



No.6: Week 2 – 6 November 2020

## Letter from Mr Dawes

Dear Parents and Carers

It is a pleasure, for the first time, to be able to write in this week's Chronicle, having returned as planned following the work that a number of staff from here have been supporting in our sister schools (Christ's College, Sunderland and Trinity Academy, Doncaster) over the past two years. This has been enabled by appointments of excellent, experienced new Principals to these two schools, considerably strengthening the Trust's leadership capacity.

I pay particular tribute to Mr Bulley, who has led the school as Acting Principal for the past year, and has done so with exceptional capability and skill and with the utmost confidence of staff and students during a time of unprecedented national crisis. Not only has Mr Bulley provided leadership and shown himself to be a consummate communicator, but he has also managed to improve the school in a range of key aspects (including his institution of these King's Chronicles).

It takes extraordinary contributions from the entire staff to navigate these challenging times, and these are never taken for granted. In whatever post, The King's staff are also excellent role-models for this generation of students – this being visible even more clearly during the challenges and trials of these pandemic times.

But as a teacher and parent, I know that it is the children of the school that are its heart-beat. Their presence here since September re-ignited the fire of our community that had dulled during previous months, into the blaze of life and vitality that circulates the corridors, classrooms and yards of this thriving school.

This is God's work. "Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness!" (Psalm 115). My prayer and commitment is that The King's Academy will go from strength to strength, confident and strong in its heritage, but infinitely more confident in the God of love and faithfulness to whose honour and glory this place is dedicated.

David Dawes  
Principal

### Key Dates

#### November

10	Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening
10 - 13	House Assemblies
11	Remembrance Day
16	Deadline for Shoeboxes
16 - 27	Year 11/Year 13 Rehearsal Examinations

## Boys House Football

In another close sporting competition the Medes took the honours in the boys house football competition. Spanning four nights, the boys showed great skill and a real competitive edge to play some excellent football on our fantastic all-weather astro pitch. Plenty of goals were scored with teams being made up of players of differing abilities, and disabilities once again demonstrating how inclusive our school and the house competitions can be. Many thanks to all those students who took part and to the staff that supported the event- either from the sideline or acting as referees, with particular mention of the ever-impartial Mr Ray.

*Mr Johnson (Assistant Principal)*



**The Year 8 winners: Medes**

## Highlights of the Week

(from Heads of Year)

**Year 7**– Getting to see the fantastic art work on ‘colour wheels’. There is some really good work that students have clearly put a lot of time and effort into.

**Year 8**– Punctuality has been particularly pleasing.

**Year 9**– The enthusiasm of the students who have helped to record the house assemblies for next week.

**Year 10**– The students have come back really well after half term. They have coped with a very difficult week in a sensible and mature fashion. I have felt very proud to be their HOY.

**Year 11**– All Year 11 attended a revision assembly on Wednesday looking at effective techniques ahead of their upcoming rehearsal exams.

**Sixth Form**– Our Sixth Form continue to maintain an excellent level of attendance despite the many challenges of the current situation the country face. We are very proud that their attendance continues to be far higher than the national average and that they are prioritising their education in this way. Well done!

## Focus: History

The essence of working literally *alongside* our students to develop the research, analytical and evaluative skills that are fundamental to the creation of enquiring young minds has been taken away from our history classrooms. Therefore, we have had to adapt our approach to assess students’ understanding from further afield. Fortunately, most history teachers like nothing more than holding court at the front of the classroom! Given any chance, they will regale their audiences with fascinating narratives, often delighting in sharing gruesome details of times past.

However, the opportunity to engage with new technologies has opened up a world of exploration for history teachers, as we seek to find interesting ways to engage our students beyond the classroom. Microsoft Teams is an excellent tool for us to develop the practice of flipped learning by engaging students with a range of media, from podcasts to animations and documentaries that allow them to arrive at history lessons with a broad understanding of the issues to be investigated.

The wealth of innovative historical material online provides us with a fantastic research base and as we continue to find creative gems of subject material, we are incorporating them across our classrooms to bring our subject to life.

*Mr Skerry (Head of History)*

## Remembrance

Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life.

On 11 November 2020 at 11.00am, we pay tribute to the men and women of WW1; the Second World War generation, and to those of today’s, who have served and sacrificed to defend our nation.

At King’s, students are learning about and celebrating their memory in assemblies and tutor groups, particularly our Year 7 and Year 8 students as they take part in an 11/11 Challenge to create a display showcasing what Remembrance means to them.

If you wish to donate to the appeal follow this link:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/poppies-in-the-post?seg=XPBPPC>

‘God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble’ - Psalm 46:1.

*Mrs Brownless (Assistant Vice Principal)*



### Additional Notices

If your child is required to isolate **and** is in receipt of Free School Meals, our catering service can provide a food parcel to enable you to prepare healthy lunches for your child whilst they are required to be absent from school (a supermarket voucher may be provided as an alternative, at our discretion). Please telephone the Academy or email [enquiries@thekingsacademy.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thekingsacademy.org.uk) should your child be in this position and you require this help.

#### A reminder:

Samaritan Purse Christmas Shoebox Appeal  
<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox/>

Deadline for completed shoeboxes is Monday 16 November.