The King's Chronicles

Spring Term 2 2025

Careers Day 2025

On Friday 7 March, we hosted our annual school careers fair. We had a wide range of employers, apprenticeship providers, colleges and universities set up stalls to have meaningful careers conversations with students. This included NHS, Army, Darchem Engineering, Network Rail, Hitachi Energy, Jacksons Law and many more! All year groups attended the fair throughout the course of the day, and students displayed excellent behaviour, engaging with the exhibitors and asking interesting, insightful questions to gain stamps for their stamp cards.

If you or someone you know would like to exhibit at our 2026 careers fair, please get in touch via email enquires@thekingsacademy.org.uk.





Work Experience

From 23rd - 27 June, Year 10 students will be completing their work experience placements. This is an excellent opportunity to gain experience in a workplace, learn new skills, gain a valuable addition to their CV and potentially even secure an apprenticeship or part time job! The majority of the year group have now sourced and logged their placements for the week, but for those still searching, the deadline is Friday 2 May.



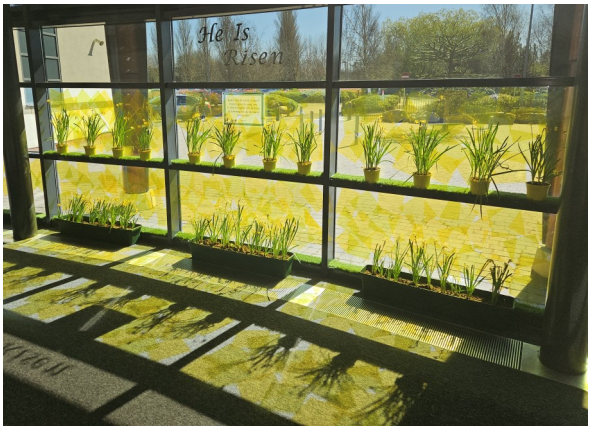






If you or someone you know would like to offer a student a placement this year or in the future, please get touch via email enquires@thekingsacademy.org.uk.

Big thanks to Mrs Gibbons and Sixth Form students for the Easter window display. It looks blooming marvellous.



HLN4 and 5 Experience the "Terrible Tudors" at Darlington Hippodrome

On World Theatre day, students from HLN4 and 5 visited the Darlington Hippodrome to enjoy the captivating "Horrible Histories: Terrible Tudors" tour. For many, this marked their first encounter with live theatre, and the excitement was palpable as they settled into their seats. The performance brought history to life with its engaging mix of humour and education leaving the students both entertained and enlightened, especially by the incredible 3D effects. In addition to the show, the students had the unique opportunity to embark on an exclusive backstage tour where they learned about the rich history of the theatre and its significance in the local community. Throughout the day, the students displayed exceptional respect and enthusiasm as audience members and during the tour, making them an absolute credit to the Academy.

Mr Jones, Head of Drama



Year 10 Bronze DofE Navigation Morning

On Saturday 21 March, our Year 10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students joined us in the North York Moors for a morning of walking and navigation practice. Students practised their map and compass skills out in the countryside, walking around 10km along the way. The groups worked well together, and their competence with map reading and learning how to safely navigate through the countryside will continue to develop during after-school training sessions. These sessions will continue on Thursdays, leading towards summer Expedition.

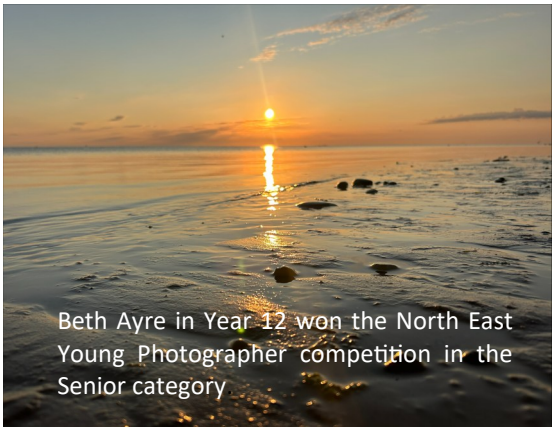
Mr Cameron and Mr King, DofE Coordinators



North East District Rotary Club Young Artist and Photographer Winners







Anyone for Tennis?

On Tuesday 25 March we took a group of our lovely DHI students to the North East tennis tournament for the deaf and hearing impaired. Students had an amazing time mixing with the wider deaf community and made some new friends! Eve Williams and Ellis Robinson won every game they played, making it to the semi final. Eve made the final 2 girls out of the North East, bringing home a trophy! Well done to everybody involved, you make us all so proud!

Miss Gunner, LSA



Eve Williams receiving her trophy for reaching the final

Year 11 History visit to Durham Cathedral

Our trip to Durham Cathedral with the Year 11 history students was an enriching and educational experience, focused on the stunning architecture of this Norman masterpiece. The students explored the cathedral's design, noting how the Normans rebuilt it after the original Anglo-Saxon structure was destroyed. This reconstruction, was crucial in showcasing Norman power and influence, as well as advancing the architectural style of the time, including the use of the Romanesque design elements.

The visit also gave students a deeper understanding of the cathedral's significance for their GCSE studies, especially its role in the development of medieval architecture and its place in British history. All groups represented the Academy exceptionally well, engaging thoughtfully with the visit and contributing to the learning experience. The History department was proud of their conduct throughout the day, demonstrating maturity and enthusiasm.

Miss Williamson, Teacher of History



SEND Boccia event

On Wednesday 12 March six HLN students represented The King's Academy in the SEND Boccia event. They competed against 22 teams from 16 North East schools and our students came third overall. They all played amazingly.

A special shout out to team captain Elyana Woolgrove, in Year 8, for her coaching, pep talks, and overall politeness throughout the trip, which was also noted by staff from other schools.

Mrs Miller, LSA

World Book Day 2025

Thursday 6 March dawned on a bright and breezy day; it was World Book Day. This event was greeted with excitement by all students.

By break time, the main hall was set up for the book swap and the giving away of the great selection of free books. Once the bell had rung, streams of students entered the sports hall to swap their book or receive one free.

The enthusiasm of both staff and students was great, and demonstrated how valued reading is across the Academy. In tutor time, students competed against each other in a "Book-ish" Quiz to win hot chocolate for the group, and all week, we enjoyed guessing staff "shelfies" for more prizes. In the library, students were also able to complete quizzes and design their own book mark. We even extended the book swap to a second day as it was so popular.

Roll on World Book Day 2026 .

Mrs Scard and Miss Parkinson, Library Team

CCF visit Coulby Fire Station





The King's Academy Royal Marine Cadets visited the local fire station. Students enjoyed looking around and learning about how a firefighter handles an emergency situation (yes, they really do have a pole!) Students were treated to seeing the main office where emergencies are received, the comfortable mess area where the firefighters eat, and all the different types of emergency vehicles they have and deploy. Our CCF students were even able to imagine they were fighting fires themselves as they helped to link the fire engine to a water main and took turns using the hose. Our students represented the Academy impeccably and are a credit to themselves for their genuine interest and enthusiasm for such a rewarding and active profession.

C/Sgt Calvert

Visit to St Mary's Cathedral



On Friday 7 March, Year 10 and Year 11 HLN students walked up to St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham in order to help them with their RE coursework. This enjoyable and informative visit helped students to understand the multiple varied features of churches and their importance. Canon Paul and Fr. Steven were extremely welcoming and answered a host of excellent questions from our students. We had the opportunity to observe first-hand the function and importance of various features of this beautiful cathedral such as the altar, organ, font, stained glass windows and chalice. Students completed some fantastic work after following a treasure hunt-style trail around the building, and acquitted themselves brilliantly inside this amazing place of worship.

Mrs Scarr,
Teacher of RE



"It was a delight to welcome the group from TKA during their recent visit to St Mary's Cathedral. We have many visiting school groups, and it was especially nice to welcome our neighbours.

The group were very kind and considerate. They knew the Cathedral was a special place of prayer for many people.

They managed the difficult task of respecting this special place of worship while exploring its history and meaning. So much of the Cathedral's architecture has a special meaning, which they could understand thanks to their group and individual work.

Thank you all for coming to see us!"

Canon Paul Farrer, Cathedral Dean

Sporting News

U13 Cricket

After finishing runners up at the Middlesbrough school indoor cricket competition, the U13 team qualified for the county round. This was held at Northallerton Leisure centre on the 8th March, and comprised of 8 teams from across North Yorkshire. The progress the team have made since first showing an interest in cricket last year was clear to see. Several wickets were taken; a testament to the precision bowling of the 5 bowlers, Rachel Drury, Ava Walton, Lucy Connelly, Erin Greenway and Molly Speak. Hollie Burke, new to the team this year, took some exceptional catches, putting key oppositional batters out of the innings. Rylee Harrison was confident in batting, showing that perseverance and practice play off. Lottie McSween and Lacey Horton completed the team as new additions, having joined us in Year 7 this year; both girls fitted well into the team. Although we did not progress further, it was a great achievement for all to make it to the county round; a first for Girls Cricket at King's. Standout player of the day - Erin Greenaway.

U13 Netball

To complete a full and busy season for the Year 8 netball girls (many of whom have played for the U14 team as well this year), they completed in the area tournament. A very successful evening securing 2 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss. Sadly, due to goal difference, they finished just outside of the medals in 4th Place. It has been a pleasure to coach the team this year and to see them continue to develop and advance their skills. Rachel Drury deserves a special mention for her commitment to the team in taking on the position of GD despite prefer to play in an attacking role. Her dedication to being the best in anything she does has seen her develop into a very accomplished defensive player. During the afternoon, the girls made me proud with their positive attitudes and sporting values and were rewarded at the end with Mrs Fearnley's much sought after cupcakes. Rosie Alderson and Rachel Drury were selected as Most Valuable Players by the umpires during 2 of the matches. Well done everyone!

ESF Rugby Competition

The Year 9 Rugby team headed up to Gateshead to play Emmanuel College and Bede Academy in the annual ESF Rugby competition. All three teams played some fantastic Rugby but our team were just too physical in the contact area. We went on to beat Emmanuel College 19-5, and Bede Academy 14-10 to win the competition overall. The players were excellent throughout and grew in strength as the games went on.

Mr Lynch, Head of PE





Thank you Mrs Fearnley for the articles and photos above. We wish you well in your new school as you leave at the end of this term. You will be missed by all the staff and students you have supported over the years.

Fusion research trip to Oxford

In March, a group of Year 13 Physics students set off very early in the morning to visit nuclear fusion companies Tokamak energy and FirstLight fusion, both based in Oxfordshire. Students learnt about the process of nuclear fusions and the challenges of fusion as a method for generating electricity to supply the UK grid. We toured each site, seeing a record-breaking spherical tokamak reactor, high temperature superconductor research, Europe's largest pulsed power facility and a high energy projectile launcher. Students were able to connect their curriculum with current research and impressed the scientists and engineers they met with some challenging questions.



Physics Olympiad Challenge

This term, Year 12 Physics students and some Year 11 students took part in the Physics Olympiad challenge. This was an opportunity to stretch their problem-solving skills and apply fundamental physical principles to novel situations beyond the curriculum. The papers are definitely a challenge and it was brilliant to see students engage with this difficult task.

Bronze certificates were awarded to:

Year 11: Evie Lethbridge; Kobey Hedley; Anya Herman; Christina Lezou; Isabel Gamble

Year 12: Chloe McGrath; Hannah Gun; Jake Fricker; Oscar Pearson; Luca Parker

A Silver certificate was awarded to Zac Fitzhugh, Year 12.

Congratulations to all the students.

Teesside University Visit

A group of Year 12 students had the opportunity to visit the Engineering department at Teesside University to learn about the different between mechanical engineering and aerospace engineering, the benefits of becoming a chartered engineer and possible career routes. They also developed their team building skills and creativity in a workshop activity building air rockets, followed by a tour of some of the engineering facilities, hearing about research being completed using a scanning electron microscope, a flight simulator, hydraulic systems and heat exchangers.

Mrs Dean, Head of Physics



Key Dates	
April	
Monday 14 - Friday 25	Half Term Holidays Year 11 and Year 13 Study Programme (9am—1pm)
Monday 28	Summer Term starts for all students (8.20am)
Tuesday 29 - Thursday 1 May	Boys House Football
May	
Monday 5	Bank Holiday (School closed)
Tuesday 6 - Friday 16	Year 7 In-class Assessments
Wednesday 7	Year 10 Parents' Evening (4-7pm)
Thursday 8	Public Examinations start
Mon 26 - Friday 30	Half Term Holidays Year 11 and Year 13 Study Programme (Tue - Fri)

Year 7 Scientist Careers 'Live Chats'

As part of British Science Week, all of our Year 7 students had the opportunity to take part in a live-chat with a group of scientists during their lessons. We talked to scientists working in a huge variety of roles; from Frederik who works in cancer research to Viviene whose current role involves designing lasers for use in space. The experts we interviewed provided great insights into how varied life can be as a scientist. Thanks for all the great questions, Year 7!

Mr King, Head of Science

House STEM—Science

Students from Years 7-10 competed in a Science House challenge after school in March, competing to see who could make the most accurate 10-second timer. Designs were very inventive, raging from sand and water timers to marble runs and pendulums - with the most accurate timer being within 0.1s of the target time - impressive! Well done to everybody who participated for your enthusiasm and great ideas.

Mrs Robinson and Mr King, Science dept

Year 12 Institute of Research in Schools Projects

As part of an ongoing collaboration between the King's Academy and IRIS, a small group of Year 12 students got the chance to visit various project partners. At the Rutherford Appleton Laboratories, Oxford, we visited one of the world's largest lasers, explored the infrastructure needed to store £100 million worth of data, and Zac received expert advice on his research project – analysis data from CERN, looking for the Higg's boson. Hannah and James, both aspiring pilots, visited ZeroAvia in Cirencester, an aviation company working on hydrogen-fuelled aircraft engines, learning about how this emerging technology is being developed.

We've seen good progress this term on student research projects, with students working on areas of study as diverse as DNA origami, renewable energy solutions, and the toxicity of dyes used in fabrics. Keep up the good work on your posters - the Manchester Conference is coming up soon!

Mrs Dean, Mr King, and Mr Cameron, Science dept



A fond farewell goes to Miss Birch, Head of Year 8 who is leaving for a new position as a Deputy Headteacher. We wish you well and thank you for your hard work.

Enrichment Celebration Event



On the evening of Wednesday 9 April, four Year 10 girls were invited to a celebration event to thank them for their involvement as Youth Inspectors, or for being on the Youth Board. This was a partnership with Youth Focus North East and a number of external organisations who have been offering enrichment opportunities throughout the year during lunch times and after school.

The girls received a certificate and were treated to an evening of fun, including use of a Photo Booth, popcorn, candy floss and pick n mix. During the evening, the Police Crime Commissioner; Matt Storey, and the Middlesbrough Mayor, Chris Cooke, expressed their thanks to both the young people and the providers.

Many thanks to the following girls for their involvement throughout the year: Amy Matibiri, Rebekkah Stuttard, Imogen Mason-Crowe, Erin Slater, Lola Summersgill and Hannah Ivison.

House FIFA

Having been launched last year for the first time, House FIFA returned at the start of the Half Term. Technically it's FC25 but it'll always be FIFA to those who know and love the game.

Students gathered during lunch time over a couple of weeks to play 2v2 games and there were incredible highs and lows throughout.

The Medes were overall winners, closely followed by Hebrews. Congratulations to all who took part.

The winners in each year group were as follows:
Year 7 - Medes
Year 8 - Romans
Year 9 - Medes
Year 10 - Hebrews
Year 11 - Greeks
Sixth Form - Hebrews









House Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 26 March, students competed in year group teams in our annual House maths challenge. This is an extremely difficult competition that requires excellent teamwork, problem solving skills and, of course, enthusiasm! Our students certainly brought all these qualities and more as they got stuck into the competition. It was an enjoyable evening and all students who took part are an absolute credit to themselves and their house. That said, it was a Roman victory! Congratulations to the House of Romans!

Mr Belmont, Head of Learning Outside the Classroom

Make your own Pizza



Our students were given a fantastic opportunity to visit Pizza Express as a reward for consistently working well in Food Technology. Paul and Mike welcomed us and explained that we would each be making a pizza. Before we made our pizza, Mike showed us how they make the dough balls, then much to our delight he brought them back for us to sample while we waited for our pizzas to cook. Each student was given a dough base and encouraged to spread the tomato paste around, then add plenty of mozzarella. Our pizzas were returned to us piping hot to sample, or take home.

Mrs Bailey, HTLA







Message for Parents and Carers

Drop off/ collection times:

Parents and carers are reminded:

- not to block access to, from and within the car park
- not to park on any of the grass areas
- not to wait on the corners of the exit road as this impedes other traffic
- only to drop off and collect students in the area between the two pedestrian crossings, where bays are provided
- if possible to drop off or collect students off site
- the turning circle area is only to be used by SEND school transport and parents who have been issued with a pass (SEND students)
- to drive courteously and safely in line with signage whilst on site

any verbal abuse of our staff is unacceptable at any time

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