

# KING'S HIGH NEWS

SUMMER 2025





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# HEAD MASTER'S INTRODUCTION

I very much hope that you enjoy reading about the events of the Summer Term at King's High. It has been a brilliantly full and fun term for us all with so much to celebrate.

As I write, we are approaching the final week of term and we have enjoyed some very special moments. In the last week, we celebrated the strength and breadth of music in Key Stage 3 with an uplifting Summer Concert, and this was followed in quick order with our Year 7 Concert, which showcased our instrumental programme and form orchestras, which were truly superb this year. Two days later, our Year 7s headed off to Herefordshire for a couple of days kayaking, climbing and much more. Meanwhile, our Festival of Wellbeing came to an end with our Fair in the Quad, with stalls, helter-skelter ride, and visiting alpacas.

As our Year 7s were having a wonderful time on their trip and school was enjoying the lunchtime Fair, our U18 tennis team were making great strides in the National Tennis Finals in Nottingham, being placed 10th nationally against top opposition, including bespoke tennis academies; they then headed off to Eton for another prestigious tournament. This gives a little flavour of the richness and excitement of the Summer Term at King's.

The weather has been glorious for most of the term as students have enjoyed a cultural and language trip to Vienna, an adventure trip to Pembrokeshire, a Geography trip to North Wales, a boarding trip to Alton Towers and a Biology trip to Devon. On our last day of term, a group of around 20 students are heading off to Vietnam for a trip of a lifetime, landing in Hanoi before travelling further afield.

Our Key Stage 3 production of *No Place Like Home* was a particular highlight of the term as the *Wizard of Oz* swept through our school. Our Senior Chamber Choir were delighted to perform alongside the Orchestra of the Swan to a packed Warwick Hall, and it was a huge pleasure to visit St Mary's Church to see Polly in Upper Sixth and then Hannah in Lower Sixth lead a public lunchtime recital. Meanwhile, we took a group of Sixth Formers to the RSC Stratford to see *Titus Andronicus*, where our very own Anna in Year 8 was performing alongside Simon Russell Beale.

We were delighted to be selected as Finalists for two awards in this year's Tes Schools Awards 2025, known as the 'Oscars of Education', including Independent Senior School of the Year for the second year running. We were also thrilled that our Sixth Form Café Scientifique Magazine was shortlisted for Best Design and Best Cartoon in the Shine Media Awards, with Mrs Sims, Head of Science, getting a very well-deserved shortlist for Most Inspirational Teacher.

With GCSE and A Level exams completed, our Year 11 and Upper Sixth students can breathe a sigh of relief and look forward to a long summer ahead. At the end of term, we say a very fond farewell to two incredible leaders of our school: after more than thirty years of exceptional service, Mrs Watson and Mrs Didlick are retiring and we all wish them a very happy and richly deserved retirement.

I hope that you enjoy reading about our vibrant term at King's High and I wish you a very happy summer.

**Dr Stephen Burley**  
Head Master



Follow Dr Burley on Instagram @head.khs



# AWARD-WINNING KING'S

We're absolutely thrilled that King's High has been shortlisted in this year's *Tes Schools Awards* – not just in one, but two categories: *Independent Senior School of the Year* and *Headteacher of the Year (Independent)*.



After being shortlisted for *Senior School of the Year* last year, it feels incredibly special to see King's recognised once again on a national stage. It's a real celebration of everything that makes our school community so inspiring and unique.

From record-breaking academic results (for the third year running!) and more students than ever joining King's, to a glowing ISI Inspection Report and being named the 8th best girls' school in the UK for sport – it's been a truly exciting time for our school.

*"It is an enormous privilege for King's High to be shortlisted for Independent School of the Year in the Tes Awards 2025. The fact that this is the second year running that we have achieved this reflects incredibly positively on the outstanding work across our community. Coming off the back of a range of national awards, a significant strength for changemaking in this year's ISI Inspection Report, and record exam results, it is clear that the school is a national leader in educational excellence.*

*"I was delighted, also, to be shortlisted for Headteacher of the Year (Independent) in this year's Tes Awards, a further reflection on the strength of our school community. I am so fortunate to work with a superb team of colleagues, fantastic students and supportive families and we are all able to take great pride in these achievements. We are all working very hard to make a positive difference for our students and families and we are delighted to have this recognised in this year's Tes Awards."*

Dr Burley, Head Master

## Our Recent Achievements

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Best Head of a Public School 2025 – Tatler

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Record exam results for the third consecutive year

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'Significant strength' for student changemaking – ISI Report 2025

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National Award for Future Readiness – ISA

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National Award for the Creative and Performing Arts – ISA

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Tes Independent School of the Year – Finalist

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Independent Girls' School of the Year – Finalist

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The Sunday Times' Top Independent School for Academic Performance in Warwickshire and Worcestershire 2024

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The *Tes Schools Awards*, known as the 'Oscars of education' celebrate excellence right across the education sector, and we're really proud to be part of that story.

Under the leadership of Dr Burley, King's has achieved a number of national accolades – from *Sunday Times Top Independent School for Academic Achievement in Warwickshire and Worcestershire (2024)* to the *ISA School of the Year (2021)* and the *ISA Award for Future Readiness (2023)*. Recently awarded the coveted title of *Best Head of a Public School in the Tatler Schools Guide 2025*, this latest recognition is a fitting tribute to Dr Burley's exceptional leadership.





## BUSY BEES

On World Bee Day this term, we celebrated the vital role bees play in our planet's ecosystems – and, a little closer to home, we're proud that beekeeping is just one of over 260 co-curricular opportunities available at King's.



The King's bees have been in fine form, collecting an impressive amount of Spring honey. The sheer height of our hives at the moment, filled to the brim with amber nectar, reflects just how well the bees are thriving in our apiary. The honey will be extracted soon and bottled in our very own jars!

## PAWS FOR THOUGHT



It's been a *pawsitive* term for Parsnip! On Friday afternoons, Parsnip has been enjoying her special activity sessions with some of our older students – think scenic strolls, tail-wagging company, and even showing off her

impressive moves on the dog agility course.

Once a week, Year 7 students have been joining Parsnip for her very own club – a cosy and calming time full of strokes, smiles, and the occasional sneaky treat.

Parsnip was also a guest at the recent House Sponsored Walk, providing moral support to all involved. She posed for photos and enjoyed lots more strokes.

As part of Wellbeing Fortnight, Parsnip took part – leading a peaceful wellbeing walk and asking students to join her for a crafting session. She couldn't resist some ice cream either from the famous ice cream van!

Parsnip also had an official doggy playdate with Moose – our Wellbeing Mentor's dog – and it was friendship at first sniff!



## BRAVO, ANNA!

We're incredibly proud of Anna in Year 8, who was named BBC's Chorister of the Year and was recently cast as Young Lucius in the RSC's production of Shakespeare's dramatic tragedy *Titus Andronicus*.

***'What a fantastic achievement – well done, Anna!'***

Dr Burley



## FUTURE READY CHANGEMAKERS

Huge congratulations to our Lower Sixth students Hannah, Scarlett and Bethany, who spoke at a conference at Pearson HQ, London.

They shared insights on our Future Ready GCSE replacement courses at King's High with a room full of Chief Examiners, educational entrepreneurs and key influencers.

Mrs Jewell, Mrs Cresswell and Dr Seal were so proud to see them represent King's! It was an amazing platform for some true student changemakers. You can read more about our Future Ready courses in our 'How many GCSEs' brochure on our website in [/curriculum](#).



## YOUNG ENTERPRISE



Team Cookie Destroyers rose to the challenge in this year's national Young Enterprise 10X Challenge, launching a mini business that sold homemade cookies and cupcakes at a spring trade fair. Alongside their stall, the team

submitted a written business report and a short video presentation for the judges – and were proudly named 'Best Overall Business' in the UK in the 15+ age category.

The 2024 challenge saw around 20,000 young people and 6,000-7,000 teams take part from across the country. Cookie Destroyers impressed the judges by scoring highly across all five judging criteria. They presented a strong business plan, showcasing excellent problem-solving skills, resilience, and commitment. Meanwhile, their product stood out for its consistent quality and creativity – a delicious example of turning a great idea into a successful business.



## A FOND FAREWELL



Mrs Watson and Mrs Didlick at the Tes Schools Awards

Words cannot fully express our gratitude to Mrs Sarah Didlick, Deputy Head (Co-Curricular and Operations), and Mrs Shirley Watson, Senior Deputy Head and Deputy Head (Pastoral), for their outstanding dedication to King's. After more than thirty years of exceptional service and shaping

the lives of so many of our students – past and present – they are both about to embark on their next adventure: retirement! We know they'll take the spirit of King's with them, and we warmly welcome Kirsty White, Head of Geography, and Lisa Whittington, Director of Wellbeing, as they step into their new respective roles.

## NEURO-BEAT

*"The glory of the created world in its astonishing multiplicity; the thousands of different languages spoken by mankind, the proliferation of cultures, the sheer variety of the imaginative expressions of the human spirit, in most of which, if we listen carefully, we will hear the voice of wisdom telling us something we need to know. That is what I mean by the dignity of difference."*

Jonathan Sacks

Find out more and read our Neuro-Beat publications in *The Dignity of Difference*, available on our website in [/wellbeing](#)

## VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

As part of the 80th anniversary celebrations of VE Day, our students were invited to visit a live shortwave radio station set up on the Sixth Form Terrace. During break and lunchtime, many took the opportunity to tune in and even join conversations with other commemorative VE Day stations around the world. It was a unique chance to meet the radio operators, learn about radio communication, and explore the fascinating world of shortwave radio in action.

Sixth Form students also attended a special ceremony to unveil flags created by local schools to commemorate VE Day. We are incredibly proud of our beautiful entry, which was raised on Warwick High Street. Designed by members of our Inter-Faith Council, with support from students in Years 9 and 11, the flag reflects the theme of Peace and Love. It draws inspiration from the colours and messages in our Multi-Faith Prayer Space and Peace Pod – a powerful celebration of unity, hope, and harmony.



## CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!

Our Year 7 students had an amazing time on their trip to Oaker Wood in Herefordshire, where adventure and good times were the order of the day! From kayaking, high and low ropes courses, and climbing, amongst other exciting outdoor activities, they created memories to last a lifetime. And the overnight glamping was just as much fun. Toasted marshmallows, anyone?!



## BIFOR AND BEYOND

Our Geography team is working with BIFoR on a climate change project to be showcased at COP30 in Brazil. King's Key Stage 3 students are developing innovative ideas to protect the world's forests, producing a poster and pitch that will be shared online and included in BIFoR's contribution to the summit. This is such an exciting opportunity to engage with a global issue and contribute to international discussions on climate action and sustainability.

Our Sixth Form geographers also attended a forestry research conference at BIFoR, where Jessica won the prize for Best Climate Solution and Academic Poster – an outstanding achievement!





# LESSONS IN LIFT-OFF

“The journey, which started in September, has now come to an end for the rocketeers – for this year at least. From designing initial ideas of the rocket using specialised software, to cutting, sticking, and 3D printing the parts, all the way through to launching the rocket at the Youth Rocketry Midlands Regional Competition, it has been a fantastic experience.

“The day of the competition was exciting yet stressful, testing our ability to adapt in difficult situations, such as when our rocket came crashing down without a parachute. However, in the end, we were able to rebuild and place 3rd at the Midland Regional. Unfortunately, our efforts were not sufficient to qualify for the national in this year’s competition, which had a record number of teams competing.

“Despite this, we decided to end it on a high – quite literally – as our rocket reached 862 feet at our last launch at Sherington Airfield! On our last session of Rocket Club, we were kindly given permission to launch our rocket for one last time at the airfield.

“We managed two successful launches with four eggs back intact, in a flight time of 46 seconds. We hope to inspire the younger years at King’s to get involved with this project for next year’s competition, and we wish to thank Dr Wheatley and George Tarver for organising and assisting with this wonderful adventure.”

**King’s High Rocket Club**





# FESTIVAL OF WELLBEING

**This year's Festival of Wellbeing exploded into colour as Year 7s to Sixth Form students flooded the courtyard with vibrant pavement chalking, transforming the space into a canvas of hope and positivity in the sunshine. Uplifting messages and beautiful artwork for fellow students reminded everyone of the simple power of creativity and kindness.**

Meanwhile, Key Stage 3 students enjoyed a blissful lunchtime retreat with a calming yoga and sound bath session.

The Studio came alive with an electric atmosphere as a floor-filling Prefect playlist and disco lights transformed it into a classic school disco. The dancefloor was packed as timeless crowd-pleasers like 'Dancing Queen' got everyone on their feet!

The sunshine also saw the return of the ever-popular ice cream van and a spirited staff vs. student rounders match at lunchtime. Despite being outnumbered, staff triumphed with a final score of 10½ to 3, accompanied by plenty of laughter and even a few surprise rounders from Dr Burley!

Adding to the festival fun, a cup stacking extravaganza challenged students' speed and coordination, while the Reading for Wellbeing event nurtured the love of books through lively book chats, swaps, and a library picnic. The Wellbeing Walk with Parsnip was another highlight, and gratitude, a core pillar of the Festival of Wellbeing, was in action as we marked National Thank a Teacher Day with messages and emails.

We also welcomed the remarkable Kate Wilson, a local paramedic and founder of Medics to Medics – a tiny, non-profit group created with the sole aim of taking vital medical supplies and aid into Ukraine since the outbreak of the war. Our students learned about the need to stay safe and focused when entering a conflict zone, and also heard about the core value of being the change you want to see in the world by doing what you can with what you've got. The message that we can all use our skills and time to make the world a better place for other humans if we are able to do so was powerful and empowering to our Changemakers of the future.

Of course, no Festival of Wellbeing would be complete without the return of the ice cream van and our Wellbeing Fair in the Quad, which featured an inflatable helter-skelter, hula hoops, pebble painting, and donut stand amongst many other treats! And, as always, the gorgeous alpacas completely stole the show!







## WELLBEING BLOG

If you think something kind, say it.  
If you're grateful for someone, tell them.  
If someone's helped you, thank them.  
Words have power – use yours to spread joy and connection.

Read 'Say it' and our series of blogs on our website in [/wellbeingblog](#)



# HOPE AND GLORY

**In this edition, we hear from Hope, who is no stranger to the spotlight – an incredible Upper Sixth student at King’s excelling in drama and music, alongside captaining the fencing team for good measure! Meet our very own Triple Threat...**

“My journey at King’s has been amazing and I am so grateful to everyone who has helped me along the way to enable me achieve my goals and push myself! Throughout King’s I have been immersed in all things drama and music, from singing in choirs to being part of many wonderful productions such as *Macbeth*, *Everyman*, *The Musicians*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Sweeney Todd*. I have been fortunate enough to play some amazing roles in these productions, such as *Lady Macbeth*, *Judas* and *Mrs Lovett*, and I have made so many wonderful memories.

“I was also so lucky to be able to direct the Key Stage 3 Musical Theatre club’s production of *Annie Jr* in Lower Sixth and I am still so proud of them all for how amazing it was. Putting on a show in such little time was tough but it ended up being one of my favourite memories from King’s!

“I have also performed in and hosted various Improv shows with the Improv Troupe on Friday afternoons, and I even led some of the sessions at the end of this year which helped me think on my feet and teach others what I have learned through my teachers. All of these opportunities have helped me push myself and explore drama in different ways.

“I have also been fortunate enough to take part in various competitions such as the *ISA Musical Theatre awards* (where I placed first in the senior category) and the *ISA Shakespeare Competition* (where I achieved the *Shakespeare Birthplace Trust: Woman Who Made Shakespeare Award* for my original monologue based on *Lady Macbeth*). I also performed in the Arts Theatre on the West End as part of the national *West End Calling* competition, where I achieved the *Best Acting Performance Award*. I still can’t believe it – I got to meet so many professional theatre performers who gave me lots of advice on how to get into the business.







Jesus Christ Superstar



Sweeney Todd



The Great Gatsby

"Not only do I love drama, but music too, having been a part of various choirs and doing A Level Music, which has helped me be more confident performing, especially when writing and recording my own songs on the guitar or piano, which I hope to release at some point in the future. I have performed at various concerts and this year was awarded the school's *Senior Musician Of The Year*. I have also been involved with music at the boys' school, which has given me the opportunity to explore other genres of music such as rock, funk and jazz. For example, I performed at *Jazz at the Bridge* singing alongside Jazz Lab, and I have also been a part of two bands, *Requiem* and *Child-ish*, working with the boys to perform rock and funk songs at concerts throughout the year such as *Bridge House of Rock* and *The Christmas Cracker*.

"Although these are my main passions, I have really benefited from the full range of opportunities at King's, especially extra curricular activities such as captaining the Fencing Team and getting to compete at the Public School's and British Youth Championships with friends which has always been an amazing part of my time at school.

"This all has helped further my dream of performing professionally in theatres and I am so happy to say I will be going on to do the Musical Theatre (Triple Threat) course at Chichester Conservatoire! I am so looking forward to spending more time dancing, singing and acting full time, and I'm looking forward to whatever the future holds!"



Hope was chosen from over 200 entrants as the winner of the Senior Category at the ISA Musical Theatre National Final, performing *Maybe I Like It This Way*. The judge said her performance was 'flawless' and added that they 'couldn't stop watching'!

### Hope at Mary Arden's Farm – Prize Day

Hope wins Shakespeare Birthplace Trust's 'Women Who Made Shakespeare' Prize for her original monologue inspired by Lady Macbeth.

The judge praised her work, saying: "Congratulations, Hope! What an extraordinary monologue. The fragility and vulnerability of your character was so palpable and it left me wanting more! You are such a skilled writer and performer, I can't wait to see what you do next. Well done!"



Explore more of Hope's outstanding performances on her YouTube channel: @hopebrotherhood



# KING'S ADVENTURE

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

There were plenty of smiles and strong teamwork on display as the Silver DofE groups set off for their practice expeditions in the Peak District. Some of our students tackled a steep 105-metre climb and were rewarded with stunning views from The Roaches – the perfect spot for a well-earned rest. Spirits remained high as they began to appreciate why it's called the *Peak* District! With the impressive Tittesworth Reservoir in sight, the group pressed on and successfully completed their expedition in glorious weather.

Meanwhile, some students taking part in the Bronze qualifying expedition were equally fortunate with the weather as they began their route from Oxhill Church to Great Rollright in Oxfordshire, covering the distance over two days. Meanwhile, other intrepid Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze qualifiers braved thunder, lightning, and plenty of mud along the way – with a little sunshine in between. Well done to all our groups for their perseverance and resilience!

**Discover more about the Duke of Edinburgh Award at King's on our website in [/dukeofedinburgh](#)**

## A ROYAL HONOUR

Accompanied by Mr Walker, our dedicated DofE Coordinator, King's students and recent Upper Sixth leavers celebrated a major achievement in May, receiving their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award at a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Hosted by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, the event recognised the hard work and dedication of outstanding young people across the country.

Among them was Lucy, one of just a handful of young people to personally speak with The Duke about her four years volunteering with local charity Kissing it Better. Lucy volunteers and fundraises, making bracelets and bags, and also provides companionship to vulnerable patients on the hospital wards.

The Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a challenging achievement that requires dedication, perseverance, and commitment over many months, and we are so proud of each and every one of them!





## PEMBROKESHIRE OUTWARD BOUND

During May half term, a group of Year 9 students headed off to Sealyham Active Learning Centre in Pembrokeshire for an unforgettable week, led once again by our incredible adventurer Mr Beverley! Set against the stunning backdrop of the Welsh coast, the centre was the perfect place for some serious outdoor fun and challenges.

The 26 students threw themselves into a whole range of activities – from archery and coasteering to bushcraft, surfing, and rock climbing. They also took on command tasks, tried their hand at abseiling, and enjoyed kayaking along the beautiful coastline. It was a brilliant chance for everyone to pick up new skills, build confidence, and work together as a team in the great outdoors.



## CONQUERING SNOWDONIA

Over the Easter holidays, and under the expert leadership of Mr Beverley, our Adventure and Leadership Programme Manager, Year 8 students embarked on an unforgettable week-long adventure at The Towers, a renowned outdoor adventure centre located in the stunning Snowdonia National Park. The centre offers a variety of activities designed to develop teamwork, confidence, and outdoor skills.

It was wonderful to see the students fully embracing the experience, taking part in a range of action-packed pursuits including canoeing, weaseling, a mine tour, rock climbing, abseiling, command tasks, and low ropes!





# INSPIRE ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

**This Summer Term, as always, the Inspire Academic Enrichment Programme was bursting with opportunities to ignite creativity, curiosity, and independence in our students. From Year 9's hands-on Internship Programme to engaging trips and competitions, Inspire continued to champion learning beyond the classroom in each of our year groups.**



There was truly something for everyone. Highlights included the debut of the 'Subjects in Action' photography competition, and the eagerly anticipated Key Stage 3 Inspire trip to the British Motor Museum. We also launched the latest prestigious Inspire Essay Competition, which always attracts a diverse range of outstanding and academically rigorous entries.

Students had the chance to get involved in a variety of academic societies – everything from Engineering and Aviation to Ancestry, MedSoc, Creative Writing, and the Multi-Media Journalism Club, to name just a few.

A highlight this term was the Atlas Society, our brand-new geography club. Whether fascinated by volcanoes, tsunamis, or climate change, students were invited to explore the world through epic debates, real-world problem-solving, map challenges, quizzes, and exciting themed events. With fortnightly meetings, the society also welcomed guest speakers – from field experts to explorers – offering fresh insights into global issues and adventures. It's the perfect place for budding geographers and curious minds alike to discover how our world works.

## INSPIRE AWARD CELEBRATORY BREAKFAST

"Earlier this term, we hosted the Inspire Award Breakfast. This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the outstanding achievements of students who took part in the most Inspire projects throughout the academic year. The Inspire programme is designed to encourage creativity, collaboration and intellectual curiosity through a wide range of innovative challenges.

"From the exciting 'Egg Drop' challenge (in which students developed ingenious methods of stopping an egg from cracking when dropped from a height) to designing educational board games, students have truly impressed us with their creativity, problem-solving skills, and commitment to realise their ideas in the most innovative and well-thought out ways. Each project asked students to think outside the box and work independently or in teams to develop solutions to open-ended tasks: the results have been nothing short of inspiring.

"The breakfast provided a moment to pause and recognise not just the effort and excellence of students work, but also the invaluable skills students have developed along the way.

"We look forward to seeing what they'll imagine, create, and achieve in next year's series of Inspire projects."

**Mrs Kate Grafton Head of Academic Enrichment (Arts and Humanities) and Miss Signe Kallmeier Head of Academic Enrichment (STEM)**







## INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We've been delighted to offer in-house internships for the second year that give Year 9 students invaluable hands-on experience tackling real-life scenarios and challenges. Through these projects, students collaborate, conduct research, and develop evidence-based ideas and solutions, all while sharpening their analytical, problem-solving, and presentation skills.

Instead of continuing with optional GCSE subjects, a group of students immersed themselves in a collaborative project. Each promises to foster independence and professionalism in a professional setting outside the traditional classroom environment.

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

***“Now in its second year, this exciting initiative continues to develop invaluable skills among all our Year 9 students.”***

**Miss Caroline Gilbert, Head of Futures**

## THE INTERNSHIPS

- Technology & Environment Internship
- Social Responsibility Internship
- Marketing and PR Internship
- Law Internship – Advocating for Legal Change
- Primary Teaching Resources Internship
- Digital School Magazine Content Creator/Editor Internship
- Coding a Mini Games Arcade (Digital Coding Internship)
- Business Startup Internship
- Eco-Fashion Challenge – Design for Change Internship
- Event Planning/Fundraising Internship

Be inspired on our website in  
[/academicenrichment](https://www.academicenrichment.com)



# BOARDING AND FLEXI-BOARDING AT KING'S

**We're excited to announce the launch of Flexi-Boarding for students from Year 9 to Sixth Form at King's High! Starting this September, students can choose to stay one night a week, several nights, or just occasionally – offering the perfect way to fit boarding around family life, studies, and busy schedules.**



*Ms Kirsten Cooper, House Mistress*

Flexi-Boarding is competitively priced and ideal for easing long commutes, providing a calm, structured space to study, relax, and thrive. With academic support, delicious food, fantastic facilities, and a strong sense of community, it's everything boarding should be: flexible, friendly, and future-focused – a true home away from home.

Adding to the warmth of our boarding community, we're delighted to welcome Moose, an adorable Australian Shepherd puppy, who joins our much-loved school dog, Parsnip. Moose lives with Molly Lane, our Assistant House Parent and Wellbeing Mentor, in the King's High Boarding House – Way House – which is managed by Kirsten Cooper, our House Mistress. Moose is already becoming a familiar and much-loved face around school, always ready for a cuddle or some fun!

Our full boarders have also been making the most of the Summer Term alongside Moose. Highlights include a beautiful trip to see the cherry blossoms at Coventry's Memorial Park (thank you to Chloe for capturing the moments so beautifully), a lively Eurovision party, and plenty of fresh air, wholesome cooking, and quality downtime to recharge.

Flexi-Boarding and Moose are just two of the ways we're creating a welcoming, supportive, and vibrant environment where our students can flourish both academically and personally.

**Discover more about the benefits of flexi-boarding at King's on our website in /boarding and keep up to date with all our boarding news on Instagram @khs\_boarding**





*“When I was lucky enough to be offered flexible boarding for my teenage daughter, it was a lifesaver for a busy working and travelling mother like me. Way House was a home away from home, and Rosie had no trouble at all settling in – with a lovely room, great (and healthy) meals, and so much care and attention given to her and all the girls’ needs.*

*“What I had not expected were the additional benefits: the structure it brought to Rosie’s routine during such a critical year, a taste of university life, the development of friendship-building skills, exposure to different cultures, and no anxiety about missing buses because the school is so conveniently close.*

*“For me, I was able to travel worry-free, knowing my daughter was in a nurturing and caring environment. Calling home to hear stories of games nights and Chinese New Year celebrations made it a little easier to be away.*

*“I would recommend it to everyone – part of Rosie’s success in her A Levels is certainly due to the environment created for her at Way House.”*

Flexi-Boarding Parent



Miss Molly Lane, Assistant House Parent and Wellbeing Mentor, and Moose





# RAISING THE ROOF

**It's been a lively and inspiring year of House activities, full of creativity, collaboration, and a strong sense of community spirit.**

We kicked off the year with our very own *Dragon's Den* challenge, aimed at developing entrepreneurial skills, sharpening presentation abilities, and stretching critical thinking. Pupils were grouped into House families and tasked with devising a concept under the theme of 'House'. They conducted market research, brainstormed innovative ideas, and brought their visions to life. The quality of ideas was exceptional, with the winning families pitching their concepts to a panel of 'Dragons'. Standout proposals included a House app, an interactive House points board, and branded House clothing – perfect for Sports Day!

We also celebrated Japan Day, with our Head Chef Christophe and our amazing catering team serving a delicious themed meal that brought flavour and flair to the dining hall.

In partnership with Warwick School, we introduced *House Song* – a new joint venture in which each House was given a random song and challenged to deliver their best performance. Our brilliant judges scored entries based on musicality and team spirit.

House Drama saw fierce but friendly competition, with Tubman emerging victorious for their winning production. The Easter Fair brought joy to the Quad, featuring inflatable Easter bunnies and a highly entertaining pancake race.

More recently, we came together for a sponsored walk and charity fundraising afternoon, raising vital funds for our chosen House charities. We also held an Earth Day quiz, promoting environmental awareness and a healthy dose of House rivalry.

As we look ahead to Sports Day, excitement is building. Who will take home the House Cup and the Rewards Cup? All will be revealed at the final assembly of the year, when the winning House Captain will be officially handed the trophy.

A huge well done to everyone who took part this year – you've made your Houses proud!

**Mrs Michelle Jones**  
Head of Houses





# VOLUNTEERING

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Volunteering offers students invaluable opportunities for personal growth, key skills like empathy and leadership, and a strong sense of community and responsibility. At King's, volunteering perfectly complements our aim of creating future Changemakers – young people who are compassionate, proactive, and ready to make a positive difference in the world.

This year, students have taken part in a wide range of volunteering opportunities through the Friday afternoon programme and additional after-school initiatives. One notable example is our ongoing partnership with the 'Kissing it Better' (KiB) charity at Warwick Hospital, where students have helped to bring comfort and companionship to patients through creative and engaging activities.

## VOLUNTEERING IN ACTION

Daisy has been volunteering with KiB at Warwick Hospital since September 2024. Each week, she engages with patients through conversation, music, and artwork. She finds the experience deeply enriching – learning from the people she meets while offering companionship and creativity to brighten their days.

Georgia has found volunteering at Parkview Nursing Home to be a rewarding experience – spending time with residents, listening to their stories, playing games, and sharing joyful moments like chair football in the sunshine. She has developed her confidence, communication, and teamwork skills.

Over 100 students have supported local primary schools, taking on a variety of roles – including leading sports lessons, supporting hesitant readers, assisting with maths extension projects, and helping with after-school clubs. These experiences have helped them build leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills.

## FUNDRAISING

- In the Spring Term, students and staff joined Warwick School in a fundraising walk to support humanitarian aid for Ukraine, raising enough to fund two ambulances.
- A sponsored walk and school fête raised funds for our six House charities, celebrating community spirit with stalls, games, and sunshine.
- Hannah, in Lower Sixth, led fundraising for Embangweni School for the Deaf in Malawi, where she had visited earlier in the year. Inspired by her family's deep connection to the region, she raised awareness and funds through a non-uniform day and charity walk. Her visit to the school gave a powerful insight into the challenges faced by deaf students and the transformative power of education.

All our students involved in the volunteering and fundraising programmes this year should be immensely proud. Whether supporting local schools, nursing homes, special education, or global causes, their efforts have made a real and lasting impact on the lives of others and within our wider community. Well done, Changemakers!

Daisy and Charlotte have volunteered at Westgate Primary School since September, helping with reading, classroom support, and a boardgame club. They've found the experience both enjoyable and fulfilling.

Mia has been volunteering at Evergreen Special School, working closely with young children with special educational needs. From setting up engaging activities to supporting daily routines, she's gained practical experience and a deeper understanding of inclusive education. Her time at Evergreen has confirmed her ambition to pursue a career in teaching.

Sixth Formers also support Saturday School, where they assist Year 5 pupils from local schools with Maths, English, and Drama. Jess has found the experience strengthened her communication and adaptability while helping children develop essential skills such as telling the time.







# KING'S DT

Design excellence in spades! Our GCSE and A Level DT students have produced an impressive array of innovative and beautifully crafted work in our state-of-the-art Design and Technology facilities at King's.







A showcase of our wonderful Design and Technology GCSE and A Level work





# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

## VIENNA CALLING

"At the start of the Easter holidays, students from Years 8-10, accompanied by Mrs Ellis, Miss Crofton, and Mrs Cooper, enjoyed a four-day trip to Vienna, immersing themselves in the culture and language of the historic capital.

"Landing in the late afternoon, the trip commenced with a visit to the Prater amusement park, where we enjoyed a spectacular view of the city from the giant Ferris wheel and sampled traditional Austrian street food.

"Our second day began with watching the morning exercise of the Lipizzaner horses at the world-renowned Spanish Riding School. In the afternoon, we explored Vienna's beautiful old town, including St Stephen's Cathedral and the quirky, colourful Hundertwasser Village.

"The following day, we attended a language school before experiencing Viennese coffee house culture at the iconic Café Central, where the delicious Sachertorte proved popular. Later, we explored Mozart's House and ended the day watching a breathtaking performance of the ballet Pathétique at the Vienna State Opera House.

"On the final day, we visited Belvedere Palace, enjoying its stunning architecture and extensive art collection, including Gustav Klimt's 'The Kiss'.

"As well as providing many unforgettable cultural experiences, the trip gave us an invaluable opportunity to improve our German and gain an appreciation of daily life in Vienna – especially the challenge of navigating the U-Bahn. Thank you to the teachers for organising such an incredible trip."

**Ellie and Helena, Year 9**







## CELEBRATING LANGUAGE EXCELLENCE

We are delighted to celebrate the success of King's High in two national language competitions.

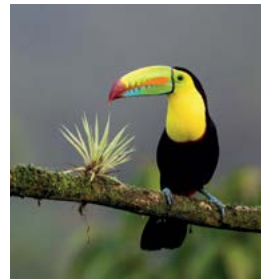
Sahana, in Lower Sixth, entered the Oxford German Network Olympiad run by Oxford University and was a winner with her conference brochure on the topic 'E-Sport oder echter Sport?' This project involved creating a conference brochure featuring keynote papers, workshops, and activities. She will receive her prize at a special presentation evening held at the Bodleian Library.

This year, Claudia in Year 11 proudly represented our school in the prestigious Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators. The national competition saw participation from over 22,000 students, with nearly 5,000 translations submitted for judging. Claudia's Spanish translation was recognised by the expert judging panel, earning her the title of Level 5 Area Winner for the Midlands – a remarkable achievement!

The competition is run by The Translation Exchange at Queen's College, Oxford, and aims to inspire young people to discover the art of translation while deepening their understanding of foreign cultures and languages. Claudia's success is a testament to her linguistic talent.

## GLOBAL OUTREACH

We are exploring a collaborative partnership with a school in Costa Rica, aiming to create meaningful cross-cultural experiences through shared projects and learning initiatives. These partnerships reflect our belief in the power of languages to connect communities globally and to broaden horizons both in and beyond the classroom.



## ON THE HORIZON

Next year promises even more exciting opportunities for our students. Plans are currently being finalised for a trip for Key Stage 3 students to Barcelona, offering an immersive experience in Spanish language and culture. We are also preparing for a visit to Lille, France, which will give students the chance to explore French language and life first-hand. Additionally, we have relaunched the Costa Rica trip, scheduled for October 2026. These enriching trips continue to be a valued part of our language programme, inspiring curiosity, confidence, and global awareness.





# KING'S SCIENCE

## HONOURING DR GRIST



In April, 13 members of the Science Department took part in the Coventry Way Challenge in memory of Dr Grist. They walked the 40-mile route as a relay in six legs, completing it in just over 12 hours. Their time

was greatly helped by the final leg team, who ran their section! The route took them through beautiful countryside all around the edges of Coventry.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from family, friends, and colleagues, they raised over £1,100 for The Owls Trust, a small independent charity in North Wales that was close to the hearts of Andrew and his family. The Owls Trust were delighted to receive the funds and have placed a plaque dedicated to Dr Grist on the aviary of Fflint, a Vermiculated Eagle Owl who is part of the charity's 'education team'. Fflint helps visitors understand the threats faced by owl species.

Fflint was chosen by Dr Grist's family because he is pictured on the website wearing a hat – and everyone knew how fond Andrew was of dressing up! The adoption certificate and photo will be displayed in the Science Department.

## SCIENCE TRIUMPH



Our team of Tiffany, Cherrie, Sahana and Karine won the annual Warwick School Science Quiz, beating seven other teams and retaining the trophy from last year! There were four rounds – identifying

scientific images, naming famous scientists, identifying molecular models by touch and finally, scientific general knowledge.

## CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

Congratulations to all seven Silver and five Bronze medal winners in the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad. Although the competition is primarily aimed at Upper Sixth students, both Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth pupils at King's competed and achieved outstanding success.



## CHEMISTRY IN ACTION

The Lower Sixth chemists took part in the National RSC Chemistry Analysts Challenge in June. Their task was to assist with the Department of Housing's imaginary issue: evaluating the suitability of an old industrial area for building new houses. The students worked in groups of three to complete the tasks, with minimal teacher assistance.

They undertook three separate experiments, each designed to assess different practical skills. To ensure fairness, each group was assigned unique samples. The first experiment required them to determine the concentration of thiosulfate in their soil samples by performing two different titrations – tasks demanding patience and precision – followed by challenging calculations to find the moles and concentrations of the solutions.

The second task involved identifying different azo-dyes from a food dye factory present in the soil samples. Using chromatography, the students compared and separated standard dyes from their sample.

With further calculations, they determined the  $R_f$  values of each dye and compared them to identify the dyes that made up their sample.



The third task was to identify the metal salts in the soil samples. The students particularly enjoyed this one as it involved using Bunsen burners! The groups completed several flame tests, observing various colours. This was followed by chemical tests to identify the halide ions present.

At the end of the day, each group submitted their results online so the RSC could grade their experiments and award certificates for their hard work. The day was enjoyed by all participants thanks to the teamwork, the opportunity to complete numerous practical activities, and the chance to hone their chemistry skills.



## CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE



Café Scientifique has gone from strength to strength this year, under the bold leadership of Isabelle and Shraddhaa. Four thought-provoking themes have been explored: *Life and Death*, *Defiance in Science*, *Change and Adapt*, and most recently, *Order and Chaos*.

The events team – composed of Emma (Engineering), Eleanor (KS3 Outreach), and Dheepthi, Sana, and Tiffany (Publicity) – have worked hard to deliver a wide range

of activities, from talks and workshops to a charity doughnut sale!

The outstanding newsletter editorial team – Cherrie, Sahana, and Karine – have produced professional-standard newsletters for each theme, featuring high-level scientific articles as well as light-hearted, graphic content including cartoons and memes to engage all readers.

Their exceptional work has been nationally recognised: they are finalists in the Shine Media Awards for their Spring Term edition, in the categories of *Best Design* and *Best Cartoon*. The team also nominated Mrs Sims, Head of Science, as *Most Inspirational Teacher*, writing a truly touching tribute as part of the application.

The team will be heading to London at the end of June, to the prestigious Stationers' Hall, to find out if they can bring home the awards. But even if they don't win, it has already been a truly rewarding journey.

Well done to the Café Scientifique 2024-25 Team!

## FROM CLASSROOM TO COASTLINE

Our Lower Sixth biologists arrived at Slapton, a beautiful village and nature reserve in Devon known for its diverse coastal habitats, and immediately headed out into the woodland to study the stream ecology. In the evening, they went on a bat walk at sunset and saw both Pipistrelle and Lesser Horseshoe bats. Overnight, they set a humane moth trap and collected some amazing specimens, including an Elephant Hawk Moth and the UK's largest moth, the Privet Hawk Moth.

Later that day, they completed Required Practical 12, investigating succession on the Shingle Ridge, and the following day, they explored the rocky shore habitats. The students were an absolute pleasure to be with and had a wonderful time, enjoying every part of the Biology Field Trip 2025!



## INTERMEDIATE BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

Building on the success of the Year 10 Biology Challenge, our Lower Sixth Biology cohort also achieved excellent results in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad, which took place in June. The competition involved a 60-minute online quiz testing the depth and breadth of their biological knowledge. The students demonstrated incredible persistence and determination, culminating in the best results King's has seen in over three years: two Golds, one Silver, and four Bronzes. Well done to all who took part!

## BIOLOGY AND PHYSICS OLYMPIADS

In March, Year 10 science students took part in both the Biology Challenge, run by the Royal Society of Biology, and the Junior Physics Challenge, run by the British Physics Olympiad. Both are online tests designed to engage and challenge students through problem-solving and science-related general knowledge, with the aim of developing enjoyment and passion for science.



In Physics, every student who participated was awarded a medal certificate, with the Gold awards placing these students in the top 15% nationally. In Biology, 75 students received Commended, Highly Commended, Bronze, Silver, or Gold awards – achieving Gold required scoring over 90% on the papers. Impressive stuff!

**Biology Gold Medal Winners:** Phoebe, Eleanor, Olivia, Thea, Grace, Charlotte, Imogen

**Physics Gold Medal Winners:** Nancy, Madeleine, Alexa, Ivy, Olivia, Georgia, Charlotte

## INTER-SCHOOLS SCIENCE QUIZ

Six of our Year 12 science students travelled to Rugby School in June to take part in the school's inter-schools science quiz, where 14 teams from different schools competed. The students were warmly welcomed before it was time to buckle down and tap into their competitive sides.

The quiz consisted of six rounds covering Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, with a variety of question formats including a picture round, calculations, dingbats, matching key scientific dates to events, and many anagrams. One of the highlights was the Biology artefact round, where 14 different objects were passed between groups for identification. The students were slightly disturbed by what appeared to be scales in a liquid – which they later discovered was a tapeworm!

The team worked brilliantly together, with everyone contributing and sharing plenty of laughs along the way. We're proud to say they finished in fourth place, and everyone had a fantastic time – including the teachers! We'll be back next year aiming for first place!



# KING'S MUSIC

**It has been another wonderful term for Music at King's High. We are hugely proud of the musical achievements of all our students, in concerts and ensembles as well as individual successes. Despite it being a shorter Summer Term than normal, we've still managed to squeeze in lots of wonderful music!**

The term kicked off with our Upper Sixth Leavers' Concert. This featured solos from our leaving A Level music students, alongside several others, and featured jazz, musical theatre, pop and classical solos and duets. As has become tradition, the concert ended with the whole year group singing together; this year's choice was Aretha Franklin's *Say a Little Prayer* which just happened to be the song the year group performed in their Year 7 concert seven years ago!

This term has seen frequent collaboration with St Mary's, Warwick. The term began with our annual Founders and Benefactors' Service, featuring our Senior Chamber Choir. More recently, Hannah in Lower Sixth gave a stunning soprano recital showcasing a beautiful programme of Baroque and French Romantic song. Senior Chamber Choir have had a busy term, performing with Orchestra of the Swan in their performance of Holst's *The Planets*; the closing of *Neptune*







features a stunningly ethereal offstage chorus which our choristers sang with total assurance. They will also be in action at the end of term in the Civic Service, joining forces with Warwick School's Chapel Choir.

Another exciting event was the Key Stage 3 production of *No Place Like Home*, a retelling of 'The Wizard of Oz'. The accompanying score was performed by Accordia, our Year 8 chamber music ensemble and music for several scenes was composed by Anna and Jess, two of the musicians in the ensemble. Both were then in action again, alongside other musicians, in our termly Music Scholars' Concert in June.

Two large concerts have closed out the term. The Key Stage 3 Summer Concert featured a wonderful range of choirs and instrumental ensembles performing a diverse array of music. This was followed two days later by the Year 7 concert, where each student in every class showcased the instruments they have been

learning since September, performing as an ensemble in repertoire including Beethoven's *Symphony no.5*, Dvorak's *New World Symphony* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. It was wonderful to see how far they have come this year, and the progress made in a short space of time.

There is lots to look forward to in 2025-26! Junior Chamber Choir will be joining forces in partnership with Ex Cathedra, a professional choir based in Birmingham, for their season opening concert in October. Several brand-new ensembles will perform for the first time next term, alongside an exciting refresh to our Inspire Music series. You can keep track of highlights of all our concerts and events by following our new King's High Music Instagram account @ [kingshighwarwick\\_music](#). Watch this space!

**Mr Adam Albrighton**  
Director of Music











Follow us on Instagram  @kingshighwarwick\_music



# KING'S ART

As the Summer Term draws to a close, the Art Department has once again been a hive of creativity, energy, and achievement.



At the start of term, our Year 11 and Upper Sixth students rose magnificently to the challenge of their 10- and 15-hour GCSE and A Level Art examinations. The work produced during these sessions stands as a testament to their dedication, resilience, and artistic flair. The breadth and diversity of their responses to the Externally Set Assignments was exceptional, and all students concluded their exam projects with great aplomb.

A highlight of the term – and indeed, the academic year – is always our annual Summer Art Exhibition. This celebration of GCSE and A Level work transforms the department corridors and is a source of pride for the whole school community. It's a joy to witness students, staff, and visitors pause to admire the talent on display and reflect on the creative journeys our artists have undertaken.

With the exam groups now concluded, the baton has passed to our Year 10 students, who are developing exciting personal projects under the theme 'Artefacts, Layers and Identity'. Their enthusiasm and commitment continue to impress us, and we are excited to watch their projects evolve over the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, our younger students in Year 7 and Year 8 have enjoyed an injection of creativity during exam week, exploring motif and repeat pattern, as well as vibrant abstract still life compositions inspired by Michael Craig-Martin. These sessions have provided a welcome balance of focus and fun at a busy time of year.

Co-curricular life in the Art Department remains as dynamic as ever. Clubs including Craft Club, Procreate Digital Art, Ceramics, Jewellery Making, and Creative Competition Club have all been incredibly well attended, reflecting the enthusiasm of our students and the richness of opportunities available.

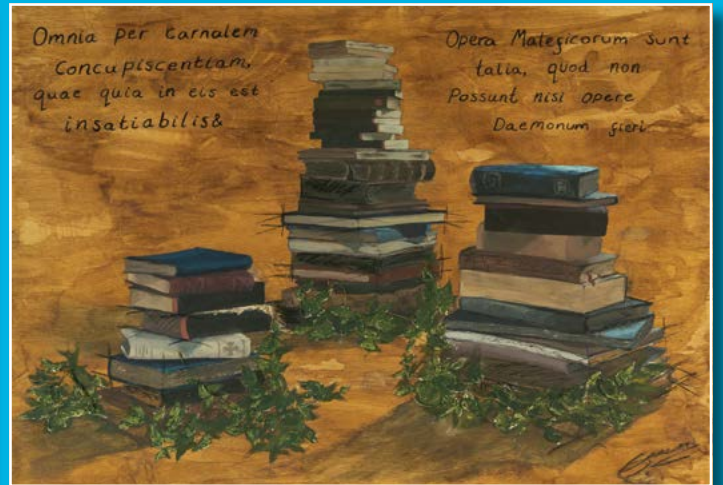
Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the incredible Art Department team. Their commitment to teaching inspiring lessons, curating and hanging exhibitions, running enrichment sessions, and supporting our students so generously and professionally does not go unnoticed. It is a pleasure and a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated and talented team.

**Ms Sarah Jordan**  
Director of Art

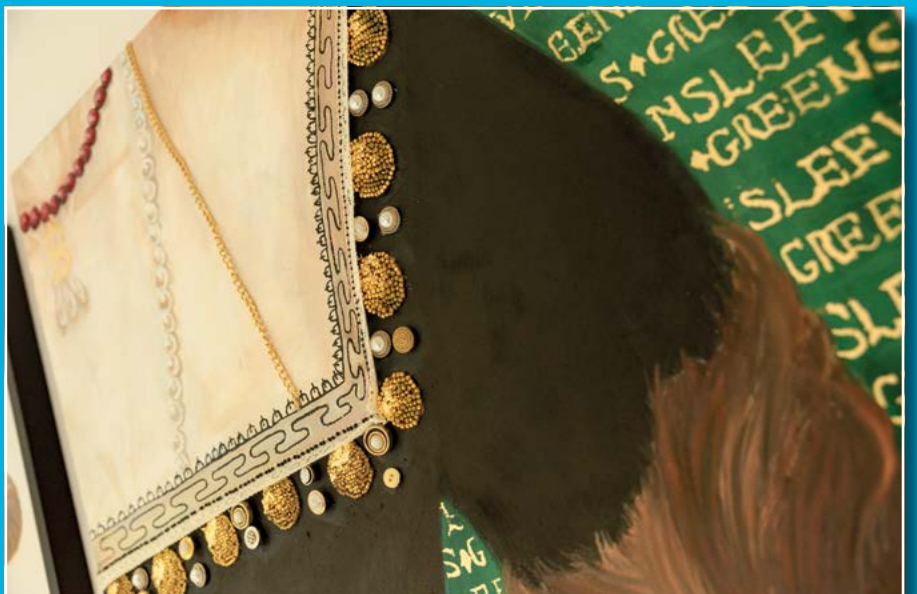
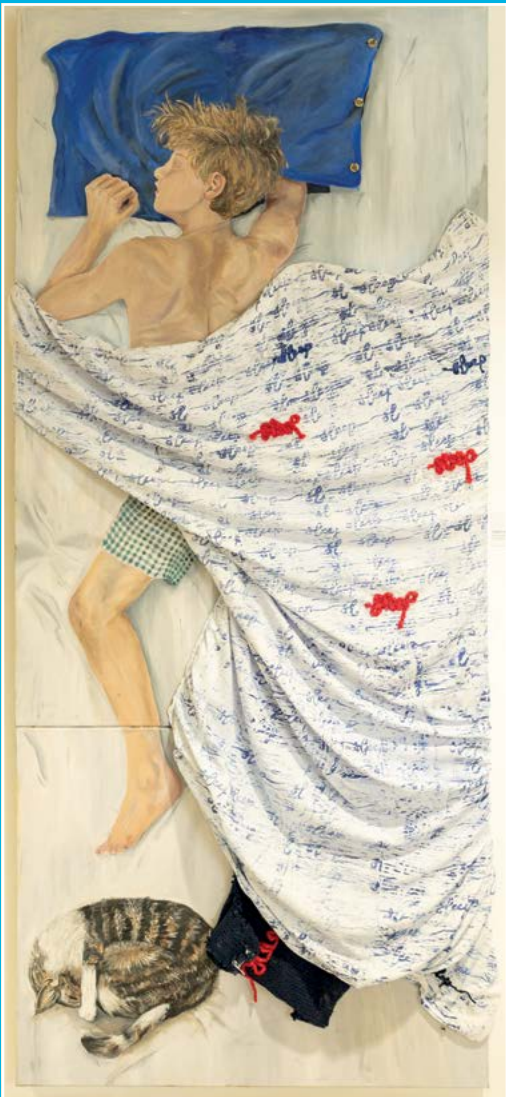














# KING'S DRAMA



## The Summer Term has been action packed for the Drama Department at King's High.

We were delighted to present our final major production of the year: *No Place Like Home*. This spellbinding original adaptation inspired by *The Wizard of Oz* was written by our talented Ms Wyatt and assistant directed by Miss Stiles with an original live score by our equally talented Mr Albrighton. The score also featured contributions from talented student composers, Jess and Anna. This magical adaptation added plenty of twists to the well-known story, adding in exciting new details and backstories for the iconic characters we all know and love.

Our dedicated Props Club students once again mastered some of the show's dynamic and exciting props and sets: everything from glittering signs and dazzling wands to mesmerising puppets of our well-loved Tin Man and Scarecrow! The show was a roaring success, with audiences young and old (including a delighted audience of local primary schools) laughing, gripping the edge of their seats and celebrating Dorothy's surprising discovery about what (and where) home really lies.

Community remains a vital tenet of the Drama experience at King's, with Musical Theatre Appreciation students developing two wonderful concerts (including very popular sing-along sections!) for local care homes in Leamington Spa. Our Drama Scholars and Ambassadors from Year 9 and 10 have been regularly supporting Year 2, 3 and 4 Drama Clubs, helping much younger peers with their confidence, dramatic skills and group work. The Warwick Preparatory School students continue to impress us all with their passion and enthusiasm for Drama, including a wonderful Year Six production of *Newsies* at the Bridge House Theatre.

Following the enormous success of last year's Key Stage 3 Musical Theatre Club's production of *Annie Jr*, directed by Sixth Form Drama Scholar, Hope, a talented Year 9 and 10 production team (Lily – Director, Darcy – Musical Director, Purdie – Assistant Director and Choreographer, Harriet – Production Assistant and Saul (Warwick School) – Technical Director), took on the challenge of leading their own musical production. *Dare to Dream*





was a Disney musical revue celebrating the courage it takes to dream – it was a wonderful opportunity for a high number of musical theatre enthusiasts to take part, sharing many of their favourite Disney songs with an audience.

May 2025 marked an exciting milestone for the Warwick School Foundation: 25 years of the Bridge House Theatre! In collaboration with other Foundation schools and community groups, we staged an exciting showcase evening celebrating the Bridge House's rich performance history. Students from King's and Warwick School participated in a range of exciting pieces, including *Romeo and Juliet*; *Art* (performed entirely in French and Spanish by our talented Performing in Other Languages Club), *Matilda Jr.* and *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bridge House Young Company). The showcase was a wonderful journey down memory lane, including some fantastic backstage footage of our wonderful Mrs Emmett's stunning debut piece – *West Side Story*!

In June, our King's High Inspire Theatre Company, led by Miss Clegg, took to the stage with their hilarious performance of *Murder at Havisham Manor*, inspired by *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Set

in traverse and full of physical comedy, classic murder mystery tropes and twists, the audience were treated to a thoroughly unpredictable and enjoyable evening's entertainment.

Yet again, our outstanding LAMDA students and teachers have achieved an outstanding set of results, with a high majority of students receiving Distinctions. Hope (Upper Sixth) has also received awards from ISA (Independent Schools Association) for two different competitions, winning the Musical Theatre competition at Senior level with her breathtaking performance of *Maybe I Like It This Way* (The Wild Party) and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust "Women Who Made Shakespeare" Award for her original monologue, inspired by *Lady Macbeth*. Our *No Place Like Home* cast were also awarded 'Best Ensemble', receiving feedback from the judges that "the cast not only transported us to Oz but provided us with all the magic and wonder that made this piece truly memorable". We are also extremely proud of Anna, last seen on the Bridge House stage as Wednesday in *The Addams Family*, performing on the RSC stage as part of the professional company of *Titus Andronicus*.





It has also been an exciting term for dramatic workshops and trips. Year 10 enjoyed an inspiring visit from Highly Sprung to kickstart their devising pieces. Several Friday afternoon activity students taking Drama-related programmes attended *Let the People Sing! Les Misérables* at the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham. This was the amateur premiere of my all-time favourite musical, and I (Miss Spring) was lucky enough to be a part of the company! The students were also able to come on stage, have a photograph, meet Jean Valjean and see some of our epic barricade scenery up close.

In July, our GCSE Drama students are looking forward to visiting the beautiful Regent's Park Open Air Theatre in London to watch a brand-new production of their set text, *Noughts and Crosses*. Finally, following our audition process this week, the last week of term will bring our first rehearsals for *Henry VI*! We are thrilled to be preparing to bring Shakespeare's epic history play to the Bridge House Theatre stage this November.

As our academic year draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the incredible contribution that Miss Stiles, our Dramatic Arts Coordinator, has made to our school. Her irrepressible energy, enthusiasm and passion, not only for Drama but for supporting and championing our students, have made an immeasurable impact on the student community. The students and staff alike greatly appreciate her advice, guidance, leadership and dynamic presence in rehearsals, classrooms and corridors! Although she is sadly leaving her post this summer and we will miss her greatly, we are glad that she is not going far and will still be with us on Friday afternoons to lead the Silver Arts Award!

**Miss Gracey Spring**  
Director of Drama









# 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.**

## **Water Polo**

The U13 water polo team finished 3rd in the National Finals after a fantastic tournament. The top six schools in the country had qualified for the event, making the competition especially tough. We finished as runners-up in our group and went on to face the eventual winners in the semi-finals.

In the 3rd/4th place playoff, the team stepped up once again, winning 6–4 with excellent teamwork and impressive shooting.

It was a truly outstanding achievement for the team and a proud moment for King's High.

## **Hockey**

The hockey season continued into the Summer Term, with the U12 and U14 teams representing the school at the Independent Schools Hockey Association National Festival Finals. Both teams performed superbly over their respective two days, defeating all opponents and winning the tournament. It marked the culmination of an excellent season for the hockey teams, and we now look forward to next September.

## **Football**

The U13 team had a successful run in the 'Sisters n Sport' Cup and won the ISFA Regional Qualifying Tournament, earning a place in the finals at St George's Park. They delivered an impressive performance at the finals, winning all three league games and qualifying for the semi-final.

## **Badminton**

The Badminton Academy enjoyed another successful season. Players competed in the Victor Cup and the National Schools Competition. The team that took part in the ISA was young for the U17 age group but performed brilliantly, securing a host of medals. Many of the students also entered the Warwickshire Schools Badminton tournaments, winning medals of every colour. One of our players has earned County colours in the U15 squad and has now been selected for next season's U16s. With the inclusion of Warwick Prep School, we have high hopes for the new season.

## **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.

## **Cricket**

Cricket at King's High has gone from strength to strength this year, building on the momentum of an impressive indoor season.

The U12s have seen over 80 pupils represent King's against opposing schools – an incredible achievement that reflects just how hard they have been working on their skills. Around 20 of these players have gone on to represent the school in hardball fixtures, which sets us up brilliantly for the future.

The U13 team has had an awesome season. They have reached the 'Sisters n Sport' National Finals Day, are preparing for a County Cup semi-final, and also made it to the last 32 in the National Cup. This team has worked brilliantly together, with different players stepping up in key moments. The highlight of their season was a nail-biting, three-wicket win against KES Birmingham in the National Cup – winning the game with a ball to spare.

The U15 team has made history by becoming the first King's High side to play on the main Foundation Square – an important milestone that reflects how far cricket has come at the school and hopefully the first of many matches that will be played on that pitch. On the pitch, their performances have matched the occasion: this season, they were crowned ISA Midlands Champions, are soon to play in the County Cup final, and reached the last 32 in the National Cup, narrowly losing in the last over to a very strong King's Worcester side. Among many standout performances, the highlight was a thrilling six-run win over KES Birmingham on the Foundation Square – not only playing on the pitch itself but putting in a performance to back it up.

Next season, we're excited about the introduction of a U18 side to compete in national cups – another step forward as we continue to push boundaries.





## Ski Racing

It has been a busy and exciting year for King's High ski racers, who joined students from across the Foundation to train and compete in a range of events.

We were thrilled when King's teams placed 1st and 2nd at the ISA Schools Snow Championships. We then competed in the English Schools Age Finals in Norwich, where we were joined by teams from Warwick School and Warwick Prep who also qualified – an excellent demonstration of the strength of skiing across the Foundation. Our B team earned a well-deserved silver podium finish in their age category!

We pushed on to the British Schools Finals in Llandudno – an impressive achievement in itself. The event is very competitive and we've been steadily closing the gap on established national school teams. It was fantastic to see our A team finish in 6th place, ahead of most Welsh and Scottish schools – an great improvement on last year's 14th place!

Our racers also train and compete outside of school. Some have trained on the longest dry slope in Europe, while others head to the Alps for intensive race training weeks and 10-week core race programmes. A number competed successfully in Alpine events such as the English and British Championships, as well as in Club National events closer to home.

We are looking forward to another exciting and successful race season in 2025–2026!

## Tennis

King's have had another fantastic summer of tennis. After winning the Year 11–13 LTA Regional Competition just before Easter – beating Ellesmere College in the final – the teams were well set up for the season.

The U13 teams have been competing in the county rounds of the LTA tournament. The A team topped their league and will progress to the Regional rounds next term, while the B and C teams both secured notable wins against other local A teams.

The U15 teams have matched their younger counterparts, also winning the A league to progress through, with the B and C teams enjoying some fabulous matchups and currently topping their league.

It has been great to see the new Year 7s on court in their first competitive fixtures against local schools. They've shown huge development this term at their club.

Multiple friendly fixtures have given lots of students the opportunity to take part in competitive tennis, and we've also hosted the inter-house tennis competitions, where pupils across all year groups put themselves forward to take part in some 'friendly' inter-house matches.

Once again, the highlight of the season has been the U18s' success in the National Aberdare Cup. With wins in their knockout rounds, they once again booked themselves a place at the National Finals, where they faced the toughest tennis schools in the country.

For the second consecutive year, the U18 Tennis Team have finished in the top 10 schools at National Finals! This week the team travelled to Nottingham to compete in this prestigious tournament, pitting themselves against the top tennis schools in the country. A fabulous performance from all the students in challenging conditions saw them finish in 10th place in the country. A huge well done to Ellie, Maddie, Marina and Holly.

A huge thank you to KHAPS from all our tennis players for providing us with some fabulous new scoreboards this year!

## Athletics

This year, both the Junior and Inter girls' athletics teams have enjoyed tremendous success in every competition they have entered. The season began with a strong performance at the English Schools' Track and Field Cup, where both teams achieved excellent results across a range of events and qualified for the ESSA Midlands A Final. Despite facing exceptional competition, our athletes delivered outstanding performances, recorded several personal bests, and enjoyed one or two too many ice creams on an exceptionally hot day!

The Year 7/8 and Year 9/10 teams continued this success at the Warwickshire Area Trials, dominating across both track and field disciplines and winning their respective events. From the Year 9/10 competition alone, ten athletes qualified for the Warwickshire Schools' Track and Field Championships, with a further six progressing to the Mason Trophy, and two qualifying for the English Schools' Championships.

Another highlight of the season was the ISA National Finals at Alexander Stadium, where the King's High team had an excellent day – securing seven silver medals and two golds. It was a fantastic opportunity for our athletes to compete at such a prestigious venue.

Congratulations to all those who have represented the school in both competitive and friendly athletics fixtures this year. It has been a pleasure to see so many pupils demonstrating their talent and achieving superb results throughout the season.

**Mr David Bryce**

Acting Director of Sport

Follow us on Instagram  @kingshighwarwick\_sport



# EQUESTRIAN

## King's students have enjoyed a season of impressive successes across team and individual competitions, both within school events and beyond.

In King's events, numerous riders qualified for the NSEA Hickstead Championships. Hickstead is a prestigious venue that marks the culmination of the equestrian schools calendar, with riders qualifying as teams and/or individuals to compete in showjumping, eventer challenge, and dressage classes.

Three teams successfully competed in the County Showjumping Qualifiers. The 70cm team, comprising Minnie, Iona, Sarra, and Francesca, and the 80cm team, comprising Tara, Izzy, and Mila (Prep), both placed 3rd. The 90cm team, comprising Purdie, Ellie, Izzy, and Mila (Prep), won their class, meaning all three teams qualified for the NSEA Hickstead Championships.

Izzy also qualified individually in the 70cm, 80cm, and 90cm classes, being crowned County Champion in all three. Additionally, Ellie qualified and was crowned County Champion in the 1m individual competition.

In the Eventer Challenge qualifiers, two teams successfully competed. Both the 70cm team, comprising Minnie, Iona, Francesca, and Anouk, and the 80cm team, comprising Kirsty, Iona, and Anouk, rode brilliantly, placing 2nd and qualifying for the Eventer Challenge Championships. Iona also rode a fantastic round in the 70cm, qualifying individually for the Championships.

With so many qualifications, the girls were very excited to attend Hickstead. Eight King's High girls attended the Championships over half term, enjoying themselves and achieving great results. In the Pop-Up Dressage Championships, Ellie and her pony Cally were Champions in the Elementary class, and Izzy and her pony Tangaluna were Champions in the Novice class. Iona and her pony Lola jumped clear in the 80cm Arena Eventing Championships, finishing 7th out of over 180 riders with a great time. The 80cm County Showjumping Team, made up of Tara, Mila, and Izzy, placed 2nd after jumping three clear rounds.



Following Hickstead, a team comprising Izzy, Amy, and Francesca attended the Grassroots Qualifiers, competing as a team in the 70cm. They had a great show, winning their class and qualifying for the Grassroots Regional Championships as well as the NSEA Grassroots Festival at Hickstead in August 2025.

Outside of school events, several students have achieved notable successes. Izzy took part in her first BE80 at Moreton Equestrian Centre, Dorchester, finishing on her dressage score and bringing home a win.

Ellie has had numerous successes, including winning the Pony Club Area Eventing 90cm Qualifier and placing 3rd at the Pony Club National Championships. She also qualified for the Badminton Grassroots Championships in October and took part in the finals in May, securing an impressive dressage score of 29.4, equivalent to 70.6%.

Lottie and Eloisa successfully competed with the Pony Club in the Mounted Games at the Horse of the Year Show in October 2024, with their team finishing 2nd. Lottie has since been selected to represent the UK in mounted games.

Tillie competed in the Open Novice U18 British Eventing class at Speetley in April, achieving a double clear and placing 3rd. She also competed in the Open Novice U18 class at Calmsden, in a very competitive section, achieving a personal best dressage score of 28.3 and placing 3rd overall.

**Miss Sara Copley**  
Equestrian Instructor





# OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

## OLD GIRL ANNIVERSARY REUNIONS



100 Old Girls returned to school on 14 June for their landmark Anniversary Reunions. Old Girl leavers from 1965, '75, '85, '95, 2005 and 2015 enjoyed an afternoon reconnecting and spending time together. It was wonderful to also welcome back a number of former teaching staff. Special thanks to our students for their tours of the school, showing our Old Girls the facilities and opportunities enjoyed by students today, and giving them the opportunity to view many of our archives and reminisce about their own school days.



## OGA ANNUAL LUNCH

Head Master Dr Burley was delighted to welcome over 40 Old Girls, along with former and current staff, for the OGA Annual Lunch in March. After refreshments in the foyer, current Sixth Formers escorted guests on tours of the school, giving everyone a chance to see the amazing facilities enjoyed by our students today. A delicious lunch was prepared and served by our Catering team. After lunch, Dr Anne Whitehouse (KHS 1980-87) gave a talk about redressing gender balance and pulling back feminine power. It was a privilege to hear Anne's account of her journey from prodigious young scientist with a PhD from Cambridge and a post-doctoral fellowship from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, to an "unexpected revolutionary" bringing about change.

## REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Regional and overseas Old Girls' groups regularly connect and meet, both informally and formally. In June, Old Girls joined fellow alumni from the Warwick Schools Foundation for drinks in London.



# FOUNDATION COMMUNITY

## BHT25

This year marks the 25th anniversary of The Bridge House Theatre, which proudly sits at the heart of our Warwick campus.

Since it was opened by Dame Judi Dench in 2000, the theatre has become a focal point in the school community and has grown into one of the area's most popular venues for theatre productions, musical concerts, comedy shows, and more.

On Saturday, 10 May, the theatre produced The Anniversary Showcase, a special evening aiming to celebrate all of the incredible theatre experiences it has provided over the years.

Featuring pupils past and present, the evening included short extracts from plays, musicals, and sketches, alongside images and displays recalling many of the incredible shows that the theatre has hosted.

Since its opening, the theatre has provided some unforgettable memories for those participating and in attendance, and it was fantastic to see so many come together to share memories and celebrate the theatre.



## KING HENRY VIII CHORAL PROGRAMME



**WARWICK ENABLES  
WARWICK EMPOWERS**



Last month, we launched the new King Henry VIII Choral Programme, as part of a partnership with The Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick. It has been made possible by the historic relationship the Foundation and St Mary's enjoys with The King Henry VIII Endowed Trust, Warwick.

The King Henry VIII Choral Awards – which are funded by The King Henry VIII Endowed Trust, Warwick and available from September 2026 – is a scholarship for boys and girls from Year 3 upwards who are a pupil at one of our schools and an active member of St Mary's Choir.

Through the launch of the King Henry VIII Choral Programme, our aim is to enable as many talented children as possible to benefit from the unique opportunities that choral participation affords them, alongside the outstanding education that we provide in the schools of the Foundation.

## CATERING PARTNERSHIP WITH ALDENS OF OXFORD

Warwick Schools Foundation Catering Department proudly announced a partnership with Aldens of Oxford earlier in the term.

Aldens are a seventh-generation family food produce business, serving families and businesses across Oxfordshire – and more recently across the UK – with superb quality meat, fish, and fresh produce. Aldens only use producers with high welfare and ethical standards, and all products are hand cut and prepared by Aldens staff.

The Foundation's partnership with Aldens represents a continuation of the high-quality catering delivery that we are so proud of. This includes our meat produce, which is Red Tractor Certified, meaning that it is produced and farmed with care, is traceable, safe, assured, and British.

John Badr, Head of Catering and Event Operations at Warwick Schools Foundation, commented on the partnership:

*"I am thrilled to be working with Aldens as our new butchery supplier across the Foundation. I have a real passion for providing the best quality of meals for our pupils, and knowing that all of the meat we purchase from Aldens meets the Red Tractor standards is a real positive for all our students, staff, and external clients".*



# A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents,

The end of Summer Term always sees some of the highlights of the academic year. These may be concerts or plays, sports days or trips. Some have even great significance as rites of passage – speech days, graduations, end of key stage plays – which herald the transition from one school to the next, or to life beyond our schools.

The richness of the opportunities and experiences for our pupils gives lie to the misleading short-hand often used to classify schools – academic, pastoral, or holistic. Certainly here, we are proud that the exceptional outcomes for pupils go hand in hand with a nurturing ethos and a focus on engendering

good citizenship so that our pupils have happy, fulfilling lives and know how to make a positive difference in society. In a world which seems to become more complicated with each passing week, helping pupils develop a strong moral core, to seek truth, and to put their undoubted gifts and talents to use for a more public good, have never been more important.

With the changed political landscape, the last year has brought into sharp focus the vision and values of Warwick Schools Foundation and the educational mission we hold so dear. As a charity, with important legal obligations which define how we operate, we have always been outward looking, and are greatly looking forward to the opening of the Warwick Schools Foundation Multi Academy Trust in September, which will be the focus for our public benefit obligations. As a business, we continue to develop additional income streams, including through international franchises, which enable us to further support our schools through new funds.

We are also more mindful than ever of the support of you, our parents and families. Your children live and breathe the culture of our community, leaving their mark, contributing to and being enriched by the living tradition of our schools. Thank you for enabling us to continue to provide a wonderful and truly unique educational experience, both now and for future generations.

**Richard Nicholson**  
Foundation Principal

## ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN – INTERSTELLAR

On Thursday, 19 June, Foundation partners Orchestra of the Swan returned for their fourth and final concert of the season at Warwick Hall, *Interstellar*.

Once again, the Swan provided an exceptional evening of music, living up to the outstanding standard that they have continually set since our partnership began in 2019.

As part of the concert, Gustav Holst's epic and influential Planets suite was presented alongside stunning images captured by the Hubble Space Telescope. The music was interspersed with a variety of readings about the cosmos from The Bible, Ptolemy, and Galileo, through to Albert Einstein, Neil Armstrong, and even Douglas Adams' 'Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy', all wonderfully narrated by acclaimed actor Anton Lesser.

We were also proud to see members of King's High's Senior Chamber Choir sing in the final movement of The Planets, *Neptune*, which features an off-stage upper voice choir to create a mystical and ethereal atmosphere. The choir's gradual diminuendo and eventual

silence evokes a sense of mystery and otherworldliness, reflecting the astrological associations of Neptune with illusion and the subconscious. The choir sang off stage in the Warwick Hall foyer, with the doors to the auditorium gradually closing at the end to create this ethereal effect. Many thanks to Mr Albrighton and our King's students for their hard work in creating a magical end to this concert.

The concert capped off another fantastic season of concerts from Orchestra of the Swan. Details around the 25/26 season at Warwick Hall will be announced soon...

## FOUNDERS AND BENEFACTORS

On Friday 2 May, the King's High and Warwick Prep community, together with Warwick School, gathered for our annual Founders and Benefactors' Service at St Mary's, Warwick. It was a special opportunity to reflect with gratitude on the founding, history, and progress of our schools, and to give thanks to those who have supported King's High's journey in educating the Changemakers of the future since 1879. The service followed a proud milestone for King's High earlier in the week, as we celebrated our 146th birthday on Tuesday 29 April.





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