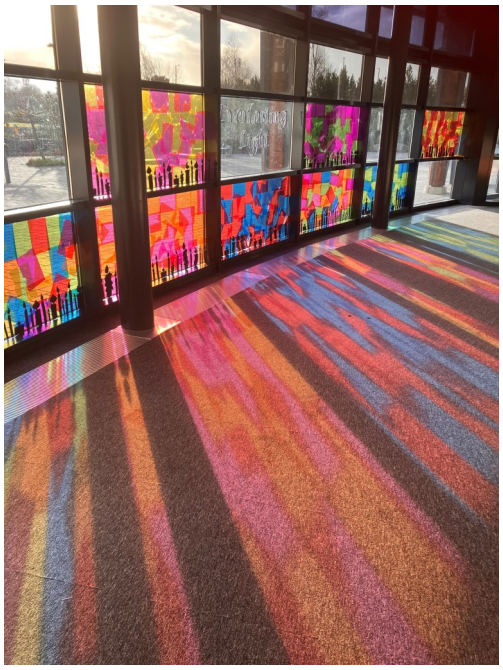
The King's Chronicles

Autumn Term 2 2023

Everlasting Light







Last Thursday evening Year 7 welcomed family and friends to the annual Christmas refreshments market and Carol Service. Students from the Year 7, 8 and 9 school councils produced goods to sell in aid of Oxfam. There was luxury hot chocolate, gift sets, sweet cones and handmade gingerbread for everyone to buy. The atmosphere was fantastic and it was a privilege to welcome so many people into the Academy to celebrate with us and help raise money for such a worthy cause.

The evening concluded with a joyous celebration on the theme of 'Everlasting Light'. The Year 7 choir and Academy band did a phenomenal job performing three songs together. Their joy and enthusiasm was infectious, persuading the audience to sing along in celebration too. Special guests, The Silverwood Band performed some well-known Christmas songs for everyone to enjoy, and helped to make the service one that every student involved will remember for many years to come. We would like to extend our warmest appreciation to *Rev. Steve Sutton, Lead Minister, Coulby Newham Baptist Church* who was an inspirational guest speaker and reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas.

Mrs Gibbons, Assistant Principal





Dan Clayton Visit

On Wednesday 13 December, the Academy hosted an A level English Language study day with renowned linguist, Dan Clayton, as our guest speaker. A level students from across the foundation joined us for a full day of focused study of a range of language skills and issues which proved invaluable for students as they prepare for their final exams. Budding linguists were treated to a sneak preview into Dan's work on a new project on Language Diversity, being conducted collaboratively between the English and Media Centre and the University of Essex. We can't wait to welcome him back again in future.

Mrs Hunter, Head of English

Amazing. Well done!



Bookvent

Every school day in December, students have had the opportunity to count down to Christmas with our 'Bookvent Calendar'! Fifteen lucky students have taken home a prize of a brand-new book, hot chocolate and a chocolate bar to cosy up with this festive season. It has been wonderful to see so many of our students getting excited about reading and getting involved with the competitions. Well done to all of our winners, and enjoy your books over Christmas!

Mrs Catterson, Literacy Lead

Winners

Amelia Putson – 8Bunce
Emmett Walker – 7Robertson
Ava Brittain – 7Johnson
Yenuli Arachchige – 7Robertson
Ava Walton – 7Christie
Jack McGinley – 10Chrystal
Hollie Johnson – 7Wills
Isaac Hodgkinson – 9Sturdy
Muhammad Raheem – 8Hutchinson
Ruby Todd – 7Robertson
Sophie Robinson – 7Robertson
Alex Cara—7Tattersall
Lilia Grace-Jones — 8Henry
Janet Gakpe — 8Whelan
Isabelle Taylor — 7Huggins







The King's Academy produced yet another outstanding production, "The Wizard of Oz," this year. Playing to just over 800 audience members over three performances. The cast were able to showcase their phenomenal talents against the amazing backdrop produced by the Art Department. All the cast looked stunning in their costumes designed and created by our amazing Textiles Department. Overall it was a spellbinding experience, highlighting the passion, commitment and dedication of all the students and staff involved. My sincere thanks as always goes to the huge team to making the production such a success every year, including my wing women, Mrs Orlopp and Mrs Dodsworth. We look forward to seeing you next year for our 20th annual production which I am excited about already!

Mr Jones, Head of Drama

Indoor Sportshall Articles



On Thursday 23 November, 32 students from Years 7 and 8 travelled to Eston Sports Centre for the annual 'Sportshall Athletics' competition. All students competed admirably and we are pleased to announce that the Year 7 boys won their competition and the Year 8 girls finished in 3rd place. The Year 7 boys team will now go on to represent Middlesbrough at the 'Tees valley Finals' on Wednesday 17 January. Good luck!

EFL Utilita Girls Cup U13

Please join us in congratulating The King's Academy as local WINNERS! King's will now progress to the area finals taking place in January where we will represent MFC Foundation, playing amongst teams from other clubs in the region in the hope of reaching the regional finals hosted at Sheffield Wednesday. The team are: Mya Hall (captain), Isabella Donnelly, Amelia Norris, Meadow McDonald, Isla Dixon, Tyla Horton, Leah Smith, Lily Younger and Macy Nevison.

Mrs Henry-Shaw, Head of Girls PE

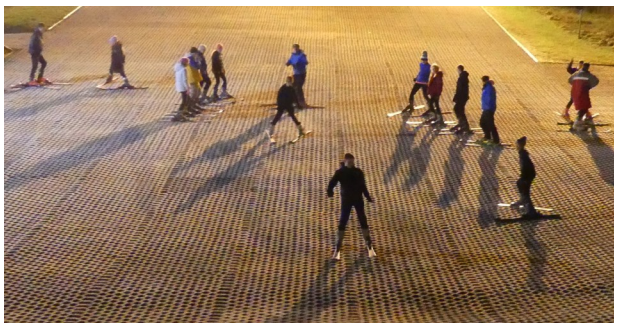
Cross Country

In November, we attended the Middlesbrough School Cross Country competition at Stewart Park. 30 students across 4 teams represented the Academy: Year 7 girls finished 5th, Year 8 and Year 9 girls finished 4th, Year 8 and Year 9 boys finished 3rd and Year 7 boys finished 2nd.

Six students qualified to represent Middlesbrough School in the Cleveland School cross country competition being held in January. The students who qualified were: Emma Drury, Harry Garton, Pleasant Uwadiegwu, Jorgie Collinson, Harvey Robinson, Archie Rae.

Mr Lynch, Head of PE

On the slopes



The annual King's Academy ski tip is returning this February after a three-year hiatus, and the team of staff, students and instructors took to the slopes at Sunderland's dry ski slope in Silksworth in preparation for the trip to Salzburg, Austria. A total of 56 students and 7 members of staff took part in two separate trips to Silksworth over two weeks and despite some falls, a few bruised egos and a lost hat, all students went away having learnt some key foundation-level skills for skiing. The instructors and staff were impressed with the students' conduct and look forward to more students attending the ski trip to Silkworth in the new year.

Mr Walters, Teacher of English

HeadStart 2023

A group of Year 9 and Year 10 students have been taking part in a project run by HeadStart, an organisation helping students to support and promote mental health within school by completely community-based activities or acting as mental health ambassdors. The students have already achieved their Bronze Award, and on Wednesday 30 November they successfully achieved their Silver. The students presented on the topic of Mental Health to a group of Year 5 and 6 primary school students at Sunnyside Academy. The topic was 'positive mental health' and they far exceeded expectations and did a marvellous job. Well done everyone!

Mrs Atkinson, ELSA



From left to right- Adam Hart (Headstart), Abigail Price, Tilly Lunn, Melody Burns, Nyla Simpson, William Webber, Tom Shields, Hannah Yates, Oliver Buckley, Charlotte Broad, Imogen Mason Crowe, Grace Fagan, Lexi Dixon, Erin Salter, Libby Proffit, Ellena Sousa and William Gillings. (off camera- Paige Alderton)

Sixth Form

This has been a busy term in Sixth Form as our students have settled into their refurbished surroundings of the new Sixth Form Centre, complete with extremely popular vending machines for hot drinks and snacks, digital screens bringing news of current world events and surroundings that genuinely feel different to the rest of the school. The friendly and vibrant atmosphere has encouraged mixing across the year groups, as students enjoy the greater degree of independence and individuality that sixth form life brings.

The contribution of the sixth form students to the wider life of the Academy has been substantial this term, especially in their ambassadorial roles at school events from open evenings to the carol concert. A particular highlight has been the weekly commitment of over 25 Year 12 students to volunteered to be trained as reading mentors for younger students, building their confidence, fluency and understanding with dedication and compassion.

New traditions have been established in sixth form, with the adoption of our own sixth form charity. The student body elected to support Teenage Cancer Trust, running events such as the Christmas Fair to raise money for a cause close to the hearts of many of our students. The enrichment programme has also seen the commitment to the work of the Rotary Club, supporting the provision for adults with special needs at Yatton House, Great Ayton, raising over £500 with the sale of Christmas wreaths. The inaugural sixth form trip to the York Christmas markets was a particular highlight of the term, providing students with a chance to enjoy some early festive cheer, followed by the highly competitive gingerbread house construction team competition.

Our sixth formers have had the opportunity to partake in a range of academic visits, from the galleries of Newcastle to subject conferences across the north in computer science, economics, sociology and psychology. Their aspirations have been widened by visits from representatives of universities, such as Oxford, Sheffield and Newcastle; learning about the opportunities that degree apprenticeships can provide; as well as engaging in work experience and volunteering positions in fields such as engineering and healthcare. This has been excellent preparation for their UCAS applications, leading to a wide range of promising offers from Russell Group universities and beyond.

Mr Skerry, Head of Sixth Form



Yatton House
Imaan Karim (left) Finley Bone (right)



Teenage Cancer Trust (left to right) Joe Nevison, Georgia Atkinson, Charlie Cobain, Hannah Webb, Erin Teasdale, Josh McKeith & Sophie Keeler



Art and Textiles A Level students visiting The Baltic, Newcastle

On Thursday 14 December, the Art and Textiles A-level students travelled to Newcastle to visit The Biscuit Factory, The Laing and The Baltic art galleries. They enjoyed an enriching and diverse range of historical and contemporary art and gained lots of inspiration for their 'Personal Investigation' projects.

Mr Morris, Head of Art

Contact details for external agencies during the Christmas holidays

If parents/carers need to access external support during the holidays, they can contact:

Stronger Families (Early Help): 01642 726 004. Stronger Families are able to support with:

- drug and alcohol issues;
- domestic abuse;
- mental health issues;
- money and housing problems;
- bereavement;
- relationship problems;
- children's health, development and behaviour.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS): 0300 2000 000. CAMHS provides assessment and appropriate treatment or intervention for children and young people up to their 18th birthday who are experiencing mental health problems, with the aim of positive mental health promotion.

Details of other support services can be accessed via the following links:

Children and Families - Middlesbrough Children Matter

Children, families, and safeguarding | Middlesbrough Council

Additional Notices

Holiday Activities and Food: Middlesbrough Council have arranged several great opportunities for students aged 5-16 who are in receipt of income related Free School Meals to do some exciting activities during the Christmas holidays, as well as getting a hot meal. For further information and to book please see here.

Job opportunities: We are currently recruiting for a variety of roles to join our friendly, hard working staff team, including a Cleaner and a Site Manager. For further details and to apply see here.

Household Support Fund: Middlesbrough Council sent supermarket vouchers to households with children getting income related free school meals between 4 and 8 December. For further information please contact Middlesbrough Council here. Applications for Free School Meals can be made here.

Uniform Shop: The online shop is closed from Friday 22 December to Monday 8 January. Any orders placed during the closure will be despatched as soon as possible when the shop re-opens.

Pre-loved uniform: We would like to remind parents/carers that there is now a dedicated online marketplace for pre-loved King's Academy uniform and learning resources. Please click here for further information about this service and here to go straight to the marketplace.

Children's Parties: We are pleased to be able to offer a special package on Saturday afternoons for the hire of our Sports Hall and Downstairs Restaurant for children's parties. £75 for 90 minutes in the Sports Hall then 30 minutes in restaurant – 12.30-2.30pm or 2.30-4.30pm. For further information, availability and to make a booking request please visit our dedicated lettings website here.

Key Dates	
January	
Monday 8	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 9	Start of Term (8.20am)
Mon 15 - Fri 19	Year 12 First Rehearsal Exams
Tue 23 - Fri 26	House Assemblies
Monday 29 Jan - Friday 2 Feb	Year 8 Rehearsal Examinations
February	
Fri 2 - Thu 8	House Chess
Mon 5 - Fri 9	Years 11 & 13 Rehearsal Exams Children's Mental Health Week National Apprenticeship Week
Mon 12 - Fri 16	Half Term Holidays Years 11 & 13 Study Programme



Well done to all the students and families who collected Christmas treats and other necessities in our second collection for Middlesbrough Foodbank. One again the staff at the foodbank were very grateful for the generosity shown.

Computer Scientists visit Edge Hill University





Our Year 10 Computer Scientists had the opportunity to experience a day in the life of a Computer Scientist Undergraduate at Edge Hill University in Liverpool. Throughout the day they attended workshops in Ethical Hacking, Robotics and Games Development. The day was an opportunity to see what it would be like studying a Computer Science degree at University and to get a feel for the University culture. It was a fantastic day and the students demonstrated the utmost respect and appreciation for the team at Edge Hill.

Mr Wild, Head of Computer Science

Let's Move to the Moon— Discover Materials

As part of our investigations into the restrictions of living on the moon, with the help of Mrs Dean, we took delivery of a case full of experimental tasks to help us look at some of the things that need to be considered. However, when the case arrived, we had to complete the first mission which was to be able to crack the code to open the box and find out what it contained.

We have now completed Mission 2, looking at the density of materials, deciding on the most suitable for building a moon base. The box contained several different materials (carbon composite, steel, iron, beech) for us to measure and calculate the density of, in order to find the most suitable. With more missions to complete, there is lots to be found out about the properties of the materials in the box to help decide what would be needed to build a successful moon base.

Jessica Robinson and Sophie Robinson



Kielder Observatory

North East Astrophotography Academy workshop

In November, Kielder observatory came into school for a workshop which I was privileged to take part in. It was a great experience which showed me a lot about space and different types of light. It was also great to be able to ask questions about work in the observatory and general space related questions. I really enjoyed the experience of the planetarium and the workshop about light and its effect on our understanding of the universe. It was a great opportunity for us to learn more about our universe and in my opinion, it will massively help my studies in physics.

Evie Lethbridge

Research in Schools

Students met with Dr Neil Garrido from the Institute for Research in Schools to hear more about their chosen research projects and the opportunities available to them. One group will be learning how use DNA as a building material taking inspiration from origami; while a second group will use Python computer programming to analyse data from CERN. An amazing opportunity for students to learn skills beyond the curriculum while completing research projects supported by researchers working in industry and university.

Mrs Dean, Teacher of Physics





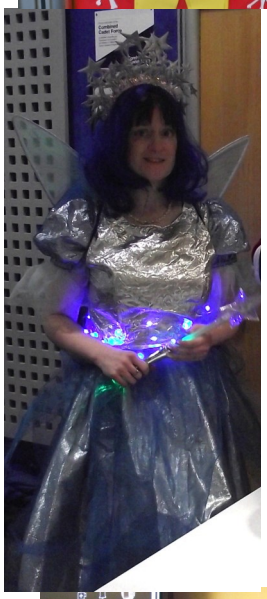






Christmas Craziness

On Wednesday 20 December the entire Year 7 cohort made up the audience for the annual Performing Arts competition. Each performer had already successfully auditioned, and bravely gave their all to entertain the crowd and the judging panel. This year's competition included a vast array of varied talent which included singers, dancers, comedians, musicians and even a puppet show. The best act as voted by the student body went to"Ollie P's Monster Mash-Up" - representing the Romans, but the eventual overall house winners was Greeks!

















HLN Spread Christmas Joy





On Friday 15 December HLN held a Mini Christmas Market. Sweets and treats such as Reindeer lollies, Reindeer droppings and Christmas biscuits were on sale, as well as Christmas decorations made by our DofE students in HLN3. We also had a special visit from the naughty elf who will have the job of delivering Christmas messages and candy canes in Tutor time on Thursday.

Miss Macgregor, Teaching Lead for HLN Support

House Art and Photography Winners



Meadow McDonald (KS3 Photography)
My photograph was staged to show the woman in the photo rebuilding her health. Tablets are taken to help with illness.



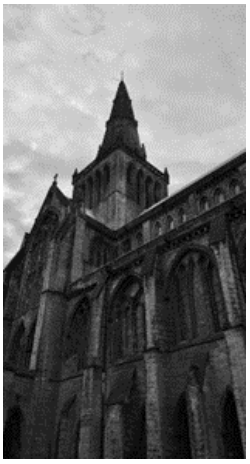
Lyla Mooney (KS4 Art) My piece of artwork is a drawing of hands to represent rebuilding friendships or relationships.



Tarlin McDonald (KS3 Art)
My artwork is a picture of a bug house made from bottle tops. It represents the importance of taking care of insects and helping them rebuild their homes.



David Mills (KS4 Photography) This is a photo of Big Ben being renovated and rebuilt over time.



Jacob Brown (KS5 Photography)
I took this photo of this old building because I thought the architecture was fascinating. The building itself reminds me of rebuilding as it has withstood many hard times which we have had to rebuild as a country due to the wars and challenges, we have faced.





Ruby Atkinson (KS5 Art) My textiles piece displays the rebuilding of the brain throughout time due to revolutionising constructs such as technology; allowing the brain to rebuild and adapt.

Well done to our very talented House Art and Photography winners. Their entries were on the theme of "Rebuilding" and show a range of interesting interpretations.

House Creative Writing Winners

Nabil Ghattas placed the 30th anniversary premier league match ball down to the penalty spot. It was a cold half seven kick off at Liverpool's remarkable Anfield stadium against local rivals Everton. He adored the number eleven, not only for his birth year, but after his Liverpool idol Mohammed Salah. He loved to watch him at his birth town in Lebanon and in his genuine home of the Liverpool council estate over near Kensington.

Life was tough moving over in 2022. It was a process of adapting as he was a fish out of water. Luckily he found other students escaping the same war he was stuck in. There were heavy tensions to the point of implosion between Israel and the Middle East. Luckily he had secured exit at the shore line with a make shift boat with his sister, father and mother – alienated at sea.

They were star struck to be helped via the Mediterranean immigration patrol sending them to Liverpool England. He felt content playing football at school, home or the local team – later Liverpool Academy – in the luminous light or distilled dark. His life was football. If he had not made it he would just have been an anonymous low wage local player. Now he was the youngest goal scorer at fifteen for league club and country.

With all of this in his now twenty nine year old experienced mind he did his run up. Went for power.

Top right. Left foot. Goal!

His 300th of his career taking his top off with a blank canvas of an undershirt with the words

'Never give up.'

He might not have as much explosive pace as he did but he had three things.

One, a record, Two, a team. And most importantly, a story to tell.

Louie Carroll (KS3 Winner - Romans)

REFUGEE – guns vollied and thundered.
REFUGEE – tried to escape but blundered.
REFUGEE – scared and afraid.
REFUGEE – escape must be made.
REFUGEE – has to leave home.
REFUGEE – a new way is shown.
REFUGEE – finally lands safe.
REFUGEE – a new life to create.

Alfie Skilbeck (KS4 Winner - Hebrews)

Our students have been working on their creative writing pieces on the theme of Refuge. We had a huge number of high quality entries, but we had to choose a winner from each Key Stage. Here they are.

Mrs Hutchinson, English (KS3 Coordinator)

Refuge is a safe place where we go when we escape someone or something. When I think of refuge, the first thing that comes to my mind is the bible verse, 'God is our refuge or strength, a very present help in times of trouble.'

Here, the bible portrays God as a refuge, a safe place that protects us from danger. To understand this better, we can think of this idea of God being our refuge in a simple example of a hen gathering her chicks under her wings. Why does the hen do this? She spreads out her wings to protect her children from the predators who are constantly trying to snatch her chicks away from her. Likewise God also protects his children by being a safe place for his children, where they can abide in him in times of trouble.

Have you ever heard of the song 'Rock of Ages'? The lyrics of this song and the story behind it lays down this very same idea. It says 'Rock of Ages, let me hide myself in thee.' Now the story behind this song, is that the author was in the jungle where he was attacked by a bear. In that moment of despair, he sought refuge in a rock that was split into two. He could hardly fit in it, but the bear could not reach out its hand and harm him when he was out of danger. The words of the song came to him, he sang 'Rock of Ages split for me, let me hide myself in thee.' Here he imagines Christ as a rock that was split, where he found refuge, which kept him from danger.

So for me, I think of Christ as a refuge. I can seek refuge in him at all times not only because he keeps me safe but he also helps me to overcome all difficulties. That is the joy of being a Christian, knowing no matter what happens I am not alone dealing with the bear. I have Christ by my side.

Alana Sajiman, (KS5 winner - Medes)