



It has been a very busy and successful start to the final term of this academic year. The fantastic efforts and achievements of our students continue to amaze me:

- Year 7 students won a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) competition.
- Year 8 students were finalists in the Direct Marketing Challenge.
- Year 9 students entered a National competition 'Step into the NHS' and were the Regional winners.
- Year 10 Rugby team are the Yorkshire champions for the fourth consecutive year! Greater detail of these events can be found within the Newsletter with details of many of our extra-curricular events for this half term.



This term, as is usual, has a focus on end of year examinations. Year 11 are almost half way through their GCSE examinations. There have been many extra lessons and booster sessions to support our students in preparing for their examinations. As you are aware, the breadth and depth of these new GCSE and BTEC courses has increased greatly, alongside the number of examinations that students are expected to take and many of our students have found this challenging. The Mindfulness sessions, which have been delivered to almost half of the year group, have been very well received with students saying they have definitely helped in providing 'strategies to cope' during this challenging time. After the examinations, our students have the Leavers Assembly and Prom to look forward to; the detail will be sent out from Miss Langston shortly.

Year 10 have received the details of the preparation for their examinations in June. We will be considering the results of their exams very carefully and ensuring the provision within Year 11 enables them to maximize their achievement next year.



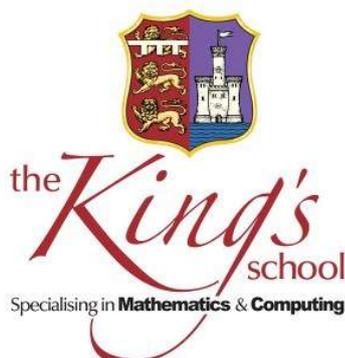
The Parent/Carer Forum and Student Parliament have been discussing behaviour, uniform and consistency of staff following policy and procedures. Look out for the letter from our newly appointed Deputy Head, Gary Smith, that reinforces current expectations. Our current school Vision is summarised as 'Success for All' underpinned with values of safe, respect and learn. As we continue to drive school improvement and strive for excellence in everything we do, the students and staff have been reconsidering our vision and value statements. These will be discussed at the next Parent/Carer Forum meeting.

The next half term will undoubtedly be as busy as ever and we will keep you informed of any developments, so that all students make excellent progress. I have been delighted to work with James Franklin-Smith, Executive Director of Secondary Education for our Trust, these past few weeks and I am looking forward to Tom Fay, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, joining our Trust in July.

Finally, thank you for your continued support and cooperation this half term. Have an excellent and hopefully sunny half term break.

Best wishes.

Elaine Briggs



# What's been happening at King's?

## Roll up, roll up! Read all about it!

On Thursday 22nd and Monday 26th March 2018, the English Department organised a live performance of Macbeth and Jekyll and Hyde from The Manchester Actors Company, in preparation for the Year 11 English Literature GCSE Exam. It brought the texts to life in front of their very eyes, and all were engaged and passionate about what they saw.



The Performance lasted 90 minutes and comprised of a 60-minute performance followed by a 30-minute Q&A session, where the characters responded in role using quotes and giving advice regarding exam hints and tips.

All students found the session incredibly helpful and were even able to answer questions regarding helpful revision techniques to carry forward into their exams. The performers commented on the exemplary behaviour of all students and said that we were the best-behaved audience that they had ever had! They especially loved their interaction during important parts of the play! Well done, Year 11!



## Easter Treats for Easter Readers



As a reward for hard work in English and excellent progress with reading, 10 students across the school were chosen to receive an Easter treat from the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) and English department.

Each child received a book, a bookmark, an Easter chocolate and stationery goodies. The books were given by Book Trust, and all nominated for various literacy prizes.

Baskets and parcels were delivered by the Easter Bunny (Mrs Draper, LRC Manager)!

There may be more book-themed prizes to come in the future, so keep reading!

## Year 7 Students Win Rocket Car Competition

Eleven Year 7 students took part in the regional final of the Race for the Line model rocket car competition, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) competition inspired by Bloodhound SSC - the worlds fastest car.

Working in 2 teams the students designed and built a model rocket powered car that was tested by the soldiers from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at Catterick Garrison. The winning team beat teams from 11 other schools from across Yorkshire to use their engineering skills to produce the fastest overall car, the winning students were Joe Royle, Nathan Wilson, Nathan Turner, Ben Banks, Harry Charlotte and Aaron Young.

All our Year 7 students have already worked in teams in school to build and test their own rocket cars with the army; joining around 70,000 others from across the country who have been able to do the same. These winning students now have the opportunity to take part in the national final in June, at RAF Wittering.



# What's been happening at King's?

## Year 6 Transition - September 2018

We are delighted to welcome 210 new Year 7 students to the school in September. A strong commitment is placed on each student's introduction and welcome to The King's School. We are currently working very closely alongside our partner primary schools to ensure a smooth transition.

Staff visits to primary schools are planned throughout June, ensuring the exchange of detailed information about every child. Parents/Carers are also invited and encouraged to visit school and take a tour in July. Wednesday 04 July is our traditional Transition Day whereby the students meet their new tutors and teachers and experience 'taster' lessons. Families and friends are invited to attend a supportive and informative Intake Evening on the same day. Support by older students is nurtured and consolidated via the school 'buddy' initiative.



## Level Two BTEC in Fire & Rescue Service in the Community

Congratulations to the ten Year 11 students from The King's School who have passed the Level Two BTEC in Fire and Rescue Service in the Community. It was great to share the experience of their "Pass Out Parade" on Thursday 17th May, where they performed drills using all of the apparatus found on a fire engine in front of a live audience.

All of the students have certainly developed greater self-confidence and resilience as a result of the two year course.

Well done everyone!

## Year 10 Work Experience 2018

Our Year 10 students completed a successful Work Experience placement week in March. Students spent time with a variety of employers/businesses including schools and sports facilities, garages and shops. Some quotes from employers include:

- She is a very conscientious worker and always gave 100%
- Fabulous communication skills!
- He got stuck in and did everything that was given to him.
- She has impressed us so much that we are willing to take a Kings student on work experience in the future.
- Very enthusiastic! She was a joy to have in the team.
- Very reliable & professional – fantastic!! A credit to the school

13 of our students also spent the week on an Army residential. They all had a great week and feedback from the Army was extremely positive. Mrs Gascoigne said it was the best one she's ever been on! Well done to everyone involved!



# What's been happening at King's?



## Year 9 trip to Granada - Written by Alice Toon

Meeting at 1:30am, on a Monday morning was never going to be easy, but it was worth the lack of sleep as the experience we had in Granada, Spain, was truly inspirational. As part of the Erasmus+ project, myself, Hannah Jennings, Lily Piper and Katie Rogers, joined by Ms Gallone and Mr Webb, jetted off to Spain, where we stayed with a Spanish host family, enjoying traditional Spanish life, school and food. We were also joined by schools from Turkey, Germany and Romania.

Arriving in Granada at 10.30am, nerves ran high, as we all felt very nervous to meet our host family, but after meeting them we soon realised how much we had in common! Later that day we visited Granada's famous Alhambra; a beautiful Muslim and Christian palace. Here Katie discovered from Mr Webb that a Pomegranate in Spanish is, 'Granada', after seeing purchasable pomegranates everywhere.



On the second and third day we visited several science related places such as a museum and a hospital. Here we were taught how to perform CPR, program robots, and we even got to see a sloth and a finger monkey! In the hospital, Hannah was chosen to take blood from a practice patient, and with getting 9/10 for the pain results, let's just say she didn't meet doctor's requirements, with everyone, including herself, laughing at the results!

Along with the whole school, on the final day, we played a game that helped us learn about careers and cultures in Spain. This included petting horses, finding our DNA, and dissecting animals, however the best and funniest was learning how to Flamenco, which we can all say we failed at. On the final night all 40 hosts and students went out for a meal, where we ate meter long pizzas!

The hardest part of the week was saying goodbye to our host families and left most of us in tears, myself included. We all made a strong bond with our host families and we are pleased to say that some of us are in the process of booking flights to revisit them. The Erasmus+ project has really helped us understand and learn about cultures and lifestyles in foreign countries. Finally we would like to thank Mr Webb and Ms Gallone for taking us to Spain and Mrs Sefton for organising the trip. - Alice Toon



## The King's School Parliament

The start to the Summer Term has been a busy one for the members of the King's School Parliament. The students have been working closely alongside Mrs Briggs, Mrs Josse, Mr Mitchell and their peers in order to collate a multitude of opinions on two main topics: uniform and the possibility of a new school mission statement.

The current mission statement of The King's School is *'Success for All'*, however, we wanted to ask the students whether or not they thought this still summed up what The King's School is all about in 2018.



The students were split into their appropriate key stages and invited to a workshop where they brainstormed all of their own ideas before collecting more concepts and ideas from their friendship groups and form groups. The most popular choices were then passed on to Mrs Briggs and the Senior Leadership Team for discussion – *could The King's School Parliament be part of a new legacy in the making?*

Let's keep up the hard work and get ready for another busy and successful final half-term!

# What's been happening at King's?

## Britain's Got Talent at The King's School



Here at The King's School, we celebrate all forms of talent, from making progress in Maths to completing a new grade in Music. However, we were particularly delighted to see our very own Heidi Zack on Britain's Got Talent.

Heidi has been part of a dance group for many years and, when a friend of hers was injured in the Manchester Arena terrorist attack, nothing could stop them dancing together. This is when the dance group decided to incorporate wheelchairs into their routine so that everybody could take part... and the rest is history!

Congratulations, Heidi Zack! You have made The King's School and Pontefract very proud. We wish you and your group the best of luck in the next rounds!



## Disneyland Paris Performing Arts Workshop

On 24th May, 25 Students, along with members of the Performing Arts department, are heading to Disneyland in Paris to perform live on stage in the resort.

Following The King's School's hugely successful performance of *Oliver!*, the students will be performing on stage at Disneyland Paris numbers from their show and also taking part in a musical theatre workshop at Disney Live! With professional Disney choreographers.

This will be a fantastic experience for everyone involved and we wish them all the best of luck! *Bonne Chance!*



## Year 7 SHINE Visit to York University

On 25th April, students visited York University and took part in various activities including a campus tour with an 'I Spy' quiz (thankfully the weather was kind and didn't rain!). They researched different universities and looked at how they compared, they looked at what steps are required between Year 11 and completing Higher Education and finished off with a Q&A session with the University ambassadors.

The students were very well behaved and they enjoyed the day. One King's student even won a prize for answering lots of questions and getting really involved! These students will return to the University of York next year for the Year 8 visit.

All in all it was a very useful and informative day.

## Step into the NHS Schools' Competition Winners

We are delighted to announce that two of our students have won the Step into the NHS schools' competition for the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Lizzie Warner and Hannah Walker impressed the judges with their entry to promote the role of a dramatherapist. They made a clapperboard from scratch and included informative details including job tasks and responsibilities, experience and qualifications required to be a dramatherapist.

Their entry beat more than 1,700 entries across the country, as the competition attracted record numbers of students to get involved and learn more about careers in the NHS.

Now in its ninth year, the competition aims to promote the 350 plus careers available in health and social care across the NHS and students were tasked with designing an advertisement and job description for their chosen role. They were able to work individually or in groups of up to four. Well done girls!



# Sporting Success

## Year 7 National Football Finals

Year 7 fought their way through the round and made it to the National Football 5-a-side tournament which was played in Birmingham. This is a huge achievement in itself, beating over 1000 schools to get to the Nationals and compete with the best schools from all corners of the country.



On the day, the lads managed to finish runners up in the plate final, making them the 6th best 5-a-side team in the whole country. Player of the tournament for King's was awarded to Toby Copley! Huge congratulations to Toby and the team!

## Year 10 Yorkshire Rugby Champions

Year 10 became Yorkshire Champions on Saturday 5th May, after beating Rodillian in the final 19-5. This is the 4th year in a row, which is a fantastic achievement!

Try scorers were Josh Milthorpe, Harvey Marks and Taylor Hardwick. Goal scorers were Josh Milthorpe x2.

There were some brilliant performances from the whole squad, with players such as Kai Slatter, Matthew Gallagher, Ben Walker, Taylor Hardwick and Sam Gilbert really standing out.

The Man of the Match was given to Josh Milthorpe and was fully deserved for a controlling performance.

Can they make it 5 out of 5 next year?



## Year 9 Netball - Wakefield League Final - Runners-Up

The Year 9 netball team competed at St. Wilfred's in Wakefield League finals, in April. The girls tackled wind and rain, yet still pulled out an excellent performance against Outwood, Kettlethorpe and



Freeston. In the defending circle, Heidi Owens and Lizzie Warner pressured the opposition well making excellent interceptions to change possession of the ball; Navay Kaur, Jassi Kaur and Mary Hodgett played excellent on the wings. Katie Hay played out of her general possession, as C, with non-stop movement and great passing sequences around

the attacking circle, creating many chances for shooters Abbie Hay, Lily Dickinson and Lydia Myatt to score. The girls finished Runners-up in the Wakefield League, a great way to finish the season! Well done!

## Year 9 South Yorkshire 7s Winners

The Year 9 rugby team finished the season with the South Yorkshire Rugby 7's Tournament at Wales High School.

After finishing third at the Yorkshire 7's Tournament the previous week, the boys started the tournament full of confidence. The team was able to win all of their games, playing some outstanding rugby to finish the season in style. Well done boys!



## Year 10 Girls Netball - Pontefract & Castleford Netball League

The Year 10 girls finished second in the Pontefract and Castleford Netball League, securing them a spot in the league play-off finals. Conditions were a mix of wind, rain and sun and they battled the elements well to finish 3rd overall. King's made a good start against Ossett, securing a comfortable win largely thanks to some great defending from Caitlin E and Charlotte. Our second game against Outwood saw us lose by 4 although if we'd had an extra few minutes our shooters may just have managed to close the gap as they hit their stride in the second half - Caitlin C and Caitlin D slotting in some goals. In our final match against Freeston, the first half was a close affair with Freeston having the lead by 1 at half time. Maisie, Mia, Rebecca and Bethan worked well up and down the court in their roles as centre and wings. Freeston pulled away in the second half to win the match. King's finished 3rd overall. Well done girls!

# School Trips & Visits

## Visit to China

In March, Mrs Sefton and Mrs Till visited China as part of the Access China sister school programme. They were hosted by the Chinese Education Bureau who introduced a Chinese sister School in Qingdao to partner with The King's School.

The King's School intends to build an active and successful learning relationship with China and introduce bilateral staff and student exchanges. During the week, they visited schools and observed an Education system which was highly valued.

Some interesting facts and differences between Chinese and English schools included:

- Local courses are taught dependant on individual school specialism or tradition such as Oceanography, Calligraphy, Garden School and Fencing.
- School starts at 7.30am and finishes at 6-7pm (primary schools finish at 4pm).
- In all schools visited, the library and literacy aids were exceptional with computerised booking and resources which were second to none.
- New ideas observed were teacher observation rooms, learning labs, a student court room and recording studios with Green screen technology.

In China there is a really big focus on the students wellbeing and attitude to school life. Two aspects of the everyday school life that helps with this that were Daily Exercise every morning, around 10am (depending on the school). The entire school will partake in exercises. This can vary from jumping jacks, running, stretching it lasted for around 15 minutes and promoted a healthy life style, but it can also improve social, emotional, mental health and wellbeing of the students. Secondly The Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China requires that the eye exercises should be practiced at least twice a day. The eye exercises are normally carried out to relaxing music so it can also help to de-stress pupils.

Overall, it was a fantastic visit which will enable us to consider developing a future exchange with students to China and the collaboration of teaching practices focusing on Maths and whole school projects. We will look forward to welcoming Chinese teachers and Students to The King's School in the near future.



## The King's School Ski Trip to Pila, Italy - Easter 2018

During the Easter holidays, two coaches full of staff and students from The King's School went on their annual ski trip to Pila in Italy. A fantastic time was had by all and the students were amazing all week long!



## Wakefield College Taster Day - Wednesday 4th July

All of our Year 10 students are attending a Wakefield College taster day on Wednesday 4th July.

A member of staff came to The King's School on Friday 20th April, from Wakefield College to present an assembly to the students. Students need to choose the taster sessions that they would like to do on the day. To avoid disappointment, students have been advised to book their taster as soon as possible as there are limited places for each session.

The website to book is: <http://courses.wakefield.ac.uk/taster-day/>

## NEW College Taster Day - Friday 13th July

Year 10 students are also invited to a taster day at NEW College in Pontefract on Friday 13th July.

As above, to avoid disappointment, students have been advised to book their taster as soon as possible as there are limited places for each session. The website to book is: <http://www.ncpontefract.ac.uk/tasterday/>

**The next  
Parent Forum Meeting  
will be held on  
Wednesday 13th June**

## Parent Drop-In Sessions

If you wish to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) regarding a private matter or concern, that cannot be dealt with by your child's Form Tutor or Year Achievement Leader, please email [dhaigh@kings.patrust.org.uk](mailto:dhaigh@kings.patrust.org.uk) to organise an appointment. These sessions are available each Tuesday from 6.00pm until 7.00pm.

## Parent Forum Feedback - Wednesday 2nd May - Behaviour & Uniform

As requested by the parents from the previous meeting, the recent Parent Forum focused on behaviour and uniform.

It was great to see that all year groups were represented and everyone was in full agreement that students should be fully equipped and follow instructions the first time to allow learning for all students to occur.

There was frustration expressed in the inconsistencies between some staff in ensuring school expectations are met.

The use of mobile phones (unanimously agreed they should not be allowed to be used) and the introduction of a King's School skirt was also discussed.

**Well done to our Year 11 students who continue to revise thoroughly both in school and at home for their GCSE exams. We understand that this is a challenging time of year, but each and every one of you has the potential to achieve superb results that you can be proud of. Keep revising hard, maintain your positive attitude and NEVER, EVER give up! You have our time, support and unwavering commitment in order to ensure that you are fully prepared and ready to sit these exams with confidence. Can we do it? YES WE CAN! Good luck class of 2018!**

