THE KING'S CHRONICLES

SUMMER ONE - 2026

This half term has been a very busy one for Year 11, as students have made a really positive start to their public examinations. It has been wonderful to see them recognising the benefits of their hard work and leaving each exam knowing they have done their very best.

Students have also been busy having their year group photograph taken, attending their final pastoral tutor sessions, and beginning their bespoke timetables. Year 11 still have so much to look forward to, with the Leavers' Event, Prom, and Results Day taking place over the coming months. We cannot wait to see them enjoy these celebrations after five years of consistent hard work. We are so proud of you!

Miss Wasden



Class of 2026

THE KING'S ACADEMY
Emmanuel Schools Foundation

HLN are out of this world!

Our HLN students all took part in workshops where they learned all about life on the International Space Station and tried astronaut food (and space suits!). They also used virtual reality headsets to experience a spacewalk on the ISS and went on a VR tour of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn and their icy moons. They enjoyed learning, through multisensory inputs, about the order and the scale of our solar system, and the constellations we see in the sky. Thanks very much to the Physics outreach team at the University of York!

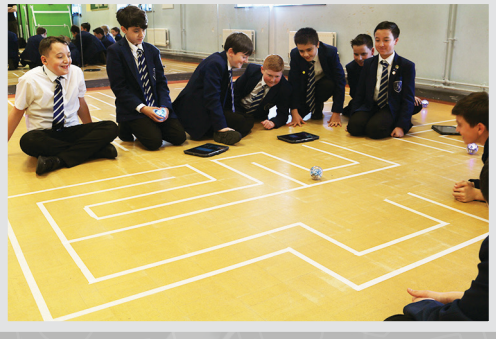






STEM Robotics Day

A group of enthusiastic Year 7 students from our school took part in a recent STEM robotics event hosted by Kielder Observatory. During the day, pupils focused on programming pre-built robots, developing their coding and problem-solving skills through a series of engaging challenges. Staff praised the students for their determination, teamwork and willingness to experiment with new ideas. Excitement filled the room as the robots responded to their commands, bringing their code to life. Many described the experience as both enjoyable and inspiring, with several keen to explore STEM further. The event proved to be a huge success.



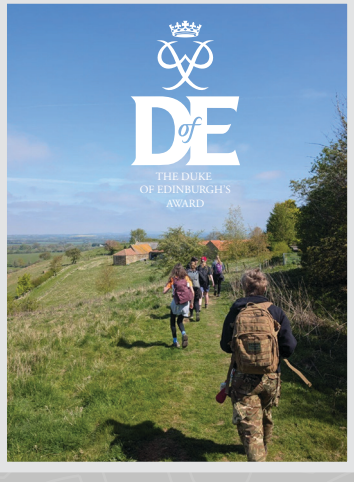




Year 10 Bronze DofE

Our Y10 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. All of our staff were really impressed with their teamwork, their competence with map reading and how safely they navigated through the countryside. The DofE training sessions will continue on Tuesdays, leading towards summer Expedition.





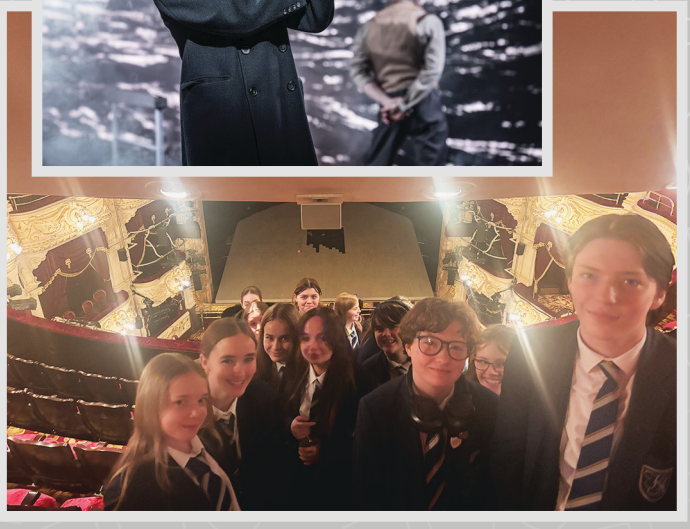
To be, or not to be: that is the question

The recent Year 9 trip to Newcastle Theatre Royal to watch a performance of Hamlet was an engaging and memorable experience that brought classroom learning to life. Studying the work of William Shakespeare can sometimes feel distant when confined to a textbook, but this live production made the themes, characters, and emotions far more vivid and accessible.

From the moment we arrived, the grandeur of the theatre itself created a sense of anticipation. The set design was striking yet minimal, allowing the audience to focus on the complex relationships and intense emotions at the heart of the play. The use of lighting and sound was particularly effective in building tension, especially during key scenes such as Hamlet's encounters with the ghost and the climactic duel.

Overall, the trip was not only enjoyable but also highly educational; it deepened our understanding of the play and enhanced the cultural capital of the students - an unforgettable experience that highlighted the enduring power of Shakespeare's work.





Go, go now Joseph!



Students from a range of year groups recently enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Darlington Hippodrome to watch the spectacular production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. The evening was a huge success, with students demonstrating exemplary behaviour throughout and acting as outstanding ambassadors for the academy. Their excellent theatre etiquette, which is regularly developed and encouraged within drama lessons, was praised and clearly reflected in the respectful way they engaged with the performance.

The production itself was full of energy, colour and memorable performances, keeping students entertained from start to finish. However, the highlight of the evening for many was seeing our very own Mr Jones, Head of Drama, performing on stage in the role of Reuben. Students were thrilled to watch a familiar face take part in such a professional and exciting production. It was truly a night to remember for everyone involved.



Year 7 Marrick Trip

Year 7 students embraced their sense of adventure during their residential trip to Marrick Priory Outdoor Centre over the bank holiday weekend. They took part in activities such as canoeing, high ropes and the leap of faith, supporting each other to complete the challenges with courage and enthusiasm. There was plenty of down time to enjoy too, with the pool table in constant use and uno also proving to be a firm favourite. Well done to all of the students involved.







KING'S SPORTS NEWS



Give a big Cheer!

A big well done to Ella! Ella was part of the Cheer Starz outstanding performance at Summit, where they achieved a perfect routine and hit zero with no deductions, a huge achievement at such a high-level competition. Competing in a very strong division of 36 teams, the squad performed brilliantly and showed great determination throughout. Although they narrowly missed out on a place in the finals, Kaya and the team should be extremely proud of their efforts and success!

So Close, So Proud!

The Year 7 girls travelled to Hurworth to face Acklam Grange in the Middlesbrough Town Cup in what proved to be a nail-biting encounter. After a hard-fought match, The King's Academy scored two late goals in the closing minutes to force the game into a penalty shoot-out. Unfortunately, the girls were unable to come away as winners, but they showed great determination, resilience, and teamwork throughout the game to finish as worthy runners-up.





Cup Final Spirit!

The Year 9 squad faced Outwood Acklam in the Middlesbrough Town Cup Final at Hurworth in what proved to be a true cup final encounter. Both teams battled hard throughout a closely contested game, with neither side able to be separated before the match went to penalties. Unfortunately, the boys were narrowly defeated 5–4 in the shoot-out, but they showed tremendous determination, teamwork, and character throughout the final.

Breaking records!

Well done to Charlie who, during his PE lesson, ran an 800m sprint in a time of 2 minutes and 38 seconds. That's an official school record, beating a time set in 2009! Unbeaten for 17 years and now Charlie holds the record, can he keep hold of it for another 17 years? Well done Charlie, keep up the great work.





Fearless on the field!

The Year 7 T1 Rugby team travelled to Darlington Rugby Club for the Tees Valley Finals, competing against five teams from across the region. Congratulations to the squad for winning all of their local round to qualify for the finals and for representing the school with great effort, teamwork, and determination throughout the competition.



United on the Pitch!

A Year 9 mixed rugby team travelled to Darlington for an invitational competition, facing a range of schools from across the Tees Valley. Although the results did not go their way, the team showed great determination, teamwork, and resilience throughout the day. They continued to fight until the final whistle in every match, supporting one another and growing in confidence both individually and collectively as the tournament progressed. It was a positive experience for the squad, with plenty of encouraging performances and valuable lessons taken from the competition.

3rd at Nunthorpe Academy's Chess Tournament



Our Students enjoyed a fantastic day of chess at the inter-school tournament held at Nunthorpe Academy on Friday 1 May.

Nine students represented the school, competing against players from seven different schools in a mixture of competitive and friendly matches throughout the day. The tournament provided a great opportunity for students to test their skills, develop their strategic thinking, and meet other young chess players from across the area.

Our students performed brilliantly, showing excellent concentration, resilience, and sportsmanship in every round. Their efforts helped the school achieve an impressive 3rd place overall.

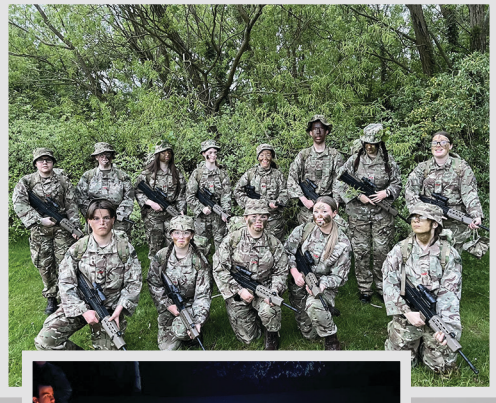
Well done to everyone who took part and represented the school so positively. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, and we look forward to future tournaments.

CCF Military Exercise

On Friday 1 and Saturday 2 May, the CCF completed Exercise First Step, a residential military activity held on the school grounds.

During the exercise, students camped outdoors and took part in a range of military activities, including patrolling, camouflage and concealment, harbour preparation and section attacks. It proved to be a fun-filled and eventful experience, with cadets sleeping in bivis, eating military rations and enjoying a strong sense of camaraderie around the campfire.

Well done to all of the students involved, we are very proud of your accomplishments.







Did you find us hiding within the pages?

Year 11 & 13 Half-Term Revision Opportunities

We have sveral sessions runnig in the half-term holidays to support Year 11 and 13 students with their revision and coursework. In addition, the Sixth Form Study Room will be open for students who need a silent space to work, away from any distractions.

Year 11 May Half-Term Revision Programme

Date	Subject/Topic	Teacher	Time	Room	Students
Tue 26 May	Geography Paper 2	Mr Love	11:00-13:00	78	Open to all
	Chemistry (All tiers, combined/separate)	Mr King	11:00-13:00	133	Open to all
	Maths	Mr Roberts	09:00-11:00	19	By invitation
		Mr Ahmed	09:00-11:00	23	By invitation
		Mr Wills	09:00-11:00	25	By invitation
		Mr Gunn	09:00-11:00	27	By invitation
Wed 27 May	French (Foundation, reading and writing)	Mrs Hardy	09:00-13:00	190	Foundation
	Design & Technology	Mr Tilson	09:00-11:00	40	Open to all
	Physics (All tiers, combined/separate)	Miss Lake	09:00-11:00	32	Open to all
Thu 28 May	French (Higher, reading and writing)	Mrs Hardy	09:00-13:00	190	Higher
Fri 29 May	GCSE PE	Mr White	09:00-13:00	204	Open to all
Tue 26 – Fri 29 May	Independent Revision	Various	9:00 – 13:00	Study Centre	Open to all

Year 13 May Half-Term Revision Programme

Date	Subject/Topic	Teacher	Time	Room	Students
Tue 26 May	A Level Chemistry	Mr King	09:00-11:00	129	Open to all
	A Level Economics	Mr Cooper	09:00-11:00	5	Open to all
	A Level Business Studies	Mr Cooper	11:00-13:00	5	Open to all
Wed 27 May	A Level D&T – Maths for engineering	Mr Tilson	11:00-13:00	40	Open to all
	A Level Physics	Miss Lake	11:00-13:00	32	Open to all
	A Level Computer Science Paper 2	Mr Wild	09:00-11:00	9	Open to all
	A Level French – Literature paper	Ms Gibson	10:00-11:00	187	Open to all
Fri 29 May	A Level French	Mrs King	09:00-11:00	109	Open to all
Tue 26 – Fri 29 May	Independent Revision	Various	9:00 – 13:00	Study Centre	Open to all

CALLING
YEAR 11!

Please help other students by donating any preloved items.

You can donate any **preloved uniform**, **equipment** or **revision guides** to Reception before 8:30am and at the end of the school day.





SIXTH FORM
TASTER DAY

Thursday 18 June | 9am - 3pm

THE KING'S ACADEMY SIXTH FORM

OUR PATH TO **YOUR FUTURE**

Upcoming Key Dates

Thu 4 June	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Mon 8 June - Fri 19 June	Year 12 Rehearsal Exams
Thu 18 June	Sixth Form Taster Day
Mon 22 June - Fri 26 June	Activities Week
Mon 22 June - Fri 26 June	Year 10 Work Experience
Mon 22 June	Year 11 Prom
Thu 25 June	Year 13 Leavers' Dinner
Thu 9 July	Sports Day & Colour Run
Thu 13 August	Year 13 Results Day
Thu 20 August	Year 11 Results Day

Term Dates

Fri 22 May	Academy closes (2:30pm) May half-term
Mon 1 June	Academy reopens to all students (8:20am)
Fri 17 July	Academy closes for Summer
Mon 7 September	Academy opens for years 7 & 12, 8:20am
Tue 8 September	Academy opens to all students, 8:20am

Summer PE Uniform

During summer months, the majority of PE lessons will take place outdoors. Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared with appropriate clothing for warmer weather.

Students should wear:

- Academy PE T-shirt
- Either:
  - plain blue or black leggings (not school trousers) or
  - plain blue or black tracksuit bottoms; or
  - plain blue or black three-quarter to knee-length shorts
- An optional three-quarter length Academy zip top

Students should also:
- bring a bottle of water to each PE lesson;
- apply sunscreen before coming to school.



Year 13 EPQ Success



We would like to congratulate Year 13 students Evie and Grace on the successful completion of their Extended Project Qualification.

The EPQ is an independent research project that gives students the opportunity to explore a theme or topic of their choosing, carry out detailed research, present their findings, and evaluate the success of their work.

Evie and Grace delivered their final presentations this half-term, marking the end of an impressive 16-month journey. Their projects combined excellent academic research with thoughtful personal reflection, demonstrating real commitment, independence, and maturity. The effort, resilience, and organisation they have shown throughout the process will be fantastic preparation for university life and future study. Very well done, Evie and Grace — a brilliant achievement.

Ready for University



Over 70 Year 13 students have received offers from universities across the country for a wide range of exciting courses, from Cybersecurity to Fashion Journalism. We are very proud of the students, supported by their specialist sixth form tutors, for all the hard work that has gone into the application process. This has included engaging in super-curricular opportunities to broaden their knowledge and practical experience, as well as taking advantage of widening participation schemes run by universities.

We are delighted that all three students who pursued applications for medical school — Jurgita A, Daisy R and Shauna S — have secured multiple offers. This is a fitting reward for their commitment to a rigorous programme of preparation, expertly co-ordinated by Mr Wills. Similar success can be seen in the veterinary field, where Jake F has secured an offer to study at the Royal Veterinary College and Katy H has achieved the tremendous accolade of being offered a veterinary place at Cambridge University. She could be joined at this prestigious institution by Nada A A, who has also secured an offer from Cambridge in the highly competitive field of Law.

2026 Summer Exams



Exams are now well underway for our Year 11, 13 and some Year 12 students.

For Year 11, this is the culmination of five years of hard work, determination, motivation and resilience. For many of our Year 13 students, this moment represents the end of a seven-year journey at The King's Academy.

These next few weeks are not about luck — they are about everything our students have done to prepare for this moment. We are incredibly proud of you all. Be confident, trust in your preparation, and give it your very best. You've got this!

Year 11 Exam Timetable

Students are expected to be on site between Monday 1 June and Fri 5 June to take advantage of specialist teaching which is tailored to their needs.

Mon 1 June	Tue 2 June	Wed 3 Jun	Thu 4 June	Fri 5 Jun
AM: PE 2 PM: German Writing	AM: Combined Physics AM: Physics	AM: Maths 2 PM: Geography 2	AM: History 2 PM: French Reading	AM: English Language 2
Mon 8 June	**Tue 9 June**	**Wed 10 Jun**	**Thu 11 June**	**Fri 12 Jun**
AM: Combined Biology AM: Biology PM: French Writing	No Exams	AM: Maths PM: Design Technology	AM: Geography	AM: Combined Chemistry AM: Chemistry PM: Hospitality/Catering
Mon 15 June	**Tue 16 June**	**Wed 17 Jun**	**Thu 18 June**	**Fri 19 Jun**
AM: Combined Physics AM: Physics PM: FSMQ	No Exams	No Exams	No Exam	No Exams

Year 13 Exam Timetable

Mon 1 June	Tue 2 June	Wed 3 Jun	Thu 4 June	Fri 5 Jun
AM: IT Big Data AM: Physics AM: English Literature PM: PE PM: Law	AM: German AM: Chemistry PM: History	AM: Sociology PM: Pure Maths	AM: Economics PM: Biology	AM: Psychology PM: Applied Science PM: Further Maths
Mon 8 June	**Tue 9 June**	**Wed 10 Jun**	**Thu 11 June**	**Fri 12 Jun**
AM: Physics AM: Politics AM: French PM: Geography	AM: Law AM: Chemistry PM: Business	AM: Product Design PM: Applied Science PM: Computer Science	PM: Pure Maths	AM: Applied Science AM: Biology PM: Further maths PM: Sociology
Mon 15 June	**Tue 16 June**	**Wed 17 Jun**	**Thu 18 June**	**Fri 19 Jun**
AM: Chemistry	AM: Biology PM: Politics	AM: French PM: Computer Science	PM: Applied Maths	No Exams

How to revise?

There are several proven techniques to support memory retrieval including flashcards, mind maps, knowledge organisers and dual coding. Students can find helpful hints and tips on these on our website.

Online Safety Information for Parents

Protecting Our Young People from Online Blackmail



A recent report from the NSPCC has highlighted a worrying rise in children and young people being blackmailed online over sexual images. This can include young people being pressured or tricked into sharing images, threatened for money, or targeted through fake accounts. In some cases, ordinary images can also be manipulated using AI to create harmful deepfake content.

As a school, our priority is always to protect and support our students. We know that young people can feel frightened, embarrassed or worried that they will be in trouble if something has happened online. That is why it is so important that every child knows they can speak to a trusted adult, whether that is at home, in school, or through a service such as Childline.

Parents and carers can help by having calm, open conversations about online pressure, privacy settings and what to do if someone makes a threat. The key message we want all our students to hear is this: if someone threatens, pressures or blackmails you online, do not face it alone. You are not to blame, and help is available. Click here to read the full report.

Safer Online Spaces: Holding Tech Companies to Account

Ofcom has recently announced that several major technology companies have committed to introducing stronger measures to help protect children from online grooming and harmful contact. Following pressure from the regulator, platforms including Snap, Meta and Roblox have agreed to make changes such as tighter default settings for children, improved controls around direct messaging, and the use of AI tools to help detect potentially harmful conversations. Ofcom has also raised concerns about recommender feeds, particularly on platforms where children may be shown harmful content through scrolling and suggested videos.

This is an important reminder that keeping young people safe online cannot be left to children and families alone. Technology companies have a responsibility to design safer platforms, but schools and parents also play a vital role in helping young people understand risks and make safe choices.

As a school, we want our students to enjoy the benefits of the online world while being protected from harm. Parents and carers can support this by regularly checking privacy settings, discussing who their child is speaking to online, and reminding them that they should only accept friend requests or messages from people they know and trust.

Risks of auto saving

Some apps, such as WhatsApp, may automatically save images and videos your child receives directly to their phone's camera roll. We recommend switching this feature off.

Young people may receive lots of photos and videos in group chats, many of which they have not asked for. If auto-download is enabled, they have less control over what is saved to their device. This could include content you would not want them to keep, and it can also make it harder to identify where an image originally came from.

To turn this off in WhatsApp:
Open WhatsApp > tap You > Chats > toggle Save to Photos off.

Other apps include similar features, therefore, it is worth checking any messaging apps to identify how images are stored that are received.

Omoggle: Website of concern

Omoggle is an online platform intended for adults only. However, users can access the site simply by stating that they are over 18, easily bypassing the age restriction.

The platform pairs users with strangers and allows them to see and hear each other. It also uses AI to rate people's appearances in a "mog battle". This raises serious safeguarding concerns, particularly because children could be connected with unknown adults online.

Young people should not be accessing this site, and parents and carers are encouraged to be aware of it. Click here to find out more.

Do you know what 'looksmaxxing' means?

Looksmaxxing is the idea of trying to improve or maximise your physical appearance. Internet Matters has published a helpful article explaining this online trend in more detail, including the potential risks for young people and its links to wider online spaces such as the manosphere.

You can read the full article by clicking here.

Gaming and Gambling

The Young Gamblers Education Trust (YGAM) offers a wide range of resources on its website to help parents and carers better understand their child's online world, with a particular focus on gaming and gambling.

Their mission is "to prevent children and young people from experiencing gaming and gambling harms through awareness raising, education, and research." The website includes advice on online gaming, gambling-related features such as loot boxes, and practical steps for creating safer gaming experiences.

You can find out more by clicking here.

Be aware of deepfake content

Deepfake content, also known as synthetic media, is computer-generated material designed to look or sound real. It can be used to spread misinformation, support scams, or cause harm and distress to others. Because deepfake content can be difficult to identify, it is important that young people are aware of what it is and understand the risks it may present.

You can find out more by clicking here.

Do you know your Emoji Meanings?

Find out more

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Free School Meals (FSM): The eligibility criteria for Free School Meals are changing. From September 2026, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to receive a free meal and transitional protections (which have meant pupils becoming eligible for free meals have retained their entitlement, even if their household circumstances have changed) are ending at the end of this academic year. Households must meet the FSM eligibility criteria from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year to continue receiving provision. Going forward FSM eligibility will be monitored on an ongoing basis, through annual rechecks. Watch out for specific communications from us about this change after the half term holiday which will tell parents and carers what they need to do to ensure a smooth transition to the new system in September.

Holiday Activities and Food: During the half-term 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 click here to go direct to the booking site.



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

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.

Have a restful break.

THE KING'S ACADEMY
Emmanuel Schools Foundation

