The King's Chronicles

Spring Term 2 2024

Easter Message from the Principal

Despite only being five weeks long, this has again been a packed half-term and the pages that follow show some of the highlights of the last twenty-five days in school. It has been a busy time for students completing rehearsal exams but we have managed to throw in some fun too, including a Year 7 residential to Marrick Priory, our inaugural House FC24 competition and a revamped competition in our STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

Visitors to school in recent weeks will no doubt have been impressed by the stunning Easter display created by Mrs Gibbons to mark this important event in our calendar. As the flowers have bloomed, we have been reminded of the Easter message of the new life that the resurrection of Jesus offers us:

> *This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.* (Jn. 3:16)

As part of our Easter celebrations, it was great to see so many students enjoying the House Easter Egg Hunt, followed immediately by our Easter concert. All of the performers were superb, combining courage and hard work in front of their fellow students, staff and governors and we are hugely proud of them all. Particular recognition should be given to Kara Oostdijck and Chrissie Kardasz who have made a huge contribution to the music department during their time in school and for whom this is likely to be their final performance as King's students.

As we look ahead to summer term, we particularly remember our Year 11 and Year 13 students who are now well into their revision programmes and will be studying hard over the forthcoming Easter break in readiness for their final examinations in just under seven weeks. For students in other year groups, the summer term will be no less busy, both in the classroom and outside. Our plans for Activities Week are being finalised for Key Stage 3 students and this will no doubt be another excellent week. Our House competition will enter its final stages with only three points separating first and fourth so all is very much to play for this year! It goes without saying that students need to be in school every day to make the most of their learning, but also so that they can make the most of all of the other opportunities on offer.

Finally, please can I take this opportunity to wish all students, parents and carers a very happy Easter and hope that it provides an opportunity to spend some quality time together.

Simon Reader
Principal

Thank you to all the students, staff, parents and governors who came along to support our extremely talented students performing in the Spring concert. It was fantastic to see such a confident performance from our Year 7 violinists and there were some other outstanding performances on the piano and clarinet as well as amazing vocals. We are already looking forward to the music department's summer concert!

Mrs Gibbons, Assistant Principal

NE District Young Musician

On Saturday 10 February two of our sixth form students took part in the North East Young Musician competition run by the Middlesbrough Rotary Club.

Chrissie Kardasz won the event, winning £100. She will now represent the district in the North of England heat. The judges were complimentary of both Kara Oostdijck and Chrissie (pictured right).

Mr Whittaker, Rotary member

Post 16 steps for HLN

On Tuesday 27 February HLN 5 students visited Middlesbrough College and Stockton Riverside College as part of an enhanced transition plan, in preparation for post 16 placements starting in September.

Students enjoyed their day, and their behaviour was exceptional. I was very proud of them all. They all have firm choices for courses and colleges they will be applying for now.

Mrs Milburn, Mrs Brown and Mrs Diamond attended the visit and enjoyed it too. They agree the students were amazing and the visit was a success.

Mrs McDonald, Sensory Support Coordinator

A Level Opportunities

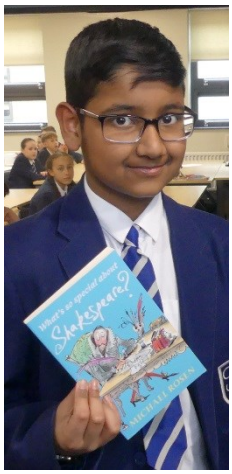
Year 11 students recently had the opportunity to learn more about new A Level subjects that they might consider to opt for in Sixth Form. They were able to hear from teachers and current Year 12 students about the experience of studying a subject that will be new to them in September, such as Psychology, Law, Politics, Economics, Sociology and English Language. The students engaged with great enthusiasm, posing thoughtful questions about the content of the subjects, as well as how this would lead to potential career paths in their future.

Mr Skerry, Head of Sixth Form

Random Books of Kindness

On Thursday 7 March, the Library was a hive of activity as we celebrated World Book Day with our annual book swap. Hundreds of books were exchanged, and a further fifty were given out as part of our 'Random Books of Kindness' event which saw students nominate their friends to receive a brand new book for free. A special well done to 13Jones, 8Harker, 10Cameron and 10Kirby, who won our World Book Day tutor time quizzes for their Key Stages, and particularly to Yenuli Arachchige who won our 'Get Caught Reading' competition.

Mrs Catterson, Literacy Lead



Top Left: Isaac Hunaishi and Aston Harris
Above: Ayyan Ul-Khair
Left: Elise Atkinson

All nominated by a friend for a random book of kindness just one of the activities to mark World Book Day

STEM Day

Sixty of our Year 8 students were given the opportunity to take part in a STEM day led by Niamh from the Smallpeice Trust. The challenge "BLAST OFF TO RIAT" was sponsored by the RAF and required students to analyse aircraft designs and design, build and test their own creations. Throughout the day students were taught topics linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. As a team, they then consolidated their knowledge of all of the topics to produce their aircraft and compete against each other to see which aircraft would fly the best.

Mr Wild, Head of Computer Science

MiSST Together Day

On Monday 4 March, around sixty of our Year 7 and 8 students took part in a MiSST Together Day where they formed a large multi-school orchestra with other young people from the North. They learned three pieces of music during the day and then performed for a live audience in the Crypt at Middlesbrough Town Hall. The students did an excellent job of learning the music, taking part in percussion and rhythm workshops, and coping with the demands of performing live. An amazing achievement for all those involved!

King's Music Department

Lauren Charlton
7Robertson

Celebrating International Women's Day

*T*o celebrate International Women's Day 2024, a group of Year 10 girls who are part of the new cohort of the Premier League Changemakers were invited to attend an event at the MFC ground on the 1st March; #inspiringinclusion. A great afternoon was had by all helping to raise aspirations, self-esteem and empowerment for girls.

Mrs Henry-Shaw, Head of Girls' PE

House STEM Competition

Time for Science! This year's theme for British Science Week was Time, so what better way to theme our inaugural science house competition. Students from Year 7-10 worked in teams to build the most accurate 10-second timer that they could. Our teams worked enthusiastically, building a variety of sand timers, water timers, and some very intricate marble-run devices! It all came down to the final judging, with some teams managing to be within milliseconds of the target – a great effort from everybody involved.

Mr King, Head of Science

The sky's the limit!

On Tuesday 12 March, two ambassadors from The Linnet Project came in to give a talk on aeronautical engineering. Students from all years got to hear about their journey into aviation along with what they are currently doing. At the moment they are repairing and refurbishing a Linnet aircraft with Stokesley secondary school, giving their students hands on experience with engineering. Our own students got to see parts from the plane, such as its propeller and rudder, as the ambassadors had kindly brought them in to display their functions. We thoroughly enjoyed listening to our guests and we hope they return to give another talk!

Nicholas Sayer, Y13

The sky at night

During January and February Spring Term, we got to experience two astrophotography sessions run by two of the astrophotographers from Kielder Observatory. The sessions helped create a positive outcome from the overall experience, engaging a high level of interest from a range of year groups including the astronomy club. With the collaboration of the art and physics departments we were able to use both subjects, in the astrophotography sessions. For example, we learnt how to adjust camera settings such as ISO, aperture and shutter speed which allowed us to produce clearer photos that let as much light into the camera as possible.

Molly Warren, Y12

Top of the Bench

Chemistry Y9-11

A group of Year 9-11 students recently took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's 'Top of the Bench' competition at Teesside University. While also having the opportunity to learn more about university life, the students worked in Teesside University's Chemistry department, taking part in various quizzes and a research task with lecturers and technical staff from the university. Well done for all your efforts, Harry, Kinza, Anya, and Zac.

Mr King, Head of Science

Year 12 Crime Day

In March, Year 12 Sociology and Psychology students immersed themselves in the world of crime at Teesside University. Upon arrival students were given a crime case study from Teesside and used pre selected sessions to explore different skills and jobs needed to investigate the offence on both a local and national scale. Some students tracked phone records as part of digital forensics whilst others investigated the crime scene, searching for evidence in a stolen car before finally reaching a verdict as part of a prosecution in a mock courtroom. This fantastic day not only allowed Year 12 to explore careers in crime but also gain an invaluable insight into the courses available at Teesside University. Students came away positive about their future and where their A level studies could take them at the end of Year 13.

Miss Birch, Head of Year 7

The First Annual Careers Fair

This half term, we hosted our first careers fair for Years 7 - 10 and Sixth Form on Friday 8 March. Numerous employers, universities and apprenticeship providers set up exciting stalls and spoke to our students about career options and opportunities in their sectors, as well as choosing their future pathways. Some of the exhibitors included EDF Energy, EE, Quorn, Darchem Engineering and NHS. Students engaged really well with the stalls and impressed our exhibitors with their interesting questions. We are hoping to make the careers fair an annual event, so if you know of an organisation that would be interested in supporting the school with this, please contact aharrison-potts@thekingsacademy.org.uk.

We also hosted a week of engaging careers talks for year 11 students, where they heard from a range of post-16 providers including RAF, ASK Apprenticeships, Askham Bryan and NETA. Alongside their one-on-one careers meetings this year, students should hopefully feel empowered to make an informed decision about their destination post-16.

And finally for this half term, a group of 14 Year 9 students attended Teesside University as part of the Be Inspired programme. They attended a marketplace where they were able to discuss university life with current students and then completed two workshops of their choice, ranging from occupational therapy to game design. Students showed excellent behaviour and engagement, and were a credit to the school!

Mrs Harrison-Potts, Careers Lead

Contact details for external agencies during the half term 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

Key Dates	
Mon 25 March - Fri 5 April	Easter Holidays
25 - 28 March 2 - 5 April	Year 11 and Year 13 Study Programme (9am-1pm)
April	
Monday 8	Summer Term starts (8.20am)
Mon 15 - Fri 26	Year 10 Rehearsal Exams
Mon 22 -Thu 25	House Football (Girls)
Wednesday 24	Year 9 Parents' Evening (4-7pm)
Mon 29 - Fri 3	Year 7 Rehearsal Exams
Tue 30 - 3 May	House Assemblies
May	
Monday 6	May Bank Holiday
Thursday 9	Public Exams start
Wednesday 22	Y10 Parents' Evening (4-7pm)
Friday 24	End of Half Term
Mon 27 – Fri 31	Half Term Holiday Year 11 Study Programme
June	
Monday 3	Term starts (8.20am)

Easter Eggs Hunt House Competition

Around 200 students took part in the first ever King's Academy House Easter Egg Hunt with 580 eggs hidden on the school grounds. There were some eggcellent outfits, some eggstra-special efforts and some eggstravagant prizes won by those who took part. Watch out for the return of this eggciting event next Spring. (And if anyone finds the missing 26 eggs, please return them to Mrs Gibbons so she can use them again next year!)

Results from the Easter Egg Hunt

Greeks: 149 eggs
Romans: 143 eggs
Medes: 141 eggs
Hebrews: 121 eggs

6th Form Café Scientifique

It's been great to see so many 6th form students attending our monthly visits to Café Scientifique. These trips at the Arc theatre, Stockton, feature talks to the public by an expert in their field, with a Q&A session afterwards. This year we've had the pleasure of learning about the behaviour of honeybees, the mechanics of water pumps, the history of the universe, wind turbines, and the future of hospitals – a varied range of topics! Next term features topics such as the history of anaesthetics, revitalising the Tees estuary, and the role of wind turbines in the green energy revolution. Keep an eye on your emails to sign up and join us – first come, first served!

Mr King and Mr Wills, Science Department

Middlesbrough Town Year 7 Rugby Tournament

Jorgi Collinson (right)

Students and staff enjoying the Easter Egg Hunt

Free breakfast: We continue to offer a free breakfast of bagels and cereals to any student who wants one – every school day from 8-8.20am in the downstairs restaurant – as part of the National Schools Breakfast Programme. No need to sign up – just come along. We were recently awarded a community grant from local housing provider Karbon Homes to help with the costs of the provision, for which we are immensely grateful.