

KING'S

THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE

2025-2026



Carols from King's

THE HEAD MASTER

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

It seems incredible that 2054 is coming to an end and that in a matter of a few days we will welcome in 2026.

As the world around us feels increasingly uncertain, with political upheaval and international tensions rarely far from the headlines, it has been reassuring to witness the stability, resilience and remarkable achievements of our school community this term. In my assemblies, I have reflected on how, amidst global discord, communities like ours become all the more important: places of purpose, shared endeavour and mutual support.

It is with enormous pride that I share the news from the Sunday Times Parent Power that The King's School has been rated the Best State School and Best Academic School in the East Midlands for the fourth consecutive year. This sustained excellence is a testament to the dedication of our students, the commitment of staff and the support of families.

Our current Year 13 continue to set the highest aspirations. We have submitted 11 applications to Oxford and Cambridge this year, our highest number ever, surpassing last year's record of 10. We wish all our Oxbridge and Medicine applicants every success as they prepare for interviews.

This term has also brought sporting success of historic proportions. The 1st XV have reached the semi-finals of the RFU National Vase, placing King's among the last four schools in the country. The semi-final in March will see the winners travel to the home of rugby, Twickenham Stadium.

Our new Year 7 have settled in wonderfully and, despite some fixtures being postponed due to the weather, have shown real resilience and enthusiasm in embracing all that the school has to offer.

This packed newsletter reflects the incredible breadth of achievement across the school. Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

Happy Christmas!

Simon Pickett - Head Master

PTFA

The PTFA brings parents, carers, staff and friends together to enrich daily life for students. The funds we raise go directly into the extras that make a difference; recent support has included prizes for the House system and the Debating Society.

GET INVOLVED

Every parent or carer is automatically a member of the PTFA and is warmly invited to attend meetings or get involved with any of our events. You do not need to be on the committee to take part — there are many ways to volunteer as a valued friend of the school.



WINTER BALL

The Winter Ball, held in October, proved to be a wonderfully enjoyable and highly successful evening for our school community. Thanks to the tremendous support shown through ticket sales, raffle tickets and the auctions, the event raised well over £5,000. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who attended, contributed and helped make the night such a memorable celebration of King's spirit and generosity.

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM

Our second-hand uniform operation continues to go from strength to strength, with a steady rise in both sales and donations in recent weeks. Looking ahead, surplus PE kit from Price & Buckland is expected to arrive in early 2026 and will be available to purchase as new, offering an excellent opportunity to buy high-quality items at a reduced cost. Keep an eye on our social media channels for updates when stock arrives.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

You can look up information on what is happening or get in touch with the PTFA via:

Facebook - @KingsPTFA

E-mail – PTFA@kings.lincs.sch.uk

Instagram: @kingsgranthamptfa

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. We look forward to seeing you in 2026.

The PTFA Committee

The Sixth Form

Physics

Miss Jones - Head of The Physics Department

The 11 November saw a group of 47 Year 12 and 13 A level Physics students along with Miss Jones, Mrs Vale-Brookes and Mr Downing, attended a series of talks on 'Physics in Action' at Warwick University.

The day featured six engaging sessions, each exploring a different area of Physics. Topics ranged from Space Weather, examining the science behind dancing auroras and damaging solar storms, to the innovative use of near infrared light for brain imaging. Students learned about the joys of being a materials scientist, explored ideas surrounding the Big Bang, and discovered how particle physics helps us understand the universe. The day concluded with an entertaining session entitled 'Body \times Movement = Thrill', exploring the physics of roller coasters.

Lewis Sheringham from A Level Physics Online, a resource many of our students use to support their learning, delivered a particularly valuable session on tackling A Level examinations. Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to hear from practising physicists discussing their cutting-edge research, allowing them to see how the concepts they learn in the classroom have real-world applications.

The day was a superb experience. The lecturers were both entertaining and informative, and students commented that they had a fantastic time.

OGDEN TRUST PARTNERSHIP

The Ogden Trust aims to increase the uptake of physics at post-16, particularly among under-represented groups. Through collaborative partnerships, enrichment activities, family engagement, career awareness and teacher CPD, the Trust supports schools committed to enhancing physics teaching and learning. Their goal is for more students to develop a physics identity: to believe they can be scientists and to see what studying physics can offer them.

The Physics Department at King's is working in partnership with the Ogden Trust and the four other secondary schools in Grantham. The first partnership activity of the school year is a physics quiz, and we have invited all Year 7 students across the five schools to take part. The quiz has two sections: a scientific knowledge round and a dingbats round. Here are two of the dingbats for you to try:

The results will be announced in January. Thank you to all students and their families taking part over the Christmas holiday. The deadline for entries is Monday 12th January 2026.

The next activity will be a photography competition for Year 8, with the intention of involving all year groups throughout the school year.



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M_____

C_____

History

Mrs Murray - Assistant Headteacher



On Tuesday 18 November, Year 12 and Year 13 A Level History students had the opportunity to attend a series of five lectures in London focusing on Weimar and Nazi Germany

The day provided students with an authentic taste of university-style lecturing and introduced them to current historical debates in this field. The lectures were delivered by world-class historians and leading experts, covering topics including the reasons behind the collapse of the Weimar Republic, questions of

inclusion and exclusion in Nazi Germany, and the complex issues surrounding Denazification in the post-war period. One of the highlights of the day was the chance to meet Sir Richard J. Evans, one of the world's foremost historians of Nazi Germany and author of the acclaimed Third Reich trilogy. Some students were fortunate enough to obtain a quick autograph and photograph with him.

The trip offered valuable enrichment for students studying this period and provided an excellent opportunity to deepen their understanding of the historical scholarship that underpins their A Level studies.

BOOKS FOR THE BAIRNS.—XXXI.

EDITED BY W. T. STEAD.

FAVOURITE STORIES
FROM
ENGLISH HISTORY.

RE-TOLD FOR LITTLE CHILDREN, AND ILLUSTRATED
WITH NEW PICTURES.



KING ALFRED AND THE CAKES.

ONE PENNY.

"REVIEW OF REVIEWS" OFFICE.

Nottingham Archives Trip

Mrs McKenna - Head of The History Department

"NIGHTINGALE'S CABINET HAD BEEN LIVING
IN STUDENT ACCOMMODATION"

Last week, we had the pleasure of visiting the University of Nottingham's archives to explore the history of The King's School and the history of education more generally.

We began with a tour of the archives and facilities. The scale was remarkable, with over 300,000 manuscripts and documents meticulously preserved on site. We learned that low temperature and dry atmosphere are key preservation techniques to prevent deterioration and mould. We also discovered that Florence Nightingale's original annotated copy of Notes on Nursing is stored at Nottingham. Unfortunately we were unable to see it, but it was fascinating to know, particularly for those of us who studied Medicine Through Time at GCSE. We did see Nightingale's original cabinet, filled with her antiquities, which had somehow been kept in student accommodation until around ten years

ago. The senior archivist also showed us the restoration and digitalisation facilities.

Then came the hands-on part of the visit. Our two visiting American teachers, Mr Karpicz and Mr Stoneman, had arranged for us to handle real artefacts, including a 300-year-old science textbook. Education has certainly moved on from the rather dry and dense language of older books. We were surprised, however, by the accuracy of many observations, revealing how little teaching has fundamentally changed. We delved deeper into the school's history by studying past students' accounts from days gone by, and concluded with a mini-presentation of our findings and a final judgement on the extent of change education has experienced over time.

We all had a wonderful time and were incredibly grateful to handle real history, gaining an amazing insight into the world of hundreds of years ago. Thanks are due to Mrs McKenna for facilitating the trip and to Mr Karpicz and Mr Stoneman for organising it.

History

Miss Ginnelly - Head of The Politics Department



As part of their ongoing study of World War I, our Year 9 students were tasked with researching soldiers who fought in the conflict. Using a variety of sources, they uncovered fascinating stories, many with personal family connections, that brought history to life in a truly meaningful way.

We are proud to share some of these incredible findings:

- ♦ Freddie Bishop-Stapleton 9S discovered that his relatives fought for Austria-Hungary. Remarkably, one of them later lived in German-occupied territory during World War II and worked tirelessly to help Jewish people escape persecution.
- ♦ Loic Collins 9B shared the story of William Henry Somerset, who encountered a German soldier one evening. Instead of fighting, they spent the night sharing cigarettes and talking—thanks to Somerset's ability to speak German.
- ♦ Lewi Valentine 9M told of William Bell Scott Valentine, who bravely fought and survived both

the Gallipoli and Palestine campaigns.

- ♦ Jack Banos 9C recounted how his great-great-grandfather was taken prisoner on 12 August 1914 and remained captive until 19 December that same year.
- ♦ Archie Hallett 9N shared the story of Walter William Handock, who enlisted at the very start of the war but tragically died after being shot on 27 October 1918.
- ♦ Freddy Winter Noon 9F discovered that his relative signed up in 1915 but was only allowed to fight in 1917 due to initial enlistment criteria.
- ♦ Disan Buhsal 9N told us about Kundabir Rai, a soldier from his family's home in Nepal who fought for the British.

These stories not only highlight the bravery and resilience of those who served but also show how history connects us across generations. Well done to all our Year 9 students for their outstanding research and dedication!



Politics

Miss Ginnelly - Head of The Politics Department

To celebrate Parliament Week and help students understand the democratic process, the Politics Society organised an exciting school-wide event. The society is led by Year 13 students Jack Duffin (13C) and Charlie Simpson (13B).

Students were invited to create their own political parties based on school policies, and the creativity on display was outstanding. On Thursday, a lively hustings took place in which party representatives outlined their policies, answered questions and engaged in spirited debate.

The week concluded on Friday with an election that saw fantastic turnout from students across the school. After all votes were counted, the Students Reform Party emerged victorious.

This event was a brilliant way to bring politics to life and encourage active participation in democratic processes. Well done to everyone involved.

Geography

Mr Bufton - Head of The Geography Department

"Tsunamis account for 2% of disasters but 35% of deaths"

The Hazards conference started with a lecture from David Petley (Vice-Chancellor for Nottingham Trent University) who teaches and researches in the field of landslides. Using Taiwan 1994 and 2024 earthquake case studies,

Petley taught us the impacts The Hazards Conference began with a lecture from David Petley, Vice-Chancellor of Nottingham Trent University, who teaches and researches in the field of landslides. Using Taiwan earthquake case studies from 1999 and 2024, Professor Petley explored the impacts of earthquake-induced landslides on human populations and how they can be mitigated. We heard about the complex dynamic between preparedness for earthquake events and how it can substantially decrease the risk to human life. We also learned about the physical geography of earthquake formation and how governance affects both loss of life and economic losses.

In the Chi-Chi earthquake of 1999, for instance, buildings were dubbed "tofu buildings" because the government had not constructed them according

to regulations and had repaired them with cheap materials such as plastic bottles. The structures were incredibly poor, and during the earthquake many crumbled, leading to a death toll of 2,400 from building collapse alone. In contrast, the Hualien earthquake in 2024 resulted in only 19 deaths, thanks to improved governance and a robust building code that made structures more resistant to ground shaking.

Next, Cameron Dunn spoke about the tsunami hazard. Although tsunamis are rare and account for only 2% of natural disasters, they are responsible for 35% of deaths from natural hazards. We learned how the topography of a landscape affects tsunami risk and how humans have developed mitigation strategies. In Japan, much of the coastline has a shallow gradient, meaning tsunamis can travel 5–10 km inland and cause widespread devastation. Mitigation measures include complex technology such as warning systems and large tsunami walls. One system we learned about is DART buoys, which detect tsunamis while they are still far from shore. Cameron Dunn's talk was particularly interesting as we heard about the latest case studies and the physical geography of tsunami formation.



After lunch, Ilan Kelman, Professor of Disasters and Health at UCL, gave a fascinating talk on the human cost of climate change and disasters. He offered thought-provoking ideas, including the notion that there is no such thing as a "natural disaster" and that it is human decisions that increase or reduce the impacts of tectonic events. He explored loss of life from tsunamis, particularly the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004, which caused over 225,000 deaths. He shared photographs of memorials he had visited in Norway and London, and concluded by introducing his book *Disaster by Choice: How Our Actions Turn Natural Hazards into Catastrophes*, which investigates the complex factors that shape disasters, from political processes to environmental circumstances.

His talk was truly inspiring, prompting reflection on how our choices determine the socio-economic impacts of tectonic disasters.

The day concluded with a review of key geographical concepts, including mitigation, risk and vulnerability, and how these can be examined throughout the A Level Geography course in both physical and human contexts. Thank you to KCM Events and Conferences for hosting, and to Mr Bufton and Mrs Meanwell for organising and supervising the day.

Jack Duffin (13C)

After a short break, Professor Fiona Tweed spoke about Iceland's recent volcanic eruptions. Having visited Iceland previously, I was fascinated by her case studies and the prevalence of volcanic activity across the island. We learned that Iceland is relatively young in geological terms (around 20 million years old) and was created by volcanic activity. The island sits upon the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, which accounts for its extensive fissure volcanoes. Professor Tweed explained both the physical formation of this volcanic activity and how Icelanders live with and benefit from it. For example, they build substantial lava walls and use seawater to cool magma and direct flows away from major settlements.

The conference was incredibly engaging and valuable for our geography studies. We were able to learn about the physical processes involved in the formation of natural hazards and access vital case studies for use in our A Level examinations.

Oliver Jamieson (13M)



The Geography Association's World Wise Quiz Success



This year, we proudly entered the local branch GA World Wise Quiz with two Year 11 teams, six students in total. The competition featured challenging questions covering geographical knowledge, skills and fieldwork.

Despite the tough nature of the quiz, our students rose to the occasion, securing first and second place among teams from several Lincolnshire secondary schools. Their winning margin was impressive, finishing ten points ahead of the third-place team. We returned with the trophy, prizes and the honour of hosting next year's event as reigning champions.

Looking ahead, we plan to enter three teams from Years 10 and 11 in next year's quiz. If you are passionate about geography and keen to represent the school, keep an eye out for sign-up details in the spring term.

Congratulations to the students involved. They have truly raised the profile of geography and are a credit to both the department and the school.

Mr C B Bufton, Head of Geography

WHAT THE STUDENTS SAID:

"The practice we put in on Thursday lunchtimes really paid off. Taking home the cup wasn't a want, it was a need." — Matthew Johns (11B)

"A success-driven team spirit sent us to victory." — Stirling Harris (11F)

"We worked very well as a team to secure our place in first, even with doubt after the first few rounds." — Reuben Izod (11C)

"Both teams worked well to achieve first and second place. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it." — James Ling (11S)

"Our result was a representation of our practice; it was essential to win." — Evan Margetts (11B)

Debating News

Mrs Cunningham - Head of The Religious Education Department

English Speaking
Union Mace
Round One
Victory for King's



Year 12 students Henry Apps, Thomas Mitchell and Dhiraj Vijayaraj, with support from Tanay Saravanan, won their English Speaking Union Schools' Mace round one debate held in the Old School here at The King's School.

The Schools' Mace, founded in 1957, is the oldest and largest debating competition for schools in England and Wales. Involving around 300 schools each year, it offers students the opportunity to discuss and debate a wide array of controversial subjects and current affairs. Over several heats of topical, passionate dialogue, students develop their knowledge of the world alongside their reasoning and presentation skills, in a fun, enriching and competitive environment.

One of our competitors, Thomas Mitchell, summed up his experience as follows:

We began the evening in high spirits, nervous but hopeful. Our preparation had begun seven weeks earlier with the publication of our motion: This House would ban short-haul domestic flights where transport alternatives exist. After two weeks of research, two of drafting and writing speeches, and three weeks of rehearsals and preparation, we still felt unprepared.

"Debates are won in the spontaneous"

The joy (and stress) of debate is the unexpected. It is impossible to perfectly predict the opposition's argument and their points of information. Speculation can only take you so far. Frankly, that is where debates are won: in the spontaneous. We are judged on our flexibility and composure when faced with

the unexpected. As a result, it is not possible to fully prepare, so you end up feeling entirely unprepared in the hours beforehand.

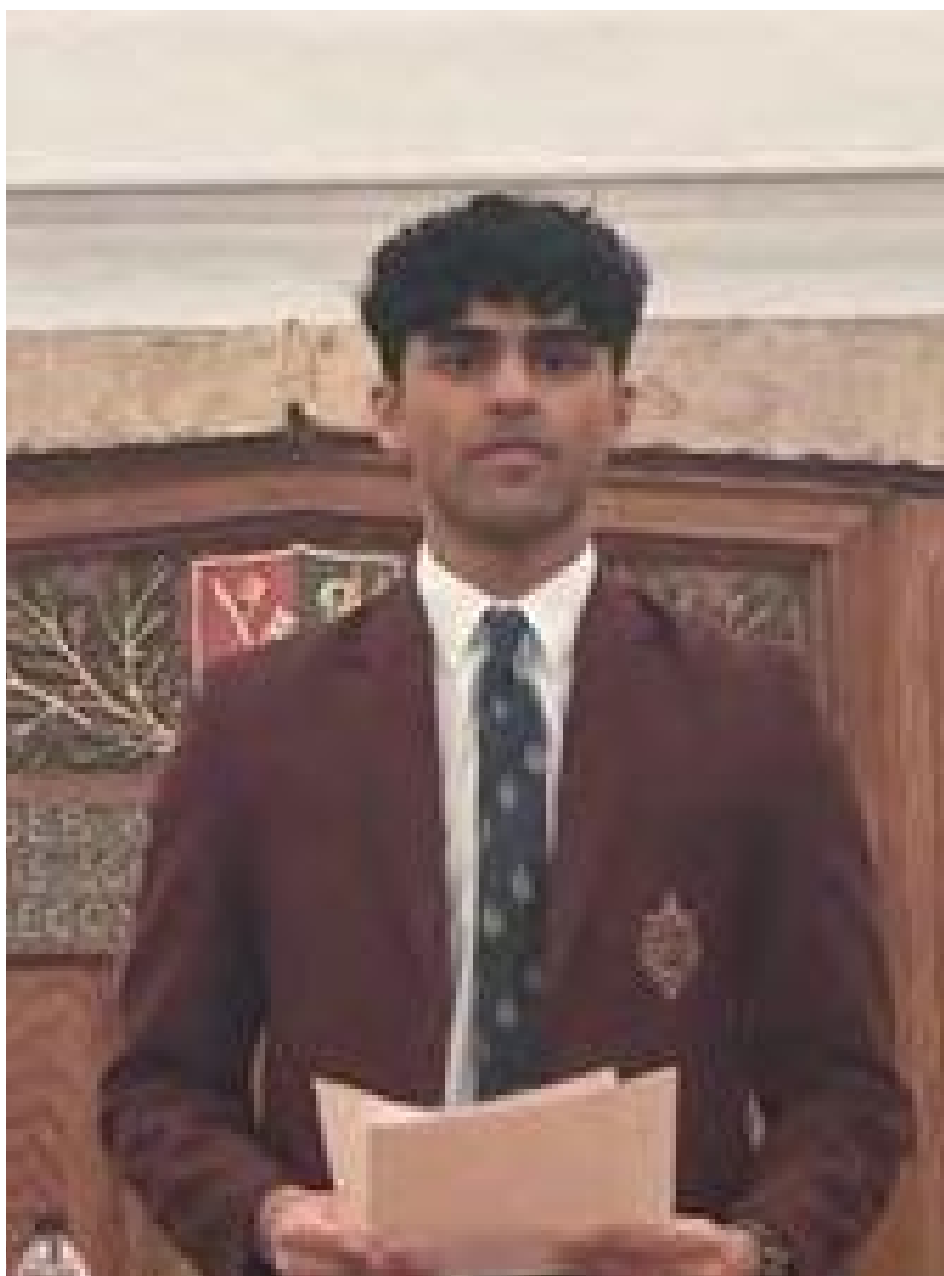
As the hosting school, we had home advantage, which somewhat relieved our nerves. It enabled us to rehearse right up until the last minute and prepare the Old School in a way that suited us. One such preparation was having James Diamond dramatically play the grand piano upon the arrival of the other schools: psychological warfare.

In all honesty, I do not remember the specifics of the debates or of my argument. Frankly, I am glad to have forgotten after so much rehearsing. The competition was undeniably tough; we would have to pull out all the stops to secure one of the three places for the next round. We were against Bourne Grammar. They

were formidable and difficult to rebut because of the strength of their arguments. However, we managed, arguing the clear environmental consequences of such a motion. "They want to drown you," we argued, as we made the case that failing to pass this motion would result in more emissions, increased global warming, and rising sea levels that would "drown" the UK.

With our emotive and rousing arguments, we were able to convince the judges and secured a place in the second round. Our new motion was released on 9th December and we will compete again in February, so watch this space!

Thanks are due to James Diamond, Oli Calder, Will Gray and Alex Gleed who, as Mace veterans, were instrumental to our preparation and victory.



FESTIVE INTER- SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DEBATING

On 1st December, King's and KGGS students met at KGGS to discuss major events from the past six weeks. The evening included debates on topics such as the recent budget and whether the G20's latest climate commitments made at COP are strong enough to tackle global warming. Lighter festive debates added to the fun, including whether it is better to receive one thoughtful gift or many small ones, which fictional character would make the best Santa, and a discussion of everyone's favourite Christmas film. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and a great opportunity for both schools to share ideas, build confidence and make new friends.

Year 11 Visit Thackray Museum of Medicine

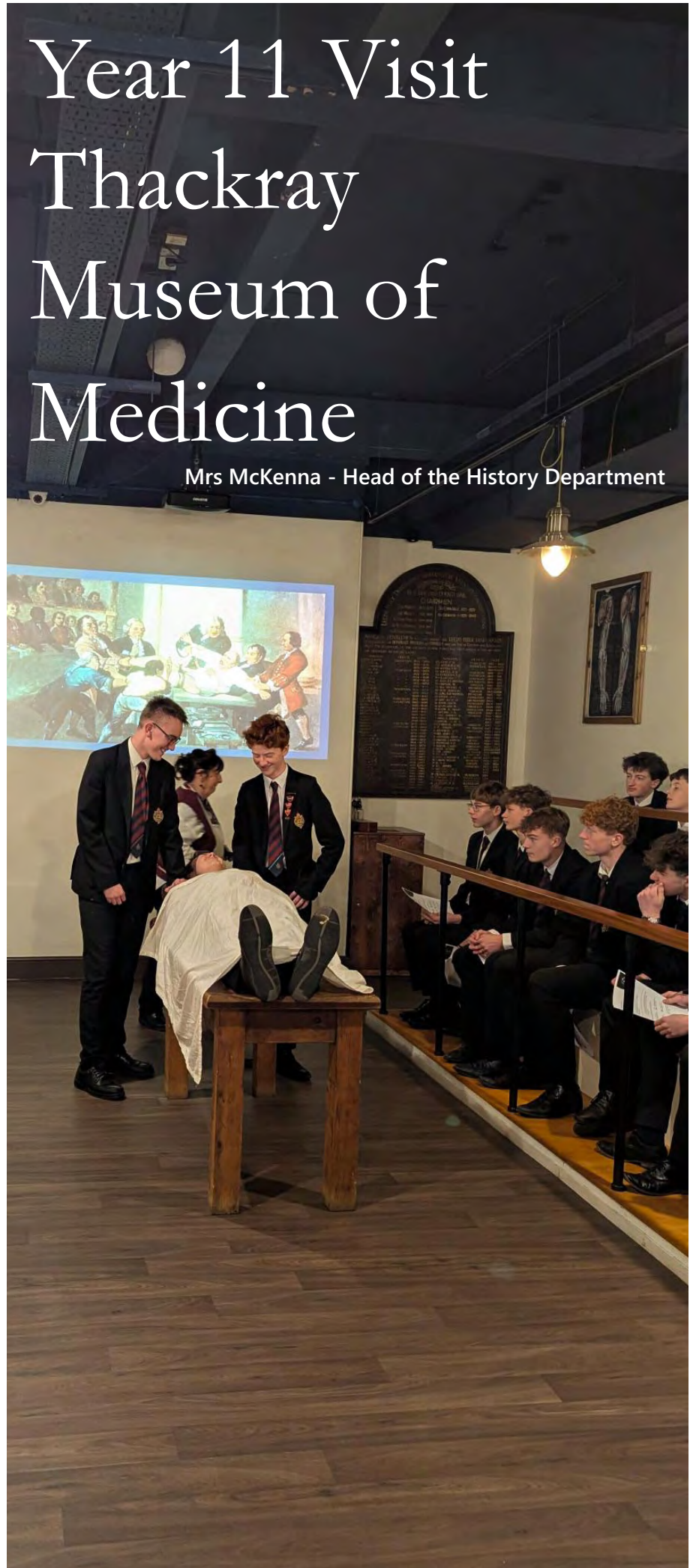
Mrs McKenna - Head of the History Department

On Friday 12th December, Year 11 historians enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Thackray Museum of Medicine in Leeds. The museum, which is the UK's largest independent medical museum, houses a remarkable collection of over 47,000 objects spanning medical history from Roman times to the present day. Located in a Grade II listed building that was once the Leeds Union Workhouse, the museum provides an immersive and thought-provoking journey through the history of healthcare.

The day began with a workshop exploring the history of surgery, examining the development of surgical techniques from the pre-anaesthetic era through to modern innovations. Students then explored the museum's galleries, including Disease Street, a meticulously recreated Victorian slum that brings to life the sights, sounds and even smells of 1840s Leeds. The group also visited the Victorian Operating Theatre, where the dramatic story of Hannah Dyson, a mill girl who underwent amputation without pain relief, provided a vivid illustration of the horrors of early surgery.

The final element of the day was a public health trail, which charted the Victorian era's great sanitary reforms. Students traced the work of figures such as Edwin Chadwick and John Snow, examining how improved sewerage, clean water supplies and housing legislation began to tackle the diseases that devastated urban populations.

The visit directly supports the Year 11 GCSE History course, Britain: Health and the People c.1000 to the present day. Experiencing the museum's galleries and handling historical evidence brought the curriculum vividly to life and provided invaluable context for the examination.



The French Debate

Mrs Roberts - Head of The Languages Department

"Je n'aurais jamais pensé que je ferais une telle chose"

On Friday, 7 November, King's hosted a French debate competition in the Old School. There were 10 teams in all from a diverse range of schools in the region; King's entered 2 teams, one from Year 12 composed of Thomas Mitchell, Nathan John, Harry Orme and Oscar Draycon and a team from Year 13 made up of Hadi Al Sheikh Ali, James Diamond, Nadeem Miah, George Iorio and Nathan Britton.

The day included two keynote speeches: "Communication in the Workplace" by a CEO, and "Structuring your speech quickly and tips to engage your audience" by a communications coach. These taught us how to deliver a speech with conviction and keep an audience engaged.

In round one, both King's teams faced King's Peterborough in prepared debates. The Year 12 team proposed the motion "This house believes that money can buy happiness," while the Year 13 team opposed "This house believes that artificial intelligence will make human beings lazy."

After a tense and rigorous morning of debating, the teams mingled over lunch. It was especially nice to socialise with those who had been ruthlessly attacking each other's arguments just moments earlier.

In round two, we were given only 15 minutes to prepare. The Year 12 team supported the proposition that "art can be objectively bad" against Stamford, while the Year 13 team proposed "This house would bring back extinct species," also against Stamford. Both King's teams competed in the Main School Hall, so it was good to cheer each other on.

Then came a suspenseful moment: the announcement of the finalists. The Year 13 team were delighted to learn they had reached the final against King's Peterborough. The motion was "This house believes that penalty shoot-outs are a good way to determine a winner." King's Grantham opposed and King's Peterborough proposed. We emphasised the importance of team effort and the lack of fairness; they stressed the excitement of a shoot-out and the need for a time limit.

After a drumroll, the judges announced the gagnants: King's Peterborough. The Year 13 team finished in second place, losing by just three points. We were a little disappointed but not bitter, having enjoyed a frantic yet exciting day of French debating.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE TEAM

"On a beaucoup appris sur le discours public." — James Diamond
(We learned a great deal about public speaking.)

"C'était une expérience qui m'a donné une nouvelle perspective et de la confiance devant une audience." — George Iorio (It was an experience that gave me a new perspective and confidence in front of an audience.)

"Je n'aurais jamais pensé que je ferais une telle chose et je ne le regrette pas." — Nadeem Miah
(I never thought I would do something like this, and I do not regret it.)

JAZZ IN

SATURDAY 7 FEB

St. Wulfram's



THE KING'S SCHOOL

GRANTHAM

www.tks.org.uk

NITE 30

FEBRUARY 2026

Church 7PM



TICKETS: £18

Available via the School Website
ticketsource.co.uk/the-kings-school

YEAR 7 CONCERT

All six Year 7 forms have been involved in a project run by Lincolnshire Music Service called Mash Up. During this project, all students have been learning an instrument as part of their class music lessons, choosing from flute, saxophone, baritone, trombone or French horn.

Thank you to parents and carers for attending our very successful first concert, at which each form performed two pieces. It was wonderful to see such strong support.

GENERAL REMINDERS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Students are expected to provide their own headphones (with a 3.5mm jack) for class music lessons. When bringing in your own instrument for an instrumental lesson, please ensure the case is clearly labelled.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

The Music Department returned to St John the Baptist Church in Loundthorpe for Carols by Candlelight. The audience was wonderfully entertained by the King's Singers and soloists in a beautiful candlelit setting.

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Christmas Concert was another sell-out event, rounding off the festive season in fine style. The concert featured performances from the Concert Band, Big Band, Senior Choir, Junior Choir, Clarinet Ensemble, String Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble and soloists.

JAZZ NITE 30: 2026

On Saturday 7th February, the Music Department will celebrate a major milestone: the 30th anniversary of Jazz Nite.

This year we return to St Wulfram's Church in Grantham, allowing for a much larger capacity so that more people can attend. Doors open at 6.30pm, with music from 7.00pm.

Jazz Nite is the most popular event in the Music Department's calendar. Students work exceptionally hard to deliver a concert of the highest musical standard, featuring performances from the school's big bands, soul bands and many student-led ensembles. This year will also feature an alumni big band of former students.

It is always a fabulous evening. We will be creating the atmosphere of a jazz club, with all profits supporting the Music Department.

Tickets are on sale now at £18 and can be purchased from the school website: ticketsource.co.uk/the-kings-school

Music

Mr Lond - Head of The Music Department



Alumni Christmas Meal



We were delighted to welcome former students back to the school for the return of the Alumni Christmas Meal.

Those present enjoyed a wonderful evening, treated to an excellent meal and outstanding company. The highlight of the evening was a fascinating presentation by former student Superintendent Damon Solley of West Yorkshire Police.

Damon spoke about his remarkable career in policing, including his leadership of Operation Jemlock, a major initiative tackling knife crime and serious violence across West Yorkshire. Under his command, the operation has resulted in thousands of arrests and the seizure of hundreds of weapons, significantly reducing the number of knife crime victims across

the region. It was an inspiring and thought-provoking evening, and a powerful reminder of the impact former King's students continue to make in the world.

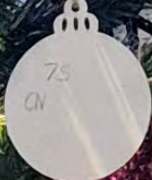
The evening also provided a wonderful opportunity to renew old friendships and forge new ones. The cross-generational support for the school was evident throughout, with former students spanning many decades coming together to celebrate their shared connection to King's.

We very much look forward to welcoming you again next year. Tickets are already on sale for the 2026 Alumni Christmas Meal.

All former students are also warmly invited to the Annual Rugby Fixture: the Hubbard Scott Cup, which will be played on Saturday 18th April 2026 at Newark Rugby Club. It is always a fantastic occasion and a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with the school community.

We hope to see you there.
The King's School Alumni Association





House

Mrs Meanwell - House Coordinator

This term, students have been actively involved in a variety of activities to earn points for the House System. Tobias Bruce (11B) won the House Competition for writing a War Poem in honour of Remembrance Day. We also saw an incredible response to the new House Bauble competition, with over one hundred entries. Many of these beautiful creations are now proudly displayed on the Kings Tree at St Wulfram's Christmas Tree Festival.

Throughout the term, every form has had the chance to take part in the Counties Challenge House Competition and the Detective Challenge. In addition, there have

been exciting contests within the Whist Society, Warhammer Society, Politics Society, and Creative Writing Society.

As Christmas approaches, we look forward to celebrating with our House Christmas Dinner and raffle, as well as an inter-house activity morning during the final week. On the last day of term, edible treats will be delivered to the leading House in points and to the House that has gained the most points since September.

A big thank you to the PTFA for their continued support of the House System.

Movember

Mr Deller - Head of School House and Assistant Head of the English Department

THE SCHOOL COUNCIL CHARITY FUNDRAISER: THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL COUNCIL MOVEMBER AND ODDBALLS FUNDRAISER AT KING'S - "HANDLE-BAR" NONE!

On Tuesday 25th November, students and staff at King's united for a memorable and creative charity fundraiser organised by Mr Deller, Head of PSHE, and the School Council. The event supported two important charities, Movember and Oddballs, both dedicated to raising awareness about prostate and testicular cancer as well as men's mental health.

The day was filled with fun activities, starting with students purchasing stick-on moustaches, the iconic symbol of Movember, which they wore with pride around school throughout the day. Additional funds were raised through a Movember quiz and a lively game of "Pin the Moustache on Newton." The school caterers joined in the spirit by selling moustache-themed cakes and cookies throughout the week, with all proceeds going to the charities.

Following last year's successful fundraiser, the Movember Foundation were so impressed by our school's efforts that they kindly sent us merchandise

including hats, t-shirts, socks and sweatbands, which were won by students as raffle and competition prizes.

A highlight of the event was the Friday performance by the King's Drama Club, who wrote and staged a moustache-themed play titled The Moustache Mandate. The play was performed during lunch to a packed audience who generously donated to the cause.

The fundraiser was a resounding success. **We managed to surpass the previous 2024 total of**





£2,202.28, raising more than £2,600 in 2025. This is an incredible achievement, and we thank students, families and staff for their generosity. True to his word, Mr Deller shaved his beard into a handlebar moustache once last year's total had been passed.

By adding the sales of Oddballs hats throughout the year, the overall fundraising total for this cause at King's since the 2024 fundraiser now exceeds £4,100, an amount of which we can be truly proud as a school community.

The funds will be donated to Movember and Oddballs. The Oddballs donation will be used to purchase more King's School Movember bobble hats, with proceeds from their sale going back into the charity to maintain the cyclical fundraising legacy of the event. The School Council hope to continue this as an annual fundraiser to maintain awareness of these health issues amongst the student body.

In the lead-up to the event, students attended

assemblies to learn more about the issues these charities address and to understand the symptoms and how to seek advice and support. The message throughout the fundraiser was clear: awareness is key. If you notice any unusual pain, lumps or bumps, seek advice, as early detection can often lead to successful treatment.

If you wish to find out more about these issues and support your child further at home, information can be found at the following links:

movember.com/mens-health/testicular-cancer

myoddballs.com/pages/check-your-self-guide

A huge thank you to all staff, students, parents and families for their incredible support and donations. The School Council is already planning their second fundraiser this summer — more details to follow.

THE MOUSTACHE MANDATE

DRAMA CLUB'S COMIC COLD WAR

The Drama Club staged The Moustache Mandate this term, a fast-paced comedy blending music, movement and satire in support of the School Council fundraiser for Movember and Oddballs.

Set in London in 1960, the play imagines MI5 uncovering a hidden clause in a peace treaty: all world leaders must grow moustaches by November, or war resumes. With not a whisker in sight, spies, politicians and international barbers scramble to save civilisation in a ridiculous romp of espionage, ego and emergency facial hair.

Written and scored by Tobias Bruce, the show came alive in rehearsals under directors Sam Kirkham, Zach Giltinan and Daniel Grace, with Movement Director Oscar Bruce shaping scenes such as the

opening "organised chaos." Live jazz-infused music added rhythm and spectacle, creating a production that balanced farce with style and was designed to entertain while raising awareness for men's mental health.

The performance drew more than 200 audience members. Staff support from Mrs Misquitta, Mr Deller and Mr Lond proved invaluable, and the event contributed to the fundraising total through donations at the door and sales of commemorative programmes.

Each member of the cast and band felt immense pride as the audience erupted in applause. It has been an honour to receive such high praise from staff and students alike.







Mr Hope - Head of Rugby

Rugby has continued to play a pivotal role in the school's sporting achievements throughout Term 2.

A season highlight must be the competitive block of fixtures against Stamford at U12, U13, U14 and U15. Fixtures of this nature, particularly at B team level, are vital. They provide opportunities for more players to represent the school and remain connected with the game at a competitive level. At U13 level, for example, over 40 boys have represented the school in an external fixture this season, and we endeavour to build on these successes.

At senior level, the 2nd XV have put in some strong performances, notably against Trent College and Worksop, with several Year 11 players making up the bulk of the team. These players have made excellent progress transitioning to senior rugby and it will be exciting to see them develop further over the coming years.

The 1st XV continue to march forward in the RFU National Vase Competition. Following a fine win away

at Trent College, King's were again drawn away, this time to Sandbach Grammar School in round five. An attritional battle ensued, with King's coming out on top to earn a place in the quarter-finals. Once more, King's had to travel, this time to Aylesbury Grammar School. Now accustomed to life on the road, the team managed to gain a foothold on the game and see off an Aylesbury side that exuded confidence and were littered with quality players.

The semi-final will take place in March against Dame Allan's School, with the winners securing a place in the final at the home of rugby: Twickenham Stadium.

It is worth remembering, however, that success at the top end of the school is built on foundations laid lower down. Before the end of Term 2, Year 7 and Year 8 will take part in their House Rugby competitions. This year there will be two competitions per year group: a non-contact format and a contact format. Over 350 pupils will participate across the two year groups. It is initiatives like this that form the bedrock of the school's future rugby achievements.



UNDER 12
TEAM



UNDER 13
TEAM



UNDER 14
TEAM



UNDER 15 TEAM
SECOND XV TEAM



Physical Education

It has been a very busy term for fixtures and we have celebrated success in numerous areas. Most notably, the 1st XV have continued their exceptional season by reaching the National Vase semi-final; you can read more in the rugby report. Elsewhere, football and cross country have both produced positive results, and the boys continue to represent King's to the highest standard.

Football



LOWER SCHOOL

Year 7 have proved to be a very capable team and are, at the time of writing, the only team still in the National Cup. They have recorded impressive wins against Carre's (7–1) and West Bridgford (1–0) on their way to the last 64. We wish them all the best for their fifth round match. Year 8 have been on the wrong side of inclement weather, with their league fixture against Carre's cancelled due to waterlogged pitches. Year 9 are working hard to improve under Mr Lindsay's guidance and were involved in a 6–4 thriller against Carre's, sadly finishing on the wrong side of the result.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Year 10 have been a surprise package this year, reaching the fifth round of the National Cup (last 64). Wins against Nottingham Academy (2–1) and Haven High (3–2) showed real determination and, in several instances, high-quality passing football. The run came to an end at Wigston Academy on 4th December in a tightly fought game, with King's losing 3–2. Nevertheless, reaching the last 64 schools nationally is a great achievement. The team were victorious against last year's county cup finalists Branston in round one and county cup winners Haven High in round four, which bodes well for the rest of the season. They have already progressed to round three of the County Cup, having beaten QEGS Alford 5–0. Year 11 are due to play their opening County Cup fixture on 11th December against Stamford Welland; we wish them well.





SENIOR FOOTBALL

The 1st XI have been in league and cup action. At the end of last half term they lost a tight game 4–3 away at Spalding Grammar, but regrouped with an excellent 8–3 victory against Priory Ruskin. The team then got the better of Spalding Grammar in the senior cup competition with a 2–1 win, making honours even for the year. It is still all to play for in both competitions.

The 2nd XI have been hit by cancellations this half term and, at the time of writing, have played only two matches. They remain well placed in the B league and will be looking to retain the league and cup double won last season.

For the first time in many years, King's has also fielded a C team playing friendly fixtures. Mr Lindsay has been the driving force behind this All-Stars team, made up of boys who have committed every week to playing football on Wednesday enrichment afternoons but who have not previously had the chance to represent the school. In the two fixtures played so far, the team has lost narrowly against Carre's and not so narrowly against QEGS Alford. However, the level of enjoyment has remained high throughout for all boys involved.

CROSS COUNTRY

The KSSA District Cross Country event took place on 11th November. King's fielded teams at Year 7, Junior and Intermediate levels and performed very well. Year 7 and the Junior Boys were crowned District Champions, while the Intermediate Boys finished as runners-up — a fantastic effort by all.

The following students have qualified to represent the district at the County Cross Country event in January:

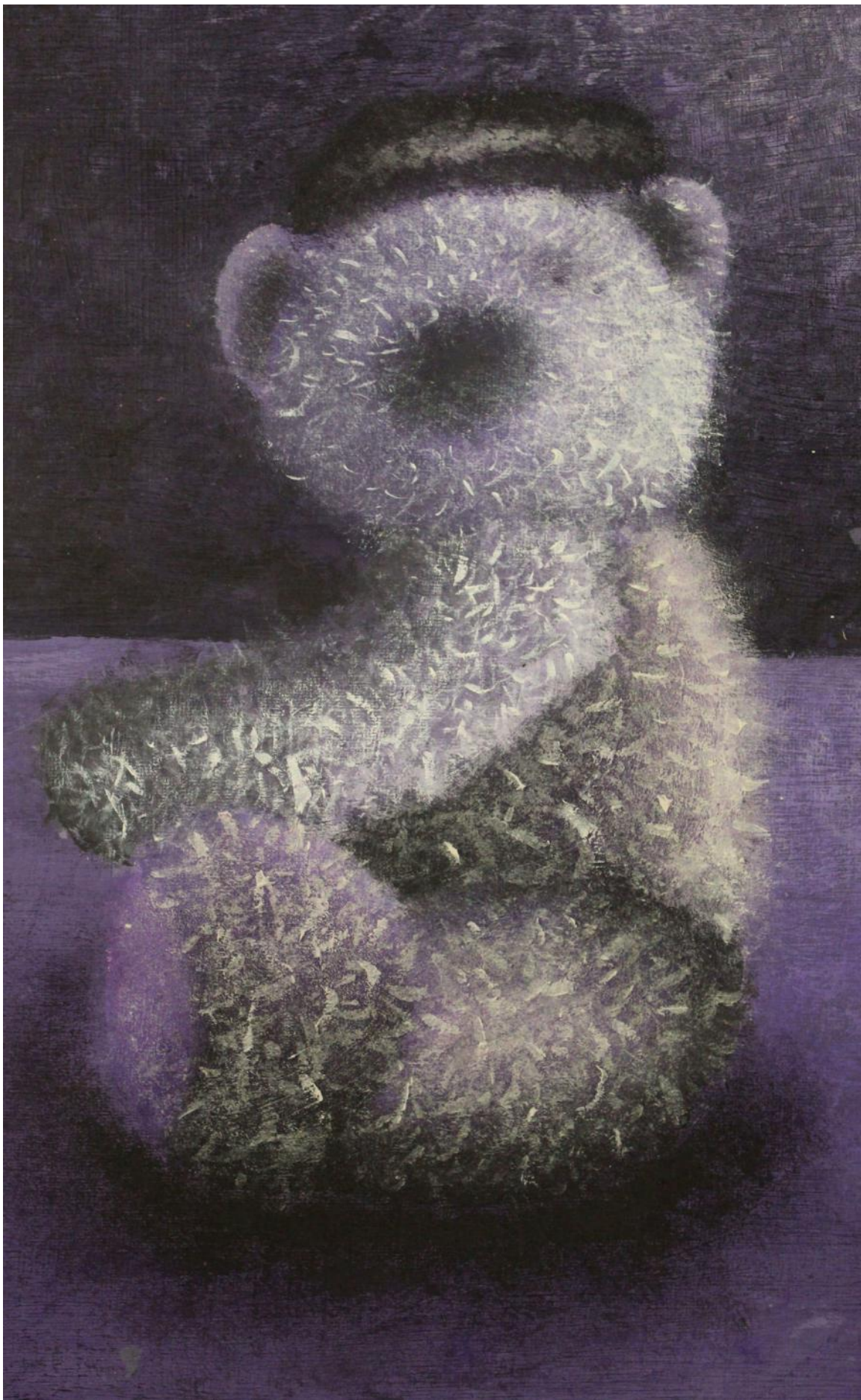
- ◇ Year 7: Logan Hamilton, Blake Mitchell, Max Clayfield, Marcus Parapijonavicius, Reuben Wilkinson
- ◇ Junior Boys: Fraser Hart, James Fearn, Elliot Gleave, Henry Dolan, Toby Paget, Ben Goddard
- ◇ Intermediate Boys: Theo Bacon, Evan Margetts, Max Willis, Elliot Ward, Hector Parker, Thomas Darby

LOOKING AHEAD

Next half term will see the continuation of the football season, the badminton national championships and the county cross country events. The 15-a-side rugby season has now concluded for all but the senior teams, meaning weekly training sessions will end. The rugby sevens season will start after February half term, when training will resume. Football practices will continue indoors until the evening light improves.

All details for extra-curricular clubs can be found on the SOCS platform. The sign-up window will reopen in the final week of term and remain open until the second week of January. Boys should sign up for any activity they wish to be involved in.

The Gallery



YEAR 12

Leo Dudman-Millbank

Acrylic on paper, A4



YEAR 13

Kacper Gora

Acrylic and oil on board, A1



YEAR 10

Oscar Savage

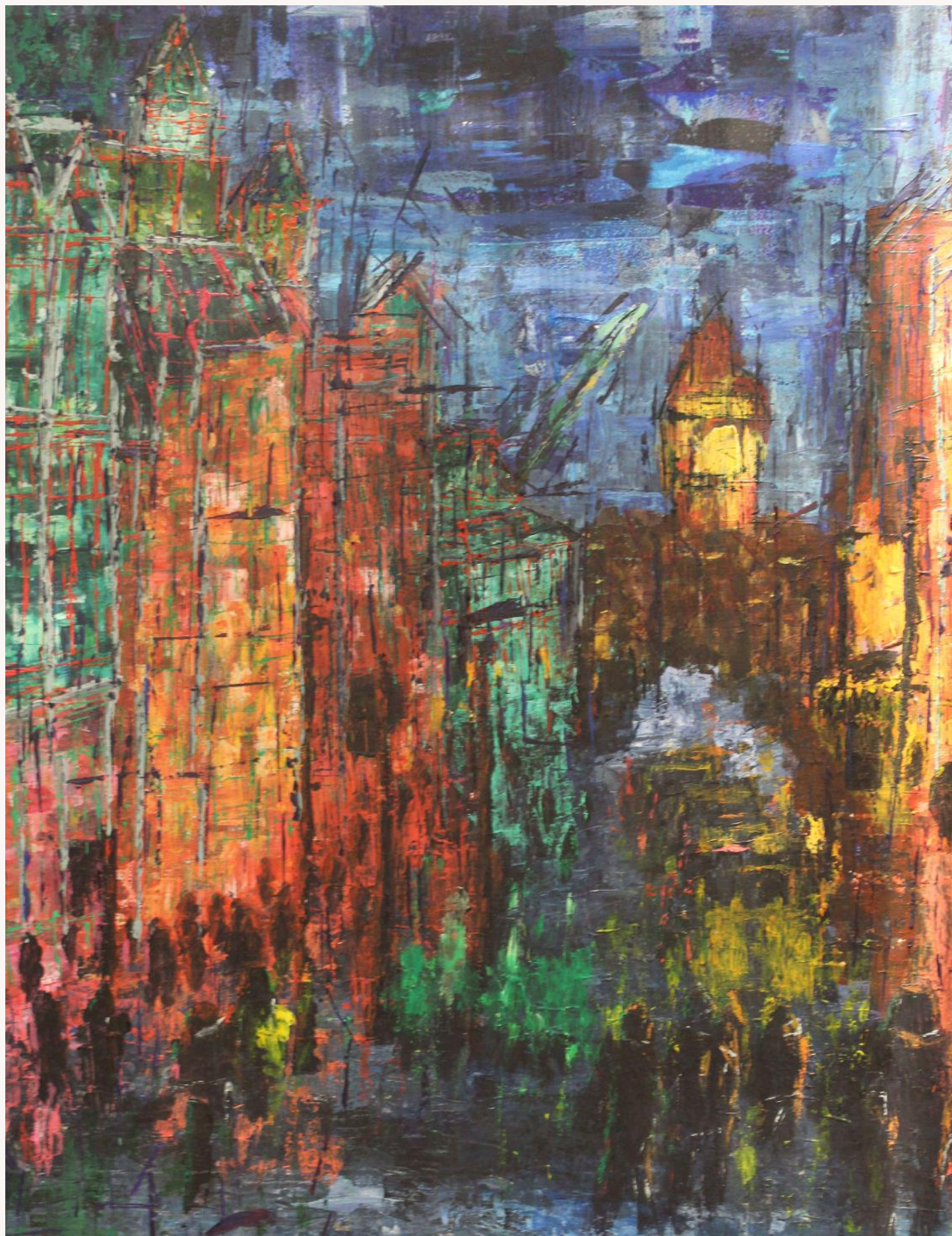
Tie Dye and biro, A4



YEAR 11

Senuth Perera

Pencil crayon on paper, A3



YEAR 13

Freddie Jenkins

Acrylic on board A0

Chess

The King's School chess team made their first competitive appearance of the year at Nottingham High School, competing in the regional qualifier of the English Schools Chess Championship. Both teams represented the school with skill and determination.

Our A Team delivered an outstanding performance. After drawing their first match, they went on to win their second and third games, finishing with 5 match points from a possible 6. This comfortably exceeded the 4 points required to qualify, securing them a place in the next stage of the championship.

The B Team also played exceptionally well, starting with a win, followed by a loss, and finishing with a hard-fought draw. Although they narrowly missed qualification, their effort and sportsmanship were commendable.

We are proud of both teams and look forward to seeing the A Team compete in the championship rounds, while the B Team continues to enjoy friendly matches against other schools.

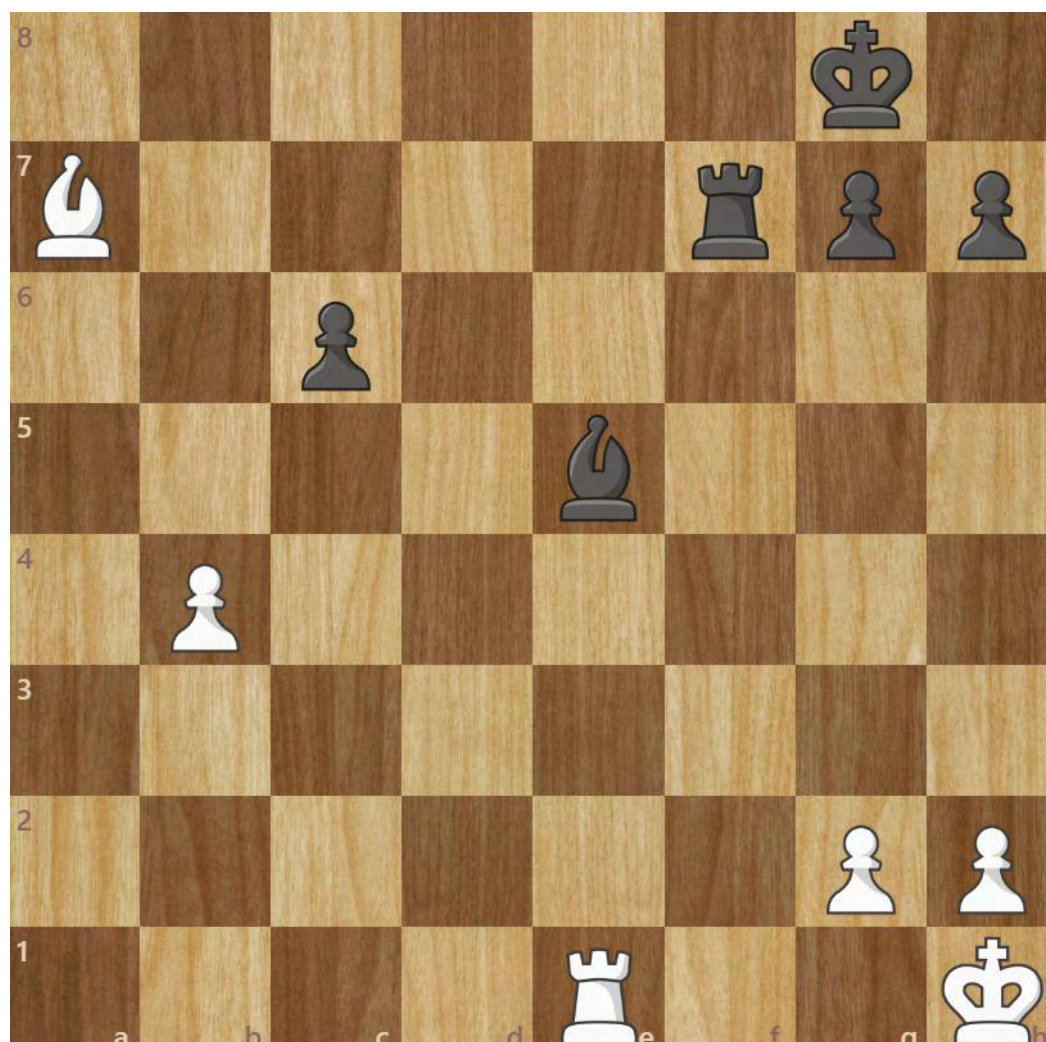
Chess Club

Chess Club is open for KS3 on Monday at lunch time and KS4/5 on Fridays at lunchtime.

The school plays both casual and competitive chess so all abilities are very welcome.

Have a very Happy Christmas, white to move and force a decisive material gain.

Mr Davies - Teacher of Mathematics and Psychology



OUR TRACKS

Whether it is sat quietly in a chair or while you are out exercising, music adds immeasurably to our lives. We thought it would be a great opportunity for you to listen to one of the following albums, it is Christmas after all!!!

Mr Lond - Director of Music



Norah Jones – I Dream of Christmas

Norah Jones brings her signature smooth jazz and soulful vocals to the holiday season. This album blends cozy originals with reimagined classics, creating a warm, intimate atmosphere perfect for quiet evenings. With its laid-back charm and gentle instrumentation, it's an ideal soundtrack for unwinding by the fire.



Pentatonix – Holidays Around the World

Pentatonix continues to redefine festive music with their stunning a cappella harmonies. This album celebrates global holiday traditions, featuring collaborations with international artists. Expect vibrant arrangements, rhythmic beats, and soaring vocals that make familiar carols feel fresh and exciting.



Andrea Bocelli – A Family Christmas

Andrea Bocelli teams up with his children for a heartwarming album that radiates family spirit. Featuring classic carols and new compositions, the rich orchestration and Bocelli's iconic tenor voice create a majestic, timeless feel. This is an album that elevates any holiday gathering.



Sia – Everyday Is Christmas

Sia's quirky and creative approach to holiday music shines in this album of all-original songs. From playful tracks like "Candy Cane Lane" to heartfelt ballads, her unique style offers something different from traditional Christmas fare. It's fun, fresh, and full of personality.

Music to listen to



It has been a very successful term in the Library, with numerous students and staff using the space for lessons, meetings and activities, as well as for reading.

The new Year 7 Reading and Writing Workshop lessons have been a great addition to the timetable, with classes coming to the Library fortnightly to change books, complete Accelerated Reader quizzes and work through their bronze, silver and gold reading booklets. The boys have been fully engaged with their reading and have enjoyed exploring different genres.

The Library has also hosted Year 9 research lessons on Charles Dickens and the Victorian era, with students using non-fiction books to discover what life was like when *A Christmas Carol* was written in 1843.

The Sixth Form debating team continues to

meet in the Library once a week, and House activities now take place on Friday mornings, with competitions such as Boggle and Countries of the World.

HALLOWEEN WRITING COMPETITION

We received many superbly spooky entries for our annual Halloween Writing Competition. Students from all years were asked to write about a scary sleepover in the Old School, and they did not disappoint with their spine-tingling tales.

The winner was Zachary Boneham (7F), whose story was highly imaginative and descriptive, with a good sprinkle of humour. Zachary won a book and some sweets, and his story is now displayed in the Library for all to see. You can read Zachary's winning entry elsewhere in this newsletter.

READING WORKSHOP SUCCESS

At the beginning of the year, Year 7 students were given bronze reading booklets to work through during their fortnightly Library sessions. The booklets, devised by Assistant Head of English Mr Deller, require students to read across various genres, complete written tasks on each book and pass an Accelerated Reader quiz.

Some boys were quick off the mark, reading their way through the bronze booklets in no time and moving on to the more challenging silver booklets. One student, however, has worked so hard that he has already completed his bronze, silver and gold booklets, reading a total of 28 books. Well done to Rishan Sharif (7F).

ACCELERATED READER

Year 7 and 8 students have raced full steam ahead with their book quizzing this year. There is a real battle at the top of the word count leaderboard between the Year 7 classes. Many boys have gained their millionaire certificates, and some are now approaching five million words.

House points are awarded to the classes and individuals with the top word counts at the end of each term, and there will be treats at the end of the year for the top class and top individual. Keep quizzing!

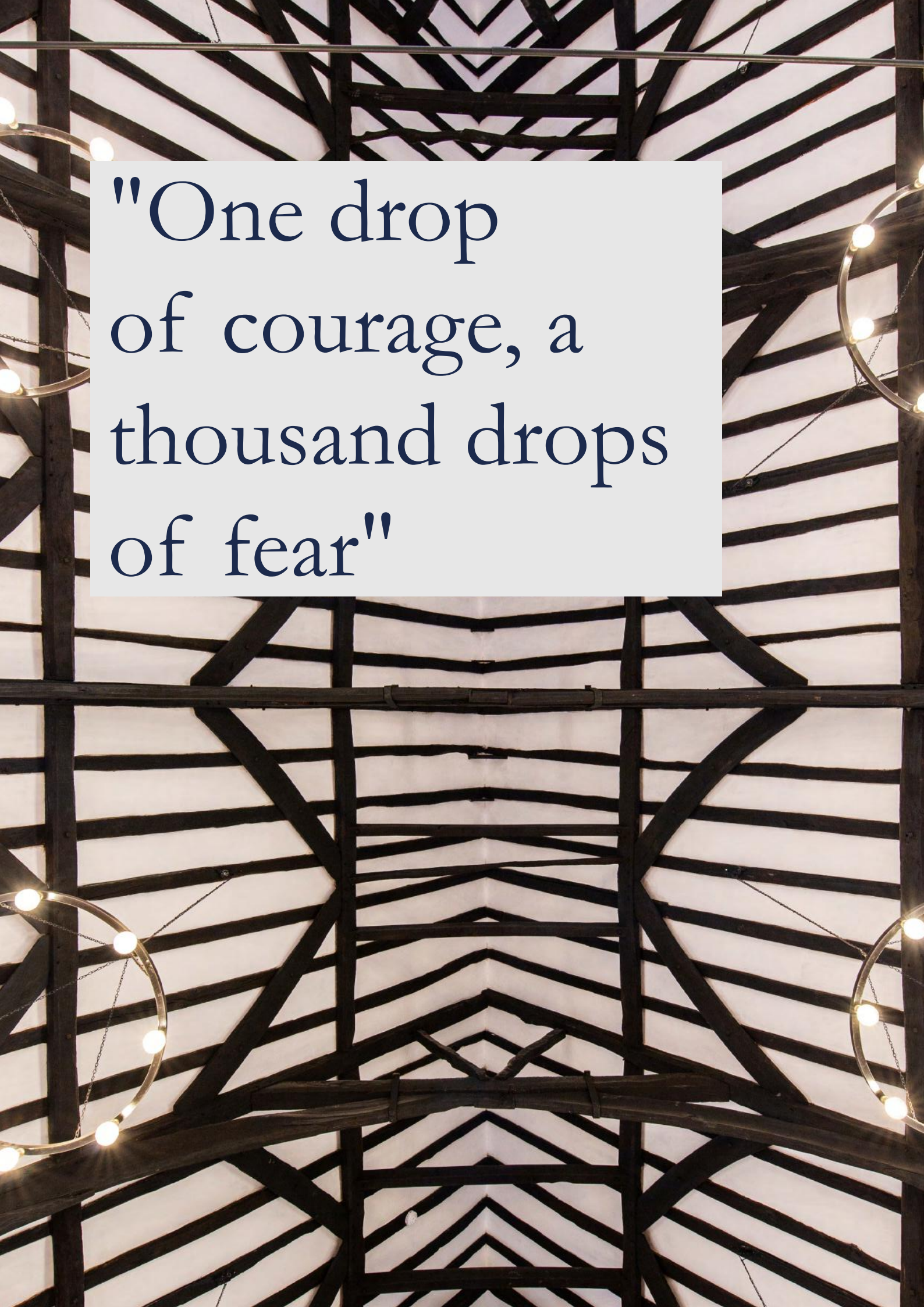
SCHOOL LIBRARIANS MEETING

Mrs Hobbs, the School Librarian, recently attended a meeting of school librarians from across the county at The Priory Academy LSST in Lincoln. Fifteen librarians gathered to discuss all aspects of school libraries, from book stock to author visits and reading challenges. The group hopes to meet twice a year to exchange ideas and share knowledge.

DISPLAYS

This term we have continued with our themed displays, including Bonfire Night, Remembrance and UK Parliament Week. There has also been a survival display inspired by I'm A Celebrity.





"One drop
of courage, a
thousand drops
of fear"

Library Halloween Writing Competition

WINNER ZACHARY BONEHAM (7F)

Whispers and rumours frolicked and danced as the children of King's School prepared for a sleepover in the most haunted part of the building: the feared, the dreaded Old School Hall! Children boasted of their courage and bravery, claiming fearlessness about the event. But inside every pupil was a brewing potion: one drop of courage, a thousand drops of fear. With those ingredients came a pinch of excitement too, and three students could not wait to close their eyes and fall into slumber in the ancient building. Their names were Lucas, Jed and Archie.

"Ghosts?" laughed the brave pupils in unison. "We aren't scared of ghosts!" Clever as all the other Year 7s, they knew petrifying poltergeists did not exist.

But as they chuckled and sniggered, haunted horrors were stirring inside the dreaded hall. Three hundred years ago, a child named Clyde pulled detentions to him just like lanterns attracting moths; they followed him to every lesson. His cunning mischief drove the teachers insane, and he was out of the school in no time at all. But his spirit never left those halls, and legend has it he still lurks in, you guessed it, the Old School.



Lucas, Jed and Archie entered the hall and were immediately shocked at how large it looked without chairs and gigantic Year 10s. "This hall isn't as big as Foxe's chances of going to Alton Towers this year!" Jed whispered cheekily.

By the time the lights had gone out and it was time to rest their heads, even our confident little trio began to feel a shiver in their spines. "Maybe we should sneak to the Tower Block," Archie chuckled nervously. Little were they aware that a spooky surprise was just a blink away.

Without warning, Lucas let out a blood-curdling shriek. Angry faces stared at him in irritation, but angry soon became flabbergasted as they looked up to see two smug eyes peering down at them.

"I am mischievous Clyde!" he cackled, flying around their sleeping bags and drifting past the windows. Every child in the room hid and cowered. Who was this horrific supernatural troublemaker?

"I promise not to harm you..." he laughed slyly, "on the condition that you continue my fantastic legacy!" Puzzled faces circled him like hungry sharks as he laughed devilishly. "I think that all children should be naughty and cause as much mayhem as possible!" Clyde bellowed. The tired pupils watched in utter disbelief.

Lucas, however, had a plan. He pulled his brand-new merit certificate out of his bag and watched as Clyde screamed at the sight of it. Pretty soon, all of Year 7 began waving their paper honours at the horrid ghost, driving his ghastly presence away from the school. Mischievous Clyde was never to return.

That is when the celebrations began. The children cheered in harmony; the school was finally rid of trouble and misbehaviour. But, of course, this served as a huge reminder to the children of the magnificent King's School: always do what you are told!

Veterinary Science

A degree in veterinary medicine not only qualifies you to work as a vet in clinical practice, but also opens doors to careers in areas ranging from government veterinary services, research and public health to wildlife conservation, animal welfare and charity work.

For example, jobs that relate directly to a degree in veterinary science might include;

ANIMAL NUTRITIONIST

Use scientific knowledge to advise on the effect of diet on animal health and well-being

Promote a better understanding of the effect of diet on the health, wellbeing and productivity of animals. They are most active in the field of agriculture, where they provide advice and information on animal nutrition and design and evaluate the diets of the animals.

They may also be involved in the production of food for zoo and companion animals (pets), advising on issues related to feeding them. Some animal nutritionists choose to specialise in one type of animal.

VETERINARY SURGEON

Provides medical care to a range of animals, from domestic pets to those in farm and zoo settings and wild animals with injuries.

Safeguard the health and welfare of animals, usually working in a general practice, where they are responsible for the medical and surgical treatment of a range of animals.

They use practical skills and knowledge of animal physiology, nutrition and

medicine to diagnose illnesses, prescribe medicines and perform surgery. They also manage anaesthesia during procedures and will work to prevent disease in animals and the spread of disease.

Veterinary surgeons often complete a Masters degree giving them the advanced knowledge they require to take on specialist roles in areas such as cardiology or oncology.

Examples include;

- ◇ Master of Veterinary Medicine (MVM) or Master of Veterinary Surgery (MVS). Master in Veterinary Public Health (MVPH).
- ◇ MSc in Wild Animal Health and MSc in Animal Behaviour.
- ◇ Examples of wider jobs where a veterinary science degree would be useful might include:
- ◇ Animal physiotherapist
- ◇ Ecologist
- ◇ Environmental consultant
- ◇ Higher education lecturer
- ◇ Nature conservation officer
- ◇ Research scientist
- ◇ Zoologist
- ◇ Veterinary nurse

WORK EXPERIENCE

This is a competitive career area but gaining relevant work experience will help strengthen your application for graduate employment and demonstrate your commitment to working with animals.

For voluntary or paid work experience try contacting local employers, such as veterinary practices, farms, stables, kennels and catteries and with animal charities such as:

- ◇ [Blue Cross](#)
- ◇ [Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(RSPCA\)](#)
- ◇ [The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals \(PDSA\)](#)

Be proactive and apply even if an employer is not currently advertising a vacancy as they will view your motivation favourably and it can often result in an opportunity. Even very short-term placements can lead to being kept on for longer, and in some cases being offered permanent work.

CAREER PROSPECTS

As a newly-qualified veterinary surgeon, you'll usually start work as an assistant before becoming fully-fledged. Once in post, there are opportunities to specialise, for example, in equine medicine, small animal surgery or dermatology. Further training is required for these specialisations, which may lead to a diploma.

With time and experience you may be offered the opportunity to become a partner or a principal in a veterinary practice. Whether you decide to take this up is a personal decision, as it requires a greater degree of responsibility and financial and management input into the practice. Partnership opportunities have decreased somewhat due to large companies taking over many veterinary practices and employing vets on a salaried basis.

With further training, extensive professional experience and publication of articles, it's possible to gain RCVS Recognised Specialist Status. Recognised specialists offer consultation in their chosen field.

You could move from practice work to working for an animal welfare society, or government service in a related field such as the licensing of veterinary medicines. There are also research and teaching opportunities in universities, research institutes and pharmaceutical companies. Common areas include animal disease cure and prevention and food safety.

TYPICAL EMPLOYERS

- ◇ Mixed veterinary practices
- ◇ Practices specialising in a particular type of animal, such as small animals, food-producing animals and equine. The specialism may depend on the practice's rural or urban location
- ◇ Practices specialising in a particular type of animal, such as small animals, food-producing animals and equine. The specialism may depend on the practice's rural or urban location
- ◇ Zoos
- ◇ Animal hospitals
- ◇ Animal charities and welfare societies, such as the RSPCA, PDSA, The Blue Cross

- ◇ Education and research institutes
- ◇ Government agencies - including the army and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
- ◇ Pharmaceutical companies

In addition graduate opportunities can be found through;

- ◇ [Royal Army Veterinary Corps \(RAVC\) Royal Army Veterinary Corps | The British Army](#)
- ◇ [Voluntary Services Overseas \(VSO\) Voluntary Service Overseas \(VSO\)](#)
- ◇ The Government Veterinary Services (GVS) is part of the Civil Service and acts to support public-sector veterinary professionals and promote policy to other vets and to the public. It also provides student placements in a range of areas of veterinary practice.

Vacancies can also be searched for in various places online such as;

- ◇ [Vet Times Jobs](#)
- ◇ [Vet Record Careers](#)
- ◇ [VetSurgeon.org](#)

The BVA also produces [Vet Record](#), a journal for veterinary professionals, which is published weekly and is available to BVA members.

Academic institutions and charitable organisations may also advertise vacancies through their websites.

GRADUATE SCHEMES

If you're an aspiring vet, you might consider graduate schemes offered by organisations like [VetPartners](#) or [Animal Trust Vets](#). These schemes focus on building essential clinical skills through direct involvement in veterinary surgeries, all under the guidance of experienced mentors. You will also get structured [continuing professional development \(CPD\)](#) and support to complete your qualifications.

Salary expectations differ, but for example, the PDSA offers a [graduate veterinary surgeon programme](#) with salaries around £31,000 to £35,000 annually, which includes a travel allowance.

For those passionate about marine life, the [Blue Marine Foundation graduate scheme](#) offers four rotational placements over two years, giving you experience in education, media, policy, and fundraising to support sustainable fishing and marine conservation.

Combined Cadet Force

R M Ogg BEM - Lt Col CCF
Contingent Commander
King's School Grantham

WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Our contingent continues to grow in both numbers and capability, offering outstanding opportunities for leadership development and adventure training. This term has seen significant progress, clearly reflected in the variety of activities captured in the photographs.

REMEMBRANCE

Remembrance celebrations in both Grantham and London were a great success. We are grateful, as always,



to the Western Front Association for their support. During our time in London, cadets had the excellent opportunity to visit the Lifeguards at Horse Guards, a truly memorable experience.

MASTER CADET

Two cadets, Staff Sergeants Fawke and Ratcliffe, recently completed their Master Cadet courses. Master Cadet is the highest achievement in the Army Cadet syllabus, representing exceptional leadership and skill. To qualify, cadets must be 16 or older, hold the rank of Sergeant or above, and complete advanced training in fieldcraft, navigation and command tasks at Frimley Park. This prestigious award is earned by only a select few each year and marks a significant milestone in a cadet's journey toward senior leadership.

SILVER LEADERSHIP COURSE

Seven RAF cadets successfully completed their Silver Leadership Course, tackling a series of command tasks as both leaders and followers and receiving detailed feedback throughout. Each cadet showed remarkable progress, and they are now among the first CCF RAF cadets to achieve silver status. This qualification sets them on the path toward the prestigious Gold Leadership Course, which includes an ILM Level 3 award. Cadets have received their silver badges and assessment reports, well-earned recognition of their hard work and dedication.

INSKIP

Cadets also enjoyed a trip to Inskip in Cumbria, expertly led by Flt Lt Barton. The visit provided valuable hands-on experiences and opportunities to develop key skills while working together in a challenging and rewarding environment. It was a memorable occasion that strengthened teamwork and resilience among the group.

Any student in Year 9 or above interested in joining the CCF should speak to Lieutenant Colonel Ogg or visit the CCF during Thursday afternoon training sessions.



CCF Cenotaph 2025





Remembrance 2025





Achievement Year 7

William Pennock (7N) was awarded his Silver Chief Scout Award. He also competed in a recent swimming competition where he won seven medals in the age 11 and under category: bronze in the 200m freestyle; silver in the 200m individual medley, 400m freestyle and 100m butterfly; and gold in the 50m breaststroke, 50m butterfly and 100m breaststroke. An outstanding haul of medals, William.



Samuel Roscoe (7N) plays football for West Bridgford in the YEL premier division. The team have recently become champions of the Winter League. The YEL is the largest youth football league in the UK, serving the East Midlands region, and the premier division is their top level. With 95 under-12 teams competing across all divisions on a Saturday, to be overall champions is quite an achievement.



Thomas Fawcett (7N) recently played Aladdin in a production at the Guildhall. Thomas also trains in London as part of West End Kids, a pre-professional company for musical theatre.





Joseph Seager (7N) attended the Lions rugby academy half-term residential camp, playing three days of rugby along with swimming and other activities. A highlight was meeting Geordan Murphy, the former Ireland and Leicester Tigers full-back.

Hugo Hemmings (7M) has passed his ABRSM Grade 1 piano exam with merit.



James Forgione (7F) had an excellent swimming meet in Louth in November, winning three gold medals and four silver medals while achieving seven personal bests. James has now qualified for the 50m, 100m and 200m races in all four strokes at the County Championships, which will take place across four weekends in January and February. This is a tremendous achievement.



Samarth Khandelwal (7M) loves being on the tennis court and plays whenever possible. He has been participating in LTA competitions and won three 11 and under boys' singles tournaments this term. Samarth is also learning Taekwondo and attends lessons twice weekly. He participated in the North Midlands Championships, performing the patterns he has been learning in his colour division. Out of around 20 boys, Samarth won the gold medal.

James Bacon (7B) climbed the Allalinhorn (4,027m) in the Swiss Alps. This was his first 4,000m summit and involved glacier navigation, snow climbing and rock climbing. A fantastic achievement, James.



Achievement Year 8



Arthur Walton (8S) gained a merit in Grade 1 electric guitar. In addition, he received his NCFE Level 1 qualification for 3D games design; a screenshot from his game is shown above.

Benjamin Sherwin (8S) continues to enjoy competing in triathlons and was delighted to be selected to represent the East Midlands region for the second year running this summer. Only four boys are selected across each two-year age bracket, so competition is always tight. As part of the East Midlands team, Benjamin competed in the National Inter-Regional Championships in September. This consisted of four races over one weekend, culminating in a hectic team triathlon relay. The East Midlands team came fifth out of 13 regions, their best result for over ten years, and Benjamin contributed well to the overall team performance.

Matthew McAuley (8S) recently won player of the match playing for Kesteven Rugby Club U13s in the prop position. Congratulations, Matthew.



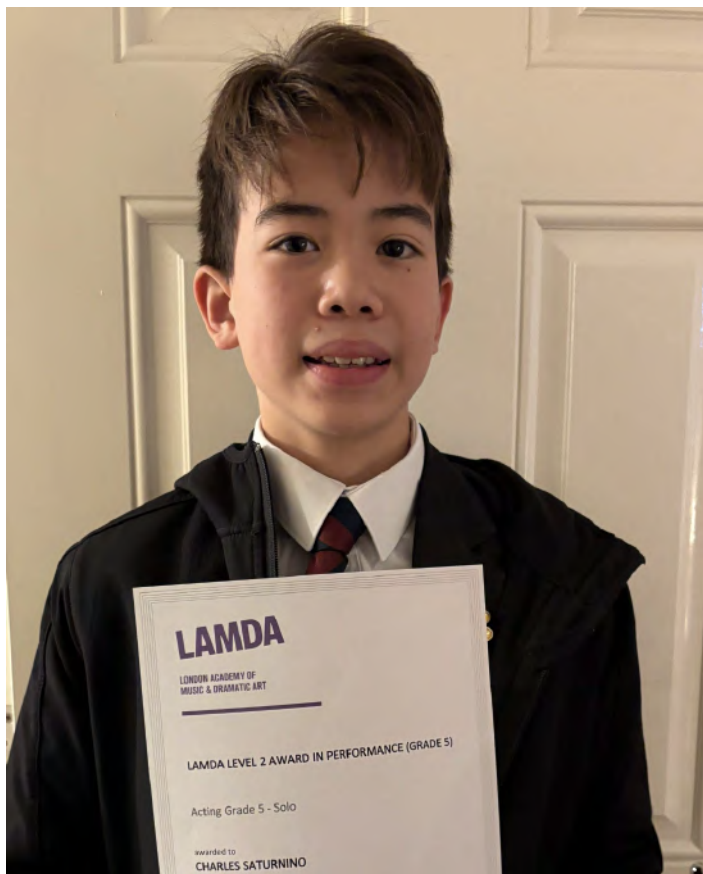
Jack Saunders (8N) won first place in the Tomahawks Novice category, representing 7th Grantham Scout Group at the Lincoln Scout Target Tournament held at Sudbrook. This was his first axe throwing competition and he showed great determination to conquer his initial nerves. Jack also performed excellently in the Archery Novice category against tough competition, scoring 170 (an improvement on last year's 152) and outscoring many of the adult competitors. Jack showed great sportsmanship throughout.



Hedley Fisher (8S) took his Silver Level dance examinations and was awarded Honours with a score of 90%.



Bobby Short (8N) had a successful day at the Birmingham 1* table tennis competition, securing second place in both the U13 and U15 categories.



Xavi Mistry (8F) had a busy summer of tennis, competing at a number of 12U and 14U LTA Grade 3 and 4 tournaments across the Midlands. There were some tough matches, and Xavi showed great determination to learn from each one. He reached the quarter-finals at each 12U tournament and the semi-final at the 14U Grade 4 event in Leicestershire. At the Lincolnshire County Championships in late August, Xavi reached four finals. He finished as runner-up in both the 12U and 14U boys' singles events and, with his club partners, won the Lincolnshire County Championship titles in the 12U boys' doubles and 14U mixed doubles.



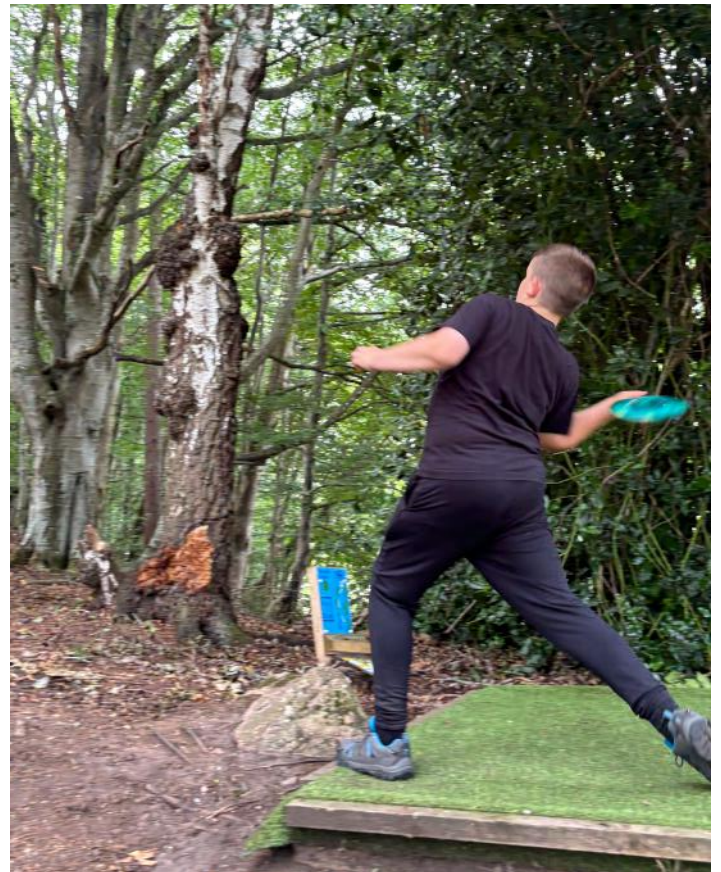
Charles Saturnino (8C) achieved Grade 5 in LAMDA.





Henry Hallam (8S) competed in the National Ministrada Gymnastics competition in Blackpool as part of his team. The team have been working especially hard to compete at such a high level and this paid off when they were named 2025 champions.

Liam Wells (8N) travelled to Inverness during the summer to take part in a two-day disc golf tournament. The sport, which involves throwing discs into baskets set up like holes on a golf course, is very popular in the USA and growing gradually in the UK. It requires strength, technique and stamina across challenging terrain. Seventy-two people took part in the Caledonian Open and Liam came second in the junior section.



Jacob Turner (8B) made it through to the local finals of the British Indoor Karting Championship. The qualifying season at TeamSport Nottingham's Advanced Academy was full of intense racing and fast lap times; nevertheless, Jacob, the youngest driver in the squad, secured his place on the grid. He had a great drive at the local finals, achieving seventh place and a new personal best of 32.292 seconds in the age 12-16 category.



Neil Puri (8N) enjoyed a brilliant summer of cricket, representing teams ranging from junior and senior squads at his club to Leicestershire County U12s and the King's School Year 7 side. As opening batsman, he finished second in the runs tally at senior league level and, with just shy of 800 runs overall, second at club level too. He made a key contribution in securing promotion and the league title by taking the final two wickets in the last senior match. His efforts earned him Young Player of the Year at the club, Players' Player in his senior team, and Coach's Player for U12s.



Neil also had a strong season with Leicestershire County U12s, leading to his selection for the County U13s winter training squad. Over the summer, Neil captained his club team on a five-day tour at King's College, Taunton, contributing with both bat and ball and leading the team to a win over Wiltshire and a close contest against Norfolk.

Pavi Puri (8N) also enjoyed a fantastic summer of cricket, representing King's School Year 7, Nottinghamshire County U12s, and both junior

Szymon Chmielarczyk (8B) successfully completed the Stage 2 Royal Yachting Association Sailing Course in Plymouth this summer. This qualification allows him to sail independently. He learned sail handling in various wind conditions, capsizing recovery techniques, sailing rules and safety awareness on the water. Szymon is now a confident young sailor and continues to develop his skills at his local sailing club.



Achievement Year 9



Eric Newton (9M) was the flag bearer at the Remembrance Parade in Bingham. He has just earned his Chief Scout Gold Award.

Oscar Bruce (9B) has been awarded a dance scholarship with Studiopoint. This is the first scholarship they have ever awarded, given to reflect his potential, passion and commitment.



Achievement Year 10

Theo Bacon (10B) achieved an amazing feat of mountaineering over the summer by climbing a total of ten peaks, all over 4,000m, in the Swiss and Italian Alps. This involved rock and snow climbing, glacier navigation, high-altitude camping and very technical rope work. Notable peaks included the south ridge of the Lagginhorn (4,010m), a long, steep and technically demanding rock route, and the Signalkuppe at 4,554m.



Achievement

Year 11

Oscar Lond (11F) has gained a place in the National Youth Orchestra as one of only six percussionists. He will now embark on a series of courses and tours across the country, culminating in a performance at the BBC Proms in August. Oscar is also in his second year of study at the Royal College of Music after successfully gaining a scholarship last year.





Tobias Bruce (11B) has successfully auditioned for the National Youth Choir, which is a significant achievement. It is a rigorous audition process and, with only a select handful of new members each year, Tobias has done exceptionally well. He will be taking part in tours, performances, recordings and residential training sessions.

Jude Walker (11B) passed his Grade 5 bass guitar exam with merit.



Corey Allen (11F) attended the PAL International Boxing Championships in the USA and returned with a bronze medal. Corey had an amazing experience, training in Danny Garcia's gym and meeting former boxing champions as well as Freddie Roach, one of the all-time great boxing coaches. Corey's club secured second place in the overall championship, just behind Danny Garcia's gym. In addition to boxing, Corey ran the Great Eastern 5km with a time of 19:44, securing 22nd place out of 837 runners.

Looking After Yourself This Winter

Feeling down during the winter months is more common than you might think. With shorter days, colder weather and less sunlight, it is natural to feel lower in energy or mood. Whether you are struggling to stay motivated with schoolwork, finding the darker evenings tough, or simply feeling less cheerful than usual, it is okay not to feel your best all the time.

The important thing is to remember that you are not alone. Many people experience the same feelings, even if they do not always talk about it.

Doing something you enjoy can really help, whether that is spending time with friends, going for a walk in the fresh air, or listening to your favourite music. Getting outside during daylight hours, keeping active and making time for rest can all make a difference. Finding small ways to enjoy the season, such as cosy evenings, festive activities or setting yourself little goals, can also lift your spirits.

If things feel overwhelming, reaching out for support is always a good idea. Your teachers, friends and form tutors are there to help. Drop-in sessions are available every morning, Monday to Friday, with either Mrs Clark or Mrs Bond.

The winter blues do not last forever. Things can and will get better, and you do not have to go through it alone.

Wellbeing Prefects: Oliver Calder, Ethan Bain, William Gray and Mason Oo



Pictured above are the Wellbeing Prefects - Oliver Calder (13C), Ethan Bain (13F) , William Gray (13F) and Mason Oo (13M)

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC (PSHE) EDUCATION

Our PSHE 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.

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

As you can see from the table, this term students have focused their learning on Careers:

- ◇ Year 7's learning experience has revolved around an understanding of what a 'job' may look like including researching current vacancies in the local area. Students also had the opportunity to reflect on their own career aspirations.
- ◇ Year 8 learning introduced thinking into life after education. Students began to think about what professions they may wish to start to consider. This section also includes a quiz which guides students to careers they may enjoy based on their answers.
- ◇ Year 9 learning progressed on to look more deeply into career aspirations. This unit also developed an understanding of how to apply for jobs and where to find local job adverts. The unit finished with a look into some key life skills.
- ◇ Learning in Year 10 involved students beginning to write their own personal CV. The lessons in the build up to this task looked at their own personal ambitions and job adverts tailored to the specific roles students are interested in.
- ◇ The Year 11 students looked to the future. Developing their knowledge of their own skills needed for post-16. Students also developed a personal plan as to what they would do after Year 11.

All the resources used in PSHE lessons are available to view on SharePoint and can be found here: https://kingsgr.sharepoint.com/sites/KSG_Subjects_PD

HOW CAN I FURTHER SUPPORT WITH CAREERS EDUCATION AT HOME?

UniFrog: Students have all signed up to a Unifrog account which gives students access to a large bank of career focused resources. Students just need to log in to access all the free resources available. Follow the link below to find out more: [Home - Student - Unifrog](#)

First Careers: If you're not sure how to start a conversation about careers, or how to advise your children on possible careers they may be suited to, why not sit down as a family to watch a few short films or read some of the day-in-the-life job profiles on the First Careers website. You can then use these to talk about possible career options. Career aspirations start earlier than you think, so it's good to get kids thinking about their futures. Follow the link below to find out more: First Careers, careers advice school children | [First Careers](#)

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT TERM IN PSHE

Next term we will be studying Health Education – which includes topics about healthy lifestyles and positive mental, emotional and physical health. You may find the following websites and resources useful to support with these topics at home:

NHS Healthier Families: Make a change today! Discover healthy recipes, food swaps, nutritional advice, and top tips and activities to help the whole family stay healthy. Find out more <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/>

YoungMinds Parents Helpline: Our Parents Helpline provides detailed advice and information, emotional support and signposting. Find out more: www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/

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

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

MONDAY

Activity	Room/venue	Time	Member of staff responsible	Year groups who can attend



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

TUESDAY

Activity	Room/venue	Time	Member of staff responsible	Year groups who can attend



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY

Activity	Room/venue	Time	Member of staff responsible	Year groups who can attend



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY

Activity	Room/venue	Time	Member of staff responsible	Year groups who can attend



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY

Activity	Room/venue	Time	Member of staff responsible	Year groups who can attend



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 ... BS VC
18... 1966



TUG... SON
1935 – 1993

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