



Dear All,

Despite being a relatively short half term it has still been extremely busy at The King's School. Year 11 have been attending extra intervention sessions before school, after school and during form time. I was delighted when they asked for a work space dedicated just for them and so classroom P7 is the Year 11 after school work area where students can complete homework or consolidate their learning. As all students need a quiet place to work, the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) and other classrooms next to P7 are available for all year groups to complete any further work after school. I am hoping our Year 10 students in particular will start to use these spaces.

It has been great to see so many parents/carers at our three parents' evenings this term and we look forward to seeing Year 8 and Year 9 parents/carers in March (date reminders as usual are on the back of this Newsletter). As we are committed to working collaboratively with parents, carers and students, we are introducing a Parent/Carer Forum, details of which can be found on the back page.

As we strive to continue to raise standards, we have introduced a new electronic system which is enabling staff to identify students who need more support with their organisation and learning more quickly. We are pleased that there has been improvement with punctuality and uniform around school (just 3 children were late to school today), although there has been an initial increase in the numbers of students having Supervised Lunch and Extended Day. Thank you for your support with this.

I am so pleased that this term I have awarded even more students with the Head of School Certificate. Some of these students have their photographs above; we could have filled four pages if we had printed them all. Well done to everyone.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you an enjoyable half-term.

Best wishes

Elaine Briggs
Head of School

What's been happening in School?



Christmas Jumper Day - 15th December

Students and staff were allowed to dress down on the last day of term, paying £1 for the privilege. A total of £634 was raised and the funds were split equally between Pontefract Food Bank and CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young).

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

A huge thank you from The King's School Citizenship Department! We managed to collect 76 shoe boxes, which have gone straight to Liberia where they are helping orphaned children who have been affected by the Ebola crisis. You have made a real difference!



Year 7 Apprenticeship Challenge Winners

Congratulations to the following six students who made it to the grand final of the Year 7 King's School Apprenticeship Challenge which was held at Pontefract Market. **Emma Craven, Lucy Clayton, William Goodall, Isabelle Guest, Ben Lonsdale and Ben Arnold.**

The Challenge: Each team was given a budget of £10 to buy ten items. For every item students failed to buy, they incurred a penalty of £5. The team that managed to purchase the most products from the shopping list, for the least amount of money, was the winning team. The challenge was designed to develop students negotiating skills, as well as applying learning to the outside world which encourages self-managers and independent enquirers.

The King's School Apprentice Winners for 2017/18:

1st Place - Lucy Clayton

2nd Place - Ben Arnold

3rd Place - Rose Lonsdale



The Young Philosopher's Club

The Young Philosopher's Club have been examining Aesthetics this half term.

The Young Philosopher's Club is a student run club open to students in Year 8. Each week, Katie Carr and her team of Year 11's (including Hannah Shreeves, Cian Evans and Max Hookham) have been guiding Year 8 students through a maze of philosophical questioning.

So, what is beauty? According to Jasmine, it is a person's inner self and glow. And according to Isobel, true beauty is found in nature.

Whatever you think, discuss with our Young Philosopher's who can tell you their point of view too!

What's been happening in School?



The King's School Careers Fair

On Wednesday 24th January, The King's School hosted a Careers Fair for all Year 8 and 10 students to attend. Year 11 students and parents/carers were also welcome during break. Exhibitors were:

University of Huddersfield

Learning Curve Group

Wakefield College

University of York

Ackworth School

NEW College

Leeds Beckett University

WMDC Apprenticeships

Backstage Academy

Barnsley College

Leeds Trinity University

RAF

TK Maxx

Askham Bryan College

University of Leeds

"We've had lots of positive feedback from the exhibitors, with most saying that students had a good level of interest and asked inquisitive and well informed questions. Well done to all!" *Mrs J Powney*

Year 8 students found this event very useful, as they will be choosing their options for KS4 this year, as well as Year 10 students, who will soon be thinking about their post-16 education/career options.

Comments on the student feedback forms were very positive, including:

"I enjoyed meeting people from my future college and learning about what I can do."

"I enjoyed learning about different careers and seeing what life is like at university."

"I enjoyed talking about my interests with experts."

Big thanks to all the students who attended, and to the staff who accompanied them!



Attendance Focus Fortnight (4th-15th December 2017) Winners

On the final day of the school term, The King's School held celebration assemblies to celebrate the achievements of many students. There was a particular focus on attendance as this results in high achievement. The school set an 'Attendance Focus Fortnight' competition whereby students who had 100% attendance over the previous two weeks, were entered into a prize



draw. Laura Byford, Coby Lockwood, William Goodall, Poppy Byford, Darcy Mallory, David Rosen, Danielle Rowe, Daniel Davies, Harry Horsman, Mollie Webster, Cory Haigh, Jenny Parker, Callum McCormick-Jacques and Bailey Stonier were lucky enough to win the prize draw.

In total, 716 students had a 100% attendance record. A big well done to these students and long may it continue!



What's been happening in School?

Speed-Up Success!

Writing at speed is something that all high school students need to be able to do in order to fully answer exam questions. However most of us would agree that this type of writing can easily become difficult to read by people who don't know our handwriting style. In an attempt to deal with this issue, before it becomes a major problem, a group of Year 7 boys were identified as having difficulty with their handwriting; they could either write quickly or neatly, but not at the same time!

These students have met twice weekly with Mrs. Marshall (Literacy/ English HLTA), and they have been following the 'Speed-Up' handwriting programme. This focuses on a range of physical exercises to strengthen muscles in their shoulders, wrists and hands, as well as various handwriting exercises that involve concentrating on how writing feels when using different mediums (such as chalk, charcoal, paint, crayons and pencils) on a variety of surfaces (blackboards, sugar paper, carbon paper and white boards). The two boys pictured have completed the course, and both of them have improved the speed and legibility of their handwriting.

Mrs. Marshall said, "I'm very proud of all the boys, who work very hard, both in the sessions at school, and practising the exercises at home. Parental support is very important to help our students achieve their full potential, and I would like to thank the parents of all the boys involved in this programme."



Library Book Issues Soar!

Since the beginning of term in September, the number of library books being borrowed at King's has more than doubled in comparison to the previous year!

This is a fantastic achievement and is a great boost for literacy development across the school. We look forward to these numbers continuing to rise, and encouraging more readers for the years to come!

	Total - 2016	Total - 2017
Year 7	399	819
Year 8	226	296
Year 9	149	368
Year 10	68	241
Year 11	0	42
Overall	842	1766

6 Clean Weeks - Award Winners

Over 150 Year 7 and Year 8 students achieved their 6 clean weeks awards this week. The Head of School, Mrs Briggs, presented them with their certificates and congratulated them on their excellent attitudes to learning. They are wonderful role models for their peers. Well done to everyone!!!



What's been happening in School?

The King's School Catering Service

SNAG Group

The School Nutritional Action Group (SNAG) has now met four times and has been attended by 20 students representing all year groups.

Students have helped to shape the way we deliver our catering service and influence what happens in the future. Examples of this include the food offer that is delivered, the Themed Days and the way the queues are managed. They have given us their very honest views about what they do and don't like on the menu!

New Kiosk

Plans are in place to launch another food outlet on Monday 18 February. A kiosk will be delivered in the February half term holidays and will be located in the DT Quad. Students were invited to design a King's School burger, hot dog and baguette that will be sold from the kiosk.

Other grab and go food products will also be available such as Noodle pots, Rice pots, Soup & Roll, Burrito's & Hot Wraps.

Special deals will be available in the first week so please come and support this.

Themed Days

An American Theme Day was held on Thursday 18 January which proved to be very popular with students. Watch out for the next Theme Day scheduled for 5th March which will celebrate World Book Day. Menu items will include Horrid Henry's Sausages, Diary of a Wimpy Kid's Meatball Sandwich and Harry Potter's Butterbeer Mousse.

Politics Club

This week, the school has been a Polling Station for the Wakefield Youth Parliament Elections. Each Form Group has watched video manifestos for all of the candidates in the East Wakefield district. This year one of our own Year 10s, Ethan Maxfield, has been in the running, helped in his campaign by the members of Politics & Debate Club. This has been a fantastic way for our students to understand an election process and to see democracy in action. Well done to all those who have been involved.



Student voice

The King's School is proud to present our new student voice system: ***The King's School Parliament.***

There was an incredible response from students across all year groups who have been busy filling in application forms to tell us exactly why their voices should be heard. The parliament will operate by a group from both Key Stage 3 (Year 7 and 8) and Key Stage 4 (Year 9 and 10). These students will work closely with members of staff and their peers to share who they are and what they believe in.

The successfully elected students are dedicated to the development and improvement of their school life and will ensure all voices are heard. We look forward to our work beginning, hear hear!

Dates for the Diary

12th-16th February	Half Term
21st & 22nd February	Oliver! Production
1st March	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
7th March	Year 8 KS4 Information Evening 6.30-9pm
30th March	Good Friday - School Closed
2nd - 13th April	Easter Holiday

Keep us informed

Have your contact details changed? Please remember to keep us informed if you change phone number or email address, or if you move house. Likewise, it is extremely important that we have up to date details for each of your child's emergency contacts. Please get in touch with the Student Services or your child's form tutor if any details need to be updated.

Sporting Success



Year 10 Boys Yorkshire Cup Success

The Year 10 rugby team have moved to the semi-finals of the Yorkshire cup with a home victory beating St John Fisher School by 40 points to 7!

The lads were far too strong in defence for the visitors to break them down and they produced some excellent bits of skill in attack.

Try scorers: Josh Milthorpe x 3, Ben Walker, Harvey Marks and Ethan Bojang.

Goals: Josh Milthorpe x 4 and Jack Bower.

Men of the match:

3rd: Ashlee Adams and Kai Slatter

2nd: Ethan Bojang and Oli Cook

1st: Josh Milthorpe.

Year 8 Boys Basketball Competition

On Friday 12th January, The King's School hosted a Basketball tournament for Year 8s. Seven teams from across the district took part and the competition was run on a league format.

It was a very close result, with King's coming out on top in points scored. Castleford Academy were runners up.

Well done to every involved and special thanks to the students who refereed and kept the scores.

Year 7 Girls Win First Game of Netball!

On Wednesday 10th January, the Year 7 girls played their first game of netball against De Lacy Academy and won 2-1.

The girls showed great determination, passing the ball well up court and challenging each opponent to regain possession.

Fantastic defending by Lauren Fox, Evangeline Cook and Lily Heptinstall, along with fast passes and creation of space by Macey Deravairere, Jess Fulcher, Rebecca Byford and Lily Thompson. Great passing of the ball to shooters from Lacey Panayiotou and Georgia Major.

Player of the match: Lily Thompson

Opponents Players Player: Lacey Panayiotou

Year 10 Boys Basketball

On Friday 12th January the Year 10 basketball team lost to Kettlethorpe High School 45-35 with a severely depleted squad.

The 6 boys who travelled played hard, but were outgunned on the night.

They are already looking forward to the return fixture at home and are keen to get back to their winning ways.

Men of the match:

3rd - Jude Scott

2nd - Max Godridge

3rd - Elliot Langfield

Year 11 Girls Netball Win

On Tuesday 16th January, the Year 11 netball team had a 5-0 win against Minsthorpe.

The game showed fantastic defensive play by Brooke Douglas and Sharenpreet Kaur ensuring the team didn't concede a goal.

Centre court players, Lana Burke, Poppy Cooke, Rebecca Prior and Mia Whist on, worked well as a team, challenging every ball and passing up court to Molly and Tegan Mansell in the attacking circle.

Well played girls!

Year 8 Netball League Matches

The Year 8 girls have recently played two league matches on 18th & 24th January.

The first match, against Carleton High School, was a close affair in the first half with both teams drawing. King's upped the intensity in the second half and this combined with much better passing, saw King's win the game 7-2. Well done the player of the match, Darcy Irwin!

The second match vs Freeston Academy started close, but Freeston pulled away in the second half to win 8-2.

Player of the match: Kelsi Killick.

Upcoming Events



Oliver! Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd February 2018

Rehearsals are well underway for The King's School's performance of Oliver! We are counting down the days until show time!

Tickets are available to buy from the School Shop:

Adult £5.00

Child/Concession £3.50

Family Ticket £16.00

We are also delighted to announce that students have been successful in their audition to perform at Disneyland, Paris on 25th May 2018. Students will take to the stage at the Park to perform numbers from our whole school production of Oliver!

Here's what the team at Disney had to say about our students: *"We are happy to announce that this group has been accepted. What great energy! Nice audition with clear enjoyment in 'Consider Yourself'. Keep those Disney smiles going throughout".*



Wicked Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 11th July, the English department are going on a trip to London to see 'Wicked' at the Apollo Victoria Theatre.

Miss Groves is hosting the trip, and we hope that everyone enjoys the amazing show!



Performances of Macbeth and Jekyll & Hyde

On 22nd and 26th March, an acting company called MANACTO are coming to The King's School to bring GCSE texts to life through drama.

They will be performing Jekyll and Hyde on Thursday 22nd March at 1.30pm (all X band Year 11 are invited to watch).

They will also be performing Macbeth on 26th March at 9.00am (whole of Year 11 are invited to watch).

Performances are paid for through the English Department and therefore will be free for parents/carers.

It should be a great experience for all students. Look out in the next Newsletter for photos and feedback.

Year 8 Direct Marketing Enterprise Challenge

On Thursday 29th March, a group of Year 8 students will be attending an Enterprise Challenge at National Coal Mining Museum. Students are to create a unique marketing campaign for Wakefield Hospice or Prince of Wales Hospice.

Watch this space for more information, photographs and the result.

Year 9 CEC Enterprise Challenge

110 Year 9 students will soon be taking part in the CEC Enterprise Challenge, where they will have to create a new subscription service concept. The students will attend 4 workshops to help them plan for the 4 P's... Product, Place, Price and Promotion.

A team from each group will be selected to go into the finals. The finalists will then pitch their ideas to a panel of judges. We are sure this will be a nerve wracking, but incredibly exciting experience for the students; we wish them all the best of luck!

Online safety evening

Assemblies have started this week with students regarding on-line safety. These will occur with all year groups over the next term. To support this the school will also be running an online safety session in March. This has been planned to make parents and carers aware of the additional issues online access can create for young people, and provide practical safety advice for parents and carers when managing online activity in their home. There will also be an opportunity to ask specific questions. Amongst other things the evening will include:

- ◆ Home internet/ISP content filters
- ◆ YouTube, Google, iPad, XBOX 360 and social media filter settings
- ◆ Safe browser apps

Further information will be sent out after half term.

Attendance

Congratulations to students in 7JET, who have achieved the highest Form Group attendance this half term with 96.72%. We have a school target of 98%, and we are hoping to achieve this next term, once all the bugs and virus' have subsided. If your child is unable to attend school, please ring Student Services on 01977 601711 as early as possible and leave a message stating the child's name, Form Group and nature of the illness. If we do not receive a message and your child is absent from school, we will instigate our emergency contact protocol. Finally, a reminder that the Head of School can only authorise leave of absence during term time in 'exceptional circumstances'. If your child requires any absence from school during term time, please put your request in writing to the Attendance Officer. If unauthorised absence is taken in term time, a Penalty Notice could be issued by the school, through the Local Authority, to the parent/carers.

Year 8 Options

Next half term, students in Year 8 will be given a range of information to help them make decisions about how they wish to personalise their curriculum from Year 9. All students will receive a detailed 'Options booklet' on Wednesday 28th February 2018. This will outline the process, key dates and options available. On Wednesday 7th March 2018 at 5.30pm, we will be holding our annual 'Options Evening'. Options Evening is an important event that gives students and parents/carers the opportunity to hear about the options process, speak to subject staff about the range of options available and ask any questions. To help with decision making, students will receive additional assemblies, feedback from year group exams, the second Progress Report and Year 8 Parents' Evening. They will also be offered 'taster' lessons in some subjects, as well as the chance to speak with our Careers Coordinator, Mrs Powney. Decisions need to be finalised and the completed option form handed in on Friday 14th March 2018.

Parent and Carer Forum

We are introducing The Parent/Carer Forum. This will meet every half-term to discuss important issues within the school. All parents and carers are welcome to attend and put forward their views on things such as lunch times, reports, procedures and policies. Your views really do count and do have an impact on what happens within the school.

Our first meeting is Tuesday 27th February 6:30pm-7:30pm and will focus on Student Reports and Parents' Evenings.

Uniform

A reminder that students may wear coats, hats and jumpers when they are outside during break and lunch. Please encourage your child to wear them! The Wardrobe has been a great success with students borrowing different pieces of uniform. Students have been proactive and visiting the Wardrobe if they arrive in the incorrect uniform and I am pleased that students are smarter around school.

Weather

There may still be icy conditions and even snow after half term, but we will always endeavour to keep the school open for students as long as it is safe to do so. Please remember to check the school's website if you are concerned about school closure.

