

# The King's Chronicles



No.15: Week 25-29 January 2021



Do you want to know how to keep your child safe online? Could you spot the potential dangers of internet use? Do you feel confident that you know the right questions to ask and how to talk to your child about issues that may arise?

To help you with all of these questions and to open up some family conversations, Mr Wild, Head of Computer Science, has used his expertise and knowledge to launch a short newsletter called ['Keep IT Safe'](#) (linked). The newsletter is dedicated to online safety and aims to highlight key issues that arise with the use of online websites, applications and devices. It includes support links for students and parents, with information about applications, their risks and tips on how to use them safely. There are also some quick interactive activities to do as a family.

The newsletter is being discussed with your child in Monday morning tutor times over the next few weeks and students have completed a quick quiz so that their tutors can address any gaps that appear in their knowledge. We hope this- and the hints and tips ['Parents Checklist'](#) that we sent out in the final November issue of *The King's Chronicles*- is helpful.

*Miss Smith - Assistant Principal*



Millennium Bridge, Newcastle and the Penshaw Monument, Sunderland will be illuminated to commemorate the Holocaust



Holocaust Memorial Day on Wednesday 27 January was commemorated in Britain this year with the illumination in purple of landmarks across the nation to signify the theme of *"being the light in the darkness."* Never in the past 20 years since the inauguration of this day or remembrance to mark the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1945, has this theme seemed more apt than now.

The event is held not only to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, but also the millions of other people killed under Nazi Persecution and in genocides that have tragically followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Our GCSE History students have studied the impact of this type of persecution in their coverage this year of the brutal repression of the Kurdish peoples in Iraq under the regime of Saddam Hussein.

For those of us that have had the rare privilege to meet or listen to the moving recollections of Holocaust survivors in person, it is an incredibly humbling experience. Their bravery and fortitude in building new lives for themselves after the horrors they and their families experienced and witnessed is remarkable. Sadly as the number of

those survivors now dwindles to a very few, it is up to us to ensure that we are the light that ensures the darkness can never return.

*Mr Skerry - Head of History*



## A Break from the Normal

During these challenging times, screen time and a sedentary lifestyle have become the 'new normal' for a lot of our students. The PE Department are trying to support students by offering them 'a break from the normal' and encouraging them to explore something from the world of PE that might interest them.

At the moment, we are posting work for students that gives them the flexibility to choose:

- something to think about,
- something physical
- or something healthy.

Students are free to choose one of the three that will give them a break and help them to remain physically and emotionally healthy. We will be posting an 'Active Lives' survey week commencing Monday 8 February to gain a better understanding of the impact of this lockdown on the health of our students.

*Mr Lynch - Head of PE*

## Don't forget about Accelerated Reader!

Most books – online or otherwise – have a quiz attached on this programme. I have created Teams for each tutor group in Year 7 and Year 8. I will be using these Teams to share information about how many quizzes a form class has completed during lockdown.

The Year 7 and Year 8 forms with the most completed quizzes will receive prizes when we return to school, so every quiz counts! Good luck to all!

Details on how to access Accelerated Reader are available in the 'Files' section of your Accelerated Reader Tutor Group Team.

*Mr Parker - Literacy Intervention Lead*

### Additional Notices

**1. Free School Meal vouchers:** Unused credits issued via schoolvouchers.com before 31 December will be reassigned from 1 February; so please redeem any you still have to obtain supermarket vouchers otherwise you will lose access. Supermarket vouchers, once obtained, have longer expiry dates - please see [here](#) for more details.

## Introducing:

My name is Matthew Harris and I have just recently joined The King's Academy in January as the Facilities Manager. I have re-located from the South East as my family are originally from this area.



My background is in property management, both residential and commercial. During my career to date I have had the opportunity to manage a number of high profile properties such as St. Pancras International Station and Oxford Street in London.

The team at the school have made me feel very welcome and I am looking forward to working with the facilities team and the whole school community. I am also very much looking forward to meeting everyone, as soon as the opportunity arises.

## Join In...

The Junction Middlesbrough are providing some online after school activity and social groups for 11-18 year olds. Sessions take place on Zoom and are organised by year group. They aim to build confidence, social skills, and friendships. There is also a book club, art sessions and the chance to follow an accredited course such as an Arts Awards. For more information you can visit [Home - The Junction Foundation](#)

*Mrs Sinclair – Early Help Coordinator*

**2. Financial Support:** Middlesbrough Council will be making Covid Winter Grant payments to cover Feb half term from 8 Feb onwards. If you received support during the Christmas holidays you do not need to apply again – payments will be made automatically. If not and you are eligible for support you can apply for February half term and Easter holiday support.

Please see [here](#).

If you live in another local authority please check their website for details of arrangements in your area.

Please note that, as this alternative support is available, we are not required to issue free school meal vouchers to cover the half term week.