

THE KING'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER!



Issue No.24 - December 2023



HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS

Another term has flown by and has been packed with exciting trips and challenging sports tournaments. This term's newsletter brings it altogether for you in one succinct report and includes a new interactive feature. My thanks goes out to all those who have contributed, whether with prose or piccies, and to Mrs Hylton for her patient work in shaping the final document. I hope you will enjoy reading about the many and varied highlights of this first third of the academic year. I wish you all a relaxing, peaceful and blessed Christmas break as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who came into this world that we might have Life. Thank you Lord!

FRENCH CAFÉ

Year 6 enjoyed preparing to run a French café, including practising dialogues, designing menus and learning about the Eurozone. We then turned the classroom into a café for an afternoon and Year 6 took it in turns to order and

serve food and drinks. Here are some comments from the class: 'J'adore les croissants / les brioches / les pains au chocolat / le jus de pomme' ... 'J'adore dessiner les menus' ... 'J'aime parler dans le café' ... 'J'aime la monnaie' ... 'J'aime les petites tables rouges, blanches et bleues' ... 'J'aime la visite de Monsieur Reeves' ... 'J'adore faire un café dans la salle de classe' ... bon appétit!



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, HUNGARY

In September, ten students from Yrs 10 & 11 attended the ACSI Student Leadership Conference in Hungary, an experience which enriched their relationship with God, as well as their leadership skills. Schools from 12 different countries were represented, providing an international flavour and opportunity to communicate with students with multiple languages and cultures. The conference offered a diverse range of activities, including worship sessions, talks, discussion groups and workshops. Worship sessions were powerful, bringing a new sense of freedom to the students; the realisation that many young people are 'all-out' for God was a huge encouragement. The discussion groups were student-led, giving a more relaxed and comfortable forum for open discussion. Workshops were varied, interactive and informative; led by staff members from participating schools. There was some relaxation too with team games and social times over coffee and snacks. Through all these activities, our students gained valuable insights and strategies for effective leadership. A

significant highlight was the collaborative development of an action plan tailored to benefit our school. Work on this happened before, during and after the conference. Our students are now running weekly lunchtime Bible studies. Further plans to develop the spiritual growth of our school community are also in the pipeline. The experience was transformative, offering our students a broader view of leadership and instilling in them a sense of responsibility towards positive change. Their experiences at the conference have undoubtedly equipped them to contribute meaningfully to our school's growth and development.



ÉCHANGE SCOLAIRE

En octobre nos partenaires suisses sont arrivés à Harpenden et ils ont visité Cambridge, Brighton et Londres. En novembre la Classe 10 a visité la Suisse pour l'échange avec l'école de 'La Bergerie'. Nous avons fait une promenade au bord du lac, et nous avons exploré un château - c'était intéressant et très historique. Nous avons aussi visité une chocolaterie, et le chocolat était délicieux! Les familles suisses sont super, et nous avons fait beaucoup de photos de la région.

Translation on Page 8



L'École de 'La Bergerie'



Les élèves et les partenaires suisses



En bateau à Cambridge

FIREWORKS EVENING

On November 4th, The King's School PTC hosted an unforgettable fireworks display! The event dazzled us with its incredible sights and sounds while we indulged in tasty hot dogs. The atmosphere was alive with joy as children, adults, and families came together, making it a night filled with laughter and cherished moments!



BEAUTIFUL BENCHES

Due to a very generous donation from one of our parents, we have been able to purchase four beautiful benches for the school playground. Our old benches were beginning to fall apart, but now we can sit in comfort and safety! The benches are enjoyed by all and have been a welcome addition to our outdoor furniture. Thank you, again, donor.



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WORD SEARCH

Do you remember the seven words of The King's School Way? Find them in the word search ...

Answers on Page 8

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

COMING SOON...

"THE GOLDEN DAYS"

The King's School's next musical production is again written by our very own Mr Chris Burrett. The evening performances will be on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th March 2024. Put the dates in your diary and look out for the email in the New Year explaining how to book your tickets!



ART AT THE KING'S SCHOOL

ISA ART COMPETITION

We took some of the students work to represent the school at the London North ISA Independent School Association Art Exhibition & Competition.

Two pieces came first in their class and went on to the Nationals - By Iara DeJong & By Joel Lythe.

This is the link to see the work in the virtual Art Gallery



"Rebirth"
By Iara DeJong
Year 11



"Weaving in & out"
By Joel Lythe
Year 2

YEAR 6 SKETCHING TRIP

Year 6 have been studying the work of John Piper. He was a WW2 and post-war artist who depicted many churches in his art. He's probably most famously known for his painting of the remains of Coventry Cathedral following an air-raid. This half-term we visited The Chapel at The Oval, Harpenden, and sketched it using a wax-resist technique. We looked for 2D shapes within the building form and experimented using unexpected colours. The following week we used our sketches and photographs to work on our final pieces of work. Our teacher is very pleased with the results!"



Coventry Cathedral By John Piper 1940

YEAR 2 HISTORY PROJECT

In our History lesson, the Year 2 class reconstructed Pudding Lane where The Great Fire of London started. The children designed the Tudor houses with a modern touch including Saint Paul's Cathedral.



GCSE POTERY CLASSES

The Year 10s GCSE Art group have been to pottery at The Oval and have all learned how to throw a pot on the wheel as well as many other skills. It is a wonderful opportunity for them to create in an environment where they not only learn more about how to create beautiful things but also about our Creator. "... and yet you oh Lord are our Creator, you are the Potter and we are the clay." Isaiah 64:8



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE KING'S SCHOOL?

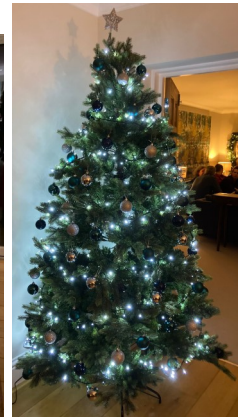
1. When did The King's School start?
2. Which town did The King's School start in?
3. When did the school move to Harpenden?
4. What is the name of the school site?
5. How long has Mr Reeves worked at The King's School?
6. How many optional GCSE subjects does the school offer?
7. What is the name of our preschool?
8. How many trustees does the school have?
9. What is the name of the Chair of Trustees?
10. What verse in the Bible do we quote on our Prospectus?

Answers on Page 8

CHRISTMAS JOY AT THE KING'S SCHOOL

What an exciting and fun packed week we have had to end the Autumn Term:

FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER - For the staff, the Christmas celebrations kicked off with the staff Christmas get together at Mrs Hart's home, with delicious food cooked by Mrs Hughes, lively conversation and plenty of laughter. It's great to be part of such a wonderful group of colleagues!



MONDAY 11th DECEMBER - Our Whole School Assembly was very special as we enjoyed the Nativity performance by our Years 0, 1 and 2 pupils. Each child in our younger years had a part to play in this amusing musical of the incredible story of the birth of Jesus. They still presented the wonder of what Jesus has done for us by coming into our world as a vulnerable baby.



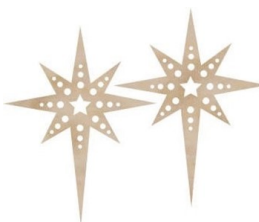
TUESDAY 12th DECEMBER - This was the turn for parents and grandparents of the Primary classes to enjoy the Nativity, as well as songs performed by the KS2 classes.

WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER - Our annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, hosted by Mrs Hart and our Year 10 pupils. With a warm welcome from the students, our guests received refreshments on arrival, a quiz, a performance of the Nativity, and enjoyed lunch together. They also each received a Christmas gift, as well as the 'Jars of Encouragement', each personally decorated by the pupils who attend Shine! Worship Club (see page 5).



THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER - Primary Christmas Celebration Day and time to party! While the rest of the school continue to work, the Primary classes put on their Christmas jumpers, enjoy making Christmas crafts and party the afternoon away!

THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER - The Carol Service at High Street Methodist Church is always a special evening for pupils, staff and parents alike. Worshiping God together for the incredible gift of His son to our world sets the scene and focuses us all as we enter into the Christmas break to continue to celebrate with family and friends.



MEMORY VERSE

Each week this term, we have been learning a memory verse. What a wonderful verse to finish the term and year with, reminding us of the light that came into the world at the birth of our Saviour -

JESUS

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

John 8 v 12



INSIGHTFUL SESSION ON ISRAEL-GAZA CONFLICT WITH MR FARAHAT (TRUSTEE)

In a thought-provoking session, Y11 students had the privilege of engaging with Mr Farahat, a trustee whose Middle Eastern heritage provided unique insight into the Israel-Gaza conflict. Combining this firsthand experience with a Biblical worldview, Mr Farahat led a compelling discussion that left us pondering many crucial questions. During the session, Y11 students posed insightful inquiries, sparking a dialogue that illuminated various perspectives. Despite the complexity of the situation, Mr Farahat's sharing allowed us to witness diverse viewpoints, challenging our thoughts and perceptions. While the session might have left us with more questions than answers, it was undeniably an eye-opening experience. The exchange of ideas not only broadened our understanding but also encouraged critical thinking and reflection. We are grateful to Mr Farahat for dedicating his time and expertise, contributing to an engaging and thought-provoking discussion on a topic of global significance.

YEAR 6 EVACUEE DAY

Year 6 had an exciting and sobering day in September. We dressed up in plain (1940s) clothing, brought a small case or pillowcase for a few items, and made identification labels and boxes for gas masks to help us imagine how it felt for children from British towns and cities to be evacuated to the countryside during World War II. We listened to and created the famous broadcasts through the wireless, and we experienced what an air raid may have been like by sheltering in the boiler room in the basement of the school.



GCSE MUSIC TRIP

A group of GCSE music students recently attended a concert by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, held at the Royal Festival Hall, London.



It was a very exciting and informative concert with the orchestra playing pieces from a variety of periods and styles, with interactive quizzes for the students throughout! We hope to attend again next year.



SHINE! WORSHIP CLUB

Our after-school 'Worship Club' is now SHINE!, inspired by the song lyrics 'Shine from the inside out, that the world may see Christ in me'. Our group aims to look at how we can SHINE Christ through the way we Speak, Honour, Inspire, Nurture, and Empower.

This term, we explored the impact of kind words and the value of honouring others. We've put these values into action by creating 'Jars of Encouragement' personally decorated and containing scrolls of encouraging words and Bible verses, gifted to Senior Citizens during the school's Christmas celebration. These jars serve as a reminder of our time together and carry ongoing encouragement throughout the year.

Through prayer, worship, activities, talks, and discussions, SHINE! provides a space for students to grow spiritually, and positively impact our school community and beyond. We welcome all Year 5 to Year 11 students to join us in SHINE! as we continue to make a difference.



GOING TO THE DENTIST

Foundation Class had a lovely visit from Dentist Rachel and enjoyed learning about how to look after their teeth. Dentist Rachel helped them to understand which foods were good or harmful for their teeth. She read them a story about sugar bugs and the damage they do by making our teeth rot. The children learned how to brush properly by chewing a blue disclosing tablet and brushing until their mouths were clean again!



TRIP TO ROMAN ST ALBANS

Year 4 became historians for the day, immersing themselves in the Roman city of Verulamium, now St. Albans. They met a Roman Soldier in St Albans Cathedral, visited a Hypocaust, explored Verulamium Museum and a Roman Theatre! This was an excellent way to make our History topic on the Romans come to life. A trip to remember!



SPORTS REPORT

A busy term of sport has seen us compete across a range of activities, including table tennis, boys' & girls' football, tag rugby, cross country and netball. A full list of results is shown in the table on the next page. We began with two new ISA tournaments, the Year 7 boys' football team sweeping all before them to reach the final before losing to the hosts, St John's, who had a team full of academy players! Next it was the girls' turn, as we travelled to leafy Surrey and a sunny day for a festival of girls' football. Both teams were new to it and grew through the tournament as they gained experience. The following day saw our Year 10/11 team take the shorter trip to Abbot's Hill for a netball tournament against other schools in our ISA region, London North. We were back at the same venue after half-term for the cross country, with three pupils (Kellan, Elina and Harvey) taking top 10 finishes to qualify for the national finals in the Spring. Our Primary pupils have enjoyed a mix of football, netball and tag rugby, with us competing at two tournaments in the latter, one locally at Harpenden Rugby FC for Years 5 & 6 and then more recently a trip to the beautiful site of Akeley Wood School for Years 3 & 4, who coped well with the freezing rain that showered some of their matches!



SPORTS REPORT *continued*

Our all-conquering table tennis teams have picked up this year where they left off last Spring. The three teams that reached the regional finals last year are at it again and will be hoping to go one better and



reach the national finals this year. All three have moved up an age group now, so we had district and then county winners in U13 girls (Holly, Elina, Erinayo, Darcey), U13 boys (Ryan, Matthew, Kellan, Nathanael) and U16

girls (Abigail, Megan, Gabriella). Before last year we had only ever won the county champs once, an U13 girls team over 10 years ago, so to have 3 teams win last year and then 3 again this year is an amazing feat! Our U16 boys team also qualified through their district competition and then came up against some very strong teams in the county finals. Our U11 teams also competed well in the district competition, with our next generation of talent developing well under Mr Jones's expert tutelage. Our county champions now head off to the Area finals in Nottingham on the first weekend in February.



RESULTS - AUTUMN 2023

| Date | Years | Activity | Venue | Opponents | Result |
|--------|-------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---|
| 14-Sep | 7 | Boys' Football (6-a-side) | St Johns | ISA London North | runners up |
| 03-Oct | 7-10 | Girls' Football (6-a-side) | LVS Ascot | ISA National | 4th in groups |
| 04-Oct | 10-11 | Girls' Netball Tournament | Abbot's Hill | ISA London North | 4th in groups |
| 04-Oct | 9-11 | Table Tennis | Marlborough | District | girls won, boys r-up |
| 10-Oct | 5-6 | Tag Rugby (mixed) | Harpenden RFC | District | won 5 out of 9 |
| 11-Oct | 7-8 | Table Tennis | Verulam | District | both teams won |
| 13-Oct | 10-11 | Boys' Football | King's | Sherrardswood | won 8:2 (Leon 4, Lucas 3 & Jon W 1) |
| 13-Oct | 10-11 | Girls' Netball | Sherrardswood | Sherrardswood | lost 9-23 |
| 16-Oct | 3-4 | Boys' Football | King's | Normanhurst | (friendly) |
| 16-Oct | 3-4 | Girls' Netball | King's | Normanhurst | (friendly) |
| 18-Oct | 5-6 | Table Tennis | Verulam | District | girls 2nd, boys 5th |
| 01-Nov | 5-6 | Girls' Netball | St Nicholas | St Nicholas | won 5-1 |
| 06-Nov | 8-9 | Boys' Football | King's | Sherrardswood | drew 4-4 (Matt 3, Leo) |
| 06-Nov | 8-9 | Girls' Netball | King's | Sherrardswood | lost |
| 10-Nov | 10-11 | Boys' Football | King's | North Bridge House | Won 17-0 (Josh 4, Tatenda 3, Leo 3, Lucas 3, Harvey 2, Honrick) |
| 10-Nov | 10-11 | Girls' Netball | King's | North Bridge House | Lost |
| 15-Nov | 7-8 | Girls' Netball | Mount House | Mount House | won 6-4 |
| 15-Nov | 7-8 | Boys' Football | Mount House | Mount House | lost 3-4 (Gabriel 1, Matt J 2) |
| 16-Nov | 4-11 | Cross Country | Abbot's Hill | ISA London North | KK 3rd, EDJ 9th, HK 10th |
| 20-Nov | 7-8 | Boys' Football | King's | Sherrardswood | won 5-4 (Matt 3, Gabe 2) |
| 20-Nov | 7-8 | Girls' Netball | King's | Sherrardswood | lost 0-10 |
| 22-Nov | 5-6 | Boys' Football | The Lea | The Lea | lost 0-2 |
| 22-Nov | 5-6 | Girls' Netball | The Lea | The Lea | lost 1-5 |
| 01-Dec | 7-8 | B & G County TT | Ridgeway Academy | Herts Schools | boys & girls won |
| 01-Dec | 9-11 | B & G County TT | Ridgeway Academy | Herts Schools | boys 6th, girls won |
| 05-Dec | 3-4 | Tag Rugby (mixed) | Akeley Wood | ISA London North | won 2, drew 2, lost 4 |

WILD TRIP FOR KS1

Ys1&2 enjoyed a brilliant trip to Paradise Wildlife Park, near Broxbourne. The name sounds exotic but the weather was far from it! We didn't let it dampen our spirits & began with an epic walk through a dinosaur forest, with impressive life-size animatronic sculptures at every turn, some roaring at us &



others swishing their tail or head in our direction! After a quick go on the wavy slide it was off to the animals & a male lion pacing about while the lionesses just sat & relaxed. We saw zebra, meerkats, camels, emus & penguins, then a quick journey through the amazon rainforest! After we re-fuelled, the highlight was the beautiful snow-leopard sauntering around & a couple of jaguars playing & making lots of noise with the background of torrential rain. The tiger did not come to tea with us, he was hiding away, but we did spend some time with the scary snakes & poisonous frogs in the tropical area. It was soon time to rest our weary limbs in the minibus for the journey home – what fun!

HARVEST CELEBRATION HELPS FOODBANK



This year the whole school donated food items to support the local foodbank - 'The King's Pantry'. John Swain (pictured), from Bethany Church, came to collect the food and shared in assembly about the work they are doing, in partnership with Salvation Army, to support those in need in the local area.

SECONDARY AWARDS EVENING

Secondary pupils, past & present, gathered on Monday 9th October in the school hall for our annual awards evening. Our instrument ensemble kicked things off and the choir sang in time with their fast moving cups later in the evening. Parents and staff were in attendance to honour our amazing pupils for their endeavours over the previous school year, with the main focus being on our ex-Year 11s who have now moved on to pastures new. Zuriel received the Principal's Award, Ezra the Dennett Shield for Spiritual Contribution and Tope was presented with the Michelle Hulford award for generosity of spirit. Well done to them and to all our pupils for their efforts last year – an inspiring cohort of young people.

YEAR 11s - WHAT COMES NEXT

Having completed their mock exams, our Y11s are busy applying for the next step in their education journey. To support them with this, each Autumn Term we host an informative careers evening looking at the myriad of opportunities available to help them consider what might come beyond 16-18, particularly if they need to work backwards from potential entry requirements for University courses or work placements. As part of our LifeWISE programme, we've recently had 2 talks about possible career paths, one related to working in the finance district in the City, and the other working as a pharmacist. If you would like to share with pupils, in a lesson or at a lunchtime, about your career and advise them on what to do to maximise their opportunities, please contact us at the school.

Happy Christmas
from everyone at The King's School



HOW WELL DO YOU
KNOW THE KING'S
SCHOOL?

1. 1982
2. Hemel Hempstead
3. 1987
4. Elmfield
5. 23 Years
6. 10
7. Highfield Preschool
8. 7
9. Mr Ashraf Farahat
10. "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" Proverbs 22:6

In October our Swiss partners arrived in Harpenden and they visited Switzerland for the exchange with 'La Bergerie' school. We walked by the lake and explored a castle – it was interesting and very historic. We also visited a chocolate factory, and the chocolate was delicious! The Swiss families are great, and we took lots of photos of the region.

SCHOOL EXCHANGE

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| H | H | T | T | H | M | A | R | O | J | E | W | Z |
| M | E | C | K | B | P | G | D | Z | M | S | S | H |
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| W | E | J | P | V | A | T | H | A | E | X | A | Q |
| X | S | L | V | B | Y | E | X | K | P | N | O | N |
| S | S | E | N | L | U | F | K | N | A | H | A | Z |

WORD SEARCH

KEY DATES - 1st HALF OF SPRING TERM

| | | |
|---------|---------|--|
| Thurs | 04-Jan | First day of the Spring term |
| Mon | 8-Jan | Year 7 Parent/Teacher consultations |
| Tues | 9-Jan | PTC Meeting |
| Wed | 10-Jan | ISA U13 Table Tennis at King's |
| Tues | 16-Jan | ISA U16 Table Tennis at King's |
| Thurs | 18-Jan | ISA Primary Table Tennis at King's |
| Tues | 23-Jan | Year 11 Parent/Teacher consultations |
| Thurs | 25-Jan | ISA Nat Football Tournament (Nottingham) |
| Fri | 26-Jan | ISA Nat Table-Tennis Champs (Nottingham) |
| Wed | 31-Jan | ISA U11 & U13 Reg Netball (Redbridge) |
| Mon-Fri | 5-9-Feb | Primary International Week |
| Thurs | 08-Feb | Secondary Life Skills Day |
| Fri | 09-Feb | Secondary Culture Day |
| Fri | 9-Feb | International Food & Quiz Evening |
| Mon | 12-Feb | Year 10 Parent/Teacher consultations |
| Tues | 13-Feb | Prim & Sec Instrumental Concert |
| Fri | 16-Feb | Start of the half-term break |