



All the latest news from The King's School, Chester | Winter 2015

The King's School, colouring their lives forever.

Learn more inside...















Another great year for A Level results

In August, Sixth Form leavers celebrated another fantastic set of A Level results!

William Blacklock and Victoria Walker gained five A* grades. Laurence Ankers and Gabriel McCluskey achieved four A* grades.

Three A* grade A Levels were achieved by: Emma Bates, Marissa Landy, Fiona McDonald, Charlie Gomersall and Anita Mohan (3 A*/1 A).

43% of King's students gained all A*/A grades in every subject and almost 61% achieved the university 'gold standard' of AAB grades.

27% of all passes were graded A* and 87% of grades were awarded A*/B. The King's girls performed extremely well with 29%

A* grades, 76% A*/A grades and 93% A*/B grades.

The Headmaster said, "I offer my congratulations to all the students. Their hard work and that of their teachers in supporting them, has culminated in some impressive results and I wish them every success as they start the next exciting stage in their lives. I am very pleased with the girls' results this year, showing again that girls in co-educational schools do perform every bit as well as, if not better, than those in single sex schools."

Sixth Formers leaving in July went on to study at some of the country's finest



universities. 77% went on to one of *The Times* Top 30 universities 2015 and 25% to a Top 10 university. 80% of leavers went to study at one of the 24 universities which form the prestigious Russell Group. Twelve students succeeded in their applications to study Medicine or Veterinary Science and four of the six offered took up their places at Cambridge. Three students have taken offers of apprenticeships and employment. We wish all the 2015 leavers every good wish as they start their careers.





Strong GCSE performances in 2015

Following on from the outstanding A Level results, placing The King's School as the top performing school in the Chester area again this year, the GCSE results were also very strong.



James Hughes, Eleri Reece-Jones (10 A* and A), Matthew Williams and Jack Hodgkinson led the way with a 'full house' of 10 A* GCSEs together with six students who achieved 11 GCSEs:

Amelia Jones (9 A* and 2 A)
Rebecca Hatton (7 A* and 4 A)
Joseph Langley (8 A*, 1 A and 2 B)
Daniel Verity (6 A*, 4 A and 1 B)
Emily Letton (5 A*, 4 A and 2 B)

In total 19 students achieved 10 or 11 A * /A grades with a further 16 students achieving nine A * /A grades.

In Further Maths, four students gained A* with distinction, which is an extra grade beyond A* given to high achievers in recognition of how difficult it is to obtain. There were some fantastic individual department results with the following departments achieving



huge numbers of the top A* grades in the numbers of GCSEs: Chemistry (51% A*), Physics (50% A*), History (46% A*), Biology (45% A*) RS (47% A*), Maths (39% A*), English Language (47% A*), Drama (50% A*) and Latin (57% A*).

The King's School follows a range of GCSE and international GCSE (IGCSE) courses. In all cases, departments choose the course that best suits students at King's in relation to the appropriate level of academic challenge and preparation for A Level study. 96% of passes were graded A*/B and 77% of the grades were at A*/A Level. Girls at King's gained 78.2% A*/A grades and 52% were graded A*.

The Headmaster commented "Once again our pupils have demonstrated their hard work and determination in achieving some fantastic results, together with the excellent support and encouragement of their teachers. It never fails to amaze me how successful they are academically in addition to participating fully in the 130 clubs and activities, concerts, plays, sports teams or rowing crews – many of them performing at the very highest level. I wish them all the best of luck as they move to their Sixth Form studies."

Prizewinners awarded by Dr Jane Hawking

Pupils and staff were honoured to welcome Dr Jane Hawking to the annual Prizegiving ceremony, held at Chester Racecourse in July.

The Headmaster welcomed the guest of honour; author Dr Jane Hawking, former wife of world-famous scientist Professor Stephen Hawking, who awarded the prizes and spoke eloquently about the importance of the arts, and in particular reading novels. She told a story about her former husband saying he had declared that, "reading novels was a waste of time" and she implored King's science students not to ignore what the arts have to offer. She added, in Stephen's defence, that he was very busy solving problems in physics and having to deal with Motor Neurone Disease, to have much time for reading novels. She also urged arts students equally, to make sure they kept abreast of progress in science.

The ceremony celebrated the vast array of achievements made by individual pupils at King's and was attended by 1200 pupils, Governors, parents and guests. Achievements spanned success in academia, sport, music, drama and other aspects of school life and awards were presented by Dr Hawking. The ceremony had many highlights including a speech from Dr Hawking alongside performances of music, poetry and readings from students and speeches from the Headmaster and Chair of Governors.



Curious Incident attracts rave reviews

Following on from last year's productions of Amadeus and Frankenstein, student led Focus Theatre's latest offering was a series of scenes from Mark Haddon's much loved novel, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time. Directed by Sixth Former Harriet Fisher (U6PW), the production played to packed houses across both evenings and has received glowing reviews from all who attended it.



Harriet's directorial flair was clear to see from the outset in this slick and stylish production and Mr Mannix's technical expertise were used to full effect with a wonderful lighting and multi-media design. There were some outstanding moments of physical theatre and Christopher's description of space was a particular aesthetic highlight, thanks to some fabulous LED gloves!

The cast also did a fantastic job of bringing this endearing story to life. Fin Paterson's (L6JK) sensitive and subtle portrayal of protagonist Christopher Boone was a joy to watch and Rebecca Hatton (L6HJ) delivered a consummate performance as Christopher's teacher Siobhan. Edward Ramsey (L6HJ) was suitably smug as homewrecker Roger, whilst of course nobody can

forget the show-stealing cameo performances by Pumpkin the dog and Scabbers the mouse! Simon Parker (L6ML) (a new addition to The King's School stage) expertly balanced Ed's unconditional love and frustration for Christopher. The emotional chemistry between father (Simon Parker) and son (Fin Paterson) was delightfully executed throughout. A mention must also go out to the focused ensemble who expertly portrayed the various characters that weave in and out of Christopher's life.

The cast and crew of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* should be immensely proud of this wonderful achievement; yet another testament to the immense talents of our students. Long may Focus Theatre Company continue!









Niamh named as new Head of School

The Head of School for 2015/16 has been named as Niamh Massey (U6SW). Niamh is the second girl in King's history to lead the prefect team, and is ably supported by Tom Cuffin-Munday (U6ER) and Stanley Parker (U6ER) as her deputies. Another 33 students help to make up King's Head Prefect Team.

The prefect system operates in all areas of life at King's with Head Prefects taking responsibility for sport, subjects, the library, the school council, events, charities, Year groups, The Junior School and Willow Lodge. Every tutor group from Removes to Fifth Year is assigned prefects who work with the younger students helping them settle into life at school and developing a sense of community.

In addition, every member of the Upper Sixth is assigned a Removes pupil to act as an "Aunt" or "Uncle" throughout their first year, as well as writing them a letter of welcome during the summer. In this way we hope to allow all students to develop their skills as leaders and role models across the School, and specifically within the Sixth Form, whilst developing a greater sense of community.





Congratulations to Removes scholarship winners

Every year King's awards the top performing Removes with an entrance scholarship based on their results in English and Maths.

The scholarship of £50 was awarded in September to: Louis Adams (RMNG), Aryan Agarwal (RMCH), King Chalapati (RMSC), Leah Fidling (RMCR), Charlotte Jones (RMCR), Lily Kenningham (RMSC) and Daniel Kiely (RMRA).



Optimising happiness, confidence and success

In September, King's welcomed renowned Psychiatrist Professor Steve Peters, author of the groundbreaking Mind Management Programme 'The Chimp Paradox'. Professor Peters addressed staff and parents on the theme of 'Optimising happiness, confidence and success in teenagers through understanding the Mind'.

Helping students to build confidence and achieve success is central to the educational vision at King's and the support of the mind management programme will assist students in doing this with resilience and ambition. King's pupils in Removes, Fourth Year and Lower Sixth are now engaged with mentor, Laura Fishenden, and they are already seeing the benefits of recognising when they need to use the rational, human side of their brain to calm the over-emotional chimp side.



As the project continues at King's, students and staff will receive further training which aims to help them understand why they think and act as they do and how to manage their minds to optimise their performance at work and in their personal lives.

Patrick's prestigious Trinity College prize

Patrick Hudson (U6PW) won the prestigious first prize in the University of Cambridge, Trinity College's 2015 Robson Prize for History.

This was awarded for his essay on the

This is a magnificent achievement as Patrick was picked from a pool of over 200 of the brightest history students across the UK and this will put

history students across the UK and this will him in good stead for university entrance.

Pre-Reformation Church in England.

The Director of History Studies at Cambridge said, "We received over 200 entries, and were very impressed by the range and skill of work that we saw, but Patrick's stood out above them all. Many congratulations on writing such an intelligent, interesting, and well-researched piece of work."

Patrick was invited to attend lunch at Cambridge where he received a tour of the college, spoke with current students and staff and received his prize.





Lower Sixth awards in **Cambridge Chemistry Challenge**

The results for the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge were received in July, and the School were proud to announce that a large number of Lower Sixth students did very well with five gold awards, nine silver awards and nine copper awards having been achieved.

The Cambridge Chemistry Challenge aims to stretch and challenge students interested in chemistry and it provides excellent experience for anyone considering taking their studies further. Designed to be accessible to Year 12 students, the Challenge takes them significantly beyond the syllabus and encourages them to think about science in the way they would at university.



Cricket legend awarded King's cap

King's was honoured to welcome cricket legend, Sir Garfield Sobers at the end of last term.

Following his invitation to the area by Chester Boughton Hall CC, Mr Stephen Wundke, a current parent at King's, interviewed Sir Garfield on his upbringing, development as a professional cricketer and his approach to sport. The audience were fascinated and captivated by Sir Garfield's wit and charisma, as he recounted tales of a great cricketing life. These included the famous 'six sixes' in an over for Nottinghamshire against Glamorgan and his memories of a West Indies career that saw him score 8032 runs (average 57.78) and take 235 wickets (average 34.03).

Sir Garfield was then presented with an honorary King's 1st XI cap by Director of Sport, Mr Lunn who commented, "It was wonderful to welcome such an iconic player to King's. It is rare that one is able to meet someone who is a true 'great' and it was a real thrill to listen to both Sir Garfield's anecdotes and hear about his attitude towards cricket and, indeed, life."





Maintaining our Arkwright Scholarship tradition

In October, Henry Greaves (L6ML) received an Arkwright Scholarship award in London. King's has a strong tradition of Arkwright scholars, having achieved at least one each year for the last five years. Supporting the next generation of engineers is imperative in today's market with the skills gap in technical engineers as wide now as it has ever been.

Students go through a tough application process including a written proposal, aptitude exam and an interview before

of its type in the UK,



Welcome to our new poet-in-residence

King's is delighted to announce Luke Wright as its new poet-in-residence for this year. Luke follows in the footsteps of our first poet-in-residence – Clive McWilliam.

English teacher and lead teacher on poetry at King's, Mrs Lydon, said, "We are really pleased to have Luke at King's, engaging and inspiring our students with his performance energy, his topical subject choices and his mix of intelligent satire, humour and heartfelt lyrics. Luke can convince anyone that poetry is fun, relevant and thought-provoking."

Luke Wright has been well reviewed in the media with *The Observer* classing him as 'One of our best young poets' and *The Scotsman* claiming that his poetry is 'Visceral, poignant and riotously funny'.

During his day at King's Luke ran several workshops with different age groups in the Senior School. He discussed and worked on poetry writing skills, performance and delivery techniques, as well as treating the students to some performances of his latest work.

Since 2006 Luke has written and performed eight one-man shows, touring them to top literary and arts festivals from Australia to Scotland via Hong Kong and Bruges. This is Luke's third visit to King's and first in his role as poet-in-residence. In 2015 his debut solo theatre show What I Learned From Johnny Bevan won a prestigious Fringe First Award at The Edinburgh Fringe; Luke also bagged The Stage Award for Acting Excellence. What I Learned From Johnny Bevan tours throughout 2016.

Luke will return once more to perform What I Learned From Johnny Bevan in

the Vanbrugh Theatre on 21st January

2016 for what will surely be a sold



Fresh new look for the 1541 dining room

Over the summer holidays the King's dining room underwent a tremendous transformation.

The space, which has been named 1541, as voted by staff and pupils, is a modernised and upgraded version of the hall to create an informal and inviting social area which is used throughout the day. Pupils enjoy the new contemporary and fresh design along with new equipment to support the dining team in delivering the 'Fresh every day' concept to our pupils.



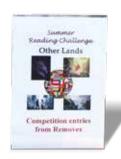




Heald Seniors

Patron of Reading visits Removes

Jon Mayhew, King's new Patron of Reading, visited the Removes in their first assembly of term. As Patron of Reading, Jon works alongside teaching and library staff to promote reading for pleasure throughout the School.



Over the summer Jon and our Head Librarian, Mrs Harding, set a challenge for pupils to read at least four books on the theme of 'Other Lands' and to complete a creative response to their books. Over half of the Removes pupils completed the challenge and the creative entries were of a superb standard, including posters, collages, models, poems, stories and much more. Many pupils went above and beyond the minimum requirement, with Avi Sengupta (RmRA) winning a prize for having read an incredible 48 books.

Jon spent the morning in the Wickson Library, looking at all the creative entries, and finally managed to choose his top three.

First place went to Avi Sengupta who wrote a poem inspired by many of the books he read. Runners up were Isabelle Griffin (RmRA) who designed a collage based on 'This is what happy looks like' by Jennifer E. Smith, and Niall Eddleston (RmCR) who created a beautiful box containing pictures and details about the book 'Reckless' by Cornelia Funke.

Jon presented the certificates and prizes, and all Remove pupils received a copy of one of his books, 'The Demon Collector', which they will be using for tutor time activities throughout the year.



Groundsman Alen's winning pitch

Head Groundsman, Alen Roberts, collected an award on behalf of King's for winning Education Sector Pitch of the Year at The Cheshire Football Association 2015 Awards Evening. Alen and the team consistently provide students with some of the best kept and maintained pitches in Cheshire.

Cheshire FA Chief Executive, Simon Gerrard, noted the importance of recognising the hard work behind the scenes to support football. "We were proud to have the opportunity to say thank you to those people who make a difference to football in their local community and who dedicate their time to developing tomorrow's young talent."

Director of Sport Mr Lunn said "Alen and the Grounds team work tirelessly to ensure that all the pitches at King's are of the very highest standard and we are delighted that their skill and dedication has been recognised."



Rhymes ring around the gallery

This year King's celebrated National Poetry Day in October with a dynamic poetry relay. Between 1pm and 1.30pm the gallery was echoing with the non-stop lively sounds of poetry being read as five batons were passed round from reader to reader.

By the end of the half hour 97 poems had been read aloud by staff and pupils, making this another great event organised by King's Sixth Form Passion for Poetry Society. King's has a well-established and supported culture of poetry, writing and reading and it was fantastic to see so many younger pupils enjoying the poetry relay. Students also had the opportunity to enter the Passion for Poetry competition by writing a poem based on the theme of light which will be judged in November with the winners being featured in the next King's School poetry anthology.







Visiting lecturers bring maths to life

Katie Steckles, a PHD mathematician from Manchester University, visited King's in November and spoke to Junior School pupils about her favourite 2D shapes and 3D solids. She discussed faces, edges and vertices within cubes, tetrahedrons and dodecahedrons.

She made excellent cross curricular links with Science and Geography and kept the children engaged and entertained. Katie introduced



pupils to the art of möbius rings – tricks with paper such as 'how can you make two circles/cylinders into a square?' She then used smoke rings to create a 'torus' – otherwise known as a doughnut – and used the smoke rings to knock over paper cups at the back of the Vanbrugh Theatre.

Later in the day Katie spoke to Fifth Year and Sixth Form students from King's and other schools about Maths in *The Simpsons* (and in *Futurama*). From Fermat's last theorem to the Hardy–Ramanujan number *The Simpsons* consistently brings us some of the most famous mathematical problems. Katie showed clips from the show and asked students to spot the maths featured (often very subtlety). She then elaborated on each mathematical concept; introducing the students to Mersenne Primes, Perfect numbers, Narcissistic numbers and much more.



The second of our annual Sixth Form Maths lectures was an entertaining and engaging talk by mathematical juggler, Colin Wright entitled "Patterns Fail". The talk was a farrago of interesting and exciting situations where patterns appear to occur in Mathematics, before failing miserably. Colin even gave us an insight into how to play real-life Battleships. This was an amusing and interactive presentation, leaving the audience thirsty for more. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and we look forward to Colin's next visit to the School.

iNK. hits the screens!

October brought with it the first issue of iNK., a digital magazine produced by Upper Sixth students from the Economics department.

The magazine includes articles and videos which help others to make sense of what is happening in the world of economics, as well as the activities of students in national competitions.

From latest economic book reviews to recent news, the magazine helps develop King's students understanding of economics above and beyond the curriculum.



Removes take up the challenge at Manor Adventure

In August, the new Removes joining King's in September undertook their first Senior School challenge by attending a two-day course at Manor Adventure in Craven Arms, Shropshire. Wearing their new t-shirts, colour-coded according to their Tutor Group and with their names embroidered on the front, they eagerly boarded the coaches to begin the adventure.

In glorious sunshine they arrived at the centre and unpacked their bags before lunch. Then the activities began. Over the next 36 hours, they undertook a variety of team building tasks such as crate-stacking, initiative exercises, navigating through an underground maze and completing obstacle courses. They also enjoyed archery, abseiling, rifle shooting and a confidence course high in the trees.











Lest we forget...

Battlefields tour follows in Mr Walsh's footsteps

In 1939 King's teacher, A. St G. Walsh, returned to the battlefields of the First World War which he had fought on 20 years or so before. Inspired by his account of this visit, in the October half-term holiday 55 pupils and six staff toured some of the same places.

Like Mr Walsh the group visited cemeteries and memorials and learned the extraordinary story of how these beautiful places came about. But whereas he visited the graves of friends and loved ones – most poignantly his brother's name on the Menin Gate, the focus for the group was former members of the School community. In total, 12 graves and memorials of former pupils were visited and one former member of staff, some for the first time. The pupils learned the stories of these men, some of whom were not much more than boys when they were called to the battlefield. Pupils and staff read poems, laid wreaths and remembrance crosses; there was much to reflect upon.

The group was able to visit some of the battlefields, though fewer are accessible today than in 1939. Today's neatly ploughed fields around the Somme, for example, yield stories of desperate tragedy. Standing in Sheffield Memorial Park and learning the story of the Pals' Battalions is a haunting experience even now. Walking around the Lochnagar Crater one can almost picture enemy soldiers using the crater lip for cover, lying just a few feet from one another. The impressive Australian Memorial tower at Villers-Bretonneux, looks out for miles at ground so picturesque and peaceful now, but so bitterly contested almost a hundred years ago.

An excellent tour of the Wellington tunnels in Arras gave a poignant insight into underground warfare, while the Trench of Death near Dixmuide was appropriately muddy and claustrophobic. Stuffed dead rats in the Shelter Museum on the Somme provided an authentic touch, while in the museum at Hooge pupils saw a replica German warplane. This was in their minds later on when Larch Wood (Railway Cutting) cemetery was visited, where two former pupils, both airmen, are buried. The Historial at Péronne captivated the group too, its exhibits of false limbs and Otto Dix depictions of the horrors of war, reminding all that the Great War not only killed on an industrial scale but wounded and maimed too, often scarring survivors for life. The shooting post and condemned men's cells in Poperinge were perhaps the saddest of the visits, and a reminder that this was a war at once close to us in time and yet remote in ethics and values.

As Mr Walsh noted, not much that was good came out of the war; comradeship perhaps the only thing. This was much in evidence as the five-day tour came to a close at Talbot House in Poperinge. Set up by the Reverend "Tubby" Clayton in 1915, this was a refuge for soldiers behind the lines, where some peace and quiet could be had and entertainment enjoyed. The group certainly entered into the spirit, "bringing the place to life" as one visitor noted, as pupil after pupil played the piano and sang. The music was modern but the spirit was timeless. A fitting end to the tour, of a kind which Mr Walsh himself would surely have approved.











WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

The First World War was not "over by Christmas" and, a year after it began, the Great War had "changed all our lives" at King's. The rhythms of school life were altered: there was no school play, no sports day, no cricket matches. All were "out-of-place" in wartime.

Trench warfare had set in on the Western Front but 1915 was also the year of Gallipoli, and it was this campaign that generated the first telegrams and army forms informing parents and wives of former King's pupils that their sons and husbands had been killed. Four Old King's Scholars lost their lives in Gallipoli, as Britain and her Allies tried to win the war through a diversionary assault, as Churchill put it, on the enemy's 'soft underbelly'.

By the summer of 1915 the Allied assault in Gallipoli had stalled. August was supposed to see further landings at Suvla Bay that would end the deadlock. The assault on Suvla was



 $\label{thm:wilder} \textbf{Wilfred Tait's grave at Vielle-Chapelle New Military Cemetery}.$

to be carried out by five divisions of fresh troops of the New Army, men such as Second Lieutenants Edward Whitfield, Arthur Jones and Colin Walton, and Trooper Norman Okell.

Head of School in 1909-10, Whitfield was a great academic who collected a string of prizes while at King's and whose mathematical prowess was recognised by St John's College, Cambridge, which awarded him an Open Scholarship in 1910. When the war broke out

he had recently taken up a post as Lecturer in Mathematics at St. David's College, Lampeter. The son of a clergyman, Jones was a little older; he had left school in 1902 and was a Civil Engineer. Okell was different again. From Littleton, Norman Okell migrated to New Zealand before the war to work as a farmer.

When the 1915 School Year Book was published in the summer of that year, these men were still alive. All are listed in the "Pro Patria" of the 1916 year book, although Whitfield's death gains special mention as "a war tragedy". At first reported "missing", the War Office in 1916 confirmed that Whitfield had been killed. "An unknown grave on Gallipoli – who could have imagined such an end for him two short years ago?"



In happier times: Wilfred Tait pictured centre of front row.

There was another name on that list from 1915.
All through the year, fighting had continued on the Western Front. Just before Christmas, a telegram boy called at Dorothy Tait's house in West Parade in Rhyl. It was the news every soldier's wife dreaded. Her husband, Wilfred Webster Tait, who had been at King's 1900 to 1907 and shown much talent as a footballer and cricketer, had died of wounds. It was another cruel addition to the "incalculable suffering" about which the Headmaster, the Reverend Davies wrote; another life lost and another life "changed" forever.

CCF in Remembrance Commemorations

In November 80 members of the King's School CCF took part in Remembrance Commemorations in Chester.

After a poignant service the cadets gathered along with regular soldiers and civic dignitaries to observe the silence at the war memorial. Cadets Emma Giddis (4SA) and Thomas Larken (U6DB) laid wreaths in memory of those from The King's School who lost their lives in military service. The cadets then marched through Chester before being dismissed by the Garrison Commander. Cadet Patrick Hudson (U6PW) reflected that it was an honour to represent King's as part of the Chester community's commemorations to those who laid down their lives for our freedom.



Heald Seniors

Farewell prom for Sixth Formers

The Double Tree by Hilton offered the fantastic location for the Sixth Form Leavers' Ball. The event allowed students the chance to celebrate a night they will never forget. The evening was attended by students and teachers.

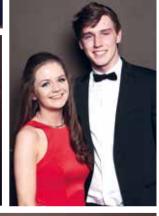
Although a joyous occasion all round, the night also held a twinge of sadness as the students said goodbye to friends and King's which has played an instrumental part in many of their lives.

King's wishes the best of luck to departing Sixth Formers with all their future endeavours as they start their first term at university, gap years or in employment.













500 Miles of Smiles

Students in last year's Fifth Year successfully raised £500 for Miles of Smiles. Students generously decided to donate their end of year prom event deposit to a local charity instead of giving it back to individuals.

Sue Thomas, Chair of Miles of Smiles, visited King's in September to collect the cheque and thank the pupils. This money will go directly towards giving terminally ill children the chance to go on a trip to Disneyland in 2016.



Bake Off brings in cash for cancer charity

Parents had an opportunity to visit and enjoy coffee and cake in the new 1541 dining hall in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Students also hosted their very own 'Great British Bake Off' event in the quad with 'Paul and Mary' taking time out of their busy schedules to judge the winners. A total of £790 was raised.









Cadets in action at home and abroad

During the summer holiday Olivia Samson (5RC) and Isabel Beardwood (5MP) were amongst 48 cadets selected to represent the UK cadet forces on an exchange with the Canadian cadets forces.

They attended Whitehorse Camp and spent six weeks learning skills in outdoor leadership, canoeing, mountaineering, mountain biking, survival and a range of other activities. The trip was hugely enjoyable and the girls returned with some great ideas to share with our cadets.

Five cadets also attended a week-long Cadet Leadership Course (CLC) where they were trained and tested in leadership, communication and problem-solving. All got excellent reports and Isobel Larken (L6CC) was awarded the Kriege Trophy for the best RAF Cadet on a CLC that year.

In October, Group Captain Lawlor conducted an inspection of the CCF. He is the Chief of Staff of the Air Cadet Organisation and was impressed by the quality of the cadets at King's and their achievements over recent years. In his address to the cadets Group Captain Lawlor commended the cadets on their cheerfulness, enthusiasm and commitment to the CCF.



Over the half-term four cadets attended a Senior Cadet Instructor's Course (SCIC) and spent seven days in Altcar on a course run by regular soldiers. The SCIC is designed to develop cadets' instructional abilities and leadership. It is a tough course which demands the highest standards. Of the 44 cadets on the course, Amelia Standing (5LM) won the award for second best student and Chloe Cowan (L6ML) won the award for top student – the first time a CCF cadet has done so in ten years.

Penny gains hands-on experience at Chester Zoo

Penny Downes (U6ER) completed a Nuffield Project over the summer in connection with the Biology Department. Nuffield Research placements give Sixth Form students hands-on experience of a professional research environment through a four to six week placement in their summer holidays.

Penny's project, was on behavioural observations and enclosure use of Bornean Orangutans, *Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus* at Chester Zoo, in preparation for the planned moving of their enclosures.





Initiative pays off with lab research project

Atharva Salvi (5LM) showed great initiative after he independently asked for lab experience at Manchester University.

Atharva has spent a week rotating around various labs with the department of Cell Biology after King's Biology Staff arranged a visit for him. The University have been superb in accommodating him and King's Biology Department is very happy to see its strong links with universities being used to help students.



Heald Juniors



Singing in the spirit of Christmas

The Junior School Choir competed in 'The Spirit of Christmas' choir competition in November.

The competition in aid of the NeuroMuscular Centre, a local based charity, was held in association with Chester's Dee 106.3 radio station. The choir recorded 'On a Special Night' written by King's very own Mrs O'Leary and 'In the Bleak Midwinter'. The recordings were sent off to be judged against other Chester primary schools. King's made it through to the final five competing schools, an achievement The Junior School is immensely proud of.

Thanks go to Mrs Stevens and Mrs O'Leary who both accompanied and conducted the choir.









Captains bring Junior Houses together

The Junior Captains play an important role in leading one of the four Houses. In the Junior School every child within the Houses know the Captains' names.

They lead special meetings to bring the children across the year groups within the House together. The Captains praise those who do well and encourage and help those who need a little support. They play a key part at events and they carry out a number of other responsibilities including guiding visitors around the Junior School and supervising the School to and from Assembly. They also deliver the current House point totals during Monday Assembly.

"One of the best bits about being a House Captain is that you feel proud because you have been chosen to help lead your House and you feel even more proud when your House wins something like sports day!" Previous House Captain.

House Captains

Evans:

- Sam Miln (J4S)
- · Lily Harwood (J4H)

- Bram Lucas (J4M)
- · Vibha Shetty (J4H)

Lindans:

- Tom Rofe (J4S)
- Nithikka Kumar (J4H)

Shepherds:

- Olivia Whorrall-Campbell (J4H)
- Jacob Popplewell (J4M)

Sport Captains

Evans:

- Jake Roberts (J4H)
- Elinor Fotheringham (J4S)

- Alex Matijasevich (J4H)
- Emily Coopman (J4H)

Lindans:

- Henry Lunn (J4H)
- · Honey Holmes (J4H)

Shepherds:

- Isabelle Whittlestone (J4H)
- Ted Arnold (J4M)

Librarians

Evans:

- Anthony Chappell (J4S)
- Caitlin Price (J4S)

- Millie Webb (J4S)
- · James Harrison (J4M)

Lindans:

- Freddie Spillane (J4M)
- Beth Aldridge (J4S)

Shepherds:

- Jessica Sedman (J4S)

Junior Mathematicians demonstrate excellent teamwork

In November a team from the Junior School took part in the National Young Mathematicians' Award organised by Cambridge University and Explore Learning.

communicate their ideas and understanding brilliantly to their teammates. They then received a place in the regional finals against West. In the regional finals they demonstrated





Heald Juniors

Organising our charity initiatives

The newly elected Junior School Charity Committee, comprising Kouki Hirakawa (J1D), Georgia Worsnop (J1L), Hugo St John Williams (J1T), Lukas Pold (J2A), Daniel Rich (J2H), Ankit De (J2R), Millen Batra (J3B), Brona Halpin (J3O), Limonèe Fearn (J3S), Oliver Manning (J4H), Alex Starling (J4M) and Theo Parry (J4S) have had a busy start to the term organising the Harvest Assembly, supporting Claire House.

The pupils also helped organise further events such as Children in Need in November. Next term the pupils will be focussing on Sport Relief and World Book Day.

There have been two cake sales in the Junior School this term (J4H and J4M), raising a total of £235. Monies raised have been donated to

Cancer Research UK. The Charity Committee also keep a running total of form cake sales on the Charity Noticeboard.

The Committee is researching local charities within a three mile radius of school and will be visiting Claire House Hospice in the New Year.



Junior fencers win bronze

King's Junior School fencers won bronze at the Cheshire Primary Schools' Fencing Tournament 2015 which consisted of two stages. The first part of the tournament was held at the Delamere Academy Primary School in April where King's won both of their matches in exciting, high standard fights with the results being 3:2 to The King's School against The Queen's School and 3:2 to King's against Delamere Academy School.

With two victories secured the fencers entered the second stage of the competition later on in June, held at Ellesmere Port Catholic High School. The team were well supported by family and friends who came to watch, and made a promising start against strong and experienced Overleigh St. Mary's School fencers. King's demonstrated some skilful fencing and great tactical thinking in all their

fights and the scores were close throughout each match. However Overleigh St Mary's School won 3:2. In the last match King's faced the winners of the 2014 Tournament, Guilden Sutton Primary School, and although King's won great points in their individual matches, the overall score was 4:1 to Guilden Sutton School, thus leaving King's in a very high and respectable 3rd position.



Fundraising fun

School was busier than ever on Friday 13th November as Children in Need events, arranged by Infant, Junior and Senior Charity Committees, took place around the School to raise money.

The Infant and Junior pupils dressed up in an impressive variety of costumes, spanning from superheroes and footballers to princesses. Staff members also joined in with the fun, much to the delight of the pupils! A cake sale was held by Seniors at lunchtime, with all the proceeds from sales going towards.

The School is proud to announce that it has raised £1,950.





Athletes get off to a great start

The Junior School performed marvellously in October in the annual AJIS Cross Country Championships at Rossall School.

Fourteen pupils returned to school wearing medals and King's achieved Team Bronze in both the girls' and boys' Under 10 categories. The J3 athletes posted excellent scores in comparison to previous years. King's runners grouped well and ran as a squad on the challenging, undulating course. The most notable individual performance was from Finn Thompson (J3B) finishing in fourth place.

This was a great start to the indoor and outdoor athletics season for the Junior School pupils.



Harvest festival with a difference

Pupils at The Junior School celebrated harvest festival with a twist. Instead of donating food, pupils donated old clothes to go to local charity, Claire House.

An incredible 126 bags were collected and donated, which once prepared and sold in Claire House shops, was the equivalent of

£1,260. A Claire House representative commented, "It is only through such acts of generosity and kindness that Claire House can continue to help children and young adults and their families right across the nation."

In addition to this, pupils also organised a money box collection and raised a brilliant £82.33. This will go towards caring for the ill children who visit Claire House.





Young footballers get to Wembley!

Junior School footballers, hockey players and netballers attended a residential preseason trip early in September. The purpose of the trip was to prepare the Junior teams for the new season ahead.

The girls enjoyed a two hour training session with England netball star, Mikki Austin at the Surrey University Sports Park. The girls played hockey matches against Surbiton Hockey Club and netball against Waverley Vipers from Godalming. As part of the trip, the girls also enjoyed a sightseeing tour of London and posed for pictures at landmarks such as the London Eye, Buckingham Palace and Big Ben. Great fun was had by all!

Unlike the previous football tours, which usually only focus on competitive matches against local opposition, the boys' development-oriented preseason training camp focused on technical training,



fitness work and team development along with three competitive matches against Lockers Park School, Hemel Hempstead. The skill development training was provided by Stoke City FC & Fulham FC Academy coaches at their respective training facilities. Furthermore, the boys also enjoyed a stadium tour of the world famous Wembley Stadium – where they had the chance to visit England's dressing room, attend the press conference area, walk out of the player's tunnel, visit pitch-side and sit in the Royal box, whilst also learning about the great history of the iconic venue.





Heald Infants

Willow Lodge Infant School joins the King's family

King's welcomed His Grace the Duke of Westminster to officially open the brand new £2.9m Willow Lodge Infant School in September.



With an audience of invited guests, parents, staff, pupils and Governors, the Duke spoke of his long association with King's, as its patron. He explained that he also kept a keen eye on its results and development and often watched King's rowers as they passed under the bridge on the Eaton Estate.

After officially cutting the ribbon and declaring the School open, with help from the 80 new infants who had only started school went on to plant a Willow tree. The Duke met staff and pupils as he toured the new classrooms, which are part of this stunning new addition to The King's School.

Headmaster, Mr Chris Ramsey said, "We were delighted when His Grace agreed to open Willow Lodge and it was gratifying to see so many parents and friends of King's here to witness the opening of the latest member of the King's family of schools, after many years in the planning."











A first term full of fun learning for our new Infants

The term has been a busy one, starting with the official opening by His Grace the Duke of Westminster only days after the start of term. There have been several parents' events, including the Meet the Teacher evening and two Parents' Evenings, together with a KSPA coffee morning and Halloween disco for parents and pupils to socialise.



The children have settled in exceptionally well to their new environment. Lunchtimes and after school extra-curricular clubs are full of children extending their learning and having fun.

The beautiful weather earlier this term, has meant that the children have loved being outdoors in the Forest Schools area. There are now two bug hotels ready for the tiniest inhabitants of the wood and the fire pit is developing nicely, ready for campfires.



There have been several very successful Discovery Days for prospective pupils to experience an afternoon in Willow Lodge. Pupils and staff supported Children in Need by all dressing up as superheroes for the day. A visiting artist has worked with the children to create a wonderful felt wall hanging for the library area.

The term ended with two superb Christmas plays and a Carol Service at Chester Cathedral for the Junior School and Willow Lodge children to celebrate together.





Infants deliver a perfect Christmas performance

This December saw Willow Lodge's first ever Christmas plays. Infant 1 and 2s production told the story of Ralph and Rudolf and played to a large audience of parents. The play involved singing, dancing and acting by the children. All the pupils looked brilliant in their costumes, with a mix of reindeer, stars and elves

The Reception Class play told a story of a Robin and a Wren (which happens to be the name of the 'classes') trying to find their way to Bethlehem, narrated beautifully by five pupils from the class. Every pupil remembered and delivered their lines perfectly and sang every song with all their might.



Thank you to all parents for the wonderful range of costumes. The first ever Willow Lodge Christmas production was a roaring success!





Heald Alumni

Tributes paid to pilot and rower Kevin Whyman

Following the shocking and tragic death of former King's pupil Kevin Whyman, whilst flying in an aerobatic display at Oulton Park in August, King's felt it only appropriate to gather a number of tributes together from those who knew and loved him.

Kevin made a huge impact during his time at King's, not only academically (he went on to read Economics at Cambridge) but in rowing too. He helped King's make rowing history by winning a gold medal at the National Schools' Regatta in 1993 when he steered King's to victory in the coxed fours.

His notable contribution to GB rowing during this period continued, as he participated in the Junior World Rowing Championships in Arungen. At Cambridge, Kevin coxed two successful Cambridge Boat crews to victory in 1996 and 1997.

Kevin's funeral was held in London in August. Mr Seb Neal, who taught Kevin, represented King's at the service.



The Headmaster wrote:



"It was with immense sadness and shock that King's received the news of Kevin's passing. His strong contribution whilst at King's and his affiliation since has been tremendous, only last year Kevin returned to King's for the 1994 leavers' Reunion and was honoured in December 2014 by having a boat named after him at The King's School Rowing Club's Annual Pudding

Races – an honour reserved only for those deemed to have made a significant contribution to both the Club and rowing in general. He shall be remembered fondly by all."

Former Headmaster, Roger Wickson also wrote:



"Kevin was a very able, personable and ambitious young man who was always a pleasure to know. He was outstanding academically and one of a line of distinguished economists who were inspired by the teaching of Norman Hallas and Graham Hutton. His ambition to succeed in all he did was never in doubt and I have not forgotten the passing look of surprise that

appeared on his face when I told him that he would not be head boy. But he bore no grudges for he was always essentially loyal and modest."

Harry Brightmore, (OKS 2012) also now a very successful cox for GB:



"Kevin was one of the biggest names at King's, with his name up on the honours board and more recently having had a boat named after him. I had hoped to be like Kevin Whyman one day, and so when he came to visit the Rowing Club boathouse I was a bit star-struck. It was a huge shock when I found out about his passing."

Steve Whitnall, (OKS 1994) Royal Air Force Pilot



"I am devastated about Kevin Whyman – he was a fantastic guy who I knew well in my school days. Such sad news and all thoughts to his family."

An appeal to help raise funds for his family has been set up, more details can be found at the website:

www.justgiving.com/in-loving-memory-of-kevin-whyman

Fun on the menu at first Founder's Dinner

Over 100 Alumni and guests were welcomed by the Headmaster in September, as King's hosted its first ever Founder's Dinner within our newly refurbished Dining Hall, aptly named 1541.

Building on the success of previous Alumni reunions and networking events, this intimate evening saw staff, past and present, Governors, Alumni and friends come together for an evening of food, friendship and fellowship.

Michael Jessop, OKS and Governor said, "It was a splendid and very friendly evening. I met folk I had not seen for 40+ years!"

Guests enjoyed a fun-filled evening of activities including tours of the School, a

drinks reception with musical performances from talented King's students, a delightful three course dinner and an insightful keynote address from accomplished King's Alumnus, author and former British Ambassador to North Korea, John Everard.

For some of our Alumni, the event marked their first visit back to the School since leaving and provided them with an opportunity to reconnect with friends they hadn't seen for many years. The School was particularly

thrilled by the attendance of two old boys who left the School in the 1930s!

Each year, we hope to improve and enhance the content of our Founder's Dinner to build on its success and broaden its appeal. In 2016, King's will mark its 475th anniversary with a wonderful celebration highlighting its outstanding record of scholarship, teaching and service. Our Alumni and supporters are encouraged to make sure their contact details are up to date so that we can ensure invitations reach you.







Legal eagles descend on the School

In November, a group of esteemed legal professionals drawn from our Alumni community offered advice and assistance to Fifth Year and Sixth Form students interested in pursuing a legal career.

The event organised by the Alumni team and Head of Sixth Form, Josh Carter, was an opportunity, not only for King's pupils but for those from schools in the local area, to hear from a wide range of professionals including: retired High Court Judge, David Maddision (OKS 1964), Barrister, Daniel Rogers (OKS 1992), Solicitor, Tim Polding (OKS 1984), Graduate Recuitment Partner at DWF Ltd, James Szerdy (OKS 1983) and current Law student, Edward Peel (OKS 2012) amongst others.

Feedback from all who attended was fantastic, a great deal of superb advice, knowledge and expertise was shared, which will hopefully be of great use to the next generation of legal eagles.











1976 Reunion Saturday 6th February 2016

1966 Reunion Saturday 5th March 2016

HMS Belfast Friday 22nd April 2016 2006 Reunion Saturday 21st May 2016

Henley Regatta

Friday 1st July 2016

475 Events Fri 16th & Sat 17th Sept 2016

If you haven't already, please do join our OAKS **LinkedIn** or **Facebook** group. With a growing membership, it's a forum through which you can discuss or use professional connections to ask advice.



To join the group on LinkedIn or Facebook, search for The King's School Chester Alumni

Olympic hero Chris coaches rowers

Fresh from competing at the World Rowing Championships, our very own 2012 Olympic silver medallist, Chris Bartley, spent an afternoon at The King's School Rowing Club.

Chris came to coach students, taking the time to look at their techniques and provide tips on how to improve.

Chris Bartley's performance at the World Championships saw his lightweight squad qualify for the Rio 2016 Olympics, where we will look forward to following his progress.





Will you be on board?

Step aboard the historic warship HMS Belfast on 22nd April 2016, for one of our most prestigious networking events to date.



King's Alumni have **exclusive use** of this amazing vessel, now a floating museum for the duration of the evening.

Guests will be welcomed on board with a glass of sparkling wine and canapés, with 1940s background music playing to set the scene. You will then have the opportunity to explore the ship, with guide in hand.

We then reconvene in the Ship's Company Dining Hall for fascinating tales from the sea, as former Commander of HMS Fearless, Rear Admiral Jeremy Larken, describes his experiences during the charge on the Falklands in 1982. The evening will culminate in a drinks reception, providing an ideal opportunity to network.

To book your place, please visit: www.hmsbelfast.eventbrite.co.u





Champions for the sixth year running!

The U19 Hockey Squad have started the season with a win in their first tournament, taking the crown of District Hockey Champions for the sixth consecutive year.

Victories against Tarporley 3-1 and Queen's 3-0 meant the girls retain the title and are District Outdoor Champions, with goals scored by: Sophie Drew (3), Emily Boothroyd, Rachel Huber and Kiera Barry. The squad all performed brilliantly on the night, representing the School with great commitment. They played very well as a team and should be pleased with their achievement.

Squad: Amber Disley (5JM), Sophie Drew (captain) (U6SB), Orlaith Monk (U6DB), Polly Chappell (L6JK), Rachel Huber (L6ML), Kiera Barry (L6NH), Ffion Douglas (U6SW), Zoe Rigby (U6SW), Claire Tyrie (L6JK) and Emily Boothroyd (U6HF).



J3 and 4 challenge local schools at football and netball

King's welcomed Year 5 and 6 pupils from The Firs, Fairholme, Waverton, Christleton, Ashton Hayes and Ewloe Green, to join our King's A and B teams for an afternoon of football and netball to commence the season in September.

The annual tournament consisted of two tiers, those competing for the plate and those competing for the cup. Well done to all the pupils, who competed with a positive attitude and showed strong teamwork. The cup results were as follows:

Netball

King's Junior A 1st

2nd **Ewloe Green**

3rd Waverton

Football

1st King's Junior A

2nd Ewloe Green

3rd Christleton Primary





World and British records for our amazing rowers

The King's School Rowing Club broke and set three new British records and one World record in October. The Club hosted 141 rowers, consisting of 107 students and 34 parents. Each team set out to row 100,000 metres (62 miles or the equivalent of rowing from Chester to Wolverhampton) in the fastest time possible.

Sixth Former, Katie Lawrence-Smith (U6DB), the Rowing Club's Publicity Officer, commented, "The time it took each team to complete the 100,000 metres rowing machine challenge ranged from just under five hours to seven and a half hours, each team adopted different tactics to tackle the challenge. Whilst the



male U19 heavyweight team, led by Club Captains Christian Palmer (U6HF) and Harry Higginbottom (U6HF), chose to do short bursts of 20 strokes each as hard as they could, other teams took turns doing longer 500 metre stints each, which proved a good choice for the girls' team, headed by Fran Alcock (U6JR) and Anna Willis (U6SW)."

rowing machines combined covering a distance of 400km or 250 miles, which is the equivalent of rowing from Chester to Glasgow. Angus Menzies (U6HF), The Rowing Club's Secretary commented, "After three hours, roughly half way, all the teams were struggling especially the heavyweights, whose technique was especially exhausting. However, all the teams managed to struggle on through and, with the arrival of fresh new athletes, all the rowing machines finished under their targets. The challenge began at 1pm and after six hours each team drew close to finishing the 100,000 metre challenge after a final big push over the line."



Mr Townsend, Head of Girls' rowing said, "Being a King's Old Boy myself as well as Head Rowing Coach for girls at King's, it is wonderful to see so many athletes from all age groups working alongside so many parents in the same room at the same time with the same goal in mind. There was a wonderful positive atmosphere all day and the sense of community that was present will only assist rowing at King's in going from strength to strength. All participants should be extremely proud of their achievements."

Lightweight team U19 Male New World Record set

Heavyweight team U19 Male New British Record set

Heavyweight team U19 Female New British Record set

40+ Mixed team New British Record set

Showjumpers qualify for national finals

The King's Equestrian team took four teams and individuals to compete in the National Schools' Equestrian Association regional qualifiers at Southview Equestrian Centre. The students performed really well despite the tough competition, with only the top two teams qualifying for the National Finals.

The teams consisted of: Alasdair Montgomery (5MP), Gregor Montgomery (3PS), Lily McNamara (RMAI), Katie McNamara (5JM), Eleri Reece-Jones (L6NH) and Saffron Townsend (5JM).

The results from the day were as follows:



Saturday

Jumping with style (heights refer to the height of the obstacles)

Class two 80/85cm – The King's team came third out of over 20 teams with an unconfirmed qualification for the National Finals.

Class three 90/95cm – King's team came first out of four teams with qualification for the National Finals and an individual third place for Katie McNamara and fifth place for Lily McNamara out of 26 riders.

Class four 1m/1m5cm – King's team came second with qualification for the National Finals and an individual fourth place for Katie McNamara and sixth place for Saffron Townsend.

The teams consisted of: Alasdair Montgomery (5MP), Gregor Montgomery (3PS), Lily McNamara (RMAI), Katie McNamara (5JM) and Saffron Townsend (5JM).

Sunday

Showjumping

Class 10 80/85cm – Individual first place for Lily McNamara and individual qualification for the National Finals out of 96 entries!

Class 11 90/95cm – King's team came second with qualification for the National Finals and an individual fifth place for Saffron Townsend.

Class 12 1m/1m5cm – King's team came third with an individual third place for Katie McNamara.

Class 13 1m10cm/1m15cm – Individual third place for Katie McNamara.

The teams consisted of: Alasdair Montgomery (5MP), Gregor Montgomery (3PS), Lily McNamara (RMAI), Katie McNamara (5JM), Eleri Reece-Jones (L6NH) and Saffron Townsend (5JM).



Pupils travel to compete in Spain and Gibraltar

During the October half-term holiday Shell and Third Year Pupils travelled to Estepona, Spain for a combined football and netball tour. They stayed in the beautiful Atalaya Park Hotel, an ideal venue with its on-site netball court and grass football pitches which were only a short walk away.



The pupils had five intense days of sport, with the added excitement for the girls of trips to Gibraltar for their games. All players performed admirably, with teams winning the majority of their matches.

In football, King's boys performed outstandingly, winning four of their six games, drawing one and losing the other. King's made the

short journey to the fantastic training facility of Marbella FC for the first games of the tour. The Under 13 XI won their first match against Marbella Paradiso with a score of 3-2. Despite a superb effort from the King's Under 14 XI, they lost their first game by a margin of 3-1.

The boys returned to the Marbella FC training complex for the second matches of the tour, and the Under 14 XI put the first loss firmly behind them with a brilliant 10-3 win against Mortadelo FC. The Under 13 XI secured their second win of the tour by beating Mortadelo FC 6-5. King's final match of the tour saw them take on Conejitos, a team from Malaga. The Under 13 XI rounded off the excellent tour by winning their last match 4-0 to make it three wins out of three! The Under 14 team also put in a solid performance to finish the tournament, earning a deserved 2-2 draw against a well organised Conejitos side.

In netball, the girls Under 13 and Under 14 teams headed to Gibraltar on two separate days to compete in their games. The girls were very excited to be travelling to Gibraltar and the Under 13s recorded a commendable three wins out of the five matches. They played opposition teams including: MCS (twice), Capurro Magic, Soho Magic and Lol Gibraltar. The Under 14 squad enjoyed a near perfect tour, winning all five of their matches over the course of the two days. They played opposition teams including: Lol Gibraltar, Grizzlies Gibraltar (twice), Soho Magic and Capurro Magic. The success of the girls' Under 13 and Under 14 netball teams was reflected by their impressive scoring stats, which show a combined total of 104 points scored and only 46 conceded.









22nd January 2016



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