

# KING'S HIGH NEWS

SUMMER 2024



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in whispers on the breeze, hope softly sings,  
a promise of tomorrows on its wings.



# HEAD MASTER'S INTRODUCTION

Summer Term is always a busy and joyful term of two halves. The first half of term works towards summer exams for all students, including public exams for GCSE and A Level pupils, whilst the second half of term is filled with special events, activities and trips. It has been a great pleasure to see the diligence and commitment of our King's High community in working hard towards exams and getting stuck into a range of exciting endeavours.

The creative and performing arts are thriving at King's High and there have been so many opportunities to celebrate this. In Music, we enjoyed a brilliant Key Stage 3 Concert which showcased the depth and breadth of musical talent in school, and this was followed by our Year 7 Concert in which each form, with everyone playing in the orchestra, demonstrated excellent progress and learning from their instrumental programme. Our Upper Sixth Leavers' Concert was very special and moving as we reflected on the final days in school of this year's leaving cohort. It has been exciting to see the rapid progress of chamber music at King's and we were thrilled this term to celebrate our new Year 7 group, Accordia, who progressed through local and regional stages to, eventually, be crowned, national U12 Chamber Music Champions in the Prestigious Pro Corda Competition at Drapers' Hall in London.



In Drama, the Junior Production of The Addams Family was a particular highlight, with a huge cast performing to packed audiences over three nights in the Bridge House Theatre. I was tremendously proud of students and staff – cast and crew – who took part in this spectacular production. As we go to press, our annual Art Exhibition is taking place within our Foundation Home Festival. It is part of Warwickshire Open Studios' Summer Art Weeks and everyone who attends is set to be stunned by the sheer quality and creative ingenuity of the students' work.

We have also enjoyed a superb summer of sport, culminating in lots of fun at Sports Day as the houses battled it out for honours. Our tennis teams have been on fire and it was a great pleasure to visit Nottingham Tennis Centre to see our U18 team finish 10th in the country in their national finals. Our Equestrian Team did incredibly well at their national finals at Hickstead, whilst our athletes shone at the ISA national finals at the Alexander Stadium.

The Festival of Wellbeing took place this year amidst glorious sunshine and was a wonderful occasion with so many activities. We were visited by three very popular alpacas and a helter-skelter went up, which, as Head, I felt obliged to test out!

We have seen tremendous success this term with the news that we were selected as national finalists in the TES Independent School of the Year Award and the Muddy Stiletto's Award for 'Giving Something Back', for our ambitious community work. We have also just been shortlisted for Independent Girls' School of the Year Award in the coveted Independent Schools of the Year Awards 2024.

It is impossible to give a full sense of the incredible range of student achievements and success at King's High, but I hope that you enjoy reading about the spirit of our school and I wish you a very happy summer holiday.

**Dr Stephen Burley**  
Head Master

# DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud! The rugged terrain of the Peak District was the setting for our DofE Silver practice expedition over Easter. It was a windy, wet and wild adventure but nothing dampened the spirits of our King's Changemakers!



Meanwhile, our DofE Bronze practice expedition took place in picturesque Warwickshire over the same weekend! Despite the much-needed dry weather, boots were still tested as we navigated through plenty of deep, challenging mud. Read more about our amazing DofE programme on our website in [/dukeofedinburgh](#).



# THE EGGSTRONAUTS BLAST OFF

Our new Rocket Club launched this year under the expert guidance of George Tarver. Our team of Lower Sixth Physics students, 'The Eggstronauts', have been diligently researching, designing, and building the next generation of rockets in preparation for the UK Youth Rocketry Challenge (UKROC) 2024.

Make no mistake; these are not your average school rockets – no foot pumps or Alka-Seltzer involved. These rockets are much larger in scale, requiring a special launch site. After performing a swing test to check the aerodynamics and balance, our rocket soared to an altitude of approximately 600 feet, with the payload of an egg remaining undamaged, though some tweaks were needed.

Following adjustments, the team travelled to Chippenham for a special launch event of our custom-built rocket. This time, the rocket soared to an impressive altitude of 738 feet at a top speed of 172 mph! Crucially, the egg payload remained unscathed!

We were thrilled to announce that our team then qualified for the UKROC National Final on 27 June! UKROC engages young engineers with practical experience in executing complex missions. It's an exciting way to deepen their knowledge of maths and science, and the UK winners compete against teams from France, the USA, and Japan at the International Finals at the Farnborough Airshow in July.

At the UKROC National Final at Buckminster, The Eggstronauts achieved an impressive 9th place out of 20 teams in the final and over 230 teams in the entire competition. The rocket fired successfully and functioned properly, though it didn't quite reach the target height of the winning team.



***'The team was brilliant – the feedback from the judges was very positive, and we topped the presentation section. The guest judge from Airbus sought us out to congratulate our team on their flawless presentation. The judges and other competitors were amazed to hear that this was our very first attempt at the competition and we made it to the final.'***

**Mrs Sims, Head of Science**

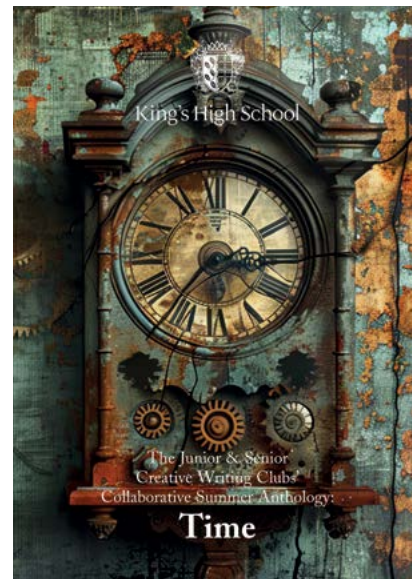
***'Many congratulations to our Rocket Club team who came 9th in the UKROC National Finals. They've worked so hard to design and develop their rocket and the launch was very impressive indeed.'***

**Dr Burley, Head Master**





## CREATIVE WRITING ANTHOLOGY



*Time* is the theme for the Summer Term's Creative Writing Anthology from our talented Junior and Senior Creative Writing Clubs. Take a moment to enjoy reading our latest collection of literary works – available on our website in [/latestnews](#).

## VOTE FOR KING'S HIGH!

We're immensely proud to be a Tatler School, and our whole community is invited to vote in the awards process for the Tatler Schools Guide 2024.

We would be very grateful if you could spare a moment to vote for King's High. There are also nominations for Unsung Hero, Lifetime Achievement, and more. You'll find the link on our website in [/latestnews](#). Thank you!

## A SHINING STAR



© Spa Theatre Company

Dr Burley was delighted to meet with Drama Scholar Darcy in Year 9 to hear more about her musical theatre work. Darcy was recently cast as Madame Thénardier in Spa Theatre Company's production of *Les Misérables* at Bridge House Theatre, and starred as the eccentric and charismatic patriarch Gomez in the King's High production of *The Addams Family*! Find more on Addams in our Drama pages.

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

News just in! We are delighted that King's High has been shortlisted for Independent Girls' School of the Year Award in the coveted Independent Schools of the Year Awards 2024, building on our recent accolades, including being named Senior School of the Year 2021-2022 by the Independent Schools Association and winning the ISA National Award for Future Readiness.



## ACT CLUB



Working with professional performer Felipe Pacheco in our recent Aspiring Creatives in Theatre (ACT) Club at King's was an incredible experience. Felipe shared invaluable insights from his career in theatre and TV, shedding light on the collaborative process with other design creatives from a performer's perspective.



## GIVING SOMETHING BACK

We are thrilled to be Finalists in Muddy Stiletto's Best Schools Awards 2024 in the category of 'Giving Something Back.' This is in recognition of our community partnership work, including our work with Evergreen School, new Saturday community school, and volunteering projects. Read more about our flagship partnership with Evergreen School on our website in [/latestnews](#).

**Muddy's**  
**BEST SCHOOLS**  
**AWARDS 2024**

In association with



## TES SCHOOLS AWARDS

We are immensely proud that King's High has been selected as a Finalist in the Tes Schools Awards 2024 for Independent Senior School of the Year.

Known as the Oscars of Education, the prestigious Tes Awards celebrate excellence throughout the education sector. Reaching the finals of the Tes Awards is testament to the dedication and excellence of our entire King's High community.



## YOUR FUTURE

Our latest comprehensive Careers Bulletin is now available! Crafted to illuminate the path towards a fulfilling future for our students, you'll find a treasure trove of invaluable resources, insightful articles, helpful tips, and a curated collection of links to external resources. Find the latest copy on our website in [/futures](#).



## SCHOOL OF ROCK

At King's High, the electrifying world of Rock and Pop music is thriving like never before. Our dynamic bands infuse fresh and energetic spirit into our school community, each showcasing their unique style and passion for music. Meet four of the bands doing just that.

1thirty1 delivered a stellar performance at the recent Key Stage 3 Concert and are set to dazzle again at the Rock the Foundation concert.

SkiptheAds wowed us with four fantastic performances this year! They will also be part of Rock the Foundation, preparing fresh tracks to play next year.

theNeWbLack..., have had an eventful and busy year as they also navigated GCSE examinations. Our Year 11 musicians played in two concerts and premiered their first original song at the Jazz, Rock & Pop concert in February.

Finally, Benevolence. The students only formed their band in November and have already made a name for themselves with electric, highly accomplished performances and incredibly cool song choices.

1thirty1, SkiptheAds and Benevolence will light up the stage at the Rock the Foundation concert on 4 July in the Bridge House Theatre, joining bands from Warwick Boys for an unforgettable night of Rock and Pop music!

***'What a blessing it has been to work with four incredibly talented bands this year, and long may it continue! I am truly proud to work with such brilliant and talented students whose performances will live long in the memory. Rock and pop continues to grow at King's and I'm excited to nurture many more bands over the coming years.'***

**Mr Jones, Visiting Music Teacher (Drums)**





## GEOGRAPHY COLLABORATION

Year 8 Geography students at King's High created their own children's book about adaptations and interdependence in a desert ecosystem, before reading them to Year 4 Warwick Prep pupils in our lovely library.

The session provided the chance for our Warwick Prep pupils to ask a range of questions about geography and the world around us, as well as hearing some fantastic stories from our Year 8 Geographers and enjoying a cookie or two! A perfect opportunity for collaboration.



## HOPE TRIUMPHS

We are so proud of Hope, in Lower Sixth, who recently took part in the final of West End Calling and was awarded Best Acting Performance of the evening! West End Calling is a prestigious nationwide musical theatre competition that provides young performers with the opportunity to showcase their talents and receive professional feedback. 25 outstanding young people from all over the country took part and Hope was one of the youngest. The judges described her performance as 'magic', and we couldn't agree more!



## CHAMPIONING CHANGE

It was such a delight to welcome back Old Girl Christie Cozad Neuger to school this term to talk to our students and visit the King's High Cozad Neuger Library, named in honour of the very generous gift from Christie and her husband Win.

Christie attended King's High from 1964-65, which had a profound impact on her life and career, having served as a pastor, chaplain, pastoral counsellor and professor, as well as being an accomplished author.

We are always so pleased to welcome Christie and Win back to King's High from the United States so they can see their transformational support at first hand.

After she had spoken with some of our students on her specialist subject of Feminist Theology, Christie kindly donated some of her books on the same subject.

Christie's journey embodies the Spirit of King's and her books, now proudly housed in the very library she and her husband played a pivotal role in founding, will continue to inspire future generations of Changemakers at King's High.



## EARTH DAY



Planet v Plastics was the theme of Earth Day 2024, and we had a fun week of activities at King's to celebrate this annual homage to our planet. With several environmental clubs taking place each week at King's, it's a subject close to our hearts.

We kicked off with a quiz, and enjoyed 'virtual forest bathing' along the way, providing our students with a serene and immersive connection with nature. Meanwhile, it was 'Poe-tree' in motion in our Quad, where Sixth Form students led an inspiring environmental poetry session with younger pupils, fostering creativity and awareness. All part of an impactful week, reflecting our commitment to the environment each and every day.



## INSPIRE

*'The Inspire Programme at King's High now enters its eighth year, and its core purpose of encouraging independence, curiosity and creativity is more important than ever. I hope that the pages of our Summer Term brochure give a sense of some of the incredible events and activities that help our pupils to explore beyond the curriculum, find their own interests, and develop a voice of their own.'*

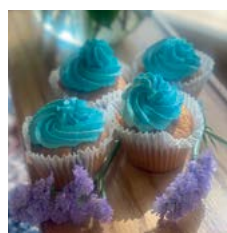
Dr Seal, Deputy Head (Academic)



Highlights for this term included our new Internships Project for Year 9s, a lecture on Feminist Theology, Brain Day for Lower Sixth Psychology students, and a host of prestigious competitions. Our Inspire Essay Competition for Key Stage 3 always attracts a large number of entries and we look forward to seeing the topics pupils choose and the research and writing that they produce.

Discover more on our website in [/academicenrichment](#)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KING'S!



King's High has been educating the Changemakers of the future since 1879, and our students enjoyed a special birthday cupcake to celebrate our 145th birthday, and also took part in a 1.45km walk (to commemorate each of our 145 years) in support of our six House Charities.

## TEAM MATHS CHALLENGE

We had been counting down the days for the return of the Team Maths Challenge since 2019! With Daisy, Olivia, Martha, and Adi leading the charge for King's High, we conquered four intense 45 minute rounds to claim an incredible 5th place!



## JUNIOR CONSERVATOIRE



Many congratulations to Mia in Year 10 on being admitted to the Royal Birmingham Junior Conservatoire. Mia has achieved her Diploma on Piano and is preparing for Grade 7 on Pedal Harp (in addition to being a top table tennis star!). Well done, Mia!

## HARVESTING HONEY

Our dedicated team of student beekeepers, donned in their protective beekeeping suits, eagerly inspected our hives in our leafy Forest School before producing their latest batch of delicious King's honey. The most recent harvest is a set honey, from golden rapeseed.

*'It was fascinating to meet with our Beekeeping Club and discuss their excellent work.'*

Dr Burley, Head Master





## SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

This term, 47 students in Year 9 at King's High have embarked on a groundbreaking journey with our new Summer Internship programme. Instead of continuing with optional GCSE subjects, these students immersed themselves in a three-week group project, designed to mirror real-world scenarios and challenges.

These authentic Internship Projects span a wide range of areas:

- Technology & Environment
- Social Responsibility
- Persuasive Writing & Law
- Printed MFL Primary Resources Content Creator
- Business Startup Calendar
- Coding a Maths Advent
- Planning a Health & Wellness Fair

Each project promises to foster independence and professionalism in a professional setting outside the traditional classroom environment.

This initiative not only enhances essential skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and time management but also encourages creativity and curiosity. Students will have the chance to explore new passions, gaining hands-on experience that sets them apart and prepares them for future opportunities.

Their end of project presentations were superb, in which our Interns showcased their achievements and newly honed skills. Well done to all our Year 9 students who took part in our inaugural Internship Programme!

***'Embarking on this exciting new venture promises to foster invaluable skills among all our Year 9 students.'***

Miss Gilbert, Head of Futures

## UNFORGETTABLE UPPER SIXTH

From 'Old School Uniform' and 'Movies' day, to 'First Letter of your Name', we've cherished some unforgettable moments this term with our truly brilliant Upper Sixth. As they embark on their next journey beyond King's, we wish them every success in their future.



## OAKER WOOD ADVENTURE

Our Year 7 students recently returned from an unforgettable team-building adventure at Oaker Wood in Herefordshire. Set amidst the stunning natural surroundings, they engaged in a variety of activities designed with teamwork and bonding in mind. From navigating

obstacle courses and tackling high ropes to engaging in problem-solving challenges, each activity pushed them to communicate effectively and support one another. What an adventurous finale to their first year at King's!





# PARSNIP'S 'TAILS'

## A 'PAWSOME' TERM

Parsnip has had an exciting and fulfilling term again, thoroughly enjoying her time meeting as many students as possible during her walks.

The dog fete was a resounding success, raising £226 along with several boxes of generous donations for the Dogs Trust. Parsnip was a star at the event, delighting in running her photo booth where students could snap pictures with her. Following the fete, the Dog Care and Welfare group visited the Dogs Trust, where they listened to a talk before having a guided tour of the centre. It was heartwarming to meet the dogs and know that many find new, loving homes quickly.

Parsnip also shone at the Festival of Wellbeing, hosting the popular 'Paws with Parsnip' session. The enthusiasm was so overwhelming that, next academic year, this session will become a weekly club.

Another highlight for the Dog Care and Welfare Group was a trip to a dog field equipped with agility equipment. Parsnip had a blast racing around and showcasing her impressive jumping skills.

Parsnip also enjoyed meeting some of the Prep students who will be joining King's next year, and is eagerly looking forward to seeing them again in September, along with all our new pupils!

Finally, Parsnip played a vital role at the Wellbeing Fair, meeting lots of students and helping to raise money for various charities.



### Canine Cover

We are excited to announce that we will be entering a competition in Your Dog magazine to have a photo of Parsnip featured in their publication! This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase Parsnip's charm and the wonderful work she does within our community. She already features on the online gallery – see [yourdog.co.uk](http://yourdog.co.uk) and simply search 'Parsnip'!





# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

## OUVRONS GRAND LES JEUX!

Year 8 enjoyed a special morning of events in honour of the Olympic Games which will take place in Paris this year. The event, run by the MFL department, brought together the year group to celebrate culture, language, sport, tolerance and respect for each other. The morning started with a session about Paris, where the students learnt about the famous monuments and those which will host certain events during the Olympics – for example, Fencing will take place at Le Grand Palais and Beach Volleyball at the Eiffel Tower Stadium. Students then competed in teams to devise their own poster for the games, taking inspiration from this year's iconic Olympic Poster, designed by Ugo Gattoni, before learning about the history of the Modern Olympic games and its link with Frenchman, Pierre de Coubertin. We enjoyed an aerobic session in French and a game of sport bingo in French. Finally, Miss Gilbert spoke about her connection with sport, language and the importance of cultural respect, when playing hockey for England and Great Britain. All in all, it was a great morning of fun, collaboration and discovery.



## WOLLOW

We recently welcomed Mr Claughton to King's High, who introduced us to WoLLoW, the World of Languages and Languages of the World programme. He captivated us with his engaging presentation, sparking our curiosity about different cultures and languages. Through his interactive session, we learned Greek, the history of English, its evolution, and its role as a global lingua franca. Mr Claughton emphasised the importance of appreciating all languages – modern and classical, European and non-European. His visit inspired us to broaden our cultural knowledge, promote inclusivity, and embrace the diversity in our world. Find out more at [theworldoflanguages.co.uk](http://theworldoflanguages.co.uk).



## A TASTE OF GERMANY

Year 8 held a German Bake Off, where both classes prepared a delightful array of German baked goods. The selection included Apfelkuchen, Berliner, Plätzchen, Lebkuchen, and Black Forest Gateau. Students presented their cakes and biscuits to each other in German and practised asking for slices in German as well. Mrs Didlick, our professional taste tester, was thoroughly impressed with both their baking and language skills!



## A TAPAS TREAT

*Alíoli*, a renowned tapas restaurant, was the destination for our recent Spanish afternoon, providing an immersive experience in Spanish cuisine. The food was incredible and included a variety of traditional tapas: patatas bravas, tortilla española, alitas de pollo, calamares fritos, gambas al ajillo, chorizo al vino, and croquetas de jamón!

We ended the feast with churros de chocolate y dulce de leche; which were muy deliciosos, to say the least! This trip was particularly valuable as gastronomy is a key topic in the Year 9 Spanish curriculum. Beyond the food, the trip was a fantastic bonding experience, and the opportunity to apply the skills we have learned in the classroom to a real-life scenario was very beneficial! Thank you, Señora Montiel and the Spanish department for organising this lovely trip. ¡Hasta la próxima!

Grace – Year 9





# FLAMENCO FIESTA

## THE ART OF FLAMENCO

Our Year 8 and 9 students had a wonderful opportunity to participate in a Flamenco workshop during their Spanish lesson. Organised by the Spanish department, the event featured the renowned Flamenco dancer, Señorita Elena Perez.

Elena, who has been dancing since she was four years old, began the workshop with an insightful introduction to Flamenco, explaining its origins in southern Spain and its cultural significance. Her captivating session helped our students understand and appreciate this passionate art form.

Following the introduction, the students engaged in an interactive session where they learned basic Flamenco and Sevillanas steps. Elena's patience and encouragement made it a delightful learning experience for everyone involved. Her live demonstration of various Flamenco styles was truly mesmerising and left a lasting impression on the students.

The highlight of the workshop was the final performance, where the students rehearsed and performed a short Flamenco piece. This allowed them to express their creativity and experience the essence of Flamenco dance.

Overall, the Flamenco workshop was an unforgettable and enriching experience for our students. It provided them with a deeper appreciation for Spanish culture and an opportunity to explore their artistic talents. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Elena Perez for sharing her expertise and to the Spanish department for organising this remarkable event.







## EL LIENZO DE MI BAILE

The Spanish department gave us an unforgettable evening of Flamenco in our school auditorium. Flamenco is the bold and elegant fusion of singing, dancing, and music which has been passed down from generation to generation. The art of flamenco is a powerful but mysterious expression of emotions and culture and is known for its emotional intensity, proud carriage, expressive use of the arms and rhythmic stamping of the feet. The event promised an amazing experience of the vibrant and cultural world of Flamenco. And trust me, it definitely delivered as the auditorium was buzzing with excitement as more and more families arrived.

The delicious scent of mini paellas greeted us at the entrance, making it feel like we were in Spain ourselves! From the moment the lights went down, we were transported to the very heart of Spain. Our incredible Flamenco dancers, José Franco and Imma Carmona, along with Francisco Martín on guitar and Eduardo Lopez singing, took the stage. Their performances were absolutely mesmerising. As if caught in the spell of the rhythmic guitar playing which grew faster and faster, Imma Carmona gradually began to move, like a proud peacock dancing to impress, its feather fringes flowing like the wind in an autumn breeze, pirouetting elegantly but ever faster towards her audience. Layers of brightly coloured, flowing, dramatic silk almost seemed to levitate through the charged stage, keeping the audience hanging on the edge of their seats, as her various dresses rippled and glided, swirled and swept around her body. Suddenly José Franco took the stage and aggressively but emotionally started to dance, leaving the audience with their jaws hanging wide open. Tension built immediately as Imma was gradually re-united with José as they danced together with such power and intensity, the audience was left breathless, as the dancers' intricate footwork and passionate expressions, and the rhythmic guitar playing, combined with the soulful singing, created a dramatic, magical and excited atmosphere.

This event wasn't just a performance - it was a full cultural immersion. It was a fantastic chance for students and their families to see professional Flamenco up close, appreciate the performers' skills and dedication, and understand the cultural significance of this traditional Spanish art form. In conclusion, the Flamenco show was a huge success and left a lasting impression on everyone who attended. It was a beautiful reminder of how cultural events can bring people together, educate, and inspire. A big thank you to the Spanish department for organising such a fantastic event. Here's to many more evenings filled with the magic of Flamenco!

### Najwa – Year 8





# FESTIVAL OF WELLBEING

**May is the time of year when the Festival of Wellbeing bursts into life at King's High School.**

While we prioritise and focus on wellbeing throughout every element of our school life and culture, the Festival allows us to add a touch of celebration and pizzazz to the usual school day. This year, the Festival of Wellbeing, which ran from 7-17 May, centred around some of our key principles at King's High: play, rest, creativity, fun, and gratitude.

We were delighted to see the return of some popular favourites: pebble painting, sleep workshops, meditation, yoga and crafting with Parsnip but were also excited about new sessions on offer this year, including self-defence, reading for wellbeing, and affirmation workshops with our King's High Wellbeing Mentor.

Our keynote speakers for 2024 included Fletch, the leading British Sign Language performer who we welcomed back to teach our Year 7s how to sign 'A Million Dreams', and we were excited for the arrival of Joshua Coombes who shared his 'Do Something for Nothing' social campaign, expounding the values of empathy, compassion and gratitude.

We enjoyed a soporific workshop on 'How to Sleep' with who else by Mrs Knight?! And there was an abundance of creativity in our print room with badge crafting, whilst outside in the sunny Quad, flowerpot painting got underway, transforming terracotta pots into colourful works of art before planting! Over 30 students took part in Self Defence for Self Confidence with martial arts experts from Warwick & Leamington TKD, learning releases, holds and striking, as well as the theory and ideas behind self defence.

We've welcomed a variety of visitors through our doors at King's High, but few have caused quite such excitement as the much-anticipated arrival of the alpacas at our Wellbeing Fair in June, as they traversed through Reception into our Quad! The inflatable helter-skelter, road tested by Dr Burley himself, also proved to be extremely popular, and there was a wonderful selection of other fun and games on offer, including hula hooping, hook a duck, and giant bubble blowing. Even Parsnip was enjoying the sunshine with her very own competition.



***'If everyone, in every city, did one thing for nothing, we could change the world.'***

**Joshua Coombes**



The Wellbeing Fair was the perfect conclusion to our Festival of Wellbeing where the school community comes together in the King's spirit of joy, fun and play.

The Festival provides each member of our school community with the opportunity to try something new, to play, to restore and remind ourselves of the fundamental truth – we simply must know how to look after ourselves well in order to thrive. In a world that can seem ever-busy and demanding, it is a time to pause, enjoy and flourish in our Festival of Wellbeing.

**Take a mindful moment to read our fortnightly Wellbeing Blog – available on our website in /wellbeing.**



#### The Festival of Wellbeing Activities Included:

- Silent disco
- Alpacos
- Pebble painting
- Aerobie
- Gardening
- Disco hula hooping
- How to sleep workshop
- Felt badge crafting
- Inflatable helter skelter
- Vinsaya yoga
- Ice cream van
- Guided meditation
- Reading for wellbeing
- Affirmation workshop
- Self defence
- Crafting with Parsnip
- Hook a duck
- Karaoke sing off
- Wellbeing Fair



# IN THE PRESS

**'In the Press'** is our dedicated hub for published articles, written by our very own King's High Team. It's where you'll find some thought-provoking content, from Dr Burley's latest article on the impact of smartphones in childhood to Artificial Intelligence. It's also home to our full suite of thought leadership articles, ranging from Future Readiness to SEND Partnerships.

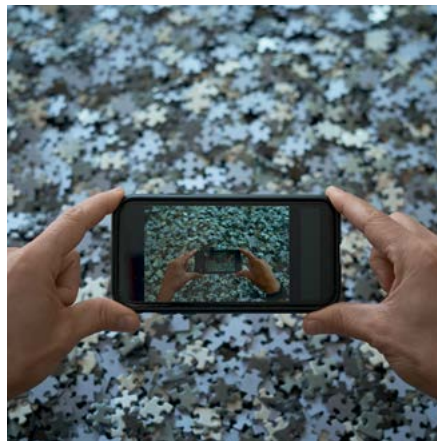
## AI

There are fears AI could kill off language learning for good, but technology could actually be its saviour, writes Dr Burley. Explore further in *'Could Technology Save Language Learning?'*.



## Smartphones: A Complex Jigsaw

*'Smart technology, mobile phones and AI are here to stay, and we all know that technology in schools can support and enhance teaching and learning, preparing pupils for the world of work. We can't return to the world of the 1980s, but we can all do more to mitigate the risks of harmful online content and addictive social media and gaming.'* Dr Burley



## Implementing Innovative Courses

Our Deputy Head (Academic), Dr Seal, spoke at the Independent Schools Examination Board (ISEB) Future of Assessment Conference in London in April on GCSE replacement courses alongside a host of leading schools. They also delved into AI, digital assessment, 21st century skills-based qualifications, and curricula reform. If you'd like to explore more about our Future Readiness at King's High, read Dr Seal's article *'Implementing Innovative Courses'*.



## IN THE PRESS

Read the full suite of the articles on our website in /ourschool 'In The Press'.



# KING'S FOOD

Food and provenance are incredibly important to us all at King's High and it is a particular strength of our school.



Led by our award-winning Head Chef, Christophe Charpentier, and Front of House and Hospitality Manager, Kate Mousakitis, our Catering Team is outstanding, delivering the highest quality

food each day to our community. We are very proud of our approach to our menus, which underpins our commitment to sustainability and sourcing fresh, seasonal, and locally-sourced foods where possible.

Our student Food Council meets regularly with our Head Chef and his team to inform developments and menus. Our vegetable and herb garden is maintained by our dedicated Gardening Club and students are heavily involved in producing honey and eggs from our King's High chickens and beehives.

In 2023 the quality of our food and our vision for King's High was recognised nationally when we were named finalists in the Independent School of the Year Healthy Eating Award. Our approach is simple: great tasting food prepared on site, delivered with sustainability and the environment in mind, and served with a smile from our dedicated Catering team.

Find out more on our website in /catering where you can whet your appetite with the latest menu, read our catering blog, and discover more about King's eggs and honey.

## FROM GARDEN TO FORK

Icicle radishes were the first crop of the season from our very own kitchen garden! Gardening is just one of over 230 clubs and activities to take part in every week at King's High. The icicle radish has a crisp texture and mild peppery flavour, and nothing quite beats the taste of home grown produce!

## A 'SPOOKTACULAR' FEAST

What other day than Wednesday for a themed lunch in support of The Addams Family, where deliciously ghoulish fayre included Uncle Fester's chicken & leek pie, and Pugsley's bat cupcakes. A monstrous thank you to our amazing Catering team for supporting our junior production so frightfully well!





# KING'S DT

This year saw the first UK exhibition at the V&A dedicated to the work of French Couturière, Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel.



It was from this exhibition that Izzy, one of our Design and Technology GCSE students became inspired to combine the elegance of Chanel with the real world problem of Climate Change and the devastating impact fast fashion has on our world. Izzy used 'Peace silk/Ahimsa silk' to create her garment. Unlike traditional silk production which involves boiling silkworms alive within their cocoons to obtain the silk fibres, Peace silk is made by allowing the silkworms to complete their metamorphosis into moths before harvesting their cocoons.

Ahimsa is a Sanskrit term that means 'non-violence' or 'non-harming' and it is this innovative, creative, forward thinking, problem solving and change making way

of designing that is taught to the students that choose Design and Technology Product Design at GCSE. The work this year has been inspired by many past designers such as Louis Comfort Tiffany, Mary Quant, William Morris and Vivienne Westwood and the students responded by Researching, Designing, Making and Evaluating the products they created in response to the Contextual Challenges this year of:

- Climate Change
- Playing games
- Securing or Storing personal possessions

The course has helped students understand and appreciate the design and manufacture of products, making each student a more discriminating purchaser and gaining transferable skills which will be useful in a wide range of other subjects, jobs and their personal lives. We encourage our students to be inspired by the past and look to solve the problems of the future.

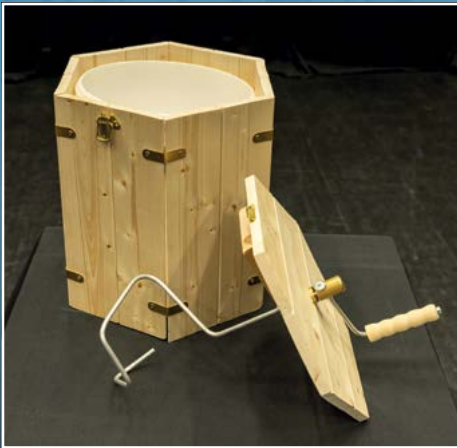
**Mrs Knight**

Design and Technology Teacher



A Showcase of our Wonderful Design and Technology GCSE Work





*'In order to be irreplaceable, one must always be different.'*

Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel



# KING'S ADVENTURE

From the thrill of white water rafting to the heady heights of rock climbing, an exhilarating world of adventure awaits at King's High!

## SCALING SNOWDONIA

Over the Easter holidays, 24 pupils embarked on a thrilling adventure in Snowdonia National Park, engaging in five days of intensive adventure training under the expert leadership of Adventure and Leadership Programme Manager, Mr Beverley, and his team.

Upon arrival at The Towers Active Learning Centre, the pupils were delighted to discover newly refurbished bunk-style accommodations. Featuring comfortable rest areas and a superb selection of food, these facilities were essential in providing the energy required for the challenging activities ahead.

Each day presented a variety of exciting activities, including canoeing, climbing, abseiling, hill walks, weaselling, bushcraft, and a mine tour. Evenings were equally eventful with activities such as a low ropes course, night line, command tasks, and indoor team challenges. The team at The Towers spared no effort in ensuring our pupils enjoyed every moment, creating memories to cherish.

This week was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to deepen their understanding of teamwork, build resilience, and hone their leadership skills.

Explore more on our website in [/adventureprogramme](#)



## CCF

Our CCF trip to Pembrokeshire was quite the adventure! Students eagerly embraced a variety of activities, including archery, surfing, climbing, and canoeing, and many more besides. The trip was filled with excitement, challenges, and fun, making it one of the best we've ever had! **Discover more on our website in [/ccf](#)**





# KING'S EXPLORES

Embark on a journey of discovery beyond the classroom, where our students explore diverse landscapes from the lush rainforests of Costa Rica and the vibrant culture of South Africa to the majestic glaciers of Iceland. Our annual range of residential trips at King's High offers unforgettable experiences that perfectly blend education with adventure.

## PURA VIDA, COSTA RICA!

From lush rainforests to stunning coastlines, the 'Rich Coast' truly lived up to its name during our Easter trip to Costa Rica, where our students explored the unparalleled natural beauty with our Modern Foreign Languages department.

Pura Vida - meaning 'Pure Life' - defined our experience, embracing the positive and laid-back attitude of Costa Rican culture.

Here's what one of our students, Shaan, had to say about this amazing trip:

*'During the Easter holidays, students from Year 9 to Upper Sixth visited Costa Rica for a Spanish trip, lead by Mrs Montiel. The trip was an amazing, eye-opening experience in which we undertook a range of different activities, from white water rafting to zip-lining over the Cloud Forest.'*

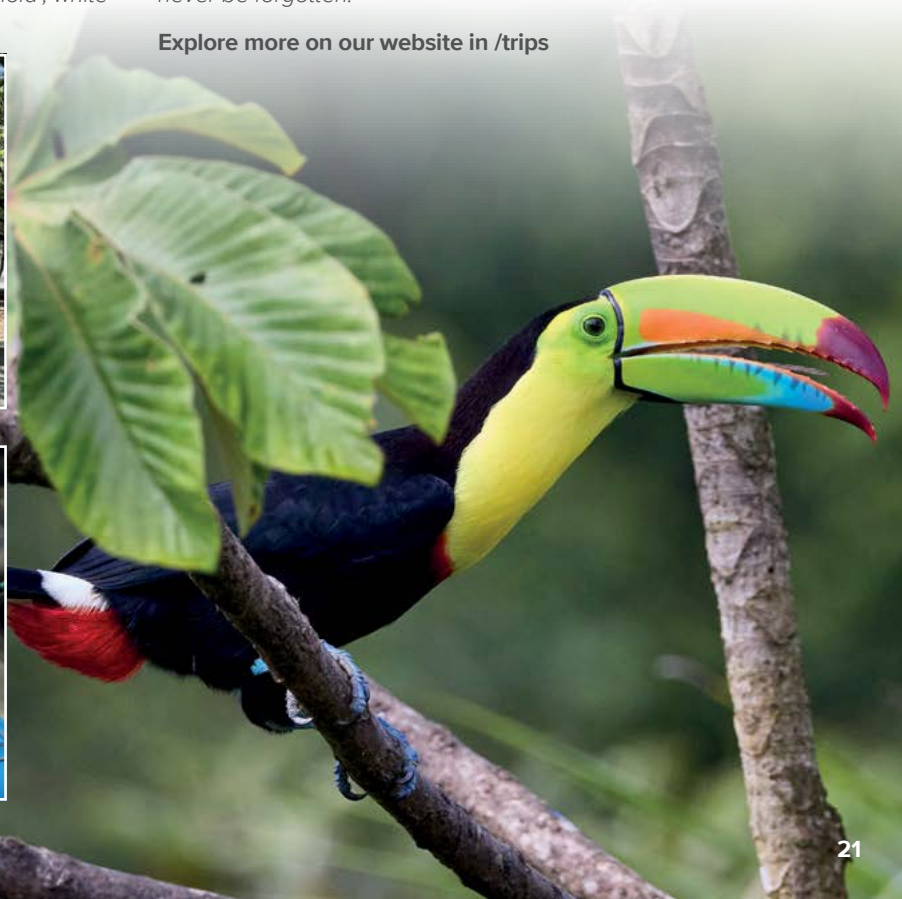
*'Throughout the trip, we faced countless Costa Rican wildlife, such as talking parrots who responded back to us by saying 'hola', white-*

*faced monkeys on the beach who were well known as trained pickpockets, and even tarantulas on our guided night walk in the rainforest.'*

*'Our understanding of the Spanish language came to great use when talking to locals and quickly became part of our daily routine, especially when we would sing Spanish songs on our long bus journeys. The weather was in our favour, with the sun being out all day, which meant we could enjoy our time swimming, especially when we visited Baldi Hot Springs, and when we had a whole day at the breathtaking beach which was part of the Manuel Antonio National Park.'*

*'Our tour guides showed us Costa Rica's unique characteristics which we would not have experienced if it wasn't for them. Overall, on behalf of everyone, I can say that this trip was one of a lifetime and the memories and friendships that we have made from it will never be forgotten.'*

Explore more on our website in /trips

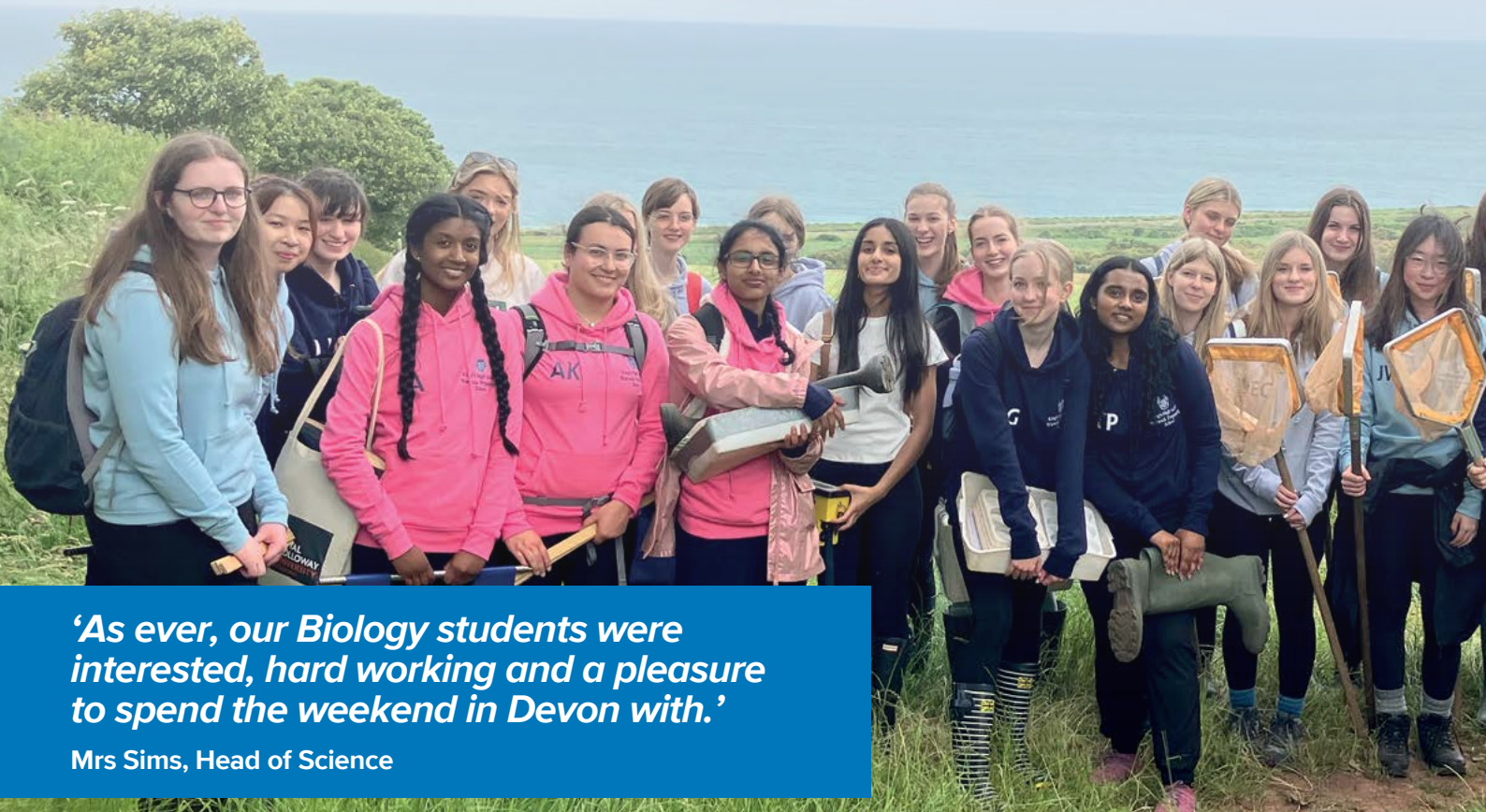




# KING'S SCIENCE

## BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

The Lower Sixth Biologists arrived at Slapton Field Studies Centre in June and, after a quick orientation, headed straight out into the field to study ecological energetics in a stream habitat. The walk to the stream through the Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve was refreshing after the long coach ride! Saturday was spent collecting data on succession at Slapton Sands and Sunday was a day on the rocky shore, measuring species abundance and distribution. Such a fantastic range of habitats to study!



*'As ever, our Biology students were interested, hard working and a pleasure to spend the weekend in Devon with.'*

Mrs Sims, Head of Science



## HARWELL CAMPUS

Our Lower Sixth Physicists enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Harwell Campus Open Day in June. Harwell Campus and the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory are currently welcoming visitors to explore behind the scenes, and to see first-hand where some of the world's most pioneering research takes place.

It's home to a range of world-leading scientific facilities, including RAL Space, ISIS Neutron and Muon Source, Scientific Computing, Particle Physics, the Central Laser Facility and Diamond, the UK's national synchrotron light source.

King's students took part in a workshop delivered by RAL Space, learning how to code a space instrument designed for remote sensing (measuring CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the Earth's atmosphere) from orbit, and listened to experts who explained their inspirational work and how it will improve life for current and future generations.

***'It was a fascinating day at world-leading science, research and testing facilities, and our Physicists met some very engaging scientists and engineers who spoke passionately about their work.'***

Ms Cooper, Head of Upper Sixth



## UK BIOLOGY CHALLENGE



The Biology department is celebrating the many successes in the UK Biology Challenge, a national competition open

to students aged 13-15. The questions include aspects of the school curriculum, but the competition also rewards those students whose knowledge of biology has been increased by reading books and magazines, watching natural history programmes, taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest, and are generally aware of our natural flora and fauna. This year, 45,400 students took part and the top 5% received gold certificates. Congratulations to Jenna, Rebecca, Charlotte, Florence, Charlotte and Annabel, who all received gold certificates. An additional 12 students received silver certificates and a further 24 students received bronze certificates. Very well done to all these students and we look forward to seeing your interest and knowledge in biology continue to flourish next year.

## JUNIOR PHYSICS CHALLENGE



Year 10 students sat the Junior Physics Challenge in April – a national competition of over 14,000 entrants, designed to engage and challenge

students of all abilities. This year, 46 students achieved a bronze award, 33 students achieved a silver award and four students achieved a gold award: Jenna, Poppy, Harishana and Lilliana. We congratulate everyone for their efforts and participation.

## RUGBY SCHOOL SCIENCE QUIZ



Jashany, Neha, Lucy, Amelia, Joana and Scarlett attended the Rugby School Science Quiz in June, competing against Lower Sixth teams from 15 other local schools. The questions

were a challenging mix of specialist science, broader scientific knowledge and some interesting science "ding bats"! We were also delighted to see a Dragon Fruit in the "Name the organism" round! It was a competitive but fun evening of science.



# KING'S MUSIC

**It has been another wonderful term for Music at King's High. We are hugely proud of the musical achievements of all our students, in concerts and ensembles as well as individual successes.**

The Spring Concert has been a real highlight of music making this term. Featuring a wide range of ensembles, we heard performances ranging from chamber choirs, King's Sinfonia, rock bands and a rousing finale from King's High Big Band. The concert was the final time our Upper Sixth students would perform in a whole school concert at King's High; we are very grateful for all they have contributed to the music department during their time here. Special mention to Ema and Emily for their speedy stage management at every large concert over the past two years! All of the Upper Sixth were involved in the Leavers' Concert which was a sparkling, entertaining and moving tribute to this musical year group.

This term has seen frequent collaboration with St Mary's, Warwick. Two of our Sixth Form students, Ema and Taya gave individual recitals of the highest order as part of St Mary's Friday lunchtime concert series. The following week, we returned – this time with Junior Chamber Choir – to perform the cantata *Captain Noah and his*

*Floating Zoo* by Horowitz and Swann. The musical choice seemed a little prophetic given the walk into the town accompanied by a torrential downpour!

Accordia, the U12 winners in the national Pro Corda competition, attended and were the opening item of the Pro Corda concert in Drapers' Hall in May. This was an incredible venue, and a stunning acoustic, for the students to perform in and they gave a performance befitting their champions title. Congratulations again to Anna, Abigail, Annie and Jessica.

Our music scholars attended a fantastic concert given by the CBSO at Symphony Hall this term which included Dvorak's *New World Symphony* and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* in collaboration with the CBSO chorus. The students attended a pre-concert talk given by the conductor and were able to meet several of the CBSO players before the concert to talk about their pathways into a musical career.







The Junior Production of *The Addams Family* musical was first-class, and the Year 7 Concert was the perfect setting for our youngest students to showcase the instruments they have been learning since September and perform together as an ensemble. It was a wonderful way to see just how far they have come this year!

We also look forward to the upcoming Arts Festival, which culminates in a day of music-making involving all the Foundation Schools in Music for a Summer's Day on Saturday 6 July. Do join us if you can!

**Mr Adam Albrighton**  
Director of Music



***'Very well done to all our Year 7 students who performed in their form orchestra to celebrate this year's instrumental programme. I was so impressed with their progress. The Year 7 choir was superb too!'***

**Dr Burley, Head Master**











*'This is an incredible achievement for our students, who have only been playing together since October. There was some very strong competition in the category, and I'm so proud of their performance and all their hard work leading up to the event'*

Mr Albrighton, Director of Music



U12 National Pro Corda Winners with Dr Burley



# KING'S ART

What another wonderful year it has been in the Art Department here at King's. Our creative journey during this academic year has been full of imagination, curiosity and perseverance, resulting in a stunning display of artwork seen in the summer exhibition which celebrates the achievements of the GCSE and A Level students.



We are always so proud to host this annual event which sees the culmination of hard work, commitment, risk-taking and curiosity whereby each and every one of our students illustrates grit and determination to succeed at the highest level.

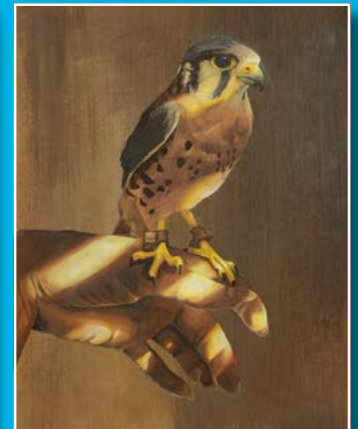
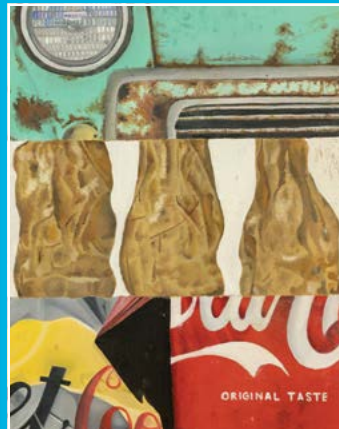
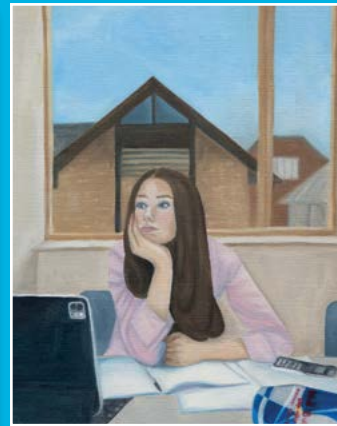
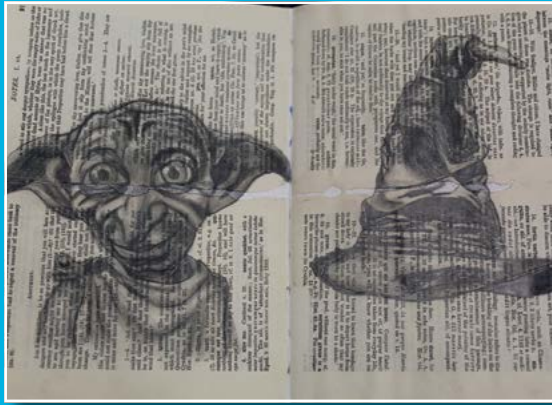
An overview of the year starts with the Autumn Term which was full of creativity and collaboration as Mrs Quinn organised and led the art project for the Festival of Ideas. Year 8 students and Key Stage 2 students at Warwick Prep worked together and shared a wide range of skills, allowing the younger students to learn from their seniors, fostering a mentorship culture. The artwork produced was a wonderful collage inspired by the work of Matisse and Jasmine Dwyer. Huge thanks to Mrs Quinn for all the work, time and care she put into this activity, it was a great success.

In September, Year 11 enjoyed a full day of inspiration in London as they visited The National Gallery and The National Portrait Gallery whereby they gathered ideas for their independent development. It was wonderful to see all students enjoy the galleries, particularly the recently opened National Portrait Gallery whereby such an iconic gallery hosts a myriad of creativity and inspiration.

The annual Christmas tree festival saw another triumphant tree which was created by a diverse range of clubs and activities. Our theme for the tree this year was to illustrate the diversity of co-curricular activities on offer and decorations ranged from painted chickens, ballerinas and cricket balls to name a few. We were thrilled to receive the accolade of 'Most Educational Tree'! Huge thanks to the DT department for their amazing support without which we could not create such original outcomes.

Spring Term sees the arrival of the externally set assignments for the GCSE and A Level students and to help kick start ideas and enthusiasm we visited London again, this time with the Upper Sixth artists. Our two galleries were Tate Modern and Tate Britain. The Women in Revolt exhibition was particularly thought provoking and inspired many students to embrace their inner feminist! We all felt empowered and inspired and this fabulous work can be seen in the Component 2 projects which are on display in the summer exhibition.





In March we welcomed artist Ian Murphy who worked with our Year 10 art students for the day; sharing his techniques and processes. Ian also discussed his methodology and what inspires him to create. Each student produced four pieces working alongside Ian and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working with a successful practising artist. Huge thanks to Mr Reeves who organised all our trips and the artist workshop this year, we look forward to more exciting opportunities next year.

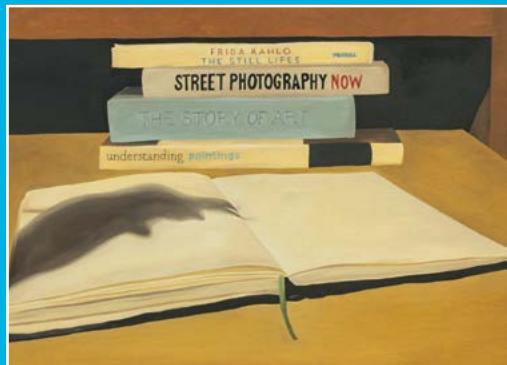
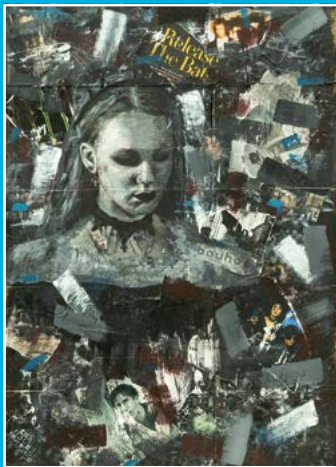
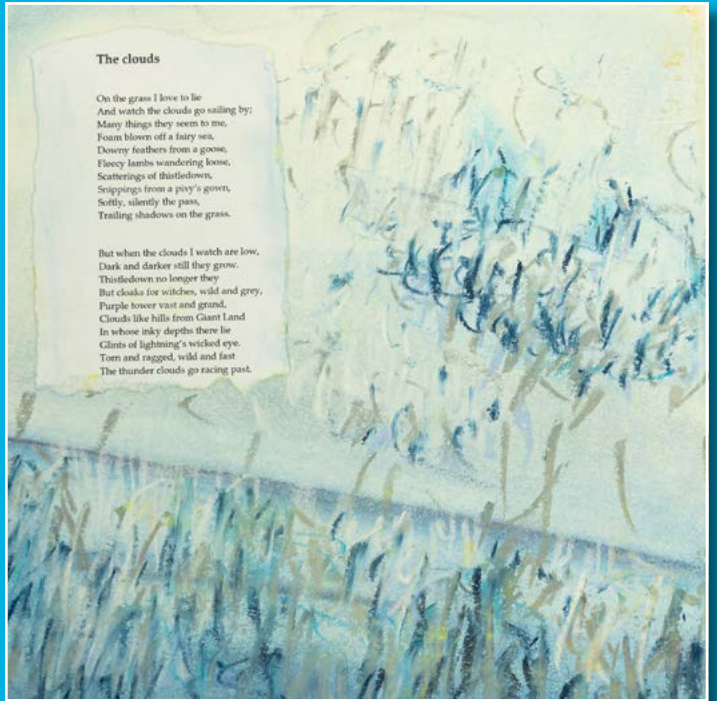
Our Artist in Residence, Mrs Craven, began her role in January and has made a huge impact upon the department. She has worked alongside Lower Sixth DT students teaching them about precious metal clay, with Upper Sixth Art students looking at glass fusing and helping them to extend their skill set in glass, supporting Lower Sixth students at Warwick School as well as providing numerous clubs and activities ranging from Craft, Silver Jewellery, Glass and Ceramics. Mrs Craven is also exhibiting alongside our GCSE and A Level students for Warwickshire Open Studios, attracting many new visitors to the department who are set to see and enjoy her work whilst she demonstrates her lamp working process.

The Summer Term saw the arrival of our House Structure which we soon transformed into the Birdhouse which represents the growth and flight experienced by our students as they develop and soar through each Key Stage. The Upper Sixth students are each represented by their own wooden bird which they decorated and each hang together within their form wreaths. The artwork was created by numerous students and incorporate a wide variety of processes and techniques including Procreate, Screen-printing, painting, cyanotype, willow weaving, laser cutting, and wire modelling to name a few! I extend enormous thanks to my department; Mr Reeves, Mrs Quinn and Mrs Craven who all contributed significantly to this installation, alongside our wonderful colleagues in the DT department who always help and support us with our imaginative designs! We hope it is enjoyed by many during the Home Festival.

Wishing everyone in the King's community a wonderful summer holiday, be creative and have fun!

**Ms Sarah Jordan**  
Director of Art









“Art washes away  
from the soul the  
dust of everyday life.”

Pablo Picasso

**Friday 5 July** 4.30pm-7pm • **Saturday 6 July** 10am-1pm



King's High School

**King's High Art Department**

King's High School

Banbury Road

Warwick CV34 6YE

**kingshighwarwick.co.uk**



**MEET OUR ARTIST  
IN RESIDENCE**

Caroline Craven

[cravenandwhite.com](http://cravenandwhite.com)



# KING'S DRAMA

## The Summer Term has been full of dramatic highlights at King's High.

We could not be prouder of our final major production of the year: 'The Addams Family'. Directed by Ms Wyatt, assistant directed by Miss Stiles and musically directed by Mr Albrighton, the performance was a resounding success with three sell-out performances and a standing ovation on the final night. A highly immersive experience, the show brought Halloween to the height of summer, complete with ghostly ancestors emerging from underneath the stage, bats popping out of the programmes, and a spooky art gallery featuring Gothic pieces from a range of our talented Art students. We even commissioned our very own original portrait of the Addams clan: a huge thank you to Holly in Lower Sixth! Our dedicated Props Club students were responsible for many of the show's most memorable props, not to mention Mrs Carter-Howell's sensational handmade rocket pack. We even treated students and staff to an Addams-themed menu at lunchtime!

Our Drama Scholars and Ambassadors continued to inspire younger performers at both King's High and Warwick Prep. Several of our dedicated peer mentors headed to the Prep to support their Year 6 counterparts with their characterisation, projection, stage presence and physicality ready for their performance of 'Peter Pan

Jr'. As part of our preparations for the Festival from Home 24, the Young Directors project invited aspiring directors to develop and devise their own pieces of theatre, working with younger students. Sixth Form Drama Scholar Hope also took on the mammoth task of directing and musically directing 'Annie Jr.' for our Key Stage 3 Musical Theatre club, assisted by our student choreographer Lucy. The performance enabled younger students from King's High and Warwick School to take their showcase work to the next level through the challenge of an all-singing, all-dancing production. As part of the festival, several of our Scholars and Ambassadors took part in an exciting collaboration with Parkview Care Home: 'The Reminiscence Project'. Inspired by real life stories, the students developed a moving and imaginative piece of theatre alongside the residents.

The rest of our co-curricular Drama clubs entertained audiences with a pantomime showcase in April, complete with plenty of audience participation, glowing props and popcorn. The Friday Afternoon Improv troupe are all set to entertain audiences at Festival from Home 24 with another highly imaginative and fully improvised performance. The group also recently enjoyed an inspiring theatre





trip to Showstopper: An Improvised Musical. Meanwhile, our Aspiring Creatives in Theatre have been working on set and prop design alongside creating their own director's concepts. They have also designed their own 'Theatres of the Future', considering how venues can adapt to be inclusive for all. Professional theatre performer and movement director Felipe Pacheco led an insightful practical workshop on how actors, directors and lighting designers can work together conceptually.

This term has brought with it a wide range of encounters with industry professionals, beginning with Felipe's visit. Our A Level students engaged in an inspiring Q and A session on his recent performance as Gregor in Frantic Assembly's *Metamorphosis*. The rest of his visit moved students onto their feet and, in many cases, off them! The students at Warwick Prep were even treated to professional flying lessons, ready for their excellent performance of 'Peter Pan Jr.' at the Bridge House Theatre! In the second half of the term, Year 10 enjoyed an action-packed visit from Highly Sprung to kickstart their devising pieces. Finally, students from Year 9 to Lower Sixth were welcomed to sign up for a mock drama school audition, participating in a range of physical and vocal workshops

with performer and casting director Lucyelle Hobbes Cliffe, musical director Sam Coates and casting director Richard Evans. At the end of the day, each participant attended their own mock audition, receiving up to date industry advice and personalised feedback.

The hard work of our students and superb LAMDA teaching team has been duly rewarded with an outstanding set of results, with a high majority of students receiving Distinctions. Rose (Upper Sixth) has also been rewarded for musical theatre at a national level, receiving an ISA Judge's Choice Award for her performance of 'The Last Midnight' (Into The Woods) at the national finals of the ISA Musical Theatre competition in Ascot.

Finally, after two weeks of intensive auditions, the last week of term brought with it our first rehearsal for *Sweeney Todd*! We are so excited to bring this iconic and terrifying performance to the Bridge House Theatre stage in November.

**Miss Gracey Spring**  
Director of Drama









## DRAMA BLOG



From A.C.T Club, to news on Drama trips and all our jaw-dropping productions, look no further than our dedicated Drama Blog! View our fortnightly update, written by our fabulous Drama Graduate, Miss Stiles, on our website in [/dramablog](#).



# KING'S SPORT

In a term that has flown by, a wide variety of sporting events have taken place with many students proudly representing the school.



The term started with some very rainy but enjoyable 'Play your way to Wimbledon' tennis tournaments and an exciting trip for our Year 7 students to watch local Super League netball team Severn Stars play in Worcester Arena. Our Badminton team continued to progress, putting up a strong performance against two local club teams and, by the end of the second week back, our Footballers had also produced some fine performances to win their Round 3 tie in the National Cup and finish runners up in the County Cup Final, narrowly losing in extra time.

We enjoyed a wonderful evening celebrating every student who has represented the school over the past 12 months at our annual Sports Awards afternoon for Key Stage 3, and evening event for Key Stage 4 and 5. It was a night full of celebration and pride where we took time as a community to reflect and take in everything that has been achieved. Congratulations to all of our prize winners from the two celebrations.

***'So proud to join our King's High U18 tennis team at the Aberdare Cup National Tennis Finals in Nottingham. They finished 10th in the country as did the Warwick School U18 team. Very well done to both teams on a fantastic result!'***

**Dr Burley, Head Master**

The Midlands Schools' Girls' Tennis tournament is an event that is hosted here at King's High and has been running now for well over 100 years. Despite our very best attempts to win the large and prestigious trophy over the past 20 years we have had to settle for being runners up of many occasions. I am delighted to report that this year was different! With Holly and Maddie winning the second pairs title and Ottelia and Marina winning the first pairs title it was a very well-deserved clean sweep for the first time in a very long time.

The U13 Waterpolo team had been working hard through the Autumn and Spring Terms with many players new to the sport this year. They played in the Midlands round of the ESSA competition early in the Summer Term and produced some superb performances to qualify for the National Finals. The finals took place a couple of weeks later and, whilst the matches were challenging at this level, the students learnt a lot and finished with a strong win to place them 6th in the country.

Throughout the Summer Term there have been numerous cricket fixtures across the age groups against many local schools. The U14 team enjoyed a strong win against Princethorpe on their opening weekend and there have been further pleasing performances from all other age groups. The U15 hardball team once again have been forging the way for cricket here at King's and defeated Stowe School comfortably in the first round of their National Cup.

The Summer Term has, of course, seen our skiing team in action, this time at the ISA Indoor event in Hemel Hempstead. Following on





from successes earlier in the year for the team, our U16 team skied superbly to take the silver medals on the podium on this occasion.

At the beginning of May it was Football that was dominating the sporting programme at King's. Both the U12 GSA and U13 ISFA Midlands Finals tournaments were hosted here and our teams certainly did not disappoint. The U12 team finished 3rd in the Cup out of 20 teams that attended and the U13 team took the overall title in their competition and now go on to represent the Region in the National Finals.

It has been a busy time for our athletes who have competed, and shone, in a range of different competitions. The afterschool club for students from Y5-13 has had fantastic numbers attend and it has been wonderful to see students learning from each other as well as pushing themselves as individuals. The Junior team finished in 1st place at the ESAA Track and Field Midlands B finals and the Inters team won their qualifying round to qualify for the A final. Competing at the ISA Regional Finals as individuals rather than a team, nine King's High students were successful in gaining a place to compete at the National Finals. This was backed up by superb performances in the Year 9 & 10 District Championships and County championships which has seen six athletes selected to represent the region at the Mason Trophy this summer. This is a record number for King's High.

Our equestrian riders have had tremendous success at every level this summer. A special mention must go to Eleanor and Tillie who finished in 1st and 2nd place respectively in their classes at Hickstead over the half term break. This was accompanied by Purdie who finished in 4th place in her event, just missing out on a podium place by 0.05 seconds. Our younger 70cm team, including some students from Warwick Prep, also enjoyed success on the day finishing in 15th place.

Finally, we are very proud to report that our U18 tennis team have had the most tremendous season this term. They started by defeating Bromsgrove in the third round of the Aberdare Cup, and

never looked back from this point. After a nail-biting match against Ellesmere College, winning 10-3 in a championship tie break, we are delighted to report that King's High will be playing at the National Championship Finals. This is a first time for the school and puts this team amongst the very best U18 tennis teams in the Country.

We hope that, despite the slightly damp weather conditions earlier this term, all students in the school have found enjoyment in their sport, whether that has been from the fun activities played as part of the curriculum and afterschool clubs, trying something new and achieving something they didn't believe they could in athletics training, or rising to the very top of their sport as some of our athletes, skiers, tennis players, footballers and horse riders have been able to do.

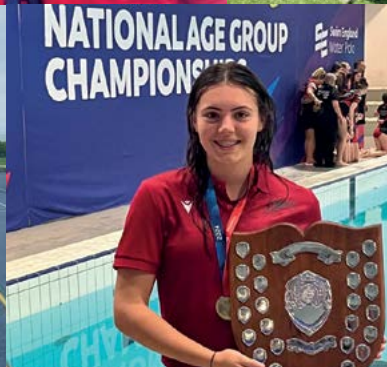
**Mrs Sarah Parkinson-Mills**  
Director of Sport



***'It was a joy to meet with our King's High Equestrian Team to congratulate them on their success at the NSEA National Championships at Hickstead. They did so well and we are all very proud. Many congratulations to Tillie, Eleanor, Purdie, Iona, Minnie, Sarra and Francesca.'***

**Dr Burley, Head Master**









For all the latest Sporting news including Equestrian, view our dedicated weekly Sports Blog at [kingshighwarwick.co.uk/sportsblog](http://kingshighwarwick.co.uk/sportsblog)



# LANDOR ASSOCIATION & OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

## ALL THE FOURS' REUNION

Over 80 Old Girls who took (or would have taken) their A Levels in a year ending in a four, and the staff who taught them, came back to school in June for an afternoon of Pimm's, a light finger buffet, and nostalgia.

Year groups from 1954 right up to 2014 were represented, but the laurels go to the Class of 1994 with 20 representatives. They started at King's High in 1987, the same year that new headmistress Mrs Jackie Anderson took over the reins. Mrs Anderson posed with them in their year group photograph.

### School Meals Memories

*'I hated being a senior on days when we had a favourite meal such as chocolate pudding and pink custard as everyone wanted seconds and you'd be trying to share one remaining piece into ten bites!'*

Guests were treated to Pimm's on arrival and a goody bag with a memory brochure compiled by the guests themselves, detailing favourite teachers, most memorable moments, thoughts on uniform and school dinners, and their best bits from school.

A nostalgia room with 'long' school photographs and past copies of the Ilex was set up for everyone's perusal in St Mary's 1. There were no prefects on hand to order the guests outside into the cold playground, as had happened in the guests' schooldays!

### Uniform Memories

*'I mostly remember the battle of the skirts, rolling it up when the teachers had gone so that you look fashionable, and rolling it down again when they came along!'*

Tour guides from the current student body showed their Old Girl counterparts round our Banbury Road site. Our thanks are due to Alexa, Charlotte, Charlotte, Georgia, Holly, Imogen, Joana, Maren, Minnie, Rhiannon, Roberta, Tamara and Youkae. We were also delighted to have 12 former members of staff with us. In addition to Mrs Anderson there were Mrs Best, Miss Clark, Miss Coupar, Mrs Dawkes, Miss Holyhead, Mrs Lampitt, Miss Lenygon, Mrs Macdonald, Mr MacFetridge, Mrs Siggers and Miss Smith, spanning seven decades of teaching at King's High!

### Lesson Memories

*'Dissecting a rat in biology. We kept the same rat for about four weeks as we went through different anatomy. It was quite shocking and fascinating at the same time. By week four it was starting to smell quite bad though.'*

Afternoon tea was delicious, and guests were then corralled into year groups for their photographs. We gave a huge round of applause to Christophe Charpentier and his wonderful catering team. OGA Secretary Polly Beidas explained about the changes at King's High since the guests were there, including the abolition of streaming in favour of setting, and the emergence of male teachers on the staff, paving the way for the introduction of Head Master Dr Stephen Burley. Dr Burley told us about the exciting developments at the school today. Our star guest of the day was introduced: 1964's Head Girl Joan Taylor who, as a celebrated pianist and music teacher, played Jerusalem for us, in its 100th year as the school song. The word-perfect rendition from the guests with its stunning accompaniment was truly spine-tingling. In addition to 1994's Head Girl, Dawn Short (née Brown), we also introduced the incoming Head Girl, Joana, who presented Joan with a bouquet and our thanks.

### The Best Bits

*'The friendships I made. The education stood me in good stead for life. The strength of being in a community of all girls.'*

This was only the second time we had held an Old Girls' reunion for seven disparate year groups, but we plan to repeat the event next year, when we proceed to 'All the Fives' on Saturday 14 June, 2025. So if you took your A Levels (or would have taken them) at King's High in a year ending in a five, look out for a booking form soon.

**Polly Beidas Development & Landor Administrator/OGA Secretary**

### Favourite Teachers

*'Miss Court was an amazing and inspirational teacher. She is the reason I finally understood maths and I often think of her when I am teaching myself and remember her telling me that I just couldn't do it yet, but I would be able to do it. I have used this phrase many times myself in the classroom.'*

## CREATIVE FESTIVAL

### Landor Careers Networking Event

As part of the Foundation's Creative Festival on the theme of 'Home', the Landor Association held a Creative Careers Networking afternoon. Guest speakers from all aspects of the creative industries were drawn from the Old Girl and parent communities, as well as friends of the school. Workshops were given on areas as diverse as theatre, gaming design, cookery (including the 'choux pastry challenge!'), interior design, intellectual property and the arts, and children's writing, along with several more.



# OGA ANNUAL LUNCH AND AGM

Nearly 90 Old girls and former staff representing nine decades of the school's history, including three sets of sisters, an aunt and niece, and friends of up to 70 years' standing, came to Warwick on Saturday 23 March for the OGA Annual Lunch and AGM. Many were delighted to see their former teachers there too, in the shape of Mrs Russell, Mrs Grant, Miss Lenygon, Miss Clark and Mrs Lampitt.

Guests were greeted with colour co-ordinated name badges representing one of eight tables. The pink table, all from the Class of 1973, had taken this to heart and had all embraced their inner Barbie by dressing in pink! Goody bags were also proffered and refreshments consumed as groups of friends gathered. A willing band of current students were ready to tour the school with their charges, seeing hens, a racing car and a beautiful airy Quad.

Many Old Girls will remember trying to look at the long school photographs in Red Corridor at Smith Street, only to be ushered outside by the prefects on duty. At the Annual Lunch, these had been unscrewed from the walls and were laid out on desks for ease of viewing - and not a prefect in sight!

Deputy Head Girl Rose, who had given up part of her 18th birthday to be with us at the Lunch, was serenaded with 'Happy birthday' and presented with a lovely bouquet. After the AGM, delivered by the OGA President and Head Master, Dr Stephen Burley, and OGA Secretary and Old Girl Polly Beidas, the guests enjoyed a lovely two course lunch with wine, created by the school's Head Chef, M. Christophe Charpentier, and served with aplomb by his catering team.



Kim Hartman with her teenage uniform

The highlight of the day was the after lunch speech from Old Girl and actor Kim Hartman. The Head Master introduced this with a special 'Allo 'Allo quiz, which brought about some hilarious team names from the assembled throng! Kim was warm and funny, telling us of her life 'Beyond the Blue Door'. She took us from the joy of learning to be on stage at school, (and the wrath of Miss Hare when she chose acting over A levels!), via assistant stage management at the nearby Belgrade Theatre, eventually arriving, via pantomime and the RSC, as 'Helga' in 'Allo 'Allo. She was kind enough to take questions from the floor, too.

A raffle in aid of Kim's chosen charity, Shipston Home Nursing, raised £420. This was thanks in part to OGA committee members Felicity Bunker (nee Akers) and Valerie Hurst (nee Poole) who sold the tickets, and a wonderful array of prizes, including King's High eggs. The most popular prize was a painting of Eastgate and Landor House, donated by Old Girl Christine Legge. This had been a gift from her lifelong friend, the late Kitty Gundy (nee Hoggett); Christine, who recently turned 90, had no family to leave this picture to, and hated the thought of it going into a skip, so had offered it to the OGA for the raffle. It now has a worthy new home with Jennie Barry (nee Heath).

Old Girl, singer and broadcaster Catherine Bott introduced Jerusalem to end proceedings. The school song has now been sung at King's High for 100 years. Naturally nobody needed the lyrics, even after 10, 40 or even 70 years away from the school!

We look forward to seeing you all for next year's OGA Lunch and AGM on 22 March 2025, where the guest speaker will be Old Girl and former Liberal Democrat spokesperson on Health in the Lords, Baroness Judith Jolly (nee Pritchard).

**Polly Beidas Development & Landor Administrator/OGA Secretary**



The Pink Ladies from the Class of 1973

## FOUNDERS AND BENEFACTORS



The King's High and Warwick Prep community, together with Warwick School, reflected with gratitude on the founding, history and progress of our schools and gave thanks to those

who have supported our development over the years in a splendid Founders and Benefactors' Service at St Mary's, Warwick on 26 April, the day before our 145th birthday.

In addition to our service of thanksgiving, the talents of current King's High and Warwick Prep School students were showcased in music, song and readings. We learned how the school song, Jerusalem, had been the choice of the girls at School Council 100 years ago in 1924.

Outgoing Landor President, Old Warwickian and former Chair of Governors David Stevens handed over the presidential baton to his successor Jane Marshall, herself a former Chair of both the Governors and KHAPS. He also announced five new Landor Fellows. These were STEM outreach pioneer Claire Beecroft; Old Girl, professor of pastoral theology and library benefactor Christie Cozad Neuger; former science teacher Jo Grant, former KHAPS and WPSA Chair Emma Griffin and Old Girl, theatre director and executive business mentor Sue Moore.



# FOUNDATION COMMUNITY

## HOME FESTIVAL



Bring all your family and friends and join Warwick Schools Foundation on Saturday 6 July, 10am-6pm for a fun-filled day of free music, theatre, workshops, exhibitions, food court, bouncy castle and more.

Attend as many performances as you like, enjoy a glass of something fizzy, secure a deckchair, and – most importantly – make yourselves at 'HOME'! Book your free tickets at [bridgehousetheatre.co.uk](http://bridgehousetheatre.co.uk).

## CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE

Ahead of the incredible Orchestra of the Swan concert, King's High students Polly and Taya had the truly unique and valuable opportunity to conduct the professional orchestra during their rehearsals, along with a detailed analysis session with conductor Rebecca Miller in the morning.



## WARWICK – A SINGING TOWN

Warwick – A Singing Town is delighted to support our local choirs and singing events this summer. Read more in the Warwick Choral Festival 2024 brochure available at [warwicksingingtown.co.uk](http://warwicksingingtown.co.uk)



## MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Warwick Schools Foundation is proud to unveil plans to create a multi-academy trust of four existing schools throughout Warwickshire.

Although the plans will have no direct impact on the running of the Foundation schools, the announcement is an important milestone for the Foundation, which has a long heritage of supporting children throughout Warwickshire including through longstanding partnerships between its schools and their near neighbours.

Warwick Schools Foundation is strongly rooted in the local area. This year sees Foundation schools having delivered 1,552 years of education in their local communities and it is hoped that the combined impact of the Warwick Schools Foundation schools and Warwick Schools Foundation Multi-Academy Trust schools will continue to drive benefits for children across the county for many years to come. Read more on our website in [/latestnews](#).

***'The creation of the WSF MAT is an important development for the Foundation as a charity, as well as for the schools and children in the local area. We are proud of the relationships developed over recent years across a number of local schools, and especially the ways in which pupils work together.'***

**Richard Nicholson, Foundation Principal**

## FUTURE FWD

It is our privilege to host Future Fwd once again in 2024. Being at the heart of facilitating transformation is central to our core values as a Foundation, and this two-day, free event is a testament to our commitment to driving progress and innovation in education.

Join us from 8-9 July to be part of Enabling Next Gen in Education. This is your opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations, share insights, and contribute to shaping the future of education. Don't miss out on this chance to be a part of something truly transformative.

Register at [futurefwd.org](http://futurefwd.org)





# A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL



As I write this, the General Election is still some days away, but I am mindful that the election result will be known when it is read.

For those of us who believe in the importance of a strong independent education sector, many of the headlines and commentaries around our schools have made uncomfortable reading, not least because of the stereotypical view of our schools, our pupils and families, and indeed our alumni. For all the 'loud failures' in the sector which may be seized on, there are many more 'silent successes'.

I believe strongly that our pupils – your children – are forces for good in society and that the education we provide can better equip them for the ever-changing and uncertain world they enter as adults.

We are unlikely to know what the policies around VAT and implementation of business rates are likely to be until the King's Speech later in July at the earliest. As with so many things in life, it is uncertainty which is hard to handle, and is unsettling for so many.

Anything which affects our schools - that may be government policies, economic recession, reputational challenges - has the potential to damage the impact our charity can have. I am mindful - and increasingly so - of the impact this charity has had over hundreds of years; the good we do both directly with the pupils we educate and indirectly through the impact we have on our local community.

Many may well consider our likely challenges a niche issue; the preoccupation of a tiny proportion of society, and a privileged proportion at that.

I disagree.

Independent schools are a healthy part of this nation's diverse educational ecosystem, providing different perspectives on educational issues, and driving initiatives which have impact on education beyond our individual school gates.

I know first-hand how transformational education can be. Growing up in a mining town in Derbyshire, my parents saw education as a way of enabling me to have more choices than they had had in my future life. A cost accountant and a nursing auxiliary, there was no spare money in the household; my schooling was determined by a hefty Music Scholarship and an equally hefty government assisted place. I was the first in my family to be educated at an independent school and the first to go to university, and I have no doubt whatsoever without those courageous choices by my parents over 40 years ago, I would not be writing this message to you now as Foundation Principal.

The end of term is always a showcase for the exceptional activities which have taken places over the preceding weeks, culminating in concerts, shows, sports fixtures, and exhibitions. What our young people achieve is extraordinary - and I would like to thank each and every family, now more than ever, for the support you bring to enable this to happen. Together, we transform the lives of the young people in our care. Thank you.

**Richard Nicholson**  
Foundation Principal

Warwick  
Schools  
Foundation



Enabling transformation through the power of education

## KING HENRY VIII SCHOLARSHIPS

Warwick Schools Foundation is proud to announce the launch of the King Henry VIII Scholarships for children living in town of Warwick. The scholarships, which will typically involve a fee discount of up to 50%, are awarded based on outstanding achievement or potential to do so for children living in the CV34 postcode.

The Foundation is partnered by King Henry VIII Endowed Trust and The Charity of Sir Thomas White, Warwick in the delivery of these scholarships and is grateful for their financial support. The scholarships will usually be open to pupils either joining a Foundation school in Year 7 or Year 12, or those moving from one Foundation school to another at these points.

The scholarships aim to recognise those children who demonstrate outstanding achievements or the potential to do so. They can be awarded for academic achievement or all-around achievement more generally.

Alongside the launch of the new scheme, the Foundation's means-tested bursaries are also being extended to younger children for the first time ever. The CV34 bursaries, which could mean up to 100% fee support for families whose household income is below a certain threshold, are now available to families looking at Year 3 entry to the Foundation's schools.

The awarding of the King Henry VIII Scholarships is subject to annual review, and recipients must remain resident in CV34 for the duration of their time in the school to continue to benefit from this award.

To be considered for a scholarship, candidates must apply to the school of their choosing by the earlier scholarship deadline, with dates available on each school's website. Details can be found at [helpwithfees.co.uk/kinghenryviii](http://helpwithfees.co.uk/kinghenryviii).





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