

# The King's Chronicles



No.12: Week 14- 18 December 2020

## Principal's Christmas Letter

We know that many of us will be relieved as 2020 draws to a close, and that for some of us it has brought great sadness, but we can also reflect with thankfulness and joy. Whilst our country's leaders seek to negotiate Britain's sovereignty in its future relationship with the EU, Christians are reminded at this time that God's sovereign hand is over *all* things and that His will shall be done ultimately, even when things seem at their bleakest.

As a school community we have been challenged with maintaining – despite the difficulties – the greatest possible sense of normality about school life. With so much of the work to enable this being done 'behind the scenes', the exceptional contributions of staff, and

parents in supporting the school, can so easily go overlooked. Although not everything could be done exactly the same as before, and in many instances is now even better, we have, along with so much else, maintained our House competitions, Christmas Cracker, Carol Service and Christmas lunch events. I am sure parents and students wish to join us in expressing heartfelt thanks to what is a truly exceptional staff team at King's, including administration staff, the facilities, cleaning, catering and IT support teams, classroom support, teachers and leaders, and governors.

**Carol Service** link ["Out of the Darkness and Into the Light"](#) available until Monday, run-time = 40 minutes

We are delighted to invite you to one of the most popular events in The King's Academy calendar: the Christmas Carol Service, when we once again remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus, our King. This year, the event is online from today at 6pm, and features our students' talents, including musical, acting and dance performances, carols and prayers. In keeping with tradition, top of the bill will be the Year 7 choir! We are also pleased to be joined by Raj Saha from Jubilee Church, Middlesbrough, who will deliver his message on "Out of the Darkness and Into the Light". We welcome you to an enjoyable evening of student talent, festive spirit and a time for reflection.

### Farewells

We bid fond and grateful farewells at the end of Autumn term to: Mrs Jennifer Cassarly (LSA); Miss Carolyn Natrass (RE); and Mrs Jessica Williams (administrator).

### Northern Powerhouse ['Fairer schools index'](#)

We were pleased that Northern Powerhouse Partnership have congratulated the school that – adjusting for some of the factors related to demographics – The King's Academy is now classified as 'above average'. More information, regarding King's and other schools, is available in the above link.

Wishing you and yours a peaceful and restful Christmas break, as we look towards the light of Christ the Saviour.

*Mr Dawes*

### Key Dates

#### December

Thurs 17 Christmas Lunch  
Year 11 Reports  
Virtual Carol Service

Fri 18 'Study Day' - remote learning  
End of Term

#### January

Mon 4 Term resumes 8.20am

18-22 Y12 Rehearsal Examinations

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

**Year 7**– Seeing all of the different Christmas jumpers and Christmas facemasks that were brought in!

**Year 8**– The calmness and hard-working ethos of the students in the last week of term.

**Year 9**– Seeing the students working together during the Christmas Cracker event. It was a great afternoon!

**Year 10**– It has been lovely to have the year group back together as a whole. They have settled back into daily life at school wonderfully.

**Year 11**– have all received their reports today, including grades from their rehearsal exams. Students have gone home with a pack filled with support on *how* to and *what* to revise for their upcoming GCSE exams.

**Sixth Form**– The Year 13s adapting so well and with such good grace to the new sub-bubbling system, with a special mention to Charlie Murkin for all of his additional help.

## ‘It’s a Cracker’!

Despite the challenges of coronavirus, the competitiveness of my first Christmas Cracker was undamaged. I hardly knew what to expect, but once we got organised, I found myself getting thoroughly involved in each of the rounds. In spite of the social distancing rules, the team spirit was far from dampened – in fact, I cannot think of another time our tutor group has been so talkative, pulling together to tackle each challenge with eager confidence, unafraid to interact and ask for help as needed. There was delight, excitement, and merry laughter all around – a true tribute to the meaning of Christmas!

*Evelyn Nield (Year 12 student)*

### Additional Notices

#### Financial Support Update

Please click [here](#) for an important update on financial support available to parents/ carers, including:

- Free School Meals on Friday 18 December
- Free School Meals when your child is required to be at home due to Covid-19
- Middlesbrough Council’s Covid Winter Grant, offering help with essential costs during school holidays
- Take-home breakfast provision continuing in Spring Term 2021

## Local Senior Citizens enjoy King’s hospitality

Covid-19 restrictions have impacted on every corner of society, but have nowhere been harder felt than in our local Care Homes. Each year, students and staff at The King’s have hosted a Christmas afternoon social for our local senior citizens, providing food, fun and entertainment. This year, we racked our brains to find a solution.... And a solution was found ...

Care Homes throughout our local community were contacted to see if they would like to take part in a virtual Christmas afternoon tea, where residents would be treated to home-baked treats and recorded entertainment by our students and staff; even Santa got involved, promising presents and good wishes for the coming year.

The event took place on the afternoon of Thursday 17 December with Montpelier Manor, Dalby Court and Kirkley Lodge amongst the Care Homes eager to participate.

The Food Department and their students designed and made festive goodies to make an afternoon tea suitable to be delivered to the Care Homes. The students lovingly cooked and baked pork pies, pizza swirls, carrot cake, reindeer cupcakes and scones, with Mrs Jones designing an amazing hot chocolate cone with candy cane for each of the residents.

Members of our Year 7 choir sang their hearts out and a team of Year 11 students designed hand-made cards during their lunchtimes to send messages of love and hope. Our HLN food groups also wove their magic in the design of a menu to accompany the boxes of Christmas fare.

Rebecca Moran, Montpelier Care Home Activity Coordinator, told us: “Our residents are so excited about taking part and cannot wait to watch the video and the Carol Service. The students and staff have done an amazing job. The reindeer cupcakes are particularly impressive and fun!”

We agree; and we wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas.

*Mrs Brownless (Assistant Vice Principal)*



**11VSmith’s Christmas window (with several creators just about visible!)**