The King's Chronicles

Summer Term 1 2025

Academy Production Announcement:

Legally Blonde Jr. Coming - November 2025

We're thrilled to announce that our next Academy production will be the fabulously fun *Legally Blonde Jr.* – and the buzz is already building!

Set to be performed in **November 2025**, this high-energy musical promises catchy songs, hilarious characters, and a whole lot of pink-powered positivity. Since the reveal, there's been a real excitement among students, with lots of new faces showing an interest in getting involved both on stage and behind the scenes.

Auditions will take place **before we break for the summer holidays**, giving everyone a chance to get involved early and head into summer full of anticipation.

We can't wait to see what this talented group brings to the stage – it's going to be *so much fun, it should be illegal!*

Mr Jones, Head of Drama

Royal Marines Cadets - Exercise First

Royal Marine Cadets took part in an overnight exercise in the schools wooded area, many for the first time. Students showed great cheerfulness and worked very hard as a team to carry heavy kit and equipment to the camp area. When in camp they worked to improved their bivouac construction and later their patrol skills. The next day, cadets were introduced to basic camouflage and concealment, combat tactics and physical activity. All cadets learned to sustain themselves in arduous field conditions, cooking MOD rations on standard issue cooking stoves and even finished off with some toasted marshmallows. Well done cadets!

Mr Cameron, Teacher of Science

Sixth Form Sunderland Law Trip

On Monday 28 April, The King's Academy Year 12 law students visited Sunderland university for a law masterclass. The class was delivered inside of a real court room that is part of the university's facilities, and we were given the opportunity to participate in a mock trial, with a real criminal case. We all were given our own roles for the trial, these included a judge, the clerk, the jury, the barristers, the defendant, and the witnesses. We were then all instructed on how to fulfil these roles, and the trial went extremely well. This trip gave us as students the opportunity to strengthen our knowledge of the English legal system, which is necessary for our upcoming exams.

Cody Brown (12Jones)

During a recent law trip to Sunderland University, my Year 12 Law class and I participated in a mock trial in their courtroom, I was picked to be the judge which involved reading off the script and ensuring the trial went smoothly. Other people in my class had various roles including the usher, clerk, defence and the prosecution. The defence and prosecution had to quickly select evidence and come up with questions for the witness on the spot, which was impressive given they only had 10–15 minutes. My teachers were acting as jury; they had to decide whether the defendant was guilty or not guilty. They returned a verdict of not guilty and the mock trial ended. Overall, it was a fun, beneficial and useful experience that helped me understand the role of the judge in court better as well as the courtroom procedures and the responsibilities of the main roles.

Maysam Al-Khafaji (12Tarn)

NHS Careers Day at James Cook

In May, we had the opportunity to visit our local hospital, James Cook, with nine Year 9 and Year 10 students who were interested in finding out more about working within the NHS. From medical and patient-facing jobs to finance and leadership roles, this event aimed to cover a wide range of careers. On the day, our students had the chance to take part in multiple hands-on workshops where they got to learn things such as using laparoscopy tools, CPR, and how to monitor vital signs.

The students also had the opportunity to talk to several allied health professional areas such as podiatry and OT and learn what is involved in those specific careers, as well as spending time talking to the NHS careers team.

The students were a credit the Academy, getting involved in every activity and asking lots of questions about potential career choices. Amelia won a prize for the strongest female student grip strength, and Grace won a prize for being able to stack the most sugar cubes with the Laparoscopy tools; well done girls!

Mrs Crame, Teacher of Science

VI Resource Provision Students Attend RNIB Sports

Students from our Vision Impairment (VI) Resource Provision recently had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a VI sports event organised by the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and hosted at Northfield School in Billingham.

The day was filled with excitement as students explored a variety of adapted sports including goalball, blind baseball, and blind tennis. These taster sessions not only introduced students to new and inclusive sporting experiences, but they were also led by expert coaches — including members of the GB Paralympic blind baseball team, who shared their skills and inspired everyone with their passion.

Students embraced the chance to try something new, meet peers from other schools, and enjoy the beautiful weather. A truly memorable experience for all involved!

Mrs Tattersall, Mainstream SEND Lead

The MISST 12th Annual Concert in London
The King's Academy Students Hit the High Notes

Mr Power and Miss Gibbons recently took a group of our talented music students on a truly unforgettable adventure – all the way to the iconic Barbican Theatre in London to perform for the MISST 12th Annual Concert.

Now, performing on stage with a full-blown orchestra in front of a packed house is no small feat – but our students rose to the occasion like seasoned professionals. They played beautifully, behaved impeccably, and represented The King's Academy with pride, style, and just the right amount of nerves (the good kind). We suspect a few future West End stars might have been born that night.

The next day, still buzzing from their performance, our students set off on a whirlwind tour of London's most famous landmarks. From the royal gates of Buckingham Palace to the front door of 10 Downing Street (sadly, no one was home to offer tea), and past the historic Houses of Parliament, they saw it all – while somehow managing to take 14,276 photos, eat at least three types of chips, and navigate the Tube like pros.

It was a trip full of music, laughter, learning, and memories to last a lifetime. A huge bravo to all the students involved.

Mr Power, Lead Teacher of Music

The Winning Teams

Year 7 Town Cup Champions

Under 14 Town Cup Champions and County Cup Runners up

Year 8 Boys Town Cup Runners up

Year 10 Boys County Cup Final Runners up

Year 7 Girls Netball team competed in the Middlesbrough Schools Netball tournament.

They finished second place to win a silver medal. Making the final was a superb effort and they were finally beaten by only one goal after extra time.

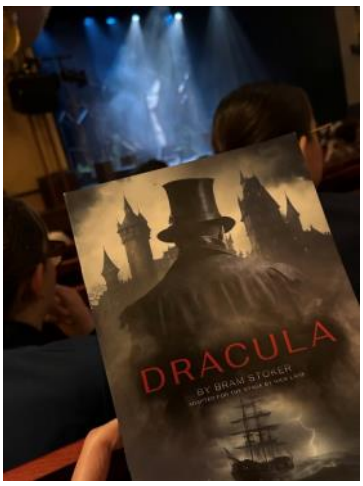
Sixth Form Bake Sale for Charity

To help raise her goal of £200 to take part in The Great Leeds Walk 2025, Mia Jones and Lucie Hindshaw set up a bake sale with the help of Oscar Paterson, Matilda Davis and Kate Berkins. By selling a variety of homemade cookies, cupcakes and brownies, they successfully raised £185.77 and with previous donations, the team managed to raise £240.77 in total. The funds raised from this event will be donated to Candlelighters, a charity dedicated to aiding children's cancer.

Lucie Hindshaw (12Tarn)

A Half Term of Inspiring Theatre

This half term, students had the chance to enjoy two brilliant productions at the Darlington Hippodrome, both offering unique and memorable experiences.



GCSE Drama students saw *Dracula* by Blackeyed Theatre, a national touring production. The creative ensemble work and atmospheric staging provided an excellent example of how classic stories can be reimagined on stage — a valuable experience for any drama student.

In a very different style, students from Years 9 to 12 attended *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*, a vibrant musical performed by local company Darlington OS. Our students were amazed to learn that the cast were all volunteers, performing alongside jobs and studies. The quality of the show was outstanding, and many left feeling inspired to get more involved in drama and extra-curricular theatre.

We're lucky to have such incredible performances on our doorstep, and it's fantastic to see them spark creativity in our students.

Mr Jones, Head of Drama

Reading Mentor Programme

Twice a week, a group of volunteer Sixth Formers read with selected KS3 students to boost reading enjoyment and achievement. The atmosphere is always lovely, and it's a time that's enjoyed by all students involved. Destinii and Shauna have shared their experience below:

Shauna Shaju (Reading Mentor)

During our reading mentor sessions every Wednesday and Thursday tutor time, I have read with a Year 8 student, helping her to develop her reading skills and engage by answering questions relating to the book. Through this programme, I have seen great improvement in her confidence and ability to read. Not only have these sessions been helping the mentees, it's also been a great way for sixth formers to help in the younger school community and demonstrate our commitment and communication skills. Overall, it has been a very valuable experience.

Destinii Brooks (Student)

I have enjoyed reading with Shauna each week, we have worked through new books, and this has made me want to read more at home during my free time. As well as this, we learnt new words together and I have noticed this has helped me in my English lessons. I feel more confident and enjoy reading more.

Miss Parkinson, Literacy Lead

Activities Week 2025

Key Dates	
May	
Tuesday 27 - Friday 30	Year 11 and Year 13 Study Programme Half Term Holidays
June	
Monday 2	School returns (8.20am)
Monday 9 - Friday 20	Year 12 Rehearsal Exams
Wednesday 11	Year 7 Parents' Evening (4 – 7pm)
Monday 23 - Friday 27	Activities Week (Years 7 to 9) Year 10 Work Experience Year 12 Progression Week France and Germany Residentials
Wednesday 25	Year 13 Leavers' Dinner (7.30pm) Whinstone View
Monday 30	Year 6 Parents' Evening
July	
Wednesday 2	Sports Day and Colour Run
Monday 7 - Wednesday 9	Year 6 Transition Days
Tuesday 8	Year 11 Prom (6.30 for 7.00pm) Wynyard Hall
Friday 18	End of Term

We are really looking forward to Activities week in a few weeks time. We asked the students of 8Blair to comment on last years activities and what they enjoyed the most.
Here are just a few:

Jack - "In activities week last year, I went to Germany. It was an excellent trip and I would recommend it to anyone. When we were there we visited lots of places including Phantasialand and the sports museum and we also did a lot of different activities"

Hannah - "I liked the art and design because it let me be more creative and think more creative. I found it really relaxing and calming and I think there should be more of that. I like there being drama theatres and more options like swimming and wheelchair basketball."

Louis W - "Last year we went to many different places for activites week. My favourite place was the Yorkshire Wildlife park because it had a lot of different animals from all around the world. My favourite animal was the polar bear because it was massive and frightening. There were also leopards, giraffes and tigers. Last year was overall really good because there were many options."

Desire - "The first time I went to activities week was in Year 8. I chose the option to do the CCF tester. The CCF tester was a good option for me because it gave me a good after school activity to look forward to.

Kanie - "I went to the Warner Brothers Studios and the chocolate factory, those were the options I chose for myself. It was fun being with friends in a little group and being able to have the opportunity to look around the place even more. I enjoyed the chocolate factory trip the most because we were able to take our own chocolate home"

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

Congratulations to over 600 students from Years 7-10 who received a free ice cream for their excellent attendance this half term.

One or two staff also managed to receive a sweet treat.