

AUTUMN TERM CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS



KINGS'
SCHOOL · WINCHESTER

UPDATES FOR THE PARENTS OF KINGS'



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 LEAVERS

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

What a brilliant start to the year it has been. A special warm welcome to our new Year 7 pupils. It has been wonderful to see how quickly you have settled in and become part of the Kings' family. Your smiles, positivity and enthusiasm have made a fantastic impression already.

This edition of the newsletter is a celebration of success. We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 pupils and their GCSE achievements, as well as the outstanding efforts of individuals and teams across the school. This includes everyone who has completed their Duke of Edinburgh awards. These successes remind us of the supportive and ambitious community that makes Kings' such a special place.

We are also very pleased with the positive impact of our new Pupil Hub zone. It is already making a meaningful difference by offering a calm and supportive space for pupils who may be facing personal challenges. The feedback from pupils and staff has been extremely encouraging and we want to thank everyone who has contributed to its success.

Here is to a year full of opportunity, growth and celebration.

Best wishes


James Adams



Meet the Pupil Leadership Team



The PLT lead the prefect team, represent the school and act as a bridge between pupils and senior staff. The new team have been working hard on their strategy for pupils to make a difference this year. In their first newsletter, they introduce themselves to the school community, showcase some great work being done by department areas and initiate a pupil voice section.



PLT NEWSLETTER

SUBJECT SUMMARY

The subject summary is the place for all of our amazing departments to showcase both what they have done in the past weeks and exciting events coming up. We think that it is incredibly important for everyone at Kings' to be aware of all the great opportunities we have to offer.

SCIENCE


- Year 7 Winchester Science centre sleepover this weekend
- Y10 and Year 11 had some students go to look at a Bioengineering taster day at Imperial College London
- Science homework club / revision help in Room 72 every Wednesday at lunch – come and see Mrs Faulkner
- Chemistry week is coming up in November!

ENGLISH

- In Autumn Half Term Two, students will be studying the following:
Year 7 – Narrative Poetry Year 8 – Travel Writing Year 9 – 19th Century Poetry and Prose
- Students will be issued with supporting booklets after half-term. Please continue with your 20 minutes a day private reading
- Students can use Audiopi to listen to short podcasts that cover English Language and Literature
- The Growing Great Learners tab on the Kings' intranet homepage includes past papers and knowledge organisers with key info for English Language and Literature

LANGUAGES

- There is a Quizlet Clinic run by Mr Lopez every Thursday lunchtime in Room 71
- KS4: Use the Growing Great Learners Tile to revise (especially for Year 11 Mocks). There are many useful resources available there



PLT NEWSLETTER

MEDIA

- Media Coursework – Congratulations!
- I would like to congratulate our Media cohort on finishing their coursework element of their GCSE to a very high standard. The quality on display this year has been very impressive and hopefully leads some of you into careers in Graphic Design moving forward!
- Video Games Club – House Mario Kart Tournament
- Our annual House Mario Kart competition will take place on Wednesday 10th December. Sign ups will be announced towards the end of November, so make sure you get our entry in if you are interested!

DRAMA

- KS3 Drama Club is every Thursday after school.
- The Drama Club are working towards a Drama Showcase Evening, which will take place in the new refurbished Tower Auditorium on Thursday 4th December 2025 at 6:00pm.
- GCSE Yr11 Drama pupils have a devised performance exam on Friday 21st November

PUPIL VOICE SECTION

As part of the Pupil Leadership Team, we believe it's important that every student's voice is heard. The Pupil voice section gives all pupils the chance to share thoughts, ideas, and feedback on school. From what's going well, to what could be improved, we'll be gathering your suggestions and using your input to help make positive changes throughout the year! If you would like to tell us your suggestions or about any activities around the school, please email us at:



Head Girl, Katherine said, “we are so excited to be the PLT for this academic year! We hope to create positive change in school and strive to represent the student body, acting as a link between pupils and teachers.”

Head Boy, Will said, “our main aim is to further the sense of community within Kings' through ensuring everyone is aware of and understands both our mission statement and values, and how everybody can work together to achieve them.”



EXCEPTIONAL CHARACTER



Year 6 to Year 7 Transition



For our new starters in Year 7, it's been a busy summer with lots of events to ease their transition, from primary school visits by our staff, to induction days and summer school on-site here at Kings'. We hope they enjoyed the time and felt prepared for the next stage of their learning journey.



Day one is probably a distant memory, and it has been amazing to see not only how well they have settled, but also appreciate all that Kings' has to offer where they have really got stuck in! Leo O'L, who has attended the most clubs in Year 7, reflected on his first half term experience, 'I have really enjoyed the food here at Kings'. You have loads to choose from and it is all cooked fresh. It is nice that we can choose each day what we want to eat. I also love the variety of teachers we get taught by. All the teachers have different styles and make the lessons really interesting and can change things to help us understand. Lastly, I have really enjoyed all of the different clubs we can attend. Doing different clubs has helped me make new friends and they are all really fun."

Setting up for Freshers Fair!





We have recently sent out information for next summer's **Activity Days** for our Years 7, 8 and 9. They will be held on the Monday 20th July and Tuesday 21st July 2026. Year Group residential trips will run until Wednesday 22nd July 2026. This is an opportunity for your child to discover the importance of working together, communication and independent thinking, as they take on various activities and challenges. Deposits for Residential are due in November. These are part of our Activity Days and therefore if your child books onto a Residential trip they cannot book onto

any of the individual Activity day trips taking place at the same time, either on-site at Kings' School or off-site.

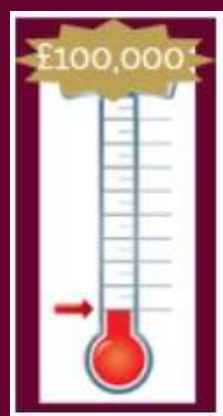
Mrs Nutbeam, Years 7, 8 & 9 Residential & Activity Lead

The Kings' Elevate Programme is small group coaching, providing tailored support to help pupils achieve both academically and personally. Weekly sessions set goals to improve focus and time management and cover subjects such as revision strategies and exam preparation workshops, well-being and stress management and support to their future pathway with education, training and careers advice and mentoring. We often invite external speakers - industry, parents and ex pupils - to support these sessions. Please contact the school if you would like to be a guest speaker.



It started in January 2024 for a group of 30 Year 11 pupils who we felt needed a little more support for their final few months at school, to help them achieve their potential and set them up for their next steps in life. Feedback from pupils was really positive, attendance improved and pupils had extra support in their college and careers choices. Due to it's success we decided to role it out for both Years 10 & 11 the following year, and this year plan to include other Years in KS3, affecting over 100 pupils.

Mrs Rossiter & Mrs King Elevate Programme Leads



We are **RAISING MONEY** for vital refurbishment of our science laboratories. With your support, we can transform our science labs into dynamic learning environments that spark curiosity, build skills, and open doors to STEM careers. Follow the link/ QR code to **DONATE!** <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/kings-4310>





INSPIRING FUTURES



Early in the Term we held our annual **Careers & Employability Fair** for our Year 9, 10 & 11 pupils. This is a fantastic forum to raise awareness and support pupils with their post 16 education, training and employment choices.

A huge thank you to all our exhibitors from local Colleges, Sixth Forms, Universities, Apprenticeship & Training Providers & Employers representing Architecture, Armed Forces, Childcare, Construction, Engineering, Marine Biology/Earth Sciences & Police, for taking the time to listen & talk to our pupils. It was an inspiring event, sparking curiosity and providing pupils with the information to think about and start conversations.



The Governors and staff of Kings' School are committed to maintaining The Quality in Careers Standard and are currently working towards re-accreditation. Our aim is to continue to provide an outstanding programme of careers education, information, advice and guidance activities that satisfy national requirements and facilitate positive career development and lifelong learning for all our students.

Mrs Turner, Careers Leader



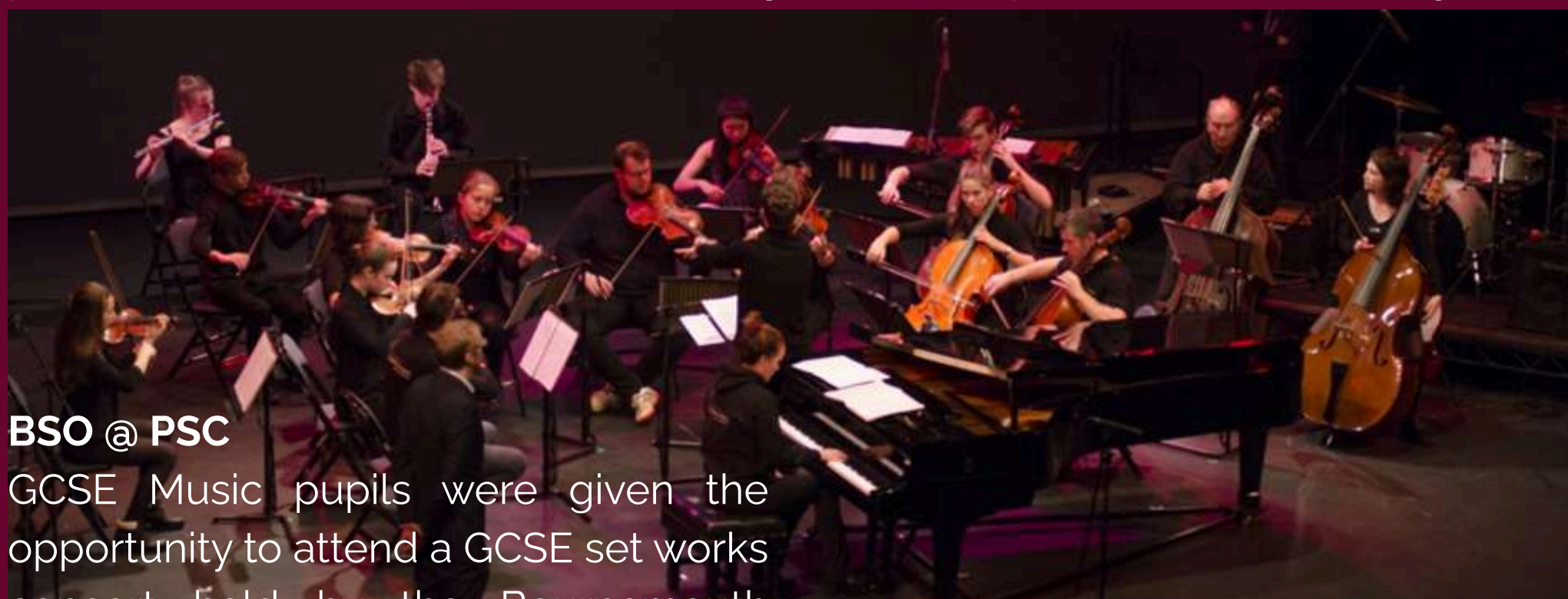
Year 7 Science Centre Sleepover

This overnight adventure was to help our newest learners settle into secondary school life, while exploring the wonders of science in a fun, safe, and inspiring environment.

Mrs Swift Trip lead



The entire Science Centre was exclusively ours for the night! We had, full access to all interactive exhibits; a live, bespoke science show; a movie night under the stars in the planetarium; and, after just a few hours sleep next to the exhibit of their choice, a private planetarium show in the morning!! The children did us so proud with the Centre staff commenting on their respectfulness and caring.



BSO @ PSC

GCSE Music pupils were given the opportunity to attend a GCSE set works concert held by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) in the new Russell Music Centre at Peter Symonds College. The workshop featured the AQA set works that pupils will need to study for the GCSE Music listening exam, performed live by a chamber ensemble of BSO musicians. Pupils were guided through the works with commentary and support from the performers. Mr Clarke Head of Music





Bioengineering Taster Day

We were incredibly fortunate to be able to offer for a small group of budding scientists a trip to the the Imperial College London for a Science Taster day. The trip gave a unique insight to the world of bioengineering, an interdisciplinary field at the cutting edge of science and technology. Participants got involved in interactive workshop, with hands-on activities and talks from leading researchers, to explore how engineering principles are applied to solve biological and medical challenges; what an inspiring and enriching experience! Mrs Swift Trip Lead



An Evening with Mary Berry



We were successful in securing some tickets for our GCSE Food and Nutrition pupils for an exciting audience with Dame Mary Berry in conversation with Gaby Huddart as she celebrated both her 90th birthday and the release of her latest book, Mary 90. An unforgettable evening as she shared personal stories, treasured memories and culinary secrets providing insights into her extraordinary six-decade career. From training at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris and the Bath School of Home Economics, to her pioneering role as cookery editor at Housewife magazine, and her rise to television stardom—Mary brought her journey vividly to life! Mrs Wright Trip Lead



Can you spot your school? 🤔

TOP 40 NON-SELECTIVE STATE SCHOOLS WITH THE BEST GCSE RESULTS

2025 Edition

#	School	GCSE 5+ Rate	#	School	GCSE 5+ Rate
1	Menorah High School for Girls	67.70%	21	Bishop Thomas Grant CE Primary School	35.20%
2	Gunnersbury Catholic School	61.70%	22	St Paul's School for Girls	35.20%
3	The Camden School for Girls	55.50%	23	Stepney All Saints CofE Secondary School	39.50%
4	Prendergast School	51.30%	24	Ricards Lodge High School	39.20%
5	St Richard's Catholic College	49.80%	25	Elthorne Park High School	38.80%
6	Penwortham Girls' High School	49.70%	26	St Aloysius RC College	38.70%
7	The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School	49.20%	27	Chailey School	38.70%
8	Preston Muslim Girls High School	48.60%	28	St Mary's and St John's CofE School	38.20%
9	Plasbet School	47.40%	29	Vardean School	37.50%
10	JFS	46.00%	30	Bishop Heber High School	37.20%
11	Marple Hall School	45.00%	31	Oaks Park High School	36.90%
12	Ursuline High School	44.90%	32	St Anne's Catholic High School for Girls	36.80%
13	The St Thomas the Apostle College	44.70%	33	Littleover Community School	36.80%
14	Allerton High School	44.10%	34	Rutlish School	36.70%
15	The Bishop's Stortford High School	43.50%	35	The Westgate School	36.50%
16	Kings' School	43.30%	36	Roundhay School	36.10%
17	Priory School	42.40%	37	Woodbridge High School	35.80%
18	Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School	41.80%	38	Morpeth School	35.70%
19	Wimbledon College	41.40%	39	Broughton High School	35.70%
20	Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School	41.20%	40	St Andrew's Catholic School	35.20%

Source: The Telegraph

Top rating in Telegraph's Study

Kings' received the top rating in The Telegraph's 2025 study into State Secondary Schools and was ranked in the top 20 for GCSE results from a non-selective school.

The study by the Telegraph, released in September, analysed data from almost 3,500 schools in order to rank every state school in England. It used 10 criteria ranging from truancy levels and the variety of subject offerings to how many students achieved a grade 5 or higher in English, Maths, Sciences, a language, and either History or Geography (EBACC). The study is designed to highlight a range of key data points in academic, behavioural and organisational performance

Each school was scored up to a maximum of 40 points and given an overall rating - "Very good", "Good", "Fair", "Below average" and "Poor" – derived by how a school compares to the average school across the country. Kings' was rated as Very Good, the top rating, and with 43.3% achieving a grade 5 or higher in English Baccalaureate subjects was placed 16th across all non-selective State Schools in England.

This is fantastic recognition for the school, reflecting both individual brilliance and our aspiration to offer the best learning environment every child deserves. It is a credit to our students, the support they receive from their parents and the dedication of our staff who continue to foster an environment where every pupil can flourish.

We were incredibly proud of the outstanding achievements of our 2025 leavers in this year's GCSE results.

29% of our students earned at least one grade 9, reflecting our ambition for the highest academic standards. Notably, nine pupils achieved seven or more grade 9s. In core subjects, results were equally impressive: 70% of the cohort secured at least a grade 5 in English or Maths, while one-third achieved grade 7 or higher in these key areas. The average grade remains strong, consistent with last year's performance, at a Grade 6.





CLUBS & ACTIVITIES



A huge congratulations to our amazing climbers for their fantastic achievements at the Inter Schools Climbing competition, coming 1st for Years 7-9, and 3rd in Years 10&11. Individual brilliance too with Alexa G coming 1st in Years 7-9, Anna F being crowned Lead Climb and coming 2nd overall best climber with Amelie D coming third. Well done to all!

House Update

The annual house competition is well underway with dodgeball, a science competition and netball already ticked off. It promises to be another excellent competition where pupils can enlighten their passions and talents , showing outstanding team-work along the way.

Mrs Frost, Head of House

Our Head of PE, Mr Birch was approached for interview by The Hockey Paper, following last season school's successes in Hockey across all age groups. The Hockey Paper is the No.1 destination for exclusive news, interviews and analysis on the global game of Hockey, with a reach of over 2 million readers. To be featured in such a prestigious journal is testament to Mr Birch and his team's commitment to deliver a full programme of sports for our pupils, and their phenomenal success raising Kings' as one of the top performing Hockey schools in the country.



HOUSE COMPETITION RESULTS SO FAR

Place	Dodgeball	Science Challenge
1 ST	STUART	STUART
2 ND	GODWIN	NORMAN
3 RD	NORMA	TUDOR
4 TH	TUDOR	GODWIN

Typical Calendar of Activities and Clubs				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Debating	Hockey	Basketball	Basketball	Hockey
Hockey	Puzzle Club	Brass Group	Trading Card	String
Choir	Chamber-	Chess Club	Games Club	Orchestra
Book Club	Choir	Graphic Novel	Hockey	Netball
Jazz Band	Steel Band	Club	EARA	Badminton
Enterprise	Eco Club	Programming Club	Art-Music	Swimming
Club	Netball	Robotics Club	Club	
English Café	Rugby	Knitwits	Science Club	
Steel band	Inclusive	Video Games Club	Computing	
Computing	Swimming	Football	Club	
club	Latin	Orchestra	Football	
Inclusive		German		
Sport		D&T Practical		
		Projects		



Extra curricular club lists can be found on our website here:
<https://kings-hants.com/clubs-activities>



ACE School of
CHARACTER



KINGS' SPORTS



A typical after-school scene at Kings' with four sport discipline fixtures caught in one shot - Football, Hockey, Rugby and (less obvious) X-Country.



The year started with the all important Sports Fresher's week for our new Year 7. What a great show in numbers with so many stepping up to try new things.



It has been a great start to the season, with the PE department running 66 fixtures this half term, covering all age groups, genders and nine sport disciplines: Hockey, Football, Rugby, Netball, Basketball, Tennis, Swimming, Climbing and X-Country. All teams are doing well in various leagues and knock out cup competitions. A sports roundup follows.



Hockey. Girls: A great start to the year has seen all age groups taking to the pitch for matches and tournaments. All teams have had wins over quality opposition and are looking for more. Special mention to our U16s being crowned County Champions, scoring 17 goals and only conceding 4. They also came Runners Up in the County Indoor competition and will go on to play in the regional finals. The U13 Girls came 3rd in their County Festival. Individual successes include Violet, Zoe and Lara all in the running for England honours with Sophie, Aggie, Jemima, Emma and Bella reaching Academy level.

Boys: So far the focus has been on training, less a commendable challenge by the U16s Indoor Squad who narrowly missed out making the semi-finals!



Netball. U12/U13 have been training hard for their fixtures and tournaments booked for second half of the Autumn term. The newly formed U14B team have made rapid progress, most notably, a 9-2 win against Romsey at the end of Oct. U15A team also secured a convincing win over Romsey School.



SPORTS ROUNDUP



Football. Girls: U12- won their two league games vs Westgaze and Perins. U13- Beat Toynbee but got knocked out in the 2nd round of the National Cup. U14- Through to 2nd round of both the National and County Cups. U15- Beat Saint Georges and Leaf Studio to advance into the 3rd round of National Cup. U16- Are to play Petersfield School in the 2nd round of the County Cup.

Boys: A successful start in the leagues, County and National Cups across the years. Highlights include an unbeaten record for Year 11 in all competitions, including victory against Salesian College, a renowned football school, and Bitterne park. The Year 10s started their defence of the County Cup with a convincing win over Trafalgar School. Four of the five year groups are still in the County Cup, with Years 11 and 9 competing hard in the National cup. Year 7 have made a very promising start at Kings' with an unbeaten league record!



Rugby. Girls: A great start to the year with the formation of U12, U14 and U16 teams. In September, the year 7 and 8s attended a touch tournament, gaining valuable game experience. The U14s played a friendly match vs Toynbee, and whilst the result was a loss, the girls really got stuck into the tackles and rucks!

Boys: The boys are currently unbeaten with every team progressing through to the next round of the County Cup, which is an incredible achievement. The year 8 boys have won two games, only conceding 10 points. The year 9s having played 3 fixtures look brilliant and have really come together as a team. The year 10s beat a strong Bohunt team, and the year 11s an unbeaten Calthorpe park team both progressing well into the next round of the County Cup.

Basketball. Girls: The U14 team have started the season really well, with a confident win over St Marks, and a commendable performance against a very strong Bitterne Park side. There is great promise for them in the league and cup. The U16 team are training for their league, which starts in the Spring, with some friendly games in the second half of the term.

Boys: KS3 Basketball is off to a flying start. Year 7 Boys have had their first taste of competitive school basketball and after coming away with their first win they are hungry for more! Year 8 boys start the charge on the County Cup after half term and will be interesting to see if they can finish their season with another Jr NBA Championship ring. Year 9 Boys sit in the middle of the U14 Southampton and District League with more to prove in the second half of term. KS4 Boys Basketball begins in November with a friendly fixture against Winchester College, prior to defending their U16 champions title in the County Cup.

Swimming. We sent a Junior Boys, Inter Girls and Inter Boys teams to the Hampshire Secondary Swim Relays, where our Junior Boys did exceptionally well coming third in the freestyle Relay.

Mrs Frost PE Teacher



40 YEARS OF KINGS'



This year is our 40th anniversary since Kings' formed in 1985. Early in the Term,

40 YEARS CELEBRATING KINGS' SCHOOL



we launched the celebrations with the formal opening of our Reception and Visitors Centre by the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Winchester, Cllr Sudhakar Achwal, accompanied by the Mayoress. It marked the first of several events the school plans for the year ahead to reflect on the history of the establishment, uniting the past with the present, and enhancing pride and sense of belonging within the school community.

At the opening, current staff were joined by over 30 staff from the past as well as key stakeholders who have supported the school over the years. Each of the four previous Headteachers gave speeches. Ray Bradbury (1985-2005), who formed the co-ed school from two existing single-gender schools gave some insights into how it all started, "It was not popular, and getting the two sets of staff to work together was challenging, but after a while we realised we quite liked each other and the wearing of blazers soon became the biggest issue."



All Headteachers commented on how the school developed such a strong ethos, identity and culture where high standards were embedded in the Kings' family. Matthew Leeming (Head from 2013-2020) spoke of his first impressions, "High expectation was dripping off the wall! I had never seen pupils with such institutional self-confidence and where it was cool to be good at things."

An interesting fact was how the school's name and crest came about, with the apostrophe 's' (s') representing all the kings buried in Winchester pre-Norman times, a millennium ago!



Kings' Headteachers over 40 years



40 YEARS OF KINGS'



Most of the 40th anniversary events will be based upon an extension of existing activities in the school calendar, such as fairs, festive gatherings, music, drama and sport, with the addition of an enhanced Kings' Alumni open and sports day on 25th April 2026, and culminating with a big community event in the July.



Celebrating these milestones is underpinned by sustaining the school for the future, being responsive to future needs and building resilience for continued success to shape the next generation of learners. Many of the celebratory events will take the form of fundraising to support the school's primary investment focus, where we aim to raise £100,000 to upgrade our science labs.

from This.....



....to This



Our goal is to create safe, modern, and inspiring lab spaces that foster scientific curiosity, hands-on learning, and academic excellence. This refurbishment will directly impact pupil engagement, STEM achievement, our ability to enhance our extra-curricular activities on offer and club opportunities.

This refurbishment is a vital investment to help inspire our pupils' futures. With your support, we can transform our science labs into dynamic learning environments that spark curiosity, build skills, and open doors to STEM careers.

Please follow the link/ QR code to find out more and donate!

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/kings-4310>





KINGS' SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE – ADULT CHOIR APPLICATION

The Kings' School Christmas Adult Choir is open to all parents, staff, governors & ex pupils. The adult choir will perform 2 carols in the Kings' School Carol Service that takes place in Winchester Cathedral on Tuesday 9th December 2025. Rehearsals will take place in the school hall Tuesday evenings after half term, starting the first Tuesday back - the 4th November, at 7.30pm. The first four will conclude at 8.40pm.

We will be singing O Nata Lux by Lauridsen (last performed in 2015), and Rutter's All Bells in Paradise. Due to the complexity of both carols, we will be learning 2 rather than 3 this year.

Please note: There are a total of five evening rehearsals on Tuesday evenings throughout November & early December.

Any questions or queries, please email Dave Clarke, Head of Music - d.clarke@kings-winchester.hants.sch.uk

Form to sign up:
<https://forms.office.com/e/U7mzDS8RNt>



AN INVITATION TO



join us!

40

Christmas

40

Cracker

Wednesday 3rd December 2025

Start: 4.30pm

End: 6.30pm

Main School Hall

40

Mulled Wine

Mince Pies

Hot Chocolate

Raffle Prizes

Stalls

Celebrating 40 years of Kings' School





NOTICES



Dates for the diary

27-31 Oct - Half Term
3-14 Nov - Year 11 Mock Exams
11 Nov - Remembrance day
14 Nov - INSET day
19 Nov - Year 11 GCSE RS Mosque Visit
25-27 Nov - Year 11 Geography Field Trip
26 Nov - Year 10&11 Drama Theatre Trip
27 Nov - 2025 Leavers GCSE Presentation Event
3 Dec - Kings' Christmas Cracker Fair
4 Dec - Drama Club Performance Evening
9 Dec - Carol Service
11 Dec - Year 9 Parents Evening
16 Dec - Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Celebration Event
16-18 Dec - Pupil Christmas Lunches
19 Dec - Last day of school (12.40hrs finish)
5 Jan - First Day of Spring Term/ INSET Day
6 Jan - Pupils First Day back at School

SUPPORT VACANCIES

Co-opted Governors

We are currently recruiting for a governor to sit on our Resources or Education committee.

Dining Room Assistant

Salary: Grade B3 FTE £25,128 - (actual £5,146)

Hours: 10 hours, 39.4 weeks (11:30-13:30, Monday-Friday)

We are looking for a reliable and enthusiastic Dining Room Assistant to join our excellent Catering team. You will assist the Catering Manager and Catering Supervisor with the daily operation of the catering department.

Sports and Community Assistant with NPLQ

Salary: £10.00 per hour

Hours: Part Time.

We are looking for a well-qualified and enthusiastic Lifeguard to join our community team. The Lifeguards are responsible for the safety of all persons using the pool and community facilities

INVIGILATOR. Salary: £12.82 p/h

Invigilators: Our invigilators are essential to maintaining an organised and safe exam environment for pupils and we are always looking for Invigilators to join our friendly team. There is no previous experience required for this role and full training is given. The work is casual so you can choose when to work.

For more information and to apply, please visit our website [Support Vacancies | Kings School](https://www.kings-school.co.uk/support-vacancies) or email recruit@kings-winchester.hants.sch.uk.