

The Herald

2018
Spring

EVERY OPPORTUNITY. ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.

A Dickens of a great show! Our biggest ever stage production is a spectacular success

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Welcome

The thriving school community at King's is founded on collective pride, responsibility and a strong sense of belonging. These principles are achieved through the sheer hard work and dedication of our staff, pupils and families, and this term has certainly been no exception.



I am greatly encouraged when the opportunity arises for pupils from across the school to come together and collaborate on a project. A fine example of this was our recent production of *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, an ambitious re-telling of the Dickens classic that engaged the talents of more than 40 of our Senior School pupils. To produce the standard of performance enjoyed by audiences over three nights, alongside meeting all of their academic and sporting commitments, should be a source of immense pride for each and every one of the cast and crew.

Our younger pupils led from the front in magnificent style when, as a school, we celebrated all that is glorious about reading and literature with Book Week. Both Willow Lodge and the Junior School were hives of activity, with an array of weird and wonderful outfits on display, and more Harry Potters than you could shake a wand at. The celebrations continued with a Senior School House Book Quiz and the 'drop everything and read' challenge.

The value of being a team player is, arguably, of peak importance within the world of sport. Yet again, you'll read of some incredible individual and squad successes, as the illustrious history of sport at King's continues with great vigour.

As we know, academic achievement is fuelled by many factors, but I'm certain that the confidence and character that being part of the King's family inspires in our pupils is crucial to their outstanding outcomes. I would like to offer my congratulations to our Upper Sixth Form on a host of impressive offers from some of the top universities, and most competitive courses, in the country.

If you believe the African proverb that 'it takes a village to raise a child', then you'll no doubt agree that it takes a community to drive a school. We each have our role to play, whether that be helping each other in times of adversity, or cheering the loudest at causes for celebration. Your continued support and encouragement is a cornerstone to our success, and I invite you to take pride in that as you reflect on the stories featured in this term's Herald.



GEORGE HARTLEY
Headmaster

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Your Herald, your way



Only in The Herald

This icon symbolises articles that have not been published on our website or social media, meaning they are exclusive to The Herald.



The QR code icon

Used in previous editions, the QR code icon will now link through to a wider array of content, digitalising the articles way beyond the pages!



Articles written by King's pupils

This icon symbolises articles that have been written by our pupils which we believe will give them a stronger voice in our school magazine.



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www.kingschester.co.uk

KING'S SENIORS & SIXTH FORM



One of our best ever years for top university places!

OUR SIXTH FORM STUDENTS have been congratulated for their hard work and determination after receiving offers for highly competitive courses at the country's most prestigious universities.

As of 6 March, 60% of the students have all five offers and 30% have four offers from their preferred universities. Eight students have been offered places to study at either the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge.

Several have received offers for a range of fiercely competitive courses across Russell Group universities including Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Economics, Chemistry and History, many of which have an average of 12 applicants per place. Of particular note is the offer of four places to study Economics at London School of Economics.

This ranks as one of King's best years for students gaining places at top universities.

Head of Sixth Form Josh Carter said, *"We are hugely proud of all of the Upper Sixth as they continue to achieve interviews and offers for university application in 2018. Whilst the increasingly competitive world of Oxbridge gains the headlines it is hugely important to recognise that all our students make the right decisions for themselves and each one is ambitious in this respect."*

THOSE RECEIVING OXBRIDGE OFFERS INCLUDE:

Sophie Cliff to read History at Homerton College, Cambridge; Aditya Iyer to read Economics at Magdalene College, Cambridge; Amelia Standing to read Engineering at St Anne's College, Oxford; Ruhi Kaur, to read Law at St Edmund Hall, Oxford; Anna Jones to read Medicine at Corpus Christi College, Oxford; Emily Cresswell to read Medicine at Pembroke College, Oxford; Rhiannon Jackson to read Spanish and English at The Queen's College, Oxford and Matt Williams to read Chemistry at Oxford.

Encore! Our musicians 'wow' Paris audiences

OUR SCHOLA CANTORUM and King's Brass Ensemble headed to Paris for a hugely successful five day music trip!

The pupils performed an array of impressive musical pieces during their time in Paris with highlights including memorable performances at the Church of Saint Sulpice, La Madeleine and Notre Dame Cathedral. The Brass Ensemble also gave a fantastic impromptu performance at the gates of Les Invalides.

In-between performances, the pupils visited many attractions across the city, including the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Champs Élysées, the Louvre, the Christmas Market at Saint Germain des Prés, Fragonard Perfume Museum, Montparnasse Tower and a Seine River cruise.

The pupils were extremely well supported during all their performances, with packed audiences present including ardent locals and a healthy support group of King's parents.

Musical Director Tim Harvey said, *"A memorable and highly successful tour, with a magnificent set of audio recordings to remind of us of some lovely concerts, thanks to William Jones (U6WER). My thanks to all tourists and particularly to my colleagues for helping things run so smoothly."*



Students star at STEM Science & Technology national challenge

TWO TALENTED PUPILS claimed top spot in a national STEM competition, recently held at Manchester University.

Freya Walsh (4FOX) and Mansi Gupta (4FOX) joined two pupils from Merchant Taylors' School to win the North West Science and Technology Final, organised by MCS Projects Ltd.

Last summer, a group of our current Fourth Year students attended the regional stage of the competition, at which Freya and Mansi were paired with two students from Upton School. Their group went on to win the event. Unfortunately, the team members from Upton School were unable to attend the national final and the girls were asked to pair up with Merchant Taylors', for what proved to be a very successful day!

The task was to write a computer program for a robot to navigate a maze, followed by a presentation to all the regional finalists in the room, explaining what they had learned during the process.

Their robot was selected as the most successful and the delivery of their presentation was hugely impressive, with both pupils highlighting the importance of using failure as a way to develop and improve.

MCS Projects Ltd aims to raise the aspirations of young people by involving them in events which enrich their knowledge of science, technology and languages.

Headmaster Mr Hartley said: *"We were very proud to receive the news that Freya and Mansi were crowned as winners of the STEM final. A commendable achievement and a real testament to the amount of work they put into the event."*



EXCLUSIVE

Itsy's inspirational work for refugees makes a real impact



OUR FIRST HERALD EXCLUSIVE FEATURES Third Year pupil Itsogehna Oyedeji (3LES) and her inspirational work with the refugee crisis.

Itsogehna claims her interest in the refugee crisis was sparked by an enrichment presentation given by her geography teacher, Mrs Aldridge, in which she discussed the growing refugee crisis across Europe. The image of three young boys of similar age to Itsogehna and her classmates holding up a 'HELP' sign was the moment she was inspired to take personal action.

She began by contacting Asylum Link Merseyside, an organisation dedicated to assisting asylum seekers and refugees in Liverpool, and began to work in the charity's soup kitchens.

Wishing to further her voluntary work, Itsogehna approached local charity SHARE and met its co-founder Adam Dandy, whom she arranged to interview to gain further insight into their work with the homeless and displaced refugees.

She also spent a day conducting a survey at Cheshire Oaks Retail Park, where she filmed and questioned members of the public about their feelings towards asylum seekers and what they thought could be done on a practical level. Itsogehna's next step was to contact the United Nations Office to request an opportunity to visit during half-term.

Having received no reply following a series of emails, she persevered by writing a handwritten letter and was subsequently invited to visit! This proved to be an incredible experience, allowing her to build relationships with members of the office and further develop her knowledge about refugees.

Inspired by all of her experiences, Itsogehna will collate her work to display as part of the Independent Learning Project (ILP) scheme. The ILP carves out time in a busy curriculum to allow students to study something that they find fascinating in depth.



Exploring the home of advanced physics in Switzerland

THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT recently led a trip for Upper Sixth students to CERN (the European Organisation for Nuclear Research) in Geneva, Switzerland, to complement their ongoing A Level studies.

Every day, physicists and engineers at CERN probe the fundamental structure of the universe. They use the world's largest and most complex scientific instruments to study the basic constituents of matter.

The students' first day was spent exploring Geneva, before embarking on a journey through the Physics 'Holy Land'. The second day included an official tour around the CERN site, starting in the very

lecture theatre where the Higgs boson discovery was announced. They were also given the opportunity to visit the LEIR accelerator, the hydrogen canister and the Computing Centre.

The third day involved a visit to ISOLDE, a nuclear research facility that creates and studies super-heavy radioactive nuclei. The final highlight of the trip was a visit to the IdeaSquare, an interesting side project that sees students from around the world get together to apply the physics discovered at CERN to real world problems. As a last treat on the way back to the airport, the students were given a whistle stop tour of the United Nations HQ, which proved to be an insightful end to an inspiring trip!



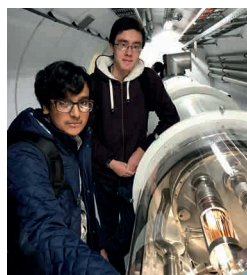
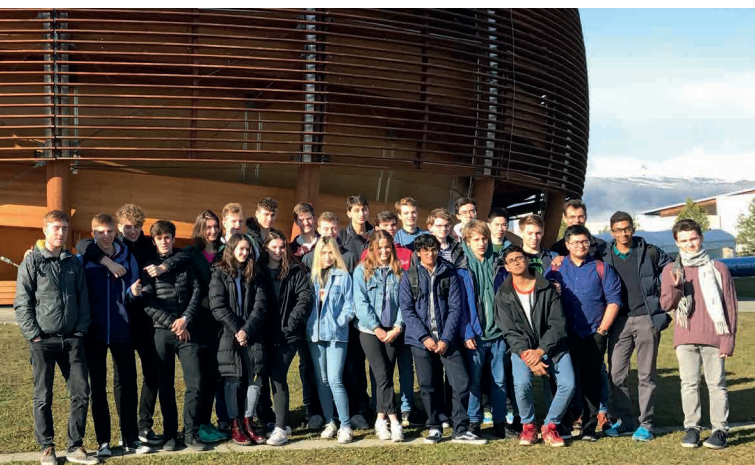
Past Masters of the suffragette movement

THREE LIKE-MINDED PUPILS impressed an invited audience with a presentation exploring the history of the suffragettes this term.

Lily Hodge (RmRA), Erin Heath (RmMW) and Imogen Brander (RmRA) researched the complex history of the movement after deciding to take part in Past Masters – a series of voluntary talks organised through the History Club. The talks take place fortnightly and are open to all Senior School pupils. Recent topics have included Hiroshima, the Battle of Britain and the rise and fall of Factory Records.

Lily said, "I was trying to think of something that had a massive impact on society and I immediately thought of the suffragette movement. We talked about the founder Emily Pankhurst and about Emily Wilding Davison, who threw herself under a horse. We discussed whether we thought that had been a deliberate act or if she was attempting just to draw attention to the movement."

The girls used a range of media to illustrate their presentation to an audience of teachers, Removes, Sixth Formers and their own teaching group.



Awesome Origami!

ALONG WITH MANY CLUBS AND SOCIETIES offered at King's, the Origami Club has proved very popular, particularly among Year 8 boys.

Edward Dawson (SHWER), Christian Pain (SHGLA), Jack Morgan (SHGLA) and Kieran Sutch (SHGRO) have been regular members of the Club. Led by our Maths teacher, Mrs Ignata, the Origami Club has not only helped students develop problem solving, logical thinking and spatial perception skills, but also helped them to appreciate concepts of geometry and fractions in a tactile, fun way.



Witchborn author enchants pupil audience

FORMER PUPIL NICK BOWLING (OKS 2003) made a welcome return to King's to share the success of his new book: *Witchborn*.

Nick is an author, stand-up comic, musician and Latin teacher who now lives in London. After King's, he studied Classics and English at Oxford University, graduating in 2007. Nick went on to complete a Masters in Greek and Latin Language and Literature in 2010. Following his graduation from Oxford, Nick taught at Trinity School, Croydon.

Witchborn is Nick's debut novel; it took him five years to perfect, including several rewrites – the book was launched in late 2017.

During his visit to King's he spoke to our Senior School pupils, sharing with them an insight into his creative thought process whilst writing. This was followed by an exclusive book signing session, where pupils were able to purchase a signed copy of *Witchborn*.

The day included a tour around the school and an opportunity to meet teachers who remembered Nick, before Nick hosted a writing workshop on historical fiction for pupils in the library.



For more
Alumni news,
see pages
19 – 20.

EXCLUSIVE

475 brings King's history to life with brilliant production and performances



OUR RECENT 475 PRODUCTION was commissioned to mark the 475th year of the opening of The King's School. The play was written by Helen Newall and the music composed by Chester's own Matt Baker. The play involved all of Removes pupils with a core group taking the lead with the main parts.

Luke Williams (RmMW) gave a sterling performance as the King, supported brilliantly by Eric Hughes (RmMW) as Master and Annabel (RmGS) and Maya Swift (RmGS) as the Mistresses. A talented cast played a host of characters taken from moments in the history of growing King's from its opening by Henry VIII in 1541 to its eventual relocation to Wrexham Road. The original score helped to bring the story alive and was sung beautifully by all pupils in Removes. Highlights included songs celebrating the introduction of girls and how important Latin studies were! The production concluded with a rousing anthem 'History' with the moving lyrics:

*"History is a song of courage, history is a bell to be rung.
And for those who would strive for their dreams and their
honour. History is a song that should always be sung!"*



THE LIFE & ADVENTURES OF NICHOLAS

A Dickens of a great show! Our biggest

The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby, our largest ever dramatic production, had always promised to be one to remember and it delivered in spectacular style!

With a cast of more than 40 Senior School pupils, many of whom took on multiple parts, the ambitious scope of the adaptation was evident from the very first scenes, when we were introduced by our narrators to the recently bereaved Nickleby family. Noble Nicholas (Jack Sackett, U6GLA, who led from the front with immense panache) offered words of reassurance to his beloved sister, Kate (beautifully played by Abi Fisher, U6GRO) and shaken mother, Mrs Nickleby (a delightfully ditsy Anna Chadwick, L6BRD), but the audience couldn't quite shake the feeling that things weren't going to go their way...

Enter stage left, the looming figure of Ralph Nickleby, played with great stamina and style by Arvind Sahni (U6FOX), who was instantly recognisable as the kind of character who doesn't deliver good news. In fact, it's this encounter that appears to seal the fate of Nicholas, as he's shipped off to a new position at Dotheboys Hall, a 'school' in Yorkshire run by the sadistic, one-eyed Wackford Squeers (William Medland, L6GRO). William put in a barnstorming performance as the wonderfully wicked Squeers and was more than ably assisted in his erroneous endeavours by cackling wife Mrs Squeers (Olivia Polding, L6FOX).

From here on in, Nicholas' adventure takes on a myriad of twists and turns, which allowed the impressively talented cast to flex their acting muscles in the face of challenging Dickensian dialogue and rapid character changes.

A constant throughout all the turmoil are the Dotheboys boys, a raggle-taggle group of orphans, waifs and strays who have lived under Squeers' inhospitable roof for far too many years. They skilfully turned their hands to narration, scenery shifting and pretty much everything else throughout the production. Without a doubt, their eventual emancipation was well earned.



NICKLEBY

by Charles Dickens

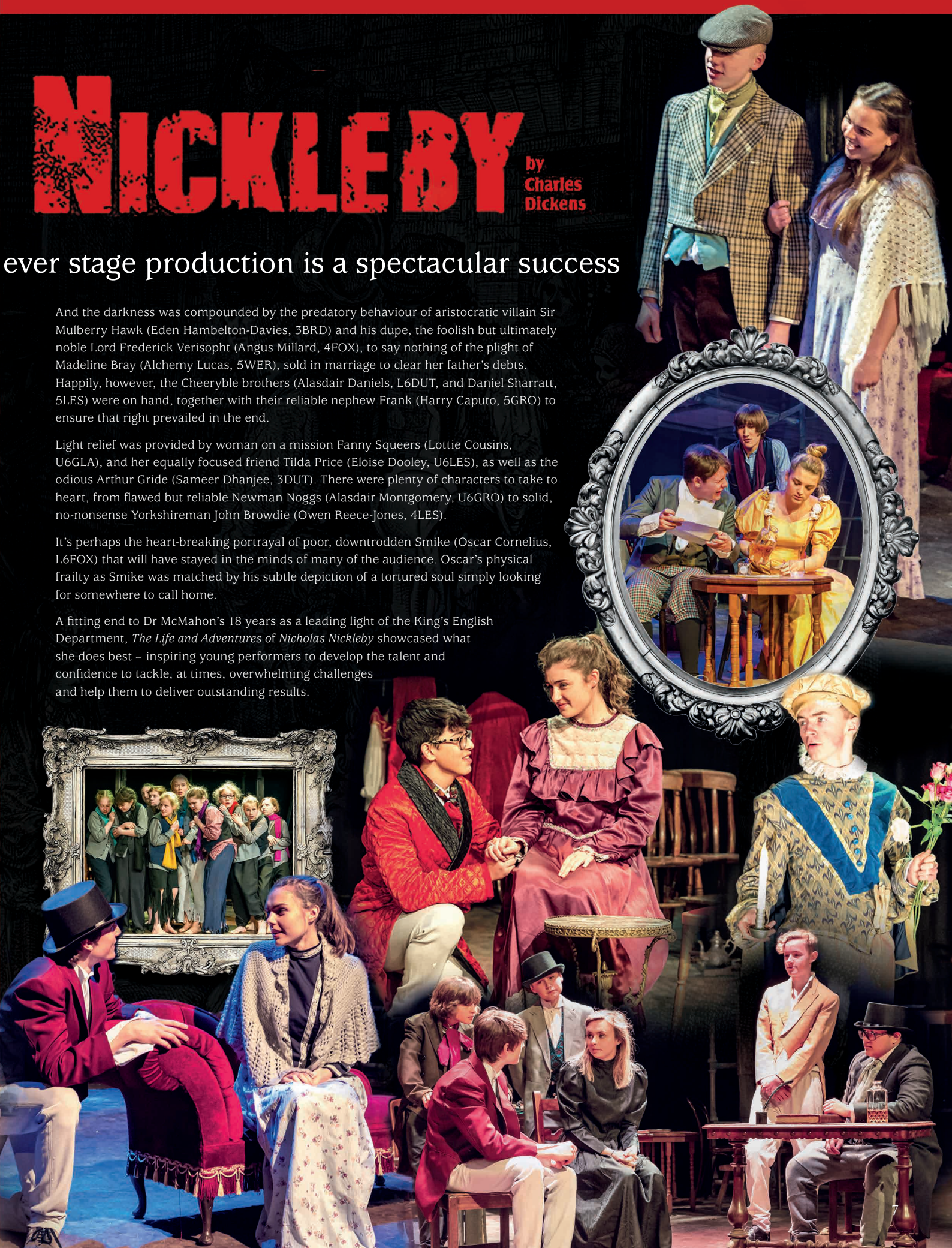
every stage production is a spectacular success

And the darkness was compounded by the predatory behaviour of aristocratic villain Sir Mulberry Hawk (Eden Hambelton-Davies, 3BRD) and his dupe, the foolish but ultimately noble Lord Frederick Verisopht (Angus Millard, 4FOX), to say nothing of the plight of Madeline Bray (Alchemy Lucas, 5WER), sold in marriage to clear her father's debts. Happily, however, the Cheeryble brothers (Alasdair Daniels, L6DUT, and Daniel Sharratt, 5LES) were on hand, together with their reliable nephew Frank (Harry Caputo, 5GRO) to ensure that right prevailed in the end.

Light relief was provided by woman on a mission Fanny Squeers (Lottie Cousins, U6GLA), and her equally focused friend Tilda Price (Eloise Dooley, U6LES), as well as the odious Arthur Gride (Sameer Dhanjee, 3DUT). There were plenty of characters to take to heart, from flawed but reliable Newman Noggs (Alasdair Montgomery, U6GRO) to solid, no-nonsense Yorkshireman John Browdie (Owen Reece-Jones, 4LES).

It's perhaps the heart-breaking portrayal of poor, downtrodden Smike (Oscar Cornelius, L6FOX) that will have stayed in the minds of many of the audience. Oscar's physical frailty as Smike was matched by his subtle depiction of a tortured soul simply looking for somewhere to call home.

A fitting end to Dr McMahon's 18 years as a leading light of the King's English Department, *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* showcased what she does best – inspiring young performers to develop the talent and confidence to tackle, at times, overwhelming challenges and help them to deliver outstanding results.



Rewarding experiences for Duke of Edinburgh pupils



THIS DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS season has resulted in a busy year for our pupils, with more than 130 new pupils registered for the award, across all three levels.

We continue to work closely with our expedition providers at Get Outside the Classroom to ensure that pupils have a safe,

challenging and enjoyable expedition experience. To date, we have presented 33 Bronze and 20 Silver Awards in school as recognition of their achievements.

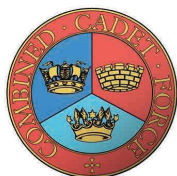
Twenty-two pupils successfully completed their Gold Award in 2017 and will receive their certificates at a presentation ceremony at St James' Palace, London, which will be attended by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

Pupils participating in the Award continue to be involved in a wide range of activities, including music, photography, cooking, veterinary surgery assistants and sport. They also devote a significant amount of time volunteering with toddler/youth groups, centres for the elderly and numerous charities.

This year, we have run a very successful Gold Canoe trip on the rivers Dee and Severn. The 16 students also achieved the 1 Star Open Boat award in the process.



Chills and skills at CCF camp



IN JANUARY, 66 CADETS travelled to an extremely chilly Nesscliffe Camp in Shropshire to undertake a weekend of weapons training.

The group consisted of approximately 45 new recruits and 21 enthusiastic older cadets who acted as assistant directing staff (ADS). They proved to be one of the swiftest groups of recruits in recent years to pick up the skills and, by dinner time, 30 cadets had already passed.

On Saturday, the weather turned from chilly to wet to freezing snow; with visibility reduced, a decision was taken to close the range and move the shooting to the indoor DCCT (shooting simulator). The cadets took this in their stride and held up really well against the challenging conditions.

Other background activities were effectively led by the ADS and included navigation, command tasks, rifle stripping and drills.



Welcome to our first Maths Ambassadors

THIS YEAR HAS SEEN the appointment of the first King's School Maths Ambassadors.

Avinandan Sengupta (3LS) and Anna Harris (3FOX) have been selected as role models for our younger pupils. They have displayed the very highest levels of perseverance, resilience and thinking skills when solving maths problems. They will represent the school in the Junior Team Maths Challenge and will visit the Junior School to help younger pupils in their maths lessons.



Pudding Races go down well with fancy dress rowers!

THE ROWING CLUB YEAR BEGAN with an additional event as the Pudding Races were held in January, due to the postponement at the end of last term.

In typical fashion, it was a real spectacle on the river as more than 140 pupils raced in fancy dress over the shortened distance of 300 metres. Team Nutcracker, who managed to race in time despite being dressed as bumble bees, were crowned the fancy dress winners of the morning!

The Pudding Races are a special day at the Club: it is perhaps the only time over the year



when the whole King's rowing community come together, and it was fantastic to see some new and old faces at the Club. The King's School Rowing Club Parents' Association once again supported the Club in many ways, and the food and drink stall was busy all morning.

Many thanks to the Lord Mayor, who, once again, distributed the prizes to the winning crews, and to the Headmaster, who awarded

Jack Roberts (L6) his half colours and Amelia Standing (U6), Isabel Beardwood (U6), Natasha Groome (U6) and Millie Medland (U6) their full Rowing Club colours.

This will be a unique year as it will be the first in history to host two sets of Pudding Races; hopefully such a wonderful start to the year will set up a strong year to follow for the Club!



Jonathan Ralphs is our problem-solving computing mastermind

A TALENTED SIXTH FORM STUDENT CAME SECOND in a nationwide computing challenge, held at the Department of Computer Science at Oxford University.



Jonathan Ralphs (U6) was placed second in his age group in the UK BEBRAS Computational Thinking Challenge in January.

A total of 5,174 students entered the first round of the Elite age group category (Years 12 & 13), and 43 top achieving students took part in the final at Oxford for the Elite age group. Jonathan was presented with his certificate at a prize-giving ceremony at Hertford College.

The UK BEBRAS Computational Thinking Challenge, supported by Google, is designed to get students excited about computing and computational thinking. It is a problem-solving contest with questions inspired by topics in computer science.

In the first round, held in their own schools, students solved as many problems as possible in the allotted time. There are six age categories. The highest scoring students from the four oldest age groups (Elite, Senior, Junior and Intermediate) were then invited to Oxford for the finals over two weekends in January and February.

Luke hits a high note with French Horn Diploma



CONGRATULATIONS TO Luke Mulholland (4LES) who was recently awarded the new Associate of the Royal School of Music (ARSM) Diploma in French Horn.

This is a fantastic achievement given the ARSM Diploma is awarded when students develop their instrumental talents beyond Grade 8 level. It focuses on the art and craft of musical communication through a half-hour programme which studies individual musical strengths and enthusiasm.

Luke was awarded a Distinction for his impressive individual programme, and can now carry the letters ARSM after his name.



Meeting all creatures great and small with the Animal Man

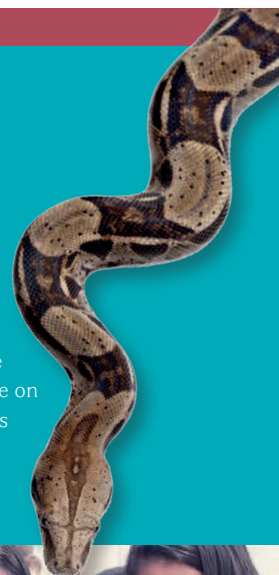


THE ANIMAL MAN MADE A WELCOME RETURN to King's last term, bringing with him a variety of creatures, big and small, to illustrate his discussions on animal behaviour, evolution and conservation.

The students were given a hands-on experience, meeting and holding all manner of animals which included chameleons, spiders, frogs and snakes.

Whilst the session was hugely enjoyable, it also proved very educational with the Animal Man placing great emphasis on the importance of understanding the damaging impact we have on the environment and the negative ramifications this has on endangered species.

An engaging enrichment experience!



Author Peadar answers *The Call*



WE WERE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME acclaimed writer of young adult fiction Peadar Ó Guilín to King's in January, as part of our programme of author visits.

His novel *The Call* is a dark tale inspired by the

beautiful north-west of Ireland, where Peadar grew up, fuelled by the disturbing folklore surrounding the region – a traditional fairy tale, it certainly isn't! The title was voted the winner in the Teen category of the School Book Awards, held in school as part of Book Week in March.

Pupils were enthralled as Peadar read extracts from *The Call*, before running a story writing workshop in which he described how to build in different elements of a novel whilst challenging the convention of having a distinct 'beginning, middle and end'. He went on to invite pupils to consider making content more relatable to the reader, to help keep them engaged on the narrative journey.

The Invasion, the sequel to *The Call*, was released on 1 March.

Geography buffs prove they're WorldWise



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR two teams of geographers who attended the Chester Geographical Association WorldWise Quiz in January.

Hosted by the University of Chester, both of our teams performed brilliantly, competing against 20 other schools in the area. We are proud to announce that our Third Year team were the winners and claimed the trophy!

Our Third Year Team: *Mickey Nguyen, Edmund Hartley and Avi Sengupta.*
Our Shells Team: *Jack Hayter, Henry Cook and Anushka Salvi.*

The WorldWise Quiz is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate geographical knowledge, understanding and skills, especially in relation to current events and matters of global significance. Bringing together local schools, it's a fun way to promote an interest in the subject and test burgeoning skills.



Basketball champs join Juniors for dinner!

OUR JUNIORS WERE DELIGHTED to welcome members of the Cheshire Phoenix Basketball Club to the school this term.

The Club was represented by team captain Orlan Jackman, Raheem May-Thompson and CJ Gettys, all of whom were recently part of a resounding triumph in the British Basketball Cup Final.

In front of a crowd of 10,000 fans at a packed out Arena Birmingham, they secured their first silverware since winning the BBL Championship in 2005 with a 99–88 success over Worcester Wolves on Sunday 28 January.

Following their success, the Club agreed to visit the school to showcase their trophy to the Junior School pupils. During their visit, the players hosted numerous basketball workshops, allowing pupils to learn about the various techniques a professional player uses when competing in a match. They also spent time with pupils in the classrooms, educating them on the importance of maintaining a balanced and nutritious diet.

The players capped off their day by dining with pupils in 1541, before parading the trophy through the school, giving pupils the chance to hold it up close and personal!



Getting crafty with Helaina

CREATIVE PUPILS from both the Junior and Senior school had the opportunity to spend time working with renowned craftsperson Helaina Sharpley in February.

Helaina works mainly in wire, creating lyrical and delicate three-dimensional drawings. She shared some of her techniques with pupils, and they quickly used their new skills to create work based on the theme for the day, which was insects.

Pupils started by creating a continuous line drawing, which was then used as a template for a wire sculpture. Different thicknesses and colours of wire were available to suggest different areas of the insect's body, and pupils were encouraged to explore a range of wire manipulation techniques to represent shape, form, textures and surfaces.

Junior School Art Teacher Mrs Savage said: *"It was lovely to see pupils from the different year groups working together and sharing their results. The finished pieces are on display in the gallery."*



EXCLUSIVE

From King's to Ghana – supporting our friends at Vicande



EAGLE-EYED JUNIOR SCHOOL PUPILS may recognise the desks and chairs now residing in a Ghanaian classroom.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of members of the Facilities Team at King's, the furniture was rescued from being thrown away at the end of last Summer Term and instead made its way to the students of Vicande School in Kumasi, Ghana. The kind donation was part of an ongoing relationship between King's and Vicande, which has seen hundreds of text books, folders and other essential resources shipped over to be used by the 1,000-plus students.



What a comeback! Juniors triumph in EFL Cup drama



Written by Ben Whittlestone (J40).

A DRAMATIC FOUR DAYS of football culminated in qualification to the final of a prestigious football tournament and a hard earned victory for our mixed U10/U11 football team.

Our team set off to the English Football League (EFL) Kids Cup finals in Crewe having qualified only four days earlier.

The tournament was formed around four groups with four teams in each, and we were very excited! We got off to a great start, winning 2-0, but after that we marginally lost our following two matches. We were then informed that we missed out on the knockout rounds via goal difference, which left the team disappointed. We started our journey back to school with a real sense of frustration.

However, whilst on the coach, Mr Spellman received a call asking where the team was – it was

announced that there had been a mistake and that we were, in fact, through to the next round due to the number of goals we had scored! The team was ecstatic! The quarter-final was a very exciting and tightly contested game, which went the distance to penalties. We kept our composure under pressure and scored both our penalties whilst the opposition missed theirs.

This resulted in the team qualifying for the semi-final to play a team that had beaten us 3-0 in the group stage, so we knew it would be a tough game. After converting yet more penalties, we were now through to the final!

It was a nail-biting final as both teams approached the game with initial caution in the early stages. However, with the match seemingly heading for another shootout and with minutes left on the clock, we were awarded a penalty. The penalty was converted and proved to be the game winning goal.



We had won the tournament! The team was thrilled! As well as advancing to the next round, we also won a new kit for the school. Well done to all the players involved and thanks to our coaches.



Our girls add to football success!



Written by Grace Henderson (J2T).

OUR UNDER 9 GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM recently went off to Christleton School with Miss Ley to compete in the English Schools' Football Association (ESFA) Cheshire Schools Tournament. We played well as a team and won our first match and second and third. We were so excited to be through to the semi-finals!

The team we played in the semi-final, Delamere Academy, were really good and we knew they would be really hard to beat. We attacked right from the start and managed to score a blistering early goal from a corner which put us 1-0 ahead. We played bravely, a real team effort from everyone and we were through to the final!

The final game was tense and there was little to separate both teams – however, the team worked well together and we were victorious against Deeside. Now that we have won we go on to represent Chester in the Cheshire Finals.

Following their success in the tournament, the team qualified for the final, held at Crewe Alexandra Football Club. Following a series of fantastic performances, the girls progressed all the way through to the final. Despite losing the match, their incredible performance means they are now officially the second best team in Cheshire!

Medals all round at AJIS Athletics Tournament

A TOTAL OF 30 PUPILS represented the Junior School at Robin Park, Wigan this term as they competed in the Association of Junior Independent Schools' (AJIS) Indoor Athletic Tournament.

The pupils competed in a wide array of events, including balance beam, triple jump, obstacle relay and standing long jump. They all performed fantastically, displaying an excellent level of technique and skill.



PUPILS WHO ACHIEVED A GOLD MEDAL

Eloise Smith (J4M) in U11 Balance Beam, Charlie Beyeler (J3H) in U10 3 Lap (new AJIS record), Cameron Moon (J3S) in U10 Triple Jump, Marcus Thornton (J3H) and Charlie Beyeler in U10 Paarlauf Relay (new AJIS record) and Freya Artell (J3B) in U10 One Lap.

PUPILS WHO ACHIEVED A SILVER MEDAL

Jacob Knox (J3H) in U10 Balance Beam, Anna Walker (J3H) in U10 Paarlauf Relay, Eleanor Williams (J3B) in U10 Triple Jump and Anna Walker in U10 Triple Jump.

PUPILS WHO ACHIEVED A BRONZE MEDAL

Lukas Pold (J4S) in Balance Beam, Ben Whittlestone (J40) in U11 Triple Jump, Jack Nash (J3B), Jacob Knox, Alex Popplewell (J3H) and Cameron Moon in U10 Obstacle Relay, Marcus Thornton, Neha Sharma (J4M) and Eleanor Williams in U10 Standing Long Jump.

Trailblazing Antarctica interview by *Blazer* reporters



IN JANUARY, our *Blazer* Magazine newshounds were given the opportunity to conduct a telephone interview with alumnus Dr Jonathon Shanklin (OKS 1973), who is currently stationed in the Antarctic.

Dr Shanklin is undertaking his 20th trip to the earth's southernmost continent, where he is working for the British Antarctic Survey in the Halley VI Research Station. The station is situated on the treacherous Brunt Ice Shelf, which borders the coast of Coats Land, between Dawson Lambton Glacier and Stancomb Wills Glacier Tongue.

*Report by Ashton Curwen (J3B),
Bea Cunningham (J3S) and Nishtha Arya (J3H)*

He began his scientific career by measuring the rainfall as a schoolboy in his Dodleston garden and is now an eminent meteorologist measuring the hole in the ozone layer.

Today, Dr Shanklin monitors the ozone layer from the Halley Research Station, an internationally important platform for global earth, atmospheric and space weather



observation in Antarctica. Dr Shanklin was one of the original authors of a 1985 report which identified the hole in the ozone layer.

The former King's School pupil is a member of the British Antarctic Survey. Talking from Halley, which rests on a floating ice shelf in the Weddell Sea, he gave us an insight into his research.

He said, ***"Climate change is definitely real and we can see evidence very clearly in the global scientific data. One of the things we do here at Halley is measure the temperatures and that contributes to part of the global picture of how climate is changing."***

Dr Shanklin revealed that the evidence is clear

cut: the whole planet is warmer, with some places experiencing almost record levels.

And he warned, ***"Nobody is prepared to look themselves in the face and say 'we're creating this problem and we have to do something about it'."***

When asked how he became a meteorologist, Dr Shanklin explained that he had very good physics teachers and encouraging parents. Although he disliked Latin lessons, the knowledge he acquired has helped his passion for botany. The school ski trips to Switzerland have also meant he can sometimes enjoy the thrill of being towed around Antarctica on skis by a skidoo.

'Share, Connect and Respect' – staying safe online

KING'S JUNIORS CELEBRATED Safer Internet Day in February with a special assembly presented by the J4 E-Safety Officers to all of the school.

This year's theme focused on helping all our pupils to 'Share, Connect and Respect' each other online. Lots of helpful tips and advice were communicated to the pupils during the assembly, and our pupils were encouraged to ensure they always use the internet in a safe and thoughtful manner.

Safer Internet week culminated in a performance of *The Net* by the Theatre Arts Drama group from Stockport. This was a very thought provoking play which opened dialogue with children about the issues raised by surfing the web. The play included an interactive session with the characters and "Stop The Action", where our J3 and J4 pupils could change the ending of the play by changing the outcome of certain scenes.

It was an imaginative way to deliver a very important message to our children.



Blue Peter one-two success for Grace!



CONGRATULATIONS to Grace Henderson (J2T), who is celebrating after being awarded two *Blue Peter* badges.

Grace said, ***"I was rewarded with my first Blue Peter badge for writing a poem about a city that was polluted and a tiny bit of grass that transformed the city into a really green, happy place. I got my Silver Blue Peter badge for making a poster of the Blue Peter logo out of pipe cleaners."***

Pupils take part in a novel celebration



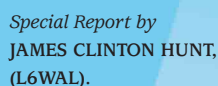
Book Week at King's turned into a real page-turner as themed events and challenges took place across the school. The week kicked off with a book quiz for Removes and the official start of voting for the School Book Awards.

We were then delighted to welcome our Patron of Reading, Non Pratt, who delivered a series of fascinating talks and workshops. Teachers got in on the act by taking part in the 'match the literary couples' and 'caught reading' competitions, and the whole school took time out to 'drop everything and read'.

On Thursday 1 March, Willow Lodge and Junior School pupils arrived for lessons dressed as their favourite literary character and, once again, teaching staff were more than happy to join in the fun!

A hotly contested House Quiz rounded off the week in the library, and the final winners of the School Book Awards were revealed to a delighted audience of pupils and staff!





activities and schemes for them to get involved with throughout Book Week (26 February to 2 March). Most of these were spearheaded by Head Librarian, Mrs Harding. At the school for nine years this Easter, Mrs Harding took some time out from a particularly busy day to give me an insight into Book Week and her thoughts on the importance of reading in general.

A. We have scheduled the School Book Awards to conclude this week with voting going on for students' favourite books; we are holding a 'match the literary characters' competition, where members of staff are wearing name tags with book characters and pupils have to match the pairs, and we are running a tutor group 'book in a box' competition, where groups have to represent a book within a shoebox. This gives pupils a chance to show a more creative way to express their interest in books. We have also had a Removes Book Quiz and will be holding a House Book Quiz at the end of the week.

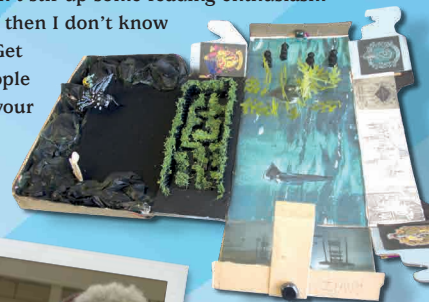
A. Non Pratt is our Patron of Reading and she has spoken to a variety of people during her visit this week. As she has been to the school a few times. She is building up a relationship with the school and pupils. She spoke to a group of 13 and 14 pupils about writing news articles and also talked to all of the Removes about the power of stories, which was an excellent talk about our responsibilities as creators and consumers of stories. She also ran a discussion with some Fourth Year girls about getting into reading, which was really good as she is an outside influence. She gave a talk to some Sixth Formers on potential employment in writing and publishing, which was very interesting.

The Skype interviews with a range of authors are very good, as the instant interaction with authors shows that they are just human beings! When I was young, I wrote to an author and only got a reply after about six months! It opens it up to everyone and shows that reading and writing is for everyone.

A. Absolutely vital. It breaks my heart to see libraries closing down where they are needed most. There's so many different reasons to read. There's the obvious educational side to further your studies – every single study shows that if you're reading for pleasure at the age of 15, then

it's more important than anything else in your life in predicting your future success, which is quite amazing really! When you read a book you live someone else's life – it's so good in creating empathy, and that makes you a better human being.

So, as you can see, Book Week at King's has been full of fun and fantastic opportunities for all students. I don't think there's a much better point to end this piece on aside from that reading makes you "a better human being", and if that doesn't stir up some reading enthusiasm within you, then I don't know what will. Get reading people – broaden your horizons!



WILLOW LODGE INFANTS

'Lava-ly'! Fun flows with visit from volcano expert

WILLOW LODGE was delighted to welcome Mr Hartley to class this term, where he helped to ignite pupils' interest in their current project.

The Kingfishers Class have been exploring themes around the topic of monsters, magic and mystery and decided to investigate the 'mysterious' science of volcanoes. Working alongside teacher Mrs Moffatt, the children built their very own volcano and attempted to recreate an eruption in an experiment involving baking powder, vinegar and a dash of red paint!



Mr Hartley, who read Geography at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, and completed an MSc in Environmental Science at Imperial College, London, took a keen interest in the lesson and was invited by the children to add the 'magic ingredient' to make the experiment go with a bang.

The children also had the opportunity to hold volcanic rock from Mount Vesuvius, thanks to classmate Yusuf Razaq. Yusuf and his family climbed the volcano in Campania, Italy, whilst on holiday and were able to bring home the fascinating rocks.



"As a geologist myself, I was delighted to see how curious and engaged the children were in the experiment and how much they had already learned about the basic science of volcanoes. This kind of active, hands-on learning is crucial in igniting a love of science at a young age and is at the heart of so many of our infant lessons."

Mr Hartley, Headmaster



Winter Olympics at Willow Lodge

SPORTY PUPILS HELD THEIR OWN Winter Olympics in February, to coincide with the start of XXIII Games in Pyeongchang County, South Korea.

After watching the glittering opening ceremony, including the lighting of the Olympic Torch, the children were allocated a spot in the Germany, Sweden, USA or Norway teams.

They then enjoyed a day of Olympic themed activities, including curling, car toboggan and indoor slalom skiing. After a fiercely fought Games, the USA team emerged victorious!

Dogs and Dragons for Chinese New Year

LUCKY PUPILS GOT THE CHANCE TO SAMPLE some delicious traditional Chinese food to celebrate the beginning of the Year of the Dog.

They happily tried all of the dishes on offer, whilst wearing some wonderfully decorated dragon hats!



Oar-some! Double Olympic gold medallist Tom visits every class

WILLOW LODGE PUPILS WERE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME former King's student and Olympic double gold medallist, Tom James MBE, to school in December.



Tom visited every class in Willow Lodge, giving pupils the opportunity to ask some great questions whilst also watching him give a video analysis of his dramatic photo finish win at the London Olympics in 2012!

Our Infants questioned Tom on an array of topics, including his emotions after winning gold in both London and Beijing, recovery techniques after long races, dealing with pre-race nerves and even rowing in crocodile-infested waters!

The pupils were very excited to be given the opportunity to hold both of Tom's Olympic gold medals, whilst also receiving a signed picture of Tom to take home.

The perfect end to an oar-some afternoon! See more about Tom on page 19.

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Campfire cooking – a fun way to learn!

RECEPTION PUPILS ENJOYED a cookery lesson with a difference when they got the opportunity to toast fresh bread over a campfire in Forest School.

They learnt all about the safest methods of lighting and maintaining a campfire within a forest, as well as the importance of clearing up a site properly when finished.

They were given the opportunity to season their bread with a variety of tasty condiments, which made for a delicious snack to enjoy as a reward for all their hard work!



Baking up support for Indian orphanage

A DELICIOUS ARRAY OF CAKES helped to raise more than £150 for an Indian orphanage, thanks to the initiative of a big-hearted Willow Lodge pupil.

During the Christmas holiday Vir Singh visited India with his family and, as part of his trip, he visited Jyoti Sarup Kanya Asra Society, an orphanage caring for more than 90 young girls. Vir decided to ask his classmates at Willow Lodge to help him raise funds to donate to the orphanage and quickly came up with the idea of a cake sale.



Thanks to some wonderful baked treats and two very generous donations, a fabulous total of £152.19 was raised and was delivered personally by Vir and his family.

WILLOW LODGE INFANTS

Take a seat on the Friendship Bench



CREATIVE YOUNGSTERS have created a beautiful Friendship Bench for the grounds of Willow Lodge, which each pupil has helped to decorate.

The bench, which will be weather-proofed and placed in the playground, was the brainchild of Willow Lodge Pupil School Council and is adorned with colourful flowers painted by each pupil.

Willow Lodge teacher, Miss Hartley, said, *"The School Councillors attended a meeting in which we discussed how the bench can be used. We decided that when a child feels the need for a friend to talk to, he or she can show this by using the Friendship Bench. We hope that the Friendship Buddies in Infant 2 and the School Councillors will keep an eye on the bench and will try to find other children who have no one to play with and instigate a game they can play together, or to play with that child themselves."*

The School Council members held two cake sales to raise the funds to make their project a reality.

Head of Willow Lodge and the Junior School, Mrs Ainsworth, added, *"Our School Council is made up of representatives from all year groups. It is a wonderful example of the oldest and youngest children all working together and seeing that their views matter and make a difference. It has been a joy to see all the children involved in decorating the bench. It is a wonderful addition to our outside space."*

Red Arrow Myles pays a flying visit



WILLOW LODGE PUPILS were very excited to welcome British Airways pilot and former King's student Lieutenant Myles Gallimore (OKS 1993) to school in February.

Myles has been a pilot for the majority of his career and has flown across the world with numerous airlines. He told the pupils that he had dreamt of being a pilot from an early age and that he had focused on achieving his dream throughout his time at school.

Myles told pupils that his proudest moment was flying as part of the Red Arrows. He also discussed his military tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and talked about his experiences of having to eject himself from a helicopter.

The pupils jumped at the chance to try on Myles' fully equipped flight helmet, and the biggest challenge of the afternoon was convincing them all it was home time!



Woodpeckers and Wagtails touch down at Manchester Airport

OUR WOODPECKER AND WAGTAIL Classes recently embarked on an exciting trip to Manchester Airport Runway Visitor Park.

Pupils enjoyed learning all about the different types of aircraft, including the mighty Concorde. They learnt about the huge array of jobs that are required to maintain the efficiency of an airport, and this provided a fun opportunity to dress up as police officers, firefighters, stewards and air traffic controllers. The highlight for most was definitely sitting in the flight deck experiencing what it would be like to pilot a plane!

The afternoon was spent in the viewing area, which provided the perfect place for spotting different planes taking off and landing, whilst the guided tour of the Visitor Centre provided an opportunity to learn all about aviation travel.



Double celebrations for Olympic rower Tom James MBE

THE ROWING CLUB was delighted to play host to former pupil Tom James MBE (OKS 2002) for a two-fold celebration held in his honour in December.

Pupils, parents, staff, alumni and friends gathered to celebrate Tom's many achievements and his continued support of rowing at King's. Tom was conferred with a Leading Light Award by the school, and a new boat was also named in his honour.

A Leading Light Award is the highest form of recognition given by King's to our former pupils. Each recipient has made a lasting impact on society through outstanding professional, voluntary or philanthropic accomplishments.

Tom started rowing at King's aged 13, where his talent soon became apparent. Tom won several National Schools' Regatta medals and also represented Great Britain whilst in the Sixth Form. After leaving King's, he studied Engineering at Cambridge University. Tom rowed for Cambridge in the famous Boat Race four times. However, it wasn't until his final year in 2007 when, as President, he achieved his first Boat Race victory. Tom remains on the Executive Committee for the Cambridge University Boat Club.

In the spring of 2008, Tom was selected for the coxless four in the Beijing Olympics. He went on to participate in arguably the stand out race from the 2008 Games, making a

comeback to beat the Australian four, who had led for the large majority of the race, and winning the coveted gold medal.

At the 2012 London Olympics, he repeated his fantastic achievements in Beijing by claiming yet another gold medal as part of the coxless four crew. This was a great success, made even more impressive by triumphing on home turf. Tom was honoured with his very own Royal Mail postage stamp and also had a postbox in his home town of Wrexham painted gold. Tom was awarded an MBE for his services to sport in the 2009 New Year's Honours list.

He finally retired from competitive rowing in 2013 to pursue a career as a management consultant.

Welcoming back 1968 and 1978 school leavers



THE ALUMNI TEAM were delighted to welcome back 1968 and 1978 leavers to their respective reunions in March.

For many of the alumni attending, it was the first time they had visited King's since completing their studies at the school. Guests at both events enjoyed a tour conducted by Sixth Form prefects, followed by a convivial meal, with plenty of time to catch up with old friends and classmates.

Several guests commented on the scope of the changes that have taken place at the school since their departure and greatly appreciated the opportunity to share memories of their life at King's.

Congratulations to Matt Hancock, youngest member of the Cabinet

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALUMNUS Matt Hancock (OKS 1996), who was appointed Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport in January.

At 39 years old, Matt is the youngest member of the Cabinet and was previously Minister of State for Digital from July 2016 to January 2018. His promotion followed Karen Bradley's appointment as the new Northern Ireland Secretary as part of a Cabinet reshuffle.

Chester born Matt, who is married with two children and now lives in Little Thurlow, Suffolk, attended Farndon County Primary School, before joining The King's School.

Matt graduated from Oxford University with a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, having studied at Exeter College, Oxford, and later received an MPhil in Economics from Christ's College, Cambridge. Matt became a member of the Conservative Party in 1999 and MP for West Suffolk at the 2010 general election.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has grown to cover a range of portfolios and is tasked with driving growth, enriching lives and promoting Britain abroad.

Matt is a big fan of horse racing and even trained to become a jockey for a charity horse race in 2012, raising £10,000 and losing two stone in the process.



Pioneering surgeon Richard features in BBC2 documentary

AN ALUMNUS who is carrying out pioneering work to increase the number of viable organs for use in transplant surgery has been featured in a BBC Two documentary series.

Richard Laing (OKS 2000) and his colleagues were profiled in *Surgeons: At the Edge of Life: The Pioneers*, in January.

Within his role as a Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Fellow, Richard is part of a clinical trial between University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Birmingham, which is investigating the feasibility of using 'discarded' livers to tackle the shortage of liver donors. The trial hopes to increase the number of 'transplantable' livers.

Thanks to the development of a technique called machine perfusion, the team are testing the function of these livers prior to using them for transplantation. This trial follows on from a pilot study which resulted in the successful transplantation of five out of six perfused livers that were initially rejected for use.

The programme, part of a series of three, followed the trial every step of the way, as Richard received a donor liver that would usually be rejected and tried to prove its viability for transplant by testing it on a perfusion device. This machine supports the liver by mimicking the supply of blood, oxygen and nutrients an organ receives inside a live, healthy human body.

Deaths from liver disease have soared by 40% in a decade and continue to increase. Demand for liver transplants far exceeds availability of donors, so patients on the transplant waiting list are facing a longer wait and approximately 20% of patients die on the waiting list before a suitable organ can be found.



The inside story from former MOD Chief of Security

KING'S PUPILS had the opportunity to listen to the fascinating and daring exploits of Kevin Jones (OKS 1985), former Chief of Security at the Ministry of Defence and an expert in cyber security, when he visited in January.

Having spent 30 years in the army defending his country, with deployments to the Gulf, Sarajevo, Bosnia Kosovo/Macedonia and Afghanistan, Kevin now defends the networks, data and devices of world renowned bank JPMorgan Chase.

Deployed first as an operator and then team leader, he conducted covert counter terrorist operations (intelligence and security) in some of the most politically sensitive and hostile environments in the world. Kevin rose within the Ministry of Defence to the position of Chief of Security and latterly Senior Cyber Intelligence Executive at Government Communication Headquarters, better known as GCHQ.

Through his current role at JPMorgan Chase, Kevin was able to tell pupils about the sophisticated techniques used by the 'bad guys', as he put it, to steal the bank's assets or destabilise their operations. Pupils were gripped by his first hand accounts and incredible experiences.

When one pupil asked, "*What is the most scared you have ever been?*", he replied, "*Right now talking to you!*", which seems remarkable considering his distinguished and, at times, perilous career.

Kevin reflected that he thoroughly enjoyed his time at King's. After leaving, he didn't take the traditional route to university, but instead joined the army to complete his qualifications. He encouraged all pupils interested in the armed forces, or in pursuing a technology career, to aim as high as possible but always have an escape route – perhaps a nod to his years as a soldier.

The visit was hosted by Mr Rahman, Head of Computing and Information Technology, and the Alumni Team, and we hope to welcome Kevin back to the school again in the future.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Alumni Reunions

2008 (10 year Reunion) Saturday 19 May

Opportunities to get together with former school pals don't come around that often, so don't miss the chance to see how King's has changed since your day and to rekindle old friendships, or create new ones.

Henley Regatta Alumni Tea Party Friday 6 July

Join us for a right royal time at the Henley Royal Regatta – one of the English social calendar's key events.

Music and Theatre themed Founder's Dinner Saturday 29 September

This year we will celebrate all things musical and dramatic. Enjoy a sumptuous three course meal in our fabulous Vanbrugh Theatre whilst being entertained by the best of King's talent past and present.

Inspiring Minds: Creative Industries Festival

Alumni Networking Event at RIBA Thursday 15 November

Join us for a convivial and memorable evening at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London. Our Guest Speaker is former pupil Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

STAYING IN TOUCH

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KING'S SCHOOL SPORTS

Matt makes giant strides in cross country!

CONGRATULATIONS TO Matt Willis (U6BRD) who recently represented Great Britain fantastically at the Great Edinburgh International Cross Country, finishing the U20 men's race in third place.

He was the first British athlete to cross the finishing line, which led to him being selected to partake in a televised BBC interview with Gabby Logan. The British Athletics team placed second in the overall standings at the popular annual event in Edinburgh.

Matt has now been selected by the English Schools' Athletic Association to compete at the forthcoming International School Sport Federation World Schools' Cross Country in Paris, France in April.



Izzie's off to the Commonwealth Games!

CONGRATULATIONS TO Izzie Howell (U6LES), who has been selected to represent the senior Wales hockey squad at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia.

The Commonwealth Games will be held in Queensland, between the 4 and 15 of April 2018.

At only 17 years old, Izzie is the youngest member of the senior squad and was selected to travel to Gran Canaria at the end of January to train with the team.

In preparation for the contrasting environment the squad will endure during the Australian Games, the Gran Canaria camp allowed them an opportunity to adjust to the demands of warmer climates. During their time in Spain, the squad received coaching from the GB Elite Development Coach whilst also participating in five matches against Scotland, providing an ideal balance of training and game time to their schedule.

The opportunity to represent her country at a world renowned international event such as the Commonwealth Games is a hugely commendable achievement. We would like to wish Izzie the very best of luck for her adventure down under!

Sensational hockey season continues

THE 1ST XI GIRLS' hockey squad continued their fantastic hockey season as they were crowned District Indoor Champions in December.

The squad, consisting of Sophie Sinclair-Reeks (U6FOX), Anna Lloyd (U6WER), Izzie Howell (U6LES), Emily Cartwright (U6WAL), Jess Lee (U6BRD), Olivia Samson (U6BRD) and Olivia Wade-Jones (U6BRD), triumphed in matches against Queen's School, Bishop Heber High School and Tarporley High School, to retain the trophy previously won by the senior squad last season.

Their success followed a valiant effort in the National Schools' Hockey Competition in November. Following a fantastic cup run that began back in October with success at Cheshire level and North West regional level, the squad progressed to the last stage of the North final. The squad faced teams from the north west and north east

After some fantastic performances, a defeat in the semi-finals against Sebergh School ended their impressive run.

The squad, which consisted of Amelia Jones (L6BRD), Erin Morgan (L6GLA), Olivia Samson, Laura Scott (L6WAL), Isabel Martin (L6DUT), Margaux Thornton (L6BRD), Ellen Barry (L6LES), Ellie Saunders (5GLA), Elsa Hodgson (5BRD),

Jess Lee, Olivia Wade-Jones, Sophie Sinclair-Reeks, Emily Cartwright, Izzie Howell, Catherine Savidge (L6DUT) and Anna Lloyd (U6WER), represented the school fantastically and should be proud of their efforts.

The 1st XI girls' hockey squad will now look to continue their impressive recent form into the upcoming Cheshire Outdoor Final.

- Well done to Anna Mackay (4GRO), who has been selected for the Wales U16 squad to play against the Scotland U16 squad in a test series

in Glasgow over Easter. Also, congratulations to Aled Bennett (L6GRO) for his selection in the Wales U19 squad and Joe Webb (5BRD) for the U16 squad.

- The Senior Boys' squad recently triumphed in the National Plate tournament at the Olympic Park.
- Tilly Irvine (4FOX), Paul Kroeze (4WAL) and Lucy Osborne (4WAL) have all featured in England's Regional Performance Centres, whilst numerous others have been selected for the English or North Wales Academy Centres.



KING'S SCHOOL SPORTS



A stroke of success for swimmers

CONGRATULATIONS TO Fin Thomson (RMAI), who competed in the North Wales Regional Championships held over two weekends in Llandudno. These championships attract the very best swimmers from all over North Wales.

Fin competed in numerous strokes across a range of distances with the first weekend results as follows: North Wales champion – 50m fly, North Wales champion – 100m and 200m freestyle, North Wales champion – 200m backstroke, silver – 1500m freestyle, silver – 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke.

Fin continued his fantastic first round form into the second weekend of the championships as he claimed North Wales champion – 50 and 100 freestyle, North Wales champion – 100 Fly and North Wales champion – 200 breaststroke.

As a result of his impressive performances, Fin will compete in Swansea at the Welsh National Championships over the Easter weekend.

Kristian Ellis (5LES) performed fantastically at the recent Regional Swimming Championships.

Kristian competed in a total of 13 events during the championships, which resulted in 11 gold medals, one silver medal and a fourth place finish. This impressive tally was complemented by the announcement that he had broken five championship records in the process! Kristian now holds the records for the 200m, 400m and 1500m freestyle along with the 50m and 100m butterfly, for which he broke the one minute barrier with a finish time of 59.22 seconds.

The Easter Welsh national championships are up next, where Kristian aims to repeat these performances and qualify for the British championships in the summer.



Team progress in national netball competition

CONGRATULATIONS TO the U14 netball squad, who are through to the North West regional round of the National Schools Netball Competition.

They finished second in Cheshire and thus ensured their progress to the next round, despite narrowly losing by a single goal in the final.

Squad players were: Melissa Hughes (3GRO) (captain), Lily Wood (3DUT), Emilia Jenks (3WER), Charlotte Scott (3WAL), Izzy Whittlestone (SHGRO), Iona Rathbone (3WAL), Jess Parkinson (3BRD), Maria Rich (3LES) and Isabella Jones (3GLA).



Sophie is riding high – straight into the GB team



CONGRATULATIONS TO Sophie Williams (4LES) who recently finished in both first place with her horse Ella and second place with her horse Ferrari in the North West Medium Silver Regional Championships.

It was a very impressive showing from Sophie as she was competing at Medium Silver level against all ages and many professional riders. The final consisted of 40 competitors, with Sophie claiming the two qualifying tickets for the National Championship in April.

This was another highlight for Sophie in what has been a great season for her as she now prepares for the upcoming Keysoe International in March. The Keysoe International is an annual horse-riding event held in Bedfordshire, and Sophie will represent Great Britain at this year's competition. Sophie will spend the days leading up to the event training with a renowned national trainer.

Following the Keysoe International, Sophie has also been confirmed as one of five riders who will represent Great Britain at an international event in April.

We wish Sophie the best of luck!

Triumphant Juniors hockey champions

The school's fantastic hockey season continued this term as the under 11 boys' squad triumphed at the AJSIS hockey championships.

The team won every match on their journey to the final, playing some remarkable hockey along the way!

The final was a tense affair against Kirkham Grammar School, with both teams competing admirably. However, the team kept their nerve and, following a period of extra time, eventually came out on top to claim the trophy!





Footballers hit the target at all levels

THE SCHOOL'S FOOTBALL TEAMS have been enjoying continued success this season, as numerous age groups are thriving in local, regional and national competitions.

Our under 16s squad continued their impressive form in the English Schools' Football Association (ESFA) Cup, with victories against Heath School and Leftwich County High School. Whilst the team often dominate possession, they have found it difficult to break down stern opposition defences. This is where a mixture of patience, fitness and resilience has developed within their game, often breaking teams down in the latter stages.

The senior squad have reached the semi-finals of the County Cup, beating some very talented school teams along the way. Their high pressing and intense style of play, which often focuses on making the utmost use of their talented wingers,

has proved to be hugely effective this season.

The Removes squad are also having a fine season, losing only two games thus far. They recently won the District stage of the national five-a-side competition and represented the school at the county finals in Northwich.

They acquitted themselves superbly and only narrowly missed out on being crowned county champions. Their fantastic form in the tournament was built upon their resilient defensive performances. All teams are still in the District Cup competitions, whilst the 1st XI continue to progress through the rounds in the Mersey Shield.

Individual achievements include scholarships for Danny Lokko (5WAL), Jack Goodrich (5LES) and Luke Allen (5GLA), who have all recently signed contracts with Crewe Alexandra.

Rowers start the New Year in style

THE ANNUAL ROWING TRIP to Wycliffe for the traditional New Year curtain raising event was a huge success, with almost 100 rowers making the journey down south.

The morning division was a busy one, with morale-boosting wins being achieved by the 1st VIII in Open Eights and the J15 Boys A boat, with the J16 crew and the J15 B crew both producing very positive rows.

The morning division for the girls' squads saw the J16s race in a quad scull whilst the J15 girls raced in two VIIIs. The J16 girls demonstrated the technical progress they have made so far this year against strong opposition in a very competitive field. The J15 girls raced extremely maturely and managed to post the first and second fastest times of any female Eights of the morning division.

The afternoon division was led by a senior girls' quad scull and five J14 octuple sculls. The senior girls raced well, showing great progress after a very small number of outings together, placing third in a competitive WJ18 field. This was a fantastic achievement and will provide great confidence as they look forward to the School's Head of the River and the summer regatta season.

The future looks bright for rowing at King's with five J14 octuples racing in mixed boats at this event. Congratulations goes to the 'Hartley' winning boys' crew and the 'Artell' winning girls' crew. However, all the J14 crews should be enormously proud of their day at Wycliffe, where they raced extremely well despite difficult conditions.

Thank you to all the coaches that assisted on a very busy day for the Club, and particular thanks to the parents who made the long trip to Gloucestershire to provide fantastic support for our crews as well as hot soup and copious amounts of sandwiches and cake for the King's contingent!

During the last weekend of the February half-term break, Jack Roberts (L6DUT) and Oliver Irvine (L6FOX) attended the third stage of the Great Britain rowing team trials.

The test was held in Boston, Lincolnshire and was raced over 5,000 metres in coxless pairs.

The King's School duo performed very well on the first of two days racing, ending in 17th place.

The next day, with a few adjustments, and plenty of rest and food, Jack and Oliver raced over the same distance to end their weekend finishing inside the top ten of the country's finest rowers.

We wish them luck in the hope of an invitation to the Easter assessment, the next stage in their quest for international representation.



Honours from the Humane Society for hiking hero Mr Duncalf

JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER, Mr Duncalf, was recently awarded a Commendation from the Humane Society for saving a 16-year-old after she became ill whilst trekking in South Africa.

Mr Duncalf was hiking in a three-man team when the teenager suffered a severe asthma attack on a mountain in Southern Drakensberg.

The incident unfolded at 2,200ft, just after the decision was taken to abandon the trek due to dangerous conditions caused by 80mph winds. Attempts to use her inhaler proved unsuccessful and, due to her continued breathing difficulties, she began to drift in and out of consciousness.

It took the three-man team more than five hours to carry the distressed girl to safety.



Mr Lee presents Mr Duncalf with his Commendation.

The team was nominated by the Army Cadet Force, which provides military-themed activities for children and young people from around the UK.

Andrew Chapman, secretary of the Royal Humane Society, said, "It must have been an incredibly gruelling, harrowing and seemingly

never-ending trip carrying her down the mountain. The three of them did an absolutely superb job with the result that she survived the ordeal and was, amazingly, released from hospital the next day. They richly deserve the awards they receive."

Rohan's essay wins top science prize

ROHAN YESUDIAN (L6GAL) WAS DELIGHTED to win an essay competition, organised by the Galton Institute Fisher Prize, in March.

Rohan, who is currently studying biology, chemistry, physics and maths at A Level, submitted an essay titled *The Role of Statistics in Medical and Scientific Research, Especially in Genetics*. Following a large number of entrants, Rohan was pleased to receive the news that he had been awarded a certificate along with a £500 prize.

The Galton Institute promotes education and public engagement with not only current science, but also its origins and history.





DISCOVERY DAYS

FRIDAY 25 MAY 2-3PM AND
FRIDAY 8 JUNE 2-3PM

“We have so much fun at school, I don't even want to leave school.”

Anna, 4



“I don't either!”

Dan, 5



Discover a world of possibilities.

Join us for an afternoon at Willow Lodge and see why our pupils love coming to school every day. Experience their passion for adventurous learning, as they discover a world full of friendship, opportunity and challenge.

Please contact us today to reserve your place.

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www.kingschester.co.uk



Scan to see more of Anna and Dan and why #WeLoveKings



DISCOVERY DAYS

THURSDAY 28 AND
FRIDAY 29 JUNE 9AM-3PM



“It's sort of like one big family.”

Aoife, Year 7

Seizing opportunity.

We warmly welcome all Year 5 pupils to join us at our Senior School to experience a day in the life of one of our students.

The children will take part in a range of fun lessons and hands-on activities, led by our inspirational teaching team. This is an ideal opportunity for your child to discover our broad and vibrant curriculum; excellent facilities and nurturing environment.

To reserve your place, please visit www.kingschester.co.uk/admissions

Should you have any queries, please call **01244 689 553** or email admissions@kingschester.co.uk



Scan to hear more from Aoife and her friends #WeLoveKings