



## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2022

With the sun shining and the summer holidays on the horizon, the English teacher in me looks towards John Updike's poem 'June'.

*The sun is rich  
And gladly pays  
In golden hours,  
Silver days,  
And long green weeks  
That never end.  
School's out.  
The time is ours to spend.*

It has been a busy, productive and positive term with students working hard in their examinations, taking part in trips and in-school experiences. This was capped with our first Stamp Out Stress Fest on Monday, where students had the chance to take part in a wide range of activities and challenges. This was a fabulous day and our thanks to Mr Bland and Miss Ridgley for putting it together.

As ever, I'm keen to offer my thanks to the brilliant team of staff at Kings for their hard work, passion and care for our students. I would also like to extend these thanks to you all for your support.

### **Staffing changes**

We are fortunate to have a very settled team here, but do have a few people moving on, and some new staff joining as we continue to expand as a school.

Miss Mulligan leaves us after four years of inspiring everyone in the world of English. She moves back to the North of England with our very best wishes. She will be replaced as Head of English by Miss Keohane, who joins us from Rodborough.

Miss Wallis moves across to Fullbrook as Head of School. She has been remarkable in her work here – in safeguarding, teaching and learning, behaviour, attendance and also in her day to day support for students and staff. We will miss her enormously at Kings, but are pleased for her to be able to take this opportunity to run a school in her own right.

Mr Edis-Smith heads back to his home in Sheffield. He has been an able replacement for the Miss Plaice, who returns to the Maths department following maternity leave.

Miss Francis joins us as Assistant Principal and has already undertaken work with the team as we look to the year ahead. Mr Ferguson and Mrs Robberts become Vice Principals for the year ahead.

We also welcome Mr Bacon as Key Stage 3 SENCO, joining us from Woking High. He brings a wealth of knowledge with him. Miss Denslow will continue as SENCO, looking after students in Years 9, 10 and 11.

Mrs Ward returns to us in Science. She is an exceptional teacher and knows the school and wider community well. We are pleased to have her return to the school.

Alison Danilewicz is moving on at the end of September. As Head Science technician she has supported staff in all practical elements of Science since 2010 as we will miss her energy, enthusiasm and knowledge. We are pleased that Mrs McGrath will be starting with us in the role from the start of term, so there will be a useful handover period.

Claire McDonnell leaves us to return to Grafham Grange. She has made an impact in her brief time here as Home School Link Worker and we will miss her, as will the students.

We will also welcome back Miss Graham (Science), Miss Williams (English) and Miss Holmes (Maths), who will all start their teaching journey with us. We are excited for the dynamism and support for our students they will bring.

### Celebration Evening

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July we enjoyed a fantastic and uplifting evening of celebrating the winners of subject prizes in each year group. Our guest of honour was Ajay Ajimobi, the Students' Union President at the University of Surrey. She delivered a great speech about the power of tenacity, and was on hand to award certificates and prizes to our winners. Thank you to the Kings Choir and pianists who provided musical entertainment during the evening.



In the individual categories, the year group prizes went to:

- Year 7 - Pip Little
- Year 8 - Freya Carter
- Year 9 - Jake Chapman-Burn
- Year 10 - Isabelle Goldie
- Year 11 - Emily Barnard

Our congratulations to all of the winners.



### Four new houses launch at Kings College

An active house system is a great way for students to feel a sense of community and belonging. As Kings continues to grow we understand the importance of this more than ever. With this in mind, I am happy to report the launch of our four new houses from September: Crown House, Orb House, Mantle House and Sceptre House. The new houses were launched to students during our Stamp Out Stress Fest and students will begin competing in their new houses from early in the next academic year.

Each house is based on the coronation regalia, adorned by English monarchs during their coronation ceremony. As Kings College, we are inextricably linked to the English monarchy through our name. It is important that students feel a connection to their house, and each house represents key values we stand for at Kings:

- Courage (Mantle)
- Community (Sceptre)
- Leadership (Crown)
- Stewardship (Orb)



Students will compete for school rewards and in various competitions over the course of the year.

### Sports Day 2022

After a deferment for 3 years due to various restrictions and with the threat of extreme heat, Kings hosted a successful Sports Day on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Sports Day is the pinnacle of the students' efforts in PE over the course of the year and an opportunity for them to showcase their abilities in front of peers, staff and in direct competition with their peers.

### High Jump, Long Jump and Shot-Put

High jump, managed by Mr Cushen, saw some wonderful skill as pupils cleared the bar. Josie (Year 7) jumped 135cm and Billy (Year 10) cleared 145cm. In the long jump pit, Ms Reeves was measuring some impressive jumps, particularly witnessing some outstanding competition between the Year 9 boys - Louis, Angus and Bailey. Louis came out on top with a jump of 4m 64.

Miss Hamilton meanwhile saw some impressive shot-putting, with Ashadee leading the Year 8 girls and Cameron beating out Freddie by a mere 5cm for the Year 8 boys.

### 1500m, 800m, Javelin and Discus

Miss Imison and Mr Chalmers controlled the 1500m races. With starting pistols, timings and tracking the final lap bell, a lot was going on, including some amazing times from Isaac (Year 7), Isla (Year 8) and Isabelle (Year 10).

After a break for brunch, the great team spirit continued with students seen encouraging teammates to ever try for that "one more throw" to be better, culminating in several students setting personal bests. Stand-out performances from Lleyton in the javelin, Thomas and Isabel in the 800m, and James and Zoe in the discus capped off the Period 2 sessions.



### Sprints and Tug-of-War

After lunch the whole school came down to the field to sit in the house areas, in house colours and cheer for classmates, friends and house teammates. As this was to be the final event in students' current houses, students were keen to emerge victorious and have final bragging rights.

Events started with the 400m and the Tug of War. And with each event, more excitement was building on the finish line. Mr Le Brun and Miss Cherry kept the crowds engaged with great commentary and an upbeat music selection. The ice cream van had a steady flow of patrons and students and staff were enthralled with the events that were unfolding before them.

Relays, the final events, saw some tight finishes and wonderful cheering from the pupils. All-in-all, a total of 56 running events, 38 field events and 12 Tug-of-War pull offs happened on the day. A massive thank you must go out to all staff who helped ensure the day ran smoothly and to all pupils who made this event such a success. Well done all!



## English

Last week the English department took 50 Year 9 students to see 'My Fair Lady' at the London Coliseum. The Year 9s have been studying George Bernard Shaw's 'Pygmalion' - the play on which the musical is based - and we wanted to give the students the full experience by taking them to see a live performance. For many students this was their first school trip to the West End due to the pandemic restrictions.



90 students also attended the Guildford Shakespeare Company's 'The Tempest' in Stoke Park. The students had a wonderful time taking part in the promenade performance which saw the cast and audience make their way between performance spaces within the park.

## Languages

Kings College Languages students have enjoyed two trips this academic year- one to Fullbrook School where they attended a Languages Careers Day to learn about possible future uses for their language skills. The presentations and activities were very diverse and included Code Breaking led by a Foreign Office employee, interpreting German and Spanish films and beginners Italian.

The other trip was to George Abbott School where Kings students watched plays performed by native speakers in French and Spanish by the Onatti Theatre Company and asked the actors questions about the play and their acting careers.

Next academic year 40 Kings College students are very much looking forward to a cultural and language trip much further afield - to Málaga, in southern Spain. Amongst other highlights of the trip students will have the opportunity to visit the Picasso museum, Gibralfaro Castle and the Rosaleda Football Stadium.

## Maths

Earlier this term over a hundred Year 7 and 8 students took part in the UK Mathematics Trust annual Junior Maths Challenge. This is an international competition with over 270,000 entrants. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

The problems on the Junior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think and promotes a love of problem solving. We're delighted that nearly a third of students achieved a bronze, silver or gold award placing them in the top 50% of highest achievers!

Carson Poon (Year 8) and Kai Brown (Year 7) both went on to qualify for the next stage of the competition, The Junior Kangaroo, open to those in the top 5% of the competition. Kai went even further and achieved a certificate of merit, which places him in the top 2% of all students who entered across the globe.



The Maths department would like to say a huge well done to all who took part and congratulations to both Carson and Kai on a fantastic achievement.

## Performing Arts

Last Friday students from Performing Arts department put on their first performance since COVID. A group of Year 7 & 8 boys showcased their dance piece which was created in collaboration with Matthew Bourne's New Adventures Dance Company. Year 7 girls performed 3 short dance pieces choreographed by Esme in Year 10. The Kings Choir also performed a set of songs and were delighted to be able to showcase what they had been working on for the year.



### **Diversity Committee**

On Monday, 18 July, the Diversity Committee held a fundraising bake sale to help local Ukrainian families. Thank you to all who donated baked goods and all who bought a little treat at lunch. An amazing £127 was raised and will be donated to the local charity GUkraine for their work with Ukrainian refugees in Guildford and surrounding villages.

### **Finding Our Futures – University of Surrey**

#### **Brilliant Club**

Well done to the 21 Year 7s and 9s who took part in the Brilliant Club Scholars Programme this year.

Students challenged themselves to write a final assignment on a topic they had been learning about with their PhD tutor.

We celebrated all their hard work and success with a graduation at the University of Reading.



### **Year 8 Exploring Higher Education**

Year 8 recently celebrated the end of their Exploring Higher Education Programme with the University of Surrey with a graduation ceremony. Students learnt about university life, clubs and societies, and tried a few subject tasters across their days on campus. It was great to see so many students asking questions and getting stuck in with the activities to learn more about higher education.

### **Uniform**

If you would like to order any new uniform items for your child, please go to our website and click on the Parents tab, then Uniform where there is a QR code and a link to the Kings College Shop.

### **Attendance**

A reminder to parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.

### **Key dates for return in September**

- Year 7 students return to school on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and should be here to start at 8.25.
- Our new Year 11 cohort will also be in on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9am to 10.30 for a session with Mr Stewart.
- All other students return for the new academic year on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September.
- The school photographer will be in on 7<sup>th</sup> September for Year 7, 9 and 11 photos.

On behalf of all of the team here, we wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer, and look forward to the year ahead.

**Alastair McKenzie**

**Principal**