



King's Magazine



Easter Issue 2025/26

THE HEAD MASTER

Dear Students, Parents, and Carers,

What a short but packed term this has been. It feels like only yesterday that we returned from Half Term, and already the Easter Vacation is upon us.

It has been a term filled with opportunity and achievement. As you will read in the following pages, there have been outstanding results in the sciences, national debating success, memorable trips, and enrichment across every department. The House Awards were another occasion where we came together to celebrate the ideals we promote, and it was wonderful to read the stories of students recognised for their demonstration of the school values.

This year's UCAS figures speak for themselves. With 95% of Year 13 submitting applications and 93% choosing at least one Russell Group university, the ambition of our Sixth Form continues to grow. Thirty one students applied to Oxford or Cambridge, and ten received offers, a success rate of 32%. I am proud that this culture of aspiration extends to every learner, regardless of background.

Our debaters have had an extraordinary term. Ted Kenny and Lydia Sherwood of KGGS won the gold final at the Nottingham University Schools' Debating Competition, while Tanay Saravanan and Dhiraj Vijayaraj finished third out of fifty six teams at the Cambridge Regional, securing a place at the Cambridge Finals. Head Boy Oli Calder and Alex Gleed went one further still, winning the State Schools' Final at the Oxford Union, a truly historic achievement. Henry Apps, Thomas Mitchell, and Tanay Saravanan continue to build on our success in the ESU Schools' Mace, and for the first time we entered the International Competition for Young Debaters at Cambridge, giving our Key Stage 3 and 4 students invaluable experience on a national stage.

On the sports field, Ben Shearn and Henry Dolan delivered outstanding results at the Lincolnshire Swimming County Championships, Bobby Short won the Nottinghamshire County Championships for table tennis, and Jeremy Chan became Regional Fencing Champion in the East Midlands. The U13 and U14 7s squads won the county competition at Market Rasen, and the Second XI football team won the B Cup final. Forty five students also enjoyed a fantastic ski trip to Austria over half term. In the sciences, four biologists achieved Gold in the British Biology Olympiad, placing them in the top 5% nationally from a field of eighteen thousand, while our physicists excelled in the Intermediate Physics Challenge with eleven Gold Awards. The Ogden Trust partnership continues to inspire our younger scientists, and the Library's celebration of reading has seen students collectively read over one hundred and thirty million words this academic year.

One of the highlights of the term was the Newton Lecture, delivered by Professor Miles Padgett OBE FRS, Kelvin Chair of Natural Philosophy at the University of Glasgow. Professor Padgett is one of the world's leading researchers in optics and the angular momentum of light. A Fellow of the Royal Society and recipient of both the Rumford Medal and the Max Born Award, his work spans from fundamental physics to pioneering applications in imaging and sensing. It was a privilege to welcome him, and his lecture was a powerful reminder that the science our students encounter in the classroom connects directly to the very frontier of human knowledge.

Education at King's extends far beyond the classroom, and this issue reflects only a fraction of what goes on here each day. Thank you for your continued support, and I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

Have a very Happy Easter.



Simon Pickett, Head Master



The PTFA

The Parents, Teachers, Friends Association brings parents, carers, staff, and friends together to enrich daily life for students at King's. The funds we raise go directly into the extras that make a real difference across the school community.

ChocFest

The highlight of this term was ChocFest, held on 30 March, which raised £398. We would like to extend a huge thank you to parents and carers for their kind and generous donations of Easter eggs, chocolate bars, and other treats, which helped make the event such a sweet success. We are enormously grateful to everyone who donated, supported, and attended.

Save the Date

Please save the date for this year's Ball, which will take place on Saturday 10 October. We look forward to sharing more details in due course and hope it will be another wonderful occasion for our school community.

Supporting School Life

This term, we have been delighted to provide funding towards the Warhammer Club, as well as rugby, American football, and the House Awards — all of which play a valued part in the life of the school.

Stay Connected

You can follow us on

- ◇ Facebook (@kingsptfa)
- ◇ Instagram (@kingsgranhamptfa)

for updates on events and news throughout the year.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter break.

The PTFA Committee

- Wave-particle duality
- Wave interference for single particles
- Role of the observer in determination of outcome
- What Einstein DIDN'T like about quantum mechanics
- What do modern experiments support?
- What is my interest in this?



10/11/2020



The Newton Lecture 2026



The Newton Lecture



Does God play dice with Nature?

It is one of the most profound questions in the history of science, and it was the question that brought Professor Miles Padgett OBE FRS to King's this term to deliver the 2026 Newton Lecture.

Professor Padgett holds the Kelvin Chair of Natural Philosophy at the University of Glasgow and is a Royal Society Research Professor, the Society's most prestigious research appointment. A Fellow of the Royal Society since 2014, he has received the Rumford Medal, the Max Born Award of the Optical Society, the Young Medal of the Institute of Physics, and the Kelvin Medal of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, among many other distinctions. He was appointed OBE in 2020 for services to scientific research and outreach. His research group at Glasgow is internationally recognised for pioneering work on the fundamental properties of light, including optical tweezers and the angular momentum of light and for applications in imaging, quantum communication, and sensing that push at the very boundaries of what is physically possible.

His lecture, took Einstein's famous refusal to accept quantum randomness as its starting point. Einstein's discomfort with a Universe governed by probability rather than certainty gave rise to some of the most productive arguments in the history of science, including the Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen paradox, which challenged whether quantum mechanics could possibly be a complete description of reality.

Students heard from a scientist who has not merely studied these questions at a distance, but who counts among his personal friends Professor Anton Zeilinger, awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2022 for his groundbreaking experiments with entangled photons and his work on quantum entanglement. It is a connection that sits at the very heart of the lecture's theme.

The thought that another King's student might one day stand in that same tradition was not presented as fantasy, but as a genuine aspiration. His lecture offered not only a masterclass in quantum physics but a deeply personal argument for why pursuing fundamental questions, even those that seem impossibly abstract, can lead to the most revolutionary science.

We are enormously grateful to Professor Padgett for giving his time so generously, and for the inspiring reminder he left with every student in the room that the Universe is stranger, more beautiful, and more surprising than anything Einstein was willing to accept.





Combined Cadet Force

It has been an extremely busy and productive term for everyone involved in the CCF, and there is much to celebrate.

On the Master Cadet front, one cadet has been selected for the April course, with another placed on the reserve list, and a further two cadets have been selected and referred to Frimley Park for the August courses. The Contingent has

now completed both of its one-day training events at Wyville and Stoke Rochford. SSI Pulfrey and I are currently reviewing all results, and we are pleased to report that several cadets have successfully completed their basic training, with only a small number needing to finalise their Skill at Arms qualification. The level of achievement has been very encouraging throughout.

Three cadets who supported instructional delivery at Wyville and Stoke Rochford have completed their Junior Cadet Instructors Cadre, earning their three-star qualification and making them eligible for the four-star Senior Cadet Instructors Cadre run by Brigade. Our RAF CCF cadets have also trained exceptionally well, and their results are likewise under review.



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The CCF have had
another excellent term
with many outstanding
achievements.



We were also delighted to welcome back a former cadet who is now beginning his Officer training at Sandhurst. Having achieved a first-class degree at university, he spoke passionately about the value of an Army Officer career — an inspiring testament to what commitment to the CCF can lead to. Looking ahead, gliding is set to return for the RAF Section for the first time in some time, and we hope flying wings will follow shortly.

One of the term's undoubted highlights was a visit to RAF Waddington, where eight of our CCF cadets had the incredible opportunity

to observe aircraft taking part in the NATO Exercise Cobra Warrior. They spent time up close with some remarkable aircraft, including a Hawk T1 from the Red Arrows, a Protector RG Mk1 drone, a German Eurofighter Typhoon, and a Polish F-16, as well as meeting the crews who operate them. A truly unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

We have forty places available for the Army Summer Camp at Beckingham in July 2026. Cadets wishing to attend should speak to SSI Pulfrey as soon as possible.

A final request: students who have left the CCF and still hold loaned uniform are asked to please return it to the CCF office so that it can be used by other cadets.

R M OGG BEM
Lt Col CCF
Contingent Commander
The King's School CCF



British Biology Olympiad

In January, Year 13 Biology students took part in the British Biology Olympiad, a demanding national competition involving two papers that test knowledge, understanding and problem-solving in challenging biological contexts.

I am pleased to report that a large number of our students achieved awards. Particularly notable were the performances of Zikiu Ho, Oliver Fawke, Ananthu Prakash and Vaed Tumurogoti, who all achieved Gold. This places them in the

top 5% of the 18,000 students who entered nationally, and qualifies them for further rounds that may lead to selection for international competition.

In total, our students achieved: 4 Gold, 5 Silver, 3 Bronze, 2

Highly Commended and 5 Commended. All students should be enormously proud of their achievements!

Mrs M Haywood - Teacher of Biology



Intermediate Physics Challenge (BPho)

During the second week of February, a group of Year 11 students took part in the Intermediate Physics Challenge, a national competition set by the University of Oxford. The online competition comprised two thirty-minute tests of twenty questions each, covering all areas of Physics from the GCSE course.

We have now received the results, and our students achieved five Bronze Awards, twenty-nine Silver Awards, and eleven Gold Awards.

All students are to be congratulated for their effort and commitment, but special mention goes to the Gold Award recipients: Stan Berry, Senul Fernando, Daniel Harrison, Haaris Hussain, Reuben Izod, Jacob Kemp, Joel Paul, George Rajesh, Matas Rabasauskas, Aryan Rehman, and Leo Tatham.

Miss S Jones, Head of the Physics Department

66
11 Gold, 29
Silver and 5
Bronze



YEAR 8 PHYSICS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Year 8 students are invited to take part in the department's latest competition: a photography challenge on the theme of "Physics in Everyday Life." The photograph could capture a bridge or a building, an electrical device, or even your pet defying the laws of gravity. There are no limits to your creativity — but please do stay safe when taking your shot.

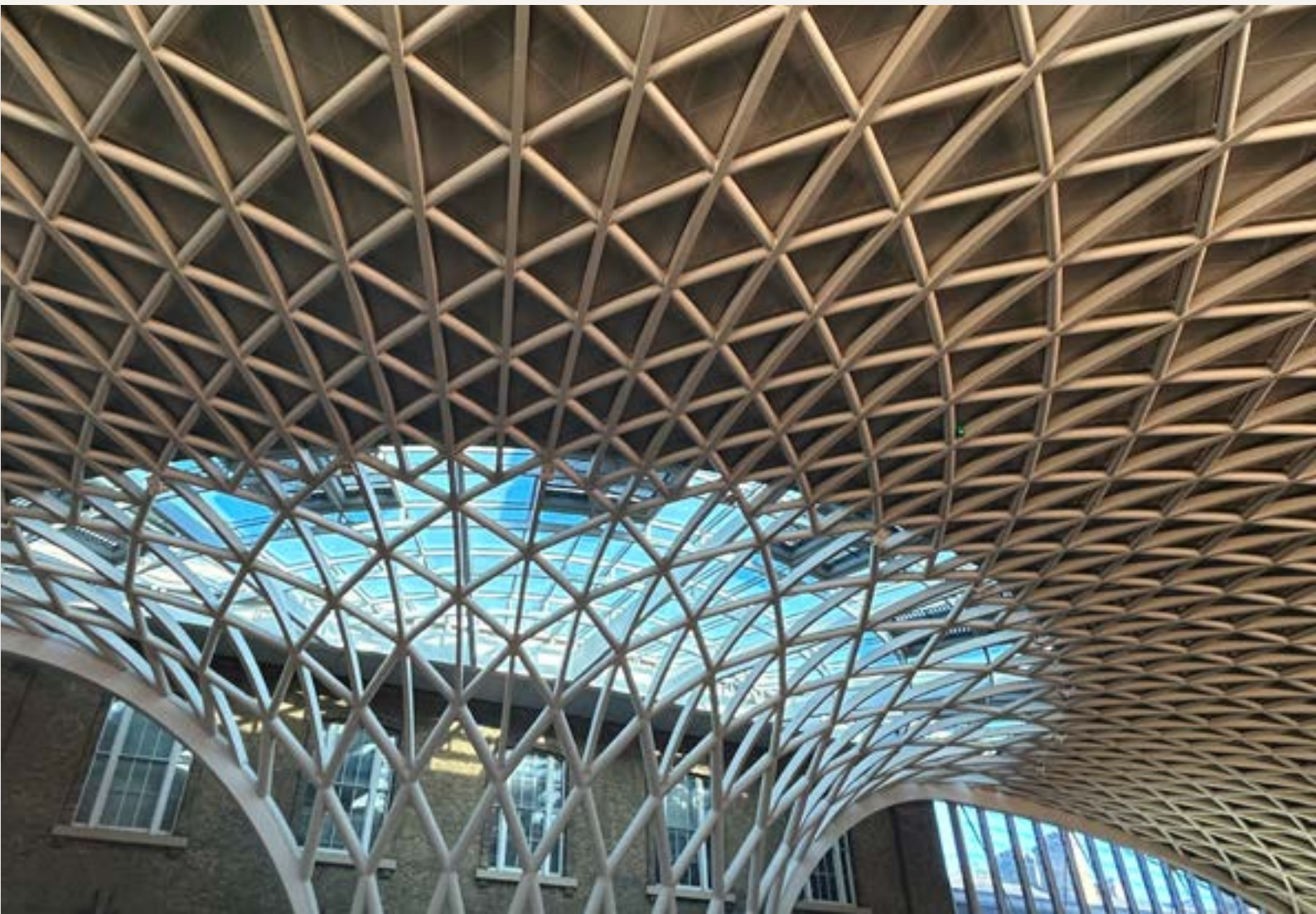
Full details have been emailed to students and parents. The deadline for entries is Friday 8 May 2026. We look forward to seeing what you find.

Winners from last year

Charlie Bartlett 8F - Far right

William Laird 8M- below

Miss S Jones - Head of Department for Physics





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Be as creative
as you can —
physics is all
around us

ENGLISH

The last two terms have been exceptionally busy and enriching in the English Department, filled with opportunities that have broadened students' cultural experience and deepened their academic understanding.

Year 13 — Hamlet at the Savoy, Grantham

On Wednesday 28 January, our Year 13 English Literature students attended a remarkable performance of Hamlet at the Savoy Theatre in Grantham. In an intimate private room setting, they watched Olivier Award-winner Hiran Abeysekera deliver a fearless, contemporary interpretation of Shakespeare's tragedy. The production challenged traditional perspectives and offered students fresh angles on the play's themes and characters — invaluable preparation as they approach their English Literature examinations.

A level Lectures from Dr Hallam

The academic momentum continued on Wednesday 4 February, when students benefited from an intensive two-and-a-half-hour lecture delivered by Dr Hallam, an Oxford University graduate and specialist in English Literature. Focusing on *A Streetcar Named Desire* and the odes of John Keats, the session offered insights that extended well beyond what is expected at A level. A rare opportunity to learn directly from an expert in the field — and one the boys seized with enthusiasm.

Year 11 Exam Preparation

Our Year 11 students have been working with great focus this term in preparation for their forthcoming English examinations. The Grade 9 Club continues to thrive, meeting three times a week and attracting a very strong turnout. These sessions have quickly become a highlight of the revision programme, offering targeted support and high-level discussion. Their commitment speaks volumes about their motivation and desire to succeed.

Mr M McLauchlan, Head of the English Department



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I was the judge
at the trial of
Charles I



History

On 10 and 11 March, Year 8 students visited the National Civil War Centre in Newark to support their learning about the Wars of the Three Kingdoms. The day included a gallery tour, a session on weapons and armour, a reenactment of the trial of Charles I, and a guided tour of Newark itself, during which students learned how the town's residents experienced the Civil War first-hand. Staff at the centre were engaging and knowledgeable, and our students behaved impeccably throughout. A superb day out for Year 8.

Mrs E McKenna - Head of the History Department

On Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 March, Year 8 students visited the National Civil War Centre in Newark to deepen our understanding of the events of August 1642 to September 1651.

The first part of our visit focused on artefacts found in the local area. These included the gorget, a piece of armour worn across the neck and chest for protection in close combat, and a cannonball fired by a Parliamentarian saker, a small cannon, which was discovered in the spire of St Mary's Church. We also had the opportunity to wear replica armour and learned how to load and fire muskets in under thirty seconds.

My favourite part was the court scene. I was cast as the judge as Charles I faced trial, and the mysterious appearance of a masked figure made the whole thing delightfully eerie. The king's refusal to enter a plea until the jury reached its verdict created real tension in the room. We then took a guided tour of Newark, taking in historic sites including the castle and St Mary's Church.

Our visit to the National Civil War Centre gave us an invaluable extra layer of understanding about how the Civil War shaped life in our own county. We thoroughly enjoyed every moment.

James McGhie (8F)

ROYAL ARMOURIES LEEDS

On 24 and 27 March, Year 9 students visited the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds to bring their First World War learning to life. Led through the experience of joining the Leeds Pals Battalion in 1915, students were put through their paces by Sergeant Gibbs, who drilled them and prepared them, at least in spirit, for life on the Western Front.

They also had the opportunity to handle authentic objects from the period, including uniforms, everyday items, and weapons, and watched a reenactment of the Battle of the Somme. Time in the wider galleries allowed students to explore the museum's remarkable collection at their own pace.

The Royal Armouries is the National Museum for Arms and Armour and holds thousands of objects spanning warfare from Ancient Greece and Rome to modern conflict. It is well worth a visit during the Easter holidays.

[Further information is available at the Royal Armouries website.](#)

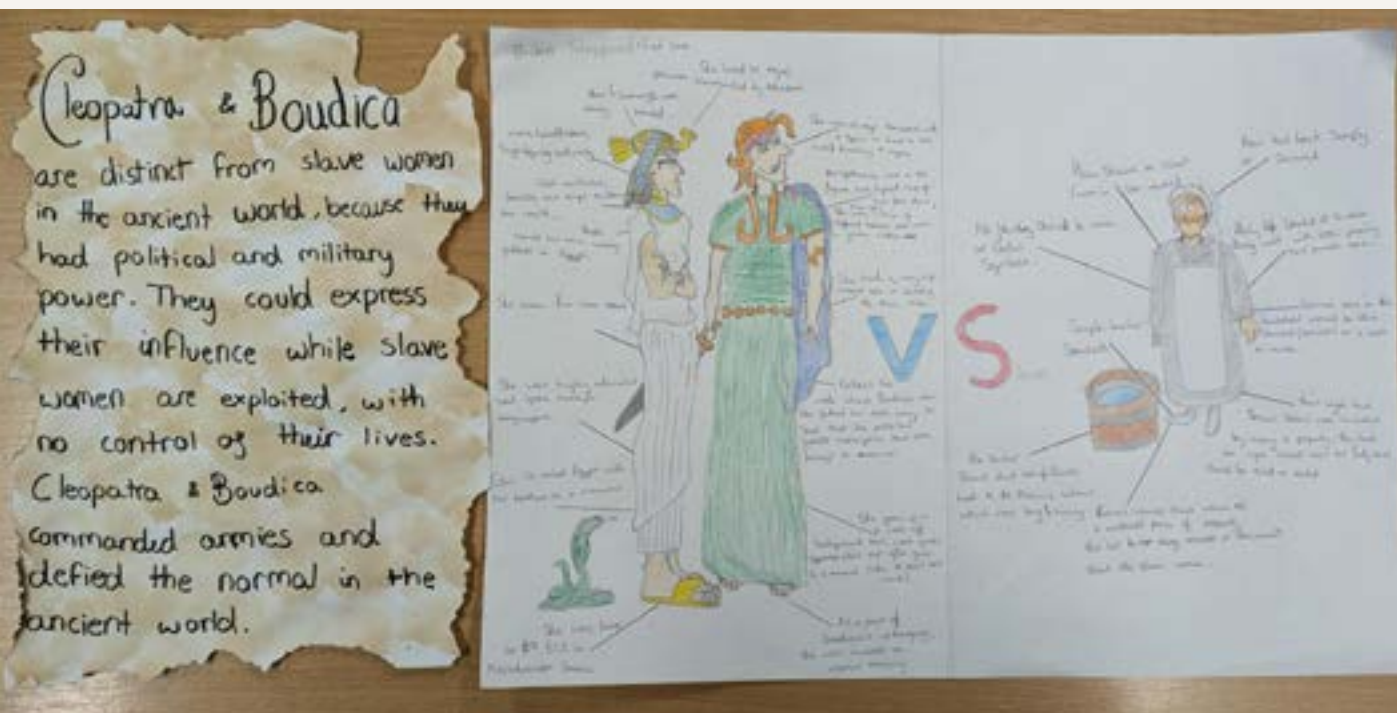
Mrs E McKenna - Head of the History Department

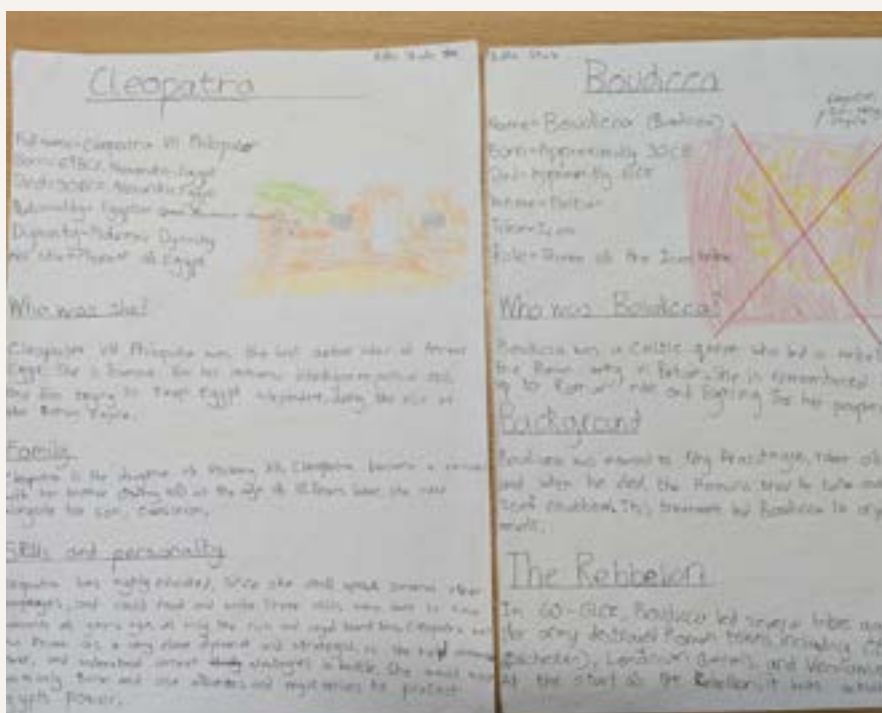


Classic Club

Classics Club students have had a busy and productive term, working on the Olympus Challenge and exploring the role of women in the Roman World. From the lives of ordinary women to extraordinary figures such as Boudica and Cleopatra, students in Years 7 and 8 have created some fabulous resources to demonstrate what they have learnt.

“It’s a great place to revise your knowledge, and have a bit of fun while we dive into the past





The Olympus Challenge is an initiative offered by Classics for All and partner universities. To qualify, students study and research three out of five topic areas. So far at King's, students have covered different aspects of the Roman World and are currently studying Classical Literature, beginning with Homer's Odyssey.

More details are available here: [Special Initiatives | classicsforall.org.uk](https://specialinitiatives.classicsforall.org.uk)

Mrs E McKenna - Head of the History Department

History Society

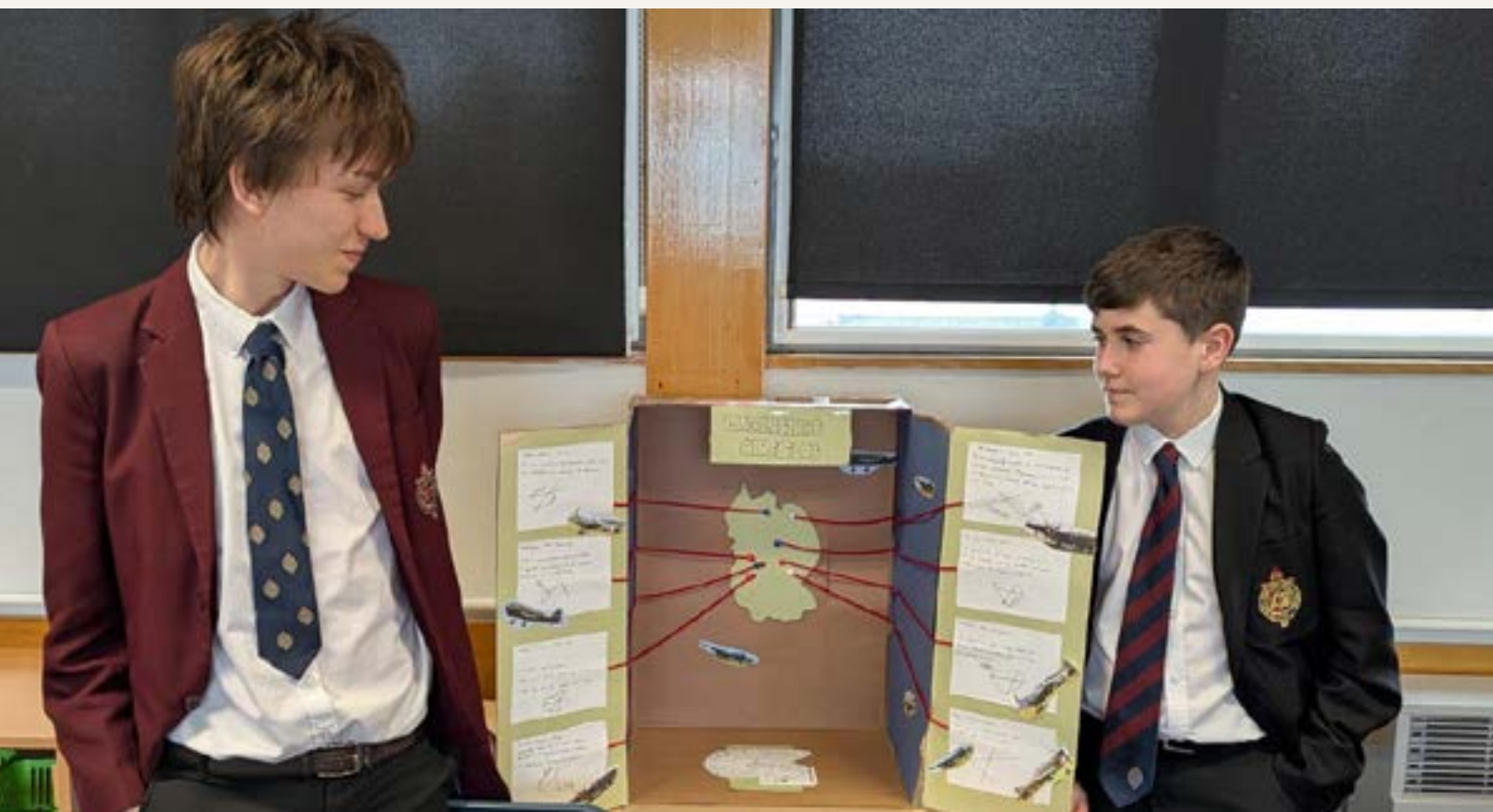
History Society students have been putting their research skills to impressive use this term, exploring Lincolnshire's rich aviation history. Thomas Christopher (Year 13) and Harry Redford (Year 7) collaborated to produce a wonderful mini-exhibition detailing some of Lincolnshire's historic wartime airfields, a topic that sits on our very doorstep.

During the Second World War, Lincolnshire housed some of the largest airfields in the country. It was home to the USAF, the RAF, and even the Polish Air Force. Some of these airfields supported operations on D-Day; others took part in Operation Market Garden or the Battle for the Rhine.

Aircraft stationed here ranged from Spitfires and Hurricanes to the Lancaster bomber. If you would like to find out more about Britain's air power during the Second World War, a visit to the [Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at RAF Coningsby](#) is highly recommended.

Thomas will be stepping down from his role leading History Society as he turns his attention to his A level studies. He has given a huge amount to the society, and his commitment and enthusiasm have been greatly valued. History Society will resume after Easter, run by Year 12 students Sam Kirkham, Max Goode, and Riley Hullott-Brookes. If you are interested in attending, please meet in room C201 on Monday lunchtimes at 1.05pm.

Mrs E McKenna, Head of the History Department





POLITICS

Year 12 A level Politics students enjoyed an enriching and memorable day in London at the beginning of term, with a unique opportunity to see the UK's democratic institutions up close. The centrepiece was Prime Minister's Questions, a raucous and energising introduction to the theatre of Westminster, with the group even managing a quick game of "Who's Who?" during the tour. Notable sightings included Ed Davey and a memorable chance encounter with Bridget Phillipson.

A highlight of the visit was a discussion with local MP Gareth Davies, who gave his time generously. Students asked a range of thoughtful, challenging, and well-informed questions, showing just how engaged they are with current political issues, and Mr Davies offered candid insights into life as a Member of Parliament and the realities of representing a constituency.

The group also visited the Supreme Court, exploring its impressive architecture and the vital role it plays at the apex of the UK's judicial system, before walking through historic Whitehall and

taking in key landmarks including the Cenotaph, the great offices of state, and the famous black door of 10 Downing Street.

The day concluded with the sight of multiple peaceful protests taking place around Parliament Square. For many students, this was a powerful reminder of the importance of political participation and free expression in a democratic society — and a fitting end to a day of living politics.

Miss J Ginnelly, Head of the Politics Department



Religious Education

"The opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world religious practice made for an enriching and memorable experience."

Year 10

Year 10 GCSE RE students recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to St Wulfram's Church in Grantham, where Father Stuart provided a guided tour and a thoughtful talk connecting the church's features to Christian beliefs and sacraments. Students deepened their understanding of baptism and holy communion within Christian life and worship, and Father Stuart was struck by the maturity and thoughtfulness of their questions. The visit offered a valuable opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world religious practice, and it was a memorable experience for everyone involved.

Mrs LGroom, Teacher of Religious Education and Sociology

Year 7

Year 7 students also visited St Wulfram's Church this term, exploring the building and its history in support of their Term 4 studies on Christianity, including worship and the significance of Easter. Walking around a church that has stood at the heart of Grantham for centuries brought the classroom curriculum to life in a way that no textbook alone can achieve.

Mrs C Cunningham, Head of Religious Education and Sociology

Debating

Oxford University Schools' Debating Competition

"From an initial field of over three thousand five hundred teams, King's stood at the top."

On Saturday 14 March 2026, Head Boy Oli Calder and Alex Gleed made history by winning the State Schools' Final of the University of Oxford Schools' Debating Competition.

Hosted at the prestigious Oxford Union, the finals brought together 228 of the finest speakers from 114 teams drawn from regional rounds across the world. From an initial field of over three thousand five hundred teams, Oli and Alex advanced through four challenging rounds, outperforming twenty-four state schools to reach the State Schools' Final, where they opposed the motion: "This House would rather be remembered as a villain than forgotten as a hero."

They won.

Their overall finish of 37th out of 125 teams at the finals reflects an outstanding individual performance, with Oli recording a score of 304 (36th of 250 speakers) and Alex 299 (63rd of 250 speakers) — the highest speaker scores the school has achieved at this competition.

Our sincere congratulations go to both

students, and our warmest thanks to Mrs Cunningham and Liz Tibbett, whose exceptional coaching and commitment have made this success possible.

Mrs C Cunningham, Head of Religious Education and Sociology





“exceptional results by any measure

Cambridge University Regional Schools Debating Competition

On Saturday 21 February, six King's students competed in the Cambridge Schools' Regional Debating Competition.

Tanay Saravanan and Dhiraj Vijayaraj delivered the outstanding performance of the day, finishing third out of fifty-six teams and securing a place in the Cambridge Finals. Their individual speaker scores of 20th and 14th out of 113 speakers were exceptional results by any measure. Ted Kenny subsequently competed in the online regional round on 28 February and secured a second Cambridge Finals spot for a joint King's and KGGS team.

The other King's students competing were Henry Apps, Maks Nowak, Tobias Simcock, and Ben Stanbury, all of whom performed with credit against a highly competitive field. The team were up early to catch a 6am train — a long day, but one everyone thoroughly enjoyed. It was a fantastic competition, with debate topics ranging from geopolitical economics to matters of royalty, and it was wonderful to see so many King's students testing themselves at this level.

Huge thanks, as always, to Mrs Cunningham for enabling and accompanying the team.

Benjamin Stanbury (12S)



Cambridge University Schools' Debating Finals

"The Cambridge Union has hosted world-renowned speakers
— and King's students more than held their own."



Ted Kenny, Tanay Saravanan, and Dhiraj Vijayaraj represented the school at the Cambridge Schools' Debating Finals, held in the historic Cambridge Union. Competing in four challenging rounds against some of the top schools in the country, all three students performed with considerable skill and confidence throughout.

Ted Kenny, competing alongside Lydia Sherwood of KGGS, broke through to the State School Final, where they proposed the motion: "This House prefers a world without organised religion." Although they did not take the overall title, reaching the final was a remarkable achievement and one the whole team can be proud of.

An added pleasure of the day was reconnecting with former King's debaters now studying at Cambridge — including Theo Flavin, Charlie Hatchman, Noah Koro, and Max Lygo — a reminder of the tradition of debating excellence the current team is building upon.

Mrs C Cunningham, Head of Religious Education and Sociology

The motions we faced were varied and genuinely demanding, ranging from "This House Believes that humanity should focus on adapting to the consequences of climate change rather than trying to restore the earth" to "This House Believes that buy-now-pay-later services should be banned." As soon as the first speaker began, the standard of competition became clear. Dhiraj and I gave everything in every round, and though our results were mixed, we came away with a deeper understanding of both the topics and our own debating. Ted and his partner breaking to the State School Final was a result we were all delighted to share in.

Tanay Saravanan (12C)

It was a day to be proud of. The topics tested both the depth and breadth of our thinking — from "This House Would, as a young person seeking to make social change, pursue a front-line career rather than one aimed at systemic change" to questions about historical fiction and agency. Tanay and I gave our best, and seeing Ted and his partner reach the State School Final was a brilliant way to end the day. Thank you to Mrs Cunningham for accompanying us and for all her preparation.

Dhiraj Vijayaraj (12C)

Nottingham University Schools' Debating Competition



**Ted Kenny and Lydia Sherwood won the gold final
and in doing so, won the entire competition**



On Saturday 7 February, King's and KGS students made their way to the University of Nottingham for the Nottingham Schools British Parliamentary Debating Competition. It proved to be a day of positive emotion, intellectual challenge, and considerable success.

Motions across the day included "This House Supports gentle parenting," "This House Supports nationalising all public services," and "This House Would ban private tutoring." After four rounds of intense debate, the teams who broke to the finals were announced: Maks Nowak and Toby Simcock broke to the novice final, Ben Stanbury and Amelia Carlin to the bronze final, and Ted Kenny and Lydia Sherwood of KGS to the gold final.

The gold final proved one to remember. Debating the motion "This House, as a contestant on The Traitors, would rather be a traitor than a faithful," Ted and Lydia argued as Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister against the top four-ranked teams of the day.

When the result was announced, they had won. Lydia ranked third out of 112 speakers with 292 points; Ted ranked sixth with 290 points. Henry Apps (23rd) and Ben Stanbury (26th) also recorded impressive individual scores.

King's students competing on the day were Henry Apps, Ted Kenny, Thomas Mitchell, Maks Nowak, Tanay Saravanan, Ben Stanbury, Toby Simcock, and Dhiraj Vijayaraj. Our deepest thanks go to Mrs Cunningham, without whose support and dedication none of this would be possible.

Ted Kenny (12F)

ESU Schools' Mace Regional Final

Reaching the regional final of the oldest debating competition in England and Wales is a notable achievement in itself.

Henry Apps, Thomas Mitchell, and Tanay Saravanan took part in the regional final of the English-Speaking Union's Schools' Mace, the oldest and largest debating competition for schools in England and Wales. Now in its 69th year, the Mace sees approximately 350 schools competing annually across the UK. Reaching the regional final — the third round of the competition — is a notable achievement in itself, and reflects the students' strong communication skills and the school's continued commitment to developing confident, articulate young people.

Mrs C Cunningham, Head of Religious Education and Sociology

Earlier in the competition, the Mace team travelled to Bourne Grammar to debate Stamford School on the motion: "This House Would legalise marijuana for recreational use."

In opposition, King's argued against legalisation in what proved an intensely close contest. Despite the challenges of last-minute logistical changes, the team threw themselves into a fierce, passionate, and thoroughly enjoyable debate. While King's did not progress to the next round, the feedback from judges was insightful and constructive, highlighting both strengths and areas for development. Thanks go to our Year 13 mentors for their help and experience, and as always to Mrs Cunningham and Liz Tibbett for their invaluable guidance and support. We may not have been victorious, but we did not leave feeling defeated, we left feeling better prepared.

Henry Apps (12C)



Interschool Debating — King's and KGGS

Interschool Debating between King's and KGGS returned on Monday 23 March, this time at KGGS, bringing together eighty students from both schools across Years 11 to 13. Over an hour and a half, students worked in groups to explore a range of challenging motions, each beginning with the traditional phrase "This House..." and debated in the style of a parliamentary chamber.

Motions this term covered some of the most pressing issues of the day, including whether documentaries about figures such as those in the manosphere do more harm than good by giving them a public platform; whether autarky is the best response to a global oil crisis; whether diplomacy should be prioritised over military action in dealing with Iran; whether the French principle of *laïcité* should be adopted in the UK; whether sports organisations involved in sportswashing should be boycotted; and whether foreign language learning should be mandatory in schools. Students also considered the provocative idea of abolishing all universities outside the top ten — a motion that found little support in the room.

The sessions encouraged critical thinking, engagement with current affairs, and confident expression of views in a collaborative and respectful environment.

Rugby

A Historic Season!

The successes of the First XV season extended powerfully into the new year, with the squad preparing for and ultimately reaching the semi-final of the RFU Schools Under 18 Vase.

Their opponents in March were Dame Allan's School, who prevailed in what was a competitive and entertaining match. However, the achievement of Captain Evan Marshall, Vice-Captain Archie Goss, and the entire senior squad cannot be overstated, they made history by becoming the first King's Under 18 team ever to reach the semi-final stage of an RFU competition. They can be enormously proud of the journey that brought them there.

- ◇ Round One: King's 51-3 vs Spalding Grammar School
- ◇ Round Three: King's 41-13 vs Haberdashers Adams
- ◇ Round Four: King's 31-21 vs Trent College
- ◇ Round Five: King's 31-29 vs Sandbach School
- ◇ Quarter-Final: King's 41-29 vs Aylesbury Grammar School
- ◇ Semi-Final: King's 12-39 vs Dame Allan's



The school also welcomed touring side Haberdashers Adams for Under 12 and Under 13 fixtures, with both King's sides edging competitive matches on the scoreboard.

The Sevens season has been well under way, with the school's newly established partnership with the University of Nottingham Rugby Club providing an exciting additional dimension. Student coaches from Nottingham have been supporting after-school training sessions at the playing fields, and senior King's players have enjoyed training sessions at the University's world-class facilities — a partnership the school and University intend to develop further. The Under 18 and Under 13 sides competed in the Northampton Saints Sevens at Oundle and the Perse; the Under 12 and Under 13 teams took part in the Leicester Grammar School Sevens; and the Under 15s benefited from a training and games afternoon with a local academy school.

The outstanding achievement of the term in Sevens belongs to the Under 13 and Under 14 squads, who won the county Sevens competition at Market Rasen Rugby Club. Congratulations to all involved.

Off the field, the annual Rugby Dinner was held in March at The Barn Hotel and Spa, a wonderful evening celebrating the season's many achievements and raising much-needed funds for the rugby programme. A huge thank you to parent Georgina Mahony for all her work in organising and delivering the event.

Looking further ahead, the King's rugby experience will continue in July, when Year 10 and Year 11 players travel to South Africa on tour. The ten-day trip will include three competitive fixtures at each age group, alongside cultural, sightseeing, and safari activities. Rugby Week will also take place in August, with a number of King's players supporting in a junior coaching capacity.

Mr G Hope, Head of Rugby





Football

It has been a very busy and successful term for football across the school, with all sides in competitive action.

Lower School

Year 7 have been playing attractive and attacking football, progressing in the County Cup with a 4-0 win over Carre's. They face Skegness Grammar in the County Cup semi-final in the final week of term. Year 8 have gone from strength to strength, recording emphatic wins against Lincoln Christ's Hospital (8-0) and William Farr (6-2) to reach their own County Cup semi-final, where they will face Sir Robert Pattinson Academy. Year 9 have had a quieter half term, with a narrow 0-1 defeat to St George's their only match since Christmas.

Middle School

Year 10 have had an excellent season, having lost only once in the National Cup. Wins against Priory (2-1), Carre's (6-1), and Sir William Robertson Academy (1-0) leave them facing a County Cup third-round tie against Priory, and they remain well placed in the KSSA league with only St George's left to play.

Upper School

The First XI completed their league campaign and will finish in the top half of the table. They also reached the County Cup semi-final before being eliminated by Carre's. Congratulations to Laurie Mills and Nate Wray of Year 11, who both made their First XI debuts this half term — a well-deserved milestone.

The Second XI have had a superb season, with league games still to play and strong league standings. On Wednesday 25 March, they faced Spalding Grammar in the Lincolnshire Schools Senior Football B Cup final — and won, 1-0. Congratulations to everyone involved in a truly deserved trophy.

Mr M Hulme, Head of the Physical Education Department



Gymnastics

King's gymnasts have delivered outstanding results across several competitions this term, with strong performances at every age group.

At the East Midlands Floor and Vault Competition, the King's team finished second overall, with Leo Smith taking first place in the individual competition. In the Under 19 Tumbling competition, Leo Smith was first and Ben Szekely second. At the KSSA Gymnastics Championships, the Under 14 team and the Under 19 team each won their respective events. In the individual Under 14 competition, Sam Corah finished first; in the Under 19 competition, Leo Smith was first and Ben Szekely second. At the KSSA Set Routine Competition, the Under 14 boys team finished first, with Henry Saunt first individually and Reuben McConnell and Kaden Li second.

Congratulations to all the gymnasts involved, and particular credit to Leo Smith for his exceptional consistency across every level of competition this term.



Water Polo

It has been an exceptional season for King's water polo players both in school and club competition. In December, Oscar Chen-Rees (9N) and Thomas Whittle (9N) were selected to compete in the prestigious Prince of Wales Cup in Manchester — the English Schools Swimming Association's Under 14 tournament for the top sixty athletes in the country. Selection for this event alone is a remarkable achievement.

In addition, Oscar Chen-Rees (9N), Leo Barnett (9F), and Austin Chen-Rees (7N) represented the East Midlands region at the Inter-Regionals tournament held at Walsall Gala Baths on 6 December. Oscar also represented Sedgefield Water Polo Club in the National Age Group Championships, where his team finished sixth out of sixteen, a strong result in a competitive national field.

Water polo continues to be a valuable part of the sporting programme at King's. If your son is interested in getting involved, please speak to Mr Acs.



Badminton

It has been an impressive term for badminton at King's. The KS3 team were runners-up in the county championship, giving a strong account of themselves throughout.

The KS4 team went one better, winning the county finals and earning a place at the National Finals at Nottingham University. They returned with some very creditable results against high-level national opposition. Congratulations to all involved in a fine season.





Flag Football

King's competed in their first ever Flag Football tournament this term, held at the home of the Lincolnshire Bombers, the county's full-contact American Football team. Flag Football is the non-contact version of the sport and has recently been added to the Olympic programme for the 2028 Games in Los Angeles, making this a particularly timely introduction for King's students.

The Under 15 tournament drew on Year 9 and Year 10 players, and the team quickly found their rhythm. After defeating Sir

Robert Pattinson Academy 44-0 and LSST 14-0, King's lost narrowly to Carre's Grammar School 0-6, the group winners. Both King's and Carre's qualified for the County Final, setting up a rematch that nobody wanted to miss. In an incredibly close contest, King's scored a touchdown on the very last play of the game to win 14-6 and be crowned County Champions.

A remarkable debut in a new sport, and a triumph worthy of the final play that secured it.

SOCS

After Easter, our summer sports provision takes centre stage, with cricket, tennis, and athletics leading the way. The U13 cricket team are particularly ones to watch: they have qualified for the National Cup, and their first fixture against Nottingham High School will take place shortly after the break. It promises to be a very exciting start to the summer season.

Students wishing to sign up for after-school sport should note that the SOCS sign-up window opens on 2 April. The deadline for registration is 1 May. Please ensure that your son signs up before attending any sessions.

Mr M Hulme, Head of the Physical Education Department



SKI TRIP

During February half-term, forty-five King's students from Years 8 to 11 travelled to the Amadé region of Austria for the annual ski trip. The group was split into those experiencing skiing for the first time and those with existing skills to develop.

Twenty novice skiers progressed at a remarkable pace, leaving the nursery slope behind with an enthusiasm that exceeded all expectations and opening up the wider mountain far sooner than anticipated. The more experienced group were led by a former King's student who first learned the sport on a previous trip — a fitting symbol of the ski trip tradition the school has built over many years. This group worked on refining their technique and took on some genuinely challenging terrain.

All forty-five students were a credit to the school throughout the week, earning consistently positive comments about their attitudes and their behaviour. The journey home included a tour of Bayern Munich's stadium — a fitting conclusion to a memorable trip.

The 2027 King's School Ski Trip will be advertised before the end of May 2026. Details to follow.

Mr P Hinchcliffe, Teacher of English

The Gallery



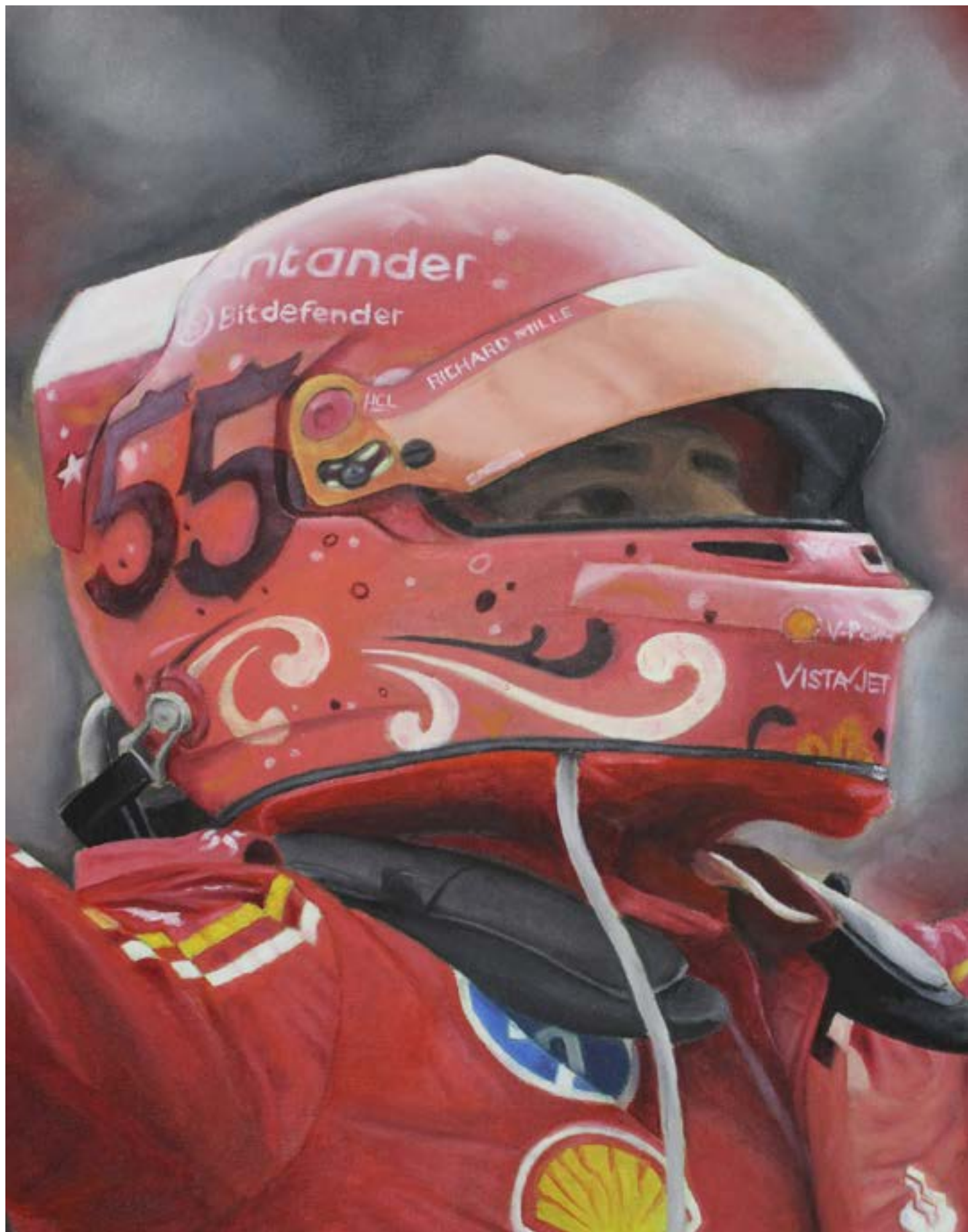
Finlay Reeves

Portrait A1, oil on paper - friends and family



Dylan Grey

Portrait A1, oil on paper - friends and family.



Greg Stephens

Portrait A3, oil on board - formula 1



Charlie Jackson

Portrait A1, oil on paper - friends and family.



Ridas Rabasauskas

Portrait A1, oil on paper - friends and family.



Angus Ismail

Portrait A1, oil on paper - friends and family



Aryan Nath (7M)

Watercolour on paper A3 - Self portraits



Howard Su (7M)

Watercolour on paper A3 - Self portraits



Osayu Edosomwan (7M)

Watercolour on paper A3 - Self portraits



Raven To (7M)

Watercolour on paper A3 - Self portraits



Samarth Khandelwal (7M)

Watercolour on paper A3 - Self portraits



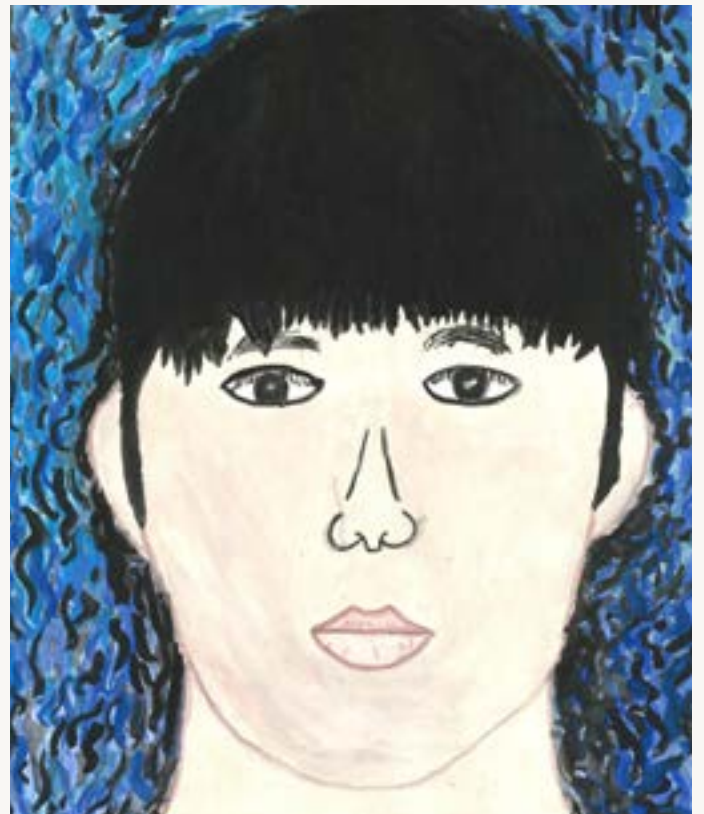
Tom Barnett (7M)

Watercolour on paper A3 - Self portraits



Kevin Franco Charles Babu (7S)

Watercolour on paper A3 - Self portraits



Kaden Li (7C)

Watercolour on paper A3 - Self portraits

Our tracks

As the Easter break approaches, we invite you to explore three albums that draw on the themes of the season.

Whether enjoyed quietly at home or as a soundtrack to a spring walk, music has a unique power to deepen our understanding of the stories and ideas that shape this time of year. Here are three records, spanning rock, world music, and musical theatre, that do exactly that.

Mr M Lond - Director of Music



Easter — Patti Smith (1978)

Patti Smith's fourth album takes its title and its themes directly from the Easter story, threading ideas of resurrection, spiritual yearning, and transformation through some of the most urgent punk-inflected rock of the late seventies.

The opening track, "Till Victory," arrives like a hymn reimagined for the CBGB stage, and the album never lets up from there. Yet it is also home to her most famous song, "Because the Night," co-written with Bruce Springsteen, which gives newcomers an immediately accessible way in.

Smith is as much poet as musician — her lyrics reward the same close reading one might give to a set text — and this album captures her at her most ambitious and assured. A bold, exhilarating record that earns its title.



Passion — Peter Gabriel (1989)

Originally composed as the soundtrack to Martin Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ*, *Passion* is Peter Gabriel's most immersive and atmospheric work.

Drawing on musical traditions from North Africa, the Middle East, Turkey, and South Asia, it reimagines the final days of Christ not through the familiar language of Western church music but through the sounds of the lands where the story actually took place. The result is unlike anything most listeners will have encountered: hypnotic, unsettling, and deeply moving in equal measure.

Gabriel spent years researching and recording with musicians from across the globe, and that commitment to authenticity is audible in every track. It is an album that asks the listener to slow down, pay attention, and hear a story they think they know told in an entirely new voice.



St Matthew Passion — Johann Sebastian Bach (1727)

Bach's *St Matthew Passion* is one of the towering achievements of Western music, and it tells the Easter story with an emotional directness that remains overwhelming nearly three centuries after its first performance.

Composed for double choir, double orchestra, and soloists, it follows the narrative of Christ's betrayal, trial, and crucifixion as told in Matthew's Gospel, interspersing the biblical text with arias and chorales that invite the listener to reflect on each moment as it unfolds. The result is music of extraordinary power and tenderness. A fine starting point is the 1989 recording conducted by John Eliot Gardiner, which brings a clarity and urgency that makes the work feel startlingly alive. At over two and a half hours, it demands patience, but for those willing to give it their full attention, it is a profoundly rewarding experience and a reminder of what music at its greatest can achieve.



Andrew Hirst

It is with great sadness that we inform the King's School community of the passing of Andrew Hirst, Design and Technology teacher here from September 2011 to August 2018, who died in February 2026.

To describe Andrew as one in a million would be to do him a disservice. He was, quite simply, one of a kind.

Whether you knew him as Mr Hirst, Andrew or Andy, or were fortunate enough to know him as a husband, father or family member, there is one thing we all share: a memory of his warmth, compassion, humour and his down-to-earth human kindness.

Perhaps you are reading this knowing Andrew's name only through the remarkable fundraising efforts he made in the final years of his life. His battle to find treatment for his Glioblastoma diagnosis showed the strength and spirit that defined him throughout his life. It was this determination in the face of adversity that made him the extraordinary human being he was.

In gathering memories from King's staff and students past and present, one thing struck me above all else. Every conversation began with a moment of quiet sadness, but as people began to share their memories, warm smiles followed. He brought happiness to so many. He made people laugh. He supported colleagues and students alike through the good times and the bad.

Certain themes emerged time and again: his sense of humour, how deeply he cared for people, his Northern pride and his love of Barnsley FC. But running through every conversation was something else: his remarkable ability to quietly identify students who needed extra support, and his skill in giving them exactly what they needed at precisely the right moment. This quality made him a credit to the teaching profession.

Julie Parker, Office Manager at King's, reflected on the lasting impact Andrew had on students in his care:

"He was adored by the students as he could really relate to them, and he spoke to them on their wavelength. My son, Jack, loved Andrew when he was his DT teacher and I think it was a big part of why he took it at GCSE. Jack is now teaching and recently taught his Year 3 class about how CAM works and proudly remembered being taught about CAM by Andrew. He said it felt lovely to be passing on that knowledge now to his class of students and remembered Andrew whilst teaching the lesson. A full circle moment."

Stories like this bring a tear to the eye and a smile to the face. Because whilst these past months have been so painful, we must hold on to the years of happiness Andrew brought to us all. It is in retelling these memories that the warmth and positivity he gave to our school continues to echo down its corridors.

King's was always a special place for Andrew. It was where he began his teaching career and, in time, where he met and fell in love with a young Mathematics teacher called Miss Burton, who later became Mrs Hirst and remains a long-serving and much-valued member of our staff.

From King's, Andrew's career took him far: Director of Design and Technology at Corby Technical School; Strategic Leader of the Design and Create Faculty at The Dukeries Academy; Director of D&T at Brooke Weston Trust; and Trust and Lead Practitioner for Design and Technology at David Ross Education Trust. Throughout, he remained exactly who he had always been: compassionate, warm and utterly committed to his students.

Andrew's life was taken from him far too soon. But the light he brought to every student he taught and every person he met continues to shine in all of us.

The King's community extends its love and support to Andrew's family, now and always.



Careers Talks

From the cockpit of a Jet2 aircraft to the boardrooms of Parliament, our speakers this year have offered a remarkable window into the professional world.

Throughout the year, the Careers Team at King's has organised visits from professionals across a wide range of fields. Three particularly memorable talks from this term are highlighted below.

Commercial Aviation: Mr Szlumper Morris

In October, students heard from Mr Szlumper Morris, a former King's pupil who has forged a distinguished career in commercial aviation.

Having studied A levels in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and General Studies at King's and Ripon Grammar School, he went on to complete a Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Manchester before beginning pilot training at Multiflight in Leeds Bradford. Three years of study led to a position as Second Officer at easyJet, where he was subsequently promoted to Captain.

He is now at Jet2, where he has recently been appointed as a Line Trainer for new entrants, a career that began in the very classrooms our current students occupy.

RAF: Squadron Leader Simon Chapman

Few careers talks can claim the sheer breadth of experience that Squadron Leader Simon Chapman brought with him.

He began his career as a Royal Navy Warfare Officer in January 1998, training at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, and serving on patrol vessels in Northern Ireland during the Troubles and in the Arabian Gulf enforcing UN sanctions against Iraq.

His first fully-trained sea appointment was as Navigating Officer aboard HMS Quorn, a Hunt-class minesweeper, followed by a deployment via the Mediterranean to the Arabian Gulf during the 2001 Afghanistan campaign. After completing the Navy's Fighter Control course and serving aboard HMS Cardiff, a Type 42 Air Defence Destroyer, he transferred to the RAF in 2005.

Subsequent appointments took him to UK Air Defence stations, providing tactical control of Allied aircraft including Typhoon, F-15, F-16, and F/A-18, and to multiple operational deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. A later selection for an airborne role in a surveillance aircraft at RAF Waddington led to missions against ISIS in Syria and Iraq, flying from RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus, as well as NATO Air Policing across Eastern Europe.

He currently serves in a Full-Time reservist capacity, combining continued service with greater domestic stability.



Transparency International UK: Mr Bruce, Chief Executive

Mr Bruce joined Transparency International UK as Chief Executive in 2019, leading an organisation at the forefront of the fight against corruption in the UK and internationally.

Under his leadership, TI-UK has secured significant legislative reform to close loopholes that allow the proceeds of corruption into the UK economy, and has conducted forensic investigations into Covid-19 procurement, providing evidence before the UK Covid-19 Public Inquiry.

Mr Bruce has served as an expert witness to the Committee on Standards in Public Life and to committees in both Houses of Parliament, and is a regular media commentator on standards in government, political financing, and global corruption.

Earlier in his career, he was Chief Executive of Internews, leading global media training and

support across three continents, and worked with organisations including Article 19, Fondation Hirondelle, UNESCO, and the University of Pennsylvania. He began his professional life as a journalist, editor, and broadcaster.

Year 10 Careers Fair

Year 10 students gathered in the Old School for the annual Careers Fair, exploring a wide range of company and college stands to learn about courses and career pathways across different sectors. Representatives attended from SKDC, Chatterton's, Grantham College, Lincoln and Newark College, NHS Lincolnshire Talent Academy, the Army, Access Creative College, Barclays, and the Military Preparation College for Training. The event provided a valuable opportunity for students to begin thinking seriously about the world of work and the many routes available to them.

66

Over one hundred and thirty million words read collectively this year, the Library is at the heart of King's intellectual life.



Library News

It has been another wonderfully busy term in the Library, and there is much to celebrate.

Author Visit: Tom Palmer

Year 7 and Year 8 students were treated to an unforgettable visit from children's author Tom Palmer, whose afternoon presentation included a penalty shoot-out on stage that had the room buzzing from the start. An experienced and prolific writer with over seventy books to his name — many of which are available on the King's Library shelves — Tom inspired students with the power of football fiction and the art of storytelling.

During the visit, Tom also held a Q&A session with Year 12 English Literature students, speaking about his deep interest in history and the meticulous research he undertakes for his historical fiction writing, including meetings with Holocaust survivors. The afternoon concluded with Tom signing copies of books that students had brought in from home. Thank you to Tom Palmer for such an inspiring visit.

World Book Day

Over three hundred students from all year groups visited the Library at lunchtime on World Book Day to take part in competitions, quizzes, and activities. The main competition this year was the Staff Guess Who, in which students had to identify which staff member was hiding behind a reading book. The winner was Hamza Mohammed (8B), who correctly identified seventeen out of twenty-two staff members. Other activities included a "Whose Hat is That?" competition, a World Book Day Quiz, scratch bookmark-making, and on-the-spot book questions for sweet prizes. Year 7 and Year 8 students were each given a World Book Day token to spend on a free book. It was an extraordinary turnout and a wonderful celebration of reading.

Accelerated Reader

Year 7 students completed their Star Reading Assessments this term to determine their reading ages. All Year 7 and Year 8 students are registered on the Accelerated Reader scheme and quiz on the books they read throughout the year. The results this academic year have been remarkable: students have collectively read over one hundred and thirty million words, with the leading class alone reading over twenty-four million. Well done to all.

New Non-Fiction Books

Mrs Hobbs has added a significant number of new titles to the non-fiction stock this term, with a particular focus on Sixth Form academic reading. New arrivals include *The Selfish Gene* by Richard Dawkins, *Human Physiology: An Integrated Approach* by Dee Silverthorn, *Biology* by Neil A Campbell, *The Careers Handbook* (DK), *Human Anatomy: A Very Short Introduction* by Leslie Klennerman, *The Medicine Book* by Steve Parker, *The Military History Book* by Adrian Gilbert, *The Politics Book* (DK), and *Veterinary Science: A Very Short Introduction* by James Yeates, among others.

The Library would also welcome donations of two hundred and fifty or five hundred piece jigsaw puzzles, chess boards, Uno cards, and playing cards for student use. Donations of fiction — particularly the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, classic novels, graphic novels, and manga — and up-to-date non-fiction in Business, Computing, Economics, Engineering, History, Languages, Law, Mathematics, Medicine, Politics, Revision, Science, Sport, and Transport would be equally appreciated.

Mrs K Hobbs, Librarian



Applying to Universities abroad has long been an attractive option to UK students. Studying at a University in another country can have the following advantages:

- ♦ World leading universities
- ♦ A different cultural and university experience
- ♦ Lower tuition fees and living costs
- ♦ The opportunity to gain access to competitive courses (eg. Medicine, dentistry)

Applying to University abroad can be a challenge and requires a lot of personal exploration. This resource is designed to start you off with your planning and, crucially, get you asking the right kinds of questions so that you can focus your research.

Considerations:

Where do I want to apply to?

You may have a country in mind that you would like to study in, or you might simply have an idea that you want to be somewhere "different" or "warm and sunny".

One of your major considerations needs to be, whether you are looking for a course taught in English. There are a large number of university courses in Europe and beyond that are delivered in English. Or you may have another language that you would be comfortable learning in, in which case you will need to look for those courses.

How do I apply?

The application process to study abroad, is different for every country. Many countries do not use a centralised application system (like UCAS) and so you may need to apply to each individual university.

What are the entry requirements to apply?

This is often tricky to distinguish and although A levels are recognised by most universities, there is not always clear guidance about what is enough to apply. Predicted grades will be accepted, but must be backed up with real results in the Summer.

When do I apply?

The application deadlines vary, depending on your country of choice, however they are very often later, as many countries don't use "predicted grades" in the same way that we do here in the UK.

Will my qualifications be recognised elsewhere or back in the UK?

The answer is generally yes, but you can't always be sure. If you want to study a subject such as Dentistry, Law, Chartered Surveying – you will find that you are not automatically qualified to work in another country.

How might University abroad be

different to the UK?

As well as the application process, there are various ways in which the educational system might be different in your country of choice and you need to do as much research as possible before you commit. For example:

- ◇ You might find that the Universities you are interested in offer more general courses, for example "Social Sciences" rather than "Psychology". This is just a different way that the educational system is structured (similar to Scotland – although you do apply through UCAS to study there). This might be good for you, if you are still not sure what you want to specialise in, or frustrating if you already know what you wish to study. Other countries
- ◇ You need to find out the duration of the course, this could be 4 rather than 3 years.
- ◇ It's important to think about how your course is taught, the amount and quality of contact that you might have could be very different (just as it is in the UK). Ask yourself: What am I getting for my time and money?
- ◇ You may be surprised that you are assessed a great deal more at University abroad than you would be in the UK. Sometimes entry requirements to gain access to a course seem low, but in some countries, students are much more likely to fail and be withdrawn from the course.
- ◇ Expectations around accommodation might be different. While many Universities will offer on campus accommodation, don't assume this as some encourage students to find their own housing within the city of choice.

Exploring Options - a small sample of courses that are taught in English

- ◇ History Law and Society: The American University, Paris
- ◇ Medicine: The University Medical Campus, Hamburg
- ◇ Art History: University of British Columbia
- ◇ Industrial Engineering and Management: University of Groningen, Netherlands

The Turing Scheme

Named after the famous Mathematician and code breaker, the Turing Scheme aims to support organisations to set up links with educational and employment programs abroad, with the aim of encouraging young people to take up programmes abroad. It might be that you find opportunities linked

to the Turing Scheme and want support from school with this.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/turing-scheme-international-placements-2026-to-2027/overview-of-the-turing-scheme-2026-to-2027>

Funding and Scholarships

In some cases, studying abroad may be the cheapest option, but not always and funding is not guaranteed in the same way that it might be if you study in the UK.

Student Finance will not normally be available to students choosing to study a full under-graduate degree abroad. Especially, if you are considering studying in the USA, you may be considering scholarships, such as Sports Scholarships to make this affordable. There are several organisations that will advertise these opportunities or act like an agent and support you (for a fee) with applying for these scholarships. If this is something you are considering, learn what you are getting for your money, ask for testimonials and carry out an internet search on them.

Pursuing this path, requires research and exploration and a very pro-active approach. If this is a pathway you want to pursue, make sure that you go on-line, look for organisations that support students with the process and try and talk to someone directly (eg. ASTAR futures) about the first steps to take.

Rankings?

If you want to know how the Universities you are interested in rank amongst other Universities in the world use the Times World Rankings to check it out: www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings

Remember that it doesn't have to be all or nothing. If you think you would like to spend some time abroad, you could consider degrees that have a sandwich year, that might allow you to spend that year abroad, you could consider a language degree (or combined honours) that would allow you to spend a year abroad. There are other programmes aimed at encouraging students to spend a year or term abroad as part of their degree.

The Sixth Form

Sixth Form Honours Award

30 students have excelled and been awarded the Honours Award this year, celebrating Sixth Form students who show commitment, ambition and personal growth. To achieve the award, students complete key requirements including high attendance, strong academic progress, two MOOCs, and full use of Unifrog to plan future pathways.

Students then choose from a wide range of optional activities, such as mentoring, volunteering, leadership roles, representing the school, supporting events, delivering presentations and completing acts of kindness—to tailor the award to their strengths. They also take part in experiences beyond school, including university visits, cultural activities, work experience and independent living skills.

The Honours Award recognises students who embrace opportunity, contribute to the school community and prepare themselves with confidence for life beyond King's.



66 expert guidance

Year 13 Gap Years

Sixth Form students enjoyed an inspiring talk from Callum Russell of Independent Gap Advice, who shared expert guidance on how to plan a meaningful and well structured gap year. He outlined what a gap year can offer, how to choose reputable organisations, costs involved, and the benefits of both full year and mini gap opportunities.

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Callum also drew on his own remarkable experience volunteering in South America while living with Leber's Congenital Amaurosis, demonstrating how resilience, planning and ambition can make a gap year both accessible and transformational.

Students left with practical advice, renewed motivation, and a clearer understanding of how a gap year can broaden horizons and strengthen future pathways.



Applying to Competitive Universities – University of Nottingham Leadership Awards

James Telfer from the University of Nottingham's Post 16 Widening Participation and Outreach team recently delivered an insightful session on applying to competitive universities. The presentation introduced students to what makes certain

universities and courses highly competitive, how selection processes work, and what applicants can do to strengthen their applications.

The session forms part of the university's outreach work, aimed at supporting young

people as they navigate key post 16 decisions. The school will continue to work closely with James and will be welcoming him back in Term 5 to talk to our aspiring Medics and he will deliver a presentation on Student Finance to Year 13 students and parents.



Alumni Careers Insight

Jaden Fivaz introduced students to the actuarial profession through a talk about his career with APR, a specialist actuarial resourcing and consulting firm. The presentation outlined how actuaries use mathematics to analyse risk and support key financial decisions for sectors such as insurance and pensions.

Jaden explained his work

providing actuarial expertise to major insurers across the UK and Ireland, alongside a strong culture of training, early responsibility and professional development.

Jaden shared his Junior Analyst Pathway, which allows school leavers to earn while they learn through a six week induction, technical training, real client projects and progression routes

in actuarial, data or business analysis. The programme offers competitive pay, study support and clear progression into the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries' qualifications.

The session showcased actuarial work as a rigorous, well paid and future focused career for students who enjoy problem solving, data and analytical thinking.



Career of a Researcher – Talk by Professor Kirill Krasnov

Students heard an inspiring talk from Professor Kirill Krasnov, Professor of Mathematical Physics at the University of Nottingham, who explained what it means to be a researcher: someone who works to discover new knowledge.

Professor Krasnov outlined his international academic journey, from Kyiv to the USA, Germany and finally Nottingham—showing how curiosity and global collaboration shape a research career. He also described the day-to-day reality of research: thinking deeply, reading papers, writing equations, collaborating, and

persevering through challenges.

He encouraged students to stay open-minded about their futures, explaining that PhD study offers independence, intellectual challenge and opportunities to travel, while building highly valued skills such as problem-solving and persistence.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education

Our PHSE programme is designed to give students the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe and to prepare them for life and work in modern Britain and the wider world. PSHE ensures that every student has the knowledge on how to be safe, how to make a positive contribution, how to achieve economic well-being, and how to live long healthy lives. PSHE is split into six different themes which include: Sex and Relationships, Health, Economic Education, Careers, Society and Future aspirations.

The key themes are covered in different terms throughout the academic year during form times, assemblies and with external speakers:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Financial Education	Careers	Health Education	Relationships and Sex (RSE)	Society	Future and Values

As you can see from the table this term students focused their learning on Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) which included age-appropriate material designed to support your child to understand a variety of topics related to emotional and physical relationships.

These topics were selected to follow the statutory government guidelines related to the teaching of (SRE) and resources were carefully created to meet the needs of our students.

The restructuring of this aspect of the PSHE resources took place following our full annual review of this aspect of the curriculum - which included the opinions gathered from stakeholders including: students, families and staff. This aspect of PSHE was also fully supported by expert speakers in assemblies and during drop down days which were hosted by external agencies throughout the year.

Supporting With SRE at home:

You may find the following websites and resources useful to support with these topics at home:

- ◇ <https://www.brook.org.uk/> - Free & confidential sexual health & wellbeing experts
- ◇ <https://fumble.org.uk/handy-guide-sexual-health-services/> - We're creating a happy, healthy online world of free sex ed: by young people, for young people.
- ◇ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education> - Statutory guidance on relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education given to schools by the government.
- ◇ <https://www.greaterlincolnshiresexualhealth.nhs.uk/> - GLiSH provides integrated sexual health and contraception services to the people of Greater Lincolnshire.

Looking forward to Next Term in PSHE

The Year 7 learning experience will focus on various social issues in our local community and the wider world in which we live. Students will look at diversity in the UK as well as the laws in place to keep everyone safe.

Year 8 learning will introduce the role of the UN and the importance of looking after the environment. Charities and their role in society will also be considered.

Year 9 learning will progress to look at UN children's rights and what these involve. The second lesson will look at The British Empire and how this impacted lots of different countries. Finally, this unit will finish with discussions on Brexit and its impact on society now and in the future.

Throughout this unit, Year 10 students will be encouraged to celebrate the diversity and culture of Britain today. Students will look at Human Rights and how these are important to us as a society. Finally, students will look at environmental challenges faced in society today.

Year 11 students will not participate in next term's PSHE curriculum due to their GCSE exams. Instead, time in forms will be spent preparing for GCSE examinations.

Supporting with Society and Citizenship lessons at home:

[United Nations | Peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet](#) - I United Nations — This website continues the discussion on the role of the UN and the different types of work they do. This page also focuses on climate change and how we, as citizens, can help combat climate change in society.

[NASA - NASA: Home](#) — Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet — This website further explores what is happening to Earth. This link, Images of Change - Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet ([nasa.gov](https://climate.nasa.gov/images-of-change/)), shows some thought-provoking images of the earth before and after climate change.

All PSHE Resources are available to access through students' Sharepoint accounts – in the Personal Development and PSHE Section of the site.

If you have any questions or comments about the PSHE Curriculum, please feel free to contact me: T Deller – Head of PSHE tom.deller@kings.lincs.sch.uk

Mr Deller — Head of PSHE (tom.deller@kings.lincs.sch.uk)

Achievement Year 7



Ben Shearn (7F) delivered an outstanding performance at the Lincolnshire Swimming County Championships, winning a bronze medal in the 200m breaststroke and a silver medal in the 50m breaststroke, making him the second fastest boy in his age group in the county. A brilliant result.

Howard Li (7F) has achieved his ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory and ABRSM Grade 4 Piano Performance, earning fifteen credits at Level 2. Congratulations to Howard on this excellent accomplishment.



Samarth Khandelwal (7M) has enjoyed considerable recent success in tennis, competing in two LTA-organised tournaments at West Bridgford Tennis Club and winning one competition while finishing as runner-up in the other.



Tom Britner (7N) has passed his Grade 3 Saxophone Examination with a Distinction. A wonderful achievement, well done, Tom.



Achievement Year 7



Yash Vaghela (7N) received the Junior Swimmer of the Year award at his club's annual presentation evening, in recognition of his hard work and dedication in developing his breaststroke and qualifying for the County Championship in that event for the first time.

Ollie Rose (7S) has wrapped up an impressive 2025 motocross season. Competing on a Yamaha YZ85cc Big Wheel in a class for riders aged eleven to fourteen, Ollie is currently the youngest competitor in his age group. He finished sixth overall in the Moto Mavericks Championship and tenth overall in the Kensworth Schoolboy



Championship — a superb set of results for a rider of twelve who continues to demonstrate extraordinary dedication and drive.

Teddy Hibbitt (7S) has achieved his black belt in Karate through EWF Martial Arts in Grantham. An outstanding milestone, and richly deserved.

Austin Chen-Rees (7N) was selected to represent the East Midlands region at the ESSA Inter-Regional Water Polo tournament held at Walsall Gala Baths in December, alongside several of his King's schoolmates. A fine achievement at this level.



Achievement Year 8



Charles Saturnino (8C) delivered a remarkable performance at the Nottinghamshire ASA County Championships, competing for Nottingham Leander. He won gold medals in the 50m and 100m backstroke, 50m freestyle, and 50m breaststroke; a bronze in the 100m breaststroke; silver in the 200m Mixed Medley Relay; a bronze in the 200m Mixed Free Relay; and a further bronze in the Under 14 50m breaststroke. An extraordinary set of results.

Darren Li (8F) has achieved his ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory and ABRSM Grade 6 Piano Practical, earning twenty-two credits at Level 3. A significant and impressive achievement — congratulations, Darren.



Xavi Mistry (8F) continues to develop impressively on the tennis circuit. In December 2025, he won a 14U Grade 5 LTA tournament at Leicestershire Lawn Tennis Club. More recently, he finished as runner-up at a tournament in Boston and fourth out of fifteen at a further competition in Leicestershire. He has been working closely with his coach to develop his attacking play, and the results are beginning to tell.

Bobby Short (8N) has had a truly exceptional run of table tennis results. Representing Nottinghamshire in the Cadets (Under 15) National County Championships, he helped his team win all four matches and won all eight of



Achievement Year 8

his individual matches, dropping only one set throughout the day. He then finished runner-up at an Under 15 tournament at Blitz in Worksop, before going on to win the Nottinghamshire County Championships in the Under 13 age group. An outstanding sequence of achievements.

Henry Dolan (8N) has had a truly outstanding term. At the 2026 Lincolnshire Swimming County Championships in February, he retained his title as 200m breaststroke county champion for the third successive year and qualified for the East Midlands Regional Championships in May for all three breaststroke events. He has also qualified for the Regionals in the 200m butterfly, a testament to his remarkable work across multiple strokes. Henry and his King's teammates also won gold in the Under 10-13 Medley Relay. Away from the pool, Henry represented Lincolnshire for the first time at the CAU Inter-Counties Cross Country Championships at Wollaton Hall on 7 March, one of the most competitive junior cross country events in the country. From a field of 320 Under 13 boys, Henry finished fourth in the Lincolnshire team and 261st nationally — a brilliant result at his first outing in Lincolnshire colours.



Rory Phillips (8M) won the Kesteven Rugby Under 13 man of the match award in the prop position against a formidable Boston side. He has also been committing every Saturday morning to parkrun since September 2025, accumulating twenty-five runs and achieving a personal best as a “parkrun tourist” at Brook Leys parkrun in Cambridge. That he has actively encouraged others to join him makes the achievement all the more admirable.



Achievement Year 9



Alex Corol (9C) has begun a new volunteering role with Hive FM, our local community radio station. His first interview was broadcast on 29 January 2026, during the show What a Wonderful World with Lia Vox, in which he spoke with a student fundraising for Beehive Community, a local charity. A wonderful example of a young person using his voice for positive impact in the local community.

Lewi Valentine (9M) has achieved his first and



second tags on his grey and white belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, has been gliding with Newark Air Cadets, and has completed his Level 1 BTEC in Teamwork and Personal Skills with the Air Cadets. A hugely impressive set of achievements across two very different disciplines.

Thomas Whittle and Oscar Chen-Rees (9N) were selected to compete in the Prince of Wales Cup in Manchester on 13 December — the English Schools Swimming Association's prestigious Under 14 water polo tournament for the top sixty players in the country. Selection alone is a remarkable achievement at this age.



Oscar Chen-Rees (9N) also represented Sedgefield Water Polo Club in the National Age Group Championships, where his team finished sixth out of sixteen — a strong result in a highly competitive national field.

Leo Barnett (9F) was also selected to represent the East Midlands at the Inter-Regional Water Polo tournament at Walsall Gala Baths in December, a fine recognition of his development in the sport

Achievement Year 10, 11 & 12



Jeremy Chan (10B) has delivered an exceptional run of results in fencing. Competing at a cadet fencing competition, he finished seventh out of seventy competitors at just fourteen years old, in a field of boys aged up to seventeen. He has subsequently become the Regional Fencing Champion of the East Midlands — a truly outstanding achievement for a student of his age.

Zach Giltinan (11M) entered the Colsterworth Festival of Performing Arts and won first place in four categories: Piano Grade 6, Songs from the Shows Solo (Years 10/11), Songs from Disney Solo (Years 10/11), and Self-Accompanied Solo (Years 10/11). A remarkable set of results from an exceptionally talented musician.

Sebastian Farrin-Thorne (12N) represented Grantham College Table Tennis Academy in the Team Junior British League finals in Derby on 21 and 22 February, finishing as runner-up and earning promotion from Division 4 to Division 3. A thoroughly deserved result following an excellent season.



Co-curricular Activities

Monday

Activity	Room/venue	Time	Member of staff responsible	Year groups who can attend
NEA Catch Up Session	C101	12.40pm-1.10pm	Mrs Beedham	11C DT Resistant Materials group
Basketball	Gym	12.40pm-1.25pm	Mr Pickett	Key Stage 4
Business Drop-In	S202	12.40pm-1.30pm	Mr Rushall	Key Stage 4
Brass Ensemble	C204	12.45pm-1.15pm	Mr Cook	Invitation Only
Chess Club	T103	12.45pm-1.25pm	Mr Davies	Key Stage 3
Clarinet Ensemble	C203	1.00pm-1.30pm	Mrs Lond	Invitation Only
Junior Percussion Ensemble	Rehearsal Room	1.00pm-1.30pm	Mrs Lond	Invitation Only
Manga Club	Library	1.00pm-1.30pm	Owen Liu Mrs Hobbs	All Year Groups
King's Literature Society	T302	1.00pm-1.30pm	Thomas Mitchell	All Year Groups
Warhammer	N205	3.45pm-4.45pm	Mrs Copeman	All Year Groups
Cricket	Field	4.00pm-5.00pm	Mr Whales	Year 9
Athletics	Field	4.00pm-5.00pm	Mr Collins	All Year Groups
Inter-school Debate/ Discussion Club (Once a half term)	Alternates between The King's School & KGGS	4.00pm-5.30pm	Mrs Cunningham	Year 11, 12 & 13



Co-curricular Activities

Tuesday

Activity	Room/venue	Time	Member of staff responsible	Year groups who can attend
NEA Catch Up Session	C101	12.40pm-1.10pm	Mrs Beedham	11C DT Resistant Materials group
Classics Club	C201	12.40pm-1.10pm	Mrs McKenna	Year 7 & 8
Food NEA Catch up		12.40pm-1.10pm	Mrs Shaw	GCSE Students
Eco-Committee (Week A Only)	N204	12.40pm-1.10pm	Mrs Evans	All Year Groups
Business Essay Club	S203	12.40pm-1.35pm	Mr Hirst	Key Stage 5
Computer Science Revision	N203	12.40pm-1.35pm	Mrs Fellows	Year 11
A level English Club	T401	12.40pm-1.35pm	Mr McLauchlan	A level
Whist Club	N103	12.45pm-1.30pm	Mr Hill	All Year Groups
Economics Exam Booster Club	S201	12.50pm-1.35pm	Mr Anderson	A level Students
Creative Writing Club	T402	1.00pm-1.30pm	Mrs Misquitta	Key Stage 3
Concert Band	Rehearsal Room	1.00pm-1.30pm	Mr Lond	Invitation Only
French and Biscuits	N305	1.05pm-1.35pm	Mrs Roberts	Year 11
GCSE Biology Revision	B104	1.00pm-1.35pm	Mrs Haywood	Year 11
Languages Club	N301	1.10pm-1.40pm	Ms Dewulf	Year 7, 8 & 9
Grade 9 English Club	T401	3.45pm-4.45pm	Mc McLauchlan	Year 11
RS Essay Writing	S101	3.45pm-4.45pm	Mrs Cunningham	Year 11 & 13
Cricket	Field	4.00pm-5.00pm	Mr Hulme	Year 8

Co-curricular Activities

Wednesday

Activity	Room/venue	Time	Member of staff responsible	Year groups who can attend
Brass Ensemble	C204	8.45am-9.10am	Mr Cook	Invitation Only
NEA Catch Up Session	C101	12.40pm-1.10pm	Mrs Beedham	11C DT Resistant Materials group
Food NEA Catch up		12.40pm-1.10pm	Mrs Shaw	GCSE Students
Grade 9 English Club	T401	12.40pm-1.35pm	Mr McLauchlan	Year 11
Coursework Club	B101	12.45pm-1.30pm	Mr Hollingworth Mrs Misquitta	Year 13
Lego Club	Tombs	12.45pm-1.30pm	Mrs Clark	Year 7 Invitation Only
A level English Revision	T402 (Week A) T302 (Week B)	12.45pm-1.30pm	Mrs Misquitta Mr Hollingworth	A level
Knotso's	Rehearsal Room	1.00pm-1.30pm	Mr Lond	Invitation Only
Senior Choir	C204	1.00pm-1.30pm	Mr Cook	Invitation Only
KS3 Debate Society	B205	1.00pm-1.30pm	6th Form	Key Stage 3
French Revision Session	N304	1.10pm-1.35pm	Mrs Woolerton	GCSE Students
Cricket	Field	4.00pm-5.00pm	Mr Hope Mr Richardson	Year 7



Co-curricular Activities

Thursday

Activity	Room/venue	Time	Member of staff responsible	Year groups who can attend
NEA Catch Up Session	C101	12.40pm-1.10pm	Mrs Beedham	11C DT Resistant Materials group
Food NEA Catch up		12.40pm-1.10pm	Mrs Shaw	GCSE Students
Business Essay Club	S202	12.40pm-1.30pm	Mr Rushall	Key Stage 5
Essay + Revision Club	S203	12.40pm-1.30pm	Mr Hirst	Key Stage 4
History Society	C201	1.00pm-1.30pm	Thomas Christopher	Year 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13
Stats Club	N103	1.00pm-1.30pm	Mrs Ball	Year 13 A level Maths
Senior Percussion Ensemble	Rehearsal Room	1.00pm-1.30pm	Mr Richmond	Invitation Only
String Ensemble	C203	1.00pm-1.30pm	Mrs Brown	Invitation Only
Homework Club	T203	1.10pm-1.40pm	6h Form Prefects	Key Stage 4
KS4 Debating Society	S102	1.00pm-1.30pm	Mrs Cunningham	Key Stage 4
Cricket	Field	4.00pm-5.00pm	Mr Gilbert	Year 10
CCF	Quad & Classrooms	3.45pm-5.30pm	Lt Col R Og SSI S Pulfrey Mrs P Barton Mr M Davis Mr R Gait	Year 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 CCF
GCSE Biology Revision	B104	1.00pm-1.35pm	Mrs Haywood	Year 11
Languages Club	N301	1.10pm-1.40pm	Ms Dewulf	Year 7, 8 & 9
Grade 9 English Club	T401	3.45pm-4.45pm	Mc McLauchlan	Year 11
RS Essay Writing	S101	3.45pm-4.45pm	Mrs Cunningham	Year 11 & 13

Co-curricular Activities

Friday

Activity	Room/venue	Time	Member of staff responsible	Year groups who can attend
Junior Choir	Rehearsal Room	8.45am-9.10am	Mr Cook	Year 7 & 8
New Catch-Up Session	C101	12.40pm-1.10pm	Mrs Beedham	11C DT Resistant Materials group
Film Club	S202	12.40pm-1.35pm	Mr Rushall	All Year Group (40 student limit)
Grade 9 English Club	T401	12.40pm-1.35pm	Mr McLauchlan	Year 11
Drama Club	Hall	12.45pm-1.30pm	Student led	Invitation Only
Chess Club	T103	12.45pm-1.25pm	Mr Davies	Key Stage 4 & 5
Senior Soul Band	Rehearsal Room	1.00pm-1.30pm	Mr Lond	Invitation Only
Politics Society	B205	1.00pm-1.30pm	Jack Duffin Charlie Simpson	All Year Groups
CU Christian Union	S102	1.00pm-1.30pm	Mr Anderson	All Year Groups
Homework Club	T203	1.10pm-1.40pm	6th Form Prefects	Key Stage 3
Big Band	Rehearsal Room	3.45pm-4.45pm	Rehearsal Room	Invitation Only
CCF Shooting Club	Gym	3.45pm-6.00pm	SSI Pulfrey Mr P Dunlop Mrs P Barton	CCF – Year 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13



Newton, Sir Nurse, Professor Padgett and a King's School Apple

Following our recent Newton lecture, we were delighted to present Miles Padgett with The King's School's Newton apple as a token of our gratitude for his distinguished address.

The moment, captured in the photograph alongside the famous portrait of Sir Isaac Newton and Sir Paul Nurse, Chari of the Royal Society, represents a meaningful connection between our school's extraordinary history and the ongoing work of the Royal Society in advancing scientific endeavour.



BISHOP RICHARD FOXE

1448 – 1528

SIR WILLIAM CECIL

1521 – 1598

JOHN STILL

1543 – 1608

DR HENRY MORE

1614 – 1687

SIR ISAAC NEWTON

1643 – 1727

COLLEY CIBBER

1671 – 1757

JOHN NEWCOMBE

1684 – 1765

JOHN CUST

1718 – 1770

FREDERICK BARKER

1808 1882

SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON

1825 – 1889

BERNARD SMITH FRS

1881 – 1936

JOSEPH TOMBS VC

1884 – 1966

WILLIAM WAND KCVO, PC

1885 – 1977

ALBERT BALL VC

1896 – 1917

JOHN DOWNES DFC

1920 – 2004

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