The King's Chronicles

Autumn Term 2 2024

Christmas Card from CERN, Geneva

Year 12 and Year 13 students travelled to Switzerland this week to visit the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. Students engaged in a full day of particle physics at CERN and were lucky to be accompanied by a CERN engineer throughout the day. With a visit to the antihydrogen factory, hands on activities to explore magnetic fields, art work inspired by the imagery from particle data, a visit to the superconducting research facility, and a workshop building a cloud chamber the students had fantastic day full of inspiration. The final day will give students the opportunity to visit Geneva city, tour the United Nations, and explore the History of Science museum.

Mrs Dean, Miss Lake and Mr Cameron,
Science Department







All things Christmassy @ King's

The led up to Christmas it has been an extremely busy term here at the King's. We held our annual Christmas Carol Service, where our tremendous Year 7 choir sang beautifully with parents and carers watching. We have also have taken students on trips to the Metrocentre and York, and have held a film night held at school. We have had Christmas lunch, Christmas Cracker and the annual Performing Arts house competition. Throughout December we have fundraised, held cake and cookie stalls, collected food for Middlesbrough Food bank, held a staff wreath making evening and a Christmas jumper day. Together we have managed to raise over £707 for The Sick Children's Trust charity. A charity close to all our hearts.

Thank you to everyone for your support and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.









Q and A with the Mayor of Middlesbrough

On Thursday 5 December, six Year 8 Head-start students were selected to take part in a question and answer session with Chris Cooke, the Mayor of Middlesbrough, at Middlesbrough Town Hall. All students were exceptionally well behaved and took part in all tasks that were asked of them. Two of our students were brave enough to ask the Mayor some hard hitting questions, one of them, from Destinii Brooks being 'Why do the bills keep going up?' This was answered honestly by Chris. Once again the Headstart students have surpassed our expectations and have made The King's Academy very proud.

Well done to: Destinii Brooks, Frankie Clement, Pippa Beattie, Jessica Gillings, Sophie Jones and Lucy Henderson.

Mrs Atkinson, ELSA

On the night of the Carol Service, a talented group of students performed for our parents as they visited the Christmas market.



Katy Hill from year 12 performed piano solo "I Giorni" and sounded fantastic. Shenia Phillips, Charlotte Bailey, Libby Thompson, Ava Beach, Phoebe George, Katie O'Connor, Hanna Perrow, and Ella Boyes all sang beautifully and Poppi Onenc played the flute to round the evening off. Well done to all involved.

Mrs Haining, Teacher of Music

A Credit to The King's

On Tuesday 10 December, many students in Years 8-11 attended their Rewards Trip to the Metrocentre. It was a fantastic evening where students enjoyed shopping, socialising, and exploring the many dining options available. Their exemplary behaviour was praised not only by staff but also by Metrocentre staff and the coach drivers, making the event a resounding success.

Mrs Dodsworth, Assistant Principal



Singing Christmas Angels

Violet Renwick, Dylann Bone and Madeline Atkinson helped the Rotary Club raise lots of money for their Christmas charities by singing in the Parkway Centre. The girls were superb and we are certain that everyone in the centre enjoyed their Christmas shopping even more, accompanied by the wonderful soundtrack provided by the girls.

Mr Power, Lead Teacher of Music

Frohe Weihnachten

Year 8 German were celebrating the start of Advent this week. Ben Lunn, Alicia Elliott and Rose-Ann Moore brought in Christmas cookies; we learnt an Advent poem and listened to the song "In der Weihnachtsbäckerei." Sehr lecker und vielen Dank!

Mrs King, Teacher of German



Sixth Form Trip to York

This has been a very busy term in Sixth Form, so we were delighted when 100 Year 12 and Year 13 students embarked on our annual trip to York's Christmas markets, a real highlight in our calendar. This break from routine fosters a sense of growing independence as students navigate the city's historic streets, explore the festive stalls, and mix with their peers. The lively atmosphere of the markets, with their twinkling lights and seasonal treats, mirrors the vibrancy of the students themselves. Sampling local delicacies, browsing unique gifts, and experiencing the city's charm together makes this trip an unforgettable celebration of both tradition and youthful energy.

Mr Elliott, Assistant Head of Sixth Form



Enrichment - Yatton House



Our sixth formers have been engaged in a wide range of extracurricular activities on Wednesday afternoons, broadening their skills from independent cooking to musical composition, as well as providing valuable support across many areas of the school from the library to subject lessons.

A group of students have displayed their creative and practical skills in supporting our long standing commitment to working with the Rotary organisation in their work at Yatton House, a centre for adults with severe physical and mental disability in Great Ayton. Braving freezing temperatures, the students worked alongside the staff and members of the centre to produce Christmas wreaths that will be sold to raise funds for the fantastic work done by this organisation.

Mr Skerry, Assistant Principal

Charity Involvement - My Sister's Place

A group of Sixth Form students partnered with Youth Focus North East to buy and make Christmas Hampers containing toys and clothing for women and children linked with My Sister's Place. A grant of £500 was given to the students and they raised further money through a cake sale last month. The presents will be a huge blessing to those who are experiencing domestic abuse and for whom Christmas will be a difficult time of year.
Thanks to everyone who has supported the students.

Mr Belmont, Learning Outside of the Classroom



Kielder Stargazing

Kielder astronomers visited school in November for an evening of stargazing. Over 40 astronomy students from across the year groups, along with their families, joined the astronomers to learn more about the night sky. With the inflatable planetarium back for another visit, students and families were able to see fantastic images of the nearby planets and look further afield at the milky way guided by astronomer Dan, while outside the in quad astronomer Adam used a selection of telescopes to observe the stars and constellations visible above the school. A great event with lots of keen astronomers in attendance.

Mrs Dean, Head of Physics



Another Truly Dazzling Performance

At the end of November, our school dazzled audiences with three spectacular nights of Sister Act Jr. The production was a resounding success, showcasing the incredible talent and hard work of our students and staff. Celebrating the 20th Academy Production, this milestone was marked by the dedication and passion of everyone involved, making it truly memorable. The cast and crew poured their hearts into every performance leaving audiences thrilled. A huge personal thanks from me to all those involved in providing this fantastic opportunity for our students. As we look ahead, we are excited for our upcoming Summer Showcase, where we'll celebrate the highlights of the past 20 shows. Stay tuned for more updates and details!

Mr E Jones, Head of Drama





MiSST Play Day – Barnsley

In November, a group of Year 8 students travelled to Barnsley Academy to be part of the MiSST Play Day. They worked hard on learning several pieces of music during the day and then played as part of a huge orchestra with other MiSST students from across the country. All students involved were exceptional, putting in a massive amount of effort and representing King's brilliantly. Well done to everyone who attended.

Mrs Gibbons, Assistant Principal

For the Fallen

In early November, our school community came together to create a thoughtful Remembrance Sunday window display. The display featured a cascade of handmade red poppies, each representing gratitude for those who have served and sacrificed in times of conflict. Students Jessica and Sophie Robinson, whose father is a serving member of the British Army, gave up time during the half term holiday to create the display. It featured words from "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon and the phrase *"Lest We Forget,"* reminding us to honour the past while striving for a peaceful future.



Newcastle Art Galleries visit

Our Art and Textiles Year 12 and 13 students had a wonderful time in Newcastle visiting art galleries to find inspiration for their 'personal investigations' and examination projects. We saw a wide range of art, craft and design work at The Biscuit Factory, including paintings, drawings, textiles pieces, print-making, ceramics and jewellery from local and regional artist. Followed by a collection of northern landscapes in the special 'Romance to Realities' exhibition and the permanent exhibits at The Laing. Students also enjoyed seeing many of the iconic landmarks in Newcastle and we even had time to visit the festive Christmas markets. *Mr Morris, Head of Art*



National Apprenticeship Show



In November, a group of Year 11 and Year 13 students visited the Vertu Motors Arena in Newcastle to attend the National Apprenticeship Show. The students had the fantastic opportunity to speak to a range of apprenticeship providers including Northern Power, Caterpillar, NHS, BBC and the Army. The students were very engaged and professional, and many were asked to leave their details so providers could contact them about vacancies. We look forward to hearing updates in the coming months!

Mrs Harrison-Potts, Careers Lead

Hartlepool Power Station

Year 13 physics students visited Hartlepool power station in November. The students began the day with a presentation on nuclear power going from the basic operation of a power station into the physics of nuclear energy and the use of different fuel sources. Students then toured the power station seeing the dosimeter room, where they focused on nuclear safety, the turbine hall, with the clear efficiency improvements being made and the on-site fire safety centre. The students were able to apply their curriculum to the real world and asked some brilliant questions as they extended their understanding.

Mrs Dean, Head of Physics



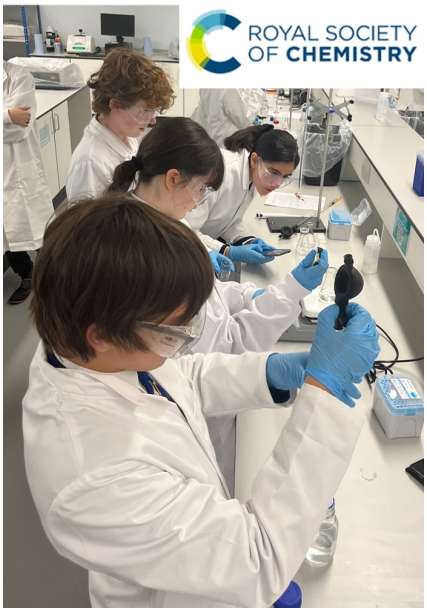


State of the art Sixth Form Chemistry Lab



After a lot of planning, we were very pleased to be handed over our revamped Sixth Form chemistry lab in November. Our A level Chemistry and Sixth Form Applied Science students are now having lessons in this specially designed space, allowing for practical work in university-style labs.

Mr King, Head of Science



Top of the Bench Chemistry

Four excellent young chemists recently took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's 'Top of the Bench' competition at Teesside University, going toe-to-toe with the best and brightest from 21 schools across the North of England. They learned about the state of the art facilities, tested their chemistry knowledge with a gruelling quiz, and had fun making a clock using chemicals, using techniques that would be new even to some university students – well done Christina Lezou, Jacob Nixon, Hannah Yates and Mari Witherden Jones for impressing everyone with your enthusiasm and conduct!"

Mr Cameron, Teacher of Science



Nature Reserve Trip

Lucy Henderson, Lillie Mae Walker, Daisy Murphy and Olivia Errickson (Year 8) visited Portrack Marsh. The trip was organised by Youth Focus North East in partnership with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.

The students were really positive and engaged really well. We did bird watching, pond dipping and looked for stars as it became dark.

Mrs Trotter, Tutor

Year 7 Rugby Festival

Fourteen Year 7 boys took part in a Rugby Festival held at Acklam Rugby Club. The students acquitted themselves really well and the results reflected their performance.
Macmillan A – 2 tries – TKA 3
Trinity – 1 try – TKA 1 Try
Macmillan B – 0 – TKA 3
Acklam Grange 2 tries – TKA 1

Mr Johnson, Assistant Principal



Bookvent 2024

Since the start of December we have been holding a Bookvent draw, in which students have been reading the bulb of books in morning tutor sessions, and then entering a competition to win the book on offer that day. This event has been extremely popular and we have had excellent entries (including some flattery in an attempt to persuade Mrs Scard!)

With my band of helpers including Jonathan Stubbs, this has proven to be highly successful. Roll on next year!

Mrs Scard, Library and Literacy Specialist


Sam Love


Lola Summersgill

Some of the Amazing Acts at yesterday's Performing Arts House competition. Winning House to be announced!











Meals Accounts: Please can we remind parents/ carers to ensure that their child's meals account is topped up before the start of the new term. The price of a two-course meal is £2.60 (not including drinks) so please add £13 to cover a week. Alternatively, please ensure you send your child to school with a packed lunch.

Household Support Fund: Parents/ carers with children in receipt of Free School Meals are eligible for another payment from the Household Support Fund, with payments being made automatically from 5 December (£60 per child). Please see here for further information.

Holiday Activities and Food: During the Christmas holidays, Middlesbrough Council are putting on a range of exciting activities with food for primary and secondary aged children. Students who are in receipt of Free School Meals are eligible to attend activities without charge but places must be booked and are limited. Please see the attached poster for further details or click here to go direct to the booking site.

We want your empty chocolate tubs. Please hand in at reception when you return in January 2025.



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 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