



THE KING'S
SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019



REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLIES -REMEMBER TOGETHER

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CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

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HERD FARM ACTIVITY WEEKEND

Year 11 students spent the weekend at Herd Farm Activity Centre in Leeds.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

As the calendar year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress we have made at The King's School since September. You will see over the following pages the vast array of extra-curricular events that our students have partaken in this academic year so far, and I am sure you will agree that our students continue to be a credit to you, the school and the wider community. I have mentioned before how important it is to me and for all staff to maintain the reputation of The King's School and to enhance this further through events such as these - you would have to travel far and wide to find an equal rival with regard to the opportunities students have outside their academic studies.

You will know by now that we operate 'simple systems executed with precision'. It is no exaggeration to say that if what happens in the classroom is right and students feel supported from a pastoral point of view – we will not go too far wrong. There has been much work done with regard to teaching and learning and all staff remain engaged in high quality continual professional development on a weekly basis. To give you a flavour of some of the work done, we had an excellent session on 'growth mind-set' and the importance of resilience in all we do. This was repeated for the students and reinforced the message that life can be challenging at times but we all pull together to overcome any barriers we may face – especially important for those in Year 11 who have just completed their mock exams. The students have conducted themselves in an exemplary manner and have risen to the challenge. They are understandably ready for a rest now and we will have undoubtedly provided you with tired teenagers for the festive season!

Significant changes that have been made over the last 12 months are now coming to fruition and it is pleasing to see new systems being genuinely embedded and a daily 'norm'. I am aware that change can cause questions being asked by parents/carers – and rightly so – but it is rewarding to see excellent behaviour in lessons and around school and any low-level disruption being eradicated. Allowing teachers to teach and students to learn is key and has a significant impact on both culture and outcomes. It is genuinely an exciting time for secondary schools as we look to improve our curriculum. We have spent time looking at metacognition (a fancy teacher word for learning about how we learn!) and ensuring that we embed knowledge for our students. Whilst there is no getting away from terminal exams at the end of their courses, it is crucial that they engage with their subjects and develop an understanding that extends beyond the end of Year 11.

It has been a busy term and I know that all students (and staff!) are ready for a break as a reward for all their hard work. From a wellbeing point of view, it is important that students have a rest and recharge batteries over the Christmas period and are ready to go again in January. Compassionate rigour is our mantra and I know that we will all return in the new year refreshed and working to the same high standards and expectations.

As always, I thank you for your continued support and on behalf of all at The King's School, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Mr D Pinto





REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLIES – REMEMBER TOGETHER

This year we marked Remembrance with two wonderful assemblies. We were supported by many representatives from the Ackworth and Pontefract branches of the Royal British Legion. As always it was an absolute pleasure to welcome them into our school to what is an annual and important event in our diary.

This year, we focused on the theme of 'Remembering together'. The assemblies reflected on the integral efforts of war heroes from all walks of life and cultures; exploring the important themes of unity, collaboration and determination.

Our extremely talented school orchestra and choir were applauded for their inspiring and emotive rendition of 'Homeward Bound'.

Mr Brian Berry and Mr John Gardner (of the Royal British Legion) shared wonderful poems and personal stories with the students and staff; it really was a privilege to have such special guest speakers.

Mrs Carrington (KS3 Leader), Mrs Buckingham (Curriculum Leader of Music) and Miss Marshall (Acting Curriculum Leader of English) organised and delivered the two assemblies. Students learned from

Mrs Carrington the importance of World War II and how we could not have achieved success without our many allies. Mrs Buckingham planned, organised and conducted the huge ensemble of musicians and Miss Marshall spoke about how much students already knew about war and conflict, reinforcing a lot of their previous learning.

Alice Toon and Daniel Heald, who are our Head Girl and Head Boy, delivered important speeches on the heroes of the Empire. Students, William Johnson and Harry Hewlett introduced an evocative video from the school's WWI Battlefields Tour to Belgium. The video was recorded by Hannah Walker and Lizzie Warner and they perfectly captured the highlights of the school trip. Mr Pinto, Head of School, shared important stories and pictures documenting how war impacted the people of Pontefract.

All our students conducted themselves in an exemplary and dignified manner and the assemblies were beautifully delivered. We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone involved.

OPEN EVENING

Our Open Evening for Years 5 and 6 students took place on Thursday 10 October. We welcomed prospective students and parents/carers to have a look around school and get involved in some of the fantastic activities our departments have to offer.

The evening was a HUGE success! There was a real buzz around school and feedback from parents and students was brilliant!

Students were given the opportunity to complete a card by collecting 9 stamps from different departments, and one lucky winner from Halfpenny Lane School won a brand new iPad!

Well done to all staff involved and a special thank you to our Student Helpers, who were the real stars!



PETER PAN

The cast have been working really hard in rehearsals for our whole school production of Peter Pan - A Musical Adventure. They have recently had the privilege of working with a musical theatre actor, Craig Dinnewell, who has previously performed in Peter Pan on the West End.

The dates of the performance are Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 February 2020. Tickets will be available in the new year and further details will be posted on our website and Twitter.



FUNDRAISING



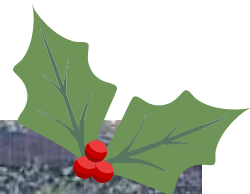
We held a MacMillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27 September. We had a fantastic turn out and it was great to welcome parents and carers, as well as residents from De Lacy Gardens, who enjoyed coffee, cake, a chat and some excellent performances from our Music students. We raised a fantastic amount of £254.64.

On Sunday 10 November, Mr Pinto, alongside Alice Toon (Head Girl) and Daniel Heald (Head Boy) laid a wreath on behalf of The King's School at Pontefract Cenotaph. We also raised money for the Poppy Appeal by selling poppies/accessories and raised £95.33.

On 15 November, students took part in Children In Need quizzes in form time and our Student Leadership Team collected spare change from staff and students for this fantastic charity and raised an impressive £71.74.



HERD FARM ACTIVITY WEEKEND



On 9-10 November, 14 Year 11 students spent the weekend at Herd Farm Activity Centre in Leeds. They braved the zip wire and the giant swing, got extremely muddy completing the assault course and worked as an awesome team in the puzzle palace. As well as all this fun and excitement they also had intense Maths and English sessions to help them prepare for their mock exams! The students displayed an amazing attitude towards all aspects of the weekend. The Maths and English departments look forward to taking the next group of students there in March!



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

WORLD SKILLS UK

As part of our Careers Programme for Year 11, we invited all students in Year 11 to attend the Worldskills event at the NEC in Birmingham on Friday 22 November.

It is the UK's largest skills, apprenticeships and careers event and as such the students greatly benefitted from the opportunity to attend. I am sure that our Year 11 students feel more confident and knowledgeable about their future options.



GALLIFORD TRY INFORMATION EVENING

On Wednesday 27 November a group of Year 9 students were invited to find out about an exciting project to be launched in conjunction with our school business enterprise partner Galliford Try.

The Construction Insights' programme is a fantastic opportunity for some of our students to benefit from exposure and interaction with local businesses, as well as learning more about Construction and the Built Environment.

The purpose of the Construction Insights programme is ultimately to raise awareness that construction is not just manual work. Construction is Design, Technology, Management, Sustainability, Legality and much more. We are excited about working with our enterprise partner and we are looking forward to the forthcoming sessions in school.

INTER-FAITH WEEK

The King's School were proud to take part in Inter-Faith Week (10-17 November 2019). Year 9 Citizenship students have been busy in their classes making lovely badges with different religious symbols on them, which they handed out to students at break and lunch times, as a sign of friendship and togetherness.

NETHERLANDS

In November, four Year 8 students, along with Mrs Hewitt and Mrs Watts, visited The Netherlands as part of the Erasmus programme (please visit <https://kings.patrust.org.uk/international/> for more information on the scheme).

The students took part in some fantastic lessons including jewellery making and floristry. They visited a Wind Farm and learned about renewable energy, explored Amsterdam and on the Thursday they delivered a presentation to the Mayor on our country's recycling efforts, they witnessed their host school plant their CLEAN tree, as well as taking part in workshops on the environment. All in all they had a fantastic week!

Since returning to school the students have been working hard to try and improve the recycling in school. On Wednesday 27 November, they had a meeting with Mr Pinto and grilled him on the school's environmental stance.

Watch this space... Further developments to follow.



BOOK FAIR

In November, The King's School Learning Resource Centre (LRC) hosted their annual Christmas half-price Book Fair. The fair was an amazing success, with over £1,000 worth of books being sold! This not only means free books for the school, but it generated a lot of excitement for students and encouraged them to get reading. Thank you to all students and staff that visited the fair!



CRAFT FAIR



On Sunday 10 November, The King's School hosted a fantastic Christmas Craft Fair, with over 35 stalls selling gifts and crafts, as well as a tombola and raffle stall. Refreshments were available and there were live musicians playing, which filled the hall with Christmas cheer!

Hundreds of parents/carers, students, staff and visitors from the local community came through our doors and we raised a brilliant £1,164.82, which will go towards our Class of 2020 Leavers Prom. Thank you to everyone who made the day a success!



DofE



A huge well done to the 30 Year 11s who took part in The Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) on the weekend of 5/6 October.

The weather on day one was kind to them, which was a good job as a few groups wandered slightly off track and arrived back to camp a little later than expected!

All were safely tucked up in bed ready for a rainy night ahead and preparing for day two. In the morning teamwork skills (and their boots) were put to the test!

Thanks to all parents/carers, students and staff for their time and support this weekend; the students have gained a huge amount from this experience.

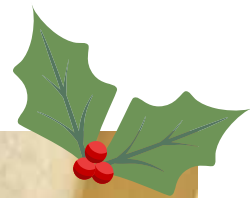
The Duke of Edinburgh Award was launched to all Year 9 students on Wednesday 9 October and we look forward to following their progress through the challenge.

STEM @ UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

On Wednesday 20 November, 30 Year 8 students visited University of Leeds for an enhanced STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) tour, completing an Engineering practical challenge and observing Engineering university students.

A great day was had by all and the staff at the University of Leeds commented that we have some definite Engineers in the making!

WAKEFIELD ENGINEERING CONFERENCE



On Thursday 21 November, Year 9 Engineering and Design & Technology students had the opportunity to visit the Wakefield Engineers of Tomorrow Conference at Cedar Court Hotel, Wakefield. They took part in a wide range of hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) activities and attended talks from a wide range of local STEM employers. Companies attending included Haribo, Renewi, Wakefield District Housing, Polypipe plus many more.

UNIFORM

We currently have stock of old uniform and PE kit in school and are looking into ways of recycling them. These items are now surplus to requirements as they have the old King's School logo on them. If anyone has any ideas of where to send such clothing, or has any contacts for charities/local clubs who might be able to make use of them, please contact school.

DESIGN A CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

In November, the Art Department launched a competition for students to design a Christmas Card. They had a fabulous response with over 400 entries, including some very original and creative ideas.

There were two winning designs, which were merged together to create the final design, which has been printed to send out on behalf of The King's School.

Congratulations to the joint winners, Elliott Williams (7PTU) and Sonny Schofield (7JJO) and the runner-up, Summer Bland (8HPA).



CROSS-COUNTRY



King's were the highest represented school at the Wakefield cross country events with numerous winners throughout the three competitions.

Students that have been selected to run for Wakefield from these events are as follows:

Year 7 Boys

Alex Charman – Tyson, Oliver Kirk and Chay Britton.

Years 8 and 9 Girls

Vanessa Mueller, Katie Kelly, Amber Smith and Jocelyn Tyas.

Years 8 and 9 Boys

Alfie Charlotte, Harry Charlotte and Alfie Abbott.

Years 10 and 11 Girls

Katie Hay and Abbie Hay.

Years 10 and 11 Boys

Alex Fletcher, Elliot Prentice, Reilley Blanckensee, James Goodall and Max Copley.

The boys cross-country team won the regional round of the English Schools cross-country and were entered into the second round.

YEAR 7 RUGBY ACADEMY

This year we have introduced the Rugby Academy for the boys including increased training, strength and conditioning sessions and breakfasts developing knowledge upon nutrition for sport. So far the Academy has played eight games, winning seven of them (against Silcoates, Gateways, Wales, Wickersley, Wath, Woodhouse Grove 'B' and Ripon Grammar) only losing to Woodhouse Grove 'A' who are a top school for rugby.



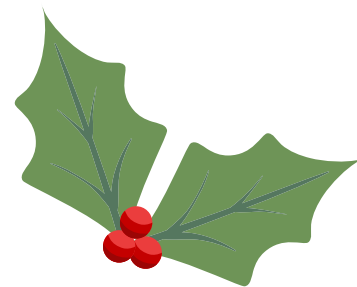
YEAR 7 NETBALL ACADEMY

The Year 7 Netball Academy have made an excellent start and as yet are undefeated. They have shown excellent commitment to practice and to their conditioning sessions and are starting to gel well as a team.

YEAR 9 FOOTBALL

Year 9 Boys football team are currently undefeated in the Wakefield Football League and were the winners of the Wakefield 5-a-side competition.

CHRISTMAS WEEK



Monday 16 December

BTEC Music Concert to Year 7 students. 12.35-1.20pm in the Main Hall.

Tuesday 17 December

Christmas Concert to the elderly residents of De Lacy Gardens. 2.00-3.00pm in the Main Hall.

These two Music concerts are organised by our Year 11 BTEC Music group and will feature performances from classes, as well as the school Music groups. The residents from De Lacy Gardens joined us for our successful MacMillan Coffee morning in September and we are inviting them to join us again to sing some carols and eat Christmas goodies.

Wednesday 18 December

Our Class of 2019 Celebration Evening is taking place on Wednesday 18 December at 6.15pm, where we will be welcoming back our Year 11 leavers to celebrate their successes.

Thursday 19 December

Thursday is our annual Carol Service at St Giles Church starting at 7.00pm. Students of the choir, stage band, flute and string groups have been rehearsing to prepare and celebrate Christmas and spread some festive cheer. Everyone is welcome to attend and we hope to see lots of students and parents/carers there.

Friday 20 December

Students can wear a Christmas jumper or other Christmas related item in addition to their uniform. Students are not expected to wear a blazer if they are wearing a Christmas jumper.

Donations will be for one of the following three options:

- £1 to Age UK
- An item of food that can be donated to the local food bank (www.trusselltrust.org)
- A Christmas present for Mission Christmas project (<https://planetradio.co.uk/aire/charity/events/mission-christmas-west-yorkshire/>)

More than one donation is not expected but will be accepted if families so wish.

Christmas Lunch will be served in the Dining Hall and Celebration Assemblies will take place, staggered throughout the day for each year group.

Students will be leaving school at the normal time of 3.05pm.

**We wish you a
Merry Christmas
and a Happy
New Year!**

**Monday 6 January is an INSET day.
The first day back at school for students
is Tuesday 7 January 2020.**

