

# The King's Chronicles



No.11: Week 7– 11 December 2020

## Overcoming Adversity in Year 7

2020 has been a difficult and disrupted year for everyone; and this applies to no one more than our current Year 7 cohort. Not only have they had to contend with online learning, strict safety regulations, and the 'new normal', they have had to do all this whilst also overcoming the challenges presented by starting at a new school. I have been amazed at the way in which they seem to have taken all of this in their stride. Whether it is in their subjects, decorating their tutor rooms for Remembrance Day, or singing carols on cold December mornings, our students have given it their all. I'm sure the resilience and adaptability shown by these students will prove an asset as they grow.

It was also nice to see these students getting involved in their first house events, once restrictions allowed, and the friendly rivalry this brings. It was particularly great to see the support shown towards each other during the cross-country event where a large proportion of the year had stayed to watch and cheer on their friends. I have also been fortunate enough to be shown some of the excellent work produced by Year 7 in art and have been informed that we have some stars 'in-the-making' in drama. I cannot wait to see how else this year group can impress me moving forward.

I hope they are all able to fully reap the reward of their hard work in their first term by having a restful and enjoyable Christmas break in a week's time.

*Mr Baughan (Head of Year)*



The classroom decoration competition heats up:

left– 9Grimwood 'tinselify' their hand sanitizer  
below– 11Johnston commit fully to the meaning of Christmas  
below right– 9Garwood grow their own!



Key Dates	
<b>December</b>	
Weds 16	'Christmas Cracker' Virtual Carol Service 6-10pm
Thurs 17	Christmas Lunch Year 11 Reports
Fri 18	'Study Day' - remote learning End of Term
<b>January</b>	
Mon 4	Term resumes 8.20am

## Introducing: Mrs Scott

I worked at The King's Academy temporarily two years ago soon after returning to Middlesbrough from a career further away.



This September, walking back through the doors of The King's Academy felt familiar yet unknown. I was heading into a new role, with many familiar faces but with a great amount of anticipation. I would be filling a position that hadn't seen a change for 17 years!

I have found the school amazing and challenging for many reasons. The volume of traffic through Front of House is immense and it has taken me some time to learn which call needs directing where, and every day there are new queries to master.

I am working with an incredibly dedicated team who offer support at the drop of a hat and who have helped me settle in to my new role with a huge amount of guidance and patience.

*Mrs Scott (Front of House Manager)*

### Highlights of the Week (from Heads of Year)

**Year 7**– Getting to watch the choir being recorded for the Christmas carol concert; their energy and enthusiasm despite it being a cold dark morning.

**Year 8**– The pupils have produced fantastic Christmas displays in the their tutor rooms.

**Year 9**– 9Sherwood’s amazing ‘Mathematical Snowflake’: it’s more mathematical than I could have imagined!

**Year 10**– The student voice reps have taken part in a litter pick this week. They want to highlight the issues around litter and to change the current perception in their year that it’s all right to drop litter during social times. They will be feeding back to their tutor groups.

**Year 11**- A group of students has given up lunchtimes to make Christmas Cards to send to local care homes. This has shown their kind and caring nature.

**Sixth Form**– Francis Sayer (Year 12) has been selected from a highly competitive field to participate in Oxford University’s OxNet Programme. Congratulations!

## Focus: Engineering

The Engineering department has created a rigorous risk assessment which has been approved to allow practical work to commence in line with Covid restrictions. This has meant that lessons are different than they have been in the past, with lots of changes to keep staff and students safe. These include:

- students cleaning equipment after use,
- year group sets of aprons,
- freshly cleaned safety glasses for each student,
- and practical demonstrations shown on camera.

Students have adapted brilliantly to this- which has allowed them to continue creating projects safely and to a high standard. Participating in practical lessons and making products is the best way for students to build their engineering skills.

An example of this has been demonstrated by Year 9 Engineering students who recently started their ‘Clock Project’. As part of their initial research students have been investigating which wood joint they should use to join the clock together. They researched three different wood joints: a butt joint, a lap joint and a comb joint. They have tested these wood joints to evaluate which takes less time or skill to produce; which is the most attractive; and which is the strongest. They found that a comb joint is both strongest *and* most attractive. Each student then produced a practise comb joint which they tested to see how strong it was: the comb joint was secured in a vice and weights were placed on the joint until it broke. Mr Donnelly also made a comb joint and challenged the students to make their comb joint stronger than his! (See box to the right for results)

*Mr Donnelly (Head of Engineering)*

## “Singing loud for all to hear!”

During these cold winter mornings, the Year 7 choir have been rehearsing hard and dazzling us with their vocals, practicing their performances of ‘Jingle Bell Rock’ and ‘Do you hear what I hear?’ All of this was in preparation for their final filmed performance on the morning of Tuesday 8 December. This will now be added into The King’s Academy ‘Virtual’ Carol Service that will go live on the evening of Thursday 17 December, 6-10pm.

They were dressed for the occasion, wearing festive hats and jumpers, being joined by the Academy’s governors (at a distance!) in a celebration of the commitment they have shown throughout.

It has been a pleasure to work with the students as they have endured the winter weather and sung their hearts out, making us all at The King’s Academy very proud.

*Miss Coggon (Assistant Head of Year- KS3)*



### Year 9 Wood Joint Results:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Lewis Trees	4100g
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Benjamin Pearson	4000g
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Joint: Mr Donnelly ( <i>not happy</i> ), Millie Bollard and Billy Robinson	3700g

The weakest wood joint unfortunately collapsed under the pressure of air...

### Additional Notices

- Please note that school will close to students at the end of the school day on Thursday 17 December.
- This is due to DfE guidance that students should not attend on Friday in order to reduce risk over Christmas.
- We will provide study work for students to do at home on Friday 18 December.
- We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause– particularly the short notice.