

THE KING'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER!



Issue No.18 - December 2021



HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS

School life never ceases to bring new blessings and challenges in equal supply! Despite the times when we have had to postpone or cancel activities this term, you will read in this newsletter that we have managed as a community to show great togetherness throughout. I am so proud of our pupils and staff for their resilience and flexibility, being able to adapt to the ever-changing demands of school life and not just surviving but thriving. What an amazing group of people to spend each day with – we are truly blessed!



SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

After one missed year due to COVID-19, we were delighted to welcome senior citizens from the community back for their annual King's School Christmas Party. Our Year 10s & Year 6s were complimented on their friendly, happy service as they helped our guests to their seats, served them refreshments and lunch, and chatted and engaged with each guest.

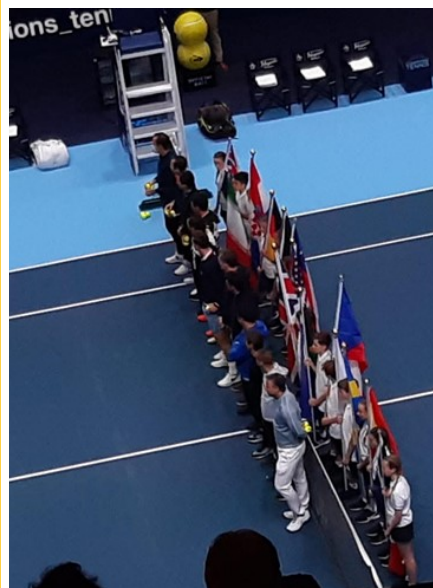
Here are just some of the thanks we have received:

"Thank you very much for the great time we had, and thanks for all the effort put in for our benefit." ❄️ "I am writing to express my personal thanks for inviting me to the Senior Citizens' Party. It was so encouraging to sit and relax with other folks and to be so lovingly served by the staff and students throughout the whole time. It really was such an expression of God's love shown to us. It was wonderful to experience the confidence and generosity shown through each student." ❄️ "As usual we had a most enjoyable time. Again, this year, we found the pupils so friendly and their kind attention to us was most noticeable." ❄️ "My parents had a wonderful time at the Christmas Party, it really lifted their spirits and has put them into the Christmassy mood. Your kindness and generosity are very much appreciated especially given the current Covid times we are all living through."

THURSDAY'S TERRIFIC TENNIS TRIP!

Year 10 and 11 had an amazing outing on Thursday 25th November - they got to experience champion's tennis at the Royal Albert Hall!

Our group of 15 students left at around 10:30am on the school bus, we were headed for Wembley where we would park, then walk up to the tube station to go to Kensington High Street. Once we got to Kensington High Street at around 11:15, we went to McDonalds for lunch. It was great, and everyone enjoyed their lunch. We then walked for about 20 minutes along Kensington High Street where we saw Royal Horses! We arrived at the grand, the great Royal Albert Hall at around 1:15!



The tennis was great, most of the people playing were of older age and they put on a show! Between the legs shots, behind the back shots, showboating, you name it - they did it. I almost forgot that this was champions tennis, as it was more like a skills showcase. Highly entertaining I must say. Britain's very own Greg Rusedski played a match against Mark Philippoussis of Australia. This was the best game of the day, the highlight of the outing for me. This match entailed all the showmanship and skill you could think of! A must watch.

After the final match, we departed the Royal Albert Hall and started our voyage back to King's. We got the same trains and tubes we took to get there, so our journey was straightforward and clear. Once we got back to Wembley (where our bus was parked) the students had a little race back to the bus as Mrs Norling announced that the last pupil to the bus would have to sit with her and Mrs Matthews in the front of the bus. Good cardio for the students! Our bus ride back was smooth, we thank God for that. We arrived back at King's bang on 6:45pm and left the school to go back to our warm homes. A good outing overall, fun for all, the Royal Albert Hall!

Reported by Ethan, Year 10



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**

CHRISTMAS IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have had a wonderful half-term in Primary with Christmas celebrations and Christmas art and craft.



NATIVITY: Foundation, Year 1 and 2 performed a wonderful celebration of Christ our Saviour's birth, with their nativity, 'The Sleepy Shepherd.' The children sang, acted and spoke beautifully. They entertained our whole school as well as senior citizens in our school community. Everyone enjoyed hearing beautiful singing by all the children as well as spectacular solo performances. There were even 3 Wise Men on camels riding through our school hall! We received wonderful comments about their nativity including how every word could be heard and how, despite being such young performers, they delivered a nativity to be very proud of.



PRIMARY DAY OF CHRISTMAS: Our celebrations continued with our Christmas art and craft day. The children enjoyed creating wonderful Christmas creations including Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus peg ornaments, tree decorations and Christmas keepsakes that we are sure will be treasured for years to come, calendars that will be

enjoyed throughout the year, cards that celebrate this wonderful time and many other fantastic artworks. It was lovely to see the children smiling and sharing this special time together.



PARTY TIME!: As a reward for all their hard work this year the children then had a celebration afternoon. Thank you for sending in such wonderful special, packed lunches, there were so many lovely treats! The children also enjoyed surprise Christmas crackers to add to the festivities. This was followed by fun and party games. Music and laughter could be heard in every classroom!



We feel truly blessed that we have been able to celebrate Jesus' birth safely together.

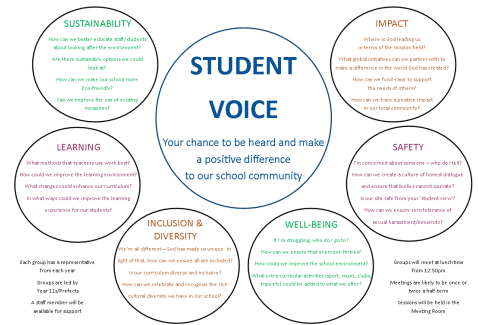


SPORTS FIXTURES

We have welcomed the return to the sporting arena this term after a sparse year in 2020/21 due to the COVID restrictions. Mrs Norling and Mr Jones have overseen many victories and good performances by our teams, ably assisted by Mrs Matthews on occasion too. Thank you to all who have made matches possible by driving minibuses, covering lessons or just generally helping out in some way. Well done to all who have played and been involved. We have clocked up some impressive wins in both football and netball across Primary & Secondary, with more planned for the new year, including some ISA competitions too. Much to look forward to!

STUDENT VOICE

We have recently launched a new initiative in the Secondary school to help our pupils have meaningful input into shaping our school in the future. 'Student Voice' sees pupils from all year groups representing their class at meetings that have a specific focus. It is all student-led, with pupils themselves deciding who represents them and Year 11s/Prefects taking a lead in the meetings. The six topics being addressed are Sustainability, Learning, Inclusion & Diversity, Well-being, Safety and Impact. We hope the outcome of the meetings will be to continue the development of our school in a positive way.



FIREWORKS EVENING

See how our resident keen photographer, Mr Skuce, has captured the beauty, colours and dynamism of the excellent fireworks display the PTC put on for our enjoyment. Many thanks to Mrs Edwards and the team for organising and running the event, and to the two intrepid "Mr Es" - Mr Edmonds and Mr Edwards - for the fantastic fireworks display. Despite some hic-ups in ordering tickets, the evening was most enjoyable with great Food, great Fellowship, great Fun and - you've got it - great Fireworks!

SECONDARY AWARDS EVENING

We were pleased to be able to go ahead with our annual Awards Evening in October, despite the challenges that COVID-19 brought earlier in the term. We were grateful to High Street Methodist Church for hosting us as we made a late change of venue to ensure a safer environment for all. It was a lovely evening as we welcomed back the class of 2021 and presented their hard-earned GCSE certificates. The ensemble and choir both performed as part of the evening. Winners of major individual awards included: Rod Cottrell award (cooking) – Megan Edwards, Kaye Bellman award (Art) & ISA Whitbread prize nomination – Cindy Dong, Michelle Hulford award (generosity of spirit) – Iyanu Olayimika, Dennett Shield (spiritual contribution) – William Lane, Principal's award – Henry Stoner-Redfern & Molly Winbow. Well done to everyone who got a certificate.

*Happy Christmas
from everyone at
The King's School*



TABLE TENNIS CHAMPS

Table Tennis continues to be a route to sporting success for The King's School. Back in October, our U16 and U11 teams competed in the District Champs (St Albans & Harpenden), going up against all the big state schools in the area. The U16 boys came out on top, winning 13 of their 16 games to top the table impressively ahead of some strong opposition, with Townsend and Sandringham running us close. The U16 girls also made it through to the next round as winners, with the same two schools pushing us all the way, but 9 wins out of 12 was enough for us to come out on top. That took our two senior teams through to the County finals, where they faced the best teams from across Hertfordshire on 29th November. The competition was held in the Sports Hall at Herts University in Hatfield and our pupils did us proud with some excellent performances, played in a good spirit. The boys came second in their group to reach the semi-finals yet again. Here they came up against a strong team from Watford Boys, with Nathan's excellent win against their number one our only return in a 2-6 defeat. We then lost to Richard Hale in the 3rd/4th play-off, who had the England no. 2 on their team! The girls team went one better in a very tight competition played as a round robin. With just two games separating the top 3 teams, we were unlucky to finish 3rd, but well done to the girls (pictured) who took home bronze medals for their efforts.



PRIMARY ART PROJECT

Primary children were blessed with a recent visit from parent and artist, Mrs Uzor. Mrs Uzor is an incredible artist who has a clear passion for portraits. This is shown by her famous portrait of Sarah Forbes Bonnetta, Queen Victoria's African Goddaughter who was sold into slavery aged 5, that is proudly displayed at Osborne House. Mrs Uzor has worked alongside English Heritage and other artists to display portraits of Black figures who had previously been overlooked. Mrs Uzor's



enthusiasm for art and her passion to share her expertise was clear when the Primary children were treated to an inspirational assembly by Mrs Uzor where the children got to see up close the amazing colours, fabrics and techniques used in Mrs Uzor's portraits. They were also amazed at the size of some of the

artworks. It was wonderful to see all the children engaged and realising that everyone can be an artist. Mrs Uzor then held

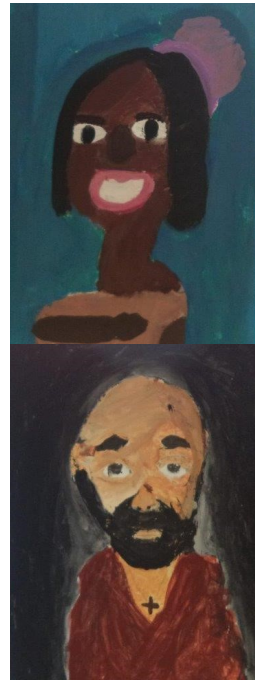


workshops where she supported, guided and clearly encouraged the

children to develop their portrait skills. The impact is clear to see in the wonderful portraits produced by the children from Foundation Class to Year 6, which were displayed for parents/carers to enjoy at our consultation evenings.

We are very grateful to Mrs Uzor for generously giving up her time to inspire future artists within our school. We are very proud of how all the

Primary children were so engaged, motivated and keen to create. They should all feel very proud of their achievements. We are also very grateful to all those who donated fabric and money towards the cost of the canvas boards. We hope parents and pupils will treasure the work produced.



KS2 GO CLIMBING!

The 30th of November KS2 climb trip was amazing! First, we got a safety briefing, then we were taught how to clip in. After that we got ready to climb, putting on our harnesses. We enjoyed it tremendously!

Some walls were hard but everyone could climb one, and the helpers helped unclip you if you were stuck.

Even Mrs Norling and Mrs Adams had a go, and they got to the top of a lot of walls.

Almost everyone had a go on the tall drop slide which was one of the challenges which most of us found fun! Lots of people had second turns. It was so amazing, one of the other challenges was the *Staircase to Heaven* which was like a tall staircase that you had to climb up, then you had to jump or slide off to the ground.

At the end we went back to school in time for lunch!

Reported by Eliya, Year 5



GCSE RESULTS OF 2021

Well done to our class of 2021 for their hard work and for their teachers who supported them in navigating a challenging couple of years.

Here are some key headlines from the results : –

- 52% of entries passed at Grade 7 or above
- Able pupils stretched to achieve top grades
- 18% grade 9 – one pupil achieving all grade 9s!
- 100% pass rate in English, 95% in Maths
- 85% of grades achieve a good pass (5) or better
- Outstanding value-added of +1.29 per grade
- 73% of CAT predictions exceeded
- 52% exceeded by two or more grades
- Consistent progress across KS3 to build foundation



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH

It stopped raining, the sun came out, the BBQ sizzled and we were finally able to enjoy the PTC's Back-to-School Bash. Not in September as planned, but in October! After such a long time of uncertainty and doubt, it was wonderful to relax, eat, chat, watch the children having fun, and learn strange and unusual facts about certain members of staff! Thank you to Mrs Edwards and the PTC Team for persevering against the odds of COVID to ensure we were able to get together and celebrate the new school year.



CAROL SERVICE

We were blessed to be hosted by High Street Methodist Church, Harpenden, for our Secondary Carol Service on the evening of Monday 13th December. Pupils had prepared items in their music lessons and also took us through the Christmas story in eight readings from God's word. The choir (pictured) performed Silent Night and a staff choir was formed especially for the occasion to sing Sussex Carol. Congregational carols were led by inspiring organ playing by one of our Primary school parents, Malcolm Bush. This year we did not have the usual refreshments of warmed spiced apple juice and mince pies due to the national rise in COVID-19 cases, but that did not diminish the joy of celebrating the birth of our Saviour and worshipping Him together. Thank you to all involved for a very special evening.



FUNDRAISING

This term we have collected food for the local foodbank at Harvest time, sold lots of poppy-related items prior to Remembrance Day, raised money on 'Jeans for Genes' day and had a collection for Salvation Army with a Christmas mufti-day. The PTC have also helped us raise funds for the school through refreshment sales at the BBQ in October and then the Firework display. This all comes on the back of a great fund-raising effort last summer, when we were able to send a payment of £850 to support the work of Love Russia, reaching the homeless and needy on the other side of Europe, along with the same amount raised to support school projects. Thank you to all involved in making these things happen and for you, the school community, in embracing each event and giving generously.

Message of thanks to the school from Love Russia:

"Thank you on behalf of every child or young person helped by your generosity. We could not do this work without the kindness and compassion of people like you. Your donation amount: £850.00

Thank you!

The Love Russia Team."



LOVE RUSSIA
Restoring Broken Lives

KEY DATES - 1st HALF OF SPRING TERM

Wed	05-Jan	First day of the Spring term
Mon	10-Jan	Year 7 Parent/Teacher consultations
Wed	12-Jan	ISA U13 Table Tennis at King's
Thurs	13-Jan	ISA Primary Table Tennis at King's
Tues	18-Jan	ISA U16 Table Tennis at King's
Thurs	20-Jan	PTC meeting
Mon	24-Jan	Year 11 Parent/Teacher consultations
Tues	25-Jan	ISA Nat Football Tournament (Nottingham)
Fri	28-Jan	ISA Nat Table-Tennis Champs (Nottingham)
Wed	02-Feb	Prim & Sec staff mtgs + devotions
Tues	08-Feb	Prim & Sec Concert (instrumental)
Tues	08-Feb	Year 10 Parent/Teacher consultations
Thurs	10-Feb	Life Skills Day (Secondary pupils)
Mon	14-Feb	Start of the half-term break

