

THE KING'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER!



Issue 22 - March 2023



HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS

Another term has flown by and exam season looms – it only seems like yesterday that last year's Y11 were preparing for their GCSEs! This newsletter tells you about all the brilliant events, sporting achievements, trips and various things that have happened. What you might not read about is all the work that goes on behind the scenes to not only keep everything working, but to ensure our pupils are really well looked after. My thanks to the various parts of the admin & site teams for their efforts and to our dedicated team of teachers and LSAs. Their efforts to meet individual's needs, whether academic or pastoral, are extensive and go well beyond the norm. We are continually thankful for those of our community who stand in prayer with and for us, which is vital as we do the Lord's work and invest in these children's lives. Happy Easter everyone!

BUTTERFLY SCHOOL TEAM TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS



You may remember from our Autumn term newsletter the unprecedented success our Table Tennis teams had at the district and county champs. They are levels 2 and 3 of a six-level national competition. The zone finals (level 4) took place on Saturday 14th January in Morpeth School, London.



Three of our teams played that day (U11 boys & girls and U13 girls) and all did so well that they made it through to level 5! The U11 girls progressed as

winner, so they qualified for a different day to the other two teams who were runners-up. Both events were on the weekend of 4th/5th February in Bristol, so it was a lot of driving for Mr Jones on the less-than-scintillating M4! Our thanks to him for his commitment over these events, and to King's alumnus, Jermaine Hylton, who helped out at both events. The regional finals were a step up in level, but our players still played really well and got some great results (three 8-0 wins!), with Ryan (U11) remaining unbeaten. It proved the end of the road for all three teams, one step from nationals. A great effort all, you did us proud!



THE BIG BATTERY HUNT

Leeya's grand effort collecting batteries for recycling was featured on The Great Battery Hunt website "Leeya collected a total of 2315 batteries consisting of 678 AAA, 1571 AA, 29 C and 37 D. She gathered this amazing number by talking to her family and neighbours. Four of the D batteries came from an old yellow remote-controlled car. The batteries were so corroded she had to wear gloves to handle them. It took an hour for her, her dad and sister to count and sort all the batteries. They then put them into strong black sacks which only her dad could lift! Leeya felt



very happy knowing that she was helping the environment by recycling. Bringing them into school also helped make the school total higher!" Leeya was rewarded by The Great Battery Hunt with an iPad and certificate.

IMAGINATIVE PLAY AT LUNCH-TIME

The weather was mild, the sun was shining, let's pretend.....!



Make the Marshmallow sticks...



Build the bon-fire...



Roast the Marshmallows...

Yummy!

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

GCSE FRENCH TRIP TO SWITZERLAND

A group of Year 10 GCSE French students flew to Geneva to visit our Swiss link school. As always the host families gave us a very warm welcome, with extra activities including a cheese fondue evening in a traditional wooden cabin in the forest. We took part in lessons, and the school had organised lots of excursions - in 3 days we managed 17 trains, 1 Métro & 3 buses, the whole system running like clockwork! As well as exploring Geneva and Lausanne, we had a day out to the mountain village and château of Gruyères (in the photos). As the Jura is a cheese region, we visited a fromagerie, and another highlight was definitely the chocolaterie!



GCSE GERMAN TRIP TO GERMANY



We thoroughly enjoyed our first visit to our new partner school, the CSH (Christliche Schule im Hegau) in Southern Germany in the town of Hilzingen near Lake Constance. Besides spending time at our partner school, we also explored the surrounding scenery which had been beautifully transformed by snow fall! We visited the picturesque town of Meersburg across the lake and the city of Konstanz, and saw these towns gearing up for the big carnival events in February. We are now looking forward to welcoming the German partners to The King's School in June!



INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT

The King's School Instrumental Concert took place on Tuesday 31st January. The programme was packed with pupils playing various instruments from the double bass to the drums. We listened to 'O When the Saints Come Marching In' as well as a piano piece called 'Sneaky Business'. In addition to piano solos, we were treated to saxophone, clarinet and flute solos as well as pupils playing the violin and cello.

The programme was entertaining and showcased the many talented musicians in our school. Thanks go to Mr Burrett for organising the concert.



YEARS 5 & 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO WOODROW HIGH HOUSE

What a full and varied time our Year 5s and 6s had during their residential activities week at Woodrow High House, Amersham.

On arrival everyone took part in a scavenger hunt to learn the layout of the land. From then on there were activities to challenge, inspire, conquer, exhilarate and exhaust us all!



We took to the skies on the high ropes, which scared lots of us, but proved that when we work together and encourage each other we can succeed and overcome.

Bushcraft and building shelters taught us the value of all the resources that the world offers; and the night walks and orienteering made us use and rely on our natural senses.

Archery, making catapults, 'Wacky-Races', games, camp fires, balancing on

crates 11 high, rope bridges - we were at different times pushed beyond our comfort zones and encouraged in teamwork, listening and following instructions.



Other challenges stretched us physically and mentally - like making a neat job of the bunk beds each morning!

Each of the breakfasts, lunches and

dinners were extremely tasty and loads of food, so

the centre kept us active between meals.

The weather was mixed, from cold and foggy to glorious sunshine. But none of it stopped our enjoyment.

Throughout the week we looked at The Lord's Prayer and prayed for God's kingdom to come here on earth. We learned to distinguish between wants and needs, and to desire spiritual fruits and gifts, not just material ones.

The Lord looked after us, helped us and blessed us with a wonderful week together.



ISA TOURNAMENTS

U14 & U16 NATIONAL 6-A-SIDE FOOTBALL—26th January

In late January Mr Reeves and Mr Goodwin took U14 and U16 teams to the ISA 6-a-side boys football tournament in Nottingham. The U14 team came up against strong opposition in the group stages, but then won each of their later matches to win a trophy. The U16 team



finished an excellent 2nd in their group, which meant their later matches were against some strong teams, nonetheless they won their semi-final and came runner up in their competition, narrowly losing out on victory on sudden death penalties! It was great to see the U14 boys cheering on the U16s and vice-versa. The boys represented the school in an exemplary manner – one of the referees specifically mentioned at the end of the tournament what a super group they are.



U11 & U13 REGIONAL NETBALL—1st February

Two teams travelled with Mr Reeves and Gabi & Hannah's Mum (a brave parent volunteer – thank you!) to attend the ISA London North Netball competition in Redbridge, London. This is always a hotly contested event, as the top 4 teams in each age group qualify for the national finals. This year was no different, with some excellent Netball on display. Our teams competed really well, both finishing 9th after the group stages to just miss out on the quarter-finals by one place! The U11s remained unbeaten, gaining two draws and a win, with the U13 team starting strongly with a comfortable win, but then coming up against a very strong team and finally finishing 3rd out of 5 in the group. Well done all & thank you to Whitney for the donuts that all enjoyed on the way home!



U14 NATIONAL NETBALL—9th March

This was the first time we have entered the ISA Netball festival at Nottingham University. Our U14 team braved the snowy M1 to venture to the Midlands and compete against some of the best teams across the country. A 2-4 defeat in our first match was not just reward for some excellent play by our girls, but tougher matches awaited and we went into the afternoon looking for our first win. That came in emphatic style, with a 5-0 victory against Northbridge House, Canonbury. A fun day out was capped off with a stop off for food on the way back, giving a much needed rest for Mr Reeves who was behind the wheel! Thank you to those who prayed for a safe journey that day and well done to the girls for representing us so well and showing a great attitude throughout.

NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS—INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS—27th January



Mr Jones has clocked up many table tennis miles in the minibus this term! One such trip was the ISA individual finals at Nottingham University in late January. 16 pupils represented our school across U11, U13 & U15 age groups. Once again, we were the most



successful school in this national competition – a great achievement by all our players! In the U11 competitions, Ryan & Erinayo came 1st, with Elina 2nd and Matthew 3rd. At U13 level Gabi was runner up, with Megan 3rd and Abigail winning the plate. In the U15 boys Jonny came 1st, with Aaron 3rd and Ethan M winning the Bowl competition. Well done to all and thank you to Mr Jones for all his coaching input.

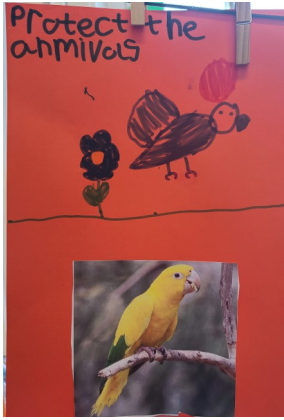
ISA REGIONAL TABLE TENNIS—INDIVIDUAL CHAMPS AT THE KING'S SCHOOL—11th, 17th & 19th January

As members of the Independent Schools Association (ISA) we are part of London North, one of seven regions around the country. In January each year we host, on behalf of the region, three afternoons of Table Tennis across U11, U13 & U16 age groups, with individual competitions for boys and girls. The emphasis is on enjoying participation, with an extensive group stage ensuring everyone gets plenty of game time. There is a knock-out at the end, with the six winners this year all coming from different schools! Tope was our winner in the U16 girls, and we also had medallists in four other competitions: U11 Ryan 2nd, Kellen 3rd, Elina 2nd, Danai 3rd; U13 Megan 2nd; U16 Tope 1st, Aaron 2nd. Well done to all who took part across the three events.



PRIMARY INTERNATIONAL WEEK

In our Primary International Week we travelled the globe to learn about life in other countries. We studied Brazil, Hawaii, Spain, Italy, Jamaica and Japan across our classes. On Friday we shared together in a wonderful assembly with each class presenting facts they had learned throughout the week. We shared together in worship with fellow Christians in Kenya and then we danced our way out of assembly with the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda.



YEAR 0 - BRAZIL

Foundation Class learned lots about Brazil, it's landscape and culture. They created a rainforest by building their own trees, and designed "Save the Rainforest" posters. They enjoyed listening to and dancing to Samba music, as well as learning about carnival and making their own masks.



YEAR 1 - HAWAII

The children learned lots about the islands of Hawaii, including it's history, geography and culture. They designed and made their own surf boards, as well as making flower garlands called Leis. Hannah, one of the girls in the class, used to live in Hawaii and the children were treated to a visit from her mum who told them all sorts of fascinating facts. They were amazed that there are 5 volcanoes on the largest island - and three of them are still active!



YEAR 2 - Spain

Year 2 learned many phrases and words in Spanish, including greetings, shapes, days of the week and numbers from 1 - 20. They even learned a song which they could sing in Spanish. They talked about food and the traditional dish of Tortilla de Patatas. Grace, one of the girls in the class, dressed up in a beautiful Flamenco dress and all the children learned some Flamenco dancing.



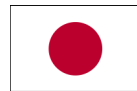
YEAR 3/4 - ITALY

All things Italian filled the week for the Year 3/4 class. They looked at the history, geography, food and culture, and even learned a couple of phrases in Italian. Their competitive juices ran wild when they each built a leaning Tower of Pisa. But along with the challenge of their towers leaning, the towers had to also be as tall as the children could make them without them falling down.



YEAR 5 - JAMAICA

Looking at the geography of Jamaica on a map, listening to Bob Marley music and learning some Patois took Year 5 to the sunny climes of the Caribbean. They designed colourful silhouette pictures and created pictures of turtles in the style of Heather Dawn Scott, a Jamaican artist. They also learned about the Windrush, and heard stories about Anansi the Spider.



YEAR 6 - JAPAN

Year 6 learned about Japan. Mr Skipper (Trustee) and his wife spent an afternoon sharing their experiences of Japan with the pupils. They learnt how to show respect by greeting and bowing to visitors. They also learnt how in Japan the school students do all the cleaning of the classrooms! Mr Skipper related kintsugi, the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery, to how Jesus was broken so that we might be made whole, that even in our brokenness we can be restored and made beautiful.

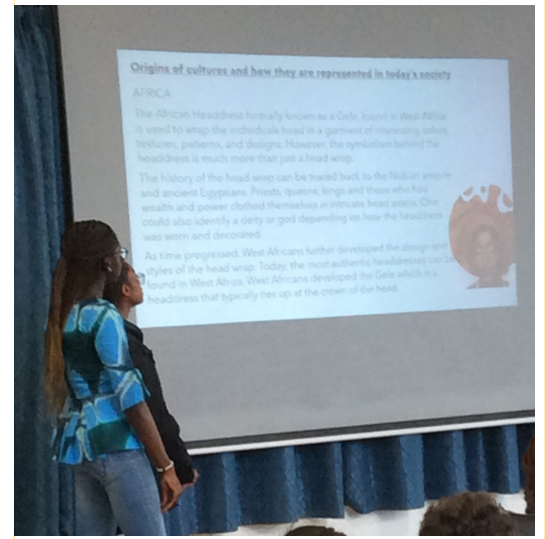


SECONDARY CULTURAL DAY



The Secondary School enjoyed a Culture Day on the Friday of Primary International Week. They all had the opportunity to either dress in their own national dress or a country of their choice. Pupils were asked to donate £2 in support of the Red Cross Syria & Turkey Earth Quake Appeal. The Inclusion and Diversity Student Voice Group also led assembly, informing us about different cultures and festivals around the world. This was followed by food tasting from the continents of Africa, America, Europe and Asia. The day was a huge success with some

amazing national dress. Thank you so much Zuriel and your team for all your hard work.



DANCE CLUB

Elise (Year 5) has formed a Dance Club on Thursday lunchtimes for the Primary School children. Each week they start with a warm up and take turns leading the group through their paces. Elise is teaching the group a dance which they hope to perform later in the year. Well done Elise!

“Welcome to the Kings School, please press.....”

Our old one-premise phone system has served us reasonably well for over twenty years but is reaching the end of its life and is unsupported. We are currently setting up a new cloud managed digital system that will allow us flexibility to expand or reconfigure quickly if and when the need arises. As an example, the old system is mostly hard-wired dedicated phones connected to a PABX, just think of it as a mini telephone exchange in a box. With the new system we could relocate phones anywhere that has an Internet connection if we had any sort of site emergency. So it will be same number, more choices, easier to speak to us or leave a message and the worry of an ageing piece of equipment put to rest.



WORLD BOOK DAY

On World Book Day, children (and teachers!) in the Primary School dressed up as characters from books. Throughout the week each class did activities based on different stories and authors. On Friday, we were treated to a special reading of a book written by our very own Ms Miller!

SAPLING PLANTING

We received a number of sapling trees from the Woodland Trust and our Year 3/4 class did a wonderful job of planting them in a row on the border of the Dell. For each sapling, the children individually dug a hole, put the sapling in, patted the earth around it and put on a protective sleeve. They all worked really hard and carefully, using their initiative to ensure the saplings were not damaged in the process. Mr Chandler, Site Manager, supervised and was very pleased with their efforts.



THEATRE TRIP

Foundation Class went on a school trip to the theatre! We enjoyed a performance of several Julia Donaldson books called 'Tales of Acorn Wood'. It was performed with puppets, animations and lots of songs which the class are still singing today! It inspired us to create our own theatre in the classroom and put on our own plays.



ART TRIP TO THE NATIONAL GALLERY

On Wednesday 1st March the Years 10 & 11 GCSE Art



Students went to the National Art Gallery in London and saw many great works of art. It was amazing to see the original art so close up, and see all the details and textures within the paintings. Many pieces were much bigger than we expected, and some of the artworks were done on a huge scale. The colours were also much more vibrant when seen in the

flesh. The building itself is very grand, and we spent some time drawing and sketching from observation.

We loved soaking up the atmosphere in central London and went to Itsu for lunch. We had a great day.



BALLOON DEBATE

Year 8 were involved in an interesting Balloon Debate during an English Language lesson. They had to imagine that a space mission had run into difficulties and to select provisions and equipment to enable them to survive and then reach a moon base. Initially selecting their resources by themselves, they then discussed their choices in pairs and were then given an emergency siren - resources were to be reduced and a new list had to be agreed - as a pair choice. Further alterations followed and pairs became groups of four as the task developed. We experienced agreement and disagreement, listening and negotiation - a slice of life, in other words. To finish, the pupils fed back on the task and shared what they had found the most challenging, weighing up the benefits of solo work, paired working and then group work. As a class we saw that some demonstrated leadership in various ways while others were excellent support participants. How important these transferable skills are, as our children mature and learn how to work with and alongside others.



INTERHOUSE COMPETITIONS

CROSS COUNTRY RACE—18th January

Our annual cross-country race for Years 5-8 took place on a crisp, winter's day early this term, the low sun casting long shadows as the runners ran carefully across the frozen ground. Thank you to YWAM for the use of such a stunning location, as the pupils wound their way across the playing fields, followed the woodland path and then finished with a second circuit of the field for a total run of just over 2km. Pictured are the individual winners, Elisha (Y8) and Elina (Y6), with Campbell regaining their crown as team winners, which had been wrestled from them last year by Wigglesworth.



NINJA WARRIOR

Our annual 'ninja warrior' competition saw a course set up in the hall to challenge the agility of even the most cat-like of pupils. 21 pupils across all five secondary year groups took part, with the fastest 14 making it through to a tougher course in the final. That day a packed Gym cheered on the finalists, with only two pupils managing to make it to the end of the challenges. Tatenda (Y9) had set the pace on the first run (2.09) only to be pipped by the very last competitor, Daniel (Y10), who is our new champion in a time of 1.57. Congratulations Daniel and well done to all who were brave enough to take part.

TABLE TENNIS BOYS' AND GIRLS' SINGLES

This term has seen the climax of the school table tennis tournaments, with two new winners emerging from the pack. In the girls' final, the reigning champion, Tope (Y11), won the first game against Megan (Y8), but then couldn't do anything to stop her much younger opponent, with Megan storming to a 3-1 win. The boys' competition threw together two players who have won trophies in various events this term. It was a good level match, with tricky spin serves and loopy top-spins galore. Jonny (Y10) eventually came out on top 4-1 against Aaron (Y9), after some tight games early on. Well done Jonny & Megan and all who took part in the tournament.

CST CONFERENCE - 17th-19th February

Nine of our staff team joined the Christian Schools' Trust (CST) for their annual conference in Swanwick, Derbyshire, for a weekend at the end of half-term. CST is a network for Christian schools, like ours, around the UK. It was lovely to meet with others who are in similar settings - to pray and worship God together and learn from other's skills and experience. We were encouraged throughout to 'soar on eagle's wings' amidst the busyness of school life. Wise and scriptural advice!

HARPENDEN COMMUNITY EVENTS



HARPENDEN TOWN COUNCIL
CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

NEW NATURE TRAILS ON HARPENDEN COMMON

Pick up a leaflet at the Town Hall or visit www.harpenden.gov.uk

The leaflet includes:

- Four routes
- Tree trails feature
- "What to look for" guide
- Map of the Common

The new and improved Nature Trail on Harpenden Common is now complete! With 4 trails suitable for all abilities offering a different perspective on this incredible green space. Pick up a leaflet from the Town Hall or visit the website. You'll find an engaging tree trail, a guide to what to look out for on the Common, a map and lots of information for inquisitive minds.

Our Planet Our Future 2023 discussion events

- 21 March**
Curious about local eco businesses?
- 16 May**
Film: The Ants and The Grasshopper
- 11 July**
Guided walk: Exploring Batford Springs
- 26 September**
Greening your money
- 14 November**
Launching the OPOF book club

7.15 for 7.30-9.30pm
Venue (except July) The Plough & Harrow
88 Southdown Road, Harpenden, AL5 1PR



Free events, booking required
sustainablestalbans.org/our-planet-events/

EXHIBITING AT THE BIG CHURCH FESTIVAL

The King's School will be exhibiting at **The Big Church Festival** on **Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th May**. If you are attending the Festival, come along and say hello and help spread the news about our wonderful school. We will be in the "Expo", the main exhibitors area.



KEY DATES FOR THE SUMMER TERM

Mon	17 Apr	First day of term	
Thurs	27 Apr	Year 9 Options Evening	7:15pm
Sat	29 Apr	Work Day morning & BBQ lunch	am & lunchtime
Mon	1 May	May Bank Holiday	
Tues	2 May	Secondary Arts Festival Concert	7:30pm
Thurs	4 May	PTC Meeting (zoom)	7:30pm
Fri	5 May	Year 11 Leavers' Day & Garden Party	
Mon	8 May	Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III	
	9-11 May	Primary Arts Festival	
	9-12 May	Year 9 Outdoor Pursuits Trip	
Mon	22 May	ISA Regional Champs (Bedford)	All day
Tues	23 May	Primary Arts Festival Concert	1:30pm
	29 May-2 June	Half-Term break	
	5-14 June	Year 10 exams	
Thurs	15 June	District Champs (Y7-10) - Watford	All day
Thurs	22 June	Year 11 Leavers' Dinner	7:00pm
Fri	23 June	Sports Day (Yrs 5-10) Stockwood Park	12:30pm
	26-30 June	Years 7 & 8 exams	
Thurs	29 June	Primary Picnic & Sports Day	12:00noon
Sat	1 July	Fun Day	2:00pm
	3-4 July	Year 10 Geography Fieldtrip	
Wed	5 July	Christian Schools' Sports Day	All day
Tues	11 July	Primary Awards Afternoon	1:00pm
Thurs	13 July	Induction Day for New Year 7 pupils	
Fri	14 July	End of Term	12:30pm

HARPENDEN Sustainability Market

2023

Sundays 10am-3pm

19 March

21 May

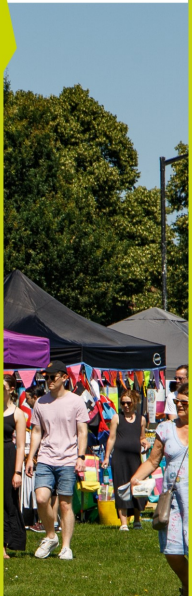
16 July

17 September

19 November

Harpenden Common

on the green outside Park Hall
sustainablestalbans.org/sustainability-market



For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16