



Dear All,

It's been an exciting and productive term. Our Year 7 students have truly settled in now and have enjoyed the many extra curricular opportunities we have at The King's school. The rest of the school are also focused and studying hard. I have been very impressed with the overall attitude of the Year 11 through their recent Trial examinations. Results will be shared with you on 16<sup>th</sup> January at the Year 11 parents' evening.

It was wonderful to see so many parents/carers at Progress Review Day, attendance was the best it has ever been with over 91% of our families engaging in the process. We appreciate that time is very precious and thank you for your support.

Staff and students continue to whole-heartedly support various charities and vulnerable people in society through fundraising events and I am so proud that this continues to grow and is a true strength of the ethos of our school. The proceeds of the non-uniform day 15<sup>th</sup> December go towards Pontefract Food Bank and Text Santa.

As you are aware the better a child's attendance the greater their attainment and I am pleased that attendance has again increased this term. I am looking forward to presenting certificates and awards for attendance in the Celebration Assemblies on the last day of this term as well as singing some festive songs.

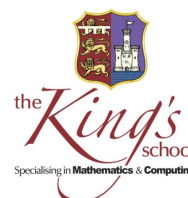
This week there has been over two hundred students participating in the Christmas Concert, the Carol concert at St Giles and the Year 7-9 disco! This is due to the support, hard work and commitment of our parents, carers, community as well as students and staff. We hope you enjoy reading about the other events, which have occurred this half term in this newsletter.

The back page of the newsletter contains gentle reminders regarding important dates and events as well as student expectations.

Finally, I wish you all a joyful and festive time and look forward to working with you in 2018.

Best Wishes,  
Elaine Briggs  
Head of School

Pontefract  
Academies Trust



# What's been happening in School?



## Oliver Rehearsals

The Creative Arts Department and students continue to work hard with *more* rehearsals, in preparation for the 2018 whole school musical, Oliver. Preparations for the dance numbers are well under way and the show is really starting to take shape. *More? You want more?* Well, it doesn't get much more exciting than the students being given the opportunity to take part in workshops at Disneyland Paris, as well as performing on stage in the Disney Park itself! We have recently auditioned for this exciting opportunity, and wait anxiously to hear the decision. *So long, farewell, pip pip, cheerio, be back soon.*



## Operation Fund Raise!

Years 10 and 11 Citizenship students have been busy again raising money for different charities. Firstly, the Year 10 class led a successful campaign by raising awareness through assemblies to Year 7, 8 and 9 students about the Samaritan's Shoebox Appeal. The shoe boxes that have been brought in, contain Christmas presents which are going to orphans from Liberia who have been affected by the Ebola crisis. Congratulations to the King's students who brought in over 75 shoe boxes. They have been shipped out immediately and will arrive in time for Christmas



Day for the children. In addition, we looked closer to home and the Year 11 Citizenship classes raised money for the Trussel Trust Pontefract Food Bank.

Students were asked to pay £1 for non-uniform day on Friday 17 November and a grand total of £840.67 was raised; well done to all the students that took part and helped to raise this amount.

The funds raised will be split equally between Children In Need, Samaritan's Shoe Box Appeal and the Pontefract Food Bank (Trussel Trust).

Prize for the best outfit goes to Codie Belford in Year 10 pictured above.

## Craft Fair Success

The Craft Fair that was held at The King's School in November was a great success with £1235.95 being raised. The money will be put towards the Prom for the 2018 leavers. Thank you to Mrs Gascoigne and Mrs Chamberlain for all their efforts to make the day the success that it was.

## GCSE 2017 Presentation Evening

On Thursday 16th November, 2017 leavers were invited back to school to celebrate their achievements. It was great to see record numbers attend and the evening was spent recognising achievement and success by all.

Attendees received their GCSE certificates which they worked extremely hard for throughout their time at The King's School. Almost 50% of the year group achieved the top grade in at least one subject and the number achieving 10 or more A-A\* (or equivalent) more than doubled.

Joining us on the night was past student and current radio presenter, Daniel Mylonas. Daniel provided us with a humorous speech and helped present certificates and prizes. A good night was had by all and it was great to see the students again; they all looked so different even in a few months. We are looking forward to celebrating the success of next year already.

## The King's School Catering Service

### SNAG Group

The first meeting of the School Nutritional Action Group (SNAG) was held on 6th November and was attended by 20 students representing all year groups. Students were recruited to help shape the way we deliver our catering service and influence what happens in the future. They shared their thoughts and were invited to have a free meal if they'd come back and tell us what they thought about it. Our students had plenty to talk about when we met on 4th December and we are busy thinking about their suggestions and how we could implement changes. The next meeting is in the diary for 15th January so watch this space...

### Take Up of Meals

Following the appointment of Chartwells as our catering provider, the number of students accessing their Free School Meal entitlement has increased. Want to know if your child is entitled to a Free School Meal? Please contact Mrs Markey on telephone number 01977 601736 or email address – [Smarkey@kings.patrust.org.uk](mailto:Smarkey@kings.patrust.org.uk)

### Themed Menus

Following on from the success of the Bonfire Menu served on 7th November, the latest special event was The King's School Christmas lunch on 6th December. Roast turkey with veg, potatoes, stuffing, Yorkshire pudding and gravy or potato, cheese and onion filo puffs for vegetarians and a further option of sweet potato & chickpea roast for vegans was served. This was followed by a dessert of chocolate mousse, chocolate ice cream tree or Christmas sponge pudding all for just £2.00.



# What's been happening in School?



## Santander October 2017

Eleven students enjoyed five days in Santander, Spain during October half term. They completed a Spanish immersion course during their visit, while taking part in day trips in the local area. The students visited the beautiful towns of Puente Viesgo, Santillana del Mar, the city of Santander and the nearby caves of Altamira, which were home to cave paintings dating from prehistoric times. They also took part in a talk from local historian, José, who showed them some weapons used by cave men to hunt for food. The students then tried the spears out for themselves, aiming of course at a cardboard cut-out of a Bison! Some were more successful than others!



All students were encouraged to use as much Spanish as possible when out and about; they didn't disappoint! Many were very proud of their abilities to order food and drink in cafes, and they were equally successful in the shops they visited.

The weather was glorious for the time of year and although everyone had gone with their suitcases bulging with thermals and scarves, they found themselves in shorts and t-shirts.

Mrs Curran, who organised the trip, said 'The students were a pleasure to be around; Miss Young and myself were proud to be their teachers. Our hosts, Fernando and Merche, were also complimentary about the conduct of our students and really enjoyed their company too. Santander 2017... you were great!!! Here's to Santander 2018!'

## All Things Musical

It has been a busy time in the Music Department this November, with our Year 11 BTEC Music students completing their Unit 2 assessments. As part of this, each group was tasked with managing a concert in school.

Both groups did well, with one group producing a concert for Year 7 students and another presenting an evening concert called 'Winter Warmer'. The concerts were a great success, with students organising auditions and deciding on the acts that would be performing. All students that performed were excellent and a real credit to the school and Music Department.

We hope you enjoyed the Christmas Concert on Monday 11th December, which featured performances from the school music groups and Drama Department. There was also a sneak preview of two numbers from our up coming production of Oliver.

## Do you have a passion for Minecraft?

**Come and join us!**



## Progress Review Day

On 23rd November, The King's School opened its doors to the parents and carers of the students, so they could speak with staff about the progress their child is making. Overall, 91% of families engaged in the day and we are overwhelmed with the positive responses we received on the feedback forms.

A good informative meeting, got some good helpful advice

Very informative and invaluable. Oliver is loving King's so far and this is reflected in his attitude.

A very good day. A lot of positive feedback and great to see a lot of friendly people and staff.

Thank you for the time and effort spent preparing for the evening/day.

Happy with the review. Clear and explained well. Thank you.

We are pleased to hear so many positive comments about Progress Review Day and we are glad you found it as useful as we did. Over 99% of parents and carers reported finding the conversations useful and were satisfied with the information provided; we thank you for taking time out of your day and coming to see us.

We are looking forward to working positively with you over the next few years to support your child's development.





## Strong Start for Year 8 Basketballers

The boys Year 8 basketball team started their season on 9th November with a home match against Castleford Academy. It was an extremely close game throughout, and both teams rotated the bench to ensure everyone got involved in the action. Castleford took the lead early on, but the boys showed determination and drew level with them in the 4th quarter with great work from Joe Nellist, Sean Woodman and Joe Vickers. The boys pressed forward and put themselves in a winning position, with a basket from Woodman making the score 20-18 to King's. With one minute on the clock, Castleford Academy landed a 3 to take the lead 20-21. The boys stayed calm, as they inbounded the ball to Byles who raced up the court beating 2 men to pull up and sink a 3 pointer and win the match!

### Most Valued Players

3rd - Kaspars (Great rebounding)

2nd - Joe Nellist (Top points scorer)

1st - Josh Byles (Playing with passion until the end)



## Too Close to Call for The King's Year 10 Netballers

Years 9 and 10 Netball teams both played Freeston Academy in Netball League matches this term. Year 10 were faced with the team that defeated them in the Pontefract and Castleford tournament, but went out looking to win. The girls managed to improve on their defeat to Freeston Academy to draw 12-12. Well done to Masie Heptinstall who was awarded Player of the Match, for her excellent interceptions.

Year 9 also had a close fought game with only one or two points ever being between the score. The King's girls played with passion and determination, but in the end, Freeston Academy stole the win by one goal. For her speed up and down the court, player of the match was awarded to Hannah Jennings.

## Year 7 Girls Football Champions

The King's School girls played away at De Lacy Academy in four ten-minute matches. Playing with one less player in every game, the girls still managed to come away victorious.

Each player was absolutely fantastic and did their job brilliantly. Lily Thompson, Abbie Gelder and Evie Cook put in strong defensive performances in every game played. Ruby Parker and Ellie McKnight did some brilliant link up play in midfield, with Jessica Fulcher being the ultimate goal scoring machine at the top.



## Hackney Racks Up the Points!

The Year 9 basketball team faced a tough challenge in their first National School Cup game against one of Yorkshire's top teams, Queen Ethelbergas. The lead changed hands throughout the game with both sides fighting to claim victory. In the final thirty seconds, Queen Ethelbergas lead by

two points, but Sam Limb finished through contact to earn one free throw. Limb held his nerve to sink the shot and was further backed up by his team mates in defence as Noah Marsh, Ryan Barlow and Max Copley shut down the last 8 seconds for a dramatic win. This sends the boys to the top of the English School's Cup league.

### Men of the Match:

Joe Hackney (1st)

James Goodall (2nd)

Sam Limb (3rd)



## Hogfest- Gymnastics Festival, Hemsworth

A team of nineteen gymnasts took part in Hogfest this year. We performed a choreographed group routine to music and we won the 'Best School' trophy. Beth Jones also entered the forward roll competition. How quickly could she move down the tumble track, rolling non-stop? Four seconds was all it took for her to win gold! Well done everyone.

## Year 11 Battle on Despite Injury

The Year 11 girls took part in a tournament at Wakefield Girls High in November. With only six players after an injury, the girls managed to win two out of five games against Ossett and Kettlethorpe. There was some amazing defending from Sharen Kaur and Rosie Raybould, alongside some excellent centre court play by Poppy Cooke and Lana Burke, which helped to create opportunities for Tegan Mansell and Molly Ristevska in the attacking circle.





## Year 7 Battle to the End in Football Tournament

Year 7 entered two teams into the annual Wakefield 5 a-side football tournament this half term. Unfortunately, the B team had a really tough category and didn't make it out of the group stages. The A team progressed out of the group stages and went on to beat Castleford Academy 2-0 in the quarter finals. They then faced Airedale Academy in the semi-finals and won 2-1 which saw them through to the finals against Castleford Academy. The King's School took a 2-0 lead, but couldn't hold on to it for the full game, allowing Castleford Academy to score two goals. The game went to 'sudden death' penalties, but despite a great effort and team spirit, the boys lost out on the win. We are super proud of all the lads and a number of scouts and district coaches were all very interested in a number of the players.

## U14 Girls Basketballers Handle the Pressure

The King's School girls had a tough game against Queen Ethelburgas in the English School's League. The game required the girls to work hard and the opposition applied full court pressure throughout. In the final quarter, The King's School took the lead and won by three points.



## The King's School Host Table Tennis Matches

The King's School hosted Outwood Academy in a Table Tennis Match this term. The teams consisted of twelve boys who each played two singles and one doubles match in a Davis Cup style format. The King's boys were awesome throughout, only losing five matches out of thirty. The Final score was 25-5 to The King's School. Special mention to Logan Starks, Nathan Drake and Joe Hackney for their stand out performances.



## High Scoring First Game for Year 10 Basketballers

In their first game of the season, the Year 10 boys were victorious beating Ackworth School 63-45. Both teams played to a high standard, but King's had the edge to take the win. Top effort, boys.



## U16 Girls Basketballers Start Their Season

The U16 girls started their English School's campaign with a close fought game against Queen Ethelburgas. Queen Ethelburgas established a good lead early on, but King's worked hard to pull back the score. With the pressure from King's felt throughout the court, King's were able to score a couple of baskets to take them into the lead by one point. At the start of the fourth quarter, King's lead by one point, but Queen Ethelburgas rebounded well and managed to regain the lead, closing the game 19-22.

## Tournament win for Girls Football

Years 9 and 10 girls footballers travelled to Castleford Academy in November to play in a mini tournament. Despite the cold weather, the girls were brilliant and didn't concede one goal. The King's girls played three ten minute games- winning two and drawing one which made them worthy winners of the tournament.

Players of the Match:

Caitlin Devins (1st),

Hannah Jennings (2nd)

Sophie Fairhurst (3rd).





## Year 7 Win 5 a-side Tournament

Beating Crofton Academy 4-1 and Saint Wilfred's High School 4-2, The King's School stormed to the finals with one group game left to play against Kettlethorpe High



School. In the final group game, King's took their foot off the gas and lost 3-0, setting up King's and Kettlethorpe in the finals. Turning up the intensity, The King's School comfortably won, 8-0. Well done to Harry Charlotte, Toby Copley, Riley Bennett and Alfie Charlotte.

## U16 Girls Basketball Win

Playing away at Allerton High School, the U16 girls worked well as a team to secure a win. The King's School had a lot of chances throughout the game, but struggled to put the ball in the basket. A great defensive effort enabled The King's School to reduce Allerton's chances and we finally started to score. The final score was 14-3 to the King's School. Well done to Lana Burke, Caitlin Devins, Sharen Kaur, Caitlin Cross and Rebecca Prior for scoring some great baskets!



*Special mention to Lana, Roanna and Sharen, as this will be their last game for The King's School.*

## King's Defeat Castleford in Close Contest

The Year 9 football team beat Castleford High School in a tight game under flood lights. King's took the lead through Oli Sheard who finished from a corner, with a second from Louis Couzens finishing from inside the box. Castleford managed to pull one back to make it 2-1 at half time. Pressure was added by the King's boys with Will Shaw making it 3-1. King's then took their foot off the gas, allowing Castleford to creep back in and make it 3-2. Wave after wave, Castleford attack almost levelled the contest. They hit the woodwork four times before a King's counter attack, with Tom Hunter finishing with the last kick of the game. Special mention to Daniel Heys who had a great game as keeper, keeping King's in the game at times.

Men of the match:

Morgan Harris (1st)

Daniel Heys (2nd)

James Goodall (3rd)

## King's Crowned the Winners

The King's School entered two teams into a tournament this year which was held at Minsthorpe Community College. Both teams were excellent in the group stages, but unfortunately, only one team made it through to the next stage with three wins out of four.



In the quarter-finals, the boys played against Outwood Academy, where they battled a hard fought game to win 2-1. The semi-final was against Minsthorpe B team and Kings ensured an early lead through Jack Smith. Smith then doubled the score minutes later with a superb volley from a thirty yard cross from Alex Fletcher. McKenzie Elliott then made it 3-0 to secure their place in the final! Great defending from Richard Taylor and George Vickers kept The King's School in the game, allowing Smith to 'nutmeg' the keeper for a 1-0 lead. Super Keeper, Josh Byles, made some outstanding saves as Minsthorpe piled on the pressure. Leo Cawkwell swooped in to provide extra defensive cover, but Fletcher put the game to bed to make it 2-0. Excellent effort all round.

## Starks is the Spark!

The Year 11 boys progressed through the group stages in second place as they won two games, drew one and lost one. Goals from Connor Jarvis, Ben Sanderson and Alex Hitchen helped the boys on their way. In the quarter finals, The King's boys defeated a strong Outwood Academy side in 'sudden death' penalties. Logan Starks scored his penalty then saved the following penalty; just the start of his heroics! In the semi-finals, King's defeated a well fancied Hemsworth Academy. King's took the lead through a Connor Jarvis goal after a delightful ball from Logan Starks. Hemsworth fought back and equalised which meant the game went to 'sudden death' penalties again. It was Jack Dale who coolly provided the winning penalty. In the final, King's faced Crofton Academy. It was an even game of few chances that was controlled by Hitchin, Dale, Sanderson and Starks with Jarvis providing the work rate at the top. As the game progressed, it was clear that nothing could separate the sides and it was down to 'sudden death' penalties to do so. Fourteen penalties were taken in total and Crofton eventually cracked resulting in euphoria for King's! A true team effort with Logan Starks at its pinnacle, down to his truly brilliant penalty work.







## Remembrance Sunday

Assemblies were held to mark Remembrance Sunday this term, which were attended by representatives from the Ackworth and Pontefract branch of the Royal British Legion. In each assembly, two talented Performing Arts students, Sophie Myatt and Imogen Green, delivered a dramatic interpretation of a piece of poetry. Alongside this, Cameron Blades and Beth Milton showed a video that they had created, sharing their experiences from the Battlefields tour. We were very grateful to be able to hear a powerful speech from The King's School Facilities and Health and Safety



Manager, Ian Corbett, about his time in the Armed Services. Also joining us for the assemblies was Colonel Delany, Mr Brian Berry and Mr John Gardner from the Royal British Legion. They shared some wonderful poems and sentiments with staff and students. Miss Marshall and Miss Batters lead and organised the assemblies and were joined by Head Girl and Head Boy, Megan Jones and Alex Hitchen along with other members of the Student Leadership Team. All students conducted themselves in an appropriate and dignified manner and the assemblies were beautifully delivered. Finally, a special thanks to Phillip Higgins who attended the event to play the organ and Sonja Van Loo who played The Last Post on the cornet. As a school we raised £264.08 for the Poppy Appeal.

## Faraday Challenge

Five Year 8 students took part in a Physics and Engineering challenge this term. 'The Faraday Challenge' gives students the opportunity to research design and make solutions to genuinely tough engineering problems. They competed against six teams from across the region and The King's School came out on top. Their score was submitted to the Institution of Engineering and Technology and once they have completed all the challenges this year, the top five scoring teams will get entered into the final. Last year the 'Faraday Challenge Days' involved three hundred and twenty seven schools across the UK, with the National Final held at Land Rover Bar HQ in Portsmouth. Last year, the top five school teams received an all-expenses paid trip to the final, where they all competed for a cash prize of up to £1,000 towards Science, D&T and Maths equipment for their school. The students hope to find out if they have made the final in June 2018. Good luck everyone!



## The Christmas Bauble Challenge

Fourteen Year 7 students attended a business trip to TJX Europe to present and sell their Christmas Baubles to a business panel. This task was aimed at developing; innovation, design, communication and problem solving skills, the concept of profit and loss and encouraging team working. Congratulations to the following six students who were chosen to take part in the Grand Final on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

Rose Lonsdale, Ben Arnold,  
William Goodall, Lucy Clayton,



## Examinations

In some subjects, particularly those with a practical element, Year 11 students are currently engaged in trial examinations. These are very important as they inform staff and students of strengths and weaknesses prior to taking GCSEs. Revision for these examinations is paramount.

Students who under-perform through lack of effort will have enforced revision and will have to resit the examination.

Year 8 also have examinations week commencing 8 January. These are an important aid to preparing for KS4 courses and making option choices in the Spring Term.

Some Years 10 and 11 students will have important public examinations week commencing 8 January in Cambridge National Health and Social Care, Sports Science, Music, Leisure and Travel & Tourism BTEC.

## Parents' Evening Reminders

Parents Evenings to meet with Subject Teachers rather than the Form Tutor, will take place as follows:

• Year 11	Tuesday 16 January	4.00pm until 7.00pm
• Year 10	Wednesday 31 January	4.00pm until 7.00pm
• Year 7	Tuesday 6 February	4.00pm until 7.00pm
• Year 9	Thursday 1 March	4.00pm until 7.00pm
• Year 8 KS4 Information Evening	Wednesday 7 March	6.30pm until 9.00pm

## Reminders of School Expectations

### Uniform

The Wardrobe will now be available for students between 8:30-9:10am. Students may borrow aspects of uniform for the day which will then need to be returned at the end of the day.

Please encourage your child to wear coats, hats, gloves and scarves on the way to and from school! These can be removed once inside the building but of course maybe worn outside during break and lunch.

### Attendance

We are pleased that attendance is running at 95.5% across the whole school. Thank you to parents and students for achieving this and we hope that this will rise to our target level of 96.5% in 2018 – there is a clear link between good attendance and higher levels of achievement and higher grades. Let's keep it up.

### Winter Months... Adverse Weather

Detailed information for parents will be posted on our website and basic information will also be sent to the local radio stations - Ridings FM should we need to close. The decision to fully or partially close the school is never taken lightly or in haste and is always based on a detailed risk assessment of the situation we are faced with. Should it be judged necessary, it will be communicated as early as possible. We will also communicate using the new school app as well as text messaging. Please ensure we do have your child's up to date information.

## Dates for the Diary

3rd January	School re-opens
22nd January	Careers Fair 8.50-12.30
29th January	Year 7 Shine Parent's Evening
8th & 9th February	Year 10 Mock Interviews