



KING'S HIGH NEWS

SPRING 2025

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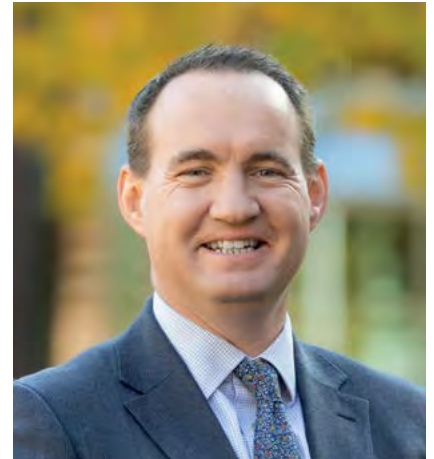
Front cover image: *The Meadow of Dreams* by Sophia, Year 11



HEAD MASTER'S INTRODUCTION

It is a huge privilege to be the Head of King's High and to see the incredible work that goes on through a school term. I am in awe of the endeavours of our community and the sheer breadth and depth of opportunities that our students embrace.

We have ended term in glorious sunshine and, as I write, our pupils are starting to head off at the end of another busy day. I have been out to see how the construction of our new bi-plane is progressing, and it is exciting to see it come together. Our Engines and Aviation Project has, to date, resulted in our students building and racing a new Formula 24 motorcar, working on a Rolls Royce Viper Jet engine, and constructing our new bi-plane, all supported by our Engineer in Residence, Mr Smythe. I also popped up to our Physics Lab to see our Year 9 Astronomy Projects and to the Art Department to hear two former students talk about Fine Art and Art History at university.



The forward-thinking dynamism of our school was captured in our latest ISI inspection report, published this term, which awarded our school a coveted 'significant strength' for our work on changemaking – for our pupils' 'active involvement in community service, sustainability projects, global citizenship, and for initiatives that foster respect, responsibility, and awareness of societal and ethical issues.' Our community partnerships are thriving, and our weekly Saturday School and Inspire School are very popular among our local primary pupils and our King's High volunteers. On Friday afternoons, our students go out into the community for social action, supporting vulnerable people in local hospitals, hospices, and special schools.

This term, we celebrated World Book Day, British Science Week, International Women's Day, and the Lunar New Year. We also hosted our first Japan National Foundation Day on 11 February. Thanks to the hard work of Bethany in Year 9, we created paper cranes that were sent to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial and enjoyed katsudon curry and cherry blossom cupcakes for lunch. Later this year, our students are heading off to Japan and Vietnam, and at Easter, we have trips heading out to Vienna, Nice, and Snowdonia.

King's High is a centre for sporting excellence, and we were delighted to learn that our recent successes led to a leading publication ranking us as the 8th top school in the country for girls' sport. This was showcased by our U13 netballers, who won this year's ISA National Competition in front of around 300 home supporters in high spirits and glorious sunshine. The performing arts are thriving, and last week alone, we enjoyed a superb Spring Concert and a very impressive Foundation Symphony Orchestra Concert. The Jazz, Rock, and Pop Evening was very special, and our upcoming pop bands have a very exciting future ahead. In Drama, our Middle School Production of Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus* was superb, and we have enjoyed some excellent drama and musical theatre club showcase events, as well as our annual LAMDA performance evening.

Our term began with the mock examinations for Years 11 and 13, and the scholarly endeavours continued throughout, with our annual Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) Presentation Evening showcasing impressive research on a range of fascinating topics. The visit of Mindu Hornick, a 97-year-old survivor of Auschwitz, was undoubtedly a highlight of the term and a powerful and inspiring experience for all who were present.

I hope that you enjoy reading about our Spring Term at King's High, and I wish you a very happy Easter.

Dr Stephen Burley
Head Master

FROM FIELD TO FORK

Delicious, thoughtfully prepared food is a much-loved part of daily life at King's – and that's thanks to our exceptionally talented Catering team.

Under the expert leadership of award-winning Head Chef Christophe Charpentier and Front of House and Hospitality Manager Kate Mousakitis, the team goes above and beyond to make every meal memorable. Whether it's lunch on a busy school day or a special event, they bring passion, creativity, and care to all they do.

Want a glimpse behind the scenes? Visit our dedicated Catering Blog at [/cateringblog](#). In the meantime, meet the fantastic team behind the flavours.



Evans Adjei – Chef de partie

With a cheerful smile every day, Evans prepares all of our healthy and varied salads – always fresh, colourful and packed with flavour, and a firm favourite with everyone.

Mark Richards – Senior Sous Chef

Mark controls lunch service with skill and military precision and runs the kitchen if our Head Chef is not available.

Dominic Allsopp – Sous Chef

Dominic plays a key role in the kitchen, supporting the Head Chef and Senior Sous Chef in preparing over 1,000 meals each day!

Rob Wilding – Porter

Rob looks after all the deliveries of food and other items, ensuring things run like clockwork.

Josh Brown – Catering Assistant

Josh makes sure the dining room is nice and clean, and oversees the 'scrapping station' – although this is somewhat of a misnomer at King's! We should probably rename it 'clean plate station'!

Christina Freeman – Lunchtime Supervisor

Christina looks after students during lunch service, supports Beth at the tuck shop, and ensures our delicious salad bar stays fully stocked. She also helps keep the dining room clean, tidy, and welcoming.

John Badr – Head of Food Operations

John's role is to oversee all food production and service across the Foundation for over 3,500 meals a day as well as all school and external events.

Ana Edwards – Catering Assistant

Ana looks after the PE department, staff room and Music department, making sure they have plenty of tea, coffee, and biscuits – always served with a huge smile!

Beth Ward – Catering Assistant

Beth runs our tuck shop alongside Christina, ensuring our students enjoy a tasty snack at break time. She also supports our Front of House Manager with events and daily operations, and confidently takes the lead when Kate is unavailable.

Mirela Constantin – Catering Assistant

Mimi helps our chefs prepare food to perfection and serves our eager diners during lunch service.

Christophe Charpentier – Head Chef

Christophe, Head of all Chefs and the kitchen, responsible for all the incredible food at King's each day, and at the many, varied events we hold. What your appetite with some of Christophe's fabulous creations on our website in [/cateringblog](#).

Kate Mouzakitis – Front of House and Hospitality Manager

Kate is head of Front of House Operations and Events at Kings High Head of all our Catering Assistants. She ensures the smooth running of all things 'front of house' and transforms her incredible vision into reality with the most wonderful displays and meticulous attention to detail. See Kate's creativity in action on our website in [/cateringblog](#).

Louise Bragg – Pastry Chef

Louise is responsible for all the jaw-dropping desserts at King's, from the legendary chocolate cracknell, to light-as-a-feather cakes, and sticky toffee pudding and custard!

Olga Kiloh – Catering Assistant

Olga ably supports our Pastry Chef, Louise, with delicious desserts, fresh fruit, and lots more behind-the-scenes magic.

Annette Pettipher – Senior Catering Assistant

Annette is our allergen champion, responsible for all allergens and adding her artistic flair to menus and signage. She also looks after our Catering Assistants if the Front of House Manager is not available.

Lesley Rogers – Catering Assistant

Lesley starts the day helping Annette prepare our fantastic range of fresh sandwiches, as well as helping on lunch service and events.

Claire Yates – Director of Hospitality and Leisure

Claire has a very varied role – overseeing not only our wonderful catering departments Foundation-wide but also our sports centres and commercial activities.

HOUSE FUN

The Easter fair at King's raised funds to support our six house charities – Malala Foundation, Molly Olly's, Myton Hospice, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, Warwickshire Air



Ambulance and Young Minds. The event featured Easter bunnies, egg hunts, a 'guess the number of mini eggs' game, and a variety of other fun Easter-themed stalls. In just under an hour, we raised over £300! We also had stacks of fun in an earlier house pancake race with Earhart flipping their way to victory!

HEAD GIRL TEAM

A very warm welcome to our new Head Girl Team at King's High for 2025-2026. Many congratulations to Paige (Head Girl), who will be joined by Isabelle, Scarlett, and Olivia (Deputy Head Girls). The team will officially transition into their roles after Easter. We would also like to extend our thanks to our incredible outgoing team – Joana (Head Girl), Poppy, Bella, and Edith (Deputy Head Girls) – for their outstanding dedication and leadership.



U13 NETBALL SQUAD CROWNED ISA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

Huge congratulations to our U13 netball squad, who have been crowned ISA National Champions! This incredible achievement marks a fantastic end to what has been an outstanding season for the team.



Competing against top schools from across the country, the squad demonstrated exceptional skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the tournament. Their hard work and dedication paid off as they claimed victory in front of a large and supportive crowd, showcasing their talent on the national stage.

An enormous well done to all the players and coaching staff for their invaluable efforts, as well as to everyone who came to cheer them on. It was a brilliant day of netball, and we are incredibly proud of the team's success. Congratulations!

OXBRIDGE OFFERS

Many congratulations to the Upper Sixth students in King's High and Warwick School who have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge! We are incredibly proud of their achievements, including Charlotte, Erin, Polly, and Rosie, who have all received their Oxbridge offers. We'd also like to extend our congratulations to all students who have received offers from other prestigious universities and institutions. We are so proud of each student's success whichever pathway they choose, and wish them the very best of luck for the future.



A TASTE OF THE FAR EAST

A huge well done to Bethany in Year 9, whose interest in Japan brought the whole school together to celebrate Japan National Foundation Day on 11 February!

A massive thank you to our incredible catering team for the delicious Japanese-themed lunch, featuring the sell-out katsudon curry and cherry blossom cupcakes!

During form time, students folded paper cranes, which were sent to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial in remembrance of lives lost in WWII. Read more on our website in [/cateringblog](#).



BLAZING UNIQUE TRAILS

At King's High, we take immense pride in the diverse and ambitious pathways our pupils pursue after Sixth Form. This year's leavers are heading to some of the most prestigious institutions in the UK and beyond, studying an incredible variety of courses that reflect their passions, talents, and aspirations.

Among them are future Veterinary Scientists, Criminologists, and Forensic Investigators, alongside those pursuing Musical Theatre, Jazz Singing, and Theology with Arabic and Middle Eastern studies. Others are delving into Animal Sciences, and Planning – demonstrating the breadth of their choices and ambitions.

This is just a snapshot of the exciting pathways our Changemakers of the future take at King's High, and we couldn't be more proud. We look forward to seeing them thrive as they embrace the next stage of their journeys.



WORLD BOOK DAY



World Book Day reminds us that stories aren't just words on a page – they connect us. They spark imagination, build empathy, and remind us we're not alone, just as C.S. Lewis said: "We read to know we are not alone."

We enjoyed a fantastic World Book Day at King's High, with an incredible array of creative costumes from both students and staff! From the iconic Three Little Pigs to the mischievous Captain Hook and mythical creatures galore, the day was filled with imagination and literary spirit. It was a wonderful celebration of books and creativity across King's.



ISI SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORT

We are thrilled to share our latest ISI School Inspection Report. Less than 10% of schools inspected by ISI achieve a coveted 'significant strength', and we are delighted to have received this recognition for our work on Changemaking – for our pupils' active involvement in community service, sustainability projects, global citizenship and for initiatives that foster respect, responsibility and awareness of societal and ethical issues.

'We have enjoyed enormous success at King's High recently, experiencing strong national recognition as a centre for excellence and winning many prestigious awards and accolades. I am delighted that our latest inspection builds on this momentum, recognising and celebrating the strengths of our school and the warmth and positivity of our culture and ethos'

Dr Burley



A ROARING SUCCESS

Symbolising prosperity, good luck, and fortune, the vibrant tradition of the Lion Dance ushers in a year of happiness and abundance. Our very own 'Director of Fun' led the way as our Year 8s took their turn, celebrating Lunar New Year in true style!



PLAY IN A DAY

We were delighted to welcome back renowned physical theatre company Highly Sprung, who collaborated with our Year 7 students to create a 'Play in a Day'. View the gallery from their impressive production of *The Tempest* on our website in /drama.



SIXTH FORM FLEXI-BOARDING

We are excited to offer Flexible Sixth Form Boarding, designed to support your daughter's academic success and personal growth. This option provides a structured yet adaptable environment, helping students balance A Level studies, extracurricular activities, and university preparation while fostering independence and time management skills. Ideal for reducing long commutes, our flexi-boarding option allows students to stay for one or two nights per week or on an ad-hoc basis, with meals, study spaces, and pastoral support included at just £50 + VAT per night. With access to academic mentoring, sports facilities, and social spaces, this is a fantastic opportunity to enhance your daughter's Sixth Form experience. Find out more on the Boarding section of our website or contact Ms Cooper for further details.



SENIOR YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Huge congratulations to Hope, our 2025 Senior Young Musician of the Year! Well done also to section winners Darcy, Daisy and Polly, and many thanks to adjudicator Simon Hogg.

“This was a superb concert – a great privilege to be there and see such depth and breath of talent. Many congratulations to all the young performers.”

Dr Burley



HIGHLAND ADVENTURE

In May 2026, 44 adventurous Key Stage 3 students will head to Ridgway Adventure at Ardmore, a remote crofting settlement in the far northwest of Scotland. Surrounded by rugged coastline and dramatic landscapes, Ardmore offers the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable outdoor experience.

Students will take part in a wide range of activities including sea kayaking, mountain walking, rock climbing, wild camping, and even lobster creeling. From mastering survival skills and orienteering challenges to enjoying a well-earned beach day at Oldshoremore, the trip promises adventure, teamwork, and lasting memories in one of Scotland's most stunning environments under the expert leadership of Mr Beverley.



TAEKWONDO



“It was a huge pleasure to congratulate Elizabeth in Year 7 on her superb success in Taekwondo – black belt, British Champion, and World Gold Medallist. We were so pleased to see her achievements celebrated by British Taekwondo on International Women's Day. Congratulations, Elizabeth!”

Dr Burley

CCF CADRE

At the CCF Passing Out Parade, Zara in Year 11 was awarded the John Pipitone Memorial Sword as the best cadet in this year's CCF Cadre. Congratulations, Zara!

UPSTANDERS, NOT BYSTANDERS

Every student at King's participated in an inspiring and motivating assembly led by our Equalities Committee, followed by a form activity focused on the role unconscious bias can play in racial discrimination. In addition, students had the opportunity to sign pledges committing to celebrating diversity and attended "The Big Conversation," a session dedicated to discussing issues surrounding racism. These activities were part of our efforts to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Year 10 and Lower Sixth students were also fortunate to hear a powerful talk from Mr Jackie Young, the father of Mrs Wathen, our very own Office Supervisor, who was taken to the concentration camps when he was just 9 months old. His poignant and deeply moving story serves as a reminder of the importance of being upstanders against racism and the ongoing fight to combat it. Jackie's story was featured on Stacey Dooley's *DNA Family Secrets* and was one of the most inspirational talks we have ever heard.



CEILIDH CELEBRATION

We had a fantastic evening at King's celebrating Burns Night with our Parents' Association Ceilidh, enjoying delicious food, wonderful company, and plenty of lively dancing. The atmosphere was amazing, thanks to an incredible Scottish pipe band and a brilliant Ceilidh band that kept everyone on their feet. After dining on traditional haggis, neeps, and tatties, we took to the dance floor. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us and to our amazing KHAPS committee for organising such a superb event. Our toes are still tapping!



KING'S HIGH RANKED 8TH BEST GIRLS' SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY FOR SPORT

We are thrilled to announce that King's High has been ranked the 8th Best Girls' School for Sport in the *School Sport Magazine* Top 200 Sports Schools of 2024! This incredible achievement reflects the dedication, hard work, and talent of our outstanding students and staff, who continually strive for excellence in a wide range of sports.



JUNIOR YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

It was musicianship at the highest level in our Junior Young Musician of the Year competition! A huge well done to Lucy in Year 9, this year's overall winner on flute! Thank you to Catherine Arlidge MBE for being a superb adjudicator.



EPQ

Our annual Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) Presentation Evening highlighted impressive research on a wide range of fascinating topics. Congratulations to everyone in Lower Sixth who shared their research with such passion, confidence, and intelligence on an array of captivating subjects. They also demonstrated great support for one another, showing genuine interest and celebrating each other's research achievements.

SOARING HIGH

Space Eggs Rocket to Success

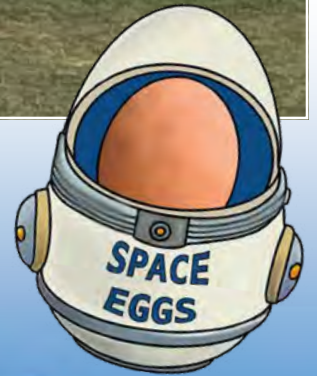
King's High Rocket Club is all about innovation, teamwork, and pushing the limits of engineering. This year, our team, Space Eggs, soared to success in the Midlands regional UKRoc competition, securing an impressive second place! But beyond rankings, their journey of design, problem-solving, and collaboration has been truly inspiring. Hear from the team as they share their experience below.

'The Rocket Club team, Space Eggs, recently secured an impressive second place in the Midlands regional UKRoc competition! While this is a great achievement, the real success lies in the journey of designing and building our rocket. The experience of collaborating, problem-solving, and refining our design along the way is what truly makes this journey special.

'Throughout the process, we made great strides in our rocket's design, constantly refining it to ensure peak performance. Thankfully, we avoided adding any more to our smashed egg count! Competition day presented several challenges, but these obstacles became valuable opportunities to test and improve our rocket. Each launch brought new insights, helping us make key adjustments to our final design. By the time of our last flight, our rocket had reached an impressive altitude of 930 feet – a remarkable feat considering the hurdles we faced.

'Looking ahead, the team is already making further adjustments to ensure the rocket hits the ideal target height and flight time. With the national competition fast approaching in early May, we're more focused than ever on perfecting our rocket to give ourselves the best chance of success.

'The entire team had a fantastic day at the competition, celebrating how far we've come and how much we've learnt. Our journey is far from over, and the team is already looking ahead, energised and ready to take on the next challenge. As we, the Space Eggs, blast off into the future, we're determined not to crack under pressure. With our determination and teamwork, we know the sky's the limit!'



SPOTLIGHT ON... TAYA

In each edition of King's High News, we'll be shining a spotlight on the incredible experiences of our Music students in a special mini-series. First up is Taya in Upper Sixth, whose deep passion for Jazz has shaped her musical journey and continues to inspire her.



'My first instrument is Voice, and my second is Piano, mainly focusing on playing and singing Jazz. My experience studying music at King's has been phenomenal. Throughout the years, I've been consistently encouraged, inspired, and supported by teachers, cultivating my passion for the subject alongside building strong and lasting relationships throughout my time here. After the department recognised my passion for Jazz, they swiftly introduced me to a specialist Jazz teacher who has nurtured my abilities and given me support, working closely with me now for seven years. I would not be where I am today without this support.'

'Throughout my time at King's, the department has given me countless performance opportunities to develop my confidence and performance skills from as early as Year 7. The school has also facilitated brilliant extra-curricular activities where teachers lead with such glee and enthusiasm (like Big Band and Chamber Choir), developing the skills needed to pursue a career in music. The thing I regard most highly about the department is the lengths the staff are willing to go to support their students and give them the best experience, often giving up free time to facilitate extra workshops, lessons, or activities to help their students along the way — or even just to make moments more inspiring for them. I have found this abundantly generous and useful. Examples of this would be: a teacher of mine taking the extensive time to arrange a Big Band score of one of my favourite songs just so I could sing and perform it with my peers in one of my final concerts; another teacher, who gave up their lunch after I expressed a desire to learn music theory, just to teach me; or my Head of Music providing me with specialist equipment I needed for auditioning for conservatoires.'

'My secondary school experience has been filled with incredible musical moments with the support of the school. I've been a lead singer with Jazz Lab and Big Band (both Warwick School and King's High's Big Bands). I've performed with orchestras and had the amazing opportunity of competing in the national concert band final as the lead singer for Jazz Lab, where we won platinum. Additionally, I have been able to perform my original songs with a professional house band supporting me at large concerts. I've won Senior Musician of the Year, started and fronted my own band, professionally gigged with friends, released my own music on streaming services, and been accepted onto the prestigious National Youth Jazz Collective summer school.'

'Finally, after auditioning for a variety of conservatoires which specialise in Jazz, I have been accepted into my first choice, now heading off to The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama to study Jazz singing. I owe this achievement to the music department here at King's and will forever appreciate the creative, passionate, and positive environment they have created for me over the past seven years.'

Taya released her debut single on Apple Music, Spotify, and other streaming platforms in 2023 under her artist name, Taya Nicole Mae. The main track, *Ten Past Two*, was first performed at our Jazz, Rock, and Pop Concert at the Bridge House Theatre before being professionally released by Tanicom Records. Accompanying it is a second track, *Serotonin*, which has been described as 'music candy'.



KING'S... AMPLIFIED

The Rock and Pop genre continues to thrive at King's, and the school's music scene is currently buzzing with a palpable sense of excitement.

Under the expert direction of Nick Jones, our drum teacher with decades of experience in the music industry, King's High bands have achieved remarkable success. A professional drummer in acclaimed rock bands himself, Nick has been a driving force in helping our student groups reach new heights. One of our previous groups, MACH4, even had their music featured on BBC Introducing. Now, our current bands – *1thirty1*, *Benevolence*, and *ellIPsiS*, the latest to hit the King's scene – are poised to follow in their illustrious footsteps, with highly anticipated performances on the horizon.

1thirty1

The incredibly hardworking members of *1thirty1* – Isabel, Paige, Annabel, Harriet, Lottie, and Roxana – are firing on all cylinders, perfecting new songs ahead of their next big performance. Catch them too at the New Horizons Jazz, Rock & Pop Concert. After delivering two stunning performances at both the King's Winter Concert and February's Jazz, Rock & Pop Concert at the Bridge House Theatre, these talented musicians are setting the bar ever higher with their song choices and exceptional stage presence. We can't wait to see what *1thirty1* has in store next – they continue to impress.



Benevolence

This powerhouse of a band simply blows audiences away with each performance. Poppy, Izzy, and Aimee's high-voltage vibe, along with Miller from Warwick School – now fully settled in on drums after his stellar debut in November – have solidified *Benevolence* as one of the school's most exciting groups. The band owned the stage at the Bridge House Theatre during the Winter Concert in November and once again at the recent Jazz, Rock & Pop Concert. Their next electrifying performance will be at the Spring Concert in Warwick Hall on 2 April, where they're set to bring down the house with two more unforgettable tracks. The band will close out the year with a killer performance at the Year 11 concert in May, just before heading into their GCSE exams.





elliPsiS

A new wave of talented students is ready to make their mark. For some time now, sisters Anna and Sophie, both in Year 8, have dreamed of starting their own band. That dream became a reality when they teamed up with Georgie and Kitty, and *elliPsiS* was born! Their first songs are coming together at lightning speed, and this group of rising stars is ready to take the stage. With their debut performance just around the corner, there's no doubt that *elliPsiS* will soon be wowing audiences and leaving a lasting impression. Mark your calendars – see them at the New Horizons Jazz, Rock & Pop Concert on 3 July. It's just the beginning for this incredibly talented band!



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

This term has been filled with fantastic opportunities to explore different cultures through food and hands-on experiences.

One of the highlights was the Madeleine workshop with our French students, led by our incredible Head Chef, Christophe. The session was a huge success, with students learning about the history of the madeleine and baking these delicious French treats. Due to its overwhelming popularity, we're excited to announce that there will be another Madeleine workshop in the summer term for anyone who missed out!

We also had a wonderful tapas tasting lesson with Year 9 in Spanish. Students had the chance to prepare and enjoy a variety of traditional Spanish dishes. Some created incredible cakes, churros, and gambas, while others took on the challenge of making paella. The event was a fantastic way to experience Spanish gastronomy – one of the units in their course.

Our students who attend Acting in Other Languages have been rehearsing Art by Yasmina Reza. It will be performed at the Bridge House Theatre on 10 May at 7.30pm. Originally written in French, the play will be performed in both French and Spanish by our talented students.

For Year 8 and Year 9 students, there's even more to look forward to! A trip to Barcelona is planned for October, offering an exciting opportunity to explore this vibrant Spanish city – visiting Gaudi's famous sites and enjoying the Spanish lifestyle.

Looking ahead, we have two exciting trips coming up at Easter. One group of students will head to Nice, where they will immerse themselves in French culture, visit St Paul-de-Vence and the chapel decorated by Matisse, enjoy authentic southern French cuisine, and even make their own perfume. Another group will travel to Vienna, where they will visit the Vienna State Opera, watch the morning exercises at the Spanish Riding School, and enjoy the Prater amusement park.

We're also excited to welcome Onatti back to King's to perform *Primera City*, a play in Spanish in July 2025 for our Key Stage 3 students.

With so many cultural experiences happening throughout the year, it's a great time to be a language student at King's. Don't miss out on these fantastic opportunities!

MADELEINE WORKSHOP REFLECTION

"In our Madeleine workshop, we explored the story and literary significance behind these little French sponge cakes before rolling up our sleeves to make our own. The tale goes that a young maid named Madeleine first baked them in the 18th century for the exiled King Stanisław Leszczyński, who loved them so much he introduced them to the court of Versailles – where they became an instant hit.

"Some say their famous shell shape was inspired by scallop shells and that they were originally baked in them. We used these moulds ourselves, and the results were perfect!

"After learning the history, we began mixing eggs, sugar, and butter to get the perfect light, fluffy texture, adding lemon zest for extra flavour. We also learned that madeleines can be flavoured with vanilla, orange blossom, or dipped in chocolate.

"When the warm, golden madeleines came out of the oven, their sweet, buttery scent filled the room – a tasty reminder of why these little cakes have been loved for centuries."

Georgie, Year 8





FROM WARWICK TO STEYR

Year 10 German GCSE students are enjoying our exciting new link with *BRG Steyr Michaelerplatz* – a beautiful, historic grammar school set in the town of Steyr, Upper Austria, as part of a virtual cultural exchange with their Austrian counterparts.

Our students have shared photos of typical King's High moments with their partner class and written extended descriptions in German of the special qualities and quirks of our unique school life, including Yondr pouches and chickens!

They have also read letters and descriptions of photos from the Austrian students, picking up more idiomatic language from their peers and discovering, to their chagrin, that their German-speaking partners often finish lessons by lunchtime!

Students are now looking forward to using their German to make short videos, introducing themselves more personally and learning more about secondary school life in this picturesque part of Europe.

What do students say?

"I have really enjoyed the Austria link, as it has given us such a great opportunity to explore what life is like for other students in Austria and practice our communication and linguistic skills. I have really enjoyed exploring Austrian culture and investigating the differences between our schools, especially through photos and videos, as it is a very immersive way of experiencing other cultures. I am looking forward to learning even more about the school in Austria as the link continues!"

Charlotte, Y10

"I have really enjoyed the opportunity to communicate with students at a school in Austria in my German lessons. It has been helpful to my German studies to communicate with German speakers and learn the natural way of speaking in the country. I have also enjoyed learning about Austrian schools, how they differ from ours, and being able to share our school with them. I am looking forward to improving my conversation skills and learning to speak informal German through native speakers. I am also looking forward to helping the students in Austria improve their English and learn about our country. I have found this experience extremely interesting and enjoyable overall."

Eve, Y10

"The Austrian link school has been really beneficial for learning German for GCSE. I've enjoyed the link as it has been really helpful to read and translate authentic German, and it's exciting to communicate with fluent, native speakers. We've been given an insight into the schools we're taught about, learning about their different rules, such as no uniform or assembly, and we've even seen photos of their campus and received letters from the students. I'm looking forward to communicating with them more to further improve my confidence in German and to learn about such a different school experience."

Liv, Y10



BE INSPIRED

This term, our Inspire Academic Enrichment Programme continued to offer a wealth of exciting opportunities designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and independent thinking

From engaging in thought-provoking talks on International Human Rights Law to exploring the wonders of astronomy through hands-on projects, students have been encouraged to embrace new challenges and push the boundaries of their learning. Here are just a few of the many highlights from this term. Visit our website at [/academicenrichment](#) for further details on the amazing programme.



ENCOUNTERS

The visit of Mindu Hornick, a 97-year-old survivor of Auschwitz, was undoubtedly a highlight of our Encounters series this term. Her presence was a powerful and inspiring experience for all who attended, and it was a true privilege to listen to her story.

INSPIRE TRIP TO THE NATIONAL JUSTICE MUSEUM

This term our Key Stage 3 students embarked on an eye-opening visit to the National Justice Museum, where they explored crime, punishment, and social justice from both historical and modern perspectives. As part of the experience, students took part in the engaging 'Justice Reinvented' workshop, pitching innovative ideas for improving UK prisons in a 'Dragon's Den'-style presentation. They also stepped into the roles of legal professionals in the 'Courtroom' workshop, preparing and enacting a trial based on a contemporary criminal case. The trip provided a valuable insight into the justice system, encouraging critical thinking about fairness and reform.



INSPIRE PROJECT: DESIGNING A PLANET

For our first Key Stage 3 Inspire Project of the term, students were challenged to design their own planet. With a range of creative possibilities, they showcased their ingenuity by comparing their planet's scientific features with Earth, building intricate 3D models, developing historical timelines, and even crafting culinary dishes inspired by their planet's unique cultures. The submissions were truly outstanding, reflecting immense thought, imagination, and scientific curiosity. It was a delight to see students applying their knowledge in such innovative ways!

KING'S LINKS TRIP TO OXFORD

Key Stage 4 students took part in the King's Links trip to Oxford, gaining a valuable glimpse into university life. Guided by former King's High students currently studying at Oxford, they explored various academic departments and gained first-hand insights into life at one of the world's leading universities. Engaging in discussions with current students, they received invaluable tips on applications, courses, and university experiences. The trip left many feeling inspired and more confident about their future academic journeys.



HIGH FLIERS

Spring Term marked the launch of our exciting new High Fliers programme, part of the Inspire Academic Enrichment opportunities available to students at King's High. Specifically designed for Key Stage 4 students, High Fliers provides rigorous academic challenge which goes above and beyond the curriculum. This programme provides regular opportunities for students to engage with thought-provoking and stimulating ideas in an environment dedicated to developing critical thinking and academic excellence.

INSPIRE SHOWCASE

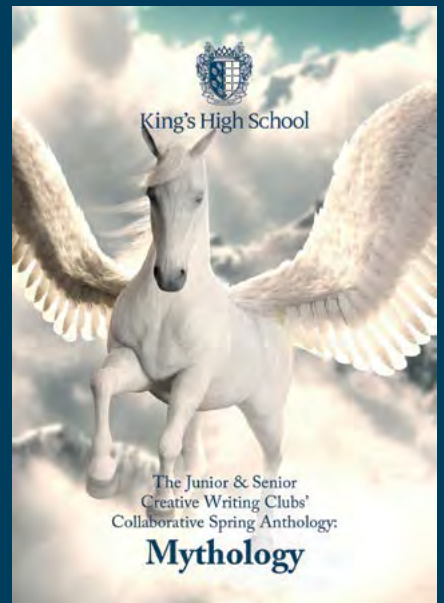
Move over, Monopoly! At our Inspire Exhibition, students had the opportunity to present the innovative board games they had designed as part of our Academic Enrichment programme.

This exciting event highlighted their creativity and problem-solving skills as they shared their unique creations with pupils and teachers, and much fun was had testing them all out!



CREATIVE WRITING ANTHOLOGY

We're delighted to share the latest edition of the Junior and Senior Creative Writing Clubs' anthology. This term, students have worked hard to produce pieces inspired by their chosen theme of mythology, and the result is a collection that showcases both their brilliant imaginations and impressive writing talent. We hope you enjoy reading their wonderful work – you'll find it on our website in [/latestnews](#).



KING'S ADVENTURE

DofE BRONZE PRACTICE

Year 10 students put their Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) Bronze expedition skills to the test after months of dedicated training throughout the winter. These sessions covered essential skills such as completing a route card, taking a bearing, measuring distances, and attending a training day focused on pitching tents and cooking with Trangia equipment.

Students walked 16km on varied routes, with some passing through Hatton Locks, Harbury, Whitnash, and Leek Wootton. The challenge continued with a night of camping on the school field, providing valuable experience ahead of their qualifying DofE Bronze expedition in the Cotswolds this May and June.



CCF MARCH EXERCISE

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) from King's High and Warwick School deployed to Sennybridge Military Training Area in Wales on 14-15 March to take part in a challenging joint school exercise.

A total of 31 students participated in the 24-hour annual exercise, putting their fieldcraft skills to the test through a series of demanding activities, including:

- Ambush tactics
- Patrolling
- Orders process
- Reaction to effective enemy fire
- Section attacks
- Navigation
- Building clearance
- Fighting in Built-Up Areas (FIBUA)
- Vehicle Checkpoints

The cadets faced rigorous scenarios, with little time to rest before moving on to the next challenge. Navigating the undulating Welsh countryside added to the physical and mental demands of the exercise, pushing them to apply everything they have learned during their Friday afternoon training sessions at school.

At the end of the exercise, cadets swiftly cleaned their weapons before heading back to school – ready for a well-earned rest on the journey home.



EMOTIONS

Our spectacular Dance Evening was a vibrant celebration of movement and expression, featuring an exhilarating array of performances. From hip-hop and ballet to contemporary, jazz, street dance, acro, pop, and GCSE dance, each piece beautifully embodied the theme of 'Emotions'. The evening was a true showcase of talent, passion, and creativity. Further highlights from the gallery can be found in our Facebook album.





KING'S SCIENCE

WARWICK UNIVERSITY SCIENCE LECTURES

Year 10 and ten members of staff from the Science Department had a great day out at Warwick University in January. The *GCSE Science In Action* lectures are designed to showcase how science applies to everyday life, as well as a variety of exciting careers.

One highlight included testing the science behind some infamous TikTok videos – yes, a sparkler really does burn through an egg! This lecture, delivered by Dr Jamie Gallagher, also came with an important message about how to spot science fact from science fake.

Hannah Ayoob then got us all practising our drawing skills in a fascinating talk about scientific illustration and the power of thinking visually using diagrams.

Dr Caroline Shenton-Taylor, a nuclear physicist, explained her work with space balloons, including a brief history of the very high-risk work undertaken by Auguste Piccard. This was an inspiring insight into how scientific knowledge is gradually increased by pioneers – often requiring great bravery!

Claudia, one of our Year 10 students, showed a little of this bravery herself when she volunteered to be a guinea pig for Tom Warrender of *Medical Mavericks*, as he demonstrated various techniques and careers in healthcare through interactive activities.

Finally, we heard from Dr Alex Baker on *How to Freeze a Human* – which may sound like science fiction, but we learned how his team is researching ways to freeze cells and tissues that could transform treatments and transplants.

All of the speakers were brilliantly engaging and left us feeling inspired to think about science in new and exciting ways.



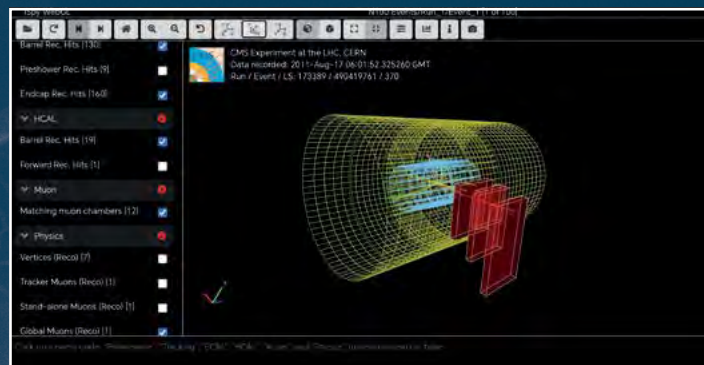
PARTICLE PHYSICS

Lower Sixth Physics students had the opportunity to attend a particle physics masterclass this term, run by the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL) and Diamond Light Source (DLS). They learned about key concepts, conducted data analysis, and explored how particle accelerators operate – leading to groundbreaking research.

Dheepthi explains: *“We really enjoyed the particle physics masterclass conducted by RAL, as it was not only extremely informative but also highly interactive. We analysed real-world data from the LHC to learn about particle interactions and how different particles are detected (like the Higgs Boson!). It was fascinating to visualise how these interactions take place within a detector and to connect our theoretical knowledge with real events using computer modelling.”*

“We also loved discovering the wide range of experiments carried out at the synchrotron at DLS. We were given an A to Z tour, which included Komodo dragon teeth, dinosaur fossils, Herculaneum scrolls, and even a motorbike’s catalytic converter! It was eye-opening to see how this research supports so many different fields (and we’re not talking about the gravitational kind!).”

“Overall, it was a brilliant day – we were able to see how real physicists conduct research in industry and begin to picture ourselves as future scientists.”



BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

Seven students from Upper Sixth and Lower Sixth put themselves forward to take part in the annual Biology Olympiad on 7 February. This is a nationwide competition that tests students' problem-solving skills and understanding of core principles by having them answer multiple-choice questions under significant time pressure. All our students are to be commended for their superb efforts, but special mention should go to Alais, who achieved a bronze, and Edith, who achieved a gold. Edith now has the opportunity to undergo further training to compete for a place in the International Biology Olympiad. Well done, everyone!



WARWICK UNIVERSITY SCIENCE LECTURES

British Science Week 2025 was celebrated with events in school from 10–14 March. This year's theme, 'Change and Adapt', included a national competition run by UCL to design adaptations that provide clean air solutions – giving all year groups the opportunity to be creative and design new systems. We await news of our entries!

On Wednesday, Café Scientifique hosted a Kahoot! quiz based on the theme, featuring some very outlandish animal adaptations, as well as examples of changes in chemical reactions and physical systems from across the science spectrum. There was eager competition between KS4 and KS5 students, with KS4 coming out on top. In KS3, Susannah (Year 7) won – retaining her podium position from last term's Kahoot!

On Thursday, we welcomed Simon Green, Siobhan Kiely and Charlotte Whittlesea from Equitix to speak to Y10–L6 about their work in major infrastructure – specifically, their current project to build a new aqueduct from the Lake District to Manchester. This is a powerful example of infrastructure needing to adapt to meet the freshwater needs of the population, replacing 1930s tunnels that have deteriorated over time. The fascinating talk covered a broad range of STEM subjects, from ecology to engineering (both mechanical and civil), as well as aspects of law and finance. It truly demonstrated the importance of interdisciplinary teams.

On Friday, King's students displayed their science projects at the now well-established King's High and Warwick School Science Fair, held in Warwick Hall. The students did a fantastic job explaining their work to visitors—including fellow students, teachers, parents, and local primary school children. All entrants had worked hard to create detailed posters to showcase their projects, often including additional activities and demonstrations to entertain and engage the audience.

This year, a voting system was used to determine the winners, with each visitor invited to select their top six projects from the whole fair. Florence (Year 9) was the winning King's entrant, with her carefully recorded and well-explained observations of Jupiter. Sasha and Genevieve (Year 8) were runners-up with a research-based project on forensic techniques, complete with a spectacular 'body' taped out on the floor. Bethany (Year 9) was also a runner-up, with her excellent poster on star clusters, an interactive constellations game, and a quiz. An additional prize for 'Best Practical Demonstration' was awarded to Kashvi (Year 7), who designed and built her own apparatus to visualise sound waves.

All entrants deserve huge congratulations for their independence and creativity, and were awarded House Points. Brilliant science all round!



KING'S MUSIC

The Spring term has been a jam-packed one for the music department, filled with events, concerts and student successes.

A real highlight has been the success of many of our chamber music ensembles in the Pro Corda festival: a national competition for chamber music. A record six of our ensembles successfully made it through to the regional semi-finals, held here at King's High School on 28 February; congratulations to Accordia, King's Cantata, Telemann Ensemble, Junior Trio, Bach Cantata and King's Trio. Our Junior Trio made it through an incredibly tough selection process to travel to the national final at Woldingham School on Sunday 16 March, alongside a group from Warwick Prep and Warwick School. We are exceptionally proud of the musicianship on show from all of our chamber ensembles; their achievements this term are testament to the hard work and stylistic musicality from all involved.

These ensembles, alongside several others from King's and Warwick School, performed in our Foundation Senior Chamber Concert on 28 February. This was a spectacular evening of music making of the highest quality. Prior to this was the evening of our Jazz, Rock and Pop concert: a wonderful evening showcasing the talents of our jazz ensembles, rock and pop bands, and solo vocalists. The concert featured original songs and music from a huge range of genres, and was an incredibly special evening.





The Spring term has also been an important one in building on our relationship with our orchestra in residence, Orchestra of the Swan. Their 'Elements' concert featured a side-by-side performance with a number of musicians from the Foundation in a performance of an exciting new commission, Air, by jazz musicians David Gordon and Tim Whitehead. The result was a breathtaking fusion of orchestral and jazz musical worlds. The orchestra have also been working closely with our Year 7 students in a joint Instrumental Scheme day with students from Warwick School and Kingsley. Each class had the opportunity to join forces and play as part of a 60-piece orchestra: particularly impressive as they have only been learning these instruments since September! Year 7 also attended a CBSO schools' concert in February, being treated to a diverse range of exciting orchestral music. We are also very much looking forward to the end of term Spring Concert which will showcase a diverse range of instrumental and vocal ensembles, capped off by our wonderful Big Band!

There were a huge number of entrants for our Young Musician of the Year competitions. We were joined by guest adjudicators Catherine Arlidge MBE (the CBSO's Artistic Director and violinist) and Simon Hogg (trombonist and former Director of Music at Warwick School) for the Junior and Senior competitions respectively. Congratulations to Lucy in Year 9 and Hope in Upper Sixth who were the two overall winners!

Next term promises to be just as exciting. The Key Stage 3 Concert will showcase the wide range of musical ensembles across the department, and our Year 7 end of year concert will feature orchestral performances from every student in the year group. We also look forward to the closing Jazz, Rock and Pop Horizons concert, this year featuring an extended set from our incredible Big Band!

Wishing you all the best for the Easter break,

Mr Adam Albrighton
Director of Music







KING'S ART

The Spring Term has been filled with creativity, collaboration, and passion, and I am incredibly proud of all we've achieved together. From engaging workshops and insightful lectures to hands-on artistic experiences, we've truly embraced the spirit of creativity. I'm excited to hand over to our DaVinci Society for this issue, where they'll share an insight into Art at King's and celebrate the wonderful moments that have made this term so special.

Ms Sarah Jordan
Director of Art

DaVinci – Spring Term

Hello everyone, we are the DaVinci Society! This article highlights the exciting success of our spring-term activities and gives you a glimpse into the passion that fuels so much of what we do as the Art society at school.

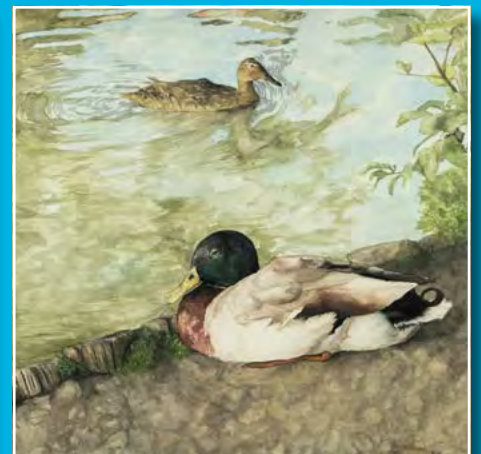


We have hosted a variety of events, including debates, artistic workshops, and lectures in 2025 so far. By attendance, our most successful event has been the 'Valentine's Card Making' workshop. Over lunchtime, members of the DaVinci Society led a session on how to fold origami and arrange it onto cards, using paint as an additional medium to embellish the designs. We were captivated by the enthusiasm of the 60 girls

who participated throughout the activity, and their creations were nothing short of beautiful! It was a true demonstration of creativity and festive cheer.

These tactile events, while primarily recreational, can also have a significant humanitarian impact when directed towards charitable causes. We saw this firsthand last term with our 'Christmas Card Event,' where we raised over \$100 for ActionAid, a charity dedicated to supporting impoverished women in developing countries. This cause put our position at King's High into meaningful perspective. Our team hand-carved nearly 20 lino prints for this effort, using them in workshops to demonstrate effective printing techniques. Additionally, we sold our printed cards at the King's High Christmas Fair to further raise funds. Witnessing the artistic community come together for this cause was truly inspiring and a powerful reminder of the good that can be achieved through creativity and effort. We plan to continue this work throughout 2025, so please keep an eye out for our next fundraiser – any contribution is greatly appreciated!

Aiming to understand the dualism of the artistic world, we tackle both physical creativity (in the form of painting, illustration, etc.) and art-based philosophical quandaries at the DaVinci Society. Just last week, Warwick student James explored the latter of DaVinci's defining characteristics in his brilliant talk, "What Defines a Piece of Art?". In his words, the talk delved into the importance of context in the world of art – how our perception can change



AETHELFLAED ART WORKSHOP

The History and Art Departments combined to hold a workshop on the fascinating figure of Aethelflaed. Lower Sixth and Year 7 Art Scholars were joined by Lower Sixth historians and local artist Angela Webb to explore the life of Aethelflaed, the Lady of the Mercians and the founder of Warwick.

Aethelflaed played a pivotal role in the defence of Mercia from Viking attacks by building fortified settlements including Warwick in 914. In her later years she went on the offensive and defeated Viking forces in Derby and secured the surrender of Vikings in York just before her death in 918.

Despite these remarkable achievements, Aethelflaed is a relatively little-known figure and no contemporary image of her exists. It was the job of the artists to put together an image which celebrates her achievements.

While the historians explored the historical sources and worked on the wording for a display, the Art Scholars worked alongside Angela Webb to develop a collage portrait of Aethelflaed. Throughout the day, they watched demonstrations of portraiture and the use of different techniques such as gellie plate and lino printing, before putting these ideas into practice.

A genuinely collaborative project, the students have produced some wonderful work which will be displayed in the school later this year. We hope that it will be a fitting tribute to Warwick's founder and a remarkable leader.



reality and manipulate how we interact with art and those around us. Using pertinent works by artists such as Larry Sultan, Mike Mandel, Cindy Sherman, and Hank Willis Thomas, the talk urged viewers to question and rethink what defines a piece of art. The lecture was highly inspirational, especially to A Level Art students, who endeavored to further explore what was discussed in their upcoming coursework!

On a wider scale, it is greatly important to us at the DaVinci Society that the intellectualism of art is highlighted. The creative subject is seldom philosophically considered, and one of our primary objectives is to transform this exclusive viewpoint! To further incite this academic discussion, we held a talk on Leonardo DaVinci himself in early February. It involved an explanation of the wondrous works created by the artist, the fascinating life he led, and DaVinci's invaluable place in both artistic and scientific history.

Finally, as senior artists, it is highly important to the DaVinci Society that we continue to foster a love for art throughout the school. This focus is largely passion-based but also holds constructive elements. For example, we recently held our 'Art Crisis?' event, where we spent a lunchtime offering individual help to Year 11 students with their GCSE Component 2. It was a beneficial learning space for all involved, providing an additional workspace for students to creatively flourish.

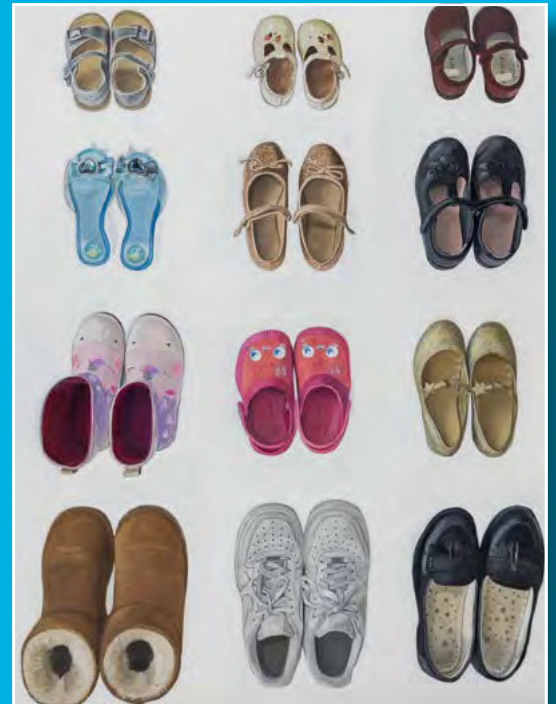
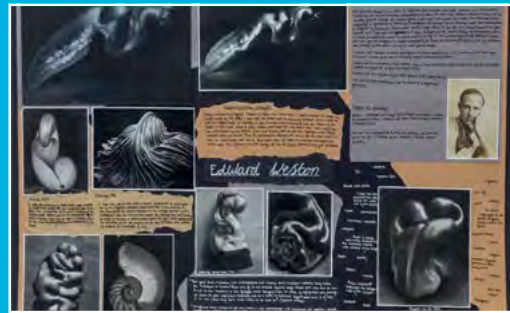
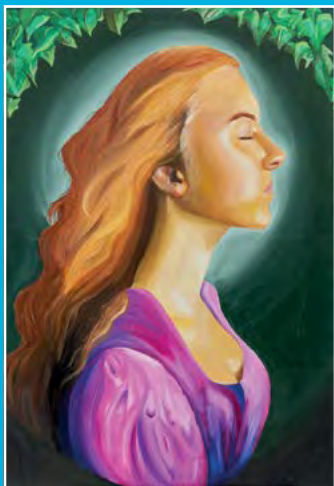
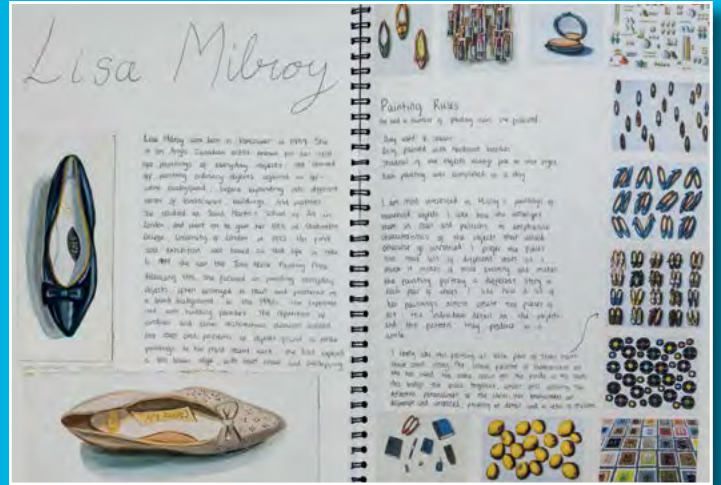
We are so thankful for the school community's support of our society. It is such a joy to work with you all, and we truly believe that every single one of you is an artist.

Until next time,

The DaVinci Society

Kate, Emily, Poppy, and Izzy (Lower Sixth)





KING'S DRAMA

What better way to kick off 2025 than with our annual Year 7 Play in a Day?

The whole of Year 7 worked with the professional theatre company Highly Sprung for the day, learning lines, lifts, and having lots of laughs along the way. This culminated in an adapted version of *The Tempest* in the Bridge House Theatre, welcoming staff and parents to watch their performance. We were all so impressed with their skill and professionalism; we are sure that it won't be their last time on stage!

After months of hard work and preparation, our LAMDA students sat their examinations in February. We were treated to a public performance of a selection of pieces for the LAMDA evening. The exceptional quality of this evening meant that the outstanding results that followed were no surprise at all! We have nearly 200 students taking LAMDA here at King's, and we are so proud of the hours of practice and skill that have gone into these results. We are extremely fortunate to have such a talented team of LAMDA teachers providing our students with expert guidance.

In March, several months of intensive rehearsals for the Middle School Production of *Doctor Faustus* culminated in a thrilling performance starring our Year 9 and 10 students. Together with their Warwick School counterparts, our cast immersed the audience in an exciting journey that bridged the classic piece's pen-and-ink origins with the terrifying potential of the digital world. It has been an exciting season for Early Modern theatre, with many of our students also taking to the stage in April with the Bridge House Young Company for a hilarious and spirited performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Rehearsals for our Lower School Production, *No Place Like Home*, have been action-packed and full of fun so far. Our brand-new adaptation, inspired by L. Frank Baum's classic *The Wizard of Oz*, promises to be a truly magical experience, led by Ms. Wyatt, Miss Stiles, and the dedicated Year 10 Young Directors' Team. Meanwhile, following the tremendous success of their Winter production *A Christmas Carol*, our King's High Inspire Theatre Company has been busily rehearsing for a hilarious murder mystery performance inspired by the modern classic *The Play That Goes Wrong*, which will be staged next term.





Meanwhile, our Aspiring Creatives in Theatre have been exploring digital sound design, wounds and injuries stage make-up, creating costumes inspired by *Stranger Things*, developing their own wig designs, and creating props for *James and the Giant Peach*. Our *Performing in Other Languages* troupe has been busily preparing a section from their multilingual adaptation of Yasmina Reza's *Art* for the upcoming 25th anniversary of the Bridge House. This exciting collaboration between Drama and Modern Foreign Languages has seen our cast of King's High and Warwick School students perform in both French and Spanish, attending practical rehearsals with Miss Spring, Mrs Montiel, and Mrs McRoberts, and developing both their performance and language skills.



This term, audiences have also been treated to two Drama Club events: our KS3 Musical Theatre and Year 7 showcases. Tackling a wide range of material, including extracts from *Wicked*, *Les Mis*, and their own adapted fairy tales, both the cast and audience had a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Next term, supported by Miss Stiles and hot on the heels of our wonderful performance of *Annie Jr.* last year, our Drama Ambassadors will be taking the lead on directing the new musical *Dare to Dream* with our Musical Theatre Club participants.

Following a thoroughly engaging evening of devised performances last term, Year 11 and Upper Sixth students performed their scripted pieces to both examiners and public audiences this term. The rich and varied programme brought a wide range of characters to life. Audiences enjoyed a variety of pieces, ranging from classics such as *Little Women*, *Yerma*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire* to contemporary texts such as Lee Blessing's tense family drama *Independence* and Shirley Lauro's powerful depiction of the Vietnam War, *A Piece of My Heart*.

Students enjoyed a wide range of live theatre and workshops this term. One highlight was Vamos Theatre's moving mask theatre piece *The Boy on the Roof*, exploring the unlikely intergenerational friendship between an elderly man living alone and his teenage neighbour, struggling to navigate his world with ADHD. Year 10 GCSE Drama students also had the opportunity to sign up for a professional introduction to mask theatre workshop with Vamos, alongside Warwick School. In preparation for their performance of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, some of our GCSE students attended a performance of the play at Rugby Theatre, including an engaging post-show talk with the cast. A Level students enjoyed a powerful adaptation of Sebastian Faulkes' wartime epic *Birdsong* at the Birmingham Rep Theatre. Meanwhile, professional actor and Warwick School alumnus Ralph Davis joined our A Level classes for a fascinating Q&A about his experiences in the theatre and television industries. KS3 students, joined by some of their WPS counterparts, enjoyed an action-packed Musical Theatre workshop with Arts Insight.

Our Drama Scholars and Ambassadors have been very busy supporting and inspiring the younger generations of performers, both at King's High School and Warwick Preparatory School. We received a high volume of applications for assistant posts with our Year 2, 3, and 4 Drama Clubs. We are so proud of our ambassadors for their excellent work as role models and their kind, empathetic, and energetic support of their younger peers. Making intergenerational connections is deeply important to us in Drama, and we are also very proud of our Musical Theatre Friday Afternoon Activity group for the beautiful concert they created and performed for Arden House Care Home in Leamington. The residents thoroughly enjoyed listening, singing along, and meeting the students. It was a truly special event.

The final week of term brought some exciting news for our Key Stage Four and Five students: our upcoming Senior Production of Shakespeare's *Henry VI*! Miss Spring and Mr Perry cannot wait to kick off the audition process next term.

Miss Gracey Spring
Director of Drama





King's High School



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KING'S SPORT

As we close another action-packed term, it's clear that the dedication, skill, and team spirit of our students have been at the heart of every success.

From impressive victories to individual milestones, our athletes have once again excelled across a variety of sports, setting a high standard and showcasing the commitment and perseverance that define King's High. It has been a term of growth, achievement, and memorable moments, and we are incredibly proud of all that our students have accomplished.

Cross Country

This term has seen some extraordinary performances from our athletes in Cross Country, with our teams showcasing impressive talent, determination, and sportsmanship across all age groups.

The Year 7 team was truly dominant in the ISA Midlands Finals, with runners finishing in the top 16 – including 3rd, 4th, 10th, and 16th places. Their performances earned two runners spots in the prestigious National Finals, a remarkable achievement for this talented group of athletes.

Meanwhile, the Year 8 and 9 team also made their mark, with all competitors finishing in the top 25. Their stellar efforts resulted in two more athletes qualifying for the National Finals, further adding to the school's proud reputation in Cross Country running.

In the Year 10 and 11 event, our runners put on a spectacular display to secure the individual title. With five runners qualifying for the National Finals, this was a great triumph for our older athletes, who demonstrated exceptional resilience and competitive spirit.

Our Junior teams were also part of a fun and engaging relay event against Spratton Hall, with strong performances all around. This friendly competition, alongside our Prep school teams, helped build camaraderie and further inspired our younger athletes.

At the County Championships, King's High runners truly excelled. The Minor and Junior teams were crowned County Champions, a testament to the hard work and dedication put in by our athletes. In the Minor event, our runners claimed all three podium spots, an exceptional performance. The Junior event saw King's runners take gold and silver, while the Senior event concluded with a well-deserved bronze medal.

It has been an incredibly successful term for Cross Country, with numerous podium finishes, qualification for National Finals, and County Championship titles. Our athletes have made us proud, and we look forward to seeing their continued success in the coming months.

Hockey

This winter term has seen our hockey teams showcase skill, determination, and remarkable sportsmanship, bringing a fitting conclusion to an action-packed season.

The U16 team put in a valiant effort in the national competition, advancing to the quarter-final stage. While their journey ended there, their performance was a testament to their hard work and dedication throughout the tournament, and they can be incredibly proud of what they achieved.

The U18 team faced a challenging campaign but finished on a high with competitive performances against formidable teams such as Clifton College and Millfield. Despite the tough matches, they demonstrated resilience and team spirit, which will serve them well in the seasons ahead.

Our junior teams also had a strong presence in the county tournaments this term. The U13 team, after a series of impressive friendly matches against Bromsgrove and Solihull, showed their skill and determination but were narrowly beaten in the semi-finals of their County tournament. The team also reached the quarter-finals of the prestigious ISHC National Cup, where they faced a strong Kent College team. Though they were narrowly defeated, their effort and sportsmanship were exceptional.

The U12 team had an outstanding run in their friendly matches, dominating contests against Bromsgrove and King's Worcester. Their strong performances were capped off with a decisive victory at the County tournament. Representing Warwickshire at the Midlands Finals, the team performed superbly and pushed their opponents to the limit, eventually losing in the semi-finals by the smallest of margins—through penalty strokes. It was a heart-breaking defeat, but the U12s can be incredibly proud of their performance and the spirit they displayed throughout the competition.

This winter term has once again highlighted the exceptional talent across all our hockey teams, with a number of excellent performances, tight contests, and valuable learning experiences. We look forward to seeing how our athletes continue to grow and develop, with even more success in the future.

Swimming

It has been a thrilling and action-packed term for our swimming squads, with non-stop competition and outstanding performances from swimmers across all age groups. From friendly galas to larger, high-profile competitions, our teams have excelled in every event they've participated in.

The U12 and U13 teams have been in superb form throughout the term. The U12 team claimed victory in the Warwick 50s, showcasing their strength and skill in the pool. Meanwhile, the U13 team secured a well-deserved second place, demonstrating their impressive competitive spirit and technical abilities. These achievements highlight the depth of talent within our younger squads.



Our Senior swimmers have continued to lead by example, putting in stellar performances at some of the most prestigious competitions of the term. The team finished as runners-up in the highly competitive Bath and Otter Cup, a remarkable feat that showcased their determination and teamwork. Perhaps the most impressive achievement came at the Bromsgrove Invitational Gala, where our Senior team dominated the relay events, winning every single one. This clean sweep of relay victories was a testament to their strength, coordination, and focus under pressure.

In addition to these large competitions, our swimmers have also competed in friendly galas against schools like Abingdon, Arnold Lodge, Bromsgrove, and Bilton Grange, consistently putting up impressive performances that have raised the profile of our swimming programme even further.

As we close out the term, we couldn't be more proud of the efforts shown by our swimming squads. With numerous podium finishes and team victories, they've set the bar high for the rest of the season. We look forward to even more success in the coming terms as our swimmers continue to push the boundaries of excellence in the pool.

Badminton

This term marked a significant milestone for our badminton teams, with both the U16 and U14 squads proudly representing the school for the first time in the National Schools County Championships. It was an exciting and historic occasion, as both teams put on exceptional performances throughout the competition.

The U16 and U14 teams showed remarkable skill, teamwork, and determination, with some superb wins that had everyone on the edge of their seats. Each squad played with great spirit and pride, rising to the challenge with impressive displays of athleticism and strategy.

While they gave their all, both teams were narrowly edged out by their competitors, finishing as runners-up in their respective county competitions. Although they were just pipped to the title, the level of their performance and their resilience throughout the tournament left no doubt about the bright future ahead for our badminton players.

It has been a term of tremendous growth and achievement for our badminton squads, and their performances at the National Schools County Championships have set a strong foundation for even greater success in the future. We look forward to seeing these teams continue to develop and make their mark in upcoming competitions.

Football

Football continues to thrive at King's High, with our teams delivering strong performances and making great strides throughout the term. It has been an exciting period for our footballers, with memorable moments and impressive results across all age groups.

The U16 team had an outstanding run in the Midlands ISA 7-a-side Finals, finishing as winners after a series of commanding performances. Their hard work and determination paid off, and this victory has highlighted the strength of our senior football talent.

The U15 team also had a remarkable run in the ISFA National Knockout Cup, making it all the way to the quarter-finals. Their journey was filled with exciting matches and intense competition, and they can be extremely proud of reaching this stage in such a prestigious tournament.

Not to be outdone, the U14 team put in a fantastic display at the ISA Midlands Finals, securing bronze medals in their age group. Their teamwork, technical ability, and competitive spirit were evident throughout the competition, and their podium finish was a well-deserved reward for their efforts.

Looking ahead, we are excited to host both the GSA and ISFA events for the U13 and U12 teams next term. With the foundation laid this term, we look forward to seeing our younger teams take the field and build on the success of their older counterparts.

Water Polo

In keeping with tradition, King's High water polo teams seem to thrive on the big stages. It was the turn of the U15s to compete in the Regional Finals first, and they did so in style, losing only to last year's National Champions. They finished as runners-up in the region and went on to compete at the National Finals. We are delighted to report that they finished in 5th place in the country.

Clearly learning from the older pupils in training, our U13 team has started their campaign in impressive form, storming through the regional round. We look forward to hearing how they get on next term at their National Final competition.

Tennis

It has been a fantastic term for our tennis programme, once again being awarded the WSLTA School of the Year Award for the third consecutive year. This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of both our coaches and players. Just before receiving this accolade, our Y11-13 squad were crowned regional champions, cementing our reputation for tennis excellence.

U16 ISA REGIONAL FOOTBALL 7s TRIUMPH

It was a fantastic day for our U15 team at Stafford as they triumphed in the U16 ISA Regional Football 7s Tournament, led by the expertise of Mr Beverley. The team dominated their three league matches, winning all of them, before securing a convincing 3-0 victory in the final.

Their success was well deserved, showcasing outstanding teamwork and skill throughout the tournament. To cap off their achievement, the team was proudly presented with the ISA trophy and medals for each player. A brilliant performance all around!



Cricket

Our cricketers have enjoyed a run in the Indoor Cricket League, with the U13 and U15 squads both securing strong victories. The U15 team went undefeated throughout the league, showcasing exceptional skill and teamwork. Their incredible efforts have earned them a place at the County Finals, where they will compete against the best teams in the region.

Athletics

Our Year 7 and 8 athletes have also been in action in the CWSSP Sports Hall Athletics competitions. Both teams excelled in the first round of the competition, finishing as winners and securing their place in the regional finals. The Year 7 team rose to the occasion, finishing as Regional Champions, while the Year 8 team came in as runners-up. Their performances were exceptional, showcasing both individual talent and excellent team dynamics.

Netball

This spring term has been an exceptional season for netball at King's, with the courts full at training nights and matches both after school and on weekends. The U12 teams have enjoyed victories over Bromsgrove, Leicester Grammar, and Solihull in their games lessons. The U12 B team finished as runners-up at the Emerging Schools Tournament against other A teams.

The U13 teams have shown great strength in depth, winning the majority of their friendly matches. The U13B team finished in 6th place in the A-team County Tournament, while the U13A team took the County title. Despite being unfortunate to lose in the semi-final of the SnS National Cup, their performance was exceptional.

The U14 team, following their successful winter term, competed in the Regional Finals and were superb, just narrowly missing out on a National Finals place. To finish their season in style, the U14 team were crowned the Bromsgrove Invitational Tournament Champions and secured bronze medals at the ISA National Finals.

The senior teams—U15, U16, and U18—have had superb numbers at training every week and enjoyed excellent victories against Ratcliffe, Trent College, and Bablake. The U16 team secured 4th place at the ISA National Finals, while the U18 team took the bronze medal.

The highlight of the season came with our U12 and U13 teams both competing in the National Finals within days of each other. The U13s were crowned National ISA Champions, beating Queen Ethelburga's in front of a cheering home crowd. The performances of this team throughout the season have been superb, and we are delighted they got their rewards on the highest stage. The U12s have also had their very own fairy tale season, competing all over the country in the School Sports Magazine National Knockout Cup. They have shown composure, teamwork, and quality throughout to get themselves all the way to the final. In a tough match full of drama, sadly, it wasn't quite meant to be on this occasion, and the team finished as runners-up in the National Competition— an extraordinary achievement!

Ski Racing

It has been a busy winter for King's High racers. After competing successfully in the British Schools Finals in November, several students from across the Foundation headed to Avoriaz in the French Alps in December for an exciting week of race training with PDS-Kandahar Racing to improve their technical skills on snow.

Following this, several King's skiers completed the 5-series Midland Ski Club Winter Race League, with Kitty, Alex, and Holly earning overall podium places. Foundation students have since been training hard at our base in Swadlincote in preparation for the upcoming season of events.

Kitty continued her training with UNIQ Snowsports in Norway and competed successfully in the Snowsport Welsh Championships in Switzerland in January, although some events were unfortunately cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

In February, Alex and Kitty traveled to Bormio in Italy for a week of intense training with UNIQ, followed by an exciting week of racing at the English Alpine Championships, the showpiece event for Snowsport England. The girls had considerable success: Kitty finished 16th and Alex 31st in the Slalom event, competing against 55-60 U16 racers. They achieved similar placings in the Giant Slalom and Super-G events. Congratulations to them for such fantastic results, competing against some of the best English alpine and GB skiers!

King's High and Warwick Schools Foundation skiers are now looking forward to the summer term of training and racing, both in the English Schools Ski Association and NSSA events, as well as in Club National and GBR events.

The final word

As we conclude this term, we celebrate the incredible achievements, commitment, and dedication demonstrated by our students across all sports. Their hard work and dedication have resulted in exceptional performances and unforgettable moments. We are incredibly proud of all that they have accomplished, and we look forward to another exciting term of competition and success ahead.

Mrs Sarah Parkinson-Mills

Director of Sport

EQUESTRIAN

Equestrian at King's High has had an incredibly successful year, with multiple students qualifying for the NSEA Hickstead National Championships, as well as achieving impressive results in a range of non-school competitions.

NSEA COMPETITION RESULTS

On 26 October, two teams competed in the Eventer Challenge Qualifiers at Rectory Farm. The 70cm team, consisting of Minnie, Iona, Francesca, and Anouk, and the 80cm team, comprising Kirsty, Iona, and Anouk, both performed brilliantly, placing 2nd and qualifying for the NSEA Eventer Challenge Championships at Hickstead this year. Iona also qualified as an individual in the 70cm class with a fantastic round.

On the 15th of February, three teams competed in the NSEA County Showjumping Qualifiers at Allens Hill. The girls had a fantastic day, with numerous qualifications for the NSEA County Showjumping Championships at Hickstead. The 70cm team, including Minnie, Iona, Sarra, and Francesca, and the 80cm team, comprising Tara, Izzy, and Mila (Prep), both placed 3rd, earning them spots at the Championships. The 90cm team, with Purdie, Ellie, Izzy, and Mila (Prep), won their class and also qualified. Izzy had an outstanding performance, placing in the 70cm, 80cm, and 90cm, qualifying in all three classes, while Purdie placed 6th in the 90cm.

Tara had an exceptional season in the SEG Championships, competing on two ponies and finishing 2nd and 6th. She then attended the Cotswold Cup 2-Day Event Championships, where she placed 7th.

Non-School Competition Results

Lottie had an outstanding achievement after a successful competition at the Horse of the Year Show last year. She was selected to ride for the England Mounted Games Team, with upcoming competitions at the Royal Windsor Horse Show in May and in Ireland in October.

Tillie had a remarkable Eventing season with her horse, Lulu. She capped off the season with a 2nd place finish in the BE Open Novice under 18 at Norton Disney, after jumping double clear. In their first show back after the winter break, Tillie and Lulu placed 2nd in the Intermediate Dressage PC Spring Festival qualifier, just 0.5% behind the winner.

Isabella had a fantastic time competing in Belgium, winning the Sentower 1* Grand Prix on Kandora. The competition consisted of two rounds, with the first round jumping 1.30m and the second a shorter 6-fence course. Isabella qualified two horses, placing 1st with one and 7th with the other. She also competed in Brussels, placing in the top 6 in the Junior classes daily and 8th in the 1.40m Junior Grand Prix.

Arabella, along with her pony Mabel, qualified for the challenging Pony Newcomer class at the Horse of the Year Show, where they performed admirably, with just one pole down in the first round. Arabella also competed at the English Home Pony International at Southview Equestrian, where she qualified for the Rising Stars Final and placed 3rd. Furthermore, she has been selected for the prestigious Howden Way Talented Rider Academy, a huge achievement in supporting young riders in British Eventing.

Purdie had a highly successful half-term, winning the BS National Amateur Qualifier at Stourport Riding Club, placing 2nd in the Eventer Challenge at Dallas Burston (qualifying for the National Eventer Challenge Championships), and achieving several other top placings in both the BS National Amateur and British Showjumping classes.

Izzy represented the North Cotswold Hunt Pony Club at the Area 9 Qualifier in the October half-term. She won the 70cm class and was 2nd in the 80cm class, qualifying her for the Spring Festival this year.

Ellie and her pony Cally earned qualification for Badminton Grassroots 2025 after placing 3rd in a field of 50 at the Bicton 3-Day Event.

With all these incredible achievements, we eagerly look forward to hearing about the students' future successes, including their participation in the Hickstead Championships this year!

Miss Sara Copley
Equestrian Instructor



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Power of Volunteering

Volunteering is more than just giving time – it's about making a meaningful difference while gaining invaluable experience. At King's, students volunteer in a range of settings including Warwick Hospital, Park View Nursing Home (through the 'Kissing It Better' charity), and local primary schools. Each opportunity offers unique rewards as students step outside their comfort zones to support others.

Bringing Smiles to Warwick Hospital

At Warwick Hospital, students brighten patients' days with conversation, reading, or simply a smile.

"Every week, I see the impact our visits make. Patients who start out quiet end up smiling and chatting – it's amazing to see."

One nurse noted how student musicians distracted a patient during a painful procedure, and relatives commented on the joy it brought. Founder Jill Fraser said:

"Student-created art and poetry cover the hospital walls and do so much to lift the atmosphere. King's students have brought joy since our first days in 2009."

Spreading Kindness at Park View Nursing Home

Students also visit Park View, where music, storytelling and companionship help tackle loneliness.

"It's such a fun experience. I love hearing residents' life stories – they're so inspiring. Volunteering has boosted my confidence and helped me connect with others."

Inspiring the Next Generation

Many students support younger pupils in schools, helping build confidence and a love for learning.

"I love volunteering at Evergreen School. I've learned to be adaptable, and the children's enthusiasm is uplifting."

"Working with Year 2 at Warwick Prep has helped me grow in patience and confidence – and I love seeing the kids enjoy their learning."

Recognised in ISI Inspection

Volunteering at King's was highlighted as a strength in our recent ISI report:

"Through projects such as local school volunteering, international links, and charitable activities, pupils develop strong empathy, leadership and collaboration skills."

This acknowledgment reflects our commitment at King's to developing socially responsible and compassionate individuals who are eager to make a difference in their communities.



LANDOR ASSOCIATION & OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

OGA ANNUAL LUNCH



Head Master Dr Steve Burley was delighted to welcome to King's High School over 40 old girls, former and current staff and students for the OGA Annual Lunch on Saturday 22 March. After refreshments in the foyer, current Sixth Formers escorted guests on tours of the school, giving everyone a chance to see what amazing opportunities our students are offered at King's High today. An excellent two-

course lunch was enjoyed in the school Dining Room, with wine flowing amongst shared school memories.

After the meal, which was prepared by our wonderful King's High catering staff, alumna Dr Anne Whitehouse gave a talk about redressing gender balance and pulling back feminine power. It was a privilege to hear Anne's personal account of her journey from prodigious young scientist with a PhD from Cambridge and a post-doctoral fellowship from the Engineering and Physical Science Research Council to an "unexpected revolutionary" on a mission to detox the patriarchy. Through her presentation she gave practical

advice for how each member of the audience can bring about change, from Sixth Form student to those who left King's High in the 1950s. Anne's honesty and insight made a powerful impact, and her words will stay with the listeners for many years to come.

Anne ended her talk with a gift of a book for all guests and charged them with the task of passing on what they had learned that day to another. Dr Burley thanked Anne warmly for her inspiring and informative talk, and student Bella gave a heartfelt vote of thanks to Anne. The event concluded with a rousing rendition of Jerusalem, which was expertly led by alumna Gaynor Keeble.

All King's High alumnae and former members of staff are warmly welcome at next year's OGA Lunch. Watch this space for further details.



LOVE WHAT YOU DO



'Live your values. Don't laminate them.' One of our favourite quotes from the simply wonderful Sue Moore.

Huge thanks to Sue for a brilliant, empowering and inspiring Landor Association Lecture. Cultivate and prioritise strengths and work with passion – such important messages in her 'How to do the work you love – and get paid for it!' talk. Sue is a King's High Old Girl, keynote speaker and Artistic Director of the Loft Theatre.



FOUNDATION COMMUNITY

WSF MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST RECEIVES APPROVAL



Following a period of consultation with the communities of the founding schools in December, the Department for Education approved the creation of the Warwick Schools Foundation Multi-Academy Trust in January.

This means that the four founding schools – Evergreen School, Exhall Grange Specialist School, Clapham Terrace Primary School, and Westgate Primary School – have received approval to become academies. The date for academisation and the opening of the Trust is now scheduled for 1 September 2025. More information can be found at: warwickschoolsfoundation.co.uk/wsf-mat

FOUNDATION PUPILS PERFORM ALONGSIDE PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS



On Thursday, 20 March, our ongoing partnership with Orchestra of the Swan resulted in another wonderful evening of music at Warwick Hall, with Foundation pupils having the truly unique

opportunity to perform alongside professional musicians. *Elements* presented the four classical elements in musical form, with the orchestra performing an array of musical pieces – including Jean-Féry Rebel's *Chaos*, Manuel de Falla's *Ritual Fire Dance*, and Debussy's *La Mer*. It also featured a world-premiere performance of *Air*, a newly commissioned piece from jazz musicians David Gordon and Tim Whitehead, which they performed alongside some of our top musicians and the Swan orchestra.

All of the pupils excelled; they fit in seamlessly on stage alongside the professional musicians, which is testament to the quality of performance that they produced on the night.

We now look ahead to *Interstellar* – the Swan's final concert of the season at Warwick Hall – on Thursday, 19 June. Featuring acclaimed actor Anton Lesser and the intertwining of narration and musical pieces, you won't want to miss it. Book here: bridgehousetheatre.co.uk/show/orchestra-of-the-swan-interstellar

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS FAIR

On Thursday, 13 March, the biennial Higher Education and Careers Fair took place, with students from King's High, Warwick School and The Kingsley School in Year 10 upwards being invited to attend. The event provided a wealth of knowledge and guidance for those exploring their next steps and thinking ahead to life beyond school.



This year, in addition to talks on our various pathways such as Law, Medicine, and Oxbridge, we were delighted to welcome over 40 universities and over 30 employers to speak to our students. We also welcomed a host of guest speakers to give talks on their area of expertise.

Whether they were considering university, apprenticeships, or the other exciting career pathways, it was fantastic to see students take advantage of the opportunity to ask questions and gather insights from industry experts. With over 800 people in attendance, it was inspiring to see so many insightful conversations take place.

PLANS FOR INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION

Warwick
Schools
Foundation
International



As part of the Foundation's ongoing development, and in particular the exploration of additional income streams, we

announced the exciting news that we are investigating the potential for establishing international franchise schools.

UK independent schools creating international brands is not uncommon, and the market over the coming years is likely to become more crowded. Nevertheless, we plan to ensure that the educational provision which make our schools so special is translated into a compelling international proposition. However, this does not take away any of the focus on ensuring the excellence of educational provision for your children, now or in the future.

It is likely that any contracts will take a number of years to come to fruition and we look forward to updating parents with progress in due course. News and updates will be added to the Foundation website in the coming weeks and months: warwickschoolsfoundation.co.uk

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents,

One of the joys of our Warwick campus is the access it gives to all our pupils to such an amazing array of facilities. I overlook the Head's Garden, which has been home to Warwick Prep's Forest School for some years, and it is now also the venue for a new Warwick Junior School gardening club. All manner of seeds have been planted in readiness for a new raised bed (tomatoes get a big thumbs up, broad beans a rather more mixed response). I shouldn't be at all surprised if, after Easter, the boys are showing off their new gardening exploits to the Warwick Prep children, and that before we know it, there's a Prep vegetable patch too!

I have always believed that education is about opening as many doors as possible for young people and keeping them open for as long as possible. That may be through a broad and varied curriculum offer, vibrant experiences outside the classroom, or meaningful opportunities to engage with the wider community – ideally (and here), all three. These experiences over the duration of a school career enable each one of our pupils to get the best out of themselves and to give the best of themselves to others.

Whilst each school does this brilliantly for the pupils directly in their care, being part of a family of schools provides an extra layer of richness. Some initiatives grow organically from pupil or staff interests, whilst others come from a more structured approach. For example, one outcome of aligning of our three senior schools timetables is that Friday Activities can be shared more widely; before too long, Kingsley pupils will be able join their Warwick and King's peers in the CCF Year 11 'passing out' parade, which was one of many recent highlights. Another structured change has been the introduction of the Junior Foundation Symphony Orchestra, bringing together the orchestras of Kingsley Prep, Warwick Prep, and Warwick Juniors.

These types of opportunities for our pupils simply cannot not be provided by single schools on their own.

Amidst the profound challenges the independent schools sector is facing, our ethos and values as a community have never been more important. We cannot compete with the current political headwinds, but we can proudly and boldly restate our purpose: to transform lives through the power of education. We live that every day and know that our pupils, your children, benefit in so many different ways from our very distinctive education.

Richard Nicholson
Foundation Principal

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Well done to our talented Young Enterprise teams from King's High and Warwick School for showcasing their creativity and business skills at a trade fair in Leamington Spa this term!



20-MILE SPONSORED WALK

We are incredibly proud of all the students and staff at King's High and Warwick School who took part in a 20-mile sponsored walk across Warwickshire to raise funds for ambulances supporting the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. At the time of going to press, we have raised an impressive £10,925.






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