

# King's Academy Ringmer Newsletter

December 2021

Dear  
Parents,  
Carers,  
Staff and  
Governors,

Well, what  
an eventful  
first term in  
so many  
ways!

I met with the Senior Student Council in September and we all agreed that this was the term to get our mojo back! We recalled excitedly the fabulous Sports Day we had had in the summer and willed our Autumn term to be as energetic and enthusiastic and, in many ways, it was. We have been able to organise trips to museums, activity centres, art galleries



Art & Photography trip to the V&A Museum



theatres and more. I asked the staff for clubs and 'Oh my, did we get Clubs!' to quote myself. The library is open and buzzing with students joining book clubs, the student-run chess club, art clubs and those who just wanted to be part of the mellow and absorbing atmosphere.

Every time I walked past the information screen, a new staff-run club had been announced - Debating Society, board

games and astronomy. I myself have popped into Revels, our LGBTQ club, and sat and listened to a very engaging Year 11 club on the history of conflict.

The Student council and I have planned a Winter Fayre, a foodbank collection and have exciting plans for Comic Relief next term! We talked seriously about how to safeguard the younger students and planned assemblies on key issues – I have been so overwhelmed with pride this term for so many reasons.



Foodbank collection

Yet, in the background we are still battling the virus, which has reappeared this term and battered us once again like an Atlantic storm. Just when we thought we were safe...it hit us, not even I avoided the dreaded Covid which knocks you back and halts your progress. It has affected our staff with up to 20% of them being hit on some weeks and our students as we suffered two outbreaks in KS3. So December arrives and once again it feels as though we are limping towards the end of term, hope upon hope that we will all be well, see our loved ones and make some memories – and we will.

We are an amazing community: kind, ambitious

and resilient. We will work hard to make this Christmas special even though once again our celebration assembly, alongside our Music Concert, will be remote and we will have to forgo our traditional Christmas lunch. Today, in Student council, the Year 11s sadly remarked 'We will have a big gap in our Yearbook – because of Covid- nothing happened we didn't go anywhere we took no pictures in school.'

So, we flipped it on its head - ok we will embrace it. We will write memories of when we were in lockdown, we will find different photos- maybe not in school uniform but certainly doing our best to make the most of what we could - and we will embrace it – maybe even call it The Covid Section! No, I am not suggesting we embrace Covid but I think we have to begin to make it part of our history, part of shaping us and giving us strength and determination.

I will never forget my first two years as a headteacher and could not have wished for a more remarkable 'family' to support me. I look forward to next year, and the next, and am determined to support this wonderful school through its next adventure.

Have a wonderful Christmas and raise a glass to the 'family' that is King's Academy Ringmer!

*Sian Williams*  
Principal

## ART & PHOTOGRAPHY LONDON TRIP

On Thursday 2nd December a group of 36 Year 11 students, who study Art and Photography, went to London to visit the V & A and explore the sites. It was an early start leaving school at 7.30 am to avoid the traffic, and arriving at the V&A at around 10.30 am. After a few selfies with genuine red telephone boxes (remember them) students went into the V&A to view the diverse exhibits displayed. Students spent around an hour looking at the various artefact and exhibits as inspiration for their Fantastic and Strange themed Year 11 project. We then headed across London towards Leicester Square taking in Buckingham Palace, Harrods, the Ritz and a group photo in front of the Wellington Arch, as well as a McLaren dealership.



Students had lunch in Leicester Square and, again, had an opportunity to take photos in the area. We then walked towards Trafalgar square for more photos, with some picking up donuts in the Christmas market there.

Finally, we walked to Covent Garden where we stopped to watch one of the street entertainers there and one lucky student was roped into the act. The students enjoyed the opportunity to finally get out on a school trip given all they have missed over the last two years. The photography students have started to add the photos to their portfolios adding to the diversity of locations in their work.

A competition was run among students to take five specific photos on the trip with an Art pack being awarded to the winner and they still have time to submit their responses.



Mr Burchett  
Vice Principal

## ENGLISH

### National Poetry Day Competition

Last term, we, as an English Department, ran a poetry competition to the whole of Key Stage 3. Their task was to create a poem focusing on the theme of 'choice'. This could be interpreted in any way that the students found suitable. We had a multitude of fantastic entries from across all year groups and it was amazing as a department to see so many creative poems. Unfortunately, we could only pick one winner for this competition, we believe this person showed the most creativity and understanding of the task. The winner we have chosen was ANWEN of Year 7. Anwen saw the task at hand and thoughtfully produced an amazing poem in the form of a haiku. To fully appreciate why we chose this as our winner, you first must understand the structure of a haiku. For a poem to be labelled as a haiku, it must have 5 syllables on the top line; 7 syllables on the second line and then 5 syllables on the last line.

What poem should I choose?  
By Anwen Morgan

*Limerick, ballad,  
Ode, elegy or sonnet?  
But I choose haiku.*

Anwen showed a real understanding of what a haiku is, as her poem implemented the theme of choice, by picking a poem and then ending it in haiku. We as a department were overwhelmingly impressed with Anwen's poem and therefore felt that she deserved to win the competition. Anwen has won a £10 amazon voucher!

We wish to congratulate all participants on their entries and look forward to seeing what you have in store for us in the future.

Mr Rednall - English



## LILAC SKY COUNSELLING SERVICE

Hello, my name is Lauren. I am a qualified and registered Counsellor. I am a registered member of the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists (BACP) and abide by their ethical framework and competences.



I offer face to face sessions in a safe and comfortable room at school where young people can talk to me and discuss their thoughts and feelings without fear of judgement. I offer a low-cost counselling service at £40 per 50-minute session. I take referrals from the young person's parents/primary carer/guardians and I recommend a block of 6 sessions which can be extended to 8 or 10 sessions when reviewed and where it is needed. I offer sessions every Wednesday during term time throughout the school day and I also hold sessions before and after school. For more information please [click here](#) which will take you to the school's Wellbeing webpage.

Kind regards,

Lauren Anderson *MBACP PGDip  
Humanistic Psychotherapeutic*

## BBC NEWS

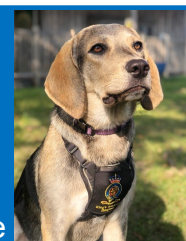
Back to school in September was a big talking point as students had been off school for so long due to COVID and lockdown. Our new year 7 intake had not set foot in the school before so were particularly nervous starting 'big school' then any other years before. We were therefore honoured to be asked by the BBC News Team to come into school and film a report for their main news that night. They were here all day, interview the Principal for 30 mins as well as a number of students, it was all very exciting.

Like all these things when it was aired it went by in a flash but we appreciated them asking us and it was a great experience for staff and students to be involved. Click the photo below for a link.



## RONNIE RINGMER

Ronnie is now coming into school two days a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays so there will be more time available for more students to spend time with her. Please also follow her on Instagram [@Ronnietheringmerrescuedog](#)



## PERFORMING ARTS TRIP

Back in September, we took our year 11 Performing Art Students to the Theatre Royal Brighton to see Hairspray the musical. The matinee performance was packed with schools from across Sussex who really made the show memorable. The whole audience joined in with songs, clapping and non stop laughter. Year 11 Ellie said it was the best theatre production she had ever seen! Hopefully the visit will inspire our students and give them the confidence to perform with similar gusto!



# RINGMER ECO HUB

This term our Eco efforts have included:

- Clearing the raised beds ready for planting in the spring with the help of charity '[A Band of Brothers](#)'. We hope to fill the beds with lots of pollinating plants and a herb garden for use in Food Tech.



- Going Green for [Just One Tree Day](#). Students paid a pound to wear a green item of clothing and to date have raised £180 to fund afforestation of threatened woodland around the world.
- Hosting sustainable energy company [OVESCO](#) as they shared their plans for a solar farm in Ringmer. Students were able to see the proposed plans and pose questions to the engineers in an information evening and lunchtime visit.
- Planting native trees including hazel, hawthorn and dog roses donated by the [Woodland Trust and The Tree Council](#) to



create a hedgerow on the perimeter of our Eco Hub land. Hedgerows provide food and shelter for many species and act as corridors for smaller prey species to travel safely.

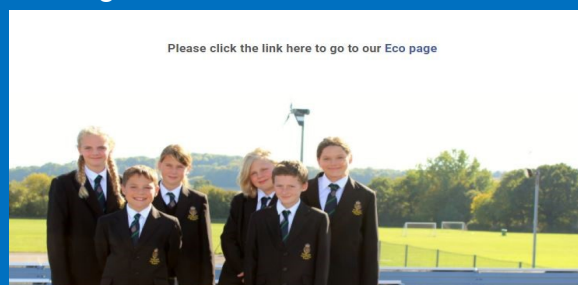
- Taking part in [Switch Off Fortnight](#), a national energy-saving campaign from 'The Pod'. Our Eco Reps spent the fortnight raising awareness about how

to reduce our electricity use in school including turning off lights, turning off monitors and projectors when not in use.

- Undertaking a [Surfers Against Sewage](#) Plastic Survey. Eco Reps spent lunchtime collecting plastic bottles and other single use plastics. In our Eco Rep meetings we have spent time discussing how we might reduce the amount of plastic used in school and raise awareness about renewable resource use.



- Launching our new Eco Hub webpage. Click the photo below and follow links to the school website which provides information about all the work of our Eco Reps and upcoming events in school and nationally. The Eco School England coordinators have been so impressed with our webpage, it is to be used as an exemplar for other schools nationally wanting to showcase their eco work.



- Being published in the [DfE teachers blog](#). As part of COP26 we were asked to contribute to the blog outlining our Eco Work here at school. In October, we were also runners up of the DfE's Sustainable School Award.
- We have also been delighted to welcome many new Year 7 Eco Reps following our assembly about climate change and COP26 and becoming a young climate leader!

*Ms S Pillar  
Humanities/PSHE Teacher  
Environmental Coordinator*



## NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE 03303 530 541

The National Sleep Helpline helps anyone with sleep issues including adults, parents and young people. The helpline is available from 7pm and 9pm, Sunday to Thursday on 03303 530 541.

Poor sleep can affect anyone and it can be a major stress for parents whose own sleep can be impaired by their children's difficulties getting to sleep, staying asleep or staying in their own bed, leading to greater stress.

Having a sleep issue is surprisingly common. At any given time this affects up to **40%** of adults and **50%** of children (this rises to **80%** with a SEND diagnosis). These problems are typically persistent and do not resolve themselves without intervention.

Families often don't know where to seek help and yet issues can often be nipped in the bud with basic and accessible interventions.

See the link for more information



the national sleep helpline

CALL US

**03303 530 541**

• • • • •

SPEAK TO TRAINED SLEEP ADVISORS

Available Sunday - Thursday  
7pm - 9pm

This is a confidential service. We would only need to share what you tell us if we are worried about you, someone else or there has been a crime.

## MATHS BOARD GAMES CLUB

The Maths department initiated the KS3 boardgames club this year. Attendance could be better but we have a dedicated few that attend every Monday lunchtime.

My favourite games are definitely Genius Square and Genius Star. They are problem solving puzzles like Tetris that requires speed and perseverance with a little bit of a cut-throat attitude. The idea is to be quicker than your opponent and thus win a point. William in year 7 has beaten me numerous times (I was feeling under the weather!).



We have plenty of other board games to play, all of which require some form of strategy to win. No shoot them ups nor electronic gizmos allowed. We have an enthusiastic Monopoly team who seem to treasure the stations.



If your interested in playing boardgames in a lovely quiet but chatty

environment then come along to S15 at Lunch. If you have any sweets to share, they will be gratefully consumed by me.

Mr Taylor  
Leader of Mathematics

## OPEN EVENING 2021

We all enjoyed a great Open Evening in October, both presentations were full which made it the busiest Open Evening for many years. We all had a fantastic time meeting prospective students and parents who have given very positive feedback! We would like to say a special thank you to all our students who were superb ambassadors for the school, a real credit, especially our year 7 speakers who gave up their evening to conducted tours and help out in departments with tremendous passion and pride! Well done to a, our exit poll predicts another record intake of 140 to 150 for September 2022!



# MUSIC DEPARTMENT

**Get into Music Performance** - Years 7 and 8, back at the beginning of September, welcomed musicians from East Sussex Music for a live performance which included music from Harry Potter to Billie Eilish. These fantastic professional musicians included our brilliant piano and vocal teacher Stephanie Holt Daphne Brady on cello. There were lots of other instruments too, including flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, drums, guitars and strings. As well as being a fantastic chance to enjoy the first live performance in over a year, lots of students signed up to learn instruments and voice. If this is something your child is interested in, now is the perfect time to sign up with the new term beginning after Christmas. Sign up at the link [here](#) or, if you have questions about this, please email me.

## **Beat Goes on Workshop** - Year 8

At the end of September, we held our re-scheduled Body Percussion workshops, which had been planned for our Year 7 in July 2021. As part of our catch-up curriculum we welcomed Ollie Tunmer to the school to work with our current year 8 (last year's Year 7) on performing with body percussion, creating their own music and learning to play as a group. Ollie is a phenomenal musician and trainer: he has worked with Stomp and The Lost and Found Orchestra and a few years ago, he set up his own company Beat Goes On. He has been on The One Show and recently performed alongside Owain Wyn Evans among a troupe of 50 drummers in his record breaking [24 hour drumathon](#) for Children in Need.

Ollie's work with Year 8 was such a huge success that we have already invited him back in to work with our current Year 7 on a larger scale performance.

## **Glyndebourne Trip** - Fidelio

Just before half term, Mr Peacock and Ms Urquhart took 15 students from Year 9 and 11 to Glyndebourne Opera House to see a performance of Beethoven's Fidelio. The students were incredible ambassadors for the school and watched and listened with such incredible attention. They were also so open-minded about the whole experience, which was really inspiring to see. It was a very moving occasion to see such a high profile venue full of young people, being transported by music which is hundreds of years old. They were really interesting to talk to about the whole occasion, both the opera and the whole experience itself, and had really



interesting opinions about how relevant and important opera could be today. We were very lucky to see this particular production as the company realised during the week of performances that the set was too large to tour, so we were some of the very lucky few that will see this version.

**Piano Man Masterclass** - In November, six of our fantastic piano players from Year 7, 8 and 9 were joined via video link by Richard Meyrick. This was a free masterclass in which students performed a piece and Richard gave feedback on their playing. This was both an extremely exciting opportunity, but also one that requires real resilience as students have to try and improve their work on the spot. They also have to then try and perform the music straight away with the new changes, instead of having time to go away and practice as they might with a usual lesson. It was such a treat for our students to hear their own pieces being performed by a musician of such a high calibre - Richard is an international piano soloist. If you didn't watch the video before click the photo link below.

## **Winter Showcase**

- rescheduled

We were so deeply disappointed to have to cancel the performance for



our Winter Showcase on the 8th December.

Look out for the new date for our rescheduled performance in the Spring Term where you will get to see these planned performances and more! In the meantime, have a great break and we'll look forward to making more music in the New Year!

If you have any questions or want to get in touch you can contact me directly on:

[francesca.urquhart@kingsacademies.uk](mailto:francesca.urquhart@kingsacademies.uk)



# SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Science has had a very successful term 1 and 2. The biggest change this term has been the launch of the Tassomai learning platform for all students. Tassomai is an

intelligent online learning program helping students at all levels achieve outstanding results. Content is broken down into bite sized chunks and tailored to each user, its intelligent algorithm works out what students know and where they need to focus their efforts. Learn more [here](#).

Congratulations to our students who have correctly answered a combined total of over 250,000 questions. In particular, a huge congratulations to Tristan H (Y9) and Teigan P (Y10) who have completed the highest number of questions with accuracy above 70%. Tristan and Tegan answered 4127 questions and 5958 questions respectively!

The top students from each year will be entered into a prize drawn for an Amazon gift card to reward their commitment to independent learning. Winners will be announced during the end of term assemblies.

## Year 7

In biology, students studied how the body moves using the skeleton, joints and muscles. In chemistry, they learnt about the particle model and how it can be used to explain states of matter, changes in state and diffusion.

In physics, students learnt about forces and the effects they can have on the motion of objects. During these topics, students completed a variety of practical investigations. Through these investigations, students' have started to develop an understanding of the scientific process and the skills required to work safely in the laboratory.



## Year 8

In biology, students studied human reproduction and the changes that happen during adolescence. In chemistry, they learnt about how metals and non-metals react with water, oxygen and acids. In physics, students learnt about sound waves, hearing, light waves and sight. During these topics, students completed a variety of practical investigations. Through these investigations, students' have developed a strong understanding of the scientific process, with a specific focus on methodology.

## Year 9

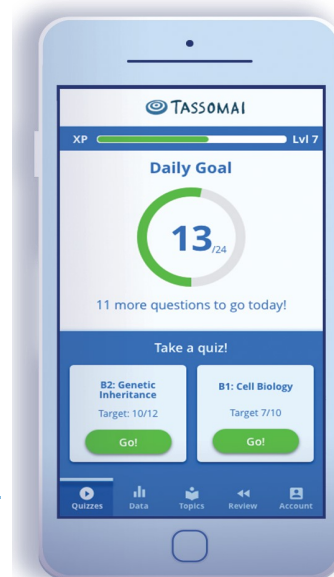
In biology, students learnt about evolution through natural selection and how genetic information is inherited. In chemistry, they learnt about how humans are changing the environment by causing the enhanced greenhouse effect and depletion of Earth's resources. In physics, students learnt about waves effects waves and how they can be modelled. During these topics, students completed a variety of practical investigations. Through these investigations, students' have developed a strong understanding of the scientific process, with a specific focus on variables.

## Year 10 and 11

Students are making brilliant progress with their teachers preparing from the GCSE curriculum. Year 10 are working on paper 1 content in biology, chemistry and physics. Year 11 are working on paper 2 content in biology, chemistry and physics, and recapping their knowledge of paper 1.

We have also successfully launched Tassomai, a state-of-the-art learning platform, to support students in revising for their GCSE examinations and accelerate their progress.

*Mr G Weir - Director of Science*



# MATHEMATICS

As we came back stronger than ever before in September with a full department, yet further strengthened by the addition of our latest recruit, Vice-Principal Mr. Burchett! Numbers at King's Academy Ringmer continue to grow and so must we as a Maths department, now back up to five sets in both year 7 and year 8 and looking set to continue this trend with the new cohort in September 2022.

In the lower school, we have dedicated lots of time and effort to maximize the students' mathematical fluency with fractions, decimals, and percentages. These are the foundation skills that allow a seamless transition to many more aspects of mathematics as students travel on their mathematical journey.

Following on from all the number work, we will be looking at various mathematical constructions across all year groups in 2022. Such constructions will include, accurate scale drawings of shapes, bisectors of both lines and angles, and loci from points and edges. As such, please can I ask that you ensure your child is equipped for all maths lessons with the following equipment. Please do get in touch with your teacher if there is a problem with any of this equipment.

- **Casio scientific calculator** (you can search around and get better prices than the £14.99 RRP)
- Pens and pencils
- **Maths set with compass** (and short pencil), protractor, and ruler

At the moment, we are targeting our **year 11** cohort towards the first set of summer exams since 2019 and as always feel confident in AQA to deliver a fair set of exams for both our foundation and higher GCSE students. As always we act upon the two sets of mock exams completed at the end of year ten and again in the autumn term. Using a question level analysis proforma we are able to teach the specific topics that our children have found difficult. As class teachers, we then intersperse these extra topics alongside our standard schemes of work. If your child has anything in the GCSE specification that they wish to be covered, please make sure they speak to their maths teacher and we will be sure to include this in our lessons.

Advice as always for our **year 11** (this would also be beneficial for those in **year 10**) is that it is never too late to start practicing! We are all studying **AQA 8300 GCSE Mathematics**, so students can begin attempting past paper questions at home which are all publicly available online. **Corbett Maths** do their "5-a-day" questions which are there for every day of the year and these are a really quick way of practicing maths at home. Here is the **foundation** and **higher** plus (for those who really want a challenge) from Christmas Day!

One approach with maths revision is to alternate your past papers - do one open book and search for answers every time you get stuck, then make a list of these topics to practice or speak to your teacher about. For the next paper, do it under exam conditions and use the mark scheme to see how you are doing and what grade you would get.

For the other years, 2022 will see the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge underway in April for years seven and eight, whilst those in years nine, ten, and eleven will have the opportunity to sit the Intermediate Maths Challenge in February. Past questions for both can be found here for the **junior** and here for the **intermediate**.

Wishing you all the very best from the Maths department.





## FOOD TECHNOLOGY

This term we have had a busy time in the Food room with all years involved in a variety of practical work over the Autumn terms.

**Year 7** have had their first experience of cooking at school, getting involved with soup making, bread, fruit crumble and a selection of different carbohydrate based salads. Many new students also signed up to our after school cookery club and along with **year 8** club members have served up a range of sweet baked goods including fruit muffins, gingerbread and chocolate brownies.

The school open evening gave keen cooks a chance to show off their baking abilities once again and we were able to offer potential new students the opportunity to try our school baked



chocolate chip cookies and lemon drizzle cake.

Meanwhile **year 9** students have been investigating different methods of food produc-

tion in the UK, including eggs, vegetables and wheat flour. Their cookery repertoire includes omelettes, pasties, muffins and marinating meat for their own recipe stir fries.

### GCSE year 10

students can now advise on following a nutritionally balanced diet suited to an individual's age and life-style as well as beginning to produce more complex dishes combining newly learnt practical skills. They will be in a good position to work on the project based section of their GCSE next year which is currently occupying our **year 11s**. These students are currently preparing for their 3 hour practical cooking exam, planned for next Spring - a chance to showcase their own particular signature dishes.



*Mrs Budd Food Tech*

## RE

**Year 7** students have been investigating the main ideas and practices of 6 world religions this term - Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. They have been getting to grips with ideas of monotheism versus polytheism and proving that they can identify features of each religion.

**Year 8** meanwhile have looked more in depth at one particular religion - Islam. They have considered not only the practices of the faith but the reasons behind these practices and how this affects the everyday lives of its followers. At present they are considering the spiritual and emotional rewards of making a Hajj for a practising Muslim.

**Year 9** students however, are tackling perhaps the fundamental question of human existence - does God exist? They have studied a number of philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God (from the teleological/design argument espoused by theists to the problem of evil put forward by atheists) and are trying to come up with their own personal definition of the divine. Quite impressive really!

*Ms Natalie Moorhouse  
Head of Humanities Faculty*

## PSHE

**Year 9** students attended a performance in November of 'County Lines' - a theatre performance showing the reality of young peoples' involvement with drug dealing which was organised with the help of East Sussex PSHE Hub, working with public health and the Standards & Learning Effectiveness Service. Their follow-up PSHE lessons gave an opportunity for young people to explore the broader context of exploitation with specific reference to county lines.



*Ms Natalie Moorhouse  
Head of Humanities Faculty*

## HISTORY DEPT

Having sat their trial exams in October (very successfully for the most part) **Year 11** History students have been getting to grips with the reasons for and consequences of the Norman invasion of England in 1066. It's all got a bit 'Game of Thrones' at times as we learnt about the power of the House of Godwin, or the Harrying of the North in 1069 where according to Orderic Vitalis '100.00 Christians' were murdered or starved to death by William I in revenge for a rebellion. There are pleasing links with the REAL Macbeth of Scotland (not Shakespeare's) to compare to GCSE English.

**Year 10** meanwhile have been considering medical progress during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance (spoiler alert - not much). We have analysed how much changed between the Black Death of 1348 and the Great Plague of 1665 and considered whether there any analogies to be drawn with the 21st century's response to a pandemic.

**KS3** History students are also considering how the past shapes our world today.

**Year 9** have looked at how the British Empire developed in the 18th and 19th centuries, with a special emphasis on India, and are now examining how imperialism contributed to the start of the Great War in 1914 as well as the role played by soldiers from the Empire (a third of the 'British' Army was from India, for example).

**Year 8** have studied some of the groups of people who have migrated to Britain over the years (from the Celts to people from the West Indies) and how they have been treated when they get here. They are now considering how democracy very slowly began to develop as a result of the English Revolution of the 1640s.

**Year 7** are beginning their investigation of the roots of democracy by starting with it's opposite - the feudal system set up by William the Conqueror where he owned all the land and had all the power. One of his main strategies to stop the Anglo-Saxons rebelling was to build castles and Year 7 will be creating their own models or diagrams over the Christmas break!

Ms Natalie Moorhouse  
Head of Humanities Faculty

## NHS CADETS

### What is NHS Cadets?

NHS Cadets is a new scheme created by St John Ambulance in partnership with the NHS, providing opportunities to explore skills, knowledge and volunteering roles within healthcare. It is aimed at young people aged 14 to 18 who are from communities currently under-represented within the NHS and St John Ambulance.

The programme offers young people health awareness sessions, courses to develop their leadership and communication skills and an insight or experience in volunteering within the NHS. It is a free programme, consisting of weekly, 2-hour sessions for 11 months. Cadets will be supported throughout their volunteering journey by our NHS Cadets Team.

### Who can get involved?

The initiative is seeking young people who might not have previously considered volunteering in healthcare. This includes, but is not limited to:



- Young people living with learning difficulties and / or disabilities
- Young people in the care system, or recent care leavers
- Refugees or Asylum Seekers
- Young Carers
- Homeless young people
- Those not in education, employment or training, or those with school results lower than you hoped/need
- Those living with mental health concerns (same principle as anyone with a learning difficulty or disability)
- Those who identify as being part of the LGBTQI+ community
- Those coming from low-income families / young people in receipt of free school meals
- Young people from ethnic minority communities

To find out more information and to apply, please visit: NHS Cadets Homepage | St John Ambulance ([sja.org.uk](https://sja.org.uk))



## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

The DT department has seen a very busy couple of terms so far this year. Year 7 and 8 students are on a carousel so over the course of this academic year each student will experience three different teachers with three different projects.

Two **Year 7** classes have been working hard on Memphis style clocks with Mr Madriaga, two classes have been working with Mrs Budd covering Food & Nutrition and two classes have been working on graphics with Mr Potter. Classes will move around in January so that by the end of the year all students will have experienced all three areas.



**Year 8** have been working in a similar manner with some students working on the chocolate bar project, designing a new and exciting product along with its packaging and a mould to form it in. Other classes have been working on the lantern project where they have to work collaboratively to batch produce the structure to hold the shades they have made individually. While some have been studying further Food & Nutrition.

Alessi has been the theme for **Year 9** so far this year. Students have looked at the history of the Alessi company including its successful products and sometimes not so successful ones! They have then designed and modelled their own Alessi style novelty egg cup before



going on to form their final design in clay. One of our more messy projects, but probably one of our more fun ones too.

A new project has been introduced in **Year 10** this year thanks to Mr Smith - our very talented DT technician. The project has been designed to support the theory of timbers and involves students making a small wooden stool.

This probably sounds simple enough, but it supports a huge amount of learning. We look at natural and manufactured timbers and how they behave, tools and processes, health and safety, fixtures & fittings and surface finishing to name but a few areas. I think it's fair to say that all **Y10** students have found this an enjoyable product and all have produced an item that they can be proud of now and in the future when they look back.



**Year 11** have been busy with their GCSE NEA task. The NEA (non examined assessment) is the work that students carry out in school which makes up half of their final GCSE grade, so it's important that they get it right! It involves them designing and making a product from scratch based on a theme they choose set by the exam board. We have various projects in the pipeline based on keeping fit and active, outdoor living and preparing for emergencies. Students have interpreted these themes in a wide variety of ways leading to designs ranging from dumb bells to bird boxes and everything else in between! Students have just finished modelling their designs and will be moving on to create their final items in January. There will be some very novel interpretations with the final results which is exactly what we want - creative, independent, inspirational designers!

*Mr Potter*  
D&T

## LOCAL MP VISIT

It was great to welcome Maria Caulfield, MP for Lewes, into the school today. Maria has not been to the school since we became an Academy. Maria was taken around the school and remarked how delightful the atmosphere of the school was and how focused and smart the students were. She was particularly complimentary of our Eco achievements and the quality of the lessons she saw.



After the tour, Maria attended a Q&A session with our students, addressing tough questions on traffic, transport, pollution, housing, covid related unemployment, online bullying and the wellbeing of our young people. Students appreciated Maria's answers. Year 10 student Mia said "It was a good opportunity to meet our Local MP and hear Maria's plans and how she addressed each of the issues raised. It has given me hope that Maria is trying to make a difference for our future".



## RETURN TO SCHOOL

### Tuesday 4 January 2022

For full term dates see our webpage [here](#)

## CAREERS OPEN DOORS

Students who are interested in Dance and Theatre from King's Academy Ringmer visited Vincent Dance Theatre in December. The trip was part of the East Sussex County Council 'Open Door' project which enables students in secondary schools to visit businesses. They discover the many different types of jobs and positions such a company employs. It helps students realise that, in this case, you don't have to be a dancer or actor to work for a dance company. If you have a passion and would love to work in the industry you can still pursue a career as a manager, business developer, HR, accounts, filming, social media, website, etc.

The students also looked at the theatres' work and participated in a workshop looking at identity, they loved this and expressed a lot of feelings about body image and peer pressure which they found very fulfilling.



## CHARITY WORK

It's been such a busy half term. We have participated in Children in Need, Remembrance Day, Green for a Day, Anti-Bullying Week, Christmas Jumper, taken lots of donations for our local food bank, who really appreciated the effort from all, especially at this time of year.



Unfortunately, we cancelled our Performing Art Showcase, however, we went ahead with our Christmas Craft Fayre in conjunction with Ringmer Church. We had 24 stalls and a fantastic turnout, all proceeds went to Young Lives V Cancer!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



## ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Lots of us will continue to rely on technology over the winter break, for entertainment and keeping in touch with friends and family.

See the following articles to help you keep your children safer online:

- [A parent's guide to privacy settings](#)
- [Gaming: what parents and carers need to know](#)
- [What is the Internet of Things \(IoT\)?](#)

## The Young Quills Awards for the best historical fiction

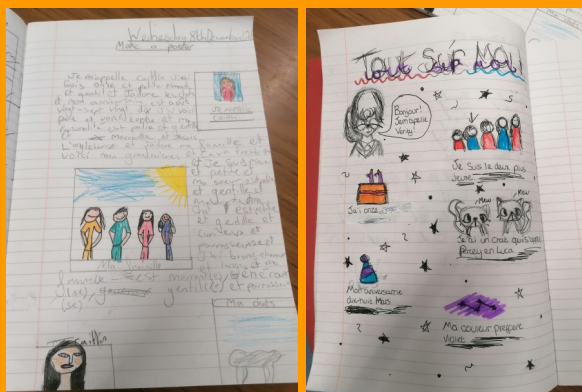
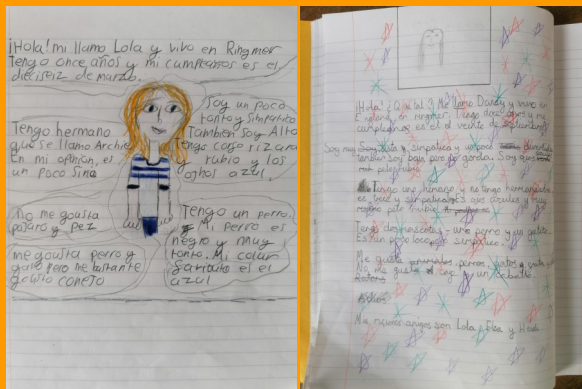
A little later than usual (thank you Covid) but just as excitedly we are delighted to announce the winners of the Young Quills Awards for Historical Fiction for Children for 2021.

It has been another exceptionally high quality year with the judges holding deep discussions right up until the end and they would like to congratulate everyone who entered, especially all those who managed to reach the shortlist. The shortlist for the Young Quills is created based on the reviews of children and their thoughts continue to assist the judges in their final deliberations. All the books listed here present a voice (or voices) from history whose story isn't usually told and they did so with strong, engaging, often exciting, frequently emotional and historically accurate narratives. Look no further for some inspiring ideas for stocking fillers and Christmas presents for children and young adults!



## MFL DEPARTMENT

Year 7 have made some posters describing themselves, their families and their pets using French and Spanish this term. They have also decorated them and several have been chosen to be displayed in class. This is a chance to recap all their MFL knowledge and produce some great posters to show off what has been learnt.



## WomenEd - South East "Leading Through Menopause"

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022

9.00am Arrival & Refreshments - 9.30am till 2.00pm

We welcome a host of inspirational leaders talking about their goals, challenges and discoveries.

Joining us will be, amongst others:



**Dr Olivia Hum**  
Menopause specialist  
"All you need to know about the menopause"



**Jo Bradshaw**  
Adventurer, expedition leader and inspirational speaker  
"Menopause? And I thought Mt Everest was tough"



**Patrick Ottley-O'Connor**  
18 years coach  
"Bringing our Menopause policy to life: a #HeForShe perspective"

Location:  
King's Academy Ringmer  
East Sussex  
BN8 5RB



King's Group Academies



@womenEdSE



## RINGMER NETBALL

The decision was made this year by our partnership to run age group tournaments instead of individual matches.

The year 9s played at Seaford Head in a very competitive tournament. We only took one team with a few reserves so the team had to adapt to these changes, which they did very well. They won all of their matches except for one against Seahaven which they drew. A great team performance with huge potential.

We took two teams over to Seaford for the year 10 tournament. Both teams dominated from the start, beating a very strong Priory and Seaford side. These teams have worked

incredibly hard to improve their performance and this was evident at the tournament. Team A were the overall winner's with team B runner's up.

The year 11s unfortunately only had Priory to play as other teams pulled out. However, they were also very impressive, pulling off an outstanding win against a very strong opposition.

We also had very competitive match when the year 10s took on the year 11s. Many staff came out to show their support, which was lovely. Although a close game the year 10s just squeezed a win.

Well done to all involved!



## GIRLS RUGBY

Recently the Lewes Lionesses team went up to the Red Roses vs Canada rugby game at the stoop in Twickenham. It was amazing to see the women playing such a strong game and I think it inspired all of us to become better and more skilful players. It was great to see an increase in spectators as women's sports are becoming increasingly popular.

Best wishes,  
Ellena Yr 11





## PE @ RINGMER

Since coming back in September it has been really nice to start getting back to normal being able to deliver clubs and fixtures again. Clubs have been really well attended all the way throughout the year and this has led to the school being able to get teams in all year groups for both Football and Netball. In both sports we have enjoyed the fact that so many pupils have wanted to represent the school in competitive games against other schools.



The year 11 Btec group delivered a number of sports sessions for Ringmer primary in a range of different sports in September from rounders, football, baseball, benchball, dodgeball and basketball. These not only showed that our pupils had the confidence to deliver lessons well but also that they should be more confident in what they are able to achieve.



The year 11 GCSE PE group have continued to work hard and are working on ensuring they get the best practical grades they can with the course. As such they all went down to Lewes athletics track to get video evidence of them performing in athletics. Some of the students will also be representing the school in a swimming gala in the new year.

As a school KAR organise the local cross country partnership event held at Eastbourne Sports Park every year. This year we took down two year groups in the 7s & 8s. With typical cross country weather making sure that all participants experienced true Cross Country conditions, all 16 pupils who took part did so fantastically well, with the highlights being the Year 7s boys team finishing first and the Year 7 girls team finishing second overall out of 12 local secondary schools. Well done to all!

A number of pupils took part in the London Virtual 2.6 Mile Challenge and all pupils who completed this and submitted their evidence will be receiving their pin badge as a record of their achievement.



We look forward to hopefully being able to do even more activities in the new year.

*Well done all  
The PE Team*



# King's Academy Ringmer

# SOLD OUT

# QUINZA NIGHT

## FRI 21 JAN

Doors open at  
6.30 pm for a 7pm  
start. Teams of 6  
£10 per head  
including  
supper

This  
event sells  
out fast  
so get  
your  
tickets  
soon!

Bar &  
Raffle  
available.  
Proceeds to  
charity



King's Academy Ringmer

To enter a team please email:  
[paula.peters@kingsacademies.uk](mailto:paula.peters@kingsacademies.uk)

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