THE KING'S CHRONICLES

SUMMER TWO - 2026

From 6–10 July, 28 students and staff travelled to the Lake District for a five-day residential with The Outward Bound Trust at Howtown. The teaching staff were blown away by the students' enthusiasm to get stuck in, as well as the resilience they demonstrated throughout the week.

They took part in a range of activities, including gorge scrambling, hiking, canoeing, tunnelling and cliff jumping. For some students, this was the longest time they had spent away from home—an achievement in itself, let alone completing such physically and mentally demanding activities.

The students made The King's Academy incredibly proud with their can-do attitude, pushing themselves beyond their comfort zones and, in many cases, trying things they had never done before. We were also fortunate to enjoy fantastic weather, and the students particularly loved cooling off with a dip in Ullswater!

Outward Bound Howtown

THE KING'S ACADEMY
Emmanuel Schools Foundation

Activities Week 2026

Activities week was another roaring success this year, with Year 7,8 and 9 participating in a variety of educational activities such as pond dipping; enterprise team building challenges, first aid, local history and geography studies and other creative pursuits! We had numerous examples of positive feedback about the conduct of students from members of the public and different trip providers, which were lovely to receive. 'When they were looking around the Church, students were polite and respectful'. 'The students all got involved brilliantly and rose to the challenge. It was great to see everyone making progress and pushing themselves to do their best.'

Following on from Activities Week, we always collate student voice so that we can use the ideas from the students to keep on developing the week year after year. We were thrilled to see that for so many students this is one of the highlights of their year: 'I loved it all'; 'I liked learning about James Cook and also the Riverside tour'; 'I liked the Hartlepool Marina the best because the ship was amazing'; 'It was so much fun to end the week at Flamingo Land. It is great that this is for year 9 to be the icing on the cake of three years of activities week.'; 'Thank you to all the staff. It was good to be able to be guided by people who were making sure we all learned lots and had a fun time. Thanks for organising.'

The King's Academy on Tour!

The King's Academy France Trip

Students enjoyed an action-packed and memorable week in Normandy, combining fascinating historical visits with cultural experiences and plenty of fun along the way. The trip began with visits to the iconic D-Day landing beaches of Omaha Beach and Gold Beach, where students explored the American and British memorials. They were highly engaged throughout and demonstrated genuine curiosity and respect as they reflected on the extraordinary events that unfolded there over 82 years ago.

Visits to the Arromanches Museum and the Pegasus Bridge Museum brought the story of D-Day vividly to life, helping students understand the pivotal role these sites played in one of history's most significant military operations.

There was also plenty of opportunity to experience Normandy's local culture. Students loved visiting the famous Isigny caramel factory and a traditional biscuit shop, where they discovered how these delicious regional delicacies are made—and, of course, enjoyed sampling some of the treats! The fun continued with an action-packed day at Festyland, where everyone made the most of the thrilling rides and attractions in the glorious, sweltering sunshine. Students represented the school brilliantly throughout the trip and they were all a pleasure to take abroad!

The King's Academy Germany Trip

During Activities Week, students made their way to Cologne in Germany. After a refreshingly cool ferry crossing in the early hours of the Monday morning, we soon found ourselves stopping off for lunch in Belgium before we hopped back on the coach for the final stretch to our accommodation.

Day two saw us visit Cologne city centre, starting off with a trip to the Lindt Chocolate Museum. After tasting the chocolatey delights on offer, we took a stroll along the River Rhine before reaching Cologne Cathedral in all its magnificence. Students then had a choice of what to do for the afternoon with one group crossing back over the Rhine by traversing Hohenzollern Bridge with its many love locks.

On Thursday, we left our accommodation for the last time and visited Aachen on the way back to Dunkerque. A beautiful cathedral city, Aachen had something to offer for everyone.

As teachers, we are so proud of the way that everyone got involved in different parts of German culture whilst also looking out for each other in the hot summer heat. A personal highlight was seeing students use their German skills to order items from the youth hostel shop. We would like to thank each and every one of you for making the trip such a memorable success.

Sports Day 2026

The whole school community came together for our annual Sports Day, and what an incredible day it was! Despite the soaring temperatures, our athletes delivered outstanding performances, proving that the heat was no match for their determination.

The atmosphere throughout the day was electric, with spectators cheering on every race, jump and throw. The excitement continued right through to the staff race, which provided a fantastic and entertaining finale to a brilliant day.

Congratulations to everyone who represented their house in a fiercely contested competition. A special mention goes to Annabelle E, Molly S, Toby S, Kye O, Eleanor U, Mya H and Benedict G, who all achieved the remarkable feat of breaking school records. An outstanding achievement—well done!

Thank you to all the staff, officials, volunteers and supporters who helped make the day such a memorable success.

Colour Run 2026

Our annual Colour Run returned in spectacular style this year, with an incredible 380 students taking part following Sports Day on Thursday 9 July. Students and staff embraced the event with fantastic enthusiasm, completing the course while being covered in clouds of brightly coloured powder.

Most importantly, the event once again raised money for Teesside Mind and the vital work the charity carries out across our region. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, the total raised is already approaching £1,000, with further donations still coming in.

We are incredibly proud of everyone who participated, donated or helped to organise the event. It was a brilliant way to end Sports Day while supporting such a worthwhile local cause. Thank you to everyone who helped make Colour Run 2026 such a success.

Year 10 Work Experience Week

Congratulations to our Year 10 students on a fantastic Work Experience Week. Employers have provided excellent feedback, praising students for their professionalism, enthusiasm and positive attitude. Some students have even secured weekend jobs or future apprenticeship opportunities as a result of their placements.

Our in-school group also enjoyed a successful week of careers workshops, finishing with a visit to the Hancock Museum in Newcastle.

Whether students confirmed a future career choice or discovered a path they no longer wish to pursue, they have all gained valuable experience and should be incredibly proud of their achievements.

If any parents or carers can support future work experience placements, please contact aharrison-potts@thekingsacademy.org.uk.

Year 10 Careers Trip to Iceland

Forty-nine students and five staff embarked on an adventure of a lifetime to Iceland this June. Students were treated to unique experiences of Iceland's most famous waterfalls, glaciers, and volcanoes during their trip alongside many museums and cultural experiences. Throughout the trip, students were able to learn about various careers and gain knowledge on what it takes to rise to the top in very competitive industries. It wasn't all work-work-work, on our final night in Reykjavik, twenty-six students and two staff members took part in Suzuki's Summer Run and gained medals for their efforts. The trip was a huge success with lots of new experiences gained and memories made to last a lifetime.

Going Beyond the Classroom

Flight Club is taking off!

Five students from year ten and twelve went to Buckminster to represent the flight club in the Payload Challenge hosted by the British model flying association. The students spent two days flying and presenting their two planes. Thanks to Phil Stevens and Chris Wilson as well as Erimus and the Cleveland Scientific Institute for helping these students to achieve third and fifth place against predominantly university-based groups.

We are very proud of the outcome, the members of flight club have shown resilience, perseverance, and determination to succeed and all their hard work throughout the year has paid off! Congratulations to the whole team: Poppy F, Harvey H, Harrison M, Isaac H, William C, James H, Hannah G, Evan Pand Ella S!

Year 10, going with the flow.

Year 10 Geography students visited Cod Beck to study how the river changes as it flows downstream. We had 6 beautiful days as we took each class out with their wellies, ranging poles, tape measures and ping pong balls! Students were an absolute credit to themselves as they got stuck in showing teamwork, precision and a can-do attitude. Members of the public also commented on the fact they were a credit to the school. Well done Year 10!

Striking a spark!

Our Year 10 girls recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to Leeds University, where they took part in a day of hands-on electronics and engineering workshops. They learned to code Arduino microcontrollers, built and programmed robots, and put their creations to the test in an exciting robot race. Throughout the day, the girls worked incredibly hard, showing excellent teamwork, resilience and determination while tackling new challenges. They also enjoyed a guided tour of the university campus, gaining an insight into student life. The visit was a fantastic success, and everyone returned feeling inspired, motivated and excited about future opportunities in engineering and technology.

The Institute for Research in Schools

Thirteen brilliant students from Years 10 and 12 recently headed to Manchester for the IRIS Student Conference. The group did an amazing job showcasing their science skills, sharing their independent research projects with peers and experts using professional posters.

The event covered a range of fascinating STEM topics, proving just how hard these students worked. A huge highlight was Anya's brilliant presentation on how pollen can help solve crime scenes. She did an amazing presentation launching the afternoon session sharing her insights into forensic science.

The trip gave these young researchers a fantastic taste of real-world science and definitely inspired everyone involved!

Year 8 trip to GCHQ (Government Communications Headquarters)

Twenty-three Year 8 students enjoyed an exciting visit to GCHQ Scarborough on 7 July as part of its languages outreach programme. After learning about the varied routes taken by GCHQ language analysts, students completed activities designed to develop their teamwork, listening, communication and problem-solving skills.

Challenges included learning Russian numbers and letters to decode messages, examining passport details, identifying key moments in Russian history and completing French and German cipher tasks. Students ultimately uncovered a fictional cyberattack, identified those responsible and passed their findings to the relevant agencies.

Congratulations to all students for their enthusiasm and hard work throughout the day!

KING'S GOT TALENT

The King's Academy celebrated the success of its first ever King's Got Talent competition, with students from across the school taking to the stage to showcase an incredible range of musical talent. After the judges selected the finalists, the audience cast the deciding votes to crown this year's winners.

Emily (Year 7) took first place with her captivating performance of Choosing Texas, confidently moving around the stage and engaging the audience from start to finish. Beatrice (Year 9) and Penny (Year 8) claimed second place with a beautiful rendition of Hey There Delilah, impressing everyone with their stunning harmonies and polished performance. Alfie (Year 7) secured third place with Jane, bringing infectious enthusiasm, charisma and outstanding stage presence to the performance.

The standard throughout the competition was exceptional, making the audience vote incredibly close. Congratulations to all of our performers, and thank you to everyone who supported this inaugural event and helped make it such a memorable celebration of talent. Here's to many more King's Got Talent competitions in the years ahead!

Beyond the Lyrics

The King's Academy Youth Theatre proudly presented their Summer Showcase, Beyond the Lyrics, an exciting and imaginative celebration of musical theatre, devised drama and dance.

Inspired by the themes and stories found in a wide range of musical theatre songs, from He's My Boy to Part of Your World, our talented young performers created their own original pieces, exploring an impressive variety of drama styles. Through puppetry, shadow theatre, mask work and movement, they brought powerful stories to life with creativity, confidence and imagination, showcasing not only their performance skills but also their ability to devise original theatre.

We were delighted to welcome Peter Oliver and John Holliday from NODA to our final performance and thank them for their support and encouragement. Congratulations to every member of our Youth Theatre, along with the dedicated creative team and volunteers behind the scenes, for producing such a memorable and inspiring showcase. We are incredibly proud of everything you achieved this week. Don't forget to join us in November for our spooky academy production of The Addams Family: young@Part.

Ice Cream Attendance League Results

Duke of Edinburgh

Our 21 Y10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students have successfully completed their overnight camping expedition in the North York Moors!

All of our groups showed great resilience hiking through the high temperatures, after adapting our schedule to hike in the evening during the heat of the first day. The students worked very well together to navigate across fields and hills to the campsite (drinking LOTS of water along the way!).

They put their excellent tent-pitching and cooking skills to the test, and showed great teamwork, perseverance and organisation in getting themselves ready the next morning to compete another walk, ending in Swainby for a well-deserved rest.

Well done all - please remember to keep working on your other sections to complete your Award!

Academy reopens to ALL students on

MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER, 2026

Year 11 Prom 2026

Monday 22nd June saw Year 11 celebrate the end of their time in blue blazers at The King's Academy with a memorable Prom at Wynyard Hall. The evening featured some impressive arrivals in a variety of vehicles, followed by even more impressive dance moves, as students filled the dance floor all night.

Year 11 made us incredibly proud with their conduct, embracing the occasion and celebrating the culmination of many years of hard work and dedication to their studies. During the night students found out who had won the Prom Awards for this year, with Hughie and Sienna being crowned Prom King and Queen following a student vote.

Throughout their GCSE journey, the Class of 2026 have consistently demonstrated maturity, resilience, and perseverance. It has been a privilege to watch them grow over the last 5 years, and I have always been immensely proud of them and all their achievements—never more so than on Prom night. We look forward to welcoming many of them back to the Sixth Form in September and wish them every success.

Sixth Form Leavers

We gave our departing Year 13 students a resounding send off to mark the end of their seven-year King's journey at the Sixth Form Leavers Event in June. After gathering to reminisce through images and memories of past times, the students spent the afternoon together in the sixth form centre recollecting their shared experiences and celebrating the hard work that got them to the end of a gruelling set of exams. The opportunity to share this time with their tutors & teachers made it extra special for all.

We gathered for a final chance to celebrate our time together as a sixth form in the beautiful grounds of Whinstone View at our annually sunny Leavers Dinner. Students strolled along the red carpet to enjoy the company of friends, tutors and teachers, with delicious food and the ever-competitive lawn games. The sixth form awards were presented to recognise a wide variety of achievements from most inspiring individual to the students that had changed most since Year 7. The students even had a surprise feature for the Sixth Form leaders that caused great amusement for everyone. Thanks to Mr Jones and the Sixth Form Student Leaders for organising such a wonderful event.

Year 12 Progression Week

Year 12 students embarked on the journey to the next stage of higher education, apprenticeship and careers with the dedicated Sixth Form Progression week schedule of university visits and employer interactions. Students engaged in workshops to craft the most competitive personal statements for university applications, as well as learning about the selection process for apprenticeships and career opportunities in the local labour market. They were able to visit a range of university campuses, from Sunderland to Northumbria, alongside the opportunity to experience an Open Day at Newcastle University.

Did you know? We have a dedicated Sixth Form Instagram for news and updates!
@kingsacademyesf6

Year 11 Taster Day

We were delighted to welcome so many prospective sixth formers from King's and beyond to our Sixth Form Taster Day. Students had the opportunity to relax with friends in the sixth form environment and to experience a range of different subjects to help them in their decisions on future study. It was wonderful to have an excited buzz amongst students looking forward to enjoying the more relaxed atmosphere of the sixth form in September. We wish them all well in their GCSEs and look forward to confirming their enrolment on results day.

Year 11 Results Day: Thu 20 August

Apply for Sixth Form:

Year 13 Results Day: Thu 13 August

Free School Meals (FSM): Access to Free School Meals is being widened to students from all households in receipt of Universal Credit from September 2026. The transitional protections which meant that free school meals were retained even if household income rose above the income threshold are being withdrawn. In future eligibility will need to be checked every year. Action is required before September to prepare for the change. Please see our website here for more information.

Holiday Activities and Food: During the summer 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.

Middlesbrough Council Crisis and Resilience Fund: Households with children who are eligible for free school meals will have received a voucher for £70 per child. Vouchers were sent automatically based on schools' records on 6 and 7 July. If you are eligible and have not received a payment you are able to apply directly to the Council. Further information can be found here. Please do not contact the Academy as we are unable to help.

Contact details for external agencies during the summer break

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 Summer break!