The King's Chronicles

Autumn Term 1 2024

IRIS Awards Winners

In September, Year 13 students who had completed an IRIS research project in Year 12 travelled to London to attend the IRIS awards. This was an opportunity to celebrate the students' research and showcase their work to the STEM researchers and educators in attendance. Our students took on two challenging projects last year and supported by staff in the Science department progressed through their research to complete an academic research poster which they presented at the student conference in June. We were honoured to be nominated for the award of 'best new school' and we are proud to announce that we won this award. Well done to the IRIS students.

Mrs Dean, Acting Head of Physics

Lions on Tour - Keswick

The King's Academy provided 5 students for the 2024 ESF Lions rugby tour to the Keswick. The full squad of 24 players included the best rugby players in Year 10 from the foundation and involved players from Grace, Bede, Christ's, King's and Emmanuel Colleges.

The team beat Dame Allans 50 – 5 and lost narrowly to Nelson Thomlinson school in Wigton by 45 – 31 with the home team scoring in the last minute to take the spoils. Alongside training and playing rugby, the boys went bowling and tackled the high ropes course at Winlatter National park. The tour was a huge success and the boys conducted themselves superbly, making new friends with their peers from our sister schools.

The players were: Louis Carter, Adam Marshall, Oliver Keeler, Zak Marshall, and Hamza Sharif.

Hamza Sharif was named as King's Academy Lion of the tour with Oliver Keeler being named as tour Vice Captain and winner of the prestigious Lion of the Tour trophy.

Mr Johnson, Assistant Principal

Tickets on sale now for Sister Act Jr.

The King's Academy event tickets from TicketSource.

An Abundance of Talent

The Exhibition of Student Talent held on Thursday 10 October showcased outstanding art, textiles and engineering work from all last year's Year 11 and Year 13 GCSE, HLN and A-level students. The evening featured amazing food from the food department and performances from music and drama. It was wonderful to see so many of our past students visit the exhibition with their friends and family to celebrate their achievements. The work on show was among the highest standard our students have ever produced. The exhibition was also enjoyed by our Year 9 and 10 students and will no doubt provide inspiration for their own work.

Mr Morris, Head of Art

"O, beware, my lord, of jealousy; It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock the meat it feeds on."

On Thursday afternoon, a group of Year 12 and 13 English students travelled to Durham to see a live performance of *Othello* at the Assembly Rooms Theatre, located within the city's UNESCO World Heritage site. The gripping production by the Elysium Theatre Company brought the play's themes of jealousy and betrayal to life, deepening students' understanding of the text they study in class.

In addition to the performance, students had the chance to visit Durham Cathedral, a magnificent landmark that made the trip even more memorable. Overall, the afternoon was both educational and inspiring, offering new perspectives on *Othello* and the rich cultural heritage of Durham.

Miss Henry, Teacher of English

CCF Albermarle

Our Royal Marine Cadets represented themselves, and our school, brilliantly at the Army "Supercamp" visit to Albermarle Barracks, Newcastle. Cadets learned more about the

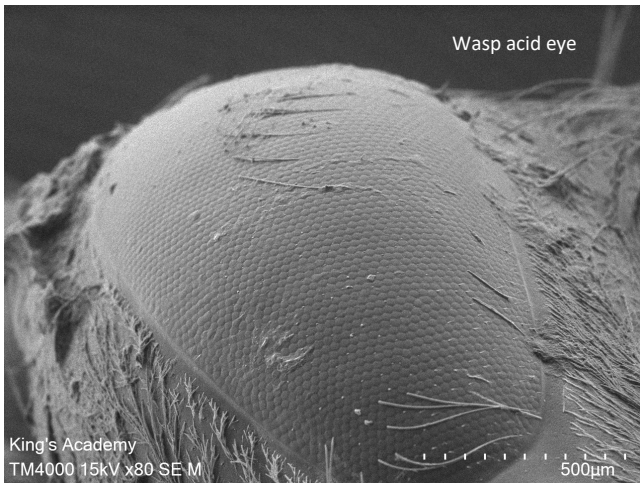
equipment that infantry use in difficult situations – from weaponry to armoured vehicles – and heard first-hand what life is like as a military police officer. They practiced using airsoft rifles to clear a forest of "enemies" and improved their critical thinking and mechanical skills, solving a puzzle that involved changing the tyres of a dune buggy. Ellena Sousa in particular showed terrific leadership skills in this task, for which she won the school Best Cadet Award.

Mr Cameron, CCF

Electron Microscope

Our students have been diving into the unseen world with the incredible Hitachi TM4000 Scanning Electron Microscope, which can produce high resolution images and magnify up to 100,000 times! From stinging nettles and hair to feathers, paper, and insect wings, they've explored a variety of fascinating samples.

Our sixth formers have taken on their own projects, investigating the effects of acid rain on insects, the properties of engineering materials, and even the surfaces of DVDs. A huge thank you to the Natural History Museum, the Institute for Research in Schools, Oxford Instruments, and the Royal Microscope Society for lending us this incredible piece of technology for a month.



Mr Wills, Head of Biology

The Magic of Theatre: A Transformative Experience

This year, our students have enjoyed four engaging theatre outings already; attending productions like “Sister Act”, “An Inspector Calls”, “Made in Dagenham”, and “Othello”. These experiences have allowed them to appreciate the artistry of live performance while deepening their understanding of relevant curriculum themes.

By witnessing the emotional depth and creativity behind each production, students are inspired to explore various career paths in the performance and cultural industries, from acting to technical roles.

We celebrate the transformative power of theatre in broadening perspectives and fostering community, and we look forward to more enriching experiences ahead!

Mr Jones, Head of Drama

STEM Research Placements Summer 2024

Facilitated by Northeast STEM Hub, several of our Y13 science students enjoyed a wide range of research placements this summer. Lasting two weeks, students were embedded within local businesses or universities, having the opportunity to interact with the professionals they hope to emulate, in environments they hope to practise in, before compiling a final report. Amongst the students lucky enough to be offered a placement were Billy Robinson who worked alongside Kielder astronomers to understand the life cycle of stars (linking to a previous research project on exo-planets with York University) and Adam Percival who shadowed Dr Stokes at Newcastle University to gain an understanding of quantum theory. We’re looking forward to launching this opportunity for this year’s Year 12 students later in the year.

Mr King, Head of Science

Year 11 Revision

Year 11 have had a great start to the school year when it comes to preparation for their exams. Starting with the success of the Revision Evening, students and their parents joined their teachers to learn about the best ways to prepare for their exams. All students were given a personalised revision guide and subject specialists were on hand to explain the best ways to revise in their subject. Many parents also took the opportunity to purchase revision guides on Parent Pay, to help their children further prepare for their upcoming exams.

Students have also taken part in a series of ‘How to Revise’ presentations and workshops, where they were given resources and shown how to create their own revision timetable and begin creating flash cards, mind maps, and other revision resources. The students worked hard on these and were engaged and focused during each session. After the mocks, students will have a further revision presentation focusing on dealing with exam stress and anxiety. There will also be an opportunity for parents to take part in revision workshops later in the year, should you want to know how you can further support your child at home.

Presentation links are below, so you can see what the students created and for further information on how you can help with revision at home:
Revision | The King's Academy (thekingsacademy.org.uk)

Mrs Lamport, Assistant Vice Principal

We are looking forward to welcoming Year 11 students and parents to our Sixth Form @ The King's Open Evening on Monday 18 November (5.30pm – 7.30pm) to discover the differences of life as a sixth former & the range of subjects available to study. You will have the opportunity to visit subjects (new and existing) in dedicated rooms for in depth discussions, as well as hearing from our fantastic sixth form ambassadors.

Mr Skerry, Head of Sixth Form

Thank you for visiting our school

On Thursday 3 October, in excess of 900 visitors attended the Year 6 Open Evening. As part of the event parents and prospective students attended a presentation given by Mr Reader before engaging in a tour of the Academy viewing the excellent displays, presentations and interactive activities on show within the individual departments. A huge thank you must go to the students, who acted as guides, spoke in the presentations, prepared and served tasty treats in the hospitality and catering department, or who were helping elsewhere in the school. The feedback from the evening was overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to seeing many of those visitors joining us in September 2025 as part of our Year 7 intake.

Mr Johnson, Assistant Principal

Kielder Visit

Kielder Observatory astronomers visited school with a portable planetarium offering students in Year 7, Year 8 and GCSE Astronomy an immersive experience, bringing the wonders of space directly to their doorstep. Inside the dome, students were treated to a 360-degree visual journey through the cosmos. They explored planets, stars, and galaxies in stunning detail, guided by an engaging tour guide (the astronomer) This interactive experience deepened their understanding of topics like the solar system and constellations. The visit excited curiosity and enhanced science learning, making astronomy more relatable and inspiring future interest in space exploration. King's KS3 Astronomy club runs on Tuesdays and GCSE Astronomy on Thursdays.

Mrs Dean, Acting Head of Physics

It's been a half term for sport at The King's Academy. We have had house competitions, fixtures and various trials. Well done and thank you to everyone who has been involved, and thank you to all of the staff and sixth form students who have given up their time to make sure fixtures run so smoothly.

Mr Lynch, Head of PE

Hooked on Crochet

If you come to Crochet Club you will find beginners alongside crochet masters (both students and staff) sharing their lastest project and encouraging each other. It is lovely to see students patiently helping each other, and to see the determination as students have pushed through the initial confusion to master the skill.

Kaira said, “I found it pretty hard at first but now I’m at crochet Club it’s much easier. Lucy confessed “I only started crocheting a few weeks ago and I’m already addicted”. Rhoda told us “Once I started crocheting I stopped using my phone so much”.

Miss Robertson, Teacher of Mathematics

Tesco Stronger Starts: Thanks to everyone who voted to support our project whilst shopping in local Tesco stores earlier in the year. We were delighted to top the poll and receive a grant of £1500. This is being put to good use to buy class sets of reading books for tutor groups to use in daily reading time – helping students to make rapid gains in literacy and unlock access to other areas of the curriculum.

School meals: Parents and carers are reminded to ensure that meals accounts are topped up with enough money pay for their child's lunches at the start of the week. The weekly cost of a 2 course meal is £13 (drinks extra). If for any reason you cannot add funds please ensure that your child is sent to school with a packed lunch alternative.

Water bottles: Please can we remind parents/ carers to ensure that their child is sent to school with a clear, refillable, wide opening, leakproof reusable water bottle. These can be obtained inexpensively and should be filled with water before your child leaves home and carried in their school bag throughout the school day. The bottle can then be refilled from the water machines in the restaurants at lunchtime. For hygiene reasons, a single use narrow opening plastic water bottle is not suitable as it could lead to cross contamination of germs via the water dispensers.

Grey Jumpers: Please can we remind parents/ carers that students are permitted to and may wish to wear a plain, grey v necked jumper under their blazer as outside temperatures fall at this time of year. Please see the Uniform section of our website for further details.

Did you know? You can stay up-to-date with all the latest news and events by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and X. From celebrating attendance achievements to sharing sports updates and important dates, you'll find it all! Follow us @KingsAcademyESF.

Follow us on...

@KingsAcademyESF

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