachen at 9:00 AM and made a fun stop at J&P for a chocolate workshop. Here, students learned about the history of chocolate-making and had the chance to decorate their own souvenir chocolate bar. Afterwards, we continued our journey back, arriving at school at 8:30pm – tired but happy after two eventful days!

Mrs. T. Streeter



Alaa Mahmoud, A-level Art

Diocesan Service 2024

At two o'clock on a weekday afternoon, an atmosphere of excitement was growing as hundreds of schoolchildren of all ages filled the Cathedral. A hubbub of noise rose from the nave; rustling service-papers mixing with the chatter of anticipation. Sun streamed into the side aisles, brightly illuminating everything in view.

Everyone was here for Peterborough Cathedral's Annual Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving for Diocesan Schools, which took place on Thursday 3rd October 2024. This involved five secondary schools (including our Senior Choir) and six primary schools from around the diocese being directly involved in the choir, as well as several other schools sending students and members of staff as representatives in the congregation.

Some excellent music was programmed including *I Was Glad* (Parry), *God So Loved the World* (Stainer), and *Hallelujah Chorus* from *Messiah* (Handel), sung by the combined secondary school choirs, in addition to two numbers from the primary school choir. The service also included hymns (unfamiliar as well as familiar!), prayers, readings and a sermon from Bishop Debbie.

Before the service, the massed choirs rehearsed for an hour with conductors Simon Toyne and Andrew Kennedy. Organising a choir of this size in such a short period of time is no mean feat but with hard work and determination from all involved, the service was accomplished with the desired effect.

Due to both members of the Music Department being involved with Year 6 Auditions, Mrs. Svoboda kindly volunteered

to accompany the choir on the excursion, as well as providing an extra voice!

Rachel Weston

House Music 2024

As always, House Music 2024 was a spectacular event and, for many students, the highlight of the academic year. Elevated to new heights by a change in venue to our beloved Peterborough Cathedral, 2024's competition saw the four Houses battle it out across the five categories, with the thrillingly close results announced by Head of Music, Dr. Ratcliffe, as the nave was colourfully illuminated from floor to ceiling. Each House took away at least one trophy, and the whole building was on the edge of their seats.



The Orchestra category saw performances of *Pure imagination*, *Go the Distance* (*Hercules*), *Aladdin Medley*, and *War of The Worlds*. The ensembles were diverse in size and experience; all being pushed to near perfection through hours of hard rehearsals. In the end, St. Chad's House took home the trophy after a scintillating performance scoring a massive 18/20, de-throning previous winners, St. Peter's House.

The Junior Choir was heavily contested this year, each song plucking at the heartstrings of all of those in the audience. Performed items included *A Million Dreams*, *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*, *Who Am I*, and *Slipping Through My Fingers*. Results were close, with a three-way tie for second, but ultimately St. Chad's House won with a score of 19/20, a performance that impressed the judge through its powerful percussive prowess.

After a short interval came the Senior Choir items: *Eleanor Rigby*, *With or Without You*, *The View Between Villages*, and *I Wanna Dance with Somebody*. Not so heavily contested as other categories, St. Peter's House emerged as strong winners at 19.5/20, after the judge described their performance as 'one of the highlights of the night', though St. Oswald's House enjoyed a close second place.

The Band category often contains the most iconic performances of the night, and 2024 was no exception. Strong performances of *Treasure*, *Young Hearts Run Free* and *Rolling in The Deep* closely lost out to a monumental showcase of *Skyfall* by School House, featuring atmospheric vocals and a powerful guitar solo, ultimately scoring the rare perfect 20/20.

The Finale category concluded the night



with a bang, containing emphatic recitals of *Freedom! 90*, *Shut Up and Dance*, *I'm On Top of the World* and *One Way or Another*. The final performance by St. Oswald's comfortably took first place, with the judge citing the performers' infectious enthusiasm as a driving factor.

While spectators anxiously awaited results, they were witness to further magnificent musical items: the technical brilliance and violin virtuosity of St. Chad's House winning solo performance and, of course, the debut appearance of the staff choir; warming hearts with their stellar performance of Journey's *Don't Stop Believing*.



As Dr. Ratcliffe and Mr. Harrison made their thanks, all minds were on the scoring.

The tension was palpable as judge and ex-King's student Emily Holt took to the stage, delivering her verdict. With all Houses making deserved victories in each of the categories, the Cathedral buzzed with intensity as the final rankings were announced – everyone knew they would be close. St. Oswald's, School, and with a half-point lead... For the second-year running, St. Peter's took home victory, beating St. Chad's magnificent effort by a hair's breadth! The nave turned blue, erupting with jubilation as the St. Peter's House Captains took to the stage. In that moment, for all who took part, the world of exams and studies felt a million miles away and all around was the joy of the King's Family, united in their hard work, their struggle, and their magnificent performances - the product of a whole school coming together for the love of music. **What a night!**

Benjamin Sherriff and James Wright, A-level Music Students and House Captains.



Spring Term 2025: A Typically Musical Term at the King's School

During the Spring Term pupils attended two Music Trips, and performed in the School Production, in two school concerts and in the Easter Service. Many also performed throughout the term to their peers in Whole-School Assemblies, and achieved notable successes out of school in competitions and music festivals.

Footloose, with its large cast and crew numbering over a hundred pupils, and with songs such as Bonnie Tyler's *Holding Out For A Hero*, Deniece Williams' *Let's Hear It For The Boy* and, of course, Kenny Loggins' *Footloose*, proved an extremely popular show. The Band, under the Musical Direction of Dr. Ratcliffe, comprised Ben Sherriff as Assistant Musical Director and playing the Piano One part, Owais Gaibee playing Piano Two, Andreas Mouzoures, Leo Roberts and Malachi Jobe-Spencer on Electric Guitars, AnnaMaria Barnes and William McAleese on Bass Guitars, Rachel Weston on Violin and Clarinet, Arden Little on Tenor Saxophone, Maia Meredith on Baritone Saxophone and Oliver Samuel on Drum Kit.

In January, GCSE Music pupils travelled to London to see a West End performance of the musical *Wicked*. In February George L'Estrange, Elizabeth Avenido, Ina Mikalauskaite, Rachel Weston and Sarah Weston were invited to perform in the Spalding Music Centre Recital Evening. Sarah and Rachel also spent three days on

the National Youth Orchestra Inspire Residency in Blackpool, where they took part in intensive rehearsals and a final concert. In March A-level students travelled to the Barbican in London to hear the London Symphony Orchestra perform a programme including Haydn's *London Symphony* and Britten's *Les Illuminations*.

Whole-School Assemblies contained a wide variety of music, from rousing hymns sung by the Senior Choir (*Be Thou My Vision*, *Shine Jesus Shine*, *Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer* and *Lord Of The Dance*), to polished performances by the Flute Ensemble (*Walking In The Air*), Chamber Choir (*May It Be*), Junior Choir (*Love Shone Down*), Tracy Azevedo and Owais Gaibee (*Colours Of The Wind*), Elizabeth Igboodu and the Soul Band (*Smooth Operator*), and even an a cappella a Sixth-Form Barbershop Ensemble (*My Evaline*).

In the Spring Mid-Term Concert on Monday 10th February there were performances by the String Orchestra (*Nunc Dimittis* by Burgon), Junior Choir (*The Lord Bless You And Keep You* by Rutter), Primo Strings (*Air And Dance* by Martin), the Clarinet Ensemble (*Spanish Dance* (an anonymous dance arranged by Lewin) and *Pirates Of The Caribbean* by Zimmer and Badelt), Brass Ensemble (*War* by the Hypnotic Blues Ensemble) and the Blues Band (*Funky Town / I Feel Good* by Lucky Chops). These performances were complemented by some excellent vocal performances by Tracy Azevedo

and Mary Whyman (Lloyd Webber's *Could We Start Again Please* from the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*), Lydia Williams (Handel's aria *How Beautiful Are The Feet*) and AnnaMaria Barnes (*Eja, Mater* by Pergolesi).

The Spring Mid-Term Concert also contained accomplished instrumental performances of Schubert's *Impromptu Number 3 in Gb Major* by Owais Gaibee, the *Andante* from Hummel's *Trumpet Concerto in Eb* by Alex Kirwin, Paradis' *Sicilienne* by Robin Bennett, Grieg's *Solvieg's Song* by Will Hawtin, and Wilkinson's *Taurus The Bull* by Sam Streeter. Delibes' *Flower Duet*, played by Indya Gyselings, Rhianna Waumsley and Owais Gaibee, an arrangement of the traditional tune *The Lark In The Clear Air* by Euan Arnold, and the *Adagio Molto Espressivo* of Beethoven's *Spring Sonata* by Rachel Weston were further highlights. A high-quality string quartet comprising Janani Aravind, Matilda Pearson, Rachel Weston and Sarah Weston also performed Janschinov's *Variations On An Estonian Folk Tune*.

In March Matilda Pearson and Hugo Stephens-Dunn performed with Youth Brass 2000 in the National Youth Brass Band Championships, and the group won the title for the ninth time since 2014. Several pupils, including Janardhan and Janani Aravind, competed in the Oundle Music Festival, and Janani came second in the Under-15 Strings category. In addition to competing in the Piano Class, Ethan Chan qualified for the Oundle Young

Musician of the Year on the bagpipes. Also during March, Chloe Spires was awarded a Choral Scholarship by Royal Holloway, University of London, where she will take up duties as a soprano in their Chapel Choir from September whilst studying for a Bachelor of Music degree.

In the Spring Concert in St. John's Church on Monday 31 March the Senior Choir was accompanied by the Orchestra, performing Fauré's *Requiem*. The work contained accomplished solos by Ben Sherrieff (*Offertory*), Chloe Spires (*Pie Jesu*), and George L'Estrange (*Libera Me*) which complemented the choral sections of the *Introit and Kyrie*, *Sanctus*, *Agnus Dei* and *In Paradisum* movements. Other performances by the Vocal Ensemble (an arrangement by Althouse of *Amazing Grace*) and Chamber Choir (*Bogoróditse Divo* (*Ave Maria*) by Rachmaninov, and *Lux Aeterna*, a beautiful arrangement by Cameron of Elgar's *Nimrod*, brought a variety of styles to the proceedings. The Chamber Choir, moreover,

comprising primarily ex-Choristers, performed the a cappella piece *When Darkness Descends* in the presence of the composer, James Woodhall, who had travelled to Peterborough that day to hear them. Further vocal solos were performed by Chloe Spires (*I Know That my Redeemer Liveth* by Handel) and AnnaMaria Barnes (*Agnus Dei* by Mozart), with the vocal duet *Shenandoah* sung by Ayush Banerjee and Lydia Williams.

The main instrumental focus of the Spring Concert was *An American In Paris*, by George Gershwin, expertly played by the Senior Concert Band, the *Andante* and *Presto* from Telemann's *Concerto For Viola And Strings*, played by Maia Meredith and the Senior String Ensemble, Fauré's *Après Un Rêve*, played by the Senior String Ensemble, and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sheherazade*, played by the Flute Ensemble. There were also stylish performances by the Clarinet Ensemble (Dukas' *Sorcerer's Apprentice*) and String Quartet (Gershwin's *Lullaby For Strings*), played

by Rachel Weston, Ayo Ogunyoye, Maia Meredith and George L'Estrange. Ayo Ogunyoye, with Genevieve Walling, also performed the *Allegro* from Albinoni's *Concerto A Cinque*, James Wright played Bach's *Prelude in G Minor* on the organ, and cellist Lottie Hatton performed Saint-Saëns' lyrical *The Swan* from *Carnival Of*



The Animals. More secular repertoire was performed by the Brass Ensemble (Pistorius' *The Chicken*) and the Jazz Band (Kurt Weill's *Mack The Knife*).

In recognition of their sustained contribution to Music, Half Colours were awarded at the end of term to Sophie Austin, Earlene Derish, Mia Galkowski, Malachi Jobe-Spencer, William McAleese, Elijah Philpott, Adi Pillai, Anna Ranjit and Leo Roberts. Full Colours were awarded to Andreas Mouzoures and Oliver Samuel for their outstanding contribution towards music in the Whole-School Production, to Noriya Khupe for her commitment to Orchestra, and to Rachel Weston for her outstanding contribution to extra-curricular music, input into the organisation of the Spring Concert, for cataloguing resources in the Music Department Library, and for leading a project charting the recent history of Madeley House. We would like to thank all the pupils who have been involved in school music-making this term, and also congratulate the large number of pupils who were successful in practical grade examinations at all levels.

Dr. M. Ratcliffe, June 2025

Extra-Curricular Visits

For our A-level students, the Music Department is keen to enrich their study of the subject by offering trips to live performances of a range of Western Classical music.

For this academic year, the Department's first trip to London for a while post-Covid,

we went to the Barbican Centre. As part of the concert, Benjamin Britten's *Les Illuminations* was being performed. This work takes an orchestra of moderate size and adds a solo vocalist. This was excellent to hear live.

Another, similar piece was particularly memorable as the conductor, after doing her job for some of the piece, then turned around, faced the audience and started singing herself! This took us all by surprise! She then proceeded to conduct **AND** sing simultaneously! There may have also been a little dance as well. This has given Mr. Jenkins some ideas for concerts next academic year (the singing and conducting, not the dancing!).

Alongside the Britten was a range of other music, some vocal and some entirely instrumental. It is this mixture of unfamiliar music that was, and remains, the reason for going; wider listening is not only important to enrich A-level studies, a worthwhile aim in and of itself, but is also a requirement of the course; students are asked to reference other music when writing an essay on a piece they have studied.

Beyond both of these excellent aims is the wider life experience. In the past, one of our students has, when we arrived at St. Pancras station, played one of the public pianos to the delight of a crowd. When we have taken GCSE pupils to experience *Wicked* the Musical this year, one pupil had never been on a train before! It is these wider experiences, along with the social side of concert visits, that make these trips so important.

The music is also very enjoyable . . .

The 2024-2025 British Physics Olympiad

The 2024-2025 British Physics Olympiad was very successful for our Year 13 students, who opted to take up the challenge. Kieran Payne achieved a Gold certificate along with Michael Adams who achieved our first-ever Top Gold certificate. The Top Gold certificates are awarded to the top 4.3% (the top 162 students) in the country. Michael progressed in the competition to undertake round 2 of the British Physics Olympiad, where he achieved another Gold certificate, putting him in the top 1.5% (top 57) of students in the whole country! As well as this, he also entered round 2 of the British Astronomy & Astrophysics Olympiad competition, where he achieved a Silver certificate. Year 12 also performed admirably in the Senior Physics Challenge with 4 students achieving Silver certificates.

Mr. M. Owens

The CanSat 2025 Project

At The King's School Peterborough, a group of talented Year 12 students took on an



extraordinary challenge - the CanSat 2025 project. Designed to introduce students to real-world aerospace engineering, CanSat pushes teams to build miniature satellites, no bigger than a fizzy drink can, and launch them on a mission to collect important data.

This ambitious journey began with 21 students forming four teams, each pouring their creativity and problem-solving skills into designing and perfecting their CanSats. After months of planning and refining their ideas, three teams - Team Sixth Sense, Team Comet Creatures, and Team King's School Innovators - advanced to the highly anticipated regional launch. Seeing their creations soar into the sky was a moment of triumph, proving that hard work and determination pay off.

Beyond the technical



Harwell Open Day - 26 June 2024

In June 2024 a group of Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit the Harwell Open Day.

Harwell is a Science and Engineering research campus in Oxfordshire, the home of the Diamond Light Source, The European Space Agency, The Rosalind Franklin Institute and many other science, computing and space research institutes.

Students participated in organised workshops and tours of the facilities. They had the opportunity to view and appreciate the precision engineering that is involved in space and science research. Students commented that this was a brilliant opportunity to experience how science and engineering work together to explore the universe.

This trip was fully financed by Harwell and was certainly money well spent in terms of inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Dr. McAleese

achievements, CanSat is a truly fulfilling experience. It challenges students to take on roles they may not have considered before - whether leading a project, coding, engineering, or managing logistics. This hands-on project allows students to step outside their comfort zones, think critically, and apply practical problem-solving skills.

More importantly, CanSat thrives on teamwork. The success of this mission wasn't down to individual talents alone, but rather the ability to collaborate, adapt, and work as a united team. Every challenge reinforced the power of teamwork, proving that when bright minds come together, incredible things can happen. CanSat isn't just about launching satellites - it's about launching ambitions, confidence, and new possibilities.

This journey has been one of growth, perseverance, and inspiration. The Year 12 students of The King's School have shown that with curiosity, dedication, and teamwork, the sky is just the beginning.

Gabija Zipkaite (Year 12)



Year 13 Physics and Maths Trip to Alton Towers: Learning in Motion

On Tuesday 5th November 2024, Year 13 Maths and Physics students took their learning to new heights — quite literally — with an exciting and educational visit to Alton Towers. As part of the A-level curriculum, students study Mechanics: the branch of mathematics and physics concerned with motion. What better place to see those principles in action than a theme park?

Before the trip, students took part in a

workshop led by Mrs. Svoboda to explore the mechanics behind theme-park rides. They looked at how energy moves between kinetic and potential energy and how this is harnessed to amazing effect by roller-coasters. It was particularly surprising to some that most roller-coasters are not powered during the ride – they run using energy transfer alone.

At Alton Towers, the students studied the shape of the tracks and how this impacts the motion of the ride. Most took the opportunity to experience the rides for

themselves and were able to consider the different amount of g-force felt at key positions on the ride. This all linked back to our workshop, where we discussed where and why we feel heavy or light on a roller-coaster.

It was a great day out and the students came away with a much deeper understanding of why and how a roller-coaster works. When we returned to studying Mechanics in the Spring term, we were able to refer back to this learning.

Mrs. Svoboda



Josiah Valentine-Pyle, GCSE Art

Psychology

The Psychology Department has experienced several years of growth under the leadership of Mr. Mbanu with the support of Mrs. Birch, and Mr. Brader. The start of the academic year 2024 brought significant changes with the retirement of the remarkable Mrs. Birch, the promotion of Mr. Mbanu, and my appointment as Head of Department. In September, we welcomed a large and capable cohort of new Year 12 Psychology students, along with the return of our brilliant Year 13 students after the summer break. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the students who have made me feel so welcome, particularly the Year 13 students who went out of their way to help me integrate into the customs and traditions that are so important to a school with our history.

With a new Head of Department come new ideas, and we have introduced tasks and methods to the Department to complement the excellent work already in place. To highlight some of the year's activities, in Year 12 we began with research projects written in accordance with the American Psychological Association format, including experiments on genetics and math ability, a content analysis of advertisements and advertising theory, and an observation of Sixth Form behaviour across the school site. Just before Christmas, students collaborated in psychology puppet shows, where they demonstrated psychological theories and showcased the impressive singing skills of King's students. Following Christmas, as part of the Attachment module, students were tasked with caring for eggs to help them to understand the theory

of monotropy and cultural differences in childcare. The students produced some of the finest presentations I have ever seen, fully embracing the caring aspect while also demonstrating a deep understanding of the underlying theories. The biopsychology module introduced students to concepts such as synaptic transmission, recovery after brain damage, and techniques for studying the brain. Then, in support of this module, King's welcomed Dr. Guy Sutton to deliver his "Brain Day" to 30 Psychology students. A student report on Brain Day is included in this volume of *The Petriburgian*. Throughout the rest of the year, students learned theories related to memory, OCD, depression, data collection and analysis, and social influence. We concluded with lessons on the various approaches in Psychology and the issues and debates that arise within the discipline. I would like to thank all those students who engaged actively in the debate lessons (you know who you are).

Our Year 13 students tackled more challenging and theoretical topics, learning about forensic psychology with Mr. Mbanu and statistics in psychology with me during the Autumn term. They then moved on to mastering the topics of schizophrenia and a newly-introduced subject, relationship psychology, which replaced gender psychology. Lessons turned to focus on preparing for the Year 13 mock exams and the final exams in the summer. The dedication and hard work of the students were evident throughout the year, and they took full advantage of the revision and support sessions offered by the Department. We are thrilled that

several students are heading to university to study Psychology at degree level. We wish all the students the best of luck and hope they will keep us informed of their future successes.

Dr. Cullen

Brain Day

On Thursday 22nd May 2025, Year 12 Psychology students had the fortunate opportunity to attend Brain Day, led by neurology and psychiatry specialist, Dr. Guy Sutton. The day expanded students' knowledge gained from A-level content on intricate brain structures and theories, presented with academic rigour, akin to that of a university lecture.

The workshop began with an exploration of both the anatomy and functions of the working brain, uncovering cerebral disorders, neuronal mapping, and the role of different neurotransmitters in synaptic transmission. Thereafter, several case studies were presented that questioned whether consciousness is possible in end-of-life circumstances, with students able

to engage by asking further questions throughout.

After a short break, pupils gathered to watch Dr. Sutton perform a dissection of a sheep's brain and were able to hold and examine samples up close. Much to the students' amazement, the cerebrum was very comparable to a human brain, with Dr. Sutton showing that the main difference between the two is size.

In the final sessions of the day, students listened to talks on the relationship between social media and crime with the mind, followed by the future of neuroscience. The debate of free will versus determinism was discussed, alongside various criminal case studies. To conclude the day, students were introduced to thought-provoking questions like whether it is possible for neural decoding to induce telepathic communication or how significant nano-bot technology will become in the future.

"It shows you how reliable brain development is that we were all able to attend," remarked Dr. Sutton.

Sam Parker, Year 12.



The RS Department: Auschwitz Ambassador Programme

The Auschwitz Ambassador Programme is a government-funded initiative, encouraging students to engage meaningfully with Holocaust education. Ambassadors attend in-person conferences, which include the opportunity to hear testimony from a Holocaust survivor; flying to Poland to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau, and finally, going back to school and doing something meaningful with the school community to pass on what they learned.

Lily-Belle and Robin were selected by Mrs. Docherty after writing personal and reflective essays in which they considered why they wanted to be involved in the programme. Once they had completed their conferences and visit, they both ran workshops in school with students in Y10-13, to pass on the important messages they had learned.

Here's what they had to say...

Taking part in the Auschwitz Ambassador Programme was a deeply moving

and transformative experience. The opportunity to visit the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and engage in workshops exploring the Holocaust's legacy offered me not only a greater historical understanding, but a sense of personal responsibility to carry the memory of its victims forward. Thus, I wrote a personal testimony about my experience; the things I saw, the way I felt, and how I want to carry the memories forward.

Robin and I were encouraged to reflect on the importance of remembrance, tolerance, and confronting prejudice in all its forms. Sharing my experience with others—through presentations and discussion groups—taught me how to speak with clarity and conviction about difficult topics, ensuring we never forget the horrors of the Holocaust.

Lily-Belle Grove, Auschwitz Ambassador 2025

Being an Auschwitz Ambassador has been one of the best experiences of my time at King's (and I've done an awful lot of things



here!). It was a real eye-opener and fantastic opportunity to learn more about what is an incredibly relevant topic in the current political climate. Having the opportunity to listen to the experience of a survivor was incredibly fascinating, and what she had to say went far beyond the boundaries of single subjects.

The Holocaust is an incredibly important part of both History and Religious Education and must continue to be passed on amongst the younger generations, so its importance is never forgotten.

Robin Bennett, Auschwitz Ambassador 2025



Hermione Rayner, A-level Art

Sport at The King's School 2024 - 2025

A wide range of sport took place throughout the year, ranging from friendlies and recreational events to cups, leagues and tournaments, in fact an incredible 50 different teams played in over 100 fixtures or tournaments, just in the Autumn term! So, too many to mention in detail, hence this brief summary...

Athletics

Students took part in the AAA Track and Field Championships with some great results. Well done to Ruby Hynes, Harry Bennett, Charlie Linnell, Harry Collister, Fio Sgroi, Bo Kidd and Monty Wood-Davis, who all won their respective events.

The following students went on to represent Peterborough at the County Schools': Charlie Linnell, Harry Collister, Freya Harris, Kendall Adam, Hannah Fitzjohn, Harry Bennett, Fio Sgroi, Bo Kidd and Monty Wood-Davis. Harry Collister and Bo Kidd were invited to represent Cambridgeshire at the English Schools'; Bo also received special recognition for the support he gave to other students at the event.



Y7 City Athletics Championships Boys Team

At the City Schools' Athletics Championships, our teams performed to a high standard with all finishing in the top 3: Y7 Girls 3rd; Y8 Boys 3rd; Y8 Girls 2nd; Y10 Boys 2nd.



Y7 City Athletics Championships Girls Team



Y8 City Athletics Championships Boys Team



Y8 City Athletics Championships Girls Team

Badminton

Teams entered the KS3 & 4 District Singles and Doubles tournaments. Highlights were:

- KS3 Singles - Fatima Shah runner-up. Sid Raj won overall.
- KS3 Doubles - Sid Raj and Ayaan Iftikhar were winners.
- KS4 Singles - Jonty Anderson was runner-up.
- KS4 Doubles - Asvin Dukkupati and Ashraf Aziz Ahmed also runners-up



Badminton Team

Basketball

7 teams in action. Highlights were:

- Y7 Boys' won the Peterborough Schools' District competition, remaining undefeated throughout the entire competition.
- The Y7 Girls' and the Y8/9 Boys' were also unbeaten District Champions.
- Our Y10/11 Girls' put up a good showing in the Peterborough Schools' Final but just came up short, losing to Hampton College.
- The Seniors were also in action with a win over Jack Hunt.

Cricket

Our U15 Boys' team reached the County Final of the Fred Trueman competition, while the U13s also delivered a strong campaign, winning all four group stage matches before narrowly missing out in the County Final to TDA.

Our Girls' teams had a remarkable season. Both the U13 and U15 squads went unbeaten, winning the District and County titles in the 'Chance to Compete' competition. Their success earned them places in the Regional Finals, held at Essex County Cricket Ground, where the U13 team achieved an excellent 3rd place overall, and the U15s a commendable 5th.



U13 and U15 Girls Cricket Teams



U13 Cricket Team



U13 Cricket Team 2



U15 Boys Cricket

Boys', Monty Wood-Davis the Junior Boys', Iris Roberts the Junior Girls', Freya Harris the Inter Girls' and Ruby Hynes the Senior Girls'. 37 students qualified to take part in the County Championships, representing Peterborough. In the team events, we were winners in 4 of the 8 categories. 18 students represented Peterborough at the Cambridgeshire Schools' Championships, with Freya Harris, Hannah Fitzjohn, Monty Wood-Davis, Ellie Ince, Ruby Hynes and Felix Bowling all qualifying for the Anglian Schools'. Freya Harris, Ellie Ince, Ruby Hynes and Felix Bowling then went to the English Schools' as part of the Cambridgeshire team. In the Fenland League: U15 Boys' were 2nd overall; U15 Girls' 4th; U13 Boys' 4th and U13 Girls' 3rd.

Football

Our football teams were busy in the Peterborough Schools' competition, County Cups and National Cups. 8 Boys' teams, 5 Girls' teams and a futsal team were in action, with a fair amount of success. Our Y7s were Peterborough Schools' semi-finalists, and quarter finalists in the County Cup. The Y10 Boys' were winners of the TPS 7-a-side football competition. Our Y11 boys beat Northstowe to reach the semi-final of the County Cup, but lost to a strong Swavesey Village College team. The U16 Girls' team also reached the semi-finals of the Peterborough Schools' competition. Our Sixth Form team were Peterborough Schools' semi-finalists and enjoyed a good run in the Arnold Clark national cup, reaching the 4th round. Our Sixth Form futsal team won the Peterborough Schools' Futsal Festival and the Y7 Girls' the Peterborough Schools' games competition.

Cross Country

Students 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' teams qualifying for the Regional round at Stowe School.

In the Peterborough Schools' Championships, we had 101 students involved. Individually, 7 students took a medal, with Ellie Ince finishing 2nd in the Senior Girls' and Felix Bowling 2nd in the Senior Boys'. We had 5 overall winners, with William Liddle winning the Minor

Hockey

Action from JD all the way through to the Sixth Form. The Y7s made a great start with wins at Stamford and Oundle. The Senior Girls' played well, finishing 3rd in the County Tournament. In the South Kesteven Indoor Tournaments: U16A finished 2nd and B 3rd; Y13A won and B finished 3rd; Y12 Girls' finished 2nd, and U14 Boys' won Tier 2 in the East State Schools' Hockey Festival.

Indoor Cricket

In the Peterborough Schools' League, our Y7/8 Boys' won 4 of their 5 matches, as did our Y9/10 Boys' team. Our U15 Girls' team provided the highlight by beating Hampton College to win the District Final. They then went on to play in the County Final against Kimbolton School, narrowly losing a close match.

Netball

We fielded 7 teams in the Peterborough District Tournaments and subsequent leagues. Fantastic enthusiasm for training every week from the Lower School in particular has meant that choosing a team each week has been difficult. Results in the District Tournaments were: Y7 3rd; Y8 5th; Y9 2nd; Y10 3rd; Y11 1st; Seniors 2nd and 3rd, for the A and B teams respectively.

Rounders

4 teams competed in the Peterborough Schools' Rounders tournament. Every team member played exceptionally well; Y8 & Y9 lost out in the group stages, but two success stories had the Y7 & Y10 teams crowned winners.

Rugby

Teams from Y7 to Seniors were in action. Y7 played 4 matches and were unbeaten in the Peterborough Schools' competition, Y8 finished runners-up and Y9 were winners. The U15s had a close match with Comberton in the Vase. Our Seniors faced Spalding Grammar in another competitive



Y7 Rugby Team



Y9 Rugby Team



U16 Rugby Team

match but the highlight was our U16s who beat Stamford C 65-0. The Y11 Boys' played 2 games against Hampton Academies Trust and won both.

Sailing

In the Autumn term, the following achieved their RYA Stage 1 certificates: Toby Turnham, Alex Green, Theo Kennedy, Harjeeth Singh, Elysia Stevenson and Henry Wood-Davis. At the end of the season, at a special supper Awards evening, we awarded the following trophies:

- Garner Cup for the Most Enthusiastic Sailor: Mollie Gordon and Omer Kemal, both Y12
- David Runacres Memorial Sailing Shield for Improvement: George Knight Y11
- The Commander Willis Steadfast Award: Harriet Barber Y9

Swimming

July saw the first House Swimming Gala since the 1940s, competing for the Lloyd House Swimming Cup at Peterborough Lido. There were 51 competitors, lots of staff and spectators and a wonderful atmosphere on a sunny evening. Special mentions go to Amelie Stevenson, Euan White, Alfie Larham and Indya and Freya Gyselings for their outstanding swims on the night. A huge thank you to Mrs. White & Miss. Henson for organising the event. The results were: Joint 3rd: St Chad's and St Peter's; 2nd: St Oswald's; Champions: School.

Table Tennis

King's students from Y7 to Y11 have been

playing in a series of Peterborough Schools' and National Schools' tournaments. We were dominant in the Peterborough Schools' Event, winning 3 out of the 4 competitions. William Wu and Terry Zheng, together with Lewis Wu and Wilson Zheng, were also winners of the Cambridgeshire play-off and represented the County in the regional round of the national competition.

We entered 2 teams into the Butterfly National Schools' Team Championships and both teams performed exceptionally well. Our U16 Boys' team were winners in the Regional Finals and reached the National Semi-Finals, finishing 3rd, so narrowly missing out on the National Finals.

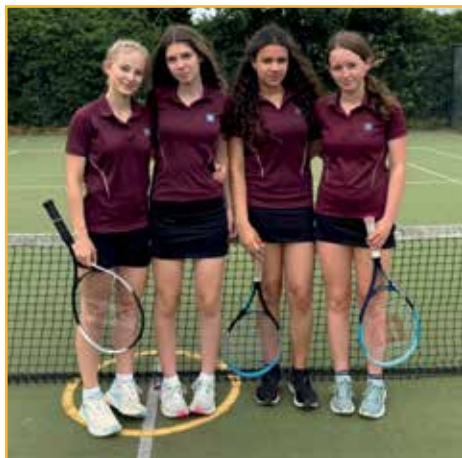
Our most successful team this year, without any doubt, was the U13 Girls', made up of Hannah Saunders, Amber Lemmon and Diya Patel. The girls won the Regional Final, the National Semi-Final, going on to be crowned National Champions!

Several students competed in the Individual National Schools' competition this year, with both Terry Zheng and Amber Lemmon competing at the National Finals. Terry fell just short in the group stage but Amber went on to win the U13 Girls' individual competition, bringing her to a record-breaking 4 gold medals at the National Table Tennis Championships. Congratulations Amber!

Tennis

We have competed at the PDSSA Schools' competitions, with notable achievements being a 2nd place for our U15 team and 3rd for our U13's, along with competitive fixtures against King's Ely and The Peterborough School in the LTA U13 and U15 Schools' competitions.

We also hosted our 'Play your way to Wimbledon' competition. Kian Cadieu won the U14 Boys' competition, with Sid Raaj as runner-up. Clara Micoud won the Girls' event, with Elysha Sery as runner-up.



Y9 & 10 Tennis

Trampoline

16 students participated in the Peterborough Schools' trampoline competition; notable successes were:

- Lydia Rees - 1st place, Novice
- Chinechem Ogbonna - 2nd place, Intermediate
- Saskia Ramsar - 1st place, Elite

Special mentions for individual efforts outside school

- Clea Treharne: Gold in Sparring, Silver in Group Form and Bronze in Weapons, at the National Tang Soo Do competition.
- Oliver Drake: awarded a place in the England Hockey East Talent Academy

squad. What's even more impressive is the fact that Oliver is only 13 and the squad is for 15-17 year olds!

- Riley Scarfe competed in the U16 British National Gymnastics competition and finished 23rd overall. He also competed in the English Championships and finished 10th overall, with a silver in the Pommel and 5th in Floor.
- Oliver Stegeman: finished 4th in the European Canoe Association Cup Final 2, which followed his 16th place in the European Under 23 World Championships.

Inter House Competition Winners

School House

Cross Country: Y8Boys', Y8 Girls', Y9 Boys', Y9 Girls'. Overall Lower School Trophy Winners.

Football: Y9 Girls', Y10 Boys'

JD: Sports Day

Netball: Y7 Girls', Y11 Girls'

Rounders: Y9

Rowing: Y11, Seniors

Rugby: Y10 Boys'.

St.Chad's

Badminton: Y8, Y9, Y10 (joint)

Cricket: Y7, Y9

Cross Country: Y7 Boys', Y11 Girls'

Football: Y8 Girls'

Hockey: Y8 Boys', Y8 Girls', Y10 Girls'

Indoor Athletics: Y7, Y10

JD: Hockey (joint), Netball

Rounders: Y7

Rowing: Y7, Y8, Y9

Rugby: Y7

St.Oswald's

Cricket: Y8, Y10

Cross Country: Y10 Boys'

Football: Y8 Boys'

Indoor Athletics: Y9

JD: Hockey (joint), swimming

Netball: Y9, Y10

Rounders: Y8

Rugby: Y8

Volleyball: Sixth Form

St.Peter's

Badminton: Y10 (joint)

Cross Country: Y7 Girls', Y10

Girls', Y11 Boys' Overall

Middle School Trophy winners.

Football: Y7 Boys', Y11Boys'

Hockey: Y7, Y9 Boys'

Indoor Athletics: Y8

JD: Hockey, Rounders

Netball: Y8 Girls', Y11 Mixed

Rounders: Y10, Sixth Form

Rowing: Y10

Touch Rugby: Y9

I would like to take a moment to give sincere thanks to all students who have represented the School in extra-curricular sport this year. As a department, we recently reflected on the scale of participation and estimated that between 300 and 350 different students have taken part in school teams or events over the course of the year. Your enthusiasm, commitment and pride in representing the School are truly exceptional - and something we value deeply. It does not go unnoticed, and we are incredibly grateful and proud of each and every one of you.

Mr. K. Kefford

Ninja Warrior Trip

This outing was to reward the regular gym goers for their effort towards the extra-curricular sport, by giving them the fun

opportunity to go to Ninja Warrior UK, Leicester.

The staff took 14 students on a Friday afternoon, missing a Games lesson, so no work was needed to be caught up.

The Ninja Warrior consisted of a difficult obstacle course, which everyone tried to complete and an inflatable park with obstacles and other fun activities, such as an inflatable basketball court.

It was a time to socialise with others whom you might not normally talk with, especially because of the mix of year groups. Getting to know people is always an enjoyable experience, especially if you have things in common, like the gym.

All the students participated in a game of touch hide and seek in the inflatable section, which seemed to be the main attraction of the venue.

Everyone managed to climb at least one of the warped walls they had there, which was a challenging obstacle that we had to overcome. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the trip and appreciated the staff organising it and taking us.

Tom and Sam Streeter, Y11

Making Waves: The Return of the House Swimming Gala at Peterborough Lido

After more than six decades, the spirit of competition and camaraderie returned to the water as the first House Swimming Gala since the 1960s made a triumphant splash on Thursday, July 3rd. Held at the iconic Peterborough Lido, the event marked a historic moment for the school community, bringing together students, staff, and spectators for an unforgettable

evening under the summer sun.

Competing for the Lloyd House Swimming Cup, 51 determined swimmers took to the pool, representing their Houses with pride and passion. The atmosphere was electric; cheers echoed across the Lido as each race was a thrilling display of speed, skill, and sportsmanship.

Standout Performances

While every swimmer contributed to the excitement, a few names are noteworthy. **Amelie Stevenson, Euan White, Alfie Larham, Freya Gyslins, and Indya Gyslins** delivered a series of outstanding swims, earning admiration from both the crowd and their peers. Their performances were a testament to dedication and training, and they set a high bar for future galas.

The event wasn't just about competition - it was a celebration of unity. Staff members volunteered enthusiastically, spectators filled the stands with encouragement, and the warm weather added a welcome touch to the evening.

In a fitting echo of the past, School House emerged victorious, claiming the House Swimming Title - just as they did in the 1960s!



Swim Gala Winners School House

Looking Ahead

With the success of this year's gala, hopes are high that the House Swimming Gala will become a regular fixture once again. As the sun set over Peterborough Lido, one thing was clear: the spirit of the House competition is alive and thriving, both in and out of the water.

Mrs. K. Henson



Swim Gala



Swim Gala



On Saturday the 29th of March, students, parents, and staff came together for a tree-planting event led by Mrs. Gray and Mrs. McTavish, the main goal being to improve the school environment and student wellbeing. Our scope: to plant a hedge along the Huntley Grove railings.

The hedge will deliver on a key wellbeing priority raised by the Student Council. Students had voiced that they didn't feel comfortable with passers-by being able to see through the railings. The hedge will therefore improve privacy of the school grounds, thus creating a more comfortable environment for students via a natural barrier.

This project will also promote sustainability, therefore blending school security with biodiversity. Using the ideas of the Gardening Club,

Eco-club and the Student Council, plus generous donations from the Woodland Trust who provided the trees, and Westland Horticulture for tools, volunteers were able to plant 420 native saplings including hawthorn, rowan, blackthorn, silver birch, hazel, and common oak.

To ensure successful planting, saplings were planted in a T-shaped layout, to reduce competition for light and nutrients. This approach will also provide a more natural aesthetic with layers of tree leaves - especially once they have reached a certain level of maturity.

The day was a fantastic success and will leave a lasting positive impact for the school community for many years to come.

Jasmin De Buyzer, Y12



Library Resource Centre

During the academic year 2024/25, the Library has been busy curating a large selection of accessible resources for pupils and staff. Celebrations have been held for a variety of occasions, to enhance curriculum delivery and promote reading for pleasure. Inclusivity has been an important theme, with resources and guides on display throughout the year.

New stock and old has been used to create **displays** showcasing celebrations and awareness dates highlighting the assembly themes and independent days such as British Science Week, Anti-Bullying Week, Black History Month, Children's Mental Health Week and International Children's Book Day. Topic boxes have been provided for the Junior Department.

Throughout the academic year many initiatives have taken place.

The Year 7 pupils were invited to choose a free book as part of the Book Trusts' **BookBuzz** scheme. Choosing from sixteen available titles, the pupils were encouraged to read and review their book, then work through a series of challenges, to further engage with the books. The national website has been promoted.

In conjunction with the English and Learning Support departments,



RENAISSANCE Accelerated Reader

the Library has contributed to the **Accelerated Reader** scheme. All Year 7 & 8 pupils take part. The Librarian has demonstrated the new features during library lessons. New Accelerated Reader stock is being regularly purchased to enhance the collection.

Learning Support has utilised the Library space again this academic year, holding a fortnightly EP class, reading interventions and meetings.

Regular **mentoring** has occurred in form time, as part of the Learning Commission remit.

The collection of **online resources** has been promoted through emails and further directed work will be done with the Sixth Form next academic year. The **ePlatform** resource holds three collections of eBooks and Audiobooks, including a Wellness collection. Pupils and staff can download and read or listen to a huge range of popular titles through the app, the website or the library catalogue. The number of active patrons has risen 12.5% this academic year.

Book Club ran during the autumn term, with a dedicated group of Year 7 pupils reading and discussing "Shine" by Candy Gourlay. "First thoughts. On our first day of Book Club we looked at different covers. Shine's cover really caught my eye and it seemed the same for others. This was the beginning of a really good book."

This academic year **pupil librarians** have been eager to offer their assistance in the Library. They have assisted in stock processing, designing and creating displays and shelving stock, whilst finding a safe space to spend their free time.

"The Library is a good place to come to study, and at exam time it attracts loads of people who want to revise." - Year 10 Pupil.

"It's amazing what the library has to offer; computers, quiet spaces, and most importantly books!" -Year 7 Pupil.

September 2024 – A Library induction was delivered to Year 7 during English lessons. Pupils were shown Oliver, the library catalogue and the library website. Face-to-face **textbook issuing** was undertaken, alongside data inputting for those textbooks issued in class. Year 12 **online research sessions** were delivered in the Wolfson Room, demonstrating the range of digital information sources available.

The Library was busy during the school **Open Evening**, with many parents and prospective pupils enjoying the presentation in the Wolfson Room and the many relevant resources on display. The Library was pleased to attend the **Year 7 Freshers' Fayre**, with over 30 pupils signing up for Book Club. The stand was run by the library prefects, who were able to interact and encourage the new Year 7 pupils.

The Library contributed to **Charities Week** by holding a book raffle. Tickets

were sold for 50p and students were able to choose their prize from a selection of new and current books. £29 was raised. A further contribution was raised through the selling of withdrawn stock.

October 2024 – National Poetry Day was celebrated on the 3rd October. The theme was "Counting". The King's School Poet Laureate, Karla Schneider organised a poetry competition, which culminated in the production of a book of poetry, which was sold for £2. Prizes were awarded to the best poem in KS3 and KS4/5. Poetry was read out loud and displayed inside the Library, English lessons promoted poetry and resources were supplied to form tutors.

For **Halloween Year 7** were invited to bring along their torch and listen to a scary story after school. The Librarian read an interactive



'you choose' story, with multiple storylines and endings, and snacks were provided. The Library was decorated with balloons, streamers and accessories and fourteen pupils attended.

December 2024 – The Library provided work experience for a **Bronze D of E** pupil, creating the opportunity to develop organisational, time-keeping and IT skills. The pupil librarian **Christmas Party** took place at the end of term and was a chance for pupils to

enjoy lunch and games together.

January 2025 – Holocaust Memorial Day was marked on 27th January. Assembly resources were sent to tutors and author Tom Palmer's works created the centrepiece for an interactive display.

March 2025 – World Book Day was a lovely celebration of books, with events held throughout school on the day. Book tokens were distributed earlier in the week and pupils were able to swap their token for a book of their choice. Resources were emailed to staff and pupils, to share where possible.

June 2025 – Empathy Day The library prefects spoke in Year 12 Assembly on the importance of empathy and how reading connects us. The **Carnegie Medal Shortlist** became the focus of the English Lit group, who met on Friday lunchtimes. Mrs. Wildman produced a PowerPoint to introduce the books and authors, and a printed booklet for personal reviews and Mrs.

Rhodes ran the group.

The Library welcomed tours during the **Year 12 Induction** days and provided general information to take away. The **Year 6 transition days** were a further opportunity to showcase the Library and build up excitement through a summer reading competition. Pupils will arrive in September to a display of their competition entries, with prizes for the winners.

Looking further ahead, the Library remains the place to come for:

- good quality current literature for children, teens and young adults
 - facts and figures to assist with homework
 - access to excellent-quality electronic resources
- quizzes, competitions, games and clubs
- a quietly satisfying place to study and learn

Mrs. A. Wildman
Head of Library Resource Centre

Year 10 Students' Visit to Anglian Ruskin University (ARU)

On the 26th March, Year 10 students had an amazing opportunity to visit Anglian Ruskin University for a fun trip out to find out all about university life and the options they have a little closer to home. They took part in three sessions, learning all about their chosen course which ranged from Midwifery to Education and Law to Construction. A group session and a campus tour were also conducted throughout the day, where students were able to see the layout of a university campus and inside both workrooms and lecture halls. They found out all about ARU life and how the different years and terms are set out along with the many courses and extra-curricular activities they have to offer. Darcy said "I thought it was good and really inspiring because it gave students the chance to look into professions and careers for the future, making us feel prepared and confident for all the options and support we have in Further Education." Hannah "really enjoyed the ARU trip, as it gave everyone great knowledge for post A-level and GCSE options. All the professors and tour guides were lovely and very helpful at answering all the questions we had, as well as feeding us with lots of knowledge of university life"

Hannah Fitzjohn and Darcy Pinder 10DJC

Year 10s Take on the World of Work.

From the 8th to the 11th of July, Year 10 swapped school uniforms for office wear, lab coats, and high-visibility jackets, as pupils had the opportunity to explore a wide range of career paths and opportunities



for the future. Students worked in a vast array of environments, including primary schools, pharmacies, retail shops, and offices. Each providing its own challenges and learning experiences, helping students to build confidence and develop new skills, allowing students to consider the many options available to them.

The various placements were carried out in a most professional manner, with many employers commenting on how polite and well-mannered the students from King's were. Many pupils returned



to school feeling inspired, some even with completely different career aspirations. Even for students who had decided that their chosen placement was certainly not the career for them, everyone walked away with valuable insights and memories. I thoroughly enjoyed my personal placement at two different dental practices. The experience was an eye-opener of how the size of a practice affects a dentist's day-to-day duties as well as its management and organisation. In addition to completing paperwork and working the reception, I was able to shadow professionals

completing key routine procedures. This fascinated me.

As well as allowing me to gain first-hand experience of dentistry as a profession and potential career, my work experience placement allowed me to make links between important subjects in the field of medical sciences, such as biology and chemistry, helping me to consider my future options post 16.

On the behalf of Year 10, I would like to say a huge thank you to Miss. Henson and Mr. Dew, without whom this excellent path-finding experience would not have been possible.

Euan Over, Year 10



The King's Futures Fair

The King's Futures Fair proved to be a transformative experience for many students, offering a clearer view of life beyond A-levels. With a packed schedule of inspiring speakers, hands-on workshops, and practical advice, the two-day event opened our eyes to the wide range of opportunities available after school.

One of the standout features of the event was the flexibility offered by the Sixth Form team, allowing students to explore different interest areas. Although I began the day in the Humanities group, where we unexpectedly delved into topics like nuclear energy and Anglian Water, I was grateful to spend most of the day with the

Creative group, which aligned more closely with my passions.

Inspiration from Industry Experts

Wednesday's sessions were filled with engaging talks from professionals across various fields. A personal highlight was hearing from freelance writer, Jess Bacon, whose candid discussion about the highs and lows of her career, was both honest and motivating. With bylines in Elle and Good News, Jess shared her journey into journalism and offered practical advice on getting published. Her talk inspired me to finally take the leap and start my own blog.

Later in the day, Hannah Brigham gave an insightful presentation on communications and marketing within the charity sector. Her talk resonated deeply with me, especially as someone involved in organising the Oundle Fringe Festival. Hearing how transferable skills like event planning and communication can lead to a meaningful career was both reassuring and exciting.

A Broader Perspective

Adding a unique twist to the day, representatives from Border Control joined us and West Midlands Police brought their working police dogs along to share stories from their careers. While not a path I plan to pursue, it was fascinating to learn about the structure and progression within the sector.

Skills for the Future

Thursday shifted focus to practical skills and university pathways. The day concluded with a memorable session from Tom Calver on Degree Apprenticeships at Caterpillar. His interactive survival scenario challenged us to think critically and creatively - skills that are essential in both academic and professional settings. Beyond the fun,

his talk provided valuable insight into the benefits of Degree Apprenticeships, including salary prospects and student life.

Looking Ahead

Overall, the Futures Fair was an invaluable experience. It not only broadened my understanding of post A-level options but also reignited my motivation to pursue both academic and creative goals. A special thank you to Jess Bacon for her inspiring words, they were the final push I needed to begin my blogging journey.

Daisy Richardson Y12

NHS Cambridge and Peterborough Health and Care Careers Event - The Student Experience

On the 5th of March 2025, Year 10 students from our school had the opportunity to attend the NHS Cambridge and Peterborough Health and Care Careers Expo at the KingsGate Conference Centre in Peterborough. The event was organized by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System (ICS), and was an opportunity to introduce students to the wide range of careers available in health and social care that they could pursue in the future.

There was a wide range of interactive activities available, which gave us a helpful insight into the career we were finding out about. These helped us experience first-hand some of the skills required in the health and care professions.

Some memorable activities were:

- The Life-Size 'Operation' Game - where our hand-eye coordination and ability to perform a delicate task were tested

Careers

as an example of what surgeons and healthcare professionals do.

- Virtual Reality Experiences – Using VR headsets, we stepped into the shoes of different healthcare professionals to understand what a day in their lives is like.
- The Bacteria Test - We put to the test how much bacteria picked up on our hands after just one morning - it's safe to say: Make sure to wash your hands regularly and thoroughly!
- Sign Language in healthcare - We were given the opportunity to learn how to ask for things/practice a few phrases using sign language. This gave us an insight into how vital and important communication is in healthcare, especially for deaf or hard of hearing patients.

During the few hours that we attended the event, we met and spoke with healthcare professionals, including nurses, paramedics, social care workers, and radiologists. They shared insights into their jobs, the qualifications needed, and the challenges they face, helping us appreciate how complex and crucial their work is. It was a really interesting experience to see just how much was involved within the NHS. From this event, we were able to delve into hundreds of career paths and see the many opportunities that could benefit not just our own lives, but the lives of many others too.

Several universities and apprenticeship providers were at the event to discuss different career pathways into healthcare.

There were representatives from institutions such as Anglia Ruskin University and the Open University, who provided information on degree courses in nursing,

midwifery, physiotherapy, medicine, and other healthcare professions. They explained the entry requirements, the contents of a course and career prospects for each field.

There were also stands promoting health and social care apprenticeships. These included roles like healthcare assistants, nursing associates, and paramedics. The apprenticeship providers explained how we could gain qualifications and experience at the same time, which was very interesting and informative.

This event was an excellent way to explore different options and gain useful skills for the future. It helped us explore different career paths which ranged from university degrees to apprenticeships, and also emphasized the importance of making informed decisions about our futures. It was a great experience to have had and we would definitely recommend it to any student who is unsure about attending!

Isabel Attack, Melissa Goodrick and Talitha Rees, Year 10

Big Bang Competition

The Big Bang Competition Finals – NEC, Birmingham

The Big Bang competition is a national STEM competition. Benji Tinker, Najim Oria and Fatima Shah decided to enter as a team. Our project was 'Unlocking Hygroscopic Material Potential', an experiment on how well different materials can both absorb and store water. As we felt the issue of mould led to unnecessary long-term illnesses, we used our experiment to investigate if there was an environmentally friendly material that absorbed water better than silica gel. We worked on our project with help from Mrs. McTavish, Roland and Lewis, who run our STEM club, especially with programming the Arduino board, which was vital to our experiment. We entered the competition in March and three of our teams had come through as finalists: Roland, the Sixth Form team and ourselves. We were finalists under the category Materials and Textiles and were also nominated for the Stantec Special Award: an award highlighting the importance placed on helping futures and experimenting with materials.

The STEM Club has been a big part of our school life this year. We meet every Tuesday lunch to work on experiments, learn programming, and develop creative science and engineering solutions. Without the Club's support, we wouldn't have developed the confidence or technical skills

to take on such a big national competition. It was really inspiring to see how much you can achieve with teamwork and guidance.

The finals took place at the NEC in Birmingham, which was an incredible experience. The exhibition hall was full of hundreds of talented students from across the UK, with projects on everything from renewable energy to biomedical inventions. We set up our stall and spoke to judges, visitors, people with inspiring and amazing careers and other teams about our experiment. It felt amazing to have so many people interested in our work and to see how other students were tackling important issues too. It goes to show that if you work hard, you find like-minded students and many of them had amazing projects and their creativity, research and products showcased their hard work; we had worked hard to get to the top 10% of entrants.

From this experience we learnt a lot — not just about science but about presenting ideas confidently and working under pressure. We also learnt how much



Big Bang Competition



preparation and teamwork it takes to bring an idea from start to finish. It was really rewarding to see how our research into something as simple as brown sugar and rice could spark conversations about sustainability and housing. Although we didn't win anything, we have come out knowing what hard work everything is, we know some trending topics or common ideas inspiring us for next year. We'd recommend entering the Big Bang competition to anyone interested in STEM. It's hard work but worth it, and we'd love to take part again in the future. It opens



your mind to the real world - it isn't just a competition; your idea could be used in real life to help people. Being part of the STEM Club and this competition has shown us how science can really make a difference to people's lives — and we're proud to have been part of that.

Fatima Shah, Year 9.

STEM Club

Thinking Outside the Bots: A Super-Curricular STEM Success

It's been another successful year for STEM super-curricular projects at The King's School, where innovation has sparked across all year groups and super-curricular projects have reached national acclaim.

Year 11 trailblazers, Lewis Barber and Roland Christopher, kicked things off securing a £2,500 Earth Echo grant at the end of last academic year, to build a topography-mapping drone for water surveillance. Not only did they deliver on this ambitious goal, but they also shared their journey with a global community of eco-conscious students - proving their tech talents are matched by true leadership.

That spirit of initiative didn't stop there. With support from Robin Turnham, Lewis and Roland also used some of their grant to launch and lead a new KS4 STEM Club; designing weekly engineering challenges for their peers, from robotic arms to custom 3D propeller blades. Their Spring challenge? Design a project that could be entered into the Big Bang Competition. The result? Four teams entered from the School, two of which were from the STEM Club. Three school teams reached the finals and were invited to showcase at the NEC in Birmingham.

Highlights included Year 12's Eshan Shah and Charles Gregory with Sign Speak - a device that translates sign language into text in real-time. And from Year 9, Benji Tinker, Fatimah Shah, and Najim Oria impressed with a sustainability-led study on hygroscopic alternatives to silica, complete with humidity-monitoring tech.

Particular applause goes to Roland

Christopher for his project Vocal Biomarker Monitoring for Mental Health, earning him Runner-Up in the Intermediate Technology category - his second year in the national spotlight.

From drones to data and beyond, these students are showcasing what STEM can be, as well the calibre of the students we have here at King's.

Mrs. McTavish



Activities Week

Year 7 Gilwell 2025

The residential trip to Gilwell was both exciting and challenging. We got to face our fears and learn new skills. My favourite part was the 3G swing. We were lifted high into the air before pulling a cord to launch ourselves. It was scary at first, but it felt amazing to conquer my fear of heights and try something new. Another highlight was crate-stacking. This activity taught us to trust each other and communicate well. We also learned to be more independent and responsible by building and sleeping

in our tents, which was a new experience for me and many others. After a long day of physical activities, we enjoyed delicious and filling catered food. Spending our evenings socializing with friends over hot chocolate and biscuits was a great way to relax and create wonderful memories away from home. It was a perfect mix of adventure and teamwork that I will always remember.

Vanessa Gutka, 7IK

Year 8 Activities - Rutland Water

When I went to Rutland Water park I found it great fun, as we did kayaking, paddle-boarding and also went on the massive inflatable on the lake.

I liked how we had clear instructions and that we were let free to do what we liked and we were able to pick who we could go with in a boat and on a paddle-board.

There were different parts to the inflatable and these included big drops and areas to do flips.

Overall, I found the day really fun!

Henry Wood-Davis, 8JDC



Activities Week

Year 9 - PGL

For Activities Week this year, Year 9 went to PGL in Boreatton Park, in Shropshire, not far from Wales, and although the coach ride was long and quite warm, it was entirely worth it! The whole week was non-stop, and jam-packed full of activities, fun, and games. We got to participate in a range of physical and mental challenges – including lots of climbing, watersports,

and problem-solving. Many involved working together as a group and pushing ourselves to try new things, often outside our comfort zones. We also got involved in a variety of evening games like quizzes and a big campfire, but a personal favourite of mine was the silent disco on the final night of the week!

Amelia Sandall, 9SCH



Isla Mackie, A-level Art

Hockey Festival

The King's School Hockey Festival

Now in its 5th year, the Hockey Festival was held at The Playing Fields, Garton End Road on Saturday 14th June 2025.

Players of all levels, some having never held a stick before to others who have represented England, all arrived eager to play.

The Round Robin format (where all teams play each other) consisted of 7 teams. The staff put out a strong team, despite this team containing the most players who had never played before. Even Mr. Harrison was in the team! The other teams included Current Students & Year 15. Wiggy's Team, managed by OP Chris Samuels, were mostly former students playing alongside their children who are now at the School. Sons of Pitches, managed by Sam Bicarino are all former students aged 25+. This team were undefeated champions for the first 3 years. Family Connection team consisted of former parents, current parents, players whose parents were former students and partners of former students. The final team, 007, were made up of staff and Team Wiggy, as they had spare players. A good mix of teams and abilities all added to the fun of the now annual 7 a-side festival. A good representation of The King's Family.

Before the festival started, Sam Bicarino clarified the rules to all the players, and then Alison Amps gave a brief introduction to those who had not played before on the ethos of the tournament, all in memory of the late John Day. John was once Chairman of the OPA and also of the City of Peterborough Hockey Club. The winners' shield for this festival is the John Day Trophy.

The games then got underway. Some were very close, and it's fair to say, others not so! All games were played in the spirit of the tournament. The winners were decided on the very last game. Sons of Pitches, keen to regain their winning title, versus Family Connection, the team which knocked them off their pedestal last year! It was a hard-fought battle and thrilling game with Family Connection coming off the better team and overall winners on the day.

A big thank you to Friends of King's Jayne Marsland and her team of volunteers who provided refreshments throughout the day. Our thanks go to Jon Bigham who sourced umpires on our behalf, all of whom kindly gave up their Saturday. Also, we would like to thank King's Parent Claire Drake who kept the games on time, and kept all the scores.

It was great to welcome the spectators, family, friends, former students and former staff, including Trevor Elliott and Dyl Powell (former Deputy Head and John's widow). Chris Dunn attended in his role as OPA Chairperson, but also as photographer!

As the matches came to an end, Nikki Harris was invited to present the awards. Silver medals to Sons of Pitches, Gold Medals to Family Connection. The Fair Play trophy was awarded to Current Students, Most Improved Team trophy went to Year 15. Teacher, Kyle Nosworthy picked up Most Improved Player trophy and Player of the Tournament trophy went to current student, Grace German. The final award was the winners shield, proudly collected by Family Connection. A few words were said to wish Nikki a very long and happy retirement as she leaves the School in July.

Last year, the proceeds from playing fees and the raffle paid for new team tops

for the girls' team at school. This year we hope to contribute towards a School Goalkeeping kit.

In past years, we have had an evening social, including attending Helen Birch's retirement event last year. This year, we headed to watch "The Catch" (including Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Brader and Mr. Dunn), headline at the Botolph Green Festival. And so, our thoughts turn to 2026. Will more players and teams sign up? It would be great to expand the festival further. If you would like to be involved, please email [biccarino.h@kings.peterborough.sch.uk](mailto:bicarino.h@kings.peterborough.sch.uk) for more details.

On behalf of the organising committee, we'd like to extend a big, big thank you to everyone who played a part on the day, and most of all to the players – it would not be the great Hockey Festival that it is without you!

Heather Bicarino and Alison Amps.



Hockey Festival Gold Medal Winners Family Connection

The King's School Hockey Festival – A Student's Perspective

This fantastic day which has now become an annual tradition started with an introduction by Mrs. Amps who explained

how the festival is held in memory of John Day (previous member of staff) and information about how the day would run. The first matches were then swiftly underway! It is so great to see everyone getting involved from staff to ex-students, family members and current students, with everyone playing fun, friendly but competitive hockey. Matches were once again played in a round robin of 10 minutes each half. Many people gave their time to umpire; time-keep and organise a raffle. The King's Friends were also amazing, providing lunch and refreshments. The two-time consecutive winner was 'Family Connections' with other awards such as 'Most Improved' and 'Fair Play' team given out, too. Overall, it was another very enjoyable day, enhanced by the wonderful weather. I am looking forward to next year already!

Oliver Drake, Y9



Hockey Festival Silver Medal Winners Sons of Pitches



Culture Day

Cultural Fashion Show

A stand-out moment from the EDI was the spectacular fashion show, where students showcased traditional clothing from their home countries. The runway came alive with colour, culture, and pride, as both students and teachers celebrated their heritage in front of an enthusiastic audience. The energy in the room was incredible — every model was met with cheers, applause, and admiration. Countries represented in the fashion show included Nigeria, Ghana, The Philippines, China, Norway, Germany, France, Wales, India, and Sri Lanka. Each participant wore traditional attire that beautifully reflected the unique style, symbolism, and history of their culture, every outfit told its own story. What made the show even more special was the involvement of staff members, which added a real sense of unity and celebration. Mr. Gunn confidently took to the runway, dressed in traditional Scottish clothing and Mr. Hicks wore traditional Middle Eastern garments that captured the cultural richness of the region. The fashion show wasn't just about style — it was about sharing identity, creating conversation, and building cultural awareness within the School. It gave everyone a chance to see the world through one another's eyes, helping to deepen the understanding and appreciation for the diversity in our School.

Culture Market

In addition to the fashion show the EDI organised a Culture Market, it was a true celebration of diversity, creativity, and community spirit. The event was a huge success, raising over £1,000. This is a clear reflection of the generosity, enthusiasm, and unity within our School. With a vibrant

mix of food, fashion, music, and cultural pride, it created a space where students could embrace and share their roots, while learning about the traditions of others. What made the event truly special was the effort that students and families put into sharing a genuine taste of their heritage. Each stall wasn't just about food — it was about storytelling, pride, and the joy of sharing something meaningful with the wider school community. Beyond the amazing food, what stood out most was the sense of connection. Students and teachers all attended, whether it was trying a new dish for the first time or asking about a country's customs, everyone left with a deeper appreciation for the cultures within our School. The Culture Market wasn't just about showcasing diversity, it was to show that when people open up their worlds to one another, even through something as simple as food, it creates powerful moments of understanding, respect, and joy.

Demilade Durojaiye Y12

Ski Trip 2025

The 2025 ski trip to Austria was full of fun, excitement and unforgettable memories during the February half-term, with the vibrant mix of year groups ensuring there was never a dull moment- from the coach journey to the final run down the slopes.

The 24-hour coach ride, although initially daunting, quickly flew by, becoming part of the adventure, as students found ways to keep the energy up. A particular favourite was the impromptu £100 JBL speaker purchase on the Dover ferry. Thanks to this, there was music, energising the back of the bus...and too often waking Mr. Armstrong from his sleep (Whoops)!

Before long, the coach had arrived at the hotel where we dropped off our bags before we set off to our ski fitting, on the way taking in the beautiful views right outside our door.



The following day was our first day on the slopes and we travelled to Mutters, a beautiful resort not far from the hotel, where we were introduced to our instructors for the week, with a few familiar faces showing up. The diverse ability on the trip meant that many students were placed into groups separate from their friends, however this experience turned out to be a great opportunity to bond with new people, something many of us enjoyed. After a long day of skiing, we made our way back to the hotel, where the evening activity was games night, something which would become quite popular throughout the week. The competitive atmosphere filled the hotel as 'Taco, Cat, Goat, Cheese, Pizza' swiftly became intense, bringing out everyone's competitive streak.

The second day saw us on the Stubai Glacier, with the 30-minute gondolier ride up being worth the while for the spectacular views, and food, at the top. It was also a big day for the beginner skiers as it was here that they had their first ride on the chair lift; a big step up from the magic carpet used just the day



Ski Trip 2025

before. Meanwhile, the more experienced skiers enjoyed developing their skills on more advanced pistes. That evening there was brief disappointment, as a delayed departure forced the cancellation of the most eagerly awaited evening activity: swimming. However, spirits remained high as the activity became QUIZ NIGHT! With the Sixth Formers leading teams, tension was high, as brains were challenged. Ultimately, it was Charlotte who led her team to victory!!

The adventures of Tuesday led us to Schlick 2000, a resort that swiftly became a favourite destination on the trip, despite the challenging trek to the gondola. The skiers were put to the test, moving outside of their comfort zones but enjoying every minute. It was here that the bottom group got to watch in awe as Mr. Mandin ever so elegantly tumbled down the side of the mountain. Quel Dommage!! After a full day, it was finally time for the eagerly-awaited swimming, with the waterslides bringing plenty of smiles and laughs, proving it to be well worth the wait.

Midweek, we ventured to Axamer Lizum one of the more challenging ski resorts with lots to offer including a snow park where the top groups practiced their jumps

and tricks. However, unfortunately the day came with some bad news, as to our shock and dismay Flexi, a beloved ski instructor, was injured and had to give up his group for the rest of the week! On a more positive note, the food at the top was delicious with the mac and cheese being the star of the show! After a tiring day, we made our way to the bowling alley where things quickly intensified as our competitiveness was at an all-time high.

The following day was our last full day on the slopes, where we returned to Schlick by popular demand. Groups tested out new runs down the mountain, challenging and developing their skills and confidence. Before long it was evening, and the atmosphere was buzzing, as it was time for students to be given their awards for the week- a fun and celebratory way to round off the trip. To make things even better, we had a surprise visit from the local carnival performers, which left us all both shocked and entertained.

Before leaving on the Friday, we travelled back to Axamer for a final ski down the mountain. Although it was another great morning on the slopes, it was bittersweet as there was a lingering sadness on the bus back to the hotel, as the trip began



Ski Trip 2025

to come to an end. After a whirlwind of packing and organising (special thanks to Mr. Mandin for keeping everyone in check), we finally made it on the bus ready for our long journey home. Fortunately for Mr .Armstrong, the infamous speaker was less popular on the way back as everyone was exhausted by the adventures of the week. Soon, before we knew it, we were back in Dover feeling like we'd just left.

Overall, the 2025 ski trip to Austria was an unforgettable week full of fun, adventure and excitement. A huge thank you to all who were involved, both teachers and students, not forgetting our wonderful coach drivers, who helped us so much. If you are considering joining the fun next year, pro skier or not, take it from us: don't miss out!

Faith Grant and Maelle Cavalec



Nancy Evans, GCSE Art

Morocco Summer 2024

When we stepped off the plane in Marrakesh, the first thing that hit us was the stifling heat. For as long as we stayed in the city, the temperature barely dropped below 40°C, with the mountains not offering much relief. The first item on our agenda was to find some good food. One short bus trip through the bustling city centre later, we climbed the stairs to a quaint rooftop restaurant with a stunning view over the central mosque (the Koutoubia), backlit by the setting sun. Hours later, we arrived at our hotel, the Islane, and turned in for the night. The next day, after a hearty buffet breakfast in the rooftop bar, our tour guide Abdul led us out on a horse-drawn carriage tour of the city with special attention to the old school and Mosque Ben Youssef. After one more trip to the rooftop restaurant for lunch, we loaded up the coach and set off to the High Atlas Mountains. Tired as we were, the real adventure was only just beginning.

The hiking adventure began in a ski resort at over 2,000m above sea level, before 6 in the morning. This early start was accentuated by the previous evening's activities – watching England's agonising defeat to Spain in the Euros Final in the back of a small café. Being up early helped to beat the worst of the heat but led to breakfast in the pitch black and a start to the hike still very much in the shadows of the surrounding peaks. After shaking off some local merchants, we attacked the first peak of 3,120m, which gave way to a lush green valley and turned out to be the perfect place for our large picnic lunch, which we would become accustomed to over the next six days. We set off again, over some lower peaks and paths which

were destroyed by the previous year's earthquake.

The next gite would be the hardest night of the trip, with us all confined to tents. Luckily, the temperature did not drop too low and we were up early again to pass the highest peak of the entire expedition. After a few hours, we finally reached the peak at 3,250m and bought some cold drinks from a local blind man, who makes his living on top of the mountain selling to trekkers.

What followed was a long and winding descent through fields of goats and, after a quick stop for lunch on a green patch and some well-deserved sleep, we finally reached a valley and our third gite. This one was a favourite, being nice and cool with plenty of space on the roof, perfect for evening yoga sessions to ease some tired legs.

The next day was a shorter walk so it was a slightly later start, leaving time for a more relaxed breakfast. By now, we were used to the breakfasts of delicious fresh bread and some local varieties of spreads, such as jam and chocolate. There were also plenty of drinks, not only hot chocolate and coffee but some local favourites such as mint tea and sleepy tea. After a hearty breakfast and a short walk through a forest at the bottom of the valley, we summited the day's mountain and had a quick break at the top in a small hut, where we could buy some more drinks and take a break from the heat. One good lunch later, we climbed a small hill and arrived at the gite we would be calling home for the next two nights.

This was the most colourful and decorated gite of all those we stayed at, and it came with an abundance of cats, but also an unfortunate case of illness among the expeditioners. However, spirits remained

high as we busied ourselves with games of cards and other activities to pass the time. The next day we headed into the local town of Imlil, which prides itself on being the tourist hub of the Toubkal National Park. There we had a photo competition to get a taste of the local life and culture of the bustling town, along with meeting the memorable character of "Muhammad Robin Hood II." What followed was a fiercely competitive judgement of photos, with the winners awarded some decorative placemats. However, the next night would be full of surprises, with a massive wedding party going right past our gite at well after midnight.

A few hours of sleep later, the penultimate day of walking was upon us, and it was due to be a big one. However, the hike would take close to 3 hours less than forecast as we pushed on, keeping motivated with rousing renditions of classics such as Jerusalem and California Girls. We arrived at our final gite just in time for a late lunch and some well-deserved sleep, before afternoon activities consisting of haircuts and some more keenly-anticipated yoga.

By now, all cases of illness had been eradicated and the entire company was back together for the final day of walking. Despite the previous day's antics, energy was high, and we reached the final restaurant in plenty of time for lunch and to wish farewell to our cooks and Abdul, the donkey herder, who had carried some of our equipment for the week. Even with the walking behind us, the coach ride back into Marrakesh was eventful, with our bus being stopped by the police.

After this little distraction, we left the towering peaks of the High Atlas Mountains and returned to the plains of central

Morocco. The mood was not dampened, however, as upon arrival we headed straight to the hotel and immediately after, the pool, which had been a common topic of conversation for a few days by now. Another local dinner was served in the hotel, and soon after we turned in for the night, but not before reminiscing about the wonders of the mountains we had trekked through.

Breakfast the next morning was a leisurely affair and after a full schedule, the rest was very much enjoyed. The morning's activity was to be a shopping trip through the Souks and after a hard few hours of haggling, some pizza, and one final walking tour of the city, we were back in the pool for another few hours of relaxation. Dinner that evening was back in the restaurant we started in all those nights ago when we first arrived with more local musicians performing and gorgeous Moroccan cuisine. There, we thanked and wished farewell to our guides Ann and Mustafa and had one final walk through the old city back to the hotel for the final night of our trip. The next morning, we all left the hotel in matching Hakimi shirts and stocked up on food at the local Carrefour before boarding the plane to return to the welcoming sight of The King's School and home. Thank you to all those who helped make this a memorable and wonderful experience.

Harry Tozer Year 12

The King's School Sailing Club 2025

September 2024 began with six sailors successfully completing their RYA Stage 1 course on Friday evenings, alongside our regular sailing sessions. We celebrated the end of the season in November with a family meal at the Farmer's Arms in Yaxley. Over 70 people gathered to enjoy the meal and celebrate the end-of-season awards. Mollie Gordon and Omer Kemel were jointly awarded the Garner Cup for the Most Enthusiastic Sailor and have just become our new Sailing Club prefects. George Knight received the David Runacres Memorial Sailing Shield for Improvement, and Harriet Barber was honoured with The Commander Willis Steadfast Award.

In the summer, another six sailors achieved their RYA Stage 3 certification and we bid farewell to our fantastic Sixth Form prefect, Lauren Attwell. With her exceptional sailing skills and qualifications, Lauren led many of our Friday night teaching sessions on the water. Our activities are made possible by the dedication of volunteers, including parents. We are especially grateful to Mrs. Stevenson, who organized a shoreside BBQ in June, where over 40 sailors and their families stayed to socialize and enjoy the warm summer evening together. We also appreciate Mr. Marsland, who regularly drives one of the buses to Nene Park, ensuring our sailors arrive on time, and Mr. Scaife, who assists us on Fridays whenever he can, even though his own children left King's in 2018.

This past winter, we had to replace and repair the Argo dinghy hulls and undertake numerous other repairs and replacements across our fleet. Despite these challenges, we still manage to put 20 craft on the

water each week, accommodating over 40 members of all ages.

Mrs. Gray



Sailing briefing, Friday night



BBQ fun

KS3 Gardening Club

Planting the Seeds of Success: A Very Cultivated Club

This year saw the ground-breaking launch of the Key Stage 3 Gardening Club, and we mean that quite literally. Whether they were digging into science or sprucing up the school, our young horticulturists certainly earned their green thumbs.

The Club has ambitious aims: the raised beds have been growing plants to support the science labs: from garlic and onions for plant cell study, rhubarb for chemical reactions and potatoes to demonstrate osmosis; our Club proved that gardening isn't just about soil—it's about science, too.

Beyond the labs, members branched out to beautify the school grounds. Thanks to their dedication, colourful planters now brighten up the entrance to learning support, and a few new bulbs out front have added a splash of seasonal flair, but it's not just the plants that have blossomed—so has school spirit.

One of the sweetest parts of this initiative? Students were encouraged to take plants home and grow their own gardens. Strawberries have been a fruitful favourite and the spring bulbs were a blooming success.

So hats off (or gardening gloves on) to the KS3 Gardening Club. From roots to results, these pupils have turned our campus into a lab, a garden, and a place to grow—in every sense.

Mrs. McTavish



Illuminate Tour

The Illuminate Tour

The Illuminate Tour is a nationwide tour which partners with schools and churches to raise the aspirations of young people and inspires them to be closer to God. On Wednesday 13th November, The King's School were lucky to be a part of this tour and welcome some of the speakers and singers from the tour group.

The school day started as normal, but during periods 5 and 6, Year 8 were led to the Sports Hall to begin the session. The session itself was an absolute blast - full of dancing, raving and a dash of seriousness. The people who came were from the Christian bands LZ7 and SAINTS, and they were very energetic and ready to give us the time of our lives. They started by saying who they were and how the session would play out. Immediately, in a flash, we all stood up and bounced and sang a couple of amazing songs that were full of powerful lyrics! Then, the speakers led a head-banging contest and amazingly... they picked me! Even more amazingly, I won a free ticket to the concert that they were holding at KingsGate Community Church. The rest of the session was full

of joy, partying and an extremely heart-wrenching story with an uplifting ending.

The thing I enjoyed most was definitely coming together with all my friends and having the time of our lives raving, singing and dancing!

During the session, I learnt that God loves you and that you can fulfil your own destiny no matter what. This was really great to hear, and I was moved by the other powerful messages that really resonated with me and my friends.

On Friday 15th November, I attended the concert at KingsGate Church and joined together with people I had never met before, as we all bounced up and down to the music! In that moment I suddenly realized how much of an incredible community we have as Christians! It was just a brilliant night, and even my grandad enjoyed it too!

If the Illuminate Tour came back to school, I would definitely look forward to it, it would be great to experience this incredibly thought-provoking adventure again and would be great to see younger students experience it in the same way that I did!

Finlay Gibson, Year 8

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day

As the Youth MP of Peterborough, I had the opportunity to speak at the Holocaust Memorial Day at St. John's Church on 27th January. This event has been held throughout the world in commemoration of the horrific tragedy which occurred 80 years ago.

It was my privilege to speak amongst the dignitaries to a large audience and an opportunity to remember and honour the millions of lives lost in this catastrophe. I heard the stories of the holocaust survivors, who endured unimaginable cruelty and

rebuilt their lives with strength and hope. Their stories taught me that even when faced with overwhelming evil, we should have the power to choose compassion, hope and courage.

The theme of this year's commemoration, 'For a Better Future', inspires us to build a brighter future not just for ourselves but for generations to come. I would like to share the inspiration I have drawn from the day and remind ourselves to live with kindness in our hearts, celebrate diversity and treat every life with dignity.

Pranav Aggarwal 10LMP



Jasmine Knight, A-level Art

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award - Assessed Expedition

After working tirelessly to complete their skills, physical and volunteering sections and assessor's reports, the Year 10 DofE students embarked on their final expedition on Friday 13th June.

The two-day expedition took place in the beautiful countryside around Thurning, Northamptonshire, where students were challenged to navigate their way through unfamiliar terrain while carrying all their supplies and camping overnight. Despite one downpour and a few sore feet, spirits remained high and each team demonstrated the core DofE values of perseverance, cooperation and independence.

After a long first day, students enjoyed setting up their tents and cooking using Trangias. Whilst the most popular meal was pasta, a range of rice and noodle dishes were also consumed.

After a reasonably uninterrupted night's sleep, students woke with another long day of walking ahead of them. Tents were quickly and efficiently put away, with groups departing as early as 8.00 am. Despite one group getting lost in a field and another being chased by a herd of cows, Day Two was yet again successful, bringing an end to six months of hard work and team spirit from all twenty-six students participating.

Euan Over, Y10



OPA and Archive History

Congratulations to Old Petriburgian, Professor Andrew Gower

Congratulations to Professor Andrew Gower on his appointment in April 2025 as Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive of Lincoln Bishop University. Lincoln Bishop University is the new name of Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln.

Andrew was a student at The King's School Peterborough between 1983 and 1990, and a Cathedral Chorister. At the time, his father, Christopher Gower, was Master of Music at Peterborough Cathedral.

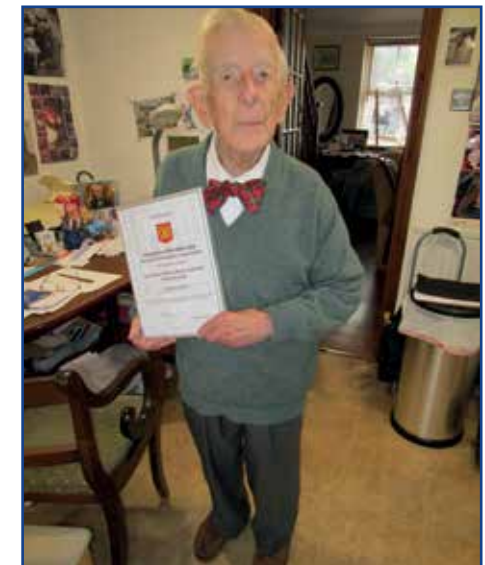
From King's, Andrew moved on to study Music at Canterbury Christ Church University, where he later taught Music. After a time in senior leadership at East Kent College, Broadstairs, Andrew moved to be Principal and CEO of Morley College in London for 10 years, before taking up his current position.

We wish him every success!



Langford Smith

Langford appears in the annals of the Old Petriburgians' Association as becoming a Committee Member in September 1956! And he still is today, having given almost 70 years unbroken sterling service throughout that time. Now in his 90s, he has decided that attending Committee meetings is no longer feasible, but his fellow Committee members felt that a meeting would not be the same without him, at least in spirit. Hence, he has been appointed an Honorary Committee Member, and our Vice Chairman, Trevor Elliott, called by to present him with his framed certificate. Well done, and many thanks, Langford!



John Edward Crisp 1931-2025.

John Crisp died in Peterborough Hospital on 10 June 2025 at the age of 93, following a short illness. He was born at 'The Still' in Cumbergate on 21 July 1931. His father, Douglas, ran the family business (Edward Crisp Ltd, Wine Merchants); his mother, Doris, was greatly involved with the All-England Lawn Tennis championships at Wimbledon for many years. (The surname Crisp occurs in numerous ancient records of the Cathedral and city of Peterborough; there is a mention of a John Crispe, one of the lay clerks at the Minster, as far back as 1548).

John joined The King's School Junior School in 1938. His schooldays at King's were relatively uneventful: he appears not to have been involved in any extra-curricular activities during the difficult war years owing to the fact that he was very short-sighted. On leaving King's in 1945 he attended a boarding school in the north of England; this was not a happy period of his life. He then passed on to Durham University, where he read Physics and Geology. After graduation, he did his National Service with the Royal Army Signal Corps. He began his career by working with a large London wine importer where he learned all aspects of the business. Whilst working in the capital he met Eunice; they married in 1958 and later had two daughters, Helen and Susan. John and Eunice moved from London in the late 'fifties and relocated to Peterborough, due to his father's failing health. He took over the reins at 'The Still' and ran the family business for more than thirty years, maintaining the traditional atmosphere of the bar which was renowned for its real

ales.

In his spare time, John was a member of the Peterborough Mask Theatre and made countless stage props for various productions. He was also involved in creating and painting sets, as well as supervising lighting. He was an indispensable Stage Manager for the society and was the company's Treasurer for many years. In addition, he was at one time Commodore of the Peterborough Yacht Club. For many seasons, he took part in the weekly dinghy sailing races against other clubs. Eunice, who – like her husband – was greatly involved with amateur dramatics in the city, died in 2020. We extend our sympathy to John's daughters and his grandchildren.

Tim Hurst-Brown.

Aubrey James Dudley 1935 – 2025

Born in Newborough, Aubrey was the eldest of 3 boys, Geoffrey and Francis. He attended The King's School from September 1946 to December 1952. He liked school, excelling in sport all through his school life. He held the junior high-jump record and represented the School in the middle and senior events. He played hockey for the 1st team and also cricket, an unbeaten side in 1951. He was captain of the 1st XV rugby team in 1952, also unbeaten. As far as he was aware, they were still the only school rugby team with the number of games played to be unbeaten to this day! The majority of the team and their wives, along with the two Welsh rugby masters, Ray Williams and Berian Edwards, met up again a few times, including the 50th and 60th anniversaries. In the Sixth Form Aubrey

Derek Hyatt 1937-2025

Derek was born in Orpington, Kent, and moved to Peterborough at the start of the Second World War, to live at 71, Park Road. He joined The King's School Junior Department in 1944. When he left the Sixth Form in July 1955, he went on to King's College London to study Medicine (and Theology, on the side) and graduated from Westminster Medical School in 1966. His distinguished career in medicine, included time at St. Thomas's (London), Leicester General and Kingston hospitals, before in 1976 becoming the new Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Ashford Hospital, Middlesex, where he remained for the rest of his career, alongside his Harley Street practice. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and the College of Gynaecology and Obstetrics.

In 1966 Derek married Niki whom he had met while skiing in Austria; they went on to have four children.

When Derek passed away in November 2024, his family presented a range of his memorabilia to The King's School Archives. These have allowed us to piece together a fascinating, detailed picture of him at School, and since, and of the School in the 1950s.



Here we see his school uniform, with blazer, tie, cap and boater.



Aubrey with his school-friends, Bob Broadhead (left) and Geoff Glover on the occasion of their visit to King's in 2017.

was a prefect and House Captain of St Chad's. On his last day at The King's School, the whole school attended Peterborough Cathedral where Aubrey read the lesson.

In March 1953 he was called for National Service and joined the Grenadier Guards, stationed at Wellington Barracks, near Buckingham Palace and then in Berlin, Germany. Aubrey joined the Metropolitan Police in May 1955, later moving to Traffic Division and serving in various locations in Buckinghamshire and Berkshire, rising to the rank of Chief Inspector and on one occasion meeting Queen Elizabeth II.

This is an extract from Aubrey's eulogy, with thanks to his family.

Trevor Elliott



The King's School was home to the first-ever troop of Boy Scouts in Peterborough, the 1st Soke of Peterborough, King's School. This is commemorated with a plaque in Central Park, and the flag is in the King's School Archives Collection.



Derek was very active in this group (second from right), and we have his full scout uniform, with shorts, lemon-squeezer hat,

compass and whistle.



On the sporting front, Derek (back row, second from left) played for the 1st XV Rugby team in 1953 and 1954.



Derek continued his love of rugby throughout his life. He was involved with the Weybridge Vandals XV as a player and supporter, and was a regular visitor to Twickenham, later serving as a steward. He took a similar role at the 2012 Olympics. He was also a keen and accomplished sailor and participated in the Fastnet Race.

He was always a keen gardener and chef and, with Niki, travelled the world, often lecturing professionally as he went.

But his greatest love was Rowing. He represented the School at many competitions, including the internationally-known, Henley Regatta, under the guidance of the Headmaster and keen rower, Cecil Harrison. In 1955, our 1st Rowing IV won the Peterborough Regatta, as well as the Huntingdon, the Derby and Boston Regattas, and were considered the best school crew in the Midlands (Derek, far right). The team is on the School's Honours Boards.



Throughout his life, he returned regularly in his King's uniform to enjoy the Henley Royal Regatta! Here, with his son, Andrew.



The School is very grateful to the Hyatt family for everything they have donated, including the uniform and photos. The Scout uniform is the only example known still to be in existence. The hat, the reader may spot, has damage to the rim. Archives volunteer, Mr. Alan Peasgood, has prepared a submission to the TV programme, 'The Repair Shop', in the hope of getting the item repaired. It remains to be seen whether this will be returned to its full former glory! We can only hope!

Trevor Elliott and Alan Peasgood

David Charles Holbrook Witt 1932-2022.

We have only just learned of the death of David Witt, who passed away on 3 October 2022 at the age of 90. He was admitted to the Junior School in September 1939 at the age of seven, having previously been at a private school in Park Road. He ultimately became a school prefect and was one of Leonard Elcombe's ablest pupils. In 1949,

at the age of seventeen, he was awarded an Open Exhibition in Classics at Magdalen College, Oxford. Following National Service, he went up to university in 1952. However, after graduating David decided he did not want to spend his life teaching Latin and Greek, so he returned to Oxford to study Engineering, completing his degree in just two years. He was a Lecturer and Fellow of Merton College from 1959-1999. For twenty-five years he was also a consultant to Ferranti in Edinburgh (now part of BAE Systems). He served as Secretary of the Society of Oxford University Engineers (now Oxford Engineering Alumni) from 2004-2009. His engineering interests spanned electrical, electronics, and control, to final year projects building pedal-boats. After retiring David was appointed emeritus fellow of Merton. He continued to assist with teaching for a while and was heavily involved with the alumni association. His two elder daughters also studied Engineering at Oxford. Shortly after Roseanne, his wife of fifty years, died he suffered a stroke and later died in a care home. He is survived by his three daughters, to whom we offer our belated sympathy.

Tim Hurst-Brown OP

The Tom Mann Foundation

The Tom Mann Foundation was established in memory of a truly remarkable individual—a passionate footballer, dedicated member of the community, and beloved friend. Tom Mann, who left the King's School in 2015, tragically passed away at the age of 27 in an accident, but his legacy lives on through the work of this foundation.

Tom's love for football began before he could even walk. On the day he was born, he was pictured with a football in his hospital bed. From that moment on, football was his life. As soon as he could walk, he was kicking a ball, and by the age of 6, he was already playing with his dad in the garden. Tom's commitment to the game was unwavering. One cold November night, while playing with his dad in the dark, Tom famously replied, "Come on, Dad, just five more minutes — you know football is my life." That passion for the game never wavered, and it stayed with him until his final moments.

Tom grew up in Ketton, Rutland, where he played competitive football for Ketton FC from the age of 6 through to the Men's First



Team. Over the years, he also played for Stamford AFC, Deeping Rangers, Bourne Town, and Huntingdon FC. His football journey continued into university, where he played for Nottingham University, while pursuing a Law degree. After graduating, Tom began a promising legal career with a London firm, all the while continuing to

play for CSKA FC, a local team in Clapham, London. Since his passing, Tom's former team, and one of their biggest league rivals have both retired the number 10 shirt in his honour.

Those who played alongside Tom describe him as not just a great footballer, but a truly exceptional person. His teammates recall how his talent on the pitch was matched only by his character off it:



OPA and Archive History

"It's rare you come across someone in life who doesn't have a bad bone in their body. Tom Mann was exactly that—the lad was a diamond."

"I'm immensely proud to say I wore the same shirt as Tom, not least as it means I didn't need to defend against him."

Tom was also an avid football fan. A lifelong Arsenal supporter and Lionel Messi admirer, he could often be found at Arsenal home games or traveling to Barcelona to catch Messi in action. His love for Arsenal was so profound that he even chose to live in the iconic Highbury Stadium in his final years.

Tom's impact went beyond the pitch. He was deeply involved with local charities, organising food collections, charity runs, and coffee mornings for causes such as Age UK. His generous spirit and love for his community continue to inspire those who knew him.

After Tom's passing, his family and friends knew that his legacy should be one that empowers the next generation of footballers, nurtures talent, and supports local grassroots football. The Tom Mann Foundation was born out of this belief, with a mission to make the beautiful game more accessible to all.

George Mann



Isla Mackie, A-level Art



Amelia Demkiewicz A-level Art