

Dear all,

This final half term of the academic year has been our busiest yet. Year 11 GCSE examinations and the end of year exams for other groups finished alongside the numerous enrichment activities including the reward trips. As our Year 11 students ended their time at The King's School with their final assembly and the Prom our new Year 7 joined us for Transition Day with parents joining us in the evening. Our newly appointed Head Boy and Head Girl did an amazing job in their first experience of public speaking. Read more about the Student Leadership Team inside.

As we are committed to improving communication there have been many extra visits this half term for some of our new arrivals ending with a Coffee Morning last Friday with Mrs Nesbitt and Mr Findlay is still meeting some new parents/carers this week. We are currently reviewing the whole process of our communication and after several parents' suggestions, letters will now be emailed and/or sent via our school app. Also, we have appointed a Student Liaison Officer for each year group (as described in the letter from Mr Franklin-Smith) who will support your child with the Year Achievement Leaders and your child's Form Tutor. Further improvements will occur next term.

I attended my first School Sports Day at The King's School and I was hugely impressed. The whole school was outside for the day, behaviour was impeccable, the quality of competition was outstanding and the costumes were amazing in the afternoon.

As ever, there has been some new staff appointed as some staff choose to retire or move to pastures new. A special mention to Mrs Hawthorne-Lacy and Mrs Protasiuk who have worked at The King's School for over twenty years. We thank them all for their hard work and commitment and wish them all the very best of luck for the future.

As we continue to drive up standards there has been some alterations to curriculum time and student group changes for the next academic year. These changes are based on the practice of outstanding schools and research evidence and is explained further on the back page.

Finally, thank you once again for your support this term, I hope the good weather continues over the summer break and you enjoy the extra time during your summer.

Best wishes,

Elaine Briggs

Head of School



What's been happening at King's?



Year 8 SHINE Visit to York University

On Tuesday 22nd May, 27 Year 8 students spent a day at the University of York.

They spent the morning working in teams with students from CCHS to put together a presentation which they had to deliver in front of everyone. Quite a daunting task, but all students did really well.

They then had a campus tour and even went into a Mock Courtroom! After lunch, the students enjoyed a 'taster lecture' and completed a mini quiz



all about the Vikings, and their influence on the city of York.

Finally, they took part in 'The Chase' where they again worked in teams and had to beat the Chaser (University Ambassadors!) home by answering questions about the University. Mrs Powney and Mrs Chamberlain are certain that they made it home before any students, but the students weren't convinced! We are now looking forward to a return visit to the University in Year 9.



Askham Bryan College Taster Day

Last week, Mrs Powney took 12 Year 10 students to Askham Bryan College for a taster day. All the students have a big interest in animals and are considering working with animals as a post 16 option.

They had a tour around the wildlife park and saw wallabies, skunks and marmosets amongst other animals. They also looked around the aviary and the reptile area.

Students had the opportunity to handle a tortoise and also to spend time with sugar gliders! They were also lucky enough to be allowed into the enclosure with the raccoon dogs, who proceeded to try to untie everyone's shoelaces!

Students were given information on the courses and qualifications offered at the college, as well as about what career areas the qualifications could lead on to.

The students were all impeccably behaved and were an absolute credit to the school. Well done!



4P's Enterprise Event

100 students worked with 'AheadPartnership' to unlock their social and economic potential, pitching a subscription service to 12 business links.

Students were lead through four workshops to help them plan for each of the 4Ps - Product, Place, Price and Promotion.

The day was a fantastic success: communication skills and confidence increased and relationships with peers were developed. In



the end, subscriptions, 'Care Closet Box', 'Cake-Away', 'Ticket Box' and 'Vinyl Countdown' made it through to the finals with students in the 'Cake-Away' team taking home the £50 Love2Shop voucher.

Mrs Gardner said, 'it was such a privilege to work with our students and to watch them grow in confidence.'

Well done to everyone who took part.



What's been happening at King's?



Forest School Visit to Askham Bryan Agricultural College

On Thursday 21st July, Mr Gibson and Mrs Hughes took forest school students on a visit to Askham Bryan Agricultural College.



They were met on our arrival by Brian Sweeny and Emma Davidson, Course Tutors, who took them on a walk through the life cycle of a dairy cow from conception to the milking parlour. They got to drink fresh milk straight from the cow.



The students also handled lambs and learned how to inspect their feed and teeth. They then moved on to learn about game keeping, traps, trapping, vermin control and pheasant rearing, ending with a visit to the Falconery Centre.

A great day was had by all! Brian and Emma commented on how well behaved the students were and they invited us back. They also hope to see our students again as college students in the future!



Introducing the new Student Leadership Team

14 students applied to be on the Student Leadership Team for 2018-19. They were put through a rigorous process which included application forms, a campaign trail, campaign speeches and interviews with the Head of school, Deputy Head of school and Year Achievement Leader.

All 14 applicants were a credit to the year group and the school. They acquitted themselves amazingly well throughout the campaign. This was especially evident when giving their speeches and conducting interviews, where the maturity and communication skills displayed were fantastic. Well done to all involved.

The Leadership team was selected through votes from staff and students, as well as the interview process. **The new leadership team for the GCSE Leavers 2019 is:**



Oliver
Head Boy



Jenny
Head Girl



Luc
Deputy Head Boy



Mia
Deputy Head Girl



Rob
Assistant Head Boy



Evie
Assistant Head Girl

What's been happening at King's?



D&T Department—Knitting for Age UK

The D&T department have been busy knitting tiny hats for Innocent Smoothie, each worth a 25p donation to Age UK's Big Knit.

An additional £5.00 has been raised by Year 7 and 8 students by coin collecting around school floors. Well done to everyone involved!



I-Space Workshop at The King's School

Written by Olivia Dale & Jade Daw

On Thursday 5th July, a handful of Year 10 students (full course RE, Citizenship and the Student Leadership Council) were chosen to participate in a workshop run by I-Space.

I-Space came to The King's School to educate us more on British values, terrorism, extremism - how it's caused and how we can prevent it - and the prevent agenda. This was all discussed in the morning, whilst in the afternoon students had to use all that they have learned to create plans for a project. Some decided that a leaflet or presentation would better benefit the rest of the school.



This task was done to help others understand that life isn't always perfect for some people and to show how we can adapt to help them.

It was an all round enjoyable experience and everyone involved had fun.

Class of 2018 Prom - The King's Croft

The King's School Class of 2018 Prom was held at The King's Croft Hotel, Pontefract on Thursday 28th June. It was an event to remember with a black and gold 1920's theme, a delicious three course sit-down meal, professional photographs and lots of dancing! There was an excellent turn out with over 200 Year 11 students and staff attending who had all dressed up for the occasion in their finery. This year, as always, the students turned up in, and on, many modes of transport and were welcomed with cheers and applause from the staff and families who had gathered outside in the beautiful weather. It was a fantastic evening for all involved celebrating the Year 11's time at The King's School and their hard work over the last 5 years.

The main awards went to:

Prom King - Jack Bates

Prom Queen - Rosie Raybould

Best Arrival - Katy Daly

Best Dressed - Georgia Bailey

Best Shoes - Madison Walshaw

We now look forward to celebrating the results of the class on 2018 on Thursday 23rd August!



What's been happening at King's?



Year 6 Transition to The King's School

We welcomed our new intake of Year 7 students on 4th July 2018. Over 200 students from 28 different primary schools experienced a day at The King's School in preparation for when they start in September.

All students spent the day getting to know their new Form Groups and finding their way around school. They sampled a number of different lessons including a Maths and English lesson where they received a "Passport to Success" to complete over the holidays, in preparation for the start of Year 7.

Feedback from staff about the new Year 7 students' effort and attitude in lessons was excellent. Students settled into their lessons and worked well with the new students in their Form Groups.

In the evening parents and carers were invited into school to meet with key staff and their child's Form Tutors, to receive information about the school and ask any questions. The event was very well supported. We would like to thank everyone that attended.

We hope that all of the new Year 7 students enjoyed the day and are looking forward to starting in September.



Race for the Line Competition

On Thursday 28th June a group of four Year 7 students took part in the national final of the Race for the Line rocket car competition, held at RAF Wittering, where they were kindly taken to by Mr Gibson.

Students worked using a variety of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) skills to build a final version of their car, after successfully winning their local and regional finals, competing against 70,000 students nationally throughout the competition.

At the final, 57 teams from across the country built cars and raced them in a final drag race. Students also had the opportunity to take part in a host of STEM activities provided by the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, had the chance to see several air displays, including an impressive show by the Red Arrows and were addressed by HRH The Countess of Wessex to celebrate their achievements. Well done to the students and staff involved!

Year 7 Engaging Education Competition



Over the last term, Miss Groves and the English Department orchestrated a competition for the whole of Year 7. Students competed against each other to produce an engaging adventure book for a competition run through Engaging Education; they had to write a creative and exciting adventure book aimed at Year 6 students, consisting of illustrations, characters, educational activities and a brilliant plot.

Winners were chosen from each English class and entered in to a final show down! The overall winners were taken to Pontefract Castle on 20th June to compete in the final against 5 other schools in the district.

The students worked exceptionally hard after school and during their free time to make their adventure book as creative as possible, and came joint first; the judges were that blown away by their 'above and beyond' performance, the girls were selected to go to a recording studio and have their book made in to an audio book and published. Well done, girls, and well done Year 7!

Wakefield State Schools Athletics Championships



Over 100 students across Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 competed in the Wakefield State Schools Athletics Championships at Thornes Park, Wakefield. The competition sees over 20 state schools across Wakefield compete against one another aiming to win the overall championship crown. Following

some fantastic performances by our students on the day, year 9 and 10 girls and boys won their year group competition. The boys who represented the school went onto win their



competition and the school as a whole were crowned Wakefield State School Champions by beating all other schools in the area and being overall winners. Congratulations to all students who showed excellent commitment, attitude and enthusiasm on the day.

Wakefield Athletics League

The Wakefield Athletics League is a competition which acts as an athletics trial to give students the opportunity to be selected to represent Wakefield in the West Yorkshire Athletics Championships. It allows all students who have attended athletics practise throughout the season to compete in this competition. The competitors who took part also have their points collated over the course of the two sessions, of which The King's School were overall winners.

Out of all the students who represented The King's School at this competition, the following went onto represent Wakefield in the West Yorkshire Athletics Championships: Alice Toon (yr 9) – high jump, Rebecca Prior (yr 10) – high jump, Maizie Heptinstall (yr 10) – 100m, Leah Tonks (yr 10) – 200m, Lucy Hilary (yr 10) – hammer, Sam Limb (yr 9) – 300m, Ethan Bojang (yr 10) – triple jump, Joe Hackney (yr 9) – triple jump, Kian Shaw (yr 11) – high jump, Charlie Burgess-Tuplin (yr 9) – discus, Connor Jarvis (yr 11) – 800m, Tom Goldthorpe (yr 9) – shot putt, Max Jowsey (yr 9) – javelin, Murray Bingham (yr 11) – shot putt, Sam Gilbert (yr 10) – triple jump.

Pontefract & Castleford Rounders Tournament

Girls across Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have had another successful rounders season. Having played a number of fixtures within the area, the final Pontefract and Castleford Rounders Tournament competitions have been played. Year 7 girls were runners up, narrowly missing out on victory to St. Wilfrid's. The Year 8 girls finished in third place. The 9 girls were overall winners of their round robin competition. The year 10 girls also narrowly missed out on victory by losing to Castleford Academy. Overall, another successful rounders season enjoyed by all. Well done girls!

English Schools Athletics 'A' Finalists

The year 8 and year 10 boys athletics teams both qualified for the English Schools Athletics 'A' Final held in Derby.

After producing excellent scores during the first round, they were in contention to achieve a place in the national finals.

Notable performances on the day, year 8 – Richard Taylor, William Johnson and Jack Smith. Year 10 performances were Harvey Marks, Josh Millthorpe and Taigh Newman.



Geography Field Trip

On 2nd and 3rd of July, 150 Year 10s visited Bridlington on the Yorkshire coast to conduct fieldwork. The students were investigating the effects of longshore drift in the area, and also patterns of land use in the town centre. The data collected and subsequent analysis will contribute to 15% of their final examinations.



Year 8 & 9 Visit to Harry Potter

On 20th June, 90 students from Year 8 and Year 9 visited Harry Potter World in Leavesdon. A great time was had by both staff and students who attended, and they got to visit the world of Harry Potter, seeing iconic things such as Hogwarts Express, Platform 9 3/4s, The Knight Bus, The Great Hall, The Cupboard Under the Stairs, and a full 3D model of the castle itself. Simply magical. A great opportunity to fuel the students' flair for creative writing and enhance their visual understanding of the Media world.



Year 7 Wicked Trip - London

The Year 7s recently visited London to watch Wicked at the Victoria Apollo Theatre with Miss Groves, Miss Maeer and Mr Mitchell.

A magical mystery tour was taken through the fantasy land of OZ and a great time was had by all; the performance itself was simply spell binding! A vivid reimagining of the classic The Wizard of Oz, Wicked spotlights the untold stories of Oz's most famous characters, namely the Wicked Witch of the West and her unlikely friend, Glinda the Good Witch. A cautionary tale about love, friendship and trust, Wicked effortlessly revealed that there are indeed two sides to every story, and the students were captivated from beginning to end!



Year 10 Market Place

In June, the Year 10s took part in a 'Revision Market Place' in order to prepare them for their mock exams in all subjects.

Staff created their own 'market stalls' packed with resources, exam papers and revision materials, so that students could sit down with expert teachers and work through a range of revision techniques. Subject specialists, ranging from English, Maths, Science, MFL, Citizenship, History, Geography, ICT, Music, PE and many more, were on hand to assist with any questions the students had, and the atmosphere in all of the classrooms was tremendous.

Attendance was excellent and students were very happy with the materials they went away with. They felt ready for their up and coming exams and this was clearly shown through their excellent results. Well done, Year 10. Keep it up for Year 11.





Developments for 2018-19

As we continue to raise standards, as well as changing the Behaviour for Learning Policy and timings of the school day, we have also increased curriculum time for English and mathematics. Literacy and numeracy are essential life skills and will become a greater focus for next year as we aim to ensure all our students leave King's with great academic qualifications as well as becoming well rounded citizens. Weekly DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) sessions and focused form time activities of reading and 'numeracy ninjas' are being introduced. Also, groupings of students will be changing considerably as the newly constructed timetable gives Heads of Core subjects the flexibility to set more appropriately for their subject. In line with outstanding schools and research evidence (as well as our own geography results) students will be placed into broad, mixed ability groups for Foundation subjects. Consequently, your child will find their classes will be different for each core subject and their foundation classes, this will enable your child to make progress at a faster rate. Further developments for next year also include further refining our reporting systems and the introduction of a Homework Timetable for all students. A new Trust and school website are also being developed over the summer; we will keep you updated of all our developments!

Finally, as we move to sending letters via email we will be asking for your email addresses in September. Parent Forum and Parent Drop In will also continue next year and this information will be shared in our first letter of the next academic year.

Important Information:

Students start back for the new school year on Wednesday 5th September

Reminder of changes to the School bus services

- The 186 will no longer operate after the end of this term.
- The 14:50 148 from Wakefield will no longer divert to serve the bus stop outside school and will stop on Wakefield Road instead.
- The Ackworth Road service is still to be confirmed. We have

Ties for current Year 7 students

As set out in the letter sent to parents / carers in June 2018, regarding the introduction of uniform changes, current Year 7 students will be provided with a new tie. This tie will be the current upper school tie.

Please send your child to school on 5 September 2018 wearing their current lower school tie and they will be given the new tie on the first day of term.

Do you need new uniform for September 2018?

Price & Buckland, who are our official school uniform supplier, are holding a sizing and selling event in The King's School on 28 August from 10.00am – 4.00pm. Come along and try on new School Uniform, payment methods accepted are cash and debit/credit cards.

If you can't make this event the full School Uniform List and details of the official School Uniform supplier can be downloaded from our website: <http://kings.wakefield.sch.uk/parents/uniform/>

Class of 2018

GCSE Results Day

**Thursday 23rd August
2018 at 9am
In the LRC**

INSET Days 2018/19

Monday 3 September 2018
Tuesday 4 September 2018
Monday 5 November 2018
Monday 24 June 2019
Monday 22 July 2019
Tuesday 23 July 2019

Holidays 2018/19 (Inclusive)

Half Term - Mon 29 Oct 2018 - Fri 2 Nov 2018
Christmas - Mon 24 Dec 2018 - Fri 4 Jan 2019
Half Term - Mon 18 Feb 2019 - Fri 22 Feb 2019
Easter - Mon 8 April - Mon 22 April 2019
May Day - Mon 6 May 2019
Half Term - Mon 27 May - Fri 31 May 2019
Last day - Fri 19 July 2019

