



THE KING'S
SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

NON-UNIFORM DAY – FRIDAY 21 DECEMBER

Christmas jumpers optional. Staff and students to donate £1 or a non-perishable food item.

ATTENDANCE FOR THE YEAR SO FAR

There are over 350 students who have 100% attendance so far this year.

STUDENTS SQUASH SUCCESS

Two students from King's have recently taken part in a Gold Squash Tournament in Glastonbury.



It is with great pleasure that I write to you at the end of a very enjoyable, successful term as we quickly approach the festive season. I realise how busy this time of year is, preparing for the Christmas period (I have three of my own children!), so thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter.

You'll be aware that I have been working across the two secondary schools in the Trust since May. It's been a real pleasure to get to know the students and staff in our schools and it is clear that there is so much high quality learning going on. I have introduced a number of systems and training in both schools to ensure that staff build on the strengths in the schools and move towards being Outstanding. The mantra of culture + consistency = excellence, ensuring students achieve their full potential and they know what to expect, is starting to pervade everything that we do – although we, of course, know that there is still work to be done.

Up until recently, my time has been disproportionately spent at Carleton High School (CHS) for obvious reasons – the school is in Special Measures and needs far more support, has a new Head of School etc. However, following a very successful monitoring visit from Ofsted, it is clear that CHS is in a strong place and has improved significantly and I have every confidence in the leadership to take things forward without my daily support.

The progress at CHS means that I have been able to spend significant parts of my working week at The King's School, which has been a real pleasure. There are so many talented staff at the school and the students have been really welcoming. King's parents will be aware that Elaine Briggs, the Head of School, is moving on. I am disappointed for the school because she has contributed so much, not least the improvement in exam outcomes this summer, but I am pleased for her; it's a promotion to a bigger school, Darton Academy, in a bigger Trust, Delta – and they are very lucky to get her. Delta were desperate for her to start as soon as possible but we've managed to keep her until February half term. We will work closely together over the coming term to ensure that there is a seamless transition between the two of us and, in the meantime, the Trust will advertise for a new Head of School. I will, of course, still have the capacity to continue to strategically support Mrs Cross at CHS (who is doing a great job).

Next term will see us evaluating the curriculum to ensure that our students receive a broad, balanced and engaging diet which results in opening as many doors of opportunity as possible to them in the future. Whilst we, of course, will continue to focus on getting the best exam results for our students, we are also keen that they develop in a much wider sense, as individuals. Making sure they have opportunities, both in and out of the classrooms, to develop their wider skills and knowledge will also be a priority. An area that we will also continue to target is Inclusion and ensuring that all our learners with additional needs receive the support they need. Over last term, we have tried hard to communicate more effectively with parents of children with SEND needs and this work will continue next term.

All that leaves me to say is "Have a Happy Christmas!"

Best wishes

James Franklin-Smith
Executive Director of Secondary Education
Pontefract Academies Trust

WELCOME

It's been yet another exciting and productive term at The King's School. Year 7 have settled in extremely well and have had opportunities to extend their learning in the classroom and beyond. Our Governor, Dr Simon Kaye, was very impressed and commented upon the focused and productive lessons when he visited in October. The vast majority of our students have responded exceptionally well to the raised expectations and have fed back that behaviour for learning has improved and as a result feel they are making more progress. Recently, the overall attitude of the Year 11 students in the recent mock examinations has been exemplary.

Our staff continue to dedicate their time and effort to student learning and I thank them for their ongoing commitment and loyalty to the school. There have been many occasions for students to participate in extra-curricular events and educational visits including a Geography trip to the Lake District, while Year 8 students came second in a national Physics competition and a regional Mathematics competition alongside the numerous sporting fixtures students have participated in. In February the first Performing Arts trip to New York is taking place and I know both students and staff are really looking forward to this fantastic opportunity.

We have continued to wholeheartedly support charities and vulnerable people in society through fundraising events linked to MacMillan and Pontefract Food Bank. The Social Sciences department is once again supporting local charitable causes. In addition to the money they raised earlier in the year for a homeless charity in Leeds and Pontefract Food Bank, Year 11 Citizenship students are now aiming to raise money and awareness for the mental health charity Heads Together.

The non-uniform day on Friday 21 December is one of many different fundraising activities the Citizenship department has planned in the near future. In addition, students at The King's School are encouraged to bring in an item of non-perishable food to give to Pontefract Food Bank. I am so proud that this continues to grow and is a true strength of the ethos of our school.

As the year draws to a close, I reflect on the successful year, to date, the school has had. Our staff, students and parents/carers decided the school motto was to become 'Excellence for All through Resilience, Respect, Responsibility and Ambition'. GCSE 2018 results have shown the school as above average (within DfE Performance Tables) and placed the school in the top 25% of secondary schools nationally. This is due to the support, hard work and commitment of our parents/carers and community, as well as students and staff.

As you are aware I will be leaving The King's School in February and whilst I am looking forward to the new challenge it will be sad to say goodbye, particularly to our students.

I wish you all a restful and Happy Christmas and look forward to an excellent 2019.

Best wishes

Elaine Briggs
Head of School



C.L.E.A.N.

The King's School has been successful in securing funding through Erasmus + for a new project called C.L.E.A.N.

About Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport, with organisations invited to apply for funding each year to undertake creative and worthwhile activities.

Erasmus+ aims to modernise education, training and youth work across Europe.

In the UK the Erasmus+ programme is delivered by the UK National Agency, a partnership between the British Council and Ecorys UK. The National Agency reports to the Department for Education (DfE).

The King's School has been successful in securing funding for Learning Partnerships and student exchanges with schools in Spain, Germany, Sicily, The Netherlands and Turkey.

This programme will support organisations across the fields of education, training, youth and sport to develop partnerships, share best practice and work collaboratively to help improve provision, boost growth and create jobs.

Erasmus+ projects offer students and teachers a unique opportunity to obtain education, training, development and work experience in another European country and beyond, both inside and outside the classroom. Benefits include personal and professional development, the opportunity to broaden cultural horizons, boost confidence, develop language



skills and many more. These are felt not only at an individual level, but also among the education, training and youth support systems of all the participating countries and their wider communities.

The King's School funded project is called C.L.E.A.N. (Community League for Environmental Action Network): we have secured a maximum grant of more than €28,000.

The project focuses on one of the biggest problems in the world: environmental issues. It aims at preserving and restoring the environment by encouraging students in finding lasting and substantial solutions. We want to mobilise them in raising environmental awareness. The overall aim of this project is to bring a more observation-based social learning approach into school education in which students will learn, understand and interpret the world around them. This will be realised through raising awareness of sustainable ways of recycling, finding new energy sources and helping gain a deeper understanding about a sustainable environment.

If you are interested in volunteering for the project, please see Mrs Sefton.

The photographs were taken during the week 19 – 25 November 2018, when Mrs Sefton and Mrs Marshall travelled to Turkey to meet all the partnership teachers and visited the Turkish partner school in Antalya.

We are in the process of developing our website, you will be able to find all the project details here.
<https://cleanerasmus.wordpress.com/>

YEAR 11 INFORMATION EVENING

Thank you to those parents who attended the Year 11 Information Evening on Monday 12 November. The event covered the importance of good attendance, what good attendance looks like, mock exams, ways to revise and how to manage exam stress. Representatives from English, Maths and Science were on hand to discuss revision and exam tips, college and apprenticeship providers were also present along with careers guidance

from school to answer any questions from parents/carers and students. For more information, or if you missed the evening, please go to The King's School website.

We look forward to seeing you at the Year 11 Parents'/ Carers' Evening on Thursday 17 January 2019.

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

Good luck to the Year 11s who have embarked on 14 days of Mock Exams starting on 29 November. Recent changes to the exams system mean that students now need to sit all their exams at the end of Year 11, and this experience will be difficult but extremely useful for them. Students

completed around 20 exams, sometimes having up to three exams a day in this short period of time.

Mock exams results day is Monday 14 January 2019.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance for the year so far is in line with the national average, with the best attending year group being Year 7 at 98% – exceptionally well done Year 7! There are over 350 students who have 100% attendance so far this year which is a great achievement. Please make every effort to ensure that your child attends school every day and is on time; this is vital in order to ensure that they have the best opportunities to achieve their potential and be more successful academically. Individual student attendance should be at least 97%.



98%

YEAR 7
ATTENDANCE

Boy and Girl finished the presentation with speeches about their time here at The King's School. Visitors then had the opportunity to tour the school and participate in a variety of learning activities.

The school would like to thank everyone for visiting and thank the staff and students who worked hard to ensure the evening was a complete success.

OPEN EVENING

On 11 October 2018, The King's School held its Open Evening. This gave the opportunity for students and their families to come and visit our school prior to making their secondary school choice.

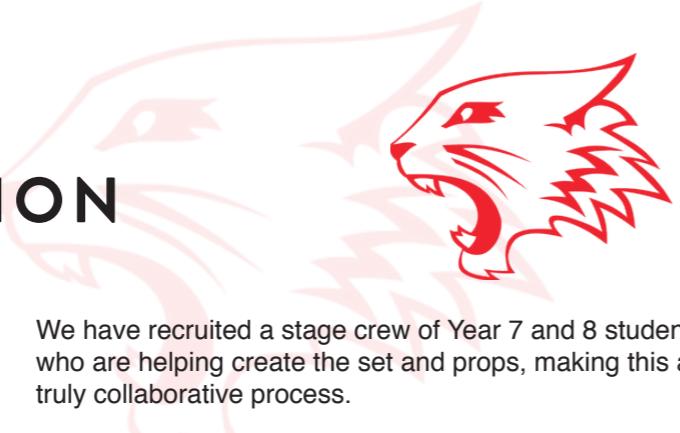
It is estimated that approximately 800 visitors attended the evening. There was a presentation in the School Hall with information about the school shared by the Head of School, Mrs Briggs, and by two Year 7 students. The Head



HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL PRODUCTION

After conducting amazing auditions *High School Musical* is now fully cast, with Alex Godridge (Year 7) and Rae Goldthorpe (Year 9) playing Troy Bolton and Gabriella Montez. Rehearsals are in full flow with both the main cast and chorus working extremely hard.

Year 11 blue tie students are choreographing some of the dance sections for the play alongside some Year 9 students who are also working on the dance elements of the performance.



We have recruited a stage crew of Year 7 and 8 students who are helping create the set and props, making this a truly collaborative process.

Our production of Disney's *Junior High School Musical* will be on 12 and 13 February 2019. Watch out for posters in the new year explaining when and where tickets can be purchased.

CATERING



The King's School's meal service has been provided by Chartwells since September 2017 and has proved to be extremely popular with both students and staff. We are proud to inform you that a food hygiene inspection took place last term and we were awarded the maximum five star rating.

We continue to work in partnership with Chartwells to ensure that students are offered a nutritionally balanced menu that is fully compliant with the school food standards and represents good value for money. A number of 'meal deal' options are available.

We meet regularly with students who are part of our School Nutrition Action Group. This is the forum used to review the school meal service and is a tool for students to help shape both the culture and the service that is delivered.

Students' ideas often inform our themed days – we held a KFC (King's Fried Chicken) themed day at the end of November. In the run up to the Christmas holidays we will be running '12 Days of Christmas', where there will be discounts on Christmas themed food items.

If you have not registered for online payments you might be interested to know that if you do, you can also view school meal account balances and top them up at any time. Daily spend limits can be set and you can view your child's purchase history.

THEATRE TRIP TO CARLETON HIGH

In October, 54 of The King's School's GCSE Drama students had the amazing opportunity of visiting Carleton High School to watch a specially staged production of the National Theatre's award-winning play, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. The school tour is a 90-minute version of the play performed. It was followed

by a Q&A session where students were able to ask several questions to the company. As part of the GCSE Drama course students are encouraged to see many live theatre performances and this play particularly provoked and inspired the imagination of all audience members.

HIRING THE KING'S SCHOOL FACILITIES

Our facilities are available to hire out of school hours and during school holidays for educational courses, sports, conferences and many other types of events. We have a range of spaces available including our Main Hall, meeting rooms and classrooms, suitable for everything from small meetings for 20 people to large conferences. We are proud to have hosted the Wakefield Council Annual Governors Conferences in the past.

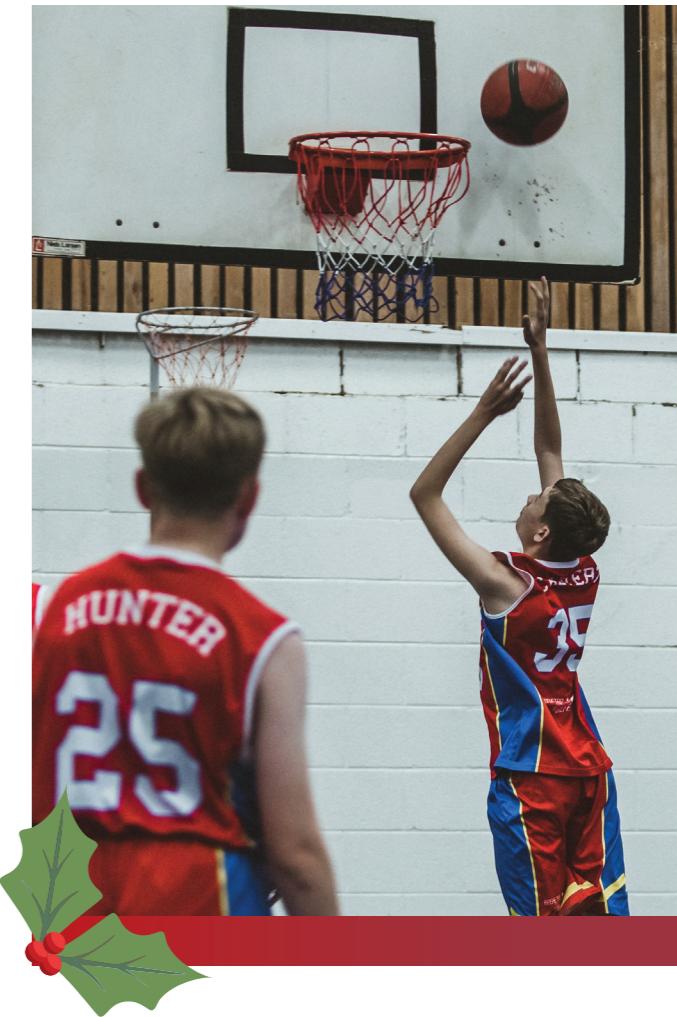
We offer particularly competitive prices for community, local and charity events.

Facilities available to hire include:

- Main Hall and stage with option of PA system
- Sports Hall
- Gymnasium
- Drama Studio
- Music Classrooms
- School field for football, rugby or hockey
- Meeting rooms of varying sizes, some with ICT facilities.

For further details and all enquiries please see our Lettings Policy on The King's School website that includes our lettings charges.

If you are interested in making a booking, please contact finance@kings.patrust.org.uk or telephone reception on 01977 601701 and ask for our Lettings Officer.



YEAR 9 VISIT TO THE LAKE DISTRICT

On Saturday 6 October, 28 Year 9s and four King's staff set off to the Lake District. After a few delays the group arrived at Buttermere to investigate the effects of glaciation on the valley. The students studied ribbon lakes, hanging valleys and truncated spurs.

After a night's stay at Borrowdale YHA, Sunday saw a trip to investigate a corrie at Thirlmere. The trip was concluded with a short visit to Ambleside, before two minibuses, filled with very tired students, headed back to Pontefract.





REMEMBRANCE 2018

The King's School was proud to host members of The British Legion, who once again took part in the Remembrance assemblies.

This centenary year is especially important and the key theme of 'Thank You' was the focus of the assemblies. Head Boy, Oliver Cook, and Head Girl, Jenny Parker, welcomed Colonel Delaney and Mr John Gardner, who shared moving, personal Thank You stories about their experiences of war. Head of School, Mrs Briggs, and Deputy Headteacher, Mr Smith, also shared their own special stories and students from all year groups posted their own 'Thank You' messages on post cards, adding them to a live Remembrance display.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Year 7 students baked or bought cakes, buns and muffins to sell at the MacMillan Coffee Morning on Friday 28 September. Staff, students and members of the public attended the coffee morning to donate money in exchange for some yummy treats.

One member of the public took time to comment on the Year 7 students who were helping out, saying that they were very impressed with their politeness and courtesy.

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

In particular, some young boys who joined them to ask how they were and what their plans were for the rest of the day.

In total, we managed to raise an impressive £216.37. Well done everyone!

KING'S SPORTING SUCCESS

Year 7 cross country winners at Wakefield (girls & boys)
Year 7 rugby winners against Hayfield (90-10)
Year 9 cross country winners (girls & boys)
Year 10 netball winners against St Wilfrid's (10-1)
Year 10 rugby winners against Silcoates (34-12)
Year 11 netball winners against St Wilfrid's (15-8)



SQUASH SUCCESS

Two students from The King's School have recently taken part in a Gold Squash Tournament in Glastonbury. They also enjoyed success in November at the Yorkshire County Championships. Amy won the girls u15s and Joe won the boys u13s, making them both 2018 county champions!

Amy and Joe have both been sponsored by Dunlop for the past few years in recognition of their potential. This sponsorship meets the costs of rackets, bags and apparel.

A fantastic achievement. Well done Amy and Joe!

ACCELERATED READER PROGRAMME

As part of the Accelerated Reader programme used in school, students are encouraged to write to an author if they have particularly enjoyed one of their books. There are two examples of original letters sent, along with corresponding replies from the authors, on a recent news story on our website. Well done to both students!

'AUTUMN POEM' BY HONORATA JACHYMIAK

Autumn; the season between Summer and Winter,
Mother Nature's third child, the second sister.
She's a peculiar girl, very similar to her sister and brother,
But she is definitely much less of a bother.

Her auburn, orange hair falls like the leaves she finds so delightful,
Flowing like waves, you will never see it dull.
Most times it shields her amber eyes like a solid fortress,
Away from the people that scowl at the controversial Autumn mess.

To all the hate, she never pays attention,
And instead dances freely, ignoring them.
She doesn't notice her fellow branches mimicking her,
Whirling in the wind like a small fox's fur.

A glorious myriad of notes escapes her lips as she begins to sing,
Not as melodious as the chirps of her brother, Spring.
Yet, still soft, soothing and completely calm,
Like her favourite hot chocolate drink, and its relaxing charm.

An impeccable fashion sense complements her small, petite frame,
With a turtle neck sweater clinging to her physique bringing her fame.
Flawlessly, her skirt shines, masking her thick cosy tights,
Her shoes are comfy yet practical as she jumps to glorious heights.

Squirrels love to play in her hair, hedgehogs prance around her feet,
And a fox steals her fruit and pumpkins, he does it pretty sleek.
A wondrous deer guides her through the joyous forests,
Where she finally lays her head, and now, Autumn rests.

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ

Research has repeatedly proven the link between sustained daily reading and improved academic performance and wellbeing.

Once a week there is a timetabled slot for DEAR for all Years 7-10. At this time, everyone reads for 30 minutes (always the second half of the lesson).

DEAR includes staff as well as students.

All students should have a reading book with them EVERY DAY as part of their equipment.



LITERACY POEM COMPETITION

To celebrate National Poetry Day on 4 October, the library hosted an Autumn-themed poetry competition. Miss Draper chose the winning entries, who read their poems aloud in a presentation by the Head of School. Prizes included gift vouchers and certificates, with book and stationery prize bundles being given to a number of runners-up.

There were a number of fantastic entries, which are on display in the LRC, for any students who wish to come and read a few!

Well done to everyone who entered and to the three winners!

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE (LRC) BOOK LOANS



Library use and book lending continues to flourish at The King's School! In 2018, the Autumn term had more than doubled the amount of book issues on the previous year. We are delighted with our progress so far, and hope that numbers continue to rise!

	September – November 2017			September – November 2018		
	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Total	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Total
Year 7	85	623	708	101	1,229	1,330
Year 8	31	219	250	166	1,362	1,528
Year 9	31	293	324	15	172	187
Year 10	15	205	220	60	244	304
Year 11	0	8	8	14	48	62
Totals	162	1,348	1,510	356	3,055	3,411

STUDENT LIBRARIAN BY LUCY FARRAR

Recently, I have been given the privilege of becoming a student librarian. This is where you are selected to come to the LRC on a Thursday form time, and help out with the other library staff. As far as I am aware, two Year 7 students were chosen out of the many that entered.

We help out with all kinds of different jobs; from putting books in the right place, to helping people find their next one. Miss Draper gives us guidance where required and tells us what we need to do.

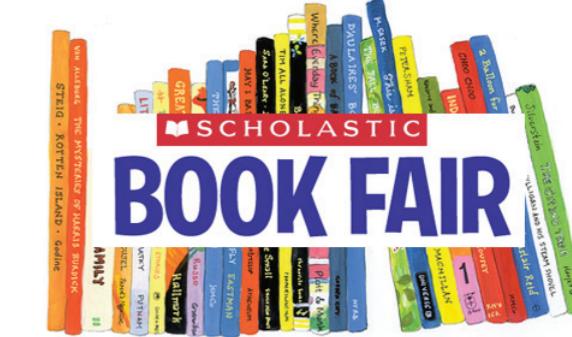
It feels extraordinary that I have been given such an amazing opportunity so early on in my high school life. I also really enjoy helping people in the LRC as it is one of my favourite places in school.



THE BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair came to school between 26-30 November and it took a fantastic £745.25! This means the LRC will get lots of free books.

Thank you to all students and staff who purchased books and stationery.



COMMUNICATIONS

Our main methods of communication from The King's School are emails, text messages and telephone calls, so it is important that we have all your most up to date contact details. If you change your telephone number or email address please remember to inform school. If our records aren't up to date you may miss important information.

We require at least two contact numbers for our records, this will make it easier to contact you in case of an emergency.

The King's School uses the MyEd app as the main way of distributing letters, as this is the most efficient and cost-effective method for school-wide communication.

Not yet subscribed to this free service? For more information on subscribing, please download the MyEd app. You will then have access to the latest information and updates.

2018/19 TERM DATES

Term 3: 7 January 2019 – 15 February 2019

Term 4: 25 February – 5 April 2019

Bank Holiday: Monday 22 April 2019 (school closed)

Term 5: 23 April 2019 – 24 May 2019

Bank Holiday: Monday 6 May 2019 (school closed)

Term 6: 3 June 2019 – 19 July 2019



PARENTS'/ CARERS' EVENINGS 2019

Year 11 – Thursday 17 January 2019
Year 10 – Thursday 24 January 2019
Year 7 – Thursday 31 January 2019
Year 8 – Thursday 25 April 2019
Year 9 – Thursday 9 May 2019

DETAILS FOR THE END OF TERM

Friday 21 December – Non-uniform day (3.05pm finish)

Students return to school on Monday 7 January.