

# THE KING'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER!



Issue 28 - April 2025

"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said!" Matthew 28:6

## Headteachers comments:

I hope you are blessed reading about all that's been going on in The King's School over the last three months. There are some great pictures too, that capture the vibrancy and variety of experiences our amazing children have enjoyed. Thank you to Esther Clarke, who has done a great job this term taking over from Karen Hylton and has capped it off with this, her first newsletter! As we approach Easter, and discuss the significance of the Cross and the Resurrection of Jesus with the pupils, I remain thankful that we have the freedom to worship Him in our school and to glorify His name. I pray that you all have a restful and peaceful Easter break and know the Lord close to you as a family.

*Mr Andy Reeves*



## World Book Day

Along with many other schools around the country, we celebrated World Book Day. Children in Primary were encouraged to dress up as a character from a book. We had a wonderful array of costumes ranging from characters from classic literature such as 'Dorothy' from the Wizard of Oz to more modern children's fiction, such as 'Dog Man'. Our teachers joined in too, with a 'Hungry Caterpillar', 'Tiger Who Came to Tea', and the 'Smartest Giant in Town' present on our teaching staff! This year, the Primary children focussed on the work of prolific children's author, Julia Donaldson.

Her work is well known to many, and the children had a lot of fun looking at her work. We had lots of art-based activities, lots of writing, and even a dance workshop too!



On the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025, the u11 first team rugby boys had their first match against Aldwickbury 'C'. The boys walked away with an amazing score of 60-15 and certainly played

their hearts out to the last whistle. The boys looked great in their sponsored kit, a very big thank you to The PMO Hub and The Hughes Project for sponsoring their jerseys. We look forward to rest of the rugby season to come!



## Primary & Secondary Music Concert

We had a wonderful afternoon of music performances during our annual instrumental concert which took place in February. A large number of pupils from Year 2 through to Year 11 performed a variety of pieces covering a wide range of styles, with each performer receiving rapturous applause! From the soothing sounds of the piano, flute, guitar and clarinet through to the drums, bassoon, saxophone and violin, it was superb to hear so many different instruments played live. Well done to all who performed.





## Foundation Visit the Theatre!



On Thursday 27th February Foundation class went to see 'The Smartest Giant in Town' by Julia Donaldson at The Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage. The animal puppets were extraordinary and we enjoyed the songs. It inspired lots of dramas, puppet shows, artwork and writing back in the classroom!

## Trip to Wembley—26th Feb 2025



We've been to many England men's games over the years, but this was our first school trip to a Women's match, with the Lionesses coming up against World Champions Spain. After stopping at McDonald's on the way, excitement built as we approached the stadium (pictured) and the evening didn't disappoint. A dazzling light show preceded the game and England came out 1-0 winners with some brilliant defending by the whole team. Highlight of the night was our very own Ava B, Year 1, striding out as a mascot, hand in hand with the England captain (pictured). What a star!



## Year 3 Trip to the Planetarium 'Cosmos in the classroom'

Tying in with our Year 3 Science themes of 'Light' and 'Forces', pupils experienced a fun day out to St. Albans cathedral. After a lovely walk through the park, the children experienced the magnificent moon installation, had fun on a worksheet trail learning all about St. Albans and finished by watching a planetarium show organised by Bayford Observatory.



## French Café

After lessons designing French café menus, preparing dialogues and learning about the Euro, Year 6 enjoyed running a French café. They took it in turns to order from each other and serve warmed pastries, fruits and drinks.







## Year 5 & 6 Residential Trip – Written by Year 6

The Year 5 and 6 had an amazing experience on a five day residential at the Frontier Centre. On Monday they arrived at the centre and were allocated to their dormitories. The first challenge was making their beds!

The first activities were soon underway; high ropes and archery followed by a good meal and fun games in the evening. Tuesday started with breakfast then bushcraft skills which involved teaching the children to survive in the wild, they enjoyed building shelters and the instructors tested them for sustainability.

On Wednesday the children worked in pairs on a trust exercise 'Walk The Plank' which resulted in lost shoes and a mud bath; a highlight of the week! More teamwork challenges followed and then an exciting night walk so very tired children to end the day. Thursday there was no time to rest with zip lining and Gladiators finishing with the 'Leap of Faith' where everyone encouraged each other. The evening ended with a small campfire that grew into a bonfire. A lovely evening of singing and sharing their experiences. On the last morning they took part in indoor rock climbing supporting each other to reach the top. Year 6 words to describe the week were decent, amazing, awesome, adventurous and challenging. Year 5 words to describe the week were exciting, muddy, fun, nice and tiring.

In summary a great success that taught life skills, team building and overcoming challenges. A week they will never forget!



## Year 10 GCSE Business Students Launch Weekly Tuck Shop

Our Year 10 GCSE Business students have taken on the challenge of running a tuck shop for secondary students, operating once a week to apply their business skills while raising funds for the school.

Through their studies, students have learned about market research, pricing, budgeting, and customer service. They are learning to select popular snacks and set competitive prices. The tuck shop is student-led, with pupils handling stock, marketing, finance, and customer service, giving them real-world business experience.

All profits support school projects, making this both an educational and meaningful initiative. With enthusiasm and growing expertise, the students are eager to expand their product range and boost their earnings; they are open to selling home-bake cakes if you wish to support the initiative. Contact [joy.townsend@thekingsschool.com](mailto:joy.townsend@thekingsschool.com) to do so.





## Swiss Exchange



In March a group of Year 10 French GCSE students took part in the Exchange to Switzerland. We received a very warm welcome in our host families and link school. On our second day we visited a chocolate factory and the medieval castle of Gruyères - the first photo shows the scenic walk back down from the village. On the Saturday we explored Geneva, including some Reformation history and a magical performance of 'Charlie & the Chocolate Factory' at the theatre.

Shortly afterwards we welcomed our Swiss friends here, and they enjoyed attending some lessons in school as well as visiting St Albans, London and Brighton. Our Exchanges are a great cultural and language experience for everyone involved!

## GCSE Music Trip

On Monday 31 March, a group of GCSE music students travelled to the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage, to watch a concert specifically aimed at pupils studying GCSE music. It was a great experience to hear live performances of pieces spanning from J.S Bach through to William Goodchild (film/tv composer). Some highlights were seeing and hearing the harpsichord played, and understanding more about the process of composing music.



## Thank You Jane!

After 6 years, we say farewell to Mrs Leedell! As well as being a trusted first aider, Mrs Leedell was our Data and Admin Expert. She will be very much missed but we extend our best regards and prayers for her retirement.

## Bletchley Park

Year 6 went to Bletchley Park! The trip gave a great insight into the world of the codebreakers during World War Two. The children experienced a code-breaking workshop and learnt about the brilliant minds and complex machines that made this vital work possible. They had great fun experiencing the interactive displays and museum collections. A great day that rounded off Year 6's Topic on WW2.





## Secondary Culture Day: A Celebration of Diversity

Our secondary school recently held Culture Day, a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about different countries and traditions.

We had a special assembly, where students gave presentations on various countries. They shared interesting facts about history, traditions, and languages, helping everyone gain a deeper appreciation for cultures around the world.

At lunchtime, students and staff enjoyed a selection of international foods, with the chance to try dishes from different countries. It was a great way to experience new flavours and learn more about global cuisine.

Thank you to everyone who took part in making Culture Day a success!





## ISA TOURNAMENTS

### ISA National Football Festival

We took both U14 (pic in blue) and U16 (pic in yellow) teams to the ISA Football at Nottingham University back in January. With a group stage in the morning, followed by knock-outs later on, there were plenty of games for our



7-a-side teams to get their teeth into. Matches were close, with the tight pitches and small goals making scoring a challenge. Our lads all did well and enjoyed their day out in the Midlands.

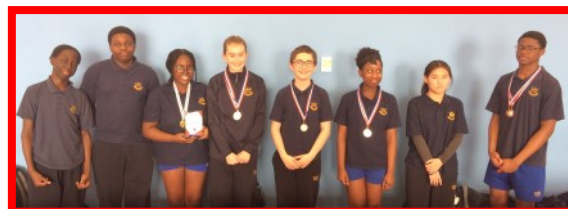
### ISA Regional Table Tennis

Once again we hosted the ISA Regional Champs over three afternoons in January. Our pupils did really well, especially the girls, who won medals in all three age groups. Kaiya B won silver at the U11 event and our girls dominated the Secondary comps (pictured). In the U13s, Elina beat Holly in the final, with Erin 3rd and Hannah 4th. In the same age group Ryan took 2nd place, narrowly losing a very high standard final against a high ranked opponent. At U16 level Megan went one better than last year and took gold, with Abigail 2nd and Gabbie 3rd. Aaron finished 4th in the boys' comp. Well done to all who took part and represented our school so well!



### ISA National Table Tennis

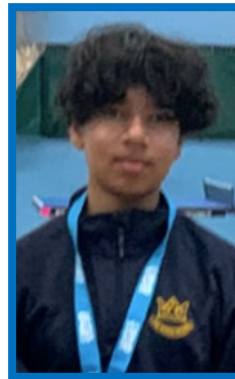
This year the ISA National TT Champs were spread over two days. This enabled us to take more players, with 14 attending the U11/U13 on Thursday 23rd and then a further 8 pupils heading back up the M1 to Nottingham for the U15 champs the following day. As you can see from the team pics, we won plenty of medals & trophies across both the morning singles and afternoon doubles. Highlights were two of our pupils becoming ISA National Champions. It was a title retention for Elina (pictured), winning the U13 girls again, beating Erin (also Y8) in the final, with Hannah a hard-earned third and Holly winning the plate competition. Ryan faced the same top-level player in the U13 final that he'd faced in our local comp, losing another close, high standard match (action picture) to take silver. In the U15 competition, Abigail (pictured) became national champion for the first time, with Gabbie winning the plate competition. Well done to everyone, including those who won doubles medals who I haven't got space to name here!





## Herts Schools Individual TT Champs

Three of our pupils competed at the Herts Individual TT Champs in February. Holly and Hannah (Y8) both competed well in a high level competition. Congratulations to Ryan S (Y8), who beat the best the County could throw at him to finish as overall champion! Ryan will now go on to represent Hertfordshire at the National champs in April, the first time one of our pupils has reached this level of competition. Well done Ryan!



## Cross Country

A gorgeous sunny day at Highfield Oval was the setting for this year's inter-house cross country race on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Tracking the perimeter of the field, twice, pupils in Years 5-8 'ran' roughly 2km in pursuit of points for their House team. 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Kellan (Y8), with Arit (Y7) the first girl home in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall. The winning house this year was Campbell, retaining their title just ahead of Bunyan, like last year. Thanks to all the staff who helped marshal, and a special mention to Frankie, who scampered along at the start only for Mrs Weldon to take a tumble approaching the first corner! (see pics)



## ISA Netball

On the 29<sup>th</sup> Jan, the Yr 7/8 girls went to the ISA netball tournament in Redbridge, they played really well and came runners up in their group and then went on to the playoffs for the knockout section of the tournament. An excellent team effort. Well done girls! (pic below left)

On the 7<sup>th</sup> March, Yr 5 attended a netball tournament at Akeley Wood. This was a friendly tournament, but 2 awards were presented for teams that displayed good sportsmanship and The King's School received one of these. A great team effort both in their netball skills and most importantly how they conducted themselves. (pic middle)

Two weeks later, on the 19<sup>th</sup> March, Abbot's Hill hosted an ISA 'Bee Netball' tournament for Year 4 pupils, with awards being presented again for teams that displayed good sportsmanship. Our team won an award and Michaela was voted the pupil who displayed the best sportsmanship! Fantastic effort girls, well done! (pic right)





## Mr Jones Kings' School Table tennis coaching report.



It has been wonderful to see the improvement in the table tennis skills of so many pupils who have attended lunchtime and after-school clubs and competed in table tennis events in and out of school. Through purposeful practice and regular competition great progress is being made.

In January and February of 2025, three separate school teams performed admirably at Table Tennis England Schools events.

On a frosty Saturday January 11<sup>th</sup>, eight under 13 girls and boys left by minibus with Mr Jones to travel to Highfield Table Tennis club in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. Despite spending over half an hour defrosting the minibus windscreen, Mr Jones was very glad to have such a heavy frost – as this meant that two of his boys could play table tennis rather than their academy football game which had been cancelled due to the weather. After an hour and a half journey our teams arrived at Highfield TTC.

The hall was packed with quality table tennis players from all over the East region of England.

Our boys team of Ryan, Matt, Kellan and Nathanael performed admirably in some very closely contested matches. The boys finished second in their group giving them a final position of third in their event. For a team where only one player regularly plays outside of school the result was remarkable.

Ryan, King's top ranked player, won all his individual matches on the day. This shows how regular quality training out of school (respect to Elroy Edwards at Luton table Tennis club) greatly helps a child's development of talent. A month later Ryan did even better when he attended the Hertfordshire Schools individual competition in Harlow. With some high ranking national players, Ryan proceeded to win the whole event! Ryan's win has qualified him as the number 1 Hertfordshire Schools player for the National under 13 event on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of April. We wish him well as he battles against other county champions from all over England at the event in Wolverhampton.

Due to their commitment to attending after school coaching at Kings,' it was expected that the under 13 girls would outperform the boys team. They were second overall behind a very strong school from The Kings' Cathedral School in Peterborough. We were hoping that our second placed finish on the day might be enough to progress to the semi-finals but sadly our very strong team of Elina, Erinayo, Holly and Hannah just missed out on the opportunity of competing in the semi-finals. If these girls decide to commit to more regular practice and competing (outside of school), it is possible if not probable that they could medal at the National finals in future years.



The following day Mr Jones was back at the school to take the under 16 girls of Megan, Gabbie and Abigail to their event in Wellingborough. The three-girl team who have regularly attended after school club practice produced the best result of any of the Kings' teams. They returned home as East of England Regional champions! One stand out performance remains was of Abigail and Gabbie delighted with their unexpected win in a crucial doubles match. They pulled back a two game deficit to win three two against a very strong team from Nottinghamshire. Congratulations to our team of three.



This win for the under 16 girls allowed them to progress to the National semi-finals in Grantham. They went on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of February, leaving with Mr Jones at 7:30 in the morning. They arrived at 9:45 and had a brief time to practice before competing against schools from London, Leeds and Brighton. The girls performed superbly and narrowly missed third being pipped by Leeds Grammar School in a final game (3:2) making it 3 matches to Kings' and four to Leeds Grammar School. Thank you to the parents and pupils who continue to support the development of table tennis at the school. For such a small school with very few pupils who play outside of school in a local club the standard of play being attained is quite exceptional.





## Year 2 Coding with BeeBots!

Year 2 have been learning to write algorithms for BeeBots, carefully sequencing instructions to navigate different challenges. To enhance their coding skills, they designed their own themed exploration mats, testing and refining their instructions to guide the BeeBots correctly. Other groups then tested their algorithms and gave feedback.

This hands-on activity helped them develop key coding concepts such as sequencing, debugging, and logical thinking. Most importantly, they had great fun collaborating and watching their BeeBots bring their ideas to life!



## Primary International Week: A Journey Around the World

Our Primary school celebrated International Week, with each class exploring a different country. From the vibrant culture of Mexico to the landscapes of Norway, students had the chance to learn about traditions, geography, and daily life around the world.

Throughout the week, children took part in a variety of activities, including crafts, travel writing, and games. Some classes also welcomed parent visitors, who shared their experiences and even brought in traditional foods for students to taste.

On Friday, the week ended with a special assembly, where each class shared some of the things they had learned. It was a great opportunity for students to reflect on their discoveries and appreciate the diversity of cultures around the world.

Thank you to all the students, staff, and parents who helped make International Week such a memorable experience!



Art work from year 6, completed early spring term. We studied the portraits by Arcimboldo and noticed how the theme of his portraits reflected the likes and dislikes of the subject sitting for him. For example, his artwork of the librarian was depicted by books. The children chose a theme that reflected themselves, their interests, hobbies or something they liked. They began by projecting their profile shadow onto white paper, and Mrs Morris drew round these. Once the outline was complete, they made a collage of cut out pictures that represented their interests and glued these inside the outline. They studied texture and form in order to try to replicate the form of their head in 3D. You can see how successful they were from these pictures! Can you match the artwork to the Year 6 pupil?!





Cricket, Netball, Football, Hockey, Dance,  
Basketball, Gymnastics, Rugby....

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Contact : [rachel.weldon@thekingsschool.com](mailto:rachel.weldon@thekingsschool.com)

## EASTER SPORTS CAMP

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April  
–Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

**School Years 1-6**

**£25 per day**

**BOOK NOW**



The King's School Way



### Kindness

Helping and respecting others,  
whoever they are

### Integrity

Doing the right thing, even when it's hard

### Commitment

Giving our best in every situation

### Togetherness

Playing our part in the school family

### Growth

Becoming the best we can be

### Thankfulness

Being grateful for all that we are given

### Faith

Honouring Jesus Christ in all we do;  
the foundation of **The King's School Way**

## Student Success

Congratulations to Tatenda in Year 11 who has recently been offered a two-year contract with Luton Town FC. Following in the footsteps of big brother Kuda, who's with the U18s at the moment, Tatenda will be looking to impress over the next couple of years in order to have a chance of staying on beyond this initial period. Tatty has already been playing up with the U17s at times this season, helping them to an impressive cup run with his silky ball skills and dynamic energy around the pitch. We wish you all the best, Tatenda, firstly for your GCSEs this summer and then on your footballing journey.



## Lifeskills Day: Preparing Students for the Future

Lifeskills Day is a highlight of the year for our secondary students—a full day off timetable dedicated to essential real-world skills. This year's programme included financial training, careers advice using Morrisby, insights from visiting professionals, and sessions on politics, government, mental health, first aid, and driving tips.

A special feature this year was the Year 9 Enterprise group's focus on mental health. As part of their project, they prepared and delivered 30-minute presentations to mixed groups of secondary students, covering important topics such as Banter vs. Bullying, Addictions, People Pleasing, Boundaries, and Toxic Relationships. Their thoughtful discussions encouraged awareness and reflection among their peers.

Meanwhile, Year 8 students continued their work on the Youth Leaders Award, developing leadership skills and character through practical activities.

With such a diverse range of topics and engaging sessions, Lifeskills Day equips students with valuable knowledge to navigate their futures with confidence. We look forward to seeing how these experiences shape their journeys ahead!

## Rugby Day

To mark the start of the 6-Nations Competition and to encourage our newly formed Rugby team, the Primary School held a 'Rugby Day'. The children had a special assembly where Mr Jones talked about some of the qualities needed in a rugby player. The children then spent the day doing various activities to learn about Rugby, the 6-Nations Competition, and the countries competing in that competition. The children were also encouraged to wear the colours from the flags of the 6 participating nations. The children had a really good day, learning more about the sport and how teamwork is vital to success.





## Year 9 GCSE Q&A

On Friday 28th March, Year 9 students had the opportunity to explore their GCSE options in a special lunchtime Q&A session. Year 10 and 11 students set up at the picnic tables, ready to share their experiences and insights about different subjects. Equipped with textbooks, notebooks, and enthusiasm, they answered questions, gave advice, and helped Year 9s make more informed decisions about their future studies. It was fantastic to see so many students engaging in meaningful conversations, and we're grateful to our Y10 and Y11s for sharing their knowledge.

## FRANKIE

Frankie is our Kings School dog he is a Dachshund. He is only 5 months old and is in training as a therapy dog. He has settled well into school; his base is in the Year 6 Classroom and he is getting used to the school layout.

Frankie's favourite things are.

- Playing with sticks.
- Running on the grass.
- Having tummy rubs.
- Eating carrots.
- Sunbathing.

Make sure you ask Mrs Weldon before you stroke him.



## Primary Swimming Gala

On Friday 28th March, our children in years 2-6 took part in a showcase to demonstrate all that they had learned in their swimming lessons over the last 2 terms. The children demonstrated the different strokes and techniques they had learned and also were able to show some of the additional skills they had picked up, such as diving and using flippers!

We are very grateful to Making Waves Swim School for our fantastic swimming lessons. The children are now so confident in the water and are making waves of improvement!



## Year 4 Trip to The Science Museum London (written by Theo, with some help from a few friends)

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March year 4 went on a trip to the Science Museum (in London). It took about an hour to get there (by overground train and underground train and mini-bus). When we got there we broke into groups of 5 to explore the museum. There was a screen on a desk where you can extract blood from, and lots of scale models which were amazing. Everyone enjoyed the Wonder Show the best. We had a great day and some of us fell asleep on the train back!



## Christian Schools Trust Annual Conference: A Time of Learning and Encouragement

Four members of our staff recently attended the Christian Schools Trust (CST) Annual Conference in Derby, an event filled with inspiration, learning, and fellowship. The packed schedule featured excellent main talks, insightful seminars, and dedicated times of worship, creating an atmosphere of encouragement and spiritual growth.

One of the key themes this year was Friendship and the importance of actively developing meaningful relationships. Attendees had the opportunity to connect with staff from other Christian schools, sharing experiences, offering support, and receiving encouragement in their roles.

The conference also included a variety of practical sessions covering finance, coaching, student leadership, fundraising, neuroscience and faith, teaching generation Alpha and storytelling. These workshops provided valuable insights and strategies for improving both personal and professional development in a faith-based educational setting.

Beyond the formal sessions, fellowship over fantastic food allowed for deep conversations and strengthened connections among like-minded educators. The CST Conference continues to be a significant time of equipping and refreshing, leaving our staff inspired and encouraged to continue their work with renewed vision and purpose.





## Easter Crash Courses

Monday 7 - Friday 11 April at  
Sandringham School,  
St Albans

Our swimming courses are designed for absolute beginners through to advanced stroke improvement.

The choice of times are 8.30am, 9am, 9.30am, 10am or 10.30am. Fill in our online form

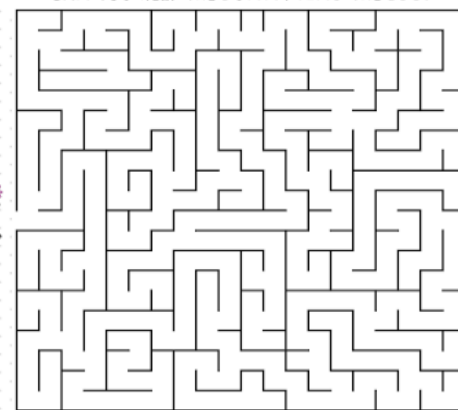
at [makingwaves-swimschool.co.uk](http://makingwaves-swimschool.co.uk).



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CAN YOU HELP THE BUNNY FIND THE EGG?



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## PTC Events

A massive thank you to those in our parent community who commit to regularly praying for our school and who get involved in organising events that bring us together. This term we've had three! In addition to the International Food & Quiz evening (pictured), we enjoyed a time of prayer, praise & hot chocolate back at the end of January and then our first 'Games Night' a month later, which the children really enjoyed. Thank you to all involved in making these events happen.



## KEY DATES FOR THE SUMMER TERM

Wed	23 Apr	First day of term	
Wed	30 Apr	PTC Meeting (zoom)	7:30pm
Thurs	1 May	Year 9 Options Evening	7:15-8:45pm
Fri	2 May	Year 11 Leavers' Day & Garden Party	
Mon	5 May	Bank Holiday	
6-9 May		Year 9 Outdoor Pursuits Trip Leave at 9am	
Thurs	8 May	Start of Year 11 GCSE exams	
12-16 May		Primary Arts Festival	
Tues	20 May	Primary Arts Festival Concert	7pm
Sat	17 May	Work Day & BBQ (all welcome)	9am-1pm
26 May- 1 June		Half-Term break	
2-11 June		Year 10 exams	
Thurs	12 June	District Athletics Champs	All day
Mon	16 June	ISA National Athletics	All day
Tues	17 June	Last day of Year 11 GCSE exams	
Thurs	19 June	Secondary Summer Concert (from Arts Festival)	7:30pm start
Fri	20 June	School Sports Day (Years 5-10 at Stockwood Park)	12:30-2:30pm
25 June-1 July		Year 7 & 8 Exam Week	
Thurs	26 June	Year 11 Leavers' Dinner	7pm
Wed	2 July	Christian School's Sports Day	All day
Thurs	3 July	Primary Picnic & Sports Day	12-3pm
Sat	5 July	Fun Day	
7-8 July		Year 10 Geography Fieldtrip	
Tues	8 July	Primary Awards Afternoon	1:30-3pm
Thurs	10 July	Induction Day for New Year 7 pupils	
Thurs	17 July	End of Term	12:30pm

## Duke of Edinburgh Awards

This year we have three pupils from Year 10 working towards their D of E Bronze Award. This will involve volunteering, learning a skill, undertaking physical activity and completing an overnight expedition. Look out for how they get on in our next Newsletter!



"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." John 11:25

