

KING'S

NUMBER 4 | APRIL 2020



THE EASTER ISSUE

YEAR 11 AND 13 STUDENTS PLEASE SEE PAGES 4 AND 5 WITH REGARDS TO EXAMINATIONS.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this will be the most unusual Newsletter that I will ever write. At the time of writing we are approaching the end of the second week of school closures. These are extraordinary times and I am very grateful and humbled by the support of the governors, staff, students and parents.

The school continues to function for a number of students whose parents are on the list of key workers. Those helping to maintain this facility do so with great pride in helping those who are working for our country. I know how incredibly grateful all here at school are for the efforts made by all parents. We are particularly grateful to those parents who are risking their lives on our behalf. I know a significant number of students have also signed up to help the NHS. I am always so very proud of the kindness shown by so many of our King's Men.

I do hope that this newsletter conveys some sense of normality and stability in these uniquely unusual and unstable times. It is important that we do recognise the amazing achievements of so many of the boys when the school was fully functioning.

This is probably a good time to also think of the opportunities that present themselves in times of adversity. I have heard of students learning new computer languages, volunteering, improving their chess and occasionally cooking.

In 1665 our former student Isaac Newton was sent home following an outbreak of the bubonic plague, from Trinity College, Cambridge University. Newton returned to his birthplace, Woolsthorpe Manor. It is often reported that while sitting in the garden there one day, he saw an apple fall from a tree, providing him with the inspiration to eventually formulate his law of universal gravitation. Newton later relayed the apple story to William Stukeley, who included it in a book, "Memoir of Sir Isaac Newton's Life," published in 1752. With such inspiration I wonder what the current King's Men will be inspired to formulate over the coming months.

I hope that you all keep well, continue to follow the advice and that we are able to reopen our school soon. I look forward to seeing all our students return on that day.



CHANGE OF PERSONAL DETAILS

When you inform the school of a change in family circumstances or of a personal matter that may affect your son's well-being, we often distribute this to all staff for their information. If you do not want this to happen, please make this clear in your communication to the school.

Credit: Universal History Archive/Getty Images

HOME SCHOOLING

Thank you to all of the students, their parents and carers who are doing their very best at this extraordinary time. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the parents who have sent in emails of support. It is enormously appreciated and reassuring.

The Covid-19 crisis means that school leaders, teachers and support staff are working in new situations and new ways in order to meet the challenges they face every day. These are very stressful and anxious times. Colleagues want to do the right thing – so that the NHS is not overwhelmed and other essential services keep functioning. I know that students at home face the same challenges. As you will be aware staff have provided work for students up to the Easter vacation period. After that, and in some cases already, all staff will be setting work through Frog. Staff will be mindful in doing this of not over burdening students, especially if they become sick, they also have their own domestic arrangements and may be also looking after their own children and may become sick themselves. Parents should also be mindful that students may complete work at a faster rate than they would in a classroom setting, and the level of effort applied to a given task will determine the length of time it takes to complete work.

Parents can also view all the set work through the Parent Portal on Frog.

WELL-BEING UPDATE

Each Friday we'll be sending through some information on FROG to all students and parents to help you through this uncertain time. Take a moment to look through the information to get some ideas on how you can support yourself and those you live with. By taking some time each day to look after your own well-being you'll be setting a great example for those around you on how to cope during a difficult and potentially stressful time. We all look to those around us to figure out how to act when things are tough, so if you can stay calm, physically active and positive it will rub off on the people around you too. This week there are some useful resources from the Anna Freud Centre around self-care, with a range of ideas and activities to help anyone take charge of their own well-being. Take a look and see what you can put in place to help yourself feel better.

If you feel as if you need extra support around your well-being or someone to talk to, please get in touch with Mr Dixon (Justin.Dixon@kings.lincs.sch.uk) so we can direct you to the right place.

I hope this is ok – I've already assigned some stuff on FROG to go live on Friday:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ME5IZn4-BAk&feature=youtube>

<https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care>

GCSE AND A LEVEL EXAMINATIONS

Following on from my letter to the parents and carers of all students in Year 11 and 13, today, 03 April 2020, we have received the technical guidance on how exam grades will be allocated this summer.

Below is the letter from Sally Collier the Chief Regulator at Ofqual to students. As a school the staff will work exceptionally hard and diligently over the coming months to ensure that we follow the guidance given and award grades and rank orders appropriately. This will be an extremely challenging, but a challenge we will meet.

As teachers we are very aware of the process that students make though out the year and how much additional value students make in these last months. We are also very aware of the additional pressures that students are under and the Special Considerations that we would apply for under 'normal' conditions. We will work as a school with great care and perseverance to provide the best, and fairest, possible grade for each student based on all of the knowledge we have.



A MESSAGE FOR ALL GCSE, AS AND A LEVEL STUDENTS THIS SUMMER FROM OFQUAL.

I understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you, since the announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news. I wanted to let you know what we are doing to provide you with grades. Our over-riding aim in this is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure you are not disadvantaged in your progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

HOW WILL GRADES BE CALCULATED?

Your school or college will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade.

This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges. Your school or college will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course.

This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board.

DO I NEED TO COMPLETE ANY NEW WORK FOR MY SCHOOL/COLLEGE TO SUBMIT A GRADE?

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete,

any work given out after schools were closed.

CAN I SEE THE GRADES MY SCHOOL/COLLEGE SUBMITS FOR ME?

No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.

I AM A PRIVATE CANDIDATE – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

If you are a private candidate (for example, home-schooled, following distance-learning programmes or studying independently) the centre you are entering with should include you where the head teacher or principal is confident that they and their staff have seen sufficient evidence of your achievement to make an objective judgement. We are urgently exploring whether there are alternative options for those students who do not have an existing relationship with a centre and who need results this summer to progress. Unfortunately this is unlikely to be possible for all private candidates, some of whom may instead need to take exams in the autumn to get their grades.

We appreciate that this is a matter of real concern to private candidates and will provide an update as soon as possible. We have asked organisations that represent universities and FE colleges to consider the steps that providers could take when making admissions decisions this summer for any private candidates who do not receive a grade. They have told us that they believe that institutions will consider a range of other evidence and information for these students to allow them to progress wherever possible.

WHEN WILL I GET MY RESULTS?

We're working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need.

CAN I TAKE MY EXAMS ANOTHER TIME?

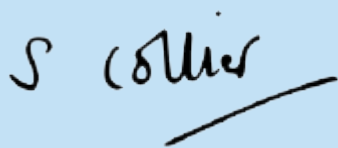
We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks.

The information we have published covers GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications and Additional Extension Awards in maths. You can find out more about which qualifications and students are included, and the current arrangements for those which are not, [in our detailed guidance](#); along with answers to other questions that you and your parents or carers might have. We will keep updating our guidance as new information becomes available, including to share details about vocational and technical qualifications as soon as we can, so please keep an eye on our website.

Please be reassured that the grades you get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned. With every best wish,

Sally

Sally Collier

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S Collier'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chief Regulator, Ofqual

CHILDREN OF COURAGE 2020

Earlier this month the Children of Courage Awards took place at the Urban Hotel in Grantham. Edward Bellamy of Year 8 was nominated for this award by the school's Teaching Assistants because of his courageous and resilient attitude to his illness.

Quite soon after joining King's Edward was diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, more commonly known as ME. He struggled to get to school most days, but pushed himself to attend as much as possible, feeling poorly and hardly able to walk at times. When he could attend school he was helped around, often using a wheelchair.

Edward has now taken up playing golf, starting off by hitting soft balls in the house, to hitting harder balls into a net in the garden and then moving on to the driving range with his mum helping him carry his clubs and pushing him there in a wheelchair. Edward eventually progressed onto the course at Belton Woods being driven around in a buggy by coaches and junior members of the club so that he could play when he was well enough. Playing golf has given Edward something else to concentrate on rather than think about his illness all the time.

In a speech at the awards ceremony Teaching Assistant Lucy Quinn told the audience "Edward continues to tackle his illness day by day, mostly getting into school for a few lessons each day. Despite obvious difficulties, he continues to work hard to maintain his academic level and is keeping pace with his peers. Well done Edward, you are definitely a courageous young man."

The awards are held every year, organised by the Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven to celebrate the achievements of inspirational young people like Edward. Edward's parents, along with Mrs Quinn from King's, attended the ceremony to support him. Sam Ruddock, Paralympian, presented the awards and spoke with each child during the dinner held afterwards.



SLEEP-OUT FOR THE HOMELESS

As previously reported, Mr Baker took part in the Sleep Easy event in Lincoln on Friday 6 March, raising money for the homeless through the YMCA.

He raised £543 from staff and students, due in large part to donations from staff and students, and would like to thank everyone who donated and gave their support.



WHIST CLUB

After a thrilling end to last month's Knock-Out Whist House Competition, it was fantastic to see so many pairs entering the Partner Whist House Competition.

New members joined the Club to learn to play the game and those wishing to play but who hadn't yet found a partner, were paired up with one. The fun commenced, but unfortunately, after one week the competition had to be put on hold for reasons of which we are all familiar with now. The competition will re-commence once school resumes. In the meantime Club members may wish to teach their families how to play Whist in their downtime away from their remote studies!

My thanks go to Rory Mapletoft and Pete Rajesh of Year 12 for their invaluable help in the running of the Club.

Mrs Newton

OLD BOY

Kane Cupit, a King's Old Boy, was recently named 'New Zealand Barber of the Year'. Well done Kane!

GEOGRAPHY

Year 12 students travelled to Hull for their Fieldtrip as part of their A level course requirements.

The day started early with a 7:00am departure from school and we all enjoyed clear blue skies and sunshine - an unusual experience for Geography fieldwork. The day began with a walking tour of Hull, led by a local guide, Paul Schofield, who showed the students the areas of the city where regeneration was taking place and the impact these changes were having on the people as well as the physical environment. Paul's knowledge was exceptional and the boys benefited from his in-depth knowledge.

Following visits to the Fruit Market, Hull Minster and the Arcades, the students went to the History Centre where they had the opportunity to study how Hull had changed by reviewing the historical map collections.

After a quick lunch stop the students got down to some data collection of their own and were introduced to locations and techniques they may wish to use in their coursework projects.





YEAR 10 FIELDWORK

Despite the challenging and unprecedented conditions in the week commencing 16 March, the Physical Geography trip went ahead.

During the course of the week each teaching set visited the River Witham. The aim of this work was to investigate how the river changes as you move further downstream.

Starting at the source near South Witham, and moving to Colsterworth, students measured the velocity, cross sectional area, sediment size and slope profiles. The week did not pass without many amusing moments, from boys with holes in their wellingtons to being stuck in 'mud' and having to be pulled out by staff members.

The data will be used by students in their examinations at the end of Year 11.

Thanks go to all involved in this trip, especially given the difficult circumstances, for their efforts in making it successful and giving the boys and staff a slice of normality.

Mr Cawthorn - Subject Leader, Geography

PHYSICS

Earlier this month some of the Year 12 Physics students accepted the challenge of the University of Oxford and completed the British Physics Olympiad Physics Senior Challenge.

This was a one-hour question paper on topics covered so far in the A level course but the questions were of a complex nature. All students are congratulated on their effort and all received a commendation for completing the paper. The following students gained a higher award:

Joshua Brook, Harvey Foster and Daniel Hill gained a Bronze II, putting them in the top 50% of students.

William Chatterton, Joah Davis, Will Rice and Aaron Turner gained a Bronze I putting them in the top 28% of students.

Mihails Kosmans gained a Silver award, putting him in the top 13% of students.

All of the students deserve credit for attempting and succeeding on such a difficult paper.

On Friday 13 March 15 Year 11 Physics students volunteered to accept the challenge of the University of Oxford and completed the British Physics Olympiad GCSE Intermediate Challenge. They had to complete a one hour question paper on topics covered in the GCSE course, as well as new ideas and concepts, with the questions being of a very complex nature.

All students are congratulated on their effort and gained a commendation for completing the paper. The following students gained a higher award:

Hamza Behzad and Tommy Graham gained a Bronze II, putting them in the top 50% of students.

Nasir Chaudhry, Viraj Deorukhkar and Jude Wright gained a Bronze I, putting them in the top 27% of students.

Alex Humphries gained a Silver award putting him in the top 13% of students.

All students are congratulated for attempting and succeeding on such a difficult paper.

Miss Jones - Subject Leader, Physics

MATHEMATICS

Congratulations to the Year 10 and Year 11 students who took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge in February. Of the 60 boys who took part, 15 were awarded a Bronze certificate and 22 were awarded a Silver certificate.

Nine students scored 89 or more out of 135 so were awarded a Gold certificate and qualified for one of the follow-on rounds:

Isaac Abbott, Kieran Allman, Alex Humphries, Angus McCallion, Tristan Peacock, Loris Pulizzi and Oliver Thomas will go onto the Pink Kangaroo round. Jason Meng and Calvin Josenhans (one of our Harlaxton College students who sadly had to return to the USA prior to the competition), qualified for the Hamilton round.

These took place on 19 March, prior to the school closing and their scripts are locked away until they can be sent to Leeds University for marking.

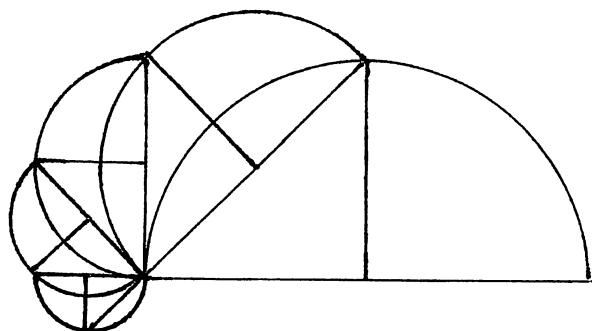
The paper they sat, along with lots of other resources produced by the UK Maths Trust, can be found at <https://www.ukmt.org.uk/>

Mrs A Cherry - Mathematics Teacher

MATHEMATICS

Another brainteaser from Professor M J Sewell, D.Sc, Emeritus Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Reading, and an Old Boy of King's (1943-53 and Head Boy 1952-53).

The diagram shows a sequence of diminishing semi-circles, each built on a quarter-circle. The crescent Moon (or 'lune') between each pair of successive semi-circles has the same area as the right-angled isosceles triangle upon which it is based. The proof of this is an exercise for the reader.



WATER POLO

Well done to the following boys from Grantham Water Polo Club on becoming the U15 ESSA Plate Final winners. Well done.

Harry Evans, Tom Ford, Isaac Foster, William George, Zoli Griffin Acs, Sam Leveridge, Aidan Lugin, Thomas Perks, Zac Reeves, Charles Roberts, Jack Street and Sam Thompson.



TABLE TENNIS

Well done to James Hobbs of Year 8, Joe Marlor of Year 9 and Jai Mistry-Moulton of Year 10 for achieving Gold at a Junior League Match recently.

This achievement is especially pleasing as the Junior League has players up to the age of 18 and so the boys really stepped their game up.

James won 4 of his 9 matches in his first foray into the Junior League, Joe won 8 out of his 9 matches and Jai won 6 of his 9 matches.

All the boys play for the Cliffedale Chandlers.

SUMMER 'SOUL-STICE' - DIARY DATE

With regret, the Summer Soul-stice has been cancelled this year.

GOLD CARD CLUB

The King's Gold Card Club scheme is a monthly cash prize draw that helps support the work of the King's PTFA, which in turn supports the school in various projects. The Gold Draw is open to anyone over the age of 18, not just parents/carers - so grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and former students are welcome to participate too - this is an easy way to make a difference to the school.

An annual payment of £10.00 entitles participants to be included in the ten monthly prize draws, which currently stand at £60.00, with two prize draws of £450.00 each year. Check out Gold Club Card details in the PTFA section of the school website.

SECOND-HAND SHOP - UNIFORM & PE KIT

The PTFA manages the school's secondhand uniform and PE kit sales, and especially welcomes donations of games and PE kits.

Currently we do not need football or rugby boots, trousers or shorts.

To buy or donate, contact the PTFA via ptfauniformshop@gmail.com or leave a message with the School Office and we will contact you.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

You can look up information on what is happening or get in touch with the PTFA via:

Facebook - @KingsPTFA | Twitter – Twitter.com

Kings PTFA Secondhand uniform - ptfauniformshop@gmail.com

Email – admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk

We look forward to seeing you at one of the meetings or events and would like to thank you again for your support.

Please have a look at what we do in more detail on the school's website. Find us in the PTFA section of the website under 'Parents & Students'.

COMBINED CADET FORCE

Following their win at the Eastern Region RAF CCF Competition, the King's team were selected to attend the National UK RAF CCF Competition at RAF Halton.

Sixteen of the top CCFs from across the country competed in this event and the final result was that King's came 8th out of the 232 school CCF units, an exceptional result. Congratulations to all participants and to the CCF staff.

SSI Pulfrey and Flt Lt Barton took some of the CCF contingent to the Bede Horse Trials to help with their eventing.

The Contingent then held a fieldcraft training exercise on land at Stoke Rochford, courtesy of Mr Neil McCorquodale. The cadets trained in Camouflage and Concealment, Judging Distances and Section Battle Drills, followed by a small fieldcraft exercise. The Contingent then presented Mr McCorquodale with a cheque for £100 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

Unfortunately that was the end of activities and training due to the current COVID-19 situation.

However, we will be recruiting to the CCF from September 2020, the new training year. Students will see from previous newsletters the sort of activities undertaken and the opportunities afforded via the CCF.

Any student moving into Year 9 in September 2020 is eligible to join the CCF (either RAF or Army Section). Please email SSI Pulfrey if you are interested (shane.pulfrey@kings.lincs.sch.uk). This will allow necessary planning ahead of September 2020.

Thank you.

R M Ogg, Lt Col - Contingent Commander

