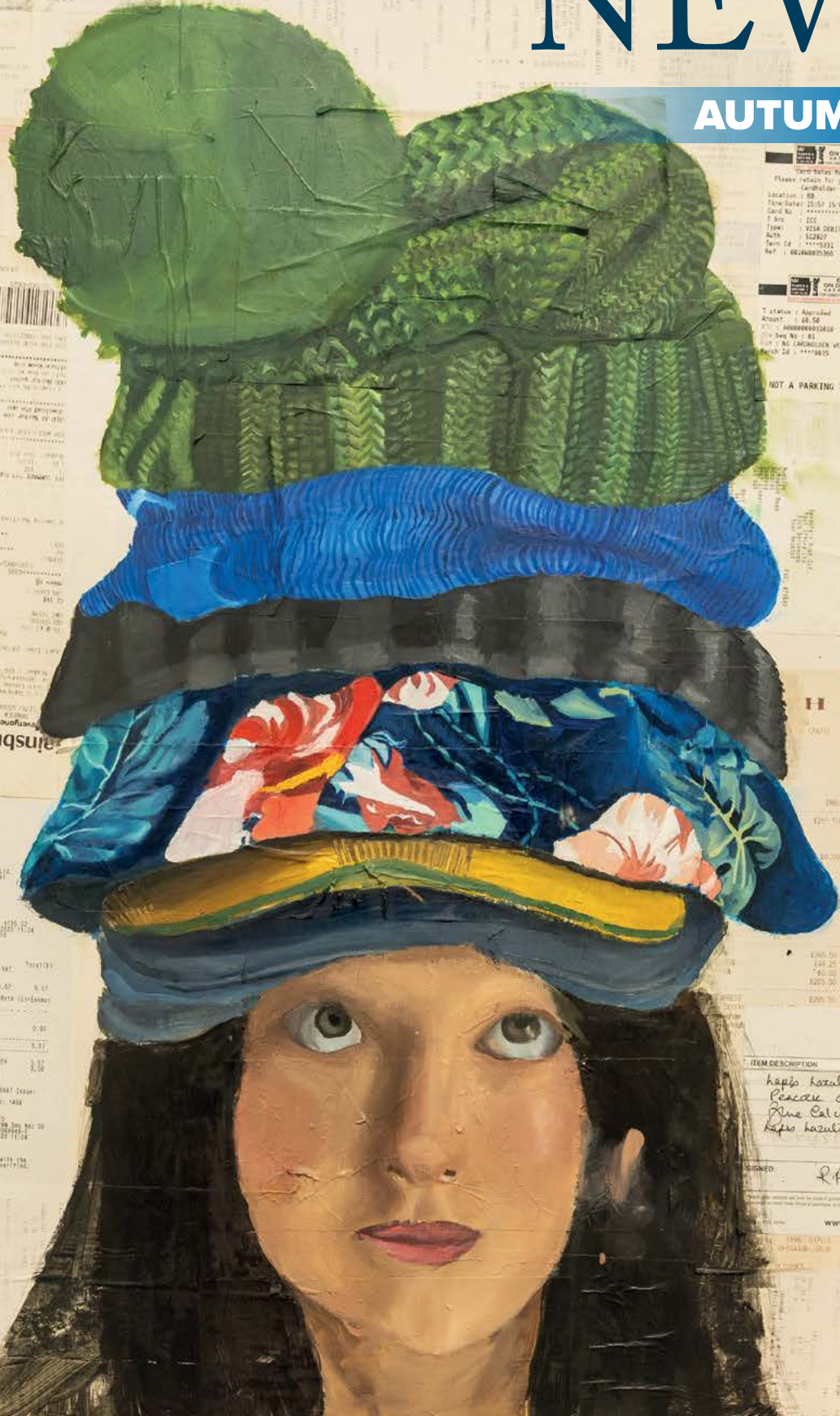


KING'S HIGH NEWS

AUTUMN 2025



Sainsbury's
Helping everyone eat better

Barcode and receipt details for Sainsbury's, including item descriptions and prices.

NOT A PARKING TICKET
Chiltern railway receipt details, including station and time.

Receipt details for Chiltern railway, including item descriptions and prices.

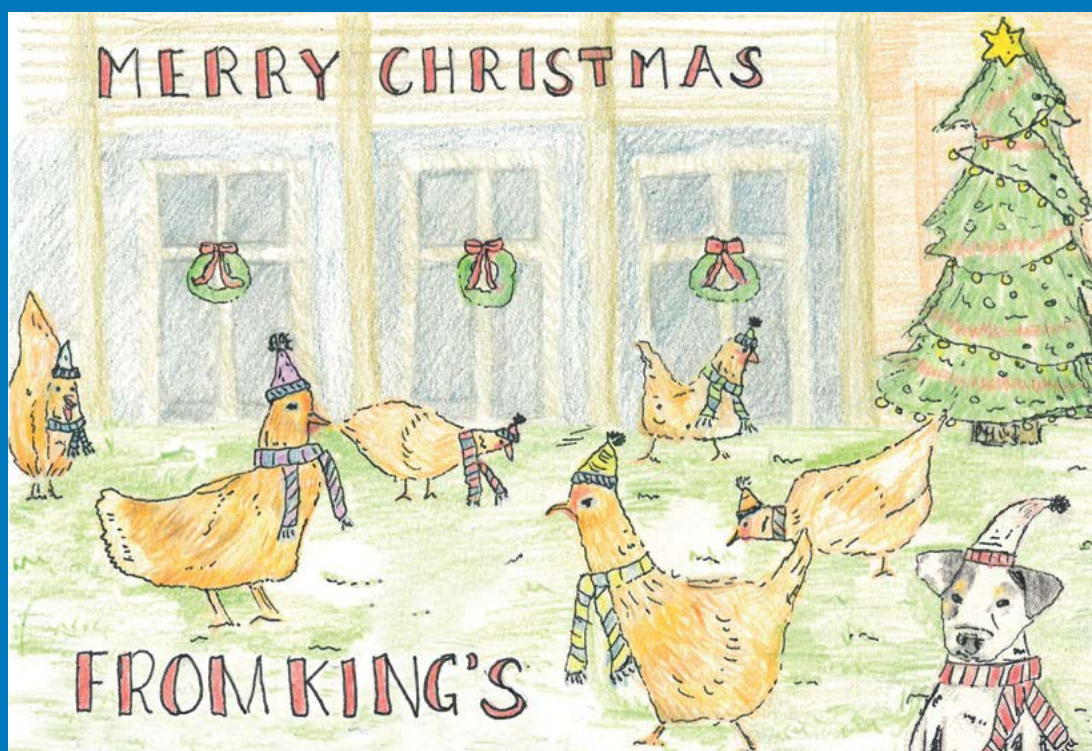
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Christmas card design by Emily – Year 7

Head Master's Introduction



As we bring our Autumn Term to a close, we can all take enormous pride in the energy, compassion and ambition that continues to define our school community. The pages that follow offer a glimpse of the richness of school life this term, and I hope you will enjoy revisiting the moments that have made it so special.

Our girls have embraced every challenge placed before them and they have done so with confidence, kindness and a remarkable sense of collective spirit. I am truly inspired by their willingness to ask bold questions, to make space for others, and to seek excellence not only for themselves but for the community they shape together. From academic societies and House events to partnerships in the community, our pupils continue to show how leadership and empathy go hand in hand. Their achievements remind us what education at its very best can be.

We were all thrilled to have this recognised on such a prestigious national stage as the Independent Schools Association Awards 2025. To be chosen as Senior School of the Year for the second time in four years shows just how special our community is and celebrates the outstanding work of students, staff, parents and governors.

The festive season is now upon us and our community has embraced this fully with concerts, carol services, productions, fairs, trips and, of course, our much-anticipated House Song Competition. We have enjoyed drama showcases, a truly superb Senior Production of Shakespeare's *Henry V*, and, most recently, our Winter Concert that celebrated the remarkable breadth and depth of musical talent and endeavour at King's High.

Our students have been travelling far and wide this term, from our Geography trip to Japan, sports tour of Murcia and Spanish trip to Barcelona, to our CCF exercises, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, and visits to the RSC to see *Measure for Measure*, *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *The BFG*, there have been so many special and transformative experiences. As term closes, our Physics Department take a group of students to Switzerland to explore the world's most powerful particle accelerator, CERN, near to Geneva.

Our sports teams have been excelling again, and our hockey, netball, tennis, swimming, skiing, football, cross country and badminton teams have all enjoyed great success, many making impressive headway in the regional and national competitions.

As you turn these pages, I hope you feel the same sense of optimism that I do. We end the term with much to celebrate, and even more to look forward to. I wish every member of our community a restful break, and I look forward to the excitement, challenge and opportunity that the new term will undoubtedly bring.

I wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Dr Stephen Burley
Head Master

ISA Awards 2025

King's High Crowned Senior School of the Year

We are thrilled to announce that King's High has been named Senior School of the Year at the ISA Awards 2025 – a tremendous honour for our whole school community, and remarkably, the second time we have received this accolade in just four years.



From left to right: Dr Seal, Ms Whittington, Mrs White, Dr Burley



The Independent Schools Association Awards celebrate excellence, innovation, and impact across the UK's independent sector. To be recognised as Senior School of the Year, schools must demonstrate not only investment in resources and facilities but also clear evidence of exceptional outcomes for pupils and the positive difference that their decisions make. We are proud that King's High once again met this standard across all areas of school life – from academic excellence to sport, the arts, and our flourishing partnerships and outreach work.

Reflecting on the award, Dr Stephen Burley, Head Master, commented:

“This prestigious national award recognises excellence, innovation, and impact across the independent sector, and to be chosen as the winner from so many exceptional schools is an outstanding honour. It is a moment of celebration for our entire community – pupils, staff, parents, governors, and alumnae – whose collective commitment and spirit have made this achievement possible. Remarkably, it is the second time we have won this accolade in the last four years, highlighting the excellence of a King's High education and how this is recognised across the sector.

“The award reflects so much of what makes King's High a very special place. Most importantly, it celebrates the values at the heart of King's High – kindness, curiosity, courage, and integrity – values that guide our pupils to become confident, compassionate young women ready to make a difference in the world.

“In recent years, our community has shared in many successes: record public examination results, a range of prestigious national awards, a ‘significant strength’ in our latest ISI inspection, outstanding performances on stage and on the sports field, and the flourishing of our innovative partnerships and outreach work. This recognition as Senior School of the Year is both a celebration of excellence and also of the spirit that runs through everything we do: a deep sense of community, joy in learning, and an unwavering belief in the potential of every girl.”

Mr Richard Nicholson, Warwick Schools Foundation Principal, also celebrated the award:

“I am delighted that King's High School has once again been named as Senior School of the Year. I feel privileged to witness the school's approach to girls' education – one which celebrates them as individuals, empowers a lifelong love of learning, and provides a platform for them to excel both in and out of the classroom. Under the stewardship of Dr Burley, the school continues to go from strength to strength, truly living its commitment to creating a Community of Changemakers. To be recognised nationally in this way is truly a privilege.”

Friday Afternoons at King's

Our Friday Afternoon Activity programme at King's got off to a brilliant start this term with everything from Detective Club to golf. One activity which really caught our eye was pickleball – think tennis, table tennis, and badminton all rolled into one fast-paced, fun game! Over in Creative Upcycling, our students used embroidery, crochet, sewing, and macramé, transforming pre-loved items into snazzy new creations.

And what better way to spend a sunny Friday afternoon than kayaking down the River Avon, with Warwick Castle providing a majestic backdrop? It's just one of over 80 activities offered as part of our Friday Afternoon Activities for Year 9 and above at King's High. And this is in addition to over 260 co-curricular clubs and activities available every week, ensuring there's something to inspire every student! Find more information on our website in Co-curricular.



Changemaker (noun)



A person who actively seeks to make a positive difference in the world; someone who takes creative action to solve a social problem.

We talk a lot about being a changemaker at King's High.

But what does that really mean? What exactly is a changemaker?

The dictionary definition tells us it's someone who makes a meaningful difference. And that sums up the spirit of King's rather well.

From the moment you step into Reception, you're met with our Changemaker Wall – a proud celebration of women from across history and from all corners of the globe. Different walks of life, different eras, different stories – but with one shared thread: they are all changemakers. Chosen by our students themselves, each woman featured – whether etched into the pages of history or quietly unsung – has made a tremendous impact on the world.

And amongst the gallery, you'll find a mirror – a reflective, powerful reminder that our students are not just learning about changemakers. They are becoming them. They are, indeed, the changemakers of the future.

Read our Changemaker blog in full on our website in [/changemakers](#)

Tatler Schools Guide

We are delighted that King's High has once again been recognised as a Tatler School in the Tatler Schools Guide 2026!

This recognition reflects not only our academic excellence and forward-thinking culture, but the strength of our commitment to educating the Changemakers of the future. To be named a Tatler School is to be counted amongst the UK's leading independent schools – those that combine ambition with care, and character with achievement.



"Parents rave about the 'curiosity and passion of the teachers' at this seat of learning, as well as extracurriculars that give a 'platform for all students to flourish' and the 'inspirational' head Stephen Burley, who puts his charges' wellbeing 'at the heart of all his decisions'.

"Help in ensuring the latter is provided by anti-bullying pupil ambassadors, a team of wellbeing prefects – and Parsnip the dog – although the therapeutic gardening club and a new 'Peace Pod' and prayer space play their part.

"The upshot is that classroom life is flourishing. The Year 7s are enjoying engineering lessons, GCSE examinees scored a record set of results and alternatives to GCSEs – such as the innovation and entrepreneurship programme – are also on offer.

"Sport is strong: at national level, the girls have been champions in clay pigeon shooting, and reached finals in water polo and swimming, while opportunities to compete and train in badminton, skiing, football and rugby have been added to the repertoire. Dance is celebrated with a showcase event, while the music department boasts four baroque ensembles and a recently-crowned BBC Junior Young Chorister of the Year from Year 8.

"Trips introduce students to Vietnam, Costa Rica and Morocco while, closer to home, free time can be spent at clubs that take in everything from origami to the National Council for Young Women."

Tatler Schools Guide 2026

Hand in Glove

Puppeteer Ellie Darvill ran a workshop for some of our A Level Drama students in September ahead of their devised project. Ellie is perhaps best known for being the voice and puppeteer who worked with the *Why Bird* on BBC's Playdays in the 1990s. *Why* joined Ellie and the students and was very happy to spend some time inspiring the next generation of puppeteers!



Readers on a Roll



Reading for pleasure is something we champion at King's and, over summer, our students took a spin around the Bookopoly board, swapping Park Lane for poetry and Mayfair for mystery!

With 25 unique reading challenges, they explored all kinds of books – travelling through time with historical or futuristic novels, getting hands-on by making something from a cookery or craft book, diving into classics, or reading books with a red cover.

They faced spine-tingling horror, cracked thrilling mysteries, learned fascinating facts from non-fiction, and picked up recommendations from friends. A huge well done to everyone who took part in this epic reading challenge!

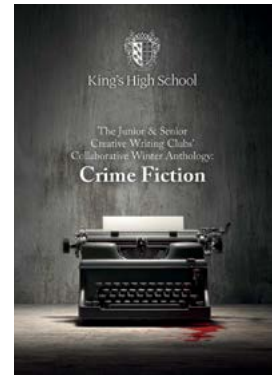
A Brew-tiful Morning

A huge thank you to everyone who made our recent Macmillan Coffee Morning such a success at King's – from the donations of beautiful flowers, to everyone who bought a bouquet and enjoyed a cup of tea and delicious cupcake. Thanks to your generosity, we raised over £800 for Macmillan.



Creative Writing Anthology

Crime Fiction is the exciting theme for the Autumn Term's Creative Writing Anthology from our talented Junior and Senior Creative Writing Clubs. Lose yourself in our latest bumper collection of literary works – available on our website in [/latestnews](#).



Beekeeping Club

We were delighted to welcome our new Year 7s – the latest members of the King's Beekeeping Club – as they tried on their suits for the very first time. This hands-on introduction marks the beginning of an exciting journey into the world of these incredible pollinators, and an *un-bee-lievably* rewarding experience.



Beekeeping is just one of over 260 co-curricular clubs and activities available each week at King's, offering our pupils an extraordinary range of opportunities to ignite their passions and explore new interests.

A Taste of King's

Move over, Good Food magazine! Our Year 11 Food students have launched a brand-new magazine! The inaugural issue is packed with delicious recipes, fun puzzles, fascinating facts, and an exclusive interview with our amazing Head Chef at King's, Christophe Charpentier. Special thanks to Claudia, Emma, Gabby, Grace, and Isla for all their hard work.



Feast your eyes on it – the King's High Food Magazine is now available on our website under [/latestnews](#).

Steaming Ahead



Well done to Amrit and Charlotte, who were the first to successfully finish their flashing LED Christmas tree at King's. As part of our STEAM club activities, they have learnt how to solder electrical components onto a printed circuit board, just in time to display for the festive season!

King's Remembrance

‘They shall grow not old...’

The King's High community came together to mark Armistice Day with reflection and remembrance. Dr Burley read Laurence Binyon's *For the Fallen*, followed by a poignant performance of *The Last Post* by Erica, before we observed two minutes of silence in honour of those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Our Combined Cadet Force – one of the largest girls' corps in the country – formed a Guard of Honour and led a parade under the direction of Staff Sergeant Beverley, as wreaths were laid to remember and give thanks for the courage and sacrifice of all who have served.

***“At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.”***





2026 Programme

Adventure Awaits

Outdoor adventure is a much-loved part of life at King's High, and we are delighted to share the plans for our 2026 programme, promising exploration, teamwork and plenty of opportunities for students to discover new strengths in some of the UK's most stunning landscapes.

These trips follow successful expeditions to the likes of Dorset, Pembrokeshire, and Snowdonia in recent years and will once again be led by Mr Beverley, our Adventure and Leadership Programme Manager.

Scotland Ridgway Adventure

Our Year 8 and 9 students will be heading to the Scottish Highlands from 23-29 May for a week with Ridgway Adventure. Mountain walking, sea kayaking, rock climbing and abseiling all feature, alongside wild camping, sea swimming and hands-on survival skills such as fire lighting, shelter building and food preparation. Students will also try lobster creeling, take on the 'Search to Survive' remote orienteering challenge, and enjoy a beach day at Oldmoreshore, complete with bodyboarding.

Pembrokeshire Adventure

Year 9 students also have the chance to take part in a four-day adventure on the beautiful Pembrokeshire coast from 30 March-2 April. The programme offers an exciting mix of activities: surfing, kayaking, rock climbing and abseiling, as well as orienteering, high ropes, coasteering and survival skills. Students will tackle obstacle courses, try raft building, practise archery and challenge themselves on the low ropes course.

Duke of Edinburgh

It's been a busy and rewarding year for our students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Led by Mr Beverley, our DofE Manager, and his dedicated team, Year 10 completed their Bronze qualifier in the Cotswolds, Year 11 headed to the Peak District for their Silver qualification, and Lower Sixth took on Gold in North Yorkshire. Looking ahead, we're excited to welcome a record 119 Year 9 students as they begin their Bronze Award next year.

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



Clay Pigeon Shooting



We are incredibly proud of our Clay Pigeon Shooting team, who achieved an outstanding result at this year's Millfield Invitational Shoot, finishing as runners-up and narrowly missing out on first place by just three shots. This highly competitive event attracts some of the strongest school teams in the country, making our result even more impressive.

We have a long-standing record of excellence in clay pigeon shooting, having previously been crowned National Champions for four consecutive years before securing a strong runner-up finish at the national schools championship. We have also achieved success in a range of competitive events, including winning the Heart of England competition with impressive individual and team performances, as well as securing victories at the Oxford Gun Club Schools Challenge.



King's Rocks

Our immensely talented Lower Sixth rock band at King's, *Benevolence*, took their incredible performances out into the wider world this year, with Nick Jones, drums teacher, at the helm. Mr Jones, their mentor, manager, and self-confessed roadie, arranged their first performance outside of school over the summer – an historic first for any of our rock bands.

The band played to a packed Temperance Café Bar, a popular live music venue in Old Town, Leamington Spa, delivering an eclectic nine-song set that completely brought the house down. The performance was a huge hit; so much so that they were immediately invited to return before the end of the year.

And return they did! On Sunday 7 December, *Benevolence* performed two fantastic sets to an enthusiastic audience, once again demonstrating their incredible talent and energy.

Poppy, Aimee, and Izzy, together with Miller from Warwick School, continue to hit new levels with every performance, consistently impressing audiences with their energy and stage presence.

Reflecting on the journey so far, Mr Jones said: "I feel so incredibly lucky to work with and guide such wonderful students. They are not only immensely talented musicians, but also a joy to mentor. It's a privilege to share my years of experience with bands in the music industry with them."

Benevolence is truly a band to watch – don't miss your chance to see them rock the stage live next time!



Spotlight on Dulcie-Bella



One of our Year 7 Drama scholars, Dulcie-Bella, has been very busy over the last six months working on an animated project for the BBC. You can catch Dulcie-Bella as 'Pippen' the koala and 'Birdie' in *Vida the Vet* Season 2 on CBeebies and BBC iPlayer.

Dulcie-Bella caught up with Mrs Spring, our Director of Drama, to share some of her experiences as part of this process.

How did that opportunity come about?

With most of my jobs, they come through my agent. I had to record a short clip of me reading some lines for *Vida*. Since they liked my voice, they asked me to come to the recording booth. They thought my voice was better suited to Pippen and I'm very happy with that result!

Can you tell me some more about Pippen?



Pippen and Birdie

Pippen suits me very well. She is a musical theatre nerd and goes around singing all the time. She is head of the choir and very passionate!

What can you tell us about your experiences of voice acting?

Do you have any advice for other young performers?

You need to channel more emotion through your voice as they can't see your face! However, I find it helps to use your face anyway as the expression comes through your voice. Take lots of recordings and listen to them. When you listen to your recordings back, you can picture what your face looks like.

In the past, I have also worked on dubbing. I had to lip sync to the character and follow the exact same tone, mouth shapes and how she pronounced stuff. That said, you should still add your own flair to it – they want a little bit of you coming through the character.

Which other projects have you been involved in?

I was in *The King & I* musical tour across the UK. This was the first professional show that I have ever been in. It was great as I got to go on tour with friends and played one of the royal children. I loved getting to interact with Helen George from *Call the Midwife*!

I am not allowed to share everything I'm working on, but I can say that I'm very excited about my next voiceover project.

Do you have any other advice for others wanting to work professionally?

It is okay to start small. Larger agencies will not necessarily look at you straight away, but you can start with a smaller one and then build up. It is a good idea to enrol with a theatre school with connections (I have attended Stagecoach, PQA and Italia Conti). Some agencies cover lots of things, but others are specific – you can have more than one agent. I enjoy writing and am currently looking for a writing agent.

You need to be resilient. I got through the first round for 'Matilda' and felt giddy about the second round. Once I got the 'no', I hadn't fully understood that that is what happens most of the time. There are still a lot of 'no's but just getting the attention of a casting director is a big thing. It becomes easier. When you do get a 'yes', you should feel very proud!

How do you manage your time?

I give myself breaks every now and again – being busy is great but sometimes you need a break. I have a work calendar that my agent gets access to, where I can book my breaks in advance.

What do you like to do when you aren't acting?

I swim, write, love piano and anything musical. I want to venture out into a lot of different areas.

Thank you for sharing your experiences, Dulcie-Bella! If you would like to be featured as a performing arts student spotlight in our next edition of King's High News, please get in contact with Mrs Spring.

Konnichiwa, Japan

Our Geography trip to Japan this October was packed with unforgettable experiences, from witnessing the world's biggest megacity of Tokyo – with its towering skyline and nonstop energy – to visiting the peaceful, history-filled shrines of Kyoto. We learned about earthquakes and natural disasters through hands-on activities that brought classroom lessons to life.

We also balanced the serious learning with plenty of fun, including a magical day at Disneyland, a pirate ship cruise near Mount Fuji and sampling eggs cooked in volcanic steam! Many of us tried on colourful kimonos, explored local streets, and ended one of our evenings with a lively karaoke session.

More highlights include interacting with local wildlife, like the bowing deer of Nara and the polite Snow Monkeys of Kyoto, sampling local cuisine, such as sushi served on a conveyer belt, and getting to ride the famous bullet train.

Everywhere you look, there's something unique – from vending machines selling everything imaginable to a mix of ancient culture and cutting-edge technology that made Japan an unforgettable trip. Our students were a credit to King's and enjoyed every moment!



Be Inspired

At King's, we believe education should open minds, broaden horizons, and ignite intellectual curiosity. We aim to empower every student to confidently pursue creative scholarship that reflects her own unique interests and questions about the world. Our Inspire Academic Enrichment programme offers thought-provoking extension work, open-ended challenges that encourage critical thinking and connections across ideas, and opportunities for inventive problem-solving.

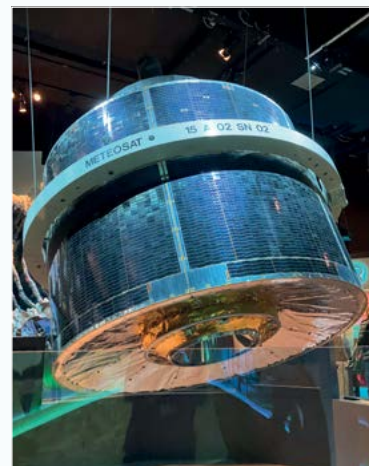
Brilliant Biodiversity

Students were challenged to use their creativity and curiosity to design a garden that best promotes biodiversity. The entries reflected the extraordinary level of research that underpinned each design and the careful consideration of how best to respond to the challenges of a loss of biodiversity in the UK. We were absolutely blown away by the quality of all the garden models and the impressive level of understanding students demonstrated in explaining their concepts at the showcase event. Congratulations to all who entered!



Three, Two, One... Inspire

In September, we had a fantastic visit to the National Space Centre with Key Stage 3 pupils. Students had the opportunity to learn about the fascinating history of space exploration and the ingenuity and curiosity that humans have shown in this pursuit. From climbing the many, many steps of the rocket tower, to walking through a replica of the Columbus Module at the International Space Station, to watching the award-winning One Step Beyond show in the UK's largest planetarium, and even discovering the answer to one of the most frequently asked questions about life in space – "How do you go to the toilet in space?!" – we had a day full of intrigue and excitement.



King's Links

At the end of November, students from Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 travelled to the historic city of Bath to explore the University campus and get a flavour of different higher education destinations. In the morning, we were met by King's High Old Girls for a tour of the University, giving them a first-hand insight to university life and the opportunity to ask plenty of questions about studying a wide range of courses as well as living in Bath. Following a delicious lunch on campus, students then had the opportunity to explore the city, including shopping at the Bath Christmas Market!



Canine Chronicles

It's been another whirlwind term for our beloved Parsnip and Moose, bringing joy and tail wags to everyone at King's. Read on for their highlights!

Parsnip met our new Year 7 students, helping them settle into King's with her trademark wagging tail and gentle enthusiasm. She also celebrated her fourth birthday with her best friend, Moose – a day filled with treats, cuddles, and perhaps one too many biscuits, but who's counting?!

This term, Parsnip has been leading the way in 'Paws with Parsnip' Club, showing off her agility skills and loving every minute of teamwork with the students. She has also made her special trips to Westgate School, where she brings comfort and encouragement to students there.

As an honoured guest at Animal Club, Parsnip enjoyed the attention while Miss Reed gave a talk all about her breed – the Parson Terrier. To round off her adventures, she paid a visit to the Friday Afternoon "Crafting for Kindness" Club, where students are busy making gifts to sell at next term's Dogs Trust Fete – a cause close to her heart (and paws!).

Meanwhile, Australian Shepherd pup Moose has graduated from Advanced Puppy School and is gearing up to start his therapy dog training in March. He recently turned nine months old, and we celebrated with a trip to the doggy supermarket – he left with a whole collection of new toys! Moose also loved every minute at the pumpkin patch and has been making the most of all the crisp autumn walks.



Our Changemaking Poets

We were delighted to receive a wide range of entries for our brilliant English Department's National Poetry Day Competition, centred on this year's inspiring theme of changemaking. Thank you and well done to everyone who submitted a poem – the creativity shown across all year groups made the judging process both enjoyable and incredibly challenging at the same time!

After much deliberation, the judges selected three standout entries: Florence (Lower Sixth), whose poem was recognised as the Most Poetic; Dulcie-Bella (Year 7), celebrated for producing the Most Creative piece; and Jiya (Lower Sixth), whose work most powerfully embodied our Changemaker Values.

She Stands in the Doorway – Florence

Eyes fixed on the handle
steady, unblinking as the mist
curls serpentine in tendrils around her face.
A heady breath
a final turn
(a failing Orpheus)
counting down now:
this is it, she's gone.

And as she goes she thinks of all the
befores,
for she knew
as soon as she arrived that the waste land
was a ticking clock
and debts to Time filled her pockets in
showers and showers
at every pause
every breath
ew she bowed her head and turned away,
fearful (after all these years, still fearful!)
of what lay on the other side.

Yes, here the crows looked on with jagged
eyes
and the cold burrowed under her skin and
wrapped around her bones,
but there was no telling what lay in the
Beyond; something merciful
or murderous,
and so the door stayed closed.
day after day
year after year
until even Time grew weary,
making a home in the space between
worlds because she could not bear to lose
any more.
living, if you could call it that,
(you could not)
in an absence
for fear of what could be.

But she was miserable.
Of course she was miserable.
It occurred to her
quite calmly
that this not-life she was living
would make her disappear.
And that morning that very morning she
abandoned the crows
put on her boots
seized the crooked handle and did not let
go.

She calls to Hope now
that glorious destroyer
as she crashes through
into the promise of what could be
into pain
into joy
into devastation,
into the glimmer of what may just end up
better than before.

Under the Waves – Dulcie-Bella

I am light.
I am the earthquake beneath the surface.
I can't break it. I can't break it.
I am your imagination. You hear me whisper
through the everlasting darkness of night.
I am a flicker of fire through a hopeless
circumstance, daring myself to burn prouder
despite the ashes of yesterday.
But, like a curse or a bad luck charm or walking
under a ladder, I fail. Sometimes, like an
earthquake, I break things. Sometimes, like a fire,
I can burn out and must be lit again.
It is loud where I am, in the sea of shattered
hopes and dreams and futures. It is lonely,
though I am one of many broken souls. I want to
speak, I want to shout, I want to scream at the



Becoming A Changemaker – Jiya

As school children frolic through the park, amidst the
emerald trees,
Summer's hands loosen their grip, casting a spell;
leaves unfurled.
Twisted branches shed their ruby robes within the breeze,
While storm clouds cloak their shadow across the
sombre world.
As I place my feet on new soil, entering the
domineering doors,
My heart trembles like a leaf caught in an autumn gust.
Sinister silhouettes creep around uncharted faces.
Here I am, in a place of familiarity, no more.
Amongst the muffled chattering, sunlight filters through
the windows.
Faces begin to bloom like flamboyant flowers in the
Spring and
Absurdly, I observe my whirling thoughts start to slow.
I venture forwards, at last, letting my voice sing.
Now, I realise. Change is not the just the vicissitude of
turning leaves.
Change is letting go of fear. Change is becoming a risk-
taker.
Accepting adjustments and moving peacefully through
our life journeys.
Together, you and I, must strive to blossom like a
butterfly,
And step out of our cocoons to become a changemaker.

top of my lungs at the unfairness of it all.
So I do. I find my voice under the waves. It hurts
to touch, and it is weak and frail, but I use it. It
isn't loud, but relentless, so you may not hear it,
but your heart will.
I watch them pick themselves up and shift their
gaze from the hazardous tides to the rising sun
sitting on the border of the ocean.
I don't think it needs a name. Some call it change,
but change is permanent, and you'll always need
someone to lift you up from rock bottom again.
Some call it unnatural, like a superpower, but
all you need is a song you want to sing. A heart
that will keep beating. Eyes that will keep seeing
people that need to find their spirit once more.
Just keep looking.

Way House Autumn Round-up

It's been a lively start to the year for Way House, with our new Lower Sixth full and weekly boarders settling in brilliantly. Their welcome began with a joint visit to Warwick Castle alongside our boarders from Warwick School. The trip through the dungeons proved to be a particular highlight – equal parts fascinating and spooky!



Our first day trip of the year took us to the Cotswold Wildlife Park, where we were treated to glorious sunshine and plenty of animal encounters. The red pandas were as charming as ever, the otters put on a sunbathing masterclass, and the rhinos and giraffes impressed everyone with their size and character. Even Hamish and Aggie, our resident dogs, joined in the fun, though they weren't entirely sure what to make of the giant tortoises!

October arrived and the boarders got creative with pumpkin painting, carving – and, most importantly eating – thanks to the incredible seasonal dishes served at the Mid-Autumn Festival celebration. A huge thank you to our Catering team for preparing such a superb meal. And of course, thank you to Mr Bull for the moon cakes, which were enjoyed back in the boarding house after a wonderful evening of festivities.



November kicked off with the annual fireworks display, generously organised by Warwick School's resident boarding staff – a real highlight every year. The month also brought a day trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, along with academic visits to Warwick University for Economics, Physics, and Maths lectures.

As we head towards the end of term, spirits are high. We'll be rounding things off with a festive visit to a Christmas Market and an ice-skating trip set against the magical backdrop of Warwick Castle.

Do follow us on Instagram @khs_boarding for all the latest news!



Festival of Changemaking



This November, we celebrated our annual Festival of Changemaking – a vibrant week of ideas, creativity, and inspiration, showcasing the many ways our pupils at King's High can make a difference in the world.

From lively debates on AI to exploring Changemaking careers, students across all year groups engaged in activities designed to spark curiosity and action. Our Changemaker Documentary encouraged reflection on the power of individual voices and collective impact.

A delicious highlight of the week was the cookery demonstration and tasting session with Chef Tony Davies, who worked with Year 11 students to share his expertise, some ingredients the students may not have tasted before, and inspire a love of cooking.

Creativity thrived across campus with Changemaker posters created in Art, the Big Draw running throughout the week, and Scripts, Sets and Spotlights, offering pupils insight into exciting theatre careers. In STEM, pupils tackled the Junior Astro Challenge, while a fast-paced STEM Changemakers Kahoot tested teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Our High Flyers sessions and Big Questions discussions gave students a platform to think big, challenge ideas, and explore what it truly means to be a Changemaker. The week concluded with a fun, collaborative house activity – a fitting finale to the spirit of King's.

A Kahoot Hoot



The Science department celebrated the Festival of Changemaking by running a Kahoot based on the fantastic STEM changemaker mural. Students walk past this beautiful, informative and inspiring mural every day on their way up and down the Science corridor, but how much of the information do they take in? We made a Kahoot quiz featuring many of the 42 STEM changemakers to test this! After a hotly contested competition, with impressive STEM knowledge demonstrated by all, we crowned Aashga and Rhiannon the champions!



Modern Foreign Languages

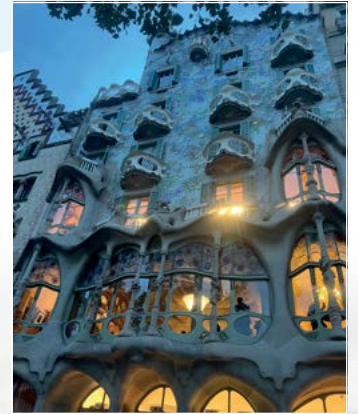
¡Hola from Barcelona!

Earlier this term, 30 students from Years 8 and 9 enjoyed an unforgettable trip to Barcelona. Our adventure began with churros and chocolate for breakfast (yum!) on the way to La Rambla, followed by a visit to La Boquería market, where we sampled smoothies, tropical fruit, and traditional tapas like chorizo, olives, and cheese.

We were absolutely mesmerised by a Flamenco show, with dancers performing dramatic routines using pañuelos and castanets, accompanied by powerful singing. We also explored Casa Batlló and were awestruck by the Sagrada Família, where construction began in 1882 and, more than a century later, still remains unfinished.

We also took a cable car ride and enjoyed stunning views across the city. Students also cooked up a storm in a paella cooking session and even found time for some shopping, including the compulsory Sephora stop!

We can't wait for our next aventura española!





Autumn Project

We received some fantastic entries for our Autumn-themed competition for Year 7 students! The challenge was to create something inspired by Autumn, and entries could take any form – from recipes and quotes to delicious baked treats!



Vive Cyrano!

Sixth Form students studying French went to see Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* performed at the RSC in a new adaptation by director Simon Evans. After enjoying a two-course dinner at a nearby French restaurant, we were all blown away by the wit and vibrancy of the production. The translation, costumes, and set allowed the play to transition seamlessly between styles and time periods. Critics have called it a 'must-see', and it was a fantastic opportunity to explore French drama and literature beyond the A Level syllabus. Une expérience inoubliable!



King's Science

Biology Week 2025

Biology Week 2025 was a fantastic celebration of science, creativity, and curiosity across King's. Students took part in a variety of exciting activities that explored the natural world in imaginative and hands-on ways.

Students showcased their creativity in the BioCraft Competition, where they designed and built biology-inspired 3D artwork using recycled materials, with support from the Art Department.

The entries were both artistic and educational, with pieces ranging from a 3D nerve model and a layered card pond life scene to a wooden crate containing a beaded ecosystem and even a ceramic bowl painted with the growth of a seed – complete with a real planted seed inside! We were truly impressed by the craftsmanship and thought that went into each project. The winning project was 'Migration in Glass' by Gracie, which depicted the migration of sea creatures as a stunning glass sculpture. The competition highlighted how science and sustainability can work hand in hand to inspire innovation.

This year's biology photography competition invited students to capture the theme 'Patterns in Nature.' The range of entries reflected both scientific observation and artistic talent. The winner was Rhiannon, who captured this magnificent photo in a forest.

Key Stage 3 students also had the opportunity to explore the miniature world of moss in our Microscope Workshop: Moss Safari. Armed with microscopes and curiosity, they discovered the tiny organisms that live within moss and gained a deeper appreciation for the biodiversity hidden in even the smallest habitats. It was a fascinating reminder that nature's wonders are often found in unexpected places!



Physics in Action

Eleven keen and curious Sixth Form Physicists (accompanied by Dr Wheatley and Dr Yates) enjoyed a fascinating array of talks for Physics In Action in November. Topics of the day ranged from the existence of the Universe in its first fractions of a second, to the weird world of glass blowing, to the mathematics behind the thrill on roller coasters – and plenty more besides.



Year 8 students took part in an exciting Scavenger Hunt that combined teamwork, creativity, and biology. Working in small groups, students explored the school grounds to collect a variety of natural materials – from leaves and petals to twigs and seeds. They then used their findings to create exciting biology-themed collages, showcasing patterns, textures, and forms found in nature. The Science Department had the challenging task of selecting the winners. First place went to Eliza, Mimi, and Elizabeth's 'Wild Forest' for their excellent scavenging; second place was awarded to Imo and Maisie's 'Jellyfish' for their brilliant creativity; and third place went to Penelope and Amelie for the very seasonal 'Autumn the pussycat'.



Biology in Action

This autumn, our Sixth Form Biology students attended Biology in Action, an inspiring day designed to connect classroom learning with cutting-edge research. Throughout the event, leading scientists shared their passion and insights, covering everything from genetics and evolution to medical innovation and conservation.

Students enjoyed interactive polls, question sessions, and even a talk on exam success.

Highlights included:

- Dr Charlotte Mykura explored why animals such as lobsters and elephants rarely develop cancer, revealing what humans might learn from their biology.
- Dr Alice Morrell demonstrated how elephants communicate through ground vibrations, and how AI helps decode their seismic language.
- James Piercy shared his personal story of brain injury recovery and the medical technologies transforming patient care.

We left feeling motivated and inspired, with a renewed appreciation for how biology influences every part of life – from cells to ecosystems.



King's Music

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

The first major concert each year is the Year 7 concert, held just before half term. We were delighted to showcase the whole year group singing, a variety of solos and duets, as well as two Year 7 classes performing on their instrumental scheme instruments – which they had only been playing for a very short time. 7G had only had one lesson on their instrument and gave a fantastically engaging performance! It was a lovely way to celebrate a fantastic first half term for our new Year 7 students.

Junior Chamber Choir had a wonderful concert performance opportunity, joining Ex Cathedra for their season opening concert in Birmingham Town Hall in October. The concert featured the choir as the children's chorus in James Burton's St Cuthbert and the Otters as well as Duruflé's stunningly beautiful Requiem. To perform alongside a world-class choir in a leading national concert venue was an incredible opportunity for the students.

The annual Winter Concert was a fantastic way to finish off the term. The concert showcased musicians across the full range of our ensembles, including the Big Band, Sinfonia, rock bands and a broad range of instrumental ensembles. The photos on this page show just a little of what was an exciting and exhilarating concert. Our top instrumentalists were also in action in the Foundation Symphony Orchestra concert, performing wonderful repertoire including Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture.

There have also been many highlights in our smaller, more informal concerts. The relaunch of our informal concert series has seen the first Platform concerts, offering opportunities to all instrumentalists and vocalists in each key stage. The termly Scholars and Award Holders' Concert in November was also a triumph, featuring dazzling and poignant performances from our music scholars and award holders throughout the school.





We have been fortunate to welcome several guests to the department this term. Several Year 8 and 9 classes were inspired by an Indonesian Gamelan workshop and were able to play on an authentic Balinese Gamelan orchestra. Our music scholars took part in a workshop introducing them to exploring The Alexander Technique, with a focus on posture, poise and awareness when practicing and performing. A trip to the CBSO to hear 2024 Young Musician of the Year winner, Ryan Wang, perform Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 and orchestral ballet music by Ravel and Bartók finished off the term in December.

There is such an incredible and diverse wealth of music to showcase at King's High and I am incredibly proud of all that our students achieve. There are plenty of soundbites of concerts and performances on our Instagram account – do give us a follow @kingshighwarwick_music for an insight into just a little of what goes on!

I hope to see many of you at the Landor Carol Service on 11 December at what promises to be a wonderful event to round off the term. Next term has plenty more on offer, with the Jazz, Rock and Pop Concert, Spring Concert, and Young Musician of the Year competitions all to come!

Mr Adam Albrighton
Director of Music

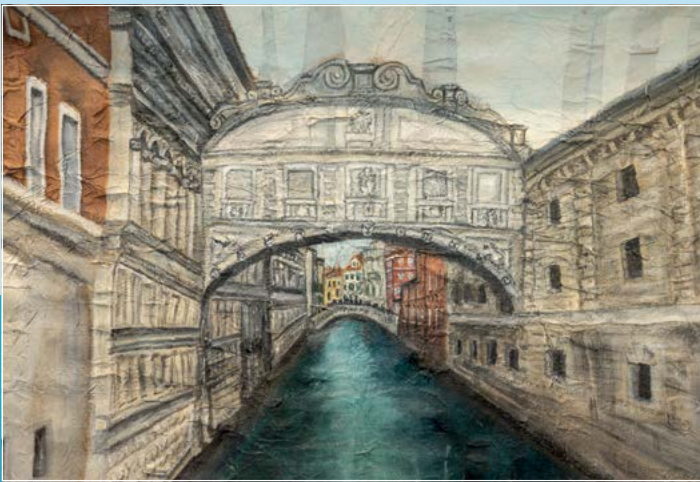






King's Art

The Autumn Term has been a wonderfully vibrant and productive time in the Art Department, marked by creative exploration, cross-curricular collaboration, and an impressive range of enrichment activities. Our students have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, demonstrating ambition, imagination, and a genuine love of the arts.



Flora and Fauna



In early November, Year 8 enjoyed a cross-curricular visit to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens alongside the Geography Department. The trip enabled students to investigate flora and fauna through both artistic and geographical lenses. Pupils produced observational drawings and watercolours *en plein air*, as well as studies inside the Arid House, gathering visual inspiration for their William Morris-inspired design project. Our warm thanks go to the Geography Department for inviting us – students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and returned brimming with ideas.



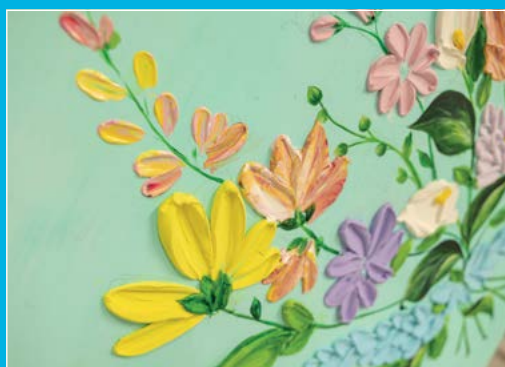
St Mary's Christmas Tree – 550 Years of the Beauchamp Chapel



This year, the Art Department created the St Mary's Christmas Tree display, celebrating the 550th anniversary of the Beauchamp Chapel. Students designed and created a stunning variety of handcrafted decorations inspired by the chapel's architecture, symbolism, and history – including gothic crosses, screen-printed weepers, heraldic shields, and stained-glass motifs. Thank you to Mr Reeves, Mrs Quinn, Mrs Craven, our fabulous DT team, and all the talented students involved for producing such a beautiful and historically rich display.

Festival of Changemaking: Barbara Walker Collaborative Drawing

As part of the school's Festival of Changemaking, Mrs Quinn led a powerful collaborative drawing activity inspired by artist Barbara Walker. Phoebe, our Chair of the Da Vinci Society, supported Mrs Quinn during the launch of the festival, helping introduce the project and encouraging students to participate. Throughout the week, pupils were invited to add to the large-scale drawing during break, lunch, and lesson times, resulting in a thoughtful and visually compelling artwork exploring themes of representation, identity, and community. Huge thanks go to Mrs Quinn and Phoebe for their leadership and enthusiasm in making this activity such a success.



The Big Draw: *Drawn Together*

We began the term by taking part in The Big Draw, the world's largest drawing festival, which runs internationally throughout the month of October. This year's theme, "Drawn Together," encouraged community, collaboration, and shared creativity. Students across Years 9-13 contributed to collaborative outcomes, each beginning with a simple squiggle that gradually evolved into a beautifully interconnected composition. The artwork grew as more pupils added their mark, celebrating both individuality and collective imagination. Thank you to Mrs Craven who curated a wonderful pop-up exhibition which celebrated this fabulous collection of work.



Norwich University of the Arts Visit – Portfolio, Careers & Critique Workshops

In December, we were delighted to welcome representatives from Norwich University of the Arts to the department. Sessions took place throughout the day: Portfolio Advice, Careers in the Arts, and a Practical Group Critique Workshop. These sessions involved Year 11, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth artists, offering valuable preparation and insight for students considering creative pathways in higher education and beyond. What an inspiring visit!



The Da Vinci Society

As we reflect on a term filled with collaboration, creativity, and community, we are incredibly proud of the dedication shown by both students and staff. The new leaders of the Da Vinci Society have made a superb start to their roles and have made a huge impact to the department and wider school community. The termly magazine highlights all of the society leaders and contains an amazing array of articles and artwork. In addition to this, they have led practical workshops and celebrated Christmas creatively with Year 7 supporting them in their lino print Christmas Card form time activity. Well done to all!



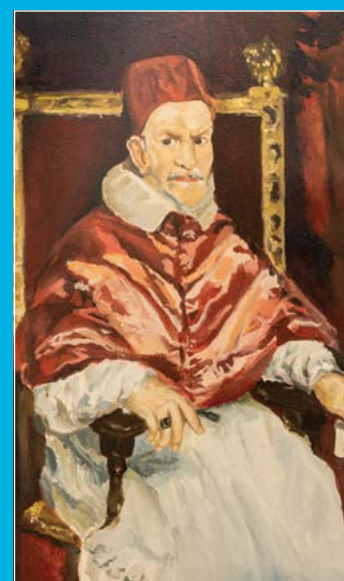
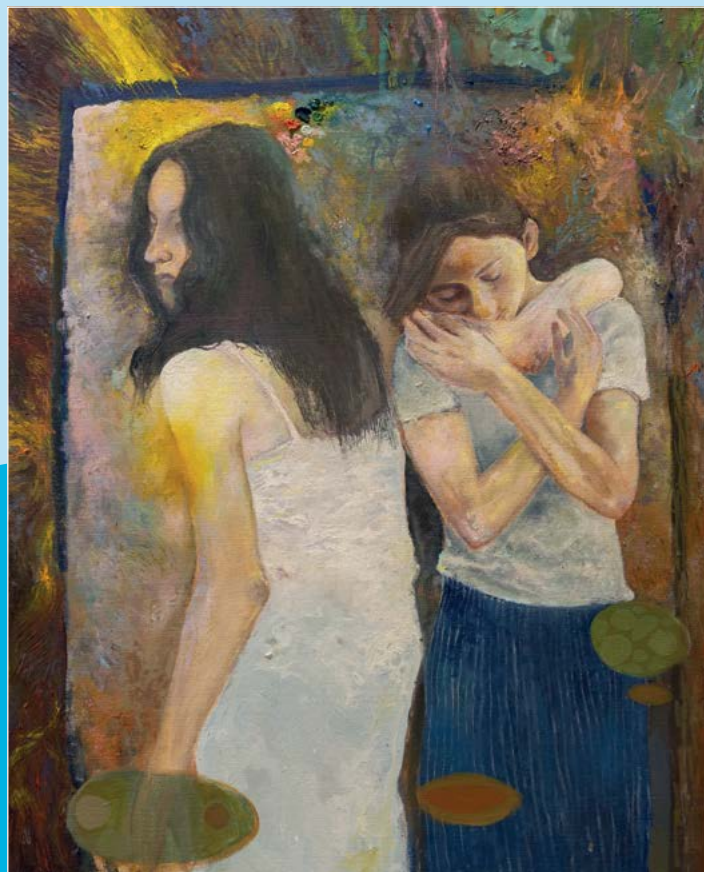
Ian Murphy Workshop & Pop-Up Exhibition



A major highlight of the term was the immersive workshop with renowned artist Ian Murphy, organised by Mr Reeves. In October, our Year 10 artists worked alongside Ian, learning first-hand how he builds his richly textured backgrounds and dramatic tonal contrasts. It was an energetic and highly productive day, with students producing four impressive outcomes each.

Following the workshop, Mrs Craven curated a wonderful pop-up exhibition celebrating the students' achievements. Displayed during the Year 10 Parents' Evening, the exhibition highlighted the ambition, skill, and enthusiasm shown throughout the workshop. Mrs Craven also showcased the Big Draw outcomes during the Year 8 Parents' Evening, ensuring that the hard work and creativity of our younger pupils were equally celebrated.

Thank you to Mrs Craven not only for her curation work, but also for her support of the Biology Department through the Biocraft Competition. Under her guidance, students submitted numerous inventive, beautifully crafted entries that demonstrated exceptional creativity across disciplines.



As the term concludes, we look ahead to building on this momentum as we move into the Spring Term, with new projects, exhibitions, and opportunities already taking shape such as our annual trip to London with the GCSE and A Level artists.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Finally, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to my wonderful department, who continue to support, inspire and consistently go above and beyond their daily roles. They are a truly fabulous team, and I am incredibly grateful for their hard work, dedication and unwavering commitment. Their passion is what makes this department such a success, allowing us to deliver the high standard of art education we are so proud of here at King's.

Merry Christmas to all, and a very Happy New Year.

Sarah Jordan
Director of Art

King's Drama



This term has been as action-packed and exciting as ever for Drama at King's High.

On 1 September, intensive rehearsals kicked off for our senior production of *Henry V*, Shakespeare's inspiring tale of a young king growing up and learning to lead. Three months of hard work culminated in a resounding success, with one of our audience members even telling us that they 'might not bother' with their tickets to the upcoming professional production at the RSC! This ambitious production challenged and stretched our cast, comprised of students from both King's High and Warwick School. They learned to balance complex poetic metaphors, epic fight choreography and mastery of not only multiple accents but languages too. Multilingual performance has been an exciting new developmental strand between the Drama and Modern Foreign Languages departments at King's and Warwick, as showcased by our recent short performance of 'Art' in French and Spanish as part of our recent BHT 25 Celebration. Our 'Performing in Other Languages' club is currently working on an exciting new adaptation of 'The Importance of Being Ernesto' in our weekly workshop.

Our students have attended several exciting productions at the theatre this term. They have enjoyed performances of 'Measure for Measure' at the RSC with the English Department and 'Cyrano de Bergerac' at the RSC with the Modern Foreign Languages Department. Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Drama students spent an afternoon in Birmingham watching a thrilling new theatrical adaptation of Patricia Highsmith's novel 'The Talented Mr Ripley', also popularised on screen with Matt Damon and Jude Law. Our on-site venue The Bridge House Theatre regularly showcases innovative and exciting work – a particular highlight this term was September's 'Shake It Up – The Improvised Shakespeare Show', leaving students in hysterics (and, perhaps, for some of our *Henry V* Cast, inspiring them to learn their lines as quickly as possible!). A Level Drama students also enjoyed a terrifying performance of *Shock Horror* by leading force in theatrical horror Thunder Road Theatre at the Bridge House in October.



Our GCSE and Upper Sixth students both performed their original devised work to public audiences this term, with pieces exploring everything from interrogation of political and media propaganda to the psychological impact of a life in the spotlight on 'kidfluencers' – children whose lives are documented on social media and YouTube. We were delighted with their final performances.

It has also been an important term for the LAMDA department. Our exceptional team of LAMDA teachers continue to train our students at the highest level throughout their performance and public speaking journeys. Preparations are busily underway for our upcoming series of examinations and our showcase evening next term, both of which will harness and celebrate the wide range of styles, genres and writers our students have been exploring in depth.

In the meantime, our co-curricular club provision has been as busy, exciting and well-attended as ever. In an exciting addition to our current extensive provision, Miss Flood has introduced a new Scriptwriting club to encourage aspiring theatrical writers. Meanwhile, Aspiring Creatives in Theatre Club have explored an

introduction to lighting and sound design; visited the Henry V set to hear about its design from professional lighting and set designer Ian Roberts and contributed to the production line of armour for the play's battles of Harfleur and Agincourt.

Shakespeare proved very popular in workshop activities as well as on stage this term, as Drama scholars participated in a two-part workshop on approaching Shakespearean text this November. Using RSC-inspired vocal techniques to explore speeches from Julius Caesar and King Lear, they explored a range of new methods on their feet. We also hosted Get into Theatre's event 'Creative Careers', providing students with an insight behind the scenes into the many career paths that bring theatre to life.

As we neared the end of term, our thoughts turned to upcoming productions. Girls from Year 9 and 10 were invited to audition for the Middle School Production of 'Skellig' in collaboration with Warwick School. After weeks of hints via Miss Flood's teaser campaign, the Drama Department team finally revealed (complete with costume and music) the title of our Junior production: 'Beauty and the Beast'.



This Disney spectacular will showcase a wonderful range of talent both onstage and behind the scenes. We look forward to inviting you to be our guest in June!

Our final fortnight of term was filled with festive cheer. Our King's High School Inspire Theatre Company, directed by Miss Stiles, staged a warming seasonal showcase inviting audiences to join them in the round for some warming fireside tales. Our Year 8 Drama Snapshot 'Christmas Through the Ages' treated audiences to a heartwarming insight into Christmas traditions across times, developed with the imagination and support of Miss Flood. To finish the festive line-up, King's High staff took to the Warwick Hall stage for our annual staff pantomime, a much-anticipated festive send-off for the whole school as part of the Christmas assembly.

After such a busy and exciting term, we welcome the relaxation and family time promised by the Christmas break... but we are ready and raring to go for another theatrical year in 2026!

Mrs Gracey Spring
Director of Drama





Les Misérables

Our Director of Drama, Mrs Spring, performed in *Les Misérables* at the Alexandra Theatre in June, and a number of students taking Drama-related Friday Afternoon Activities came along to support her. She thought that this might be the end of her *Les Mis* journey... until she was invited to perform as part of the Royal Variety Performance finale alongside other English and French performers. It was the opportunity of a lifetime – tune in on 21 December and you might see her on screen!



King's Sport

This term has been an inspiring celebration of sport at King's, with an exceptional number of pupils taking part across an impressive ten different sporting disciplines.

From seasoned athletes to those trying something new for the first time, our students have embraced every opportunity wholeheartedly. Their commitment has not only showcased the depth of talent within our community but has also highlighted the joy and camaraderie that sport brings to school life. As we reflect on our successful season, we are delighted to share some of the many achievements and memorable moments this term.

Badminton

Once a sport that existed only briefly in the Games curriculum of some year groups at King's High, Badminton is now flourishing. Through the passion of our coaches, George and Jane, the Badminton Academy has gone from humble beginnings to showcasing the very best of the sport, alongside a thriving recreational lunchtime group.

With the strength in depth really developing, we entered both the U14 and U16 National Knock out Competitions. Notably, the U14 team enjoyed a strong victory against KES Camphill.

Later in the term, a large number of the academy players were selected to represent the school in either the U15 or U17 ISA National Finals tournaments. The teams performed superbly, representing the school both in their attitude and application to matches.

Over the course of the two days of play, King's pupils secured 19 medals in singles and double competitions – a remarkable result! We look forward to seeing the students' progress next term as they continue to develop their badminton skills.

Cross Country

King's High has been blessed over the years with some strong cross country runners and this year is no different. Cross country club is attended by students wishing to compete at the highest levels, as well as those with personal recreational targets, all pushing and encouraging each other.

In the ESAA Teams Cross Country Cup competition, we entered teams in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories to the County round. The performances were superb, with all three teams taking the County title and progressing to the Regional round of this competition. The next round took place in what can only be described as apocalyptic conditions, befitting more of a mud run event than a cross country competition, but the teams ran superbly. The Junior and Senior teams very narrowly missed out on progressing to the next round, but the Intermediate team showed real grit and determination to finish in the top two in the Regional and qualify for the National Final in December. This is an outstanding result from a talented group of runners, and we look forward to the next round at the end of the Autumn term.

Football

Since the introduction of football teams at King's five years ago, the success they have enjoyed has been astonishing. Competition has come thick and fast across different age groups in various national cups and tournaments. All teams have enjoyed ESFA Cup runs, with notable successes for the U12 team against Westacre and the U13 team against Aylesford and Coundon Court. In the ISA 6s tournaments, both the U13 and U15 teams played superbly, dominating their groups. In a twist of fate, both teams were then knocked out in the semi-finals of the competition on penalties. We at least know what to work on for next year!

The end of term brings further matches, including the Warwickshire County Cup, the Sisters'n'Sport Cup, and the ISFA cup, and we look forward to following the results of them through into the new year.

Gymnastics

Competing in the Independent Schools Gymnastics National Competition against over 500 girls, our U13 team placed 7th overall. Our O13 team placed 3rd overall. These girls performed incredibly well on the day and achieved the following placings: Daisy placed 14th, Izzy placed 13th, Martha and Liv both placed joint 10th, and Lucy placed 8th. This was a tremendous achievement from all our students, and we look forward to their next competitions in February.





Hockey

This term it has been a pleasure to watch the progress of students in training and matches for our various hockey teams. Whether it's the Year 7 students picking up a stick for the first time, or standing on the side of a 1stXI cup victory, it's clear to see that hockey is thriving at King's. The U12 teams have been on strong form, with the A and B teams losing on one game each so far this season. The C and D teams have taken it one step further, going undefeated, and both enjoyed notable victories in their most recent games against Bromsgrove School. Meanwhile, the U12 E team took the victory in their most recent game; a thrilling 12-9 win!

The U13 teams are undoubtedly incredibly strong. The A and B teams are so far undefeated in normal matches, with both only having lost in a tournament. Equally as impressive is the U13C and D team performances, showing once again the strength in depth. The U13C team have only lost one match so far this season and that was to an opposition A team! The U13A team also enjoyed a day out at the ISA National Finals at Lee Valley Hockey centre and were crowned National Champions. The U13B team competed in the Midlands round of the ISA tournament, hosted on our own school pitches, and were excellent against other A teams to take the title of Midlands champions.

In the other age groups, it has been lovely to see so many students representing the school in fixtures at the weekends and during the week. This has occurred alongside many of our teams competing in various national cups and progressive tournaments. The U15 team enjoyed great success, winning the Midlands ISA finals, as well as the A team finishing as runners up in the ISA National Final plate competition, and the B team winning the Bowl.

In the England Hockey Championships, we are incredibly proud of the U14 team who, after finishing as runners up in the county round, travelled to Nottingham Hockey Centre to compete in the Midlands Finals. The playing conditions on the day were similar to walking out into a waterfall each time they played but they were superb. The resilience of the team and the effort levels shown on the day were remarkable and, at the end of it all, they ultimately finished as runners up and should be very proud of their achievements.

The U16B team were also successful in getting to the Regional Finals, having won the County round. Again, they showed tremendous spirit and finished in 7th place in the Region.

The U16 and U18 teams are continuing to progress through the various round of their competitions, with the U16 team most recently enjoying a solid 3-1 victory over Oundle, and the U18 team a 9-3 victory over Stockport Grammar.

In the indoor format of the game, we enter in both the U16 and U18 age groups. The U16 team competed in the Regional Zones and produced some of their best flowing indoor hockey to date, beating RGS Worcester and Malvern College to secure a place in the Regional Finals. It was a little harder to find their form at the finals against tough opposition but the squad shows great promise for the future and, in reaching this stage, still sees them as one of the top eight schools in the Midlands.

The U18 team were simply superb in their Regional zone going undefeated against Loughborough, Trent College and Oakham to book their place in the Regional Finals.

Netball

In what is supposedly a slightly quieter term for netball, it is fair to say it has felt anything but quiet! The courts and sports hall have been lit up by some scintillating performances from the King's High teams in various friendly and cup competitions, alongside tremendous numbers attending training.

The U12, U13, U14 and U15C teams have all enjoyed victories in the Local League competition against other schools' A teams as they work towards trying to secure a place at the League Finals night in March.

In the School Sports Magazine National competition, the U12, U13 and U15A teams have been on, quite literally, unbeatable form with victories against Stamford, Kings Worcester, Bromsgrove and Wrekin along the way.

The Sisters'n'Sport cup competition provides a great level of challenge for the 'even' age group teams, with the opportunity for both A and B teams to enjoy a cup run. The U13B and U12B teams have been on fine form, both progressing in the Shield competitions against opposition A teams.

The U13A team, not to be outshone, has also performed well, beating Northampton and Bromsgrove in the first two rounds of their competition.

With five teams still in the draw across the various age groups and competitions, we are excited to keep playing in the new year and see how far we can go!

Within Warwickshire, the County Netball tournaments are held in the Autumn term before the triangular inter-county tournaments in November. These tournaments are held for the U14, U16 and U19 age groups, all aiming to reach the National Finals in March. We were delighted that the U14 team played brilliantly at the County tournament to be crowned champions and reach the inter-country triangular at the start of the second half term. In frantic tournament netball of seven minutes each way, anything can happen, but the team were superb, beating all of their opponents to take this title as well. They progress to the Regional Finals in January, and we look forward to seeing how they get on. The U16 team played some excellent netball in their County round but came up just short, finishing an agonising 3rd place.

Next term, we see the netball fixtures explode into life for all age groups and teams. Alongside the current cup competitions, we begin our Independent Schools National Cup runs as well as 'friendly' fixtures for all age groups.

Skiing

Our Ski Race teams had a busy Autumn Term, participating in some of their most important events on the race calendar with great success.

In September, we competed in the ISA National Indoor Championships on snow in Hemel Hempstead. The B team placed 2nd on the podium, with the A team very narrowly taking 1st place. It was fantastic to see King's High dominating at this event!

A number of racers from across the Warwick Foundation schools participated again this season in the English School's Ski Association (ESSKiA) events. In early September, our Cat 3 team and Cat 4 team took part in the qualifying event for the Age Finals, joined by teams from Warwick School and Warwick Prep. They raced hard and the Cat 4 team gained a place in the finals, where they finished 5th in a strong field.

In the November English Schools Open Championships, our senior team raced into 6th place in a field of 19 teams. This resulted in a much-coveted invitation to represent England for the third year in a row in the British Schools Finals. A fantastic performance from our racers competing against the best teams from England, Wales and Scotland resulted in King's High placing an amazing 4th out of 14 teams, narrowly missing a podium position! This is another great improvement of 6th in the previous year and 14th in our first year in the competition. Kitty also finished as 6th fastest girl.

As a result of strong individual performances across this ESSKiA race series, 15 skiers from across the Foundation have been selected to train with the ESSKiA national training squads in Norway this winter season. For a still relatively young programme, this is an achievement to be proud of. Congratulations to all our King's racers!

Swimming

It has been go go go for our swim squads with lots of Galas and, of course, the introduction of a new league to compete in. The first major event in the calendar was the ESAA relays qualifiers hosted in our own pool.

The Junior (U13) girls placed 2nd in the freestyle relay and 1st in the medley relay. Our Inter (U15) girls placed 2nd in the freestyle relay and 2nd in the medley relay. Our Senior (U18) girls placed 4th in the freestyle relay and 4th in the medley relay. Our team made up of girls from years 7-12 showed determination and speed and set the tone for the start of this year. Once all results were collated across the Midlands, we were delighted to learn that the Junior team had qualified in the freestyle and medley relay for the National Finals.

This event was followed quickly by the Independent Schools Association (ISA) Swimming Midland Qualifier. We achieved a tremendous set of individual results and it is no surprise that 11 King's High students were selected to represent the region at the ISA National Finals, held at the London Olympic pool.

In the new Super Series league run by Oundle school. Round one was at their 50m (long course) pool. Our Foundation team combined to face Oundle, Haileybury, Edgbaston, Kimbolton and Worksop college. Our points will be combined over the year to be totalled at the final towards the end of the academic year. Our squad achieved 9 x 1st place finishes, 4 x 2nd place finishes, 7 x 3rd place finishes and 2 4th place finishes. Highlights included our U13 team dominating the medley relay – they are a fierce team not to be reckoned with. Our new Year 7 Ella is making a name for herself in the pool as the breastroker to beat. She won the U13 breaststroke but we were most impressed with her consistent 14m underwater work at the start, the maximum the swimmers are allowed underwater is 15m. Ella went on to help the team get some extra points in the 100m breaststroke against much older swimmers and finished in 3rd place. Sophia showed another strength, pulling out a well-deserved 1st place in the 50m breaststroke; her technique has improved hugely, and she demonstrated how effective a glide can be. Beattie stepped up in the U18 category and impressed with her determination and focus.

Later in the term, it was the turn of our Foundation to host the annual Warwick 100s, which was an incredible event. With 12 schools in attendance, our students were put up against tough competition. They were fantastic stepping up as the hosts and showing they are a force to be reckoned with. Our U14 team placed 2nd, our U16s placed 3rd and our U18s placed 6th. This secured us a combined overall placing as winners overall! Well done to all involved – it was a herculean effort. We are so impressed with what the Swim Squad has achieved so early in the year and look forward to following their progress through the remainder of the academic year.

Tennis

Diligent training throughout the winter season has enabled our tennis teams to enjoy some excellent results this term.

The U14 and U16 teams both enjoyed victories against KES Edgbaston, KES Camphill, and Bromsgrove respectively to secure their places in the Regional Finals. This, in itself, is no mean feat! Despite some superb performances, both individually and as a team, neither were quite able to secure a spot in the National Finals in December, with both teams finishing agonisingly in third place. This result still puts them both in the top 12 in the country and undoubtedly there is an exciting year ahead for them.

Mrs Sarah Parkinson-Mills
Director of Sport



Equestrian

King's High Equestrians have had an incredibly successful summer and first term back at school, with lots of competition results and qualifications.

In schools events, we have had great success in the NSEA Eventer Challenge Hickstead Qualifiers. Two teams travelled to Rectory Farm, bringing home fantastic results. The 80cm team consisted of Izzy, Anouk, Amy, and Iona, whilst the 90cm team included Ellie, Izzy, and Iona. Both teams placed 2nd, qualifying for the Eventer Challenge Championships next May. Amy also placed 1st in the 70cm Individual Competition, also qualifying as an individual for the Championships.

Furthermore, the 70cm team consisting of Louisa, Amy and Francesca travelled to Eland Lodge for the Arena Eventing Qualifiers, having a fantastic competition where they placed 2nd and qualified for Hickstead next May. Izzy also competed individually in the 80cm Eventer Challenge, placing 3rd and qualifying for Hickstead.

There has also been success in the Bloxham Eventer Challenge Series, with the October Competition seeing the 80cm team of Louisa, Francesca, Izzy, and Iona placing 5th, and Ellie placing 7th in the 90cm individual competition. In November, two King's High teams competed in the 80cm, placing 4th and 5th, and Louisa placed 3rd individually.

Arabella also had huge success in the NSEA Hickstead Elite qualifying class at BCA where she took two rides. She took both 1st and 2nd place, qualifying on both horses for the Championships, which will be held in the main arena at Hickstead next year!

Outside of schools' competitions, there has also been lots of success in showjumping, eventing, dressage, polo, and vaulting.

In Showjumping, Jess competed at the British Showjumping National Championships, where she took the win in the Senior British Novice class; a huge achievement.

Arabella had huge success over the summer, qualifying for Royal International in the JC class for the 2nd year in a row. She managed to qualify for the jump off and come 5th in the Final – a fantastic achievement in the main ring. For the second year in a row, she also went on to win a Foxhunter Horse of the Year Show Qualifier, going on to compete in the Championship Final at HOYS, where she placed 10th.

Mila also had great results, qualifying for the 128cm Championship Final at Horse of the Year show, where she placed 12th.

Ellie and Cally competed in the Open Dressage at the Pony Club National Championships, where they placed 5th, and then the very next day, they won the British Dressage Area Festival Elementary Bronze class with a fabulous 68%, with Ellie also taking the highest placed U21 prize. This win qualified them for the British Dressage Area Festival Championships, which will be held at Arena UK in October.

In Eventing, Ellie competed at Chillington Hall, where she placed 3rd in the BE90 and also in the Cotswold Cup 90cm ODE, held at Cirencester Park, where she had a very successful outing, winning the class with a fantastic double clear, to finish on a superb dressage score of 25.8.

Ellie won the British Eventing Regional Championship 90 at Little Downham, with a fantastic double-clear, to finish on their dressage score of 29.9. This means that, for the second year in a row, they have secured a place at the Badminton Grassroots Championships.

Izzy had a great show at Little Gatcombe where she competed in the BE80. She won her class in a hotly contested section and was 14th on her second ride.

For the second year, Arabella was selected to compete for team GB at Europeans in Eventing. In the team competition, they took on the role of pathfinders, having to run first in the cross country. Despite this challenge, Arabella rode a faultless Clear Round inside the time; an amazing achievement as there were only 10 clears out of 55 riders. They went on to Showjump clear, with Arabella placing 7th in Europe Individually, and helping the team to win Silver.

In Vaulting, Issy competed in the British Equestrian Vaulting Championships in the Level 1b Canter Walk category, where she successfully placed 2nd.

In Polo, Mila represented King's High at a SUPA tournament, where she joined forces with two pupils from Amport and they won their match against Farleigh School. Another fabulous result.

We are very much looking forward to the girls' continued successes next year and seeing how they get on at the numerous Championships they have already qualified for!

Miss Sara Copley
Equestrian Instructor



House News

As we go to print, all six Houses are deep into rehearsals for the much-anticipated annual House Christmas Sing-Off.

This year, each House has opted for a festive mash-up theme, and those with DJ talents are certainly putting their skills to good use. Choreography plans are well underway too, and with the bar rising higher every year, excitement is building to see who will be crowned victorious. The Christmas Sing-Off title is fast becoming as coveted as the House Cup itself!

The term began with our now-traditional kite-flying competition. Year 7 students were warmly welcomed by their Year 8 House siblings as they worked together to construct their House kites. Teamwork and communication were on full display, followed by a joyful decorating session. House points were awarded for best-decorated kite, longest flight and greatest height reached. We were delighted to have the Sixth Form join in, and with glorious weather and wonderful support, it proved to be a fantastic community event. You can catch some brilliant highlights on Dr Burley's @head.khs Instagram page.



Year 7 and Year 8 also took part in this year's Spelling Bee, which featured the most challenging word list yet. Each participant had 60 seconds to spell as many words as possible in front of their year group – an impressive feat, and huge congratulations to everyone who took part.

The first half of the autumn term concluded with the always-popular King's Got Talent, showcasing an array of remarkable acts. A charity sale during the interval helped raise funds for the House charities, and a surprise Sixth Form flash mob was a definite crowd favourite. On the same day, students also enjoyed a Diwali lantern-making activity and took part in the King's High Big Draw – an event so successful that the artwork is now proudly displayed around the school.

This half term, we launched our first joint House event with Warwick School: the Joint House Quiz. Rounds included geography, music, science and general knowledge, along with a lively "Play Your Cards Right: Higher or Lower" audience round. It was a wonderful start to what promises to be an exciting series of collaborative House events.

And now we can only say: may the best House sing their way to victory!

Mrs Michelle Jones
Head of Houses

Human fruit machines, snowball throw, a chocolate fountain with fresh strawberries, and mini snow-covered Christmas tree jars were just some of the festive delights on offer at our recent Innovation and Entrepreneurship showcase and House Fair at King's!



Old Girls' Association

Our Alumni Department has been thrilled to hear from former pupils who had a cause for celebration in 2025 in personal and professional pursuits.

Lucy celebrates 20 years of championing creativity



Lucy Byrne (KHS 1991-98) is celebrating 20 years of her business dot-art which she founded in Liverpool in 2006 with a mission to support visual artists and champion art as an integral part of everyday life. Over the past two decades,

dot-art has become a key organisation within Merseyside's arts and culture sector, supporting local artists, working with businesses to put art in the workplace and public realm, running art classes, selling locally sourced, affordable art, and working with schools and community groups in the city region.

"My experience at King's taught me that sometimes the path less expected leads to the most rewarding destinations. It's extraordinary to reflect on how a teenage decision to follow my creative instincts has evolved into a business and social enterprise that has supported more than 750 local artists, delivered 30,000 hours of art classes and inspired over 20,000 young people to embrace creativity," said Lucy.

Queen for the night – Prom jubilation for Sophie



Those of you who, along with millions of 'Last Night of the Proms' fans, enjoyed a special 50th Anniversary orchestral arrangement of Queen's classic 'Bohemian Rhapsody' – featuring Sir Brian May and Roger Taylor – will be delighted to know that former student Sophie Bishton (KHS 1996-

2003) formed part of The BBC Symphony Chorus.

Sophie, who performed in numerous music groups at school, said: "It was an incredible experience, paired with the usual jubilant and patriotic songs and flag-waving you expect. Who knew the school choir and madrigal group would lead to this!"

Having also lived in America since leaving school, Sophie has performed in high-profile events including the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and concerts at Carnegie Hall.

It's 'touché!' for Anne as she scoops University Sports Award



Anne Mynors (KHS 2016-2023) is celebrating after winning the 'Cerys O'Boyle Club Sport Member of the Year' Award for her dedication and impact towards fencing and sport in general at the University of Sheffield. A keen fencer at King's from Year 7, with Nick Chapman as coach, Anne rose to captain the fencing team in Sixth Form, helping her team to win the 'Graham Langton Cup' for improved Girls School' at the 2023 Public Schools Fencing Championships.

Fresh from her school success, she was elected Sheffield's Fencing Club Captain for the 2024-25 academic year, in charge of a committee of 12. Her award is even more impressive given that The University of Sheffield has 59 sports clubs and had nearly 6,000 club sport members during the academic year 2024/25.



King's High School



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• One size fits all
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ODDBALLS BOBBLE HATS

OddBalls bobble hats are back! Our lovely King's High branded bobble hats support the important work of KHAPS, our King's High Association of Parents and Staff, and a number of OddBalls charities.*

To purchase your own King's High OddBalls bobble hat:

01

Email khapstreasurer@gmail.com with your daughter's name and home and the number of bobble hats you wish to buy.

02

Transfer £19.50 for each bobble hat to the KHAPS bank account: KHAPS, Sort code 30-90-16, Account no. 00084763

03

Collect your bobble hats from King's High reception the next day

*Find out more at myoddballs.com/pages/our-charities

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Foundation Community

Foundation Service of Thanksgiving 2025



Our annual Foundation Service of Thanksgiving was held in The Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick on Friday, 26 September, and once again proved why it is a highlight of the academic calendar.

As we brought together our whole Foundation

community – pupils, staff, parents, and Governors – the service provided the platform for outstanding music-making, with pupils from across each of our schools being represented fantastically by a number of different year groups as they joined forces to share their love of music. An historic moment came as we welcomed the Warwick Schools Foundation Multi Academy Trust Schools to the service for the first time.

Beyond this, the service provided a moment to reflect on everything that our community – past and present – has achieved, and to recognise everyone who has made, and continues to make, our charity such an extraordinary force for good.

New era of festive sparkle in Market Square



The iconic curtain of light is a cherished part of Warwick's Christmas celebrations and has illuminated Warwick's Market Square each festive season since 2015. Unfortunately, the current display reached the end of its life this year, but

the Foundation proudly supported the town's festivities by funding a completely new display in time for Christmas 2025.

For many in our community, the iconic lights switch on event signifies the beginning of their Christmas celebrations, and we were delighted to support this much-loved tradition for this year and those to come.

Warwick Schools Foundation achieves 'Food For Life Served Here' Bronze certification



Warwick Schools Foundation achieved *Food for Life Served Here* Bronze certification from the Soil Association earlier in the term.

Food for Life Served Here certification recognises and celebrates caterers who use sustainable ingredients, champion

good practice, and cook from scratch. It also verifies that the meals we serve are healthy and sustainable, that they are freshly prepared by trained chefs, and that all ingredients are free from additives, artificial trans fats, and GM ingredients.

Certification also means that the meat we serve can be traced back to the farm and meets or exceeds UK animal welfare standards, eggs are free range, fish is sustainable, and menus make the most of seasonal ingredients – all of which reduces the environmental impact of menus.

Partnering with Oppidan Education to deliver valuable mentoring for local pupils



We are delighted to be working with Oppidan Education as they mentor Lower Sixth pupils from King's High School and Year 6 pupils from two of the Warwick Schools Foundation Multi Academy Trust Founding Schools.

The partnership, which began in September, consists of two programmes:

- **Programme One** – The Mentor Training Journey – sees Oppidan train Lower Sixth pupils from King's High to become inspiring mentors to younger students, with subsequent reflection sessions to further improve their mentoring capabilities.
- **Programme Two** – The Primary Mentoring Journey – is a series of termly 1:1 mentoring sessions for Year 6 students, each on focused on one of Oppidan's key outcomes: character, oracy, and readiness for the move into secondary school.

A word from the Principal



Autumn Term is always full of wonderful activities and events which provide our pupils with an outstanding range of experiences, whichever of our Foundation schools they attend.

There are multiple factors which enable these to happen.

First, is the ethos of the Foundation as a charity, now so clearly articulated in our Purpose: to enable transformation through the power of education.

Second, the commitment to both excellence and a rounded, holistic education for every pupil, appropriate to their school context.

Third, the investment over generations in the facilities and infrastructure of the schools.

Finally, how all of these are brought to life through the coming together of outstanding staff, wonderful pupils, and committed families.

The activities in the run up to Christmas see these lived out in such vibrant ways. The concert halls used for wonderful performances, carol services which are not only deeply beautiful, but also true to the individual characters of our schools, not to mention our nativities and Christmas Fairs. Layer onto that the ongoing programmes of sport, theatre productions and the almost endless co-curricular programmes, and I cannot believe there is anywhere which truly lives more by the values we espouse.

However, to those who enable our schools to be everything they are, we need to add the support of members of wider community, not least our former pupils. Early next term, we will be publishing our Impact Report, highlighting the importance of philanthropic giving. From Warwick Hall to Project One Campus, to means-tested fee support, our Charity – our schools – would not be what they are without the foresight and the generosity of those who went before us.

Thank you to everyone in our community, past and present, for making our schools and therefore the impact of the Charity, so unique and so inspiring.

Richard Nicholson
Foundation Principal

Warwick
Schools
Foundation



Enabling transformation through the power of education

Celebrating the launch of Warwick Schools Foundation Multi Academy Trust

Following the launch of the Warwick Schools Foundation Multi Academy Trust on 1 September, Clapham Terrace Community Primary School and Nursery, Evergreen School, and Westgate Primary School each held celebratory ceremonies during the first week of term.

Each of the ceremonies marked an exciting new chapter for the schools and their pupils, setting in stone a commitment to improve the educational experience of all pupils in the years to come. To symbolise the occasion, each school unveiled a commemorative plaque that recognised their founding role in the Trust.



 [kingshighschoolwarwick](https://www.instagram.com/kingshighschoolwarwick)