

THE KING'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER!



Issue No.21 - December 2022



HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS We always say that every term is a 'crazy term' with regard to how busy school life gets—this term truly has been! Starting with the 40th Anniversary Celebrations and ending in a beautiful, yet freezing cold, scene of snow & ice, we have enjoyed some amazing times together and also persevered through several challenges. Read on to find out a bit more about what we've been up to. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone: staff, pupils & parents, for being the fantastic group that you are. What a privilege to be part of a school that belongs to Jesus the King.

COUNTY CHAMPIONS TWICE!

For many years we have competed in the school games Table Tennis competition, a team event for 4 players. It has 6 rounds, ending at National level. We often win the Level 2 district event but have only once won the County final (Level 3), which was 10 years ago! This year we not only won it again, but had two teams finish top of the Hertfordshire schools! Read more on page 4. Well done to the U11 girls (below) & U11 boys (right)!



AWARDS & GOODBYE

The Primary Awards afternoon at the end of last year was a joyous occasion of celebrating the achievements, behaviour and attitudes of our Primary students. It was also a sad day for us to be saying goodbye to Mrs Jaci Swain who had served as Head of Primary for 10 Years. The pupils created this beautiful quilt as a thank you.



SCHOOL SIGN

A road surface school sign has finally been painted on Ambrose Lane. We are still working at getting more traffic calming measures to help with safety coming in and going out of the school premises.



HISTORY WORKSHOPS

In November, we welcomed The Drama Hut to our school to lead our Key Stage 1 and 2 Children in a day of History Workshops. Our Year 1 and 2 children learned about the life of Mary Seacole, an often overlooked but very significant figure who persevered to pursue her dream of nursing. Our Year 3 and 4 children learned about the Vikings and other early UK settlers (page 8). Our Year 5 and 6 classes took part in a workshop based around life during World War 2. We spanned a vast amount of history in just one day but the children were so engaged and so active that they took in a huge amount of information. We have some excellent performers in our midst and our leader from the Drama Hut was seriously impressed with the quality of what our children were able to produce throughout the day.



FIREWORKS EVENING

Remember, remember the 5th of November? Well we do! On Saturday 5th November 2022 we, once again, put on the most spectacular fireworks display for our school community. We gathered together for jacket potatoes before the main event. It was lovely to see so many of our school families spending time chatting with each other over food. We extend our thanks to Mrs Edwards and the members of the PTC who worked tirelessly all day to ensure we had plenty to eat! Then it was outside for the main event. The display opened to 'Eye of the Tiger' which was Number 1 in the charts when our school was opened 40 years ago this year. Our fabulous fifteen-minute display finished with 'Celebration' which has been a theme for our school this year. Huge thanks go to our resident pyrotechnicians, Mr Edwards and Mr Edmonds.

SPIRE HOSPITAL CAROL SINGING

In early December, a group of singers from Years 5 and 6 were invited to visit Spire Hospital, Harpenden, to sing some Christmas carols for the staff and patients there. We took 14 girls who sang beautifully and brought great blessing to those who heard. As part of our visit, we were also able to meet some Therapy Ponies who were at the hospital that day. As a 'thank you' to our girls, the Director of the hospital laid on a little Christmas party for the children and they each enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate, and were given gifts of chocolate and stationery. The girls were outstanding; both in their singing and in their demeanour around the hospital - greeting patients politely and wishing all a very happy Christmas. Well done girls!



YEAR 11 CAREERS EVENING

This year's Year 11 Careers Evening was well attended by students and parents; the evening presents the range of ongoing opportunities for those students leaving us at the end of this academic year. Qualification frameworks and pathways are covered, as are other relevant areas such as revision schedules and tips, employer expectations and personal statements. Just as we hope our students will stand out with their academic achievements, equally we seek to encourage them to stand out as potential college and employment candidates. We hope that our support will enable each and every learner to finish strongly!



SECONDARY SCHOOL AWARDS EVENING

On Thursday 13th October we celebrated the efforts and achievements of our pupils at our annual Secondary Awards evening. The instrument ensemble began our time together, with the choir also performing later on. In between awards were presented across all year groups for various categories that celebrate the wonderful character and attitude that our pupils show, as well as their academic progress and attainment. GCSE certificates were presented to the Leavers 2022, who did amazingly well as a cohort. Some the headlines from their results were:

- 66% of entries Grade 7 or above – our best ever!
- 21% grade 9 and a further 25% grade 8 = 46%
(the old A*!)
- 100% of pupils achieve 5+ passes, incl English & Maths
- 95% of grades achieved a good pass (grade 5) or better
- Outstanding value-added of +1.67 per grade
- 79% of CAT predictions exceeded
59% exceeded by two or more grades

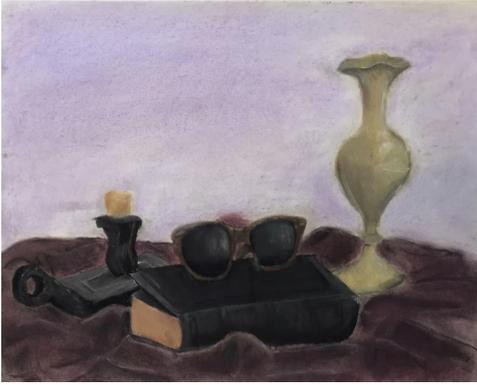
At the end of the evening we presented our three main awards, which this year went to: Alice (Michelle Hulford Award, for Generosity of Spirit), Nicholas (Dennett Shield, for Spiritual Contribution), Ife (Principal's Award).



KING'S ART:

ISA Art Exhibition

We recently took some of The King's School artwork to the ISA Art Exhibition and Regional Competition. The students whose work represented the school were Lucy, Abby and Karen. Lucy's cottages, painted on a tile, went on to the national competition and were placed second in the KS4 3D art. Well done Lucy!



POTTERY AT THE OVAL

The GCSE Year 10 Art Students have been going to The Pottery at The Oval during some of their Art lessons which they have been enjoying very much. After watching a demonstration on one of the visits, they got to go on the pottery wheel themselves to create pots. It is a wonderful opportunity for them to play with mixed media, learn new skills and find out more about God The Creator. "And yet oh Lord you are Our Father, we are the clay and you are the potter." Isaiah 64:8



KING'S ART - continued:

SKETCHING THE CHAPEL AT THE OVAL

This term Year 6 have been studying the work of John Piper, who was both an official WW2 artist and a prominent Post-war artist. He's probably most famous for his WW2 painting of the ruins of Coventry Cathedral, based on his sketches from his visit the morning after the bombing. He painted architecture for much of his career and was especially interested in churches and chapels. For this reason, we went to visit our local chapel at The Oval and experimented sketching in his bold and colourful style. We tried out the technique of wax-resist, where our oil pastel drawings resisted the water-colour washes we painted on top. We were pleased with our results!

John Piper's artwork...

The King's School artwork...



*
*
*
*
*
*

The King's School artists at work...



DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Autumn term is always a busy one for Table Tennis. It began on 5th October, when Mrs Norling took the U16 teams to Marlborough School for the team champs. The U16 boys romped to victory, unbeaten all afternoon, with the girls coming home runners up and also qualifying for the County finals. The following week Mr Reeves took the U13 teams to Verulum School. This time the girls were victorious (*pictured right*) with the boys playing well but losing to some tough opposition. Mr Jones then accompanied our Primary teams to their district event, with both teams coming out on top, meaning we had 5 teams through!



COUNTY TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

As mentioned on the front page, we had two County Champion teams this year! In addition, our U13 girls and our U16 boys (*pictured left*) both won silver medals for finishing runners-up, so we had four finalists across the 6 competitions, an amazing achievement for such a small school. Thank you to Mr Jones for his coaching and input to the teams. Three of the teams now go on to the Level 4 zone finals in January, at Morpeth School in London, and we wish them every success!

EXCHANGES ARE BACK AGAIN!

In September the Year 11 French group were hosted by their partners' families in the beautiful Swiss countryside near Lausanne, with trips to a lakeside château and a chocolaterie (délicieux!) We also joined our link school at a chalet in the Jura mountains to prepare for a theatre production based on Max Lucado's powerful 'You are special', with our pupils helping backstage and everyone singing in French in the finale! We were delighted to host our Swiss guests here in October, and they appreciated London, St Albans, Brighton, quizzes and making scones for a traditional cream tea! Huge thanks to everyone who hosted – our partners were so grateful. Preparations are now also underway for German GCSE pupils to visit our link school near Konstanz in January – another great opportunity to practise language skills and experience a different culture!



WE'RE 40! THE KING'S SCHOOL 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The school started in Hemel Hempstead in September 1982. We lost our original site in Bourne Valley and moved in to our current home on the beautiful Elmfield site in 1987. The building was originally built in 1910 as a Sanitorium for National Children's Homes. Four decades on from the start of the school, pupils, parents and staff –

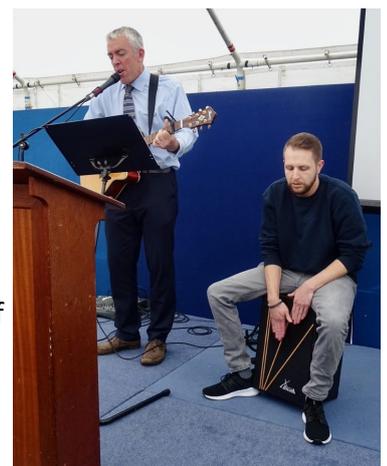


past & present – gathered to celebrate the 40th Anniversary and to thank God for His faithfulness. There were pupils from the original Year 7 class back in 1982, including Ms Townsend, our new Deputy Head! Ms Townsend helped to organise the successful event and designed the shield on the anniversary mug (pictured). There were whole school pictures on display from years gone by, that many past students & staff studied to try to find themselves when they looked much younger! A slide show ran throughout the afternoon,

showcasing many of the musical theatre shows the school has performed, along with pics from mission trips to all corners of Europe, including Latvia and Moldova! More recent alumni shared in the cream teas and conversations too, a final social gathering for some before heading back to university. The most recent Leavers from 2022 were also well represented, celebrating their amazing GCSE results. Well done to them all and a big thank you to anyone who has supported The King's School on our journey thus far.



On Wednesday 21st September we celebrated our school's 40th Anniversary with our current pupils. They split into 12 groups of mixed ages and did a carousel of three activities. The first was a treasure hunt around our beautiful site, helping them learn more about it's 100+ years of history. The second was a presentation of photo and video about the first 40 years of the school, followed by a quiz about what they had watched. The final activity was a group challenge to write a school prayer. The excellent compositions are still being amalgamated to form a final version.



CHRISTMAS AT THE KING'S SCHOOL

KEY STAGE 1 NATIVITY PLAY

Parents and pupils battled the snow and ice to make it to our Primary nativity celebration on Tuesday 13th December. Our Years 0-2 classes had worked so hard learning lines and looked amazing in their costumes, it would have been such a shame if it had been snowed-off! When it came to the performance, they did brilliantly, with loud voices, beautiful singing and the usual comedy moments and cute facial



expressions! Thank you to everyone who took part and to the staff who helped them prepare. Our KS2 classes preceded the nativity with their own Christmas items, including a play written by a pupil in Year 5, 'Nutcracker Cups' by Year 6 and some great recitation from Year 3 & 4 all about sheep! Well done everyone.

We then welcomed some senior citizen's from our local community, along with some retired staff members, to enjoy our annual Christmas party (pictured above) the following day. The nativity was performed again, which was greatly enjoyed by all, as was the feast that followed, including Mrs Farahat's famous sausage swirls and cakes baked by the Y10 pupils.



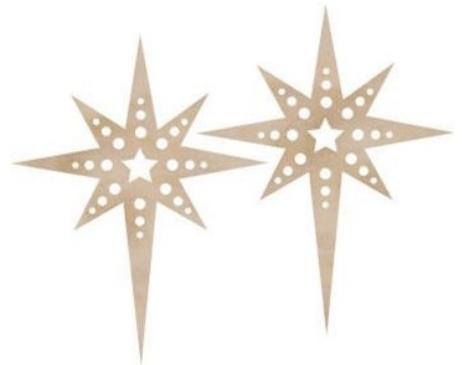
FUNDRAISING FOR NOAH!

Our Year 11s have a heart to help the homeless and have been raising money at the end of term to support the charity 'NOAH', who work with those living on the streets in Luton, something especially challenging in these freezing temperatures. Lisa & Tope organised selling 'chris-o-grams' to pupils, which involve a Christmas card with a message and a gingerbread man to give as a gift. Year 10 pupils also sold cakes that they had baked for the senior citizen's party, but which were leftover. The Secondary pupils certainly enjoyed that lunchtime feast! As we go to press, over £100 has been raised, which will be matched by the school, with more to count from the carol service and last day of term.

SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE

The King's School community regularly praise and worship our Lord together – in school assemblies, staff devotions, prayer meetings, etc, as well as the annual Carol Service. This is always a lovely occasion for pupils, parents, staff

and past pupils to celebrate together the birth of our Lord Jesus with favourite carols, songs and readings. The creativity of our children comes to the fore as they often prepare items themselves. We appreciate the use of High Street Methodist Church, Harpenden, where we have plenty of room for the various groups to participate in the service, as well as space to enjoy refreshments together afterwards. Thank you to the music department for their organisation of the service and to the PTC for the refreshments. How lovely it was this year to finish our Christmas events on Thursday evening, worshipping together the One who has made it possible for our celebrations in the first place.



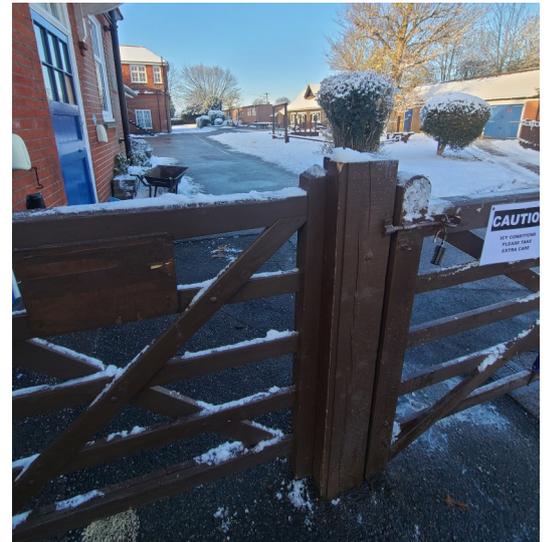
NIKOLAUS VISITS THE SCHOOL!

Year 7 pupils were in for a big surprise last Wednesday, when suddenly *Nikolaus* made an appearance 'in the flesh' in the middle of their German lesson. To commemorate St. Nicolas Day on the 6th of December (a special day for families in some parts of Germany), we had been practicing a traditional German 'Nikolaus' song when we heard a distinct knock on the door. The whole class was very surprised indeed when the door opened, and 'Nikolaus' came walking in in his red robe, his mitre and staff! As a gift, he had brought some tangerines which pupils were then allowed to eat in the lesson. What a perfect segway into learning the German words for fruit and how to say 'I am eating'! A big thank you to *Nikolaus*. Please do come again next year!



SNOW JOKE!

While all were away, Ms Townsend was at play!! The residents who live on the school site were able to enjoy the beauty of Elmfield under a thick blanket of snow - and of course make good use of the space to build the goalkeeper snowman!



The Christmas celebrations at The King's School should have kicked off with the Primary Nativity at the whole school assembly on Monday 12th December telling of the birth of our Lord Jesus. But the snow came! Due to hazardous travel conditions, we all stayed at home. That is except for our wonderful Site Manager who cleared the drive, car park and paths around the site ready for school to resume the following day. Thank you Mr Chandler.



ASTRID THE BEAUTIFUL COMES TO VISIT

On Tuesday 15th November, Years 3 & 4 had a visit from Astrid the Beautiful. She was a Viking from Denmark and the year was 793 AD. She was a fierce and beautiful Viking, she had a cousin, he had a very long chin, and his name was Arthur Long-chin. We had to be in groups of three, I was with Marie and Olivia. She gave us Viking pictures and in our group we had to make a longboat, shield, helmet and longhouse. We also had to act out a farm scene. Lots of the groups of three did a moving scene. We went on a boat and learnt a Viking song, we rowed and rowed so the boat moved. Then she started reading us some riddles. She was really kind and funny, I loved it!

Written by Phebe and Isaac



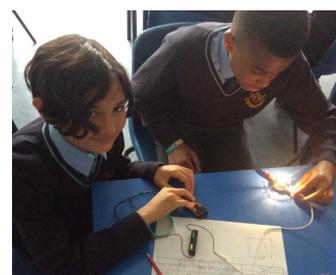
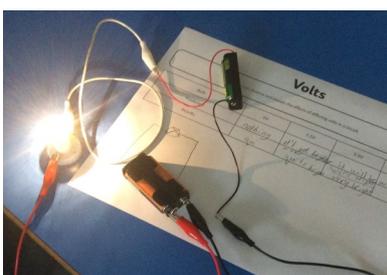
TOYS!

Year 1 have been learning about Toys in the Past. Mrs Ottaway, one of our Trustees, came to show the Year 1 children some very old toys that had clearly seen a lot of love and a lot of play! The children really enjoyed seeing the toys and were even able to play (gently!) with some of them.



BUDDING ELECTRICIANS

Year 6 have been learning about electrical circuits. They experimented to find out how to light 2 bulbs with equal brightness (series and parallel circuits).



MORE VISITORS TO THE KING'S SCHOOL

The King's School is different to most schools that I'm aware of, especially in Secondary, in that it is easy for parents to share something of their own life experience and testimony. This term we have had several visitors to help with our PSHE delivery; parents, staff and friends have shared on a wide range of topics and how their Christian faith motivates, helps, and supports them. In October, Y9 had people from Keech Hospice to share the valuable work of the hospice; Y8 heard a talk about neurodiversity; Y10 had visitors from GKN Aerospace; whilst Y7 and Y11 had parents talk to them about their careers as an Educational Psychologist, in software testing and in the food industry. In November, Y7 learnt more about keeping safe online; Y8 heard from a local businessman and entrepreneur; Y10 had our Chair of Trustees talk to them about his life journey; Y9 had a couple from Step/YWAM walk them through an exciting Fairtrade 'game' which was full of drama and angst as the rich countries got richer and the poor countries were cheated on and yes, you've guessed it, got poorer; and Y11 had a helpful talk and discussion about dealing with stress and anxiety – key at this time in their lives with exam pressures rising. PSHE is all about giving our pupils skills and wisdom that prepares them for life. If you think you have something to share that would benefit our pupils, do get in touch.

Mrs Natalie Edwards, PSHE Coordinator natalie.edwards@thekingsschool.com

KEY DATES - 1st HALF OF SPRING TERM

Thurs	05-Jan	First day of the Spring term
Mon	9-Jan	Year 7 Parent/Teacher consultations
Wed	11-Jan	ISA U13 Table Tennis at King's
Tues	17-Jan	ISA U16 Table Tennis at King's
Thurs	19-Jan	ISA U11 Table Tennis at King's
Tues	24-Jan	Year 11 Parent/Teacher consultations
Weds	25-Jan	Woodrow meeting after school (Y5/6)
Thurs	26-Jan	ISA Nat Football Tournament (Nottingham)
Fri	27-Jan	ISA Nat Table-Tennis Champs (Nottingham)
Tues	31-Jan	Prim & Sec Concert (instrumental)
Thurs	02-Feb	PTC Meeting
Mon	06-Feb	Year 10 Parent/Teacher consultations
Thurs	09-Feb	Life Skills Day (Secondary pupils)
Mon	13-Feb	Start of the half-term break

FOUNDATION CLASS AUTUMN WALK

In early November, our Foundation Class put on their wellies & went for an Autumn walk through the Oval Woods. They looked for signs of Autumn & looked at the changing leaves. Who knew that leaves could be so many different colours? What a wonderful world we live in! They then visited Highfield Preschool (where many of them had been previously) for a warm up & a lovely hot chocolate! Thank you, Mrs Case! They had a lovely time & were able to see lots of exciting signs of Autumn.

Happy Christmas
from everyone at The King's School

