



THE KING'S
SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019

INTRODUCING ACADEMY RUGBY & NETBALL AT THE KING'S SCHOOL

September 2019 will be an exciting time for The King's School PE Department.

DE LACY GARDENS

Once a week, after school on a Tuesday, Mrs Gardner and 12 Year 10 students spend their time with the residents of De Lacy Gardens.

NEW YORK! NEW YORK!

Over February half term, 39 students from Years 8-11 jetted off to New York for a trip of a lifetime.



As I write this final entry for the newsletter at the end of an academic year, it's difficult to comprehend that we've reached the end of a school year. There has been so much positive change in both secondary schools and I'm extremely proud of the work that staff and students have put in to achieve what we have. I'd also like to thank parents for their patience, when so much change is going on it's difficult for some to understand 'why?' until tangible results are achieved. The Ofsted report at Carleton, the examination results this summer, improved attendance and a huge drop in exclusions at both schools are validation of our work, and whilst we know that our work has only just started, there is so much to celebrate. I'm particularly proud of the amount of support we put in place for our Year 11 students this year, there have been countless residential, after school and weekend support sessions, and I'm not sure the staff could have done any more for them. I am equally proud of how the students have conducted themselves, we asked them to meet us half way, and they did, plus more.

When I first arrived last year, both secondary schools worked in isolation and there was very little collaborative work. Carleton needed to improve quickly and King's was in danger of underperforming. Both schools now work really closely together, and there are genuine opportunities for the schools to share good practice and support one another. King's has a new leadership team, a new found energy and drive, and there is a real purpose to the culture there. Carleton is completely transformed and unrecognisable from the school I arrived at last May, and the one described in the Ofsted inspection in 2017. The behaviour in both schools is a real strength. Teachers can really concentrate on delivering excellent lessons, and students are able to focus on their learning. I genuinely believe both schools are on a trajectory to be outstanding schools, and I'd be happy to send my three children to either school.

Our mantra of Culture + Consistency = Excellence continues to be at the heart of everything we do, which means we don't put a ceiling on what our students can achieve. We aim to be consistent in our approach to everything we do, so our standards are always high. We want our students to have as many opportunities open to them as possible when they leave us, regardless of starting point or background. Whilst examination results are incredibly important, they are only one part of a jigsaw. In September we launch a new curriculum which will ensure that we are widening our students' knowledge, deepening their cultural awareness, helping them become more rounded individuals and developing their communication skills. We are also investing in our support systems for students around mental health. On Monday and Tuesday, key members of staff were trained by Mental Health First Aid England, so they can be advocates and support our youngsters with all the pressures on young people in the modern world. It is an area of growing concern, so we wanted to make sure our front line staff are well trained.

I hope you have a wonderful summer, and I'm very much looking to working with staff, students and parents in September.

Yours faithfully

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

WELCOME

Like Mr Franklin-Smith, I cannot quite believe that seven months have passed since I took up post at The King's School and we are now at the end of the academic year – time certainly does fly! From a personal point of view, I stated in the previous newsletter that I had only had limited time to meet parents and carers, I have now met many more and thank you again for making me feel welcome. The 'buy-in' that I have seen is extremely encouraging and makes our journey easier that we are all working towards the same end. I am aware that there had been concerns in the past with regard to communication and this is something that we have placed at the forefront of what we do and is a clear priority moving forwards. I can assure you that every decision that I or my senior team take will be made for the benefit of the students – not for the ease of adults. Very rarely do we get everything right all of the time and parental feedback is crucial and welcomed.

As a school, we have made great strides forward in this time and are firmly on the right path to achieving our long term goal of improving student outcomes and becoming an outstanding school. In terms of priorities, the second half of this academic year has seen consolidation of the systems we put in place in September and ensuring that these become embedded and part of the culture. I am excited about the next phase of our work, which is to develop our teaching and learning further to provide an outstanding experience for all students. Alongside our already strong team of middle leaders and teachers, I am pleased that we have recently appointed a team of Advanced Practitioners from various curriculum areas to really drive the teaching and learning agenda next year. The plan, over time, is to ensure that The King's School becomes a first class institute of learning where every member of staff has a personalised programme of development that has direct impact and consequences on the students they teach.

For those of you that have visited the school in recent weeks for the various events we have had, you will have noticed significant work being done on the physical learning environment. Some areas of the school have been more akin to 'DIY SOS' of late and this has seen old displays being removed and new stylish subject display boards ready to be implemented in September. All classrooms are being decorated, new furniture has been ordered and we are on the way to modernising all areas of the school so that students have the best deal possible. It is important to add that whilst the above is needed and exciting to see, it is important to strike the

right balance so that we retain the history of the school and build upon the successes of the past.

I continue to be amazed by the efforts of all staff with regard to the events and trips that we give our students the opportunity to be involved in. You will see much more detail over the following pages, but cultural capital is such an important element of education and giving the students the chance to experience things that extends beyond their curriculum is vital. This has been a key consideration when designing our new curriculum for next year. You can now follow the exploits of our students on Twitter! Please follow us @KingsPontefract. I cannot claim to be a social media expert but you will see a genuine school community in action through daily Twitter updates.

The last time I wrote for the newsletter I promised high standards and an unwavering commitment to achieving the very best for our students. Year 11 worked incredibly hard leading up to and during their GCSE exams and I am sure will get the rewards they deserve. We held numerous additional evening, weekend and morning sessions to ensure they were fully prepared. I am acutely aware that this can sometimes raise questions from parents but this is something that is considered and used as a support for their own hard work.

There will be various changes to classes next year with students in all years being in groups that reflect where they are on their learning journey. I am confident that this will allow for a more individualised approach and for students to maximise their potential.

Thank you once again for your contribution to The King's School this year. I look forward to working with all students and stakeholders during the next academic year. I genuinely believe that we can do great things and put the school back to where it belongs, in both the local area and nationally.

Have a great summer break and I look forward to seeing the students refreshed and ready to go in September.

Best wishes

Mr D Pinto
Acting Head of School





MY EXPERIENCE ON A JAPANESE EXCHANGE BY RIO YOUNG

If you go to any country you will find yourself in an unknown, unfamiliar world; it is rather exciting, as you have many interesting places to explore whether you are on holiday or on business. I had the wonderful opportunity to travel abroad and go to a school in Japan for 10 months. While there, I attended lessons, camps, company visits along with all my classmates. I stayed with four wildly different host families who supported me and gave me varied perspectives about life in Japan.

I attended “Kanagawa Prefectural Kanagawa Sogo-Sangyo Senior High School”, unofficially known as LiSA (Liberal Arts and Science Academy). It was not like a normal Japanese school in many ways, particularly as it was a Design and Technology specialist school. My school had 700 pupils with 3 years. I was in 1-7, or 1st Year - Class 7. My class was smaller than most with 30 students, with normal classes being around 35 - 40 students. Unlike most Japanese schools, I chose which subjects I could take, similar to the UK. They had over 60 choices, from Home Economics to Car Engineering, Music to English Business Communication. I chose some easy subjects like English and Music but also hard ones like Geography and Chemistry to give some variety and challenge to my school life.

A major part of Japanese school life are clubs; in the UK clubs are usually extra-curricular activities that are not integral into your school experience. Whereas, in Japan, joining a club is the best way to make friends with similar interests and almost all the students joined one club.

My school’s culture festival was during the weekend, lasting for 2 days. The whole school year, up to this point, builds up to this event in October. Every form makes a stall, some cook food like pizza, some perform plays, some even make horror mazes in a

classroom. Every club also has the opportunity to showcase the activities they have done to parents, friends and teachers. Many of the drama, dance and band groups have the chance to perform on the stage as well. It is very exciting and a tremendous amount of fun. My class chose to make kakigori (shaved ice) as it was still around 20-30°C. Unfortunately, as the festival started, a typhoon made its way towards Japan, meaning many people didn’t want to buy our shaved ice. Despite this, it was amazing, the comradery and spirit of our stall was inspiring.

My Japanese exchange was not all spectacular though, I spent roughly 3 hours going to and from school always having to take a bus ride, then a train, then a 15 minute walk to my school, rain or shine. This was particularly, troublesome during rainy season, where it rains continuously for 1 month. Despite the rain it was still 25°C so I could not wear a coat to school. So, you could see me perspiring, with an umbrella in my hand, as buckets of rain fell from the sky.

The best part about the exchange was the ability to improve my Japanese language skills, and to expand my world view. I made many friends while I was there, some, I hope, I will have forever. When I was preparing to embark on this journey to Japan, I was nervous, I was scared, but now I’m back home, I reflect on my time there. Although there were many things I regret not doing, I am truly grateful for the opportunity. It helped me grow into the person I am and taught things I would never learn in school. And, I would go again if the opportunity arises again in the future. I would say one thing to anyone who gets the chance to do anything interesting, difficult, unique; Do it. Do it now! It may be difficult now, but it might also change your life, and open up new avenues for you to go down in the future.

MATHS CHALLENGE AWARD

20 of our students recently took part in the UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge and we have some winners! Seven students have received bronze certificates and one student has received a silver certificate, putting him in the top 19% of entrants, out of 270,000. This is a fantastic achievement – well done to all students!



FARMER COPLEYS

On Wednesday 22 May, Mrs Copley from Farmer Copleys visited our Year 9 Hospitality and Catering students to discuss the benefits of eating local produce including seasonal foods. Students got to taste a range of dishes including seasonal asparagus, sausages, lemon cakes, bread and local honey from their new working beehive.

Following this event, students were invited to visit Farmer Copleys on 3 July, where they visited the farm shop, dining facilities and got to see behind the scenes in the kitchen. Students sampled a variety of foods including gelato, freshly picked strawberries from the fields and local cheeses. Students had a fantastic trip – A huge thank you to Farmer Copleys for their time.



The King's School are now on Twitter. Keep up to date with all the great things that happen at school by following us @KingsPontefract



SICILY

The King's School goes international once more!

In May, five Year 7 students from the King's School took part in an exchange trip to Sicily. The students spent a week climbing volcanoes and exploring the sights of

Cefalu in Sicily as part of an Erasmus scheme to promote sustainability in the environment. The King's School has proud to be part of the scheme which involves students and teachers from across Europe who are committed to making the world we live in a better place for future generations.

YEAR 10 COLLEGE VISITS

This term, Year 10 students have visited Wakefield College and NEW College, Pontefract for Taster Days to experience college life and to help them decide which subjects they might like to study after school.

My experience at Pontefract NEW College was extremely exciting and so educational. The staff are all very friendly and helpful, which made getting around and understanding college life so much easier. The lessons are engaging and the staff made sure students were interested. It has made preparing and deciding what to do after I leave high school more simple, which is very useful to me because I would have struggled with my decisions otherwise. I had a

brilliant day and cannot wait to go back.

Toni-Marie McLatchie

My experience at Wakefield College was helpful and enjoyable. They did a good introduction which gave me useful information for the day ahead. We were also given lots of information about all the different courses and A-Levels available, which helped me figure out what I'd like to do after high school. Overall it was a very useful day because now I know the options available to me and what a day at college is like.

Casey Mai Jenkinson

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

During the last two weeks, The King's School has been recruiting their new Student Leadership Team.

The process started with Year 10 students learning about the King's tradition of student leadership, which started in 1988 when the school lost its sixth form students and the '5th formers' became the senior students of the school.

Expressions of interest for the senior roles came from 10 students (4 girls and 6 boys) and applications were submitted to Mrs Gardner, Year 10 Progress Leader. Interviews followed, with students being asked the final question to 'WIN' the school - What's going well? What needs to improve? And the next steps to take...

'The 2 hours I spent interviewing the candidates, with Assistant Head Miss Langston, was incredibly humbling. I was amazed by the student's interview skills and the quality of their responses to the questions we asked. I was especially proud of the passion each candidate showed when students talked about the legacy they wished to leave and how much they valued being part of the King's community.' (Mrs Gardner)

After hustings in the Assembly hall on Friday, where all students addressed the staff and their peers through campaign speeches and videos, voting got underway.

Mrs Curran, Year 9 Progress Leader, said that it was one of those goosebump moments at The King's School. The quality of speeches and videos was inspiring to the younger Year 9 students.

One Year 10 student said that she said so proud of her form mates and could not believe how far out of their comfort zones they had moved; speaking in front of all Year 10 and Year 9 must have been scary and yet the candidates seemed really comfortable!

The new Student Leadership Team of 2019/20 is as follows:

- Alice Toon - Head Girl
- Navdeep Kaur - Deputy Head Girl
- Ella Jarrett - Assistant Head Girl.
- Daniel Heald - Head Boy
- Tom Sanderson - Deputy Head Boy
- Thomas Shorthouse - Assistant Head Boy



The students are looking forward to building on their leadership skills next year and have many great ideas they hope to implement with the support of the SLT and the wider student leadership teams.

YEAR 7 ROUNDERS P&C COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to the Year 7 Rounders team for winning the Pontefract & Castleford Rounders Tournament beating Carleton in the final. It was a great final, well done to both teams.



DofE TRAINING

Some of our Year 10 students have completed training for their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) expedition - this included learning how to navigate, interpret a map, erect a tent, planning their meals and looking at the different equipment they will need #DukeofEdinburgh



'PETER PAN - A MUSICAL ADVENTURE' AUDITIONS



Last week saw the auditions for the main roles for the next academic year's whole school production of 'Peter Pan - A Musical Adventure'. There was a buzz around the department, as students from across all year groups prepared fantastic auditions. We were spellbound the amazing talent we have at The King's School, and eagerly anticipate the chorus auditions in September.

BOOK WIN - £250 WORTH OF FREE BOOKS

We are thrilled to announce that our Learning Resource Centre Manager, Miss Draper, has recently won £250 of free books for The King's School.

The competition title was: 'In 500 words or less, tell us why your school library deserves to win £250 of books!' Please visit The King's School website to read Miss Draper's entry: <https://kings.patrust.org.uk/news/>

The Literacy Team were able to select their prize from a vast array of books, which have recently arrived and will be a fantastic addition to our Learning Resource Centre.

ALTON TOWERS

Students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have been rewarded for good attendance and an outstanding attitude to learning with trips to Alton Towers.

Students were excited and terrified in equal measure with the roller coaster rides and returned to the coaches full of tales of their daredevil antics!

Even the teachers challenged themselves, as they didn't want to lose their "street cred!"

A fantastic day was had by all!!

ATHLETICS WAKEFIELD STATE SCHOOLS

In June, The King's School dominated the Wakefield State Schools Athletics Championships! Each year group won their boys and girls competition, which meant we were overall winners in each category and reigning champions overall!

This is a huge achievement, as we were competing against all other state schools in Wakefield. Well done to all athletes!



YEAR 10 STEM DAY LEEDS UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday 26 June a group of Year 10 Design & Technology students attended a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) day held at the University of Leeds' Faculty of Engineering. The students took part in a series of workshops, activities and lectures looking at how Engineering is studied at university and the impact it has on our everyday lives. Students took part in competitions supported by current undergraduates to design a free standing structure and also a new light suitable for different kinds of users; the winners from The King's School were presented with gift vouchers.





GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW

The Great Yorkshire Show visit, on Thursday 11 July, was a day out of school in an educational environment where year 7 students got a chance to see the best of British farming, food and the countryside. Some of the highlights were:

The Discovery Zone, giving students a chance to experience 'hands-on' learning opportunities from face painting, goat world, sausage making and willow weaving.

There were numerous Colleges and Universities and the Military village exhibiting across the showground, students had a go at activities such as the assault course, shooting range and climbing wall. In the Gen Z student zone they found out what it felt like to fly the Yorkshire Air Ambulance on a virtual reality headset, had a Walkie talkie team challenge and received loads of giveaway prizes. Students tried using real agricultural technology to spot animal ailments, drilled down with an agronomist to take soil

samples from the ground and tried delivering a calf from a realistic model cow.

In the judging rings, thousands of animals competed from cattle to sheep, pigs to pigeons.

Students visited the Art displays and demonstrations from Yorkshire chefs, using the best Yorkshire produce in the Country. In the Country Pursuits area students saw decoying woodpigeons, gundog demonstration, ferrets, display of hounds and a falconry. We even had some students take part in presenting for Radio York, The BBC and ITV news and weather reporting in the mini broadcasting studios.

All in all the Great Yorkshire was an action-packed day that featured everything that's great about Yorkshire.

IMPORTANT DATES

School closes for the Summer holidays – Friday 19 July 2019
GCSE Results Day at 9.00am? – Thursday 22 August 2019
INSET Days – Monday 2 September & Tuesday 3 September 2019
School open for all year groups – Wednesday 4 September 2019

ACKWORTH ROAD RECEPTION

From September 2019 the Ackworth Road reception will be closed and all visitors to The King's School must use the reception located on the Mill Hill elevation of our site. This reception will be open from 08.00 to 17.00.

Student Services will also operate from this area and the opening hours from September 2019 will be;

- 08.30 – 09.15
- 10.20 – 10.35 then 11.20 – 11.35
- 12.35-14.05
- 15.05 - 15.45

Those students that wish to come in and leave The King's School via the Ackworth Road side of the school site will still be able to do so using the external door located in the Science foyer.

The SEN Team will contact parents / carers to discuss arrangements for picking up and collecting SEN students and taxis.



RECORD BREAKING ATHLETICS

Two students from Year 9 have smashed The King's School's Athletics Records for Discus and 1500m. In May, Jack Smith threw an outstanding 39m 36cm in the discus, beating the previous record of 38m 50cm which has stood since 1993.

Along with Alex Fletcher who stormed the 1500m in 4mins 42.5secs, beating the previous record of 4 mins 45 secs which has stood since 2001.

Absolutely fantastic results! A huge congratulations to both boys!

KING'S FEST

Thank you to all students and staff who worked hard in putting performances together for King's Fest, which was held in the D&T Quad on Thursday 11 July. It was great to see so many students involved throughout the day during rehearsals and the evening concert.

For some students it was their first time performing on stage and they all did extremely well. It was such a shame that the bad weather cut the evening short, but thanks again for everyone's hard work and we can't wait for next year.

ONE FOR THE DIARY – MAY DAY 2020

Next year's May Day bank holiday, which is traditionally held on a Monday, will be moved back by four days from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May 2020 to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

VE Day, or Victory in Europe Day, marks the day towards the end of World War Two when fighting against Nazi Germany came to an end in Europe.

The holiday will form part of a three-day weekend of commemorative events.

SCHOOL UNIFORM CHANGES

The new King's School Uniform Guide is available on our website.

Following consultation with parents/ carers we have moved to a local offer and the two official uniform suppliers are;

Signature Retail

13 Ropergate
Pontefract
WF8 1LL
Website: www.signatureretail.co.uk
Email: signatureschoolwear@gmail.com

Better & Bright Ltd

Unit 14/15 Market Hall
Market Place
Pontefract
WF8 1AU
Email: KayCarr1@sky.com

All students will be required to have all school uniform items with the new logo following the one year grace period we provided last year.

Over the course of the year we have had many queries around skirts and issues have been raised by parents around the challenges of purchasing the correct one. In order to address this we have taken the decision to implement a logoed skirt which will be mandatory from September 2019. This will be available from our local suppliers in a variety of lengths to ensure consistency. Skirts should be knee length.

Due to feedback from girls we have also introduced a fleece to the PE uniform, instead of a rugby shirt, which we believe will be practical and favoured more by the girls than the rugby shirts they currently wear. This is an optional item for girls. Boys must continue to wear the rugby shirt.

To support parents / carers in ensuring that the uniform items that you have purchased meet our expectations, we will be holding a "Uniform Checking Session" where, if you wish, you can come into school with the uniform that you have purchased and we will check it meets our uniform expectations before the start of the school year. The date of the session is Thursday 22 August 11.00 – 13.00.

Please keep your receipts and leave the labels on so you are able to return any items for refund / exchange that are not required.

