The King's Chronicles

Summer Term 2 2024

Students shine at HeadStart conference



On Thursday 4 July, 12 of our Year 9 students were invited to present a workshop at the HeadStart conference which took place within the Curve building at Teesside University.

Around 15 weeks of planning and practice had gone into preparing for the conference and it was all worth it. The students excelled and were amazing throughout the day. They were the only group of students delivering a presentation; all other contributors to the conference were adults.

The group worked with a range of students from different secondary, primary and specialist schools throughout the day, speaking in depth about friendships and online safety.

All feedback from the day was exceptional and students and staff had a fabulous day. The group will now receive a gold Headstart Award and become official Headstart Ambassadors for our school.

Mrs Grime, Assistant Vice Principal

A Evening of Glamour



A huge congratulations and a farewell to Year 11 for the class of 2024, as our Year 11s celebrated their time at The King's Academy after an array of celebration events this summer. We were delighted to see so many of our students celebrate their successes at the Academy on their prom night on Wednesday 3 July at Wynyard Hall. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff and we were extremely proud of their conduct and attitude on the evening. I would like to wish all our Year 11 students a huge 'good luck' as they embark on the next steps of their journey. We very much look forward to results day on Thursday 22 August when we will be celebrating our students' achievements, joining us at our Sixth Form to continue their studies or heading on to pastures new.

Mr Davies, Head of Year

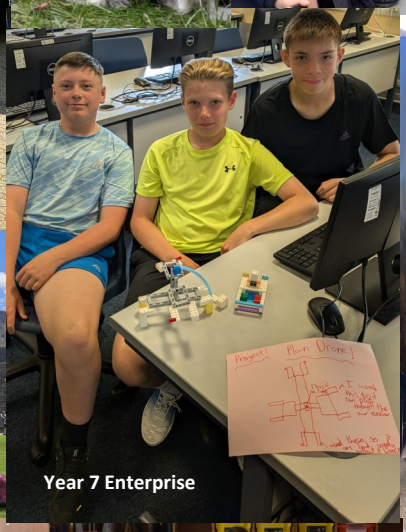
Activities Week

Here are just a few photos of a truly incredible week.


Germany Trip

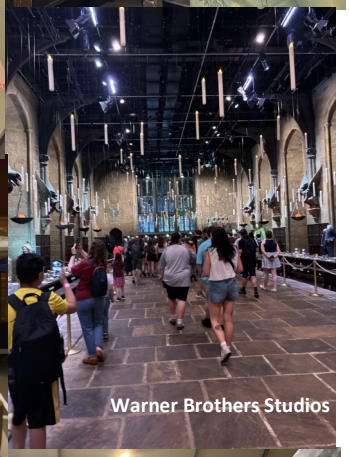

Yorkshire Wildlife Park


Scarborough Residential


Year 7 Enterprise


Beamish


Alnwick Castle


Warner Brothers Studios


Art & Design Ceramics


Saltburn


Leyburn Chocolate


York Railway Museum


Darlington Hippodrome


Saltholme


Go Ape


Durham Cathedral

Year 10 Work Experience

During activities week, our Year 10 students embarked on a work experience journey that not only challenged them but also allowed them to shine in various industries including engineering, healthcare, renewable energy, hair and beauty, sales and education.

Throughout the week, the students demonstrated a remarkable commitment to learning and self-improvement. They developed key employability skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving, which are essential for their future careers and worked on the core virtue of courage to develop character.

We would like to give special recognition to Shaan Malik, Daniel Lewis, Jamie Robinson, Kai Tipling, Lukas Harbron, Adam Little and Leyla Koluman for their exceptional contributions during their placements. Their hard work and achievements have made us immensely proud and have set a high standard for others to follow.

We are now looking forward to our current Year 9 students completing their work experience placements next June. If you know of any individuals/businesses/workplaces who would be happy to host a work experience student, please contact aharrison-potts@thekingsacademy.org.uk

Miss Harrison-Potts, Careers Lead



















Postcards from Abroad

Germany Trip to Cologne

36 hours in the coach! Keineswegs!

Despite the long coach journey, the trip to Cologne was totally fabelhaft (legendary)! We were a group of Year 8s, 9s and 12s. After three police checks on the Belgian and German motorways, we finally arrived in Cologne on Monday afternoon. The first challenge of the trip was trying to put on a duvet cover; because we were staying in a youth hostel, we had to make our own beds.

Day 1 was a visit to Phantasialand, the best theme park in Europe. Miss Robertson was looking a bit peaky after accompanying an intrepid Year 8 pupil on the most challenging rides. In the evening we stayed up late to watch the England game. I can't remember who they were playing but I enjoyed hearing our group communicating in German and English with the other groups in the youth hostel.

On Day 2, we visited Cologne itself including the stunning cathedral, the Lindt Chocolate Factory and the Sports Museum. The ball went over the netting several times from the roof-top pitch but nobody seemed to mind. In the evening, we did Pool-Ball, which was really enjoyable…and then Day 3, we started the long journey home with a long stop-off at the beautiful town of Aachen en route. Many cakes were eaten. Kaffee und Kuchen = cultural awareness.

Mrs King, Trip Leader





French Trip to Normandy

Our Year 7 students recently embarked on an educational trip to Normandy, France, to explore significant historical sites from World War II, including the D-Day landing beaches, as well as other cultural landmarks such as the Bayeux Tapestry. The trip provided students with a profound understanding of history as well as an introduction to French language and culture. A visit to Festyland Theme Park offered students some recreational time and the opportunity to enjoy themselves on the various rides and attractions.

The trip to Normandy was an invaluable educational experience, offering students a deeper understanding of World War II history and French culture. The combination of historical sites, museums, and recreational activities created a balanced and enriching itinerary. We highly recommend this trip for future students to gain a hands-on appreciation of history and heritage.

Mrs Whelan, Teacher of French

Raising awareness



On Wednesday 3 July several Year 8 Drama students took part in filming for an educational video about the vaccine programme delivered to secondary school children. The students were filmed in various settings throughout the day, including being filmed receiving their injections.

Sarah Slater from Public Health England was grateful to the school and students in helping to raise awareness. The video, once complete will be shown to parents and used to raise awareness of the vaccination programme.

MiSST Music Residential



Last week, after arriving at Gresham's Boarding School in Norfolk, for the MiSST conference the students settled very quickly into their accommodation and then went into their first practice session after a delicious lunch. A busy couple of hours later, and the evening meal was followed by various sporting activities; this was cut short due to the England football match. This set the tone for the next two days; a mixture of music practice, delicious food, and fun activities at the end of the day. It was great to see our students fully immerse themselves into all that MISST had organised. The students pushed themselves out of their comfort zones by either having the courage to play a solo part, which Finn Sturdy volunteered for, or socialising with students from other participating schools and were therefore able to form new friendships. The students were a credit to The King's Academy and did themselves proud.

Mrs Scard, Library and Literacy Specialist

IRIS Conference



In June, some of our sixth form students took part in the Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS) Research Conference in Manchester which saw them present the research they've been doing over the past year. IRIS is a UK charity helping to provide opportunities for young people to experience authentic, cutting-edge research whilst at school. Our research group joined two hundred student researchers from eighteen schools/colleges across the north. The IRIS team was impressed with our students' ability to speak passionately, knowledgeably, and confidently about their research.

Mrs Dean, Head of Physics

Year 12 Summer STEM Placements

Earlier in the year students in Year 12 had the opportunity to apply for the 'STEM Research Placements and Experience Programme', providing hands-on projects in an area of science, computing, technology, engineering or maths. A number of our Y12 students were successful in their applications, with placements organised this summer at organisations from as far as Kielder Observatory (astro-imaging and stellar spectroscopy) to Teesside University (bio-markers in cancer research). One student, Adam Percival, has already completed his placement at Newcastle University, titled 'A First Primer in Quantum Theory', feeding back that "the experience was incredibly valuable, giving me a firsthand look into the university experience as well as a first look into a topic I may have to do in my further years of education - I could not recommend the programme enough!"

Mr King, Head of Science

KS3 Astronomy Club

This year in Astronomy Club, students in Year 7 and Year 8 have been discovering more about our Moon and the Universe. Working alongside Discover Materials, students have completed a range of activities including material testing, electromagnetic wave absorption and insulation properties leading to designing a moon base. They have also worked towards a Bronze certificate with the National Schools' Observatory, completing observations using the John Moore telescope, hunting asteroids and designing rockets. Next year we are looking forward to working with Kielder Observatory again.

Mrs Dean, Head of Physics

CCF Camp Lympstone





During Activities Week, some of our King's Academy cadets travelled to the Royal Commando Training Centre in Lympstone and were involved in summer camp activities, It was a long, gruelling (but very rewarding) week for the cadets, who engaged in various military activities and manoeuvres, such as: obstacle course; range firing; close quarter combats, sea craft experience and invading a fort, to name a few.

Capt Uzuh, Contingent Commander

DofE Training and Expedition



Our Year 10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students have joined us in the North York Moors for two events this term, firstly on an overnight training trip where the students practiced their tent-pitching skills and navigation. Their final expedition, on a rainy July weekend, tested these skills, along with their perseverance in the drizzly conditions, but the groups worked brilliantly together to complete their expeditions.

Mr King, Head of Science



Paddington the DofE Mascot



Year 12 Progression Week

Our Year 12 students spent their Progression Week exploring a range of opportunities for Post 18 options as part of our first-class careers' guidance programme. The week began with a very warm day out in Durham to experience the unique atmosphere of a university town. The students toured the colleges and student facilities of this Russell Group institution, as well as exploring the surroundings of a place that has student life at the heart of it. They learnt about the factors they should consider when selecting a course and a university, balancing subject specialism with wider facilities. They were able to compare that experience with the setting of Newcastle and Northumbria Universities later in the week when they visited the city to undertake tours of both institutions and understand the difference between a campus and city site. Many students then took the opportunities to return for subject specialist open days over the course of the next few days.

In preparation for their university applications, our students embarked on their UCAS personal statement writing task, expertly guided by staff from Leeds Beckett University. All students made a positive start on the challenging task for most of them of constructing statements that focus on their strengths, skills and passions. This early start will help them craft their final drafts over the summer in readiness for early applications in the new academic year.

Beyond university, our students were able to gain expert advice about higher and degree apprenticeship opportunities, learning about local labour market information under the guidance of staff from the Tees Valley Combined Authority. This helped students to understand the prospects of future employment in the local area and how to get themselves ahead of their competition, in terms of securing invaluable work experience opportunities.

Year 13 Leavers' Dinner

We returned in the sunshine again to the wonderful setting of Whinstone View for our Year 13 Leavers Dinner to say a fond farewell to our fabulous departing cohort. We were blessed with a beautiful evening to enjoy delicious food, picturesque surroundings and the entertainment of the now traditional lawn games. It was wonderful to spend time in the company of a group of young people that have worked so hard to put themselves in the very best possible position to progress to great careers and future experiences. There were many reminiscences of their time over the past 7 years at The King's and lovely memories for so many of the A level teachers and tutors that were present to wish them well over the summer months. We look forward to seeing them again to celebrate the fruits of their endeavours at A level results day on Thursday 15 August.

Mr Skerry, Head of Sixth Form





No Key Dates	
August	
Thursday 15	Year 13 Results Day (7:45am)
Thursday 22	Year 11 Results Day (10:00am) Sixth Form Enrolment
September	
Mon 2 & Tue 3	Staff Training Days
Wednesday 4	Year 7 & Year 12 Induction Day
Thursday 5	Start of Term (8:20am)

Girls In STEM

Recently, sixty of our Year 7 girls were given the opportunity to take part in a Girls in STEM event funded by the Royal Air Force. The workshop required students to create their very own satellite using the BBC Microbit to collect and store data about the atmosphere which they then analysed. It was amazing to see the girls embrace the activities throughout the day and demonstrate the outstanding character we expect of all our students. The aim of the workshop was to promote STEM subjects to girls who, very often, overlook these subjects as potential careers for their future despite naturally having the problem-solving skills that are crucial in industry.

Mr Wild, Head of Computer Science





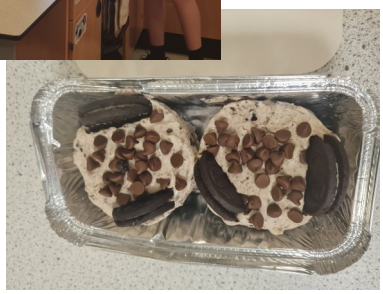
Re-engage Bake off

During Activities Week the students from Re-engage held a 'Bake off' competition. The students worked in pairs to produce a starter and a main course. Ralphy McKenna won with his potato wedges and chicken parmesan.

Congratulations also went to Evie Mason for her individual Oreo cheesecakes.

Mrs Brown, Teaching Assistant







Jacob Smith in Tesco

Contact details for external agencies during the summer 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