

THE KING'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER!



Issue 26 - July 2024



HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS

Well, we've made it! The end of the school year always comes so quickly, marked by the traditional events of sports days, final assemblies and our annual Fun Day. Thank you to all who helped, and especially our new PTA committee who are a great bunch. Why not join them? Thank you, too, to all those who made the exam season run smoothly for our Year 11s. Invigilating is not the most exciting of tasks, but essential nonetheless. Thank you to our Trustees, who have served us faithfully throughout the year, and especially to Abi Fetuga as she leaves the team after many years of sharing her financial wisdom. It has been great to welcome new staff and pupils throughout the year and seeing the friendliness of our pupils as they give a warm reception. This truly is a very special school family, one that I am privileged to be a part of. Many blessings to you all this summer. *Andy Reeves*



VISIT TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Year 7 very much enjoyed a trip to the Houses of Parliament as part of our LifeWISE learning about democracy. Inside Westminster Palace, our tour guides showed us Westminster Hall, where monarchs and famous people have made speeches over the centuries. Then from Central Lobby we were taken to the House of Commons and the House of Lords, where we listened to the day's debates for a few minutes. We were struck by the finery of the House of Lords, including the throne. After our tour, we took part in a mock debate about transport. Year 7 proved themselves to be excellent speakers, both for and against the motion! A highlight was Mr Reeves donning a gown and wig to take the part of the Speaker of the House! As a group, the class rated the House of Lords and the debate as the best parts of the visit.

STOCKWOOD DISCOVERY CENTRE TRIP FOR YEAR 1

Year 1 enjoyed a lovely class trip to Stockwood Discovery Centre, Luton. The day began with an Art workshop when the children explored the grounds to find various sculptures. They then used different natural materials, including beetroot, mud and grass to create their own paintings.



After lunch they had a workshop to find out about changes in the types of transport over the years and had fun exploring the different carriages at Stockwood. The day ended with a fun time playing parachute games.



GERMAN EXCHANGE

Following our successful visit in April to our partner school in southern Germany, we were thrilled to welcome our German guests to our school in mid-June. Highlights for the German students included visiting the cathedral and the markets in St Albans, a trip to London, and of course, the wonderful experiences with their English host families over the weekend. A big thank you to all the families who have so lovingly welcomed our guests!



HAVE A GO AT READING THE ABOVE IN GERMAN!
Nach unserem erfolgreichen Besuch im April bei unserer Partnerschule in Süddeutschland war die Freude groß, als wir dann Mitte Juni unsere deutschen Gäste hier an unserer Schule begrüßt haben. Für die deutschen Schülerinnen waren der Besuch der Kathedrale und der Märkte in St Albans, der Ausflug nach London und natürlich die schönen Erlebnisse mit ihren englischen Gastfamilien am Wochenende die Höhepunkte. Ein großes Dankeschön an alle Familien, die unsere Gäste so liebevoll aufgenommen haben!



PICK YOUR OWN
 Foundation & Year 1 enjoyed picking strawberries at Grove Pick Your Own Farm, followed by picnic, ice creams and flying kites at Dunstable Downs. The children had decorated the kites themselves earlier in the week. Good old fashioned outdoor fun! We loved it!



GCSE ART EXHIBITION

On the 26th June The King's School hosted its annual art exhibition to showcase the GCSE work of this year's artists: Zoe Machikiche, Louisa Toffis and Lara de Jong. It was an evening filled with colour, food, music and lots of fun. Our artists walked guests through the creative process and the stories behind each piece of artwork and how they connected to the project as a whole. It was so beautiful and inspiring to see two years of hard work displayed and celebrated with friends and family. Thank you to all who attended and walked with us on this journey to end up with such a rewarding result.

Lara De Jong



SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We are excited to report on our recent initiative to expand student leadership roles, previously fulfilled mainly by Year 11 prefects. Our goal was to broaden participation and offer specific leadership training and development opportunities. The new roles aim to empower students to take on responsibilities, develop leadership skills, and positively contribute to our school community. By involving more students in leadership and offering skill development opportunities, we are equipping them with the tools needed to succeed academically and in their future endeavours. This shift from prefects to inclusive participation underscores our belief in the capacity of all students to lead, and promotes the concept of servant leadership. Initially, leadership applications were open to Year 10 students, with future plans to extend this opportunity to Years 7 through 9. The application process mirrored real-life experiences, including an application form, reference, short-listing, and interview process. This approach aims not only to encourage leadership but also to teach valuable life skills.

This term, we implemented a significant change: all Year 10 students were required to fulfil certain duties to aid the smooth running of our school, a responsibility that will continue into Year 11. In return, students earn the privilege of entering the school building at 8:30am instead of 8:50am during Year 11, although this privilege can be revoked if responsibilities are not met. This initiative seeks to foster a more inclusive and practical approach to student leadership, benefiting our entire school community.

EARLY BIRDS BREAKFAST CLUB

Our Year 9 Enterprise students recently tackled an important issue identified through a survey by Mrs Farahat: many students come to school without eating breakfast. To address this, the students created and planned an Early Birds Breakfast Club.



They surveyed their peers to gauge interest, need, and breakfast preferences, then budgeted and organised the provision. Although a trial day was scheduled, there was not enough take-up to go ahead.

Instead, the students conducted a quick straw poll and found that older students are less likely to eat breakfast. New strategies will be looked at to encourage students to start their day with a nutritious meal, helping them feel satisfied and energetic.

Our Year 9 students have shown great initiative, planning and problem-solving skills. We will keep you updated on progress and upcoming initiatives to promote healthy breakfast habits among our students.

FUN DAY - SATURDAY 5 JULY

Our recent School Fun Day, despite being very wet, was filled with fun activities and community spirit. Lots of delicious food, drinks, beautiful cakes, games, competitions and prizes.

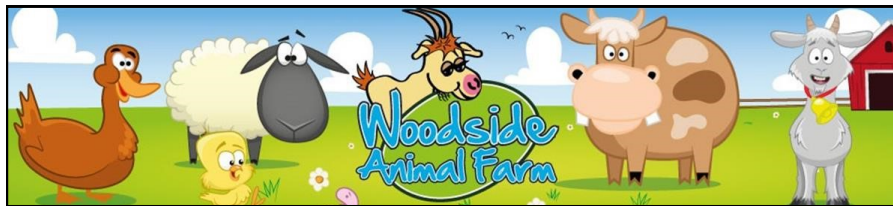


The event featured a variety of stalls organised by our GCSE Business students, including brownies, step dance, and the popular "Guess the Number of Skittles in a Jar" game. Each stall made a profit, 50% of which went to the school.

The students gained valuable experience in teamwork, communication, and trust. They learned about working together effectively, communicating clearly with visitors, and relying on each other to manage their stalls. They also learned about the importance of marketing and being flexible, especially when the weather didn't cooperate.



And the weather really couldn't decide what to do, with heavy rain, warm sunshine, dark clouds... But we just basked in the sun or sheltered from the rain. The afternoon brought our community together, with families and friends enjoying the day and supporting the school. A big thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to this wonderful event. We look forward to making next year's Fun Day even better!



Stockwood Park Golf Centre

MORE THAN A DAY OUT
BLETCHLEY PARK

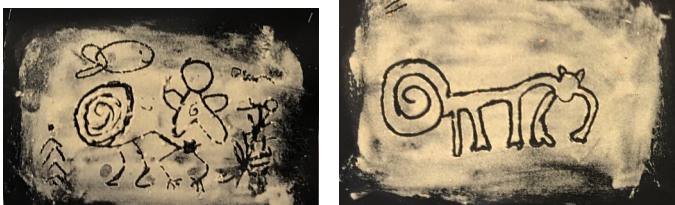


Fun-filled days & mini breaks
www.aldenhamcountrypark.co.uk

The winners of the competitions this year were in for a treat with amazing prizes including fun days out featured above.

NAZCA LINES

Year 4 have been looking at Peru in Geography. We learnt about the Nazca Lines, a series of large, ancient geoglyphs found in the Nazca Desert of Southern Peru. The Nazca Lines are considered one of archaeology's greatest mysteries because no one knows how or why they were made. We copied some of the interesting animals and shapes and even made up some of our own. Then we used PVA glue mixed with sand to carve our own etchings in the desert!



WEMBLEY TRIP

Technically last term (Tuesday 26th March), but too late to fit in the newsletter, so we'll give it a quick mention here! 14 pupils, along with Mrs Edmonds and their chauffeur, Mr Reeves, ventured down to Wembley to see England's team try and prepare for Euro 2024 with a friendly against Belgium. A quick stop off at McDonald's, a short walk to the stadium and we were in, high up in our lofty perch with a bird's eye view of the pitch. England twice came from behind, with the national hero, Jude Bellingham, equalising late into injury time. It was 'limbs' in our part of the stand, although many others had already departed to beat the tube queues so missed the goal! We got thoroughly soaked on our way back to the bus, but had a great time!



ISA COMPETITIONS

ISA REGIONAL ATHLETICS

On Thursday 23rd May we took two minibuses to Bedford International Athletics stadium for the ISA Regional (London North) athletics championships. With events for pupils from Year 4 through to Year 11, it was a busy day, with hundreds of competitors from many different schools vying to win their event and thus qualify for the national champs. Our team of 30 pupils did us proud, with some fantastic personal best performances throughout the day. Our team won 9 gold medals across 7 different athletes, who all made it through to Birmingham, along with 4 others who made it through to either be in relay teams or as a second runner in the 800m. Our gold medallists were: Arit (Y6 80m), Matthew (Y7 200m), Jeremy (Y7 Shot & Discus), Tof (Y7 Shot), Paa (Y8/9 Triple Jump), Tabitha (Y10/11 Shot & Discus) and Gracelynn (Y10/11 200m). Well done to everyone who competed and represented our school so well and thank you to Mrs Norling, Mr Jones and Mr Reeves for accompanying the team.



ISA NATIONAL CHAMPS

What a smart venue Alexander Stadium has become, following its re-fit ahead of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in 2022. 11 of our pupils had qualified from the ISA regional champs in Bedford and headed to the Midlands to represent our London North region at the National champs, accompanied by Mr Reeves. The team performed really well, with some great throws, jumps and sprints. Our pupils won 3 medals overall, which included an impressive Bronze medal for Paa in the Triple Jump, having only recently started competing in the event. Matthew followed up his success at the district and county champs by taking home yet another sprint gold, his fourth of the summer, following up his win two years ago in the Y5 75m. Final mention on this occasion must go to Gracelynn, who had made it to Bedford back in May just in time for the 200m, having sat a GCSE exam that morning! Having got her exams out of the way, Gracelynn won a bronze in Birmingham,



and has now won medals at every national champs from Year 6 to this year! She has been such a consistent performer over the years at 100m & 200m at district & county champs, as well as the ISA competitions. Thank you Gracelynn for being an inspiration to our younger pupils with your graceful sprinting and for representing our school so well over the years.

ISA MULTI-SKILLS FESTIVAL

Our Year 2 class, accompanied by Mr & Mrs Reeves and Mrs Salami, took part in the inaugural ISA London North multi-skills sports festival on 11th June. They had a brilliant day, helped by it being nowhere near as hot as the year before! They progressed through a carousel of sporting challenges and games, all culminating in a series of sprint races on the surrounding track and them all receiving a medal at the end. Our team got great sportsmanship scores. Well done to the whole Year 2 class for representing our school with such joy and determination.



ISA 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

Mr Reeves and Mr Lythe took a team of footballers from Years 1 & 2 to Barnet Powerleague on 16th May for a 5-a-side tournament against other ISA London North schools. It was great fun as we played against 6 other teams in the course of the day, getting the odd win and scoring some great goals. The players really developed as the day went on and had a great time. We'll definitely be back for more!

AND ATHLETICS ACHIEVEMENTS

HERTS COUNTY CHAMPS

Four of our most talented athletes took to the track for the Herts Schools County Champs on Saturday 8th June at Jarman Park, Hemel Hempstead. Chloe & Asia (Y9) competed in the very competitive U15 girls' 100m, with several heats meaning qualification for the final was very tough. Chloe wasn't well on the day but Asia ran really well, making it through to the final and coming 4th with a fantastic run. We also had two Y7 boys competing in what's called the 'pre-junior' age group. Jeremy competed in throwing events, with Matthew testing his speed in the 100m sprint. He reached the final and scorched to victory with a brilliant run, making him our 4th ever county champion. Well done Matthew, a great achievement.

DISTRICT CHAMPS

Another busy day of athletics at Woodside Stadium, Watford, on Thursday 13th June, saw 30 of our Secondary pupils competing against the best from the large Secondary schools in St Albans & Harpenden. This is always a tough, but inspiring, competition and this year was no different, with several PBs for our pupils as they gave it their all. There were lots of top 8 finishes and four medals won: Chloe (Silver in the Y9 100m), Asia (Bronze in the Y9 200m) and Matthew (Gold in the Y7 100m and Silver in the Y7 Long Jump). Well done to all who took part.



SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

Our annual inter-house sports day took place on Friday 21st June at Stockwood Park in Luton. We were blessed with a dry day and a great couple of hours of athletics. Campbell looked to be coming out on top, with lots of strong individual performances, leading them to 2nd place in both Primary & Secondary. Wigglesworth were in front once the Y5/6 scores were totted up, but overall it was the Bunyan team that took home the golden shoe trophy, due to being better at filling all the events and having a storming performance from their Y9/10 boys, who scored an amazing 91 pts and smashed the 4x100m relay record by 1.3 secs! The Bunyan team finished on 362, just 4 ahead of Campbell on 358. Another really close finish, well done to all!

GRACE AND GROWTH

A group of Year 10 students recently organised and ran a full day of workshops for the entire Secondary school titled "Grace and Growth". The day began with student-led worship featuring drums and an electric guitar, and concluded with small, student-led discussion groups. Students had the opportunity to choose from different sessions throughout the day, such as the roles of God, glorifying God with literature, hearing God's voice, and a Bible trivia quiz. Two guest speakers also added testimonies and input about Mission.

FOUNDATION CLASS SEE A TIGER! (... in the theatre!)

The children thought the show of 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' at The Eric Morecambe Centre, Harpenden, was absolutely brilliant and would recommend it to all. They were captivated and excited by the show and joined in with all the songs and dances - particularly shouting out "HE'S BEHIND YOU!"



The King's School Harpenden Bible After School Club

Come join us as we go on an exciting journey through the Bible.

Activities include:

- Art/ Craft
- Music (song writing, worship)
- Dance
- Acting (role play, miming, drama)
- Creative Writing (Bible stories, poetry)
- Bible quizzes

Years 1-4!

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays
Time: 3:30 - 5:30

To register your interest, please email: office@thekingsschool.com
COSTS £10 PER SESSION (a day)

BIBLE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

The club is open to pupils in Years 1 to 4, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Songs of praise, along with the sound of dancing feet, can be heard in each session. They learn Bible stories and eat together. Leaflets and registration forms available from Mrs Ball in Reception.

SHARING THE PRIVILEGES OF THE KING'S SCHOOL

Every half term The King's School staff meet to worship together, support each other and pray for the pupils and parents of our school. We are privileged to have the freedom to do this on our site. During Staff Devotions this half-term, we were joined by other Christian teachers and school staff from a number of schools in Harpenden. We got to know each other over some refreshments and then worshiped together. We heard tales of joys and difficulties from the staff of the other schools, and then we prayed together. It was an honour to share the freedom we have at The King's School with Christians from local schools, and we plan to do it again.

Mr Reeves and Mrs Edmonds were also able to help a Christian school in London as they look to transition into using the National Curriculum.



YEAR 9 OUTDOOR PURSUITS TRIP TO WALES

After such a wet winter and spring we definitely chose the right week to head off down the M4 to Wales. Glorious sunshine all week was the order of the day, a far cry from the thunderstorms we endured whilst canoeing 12 months ago! With 15 pupils in Year 9 we were able to enjoy all the activities together, rather than splitting into two groups. This meant a change in programme, with climbing at Wyndcliff to start on Tuesday 7th May, followed by abseiling and gorge walking the day after. Scrambling up the river



is often a highlight for the group, and this was no different as the class crawled and slid their way along. I was really impressed with their teamwork and the way they all gave it a go. Thursday saw a hike up Pen-y-Fan (886m!), which proved a challenge for some, with the 13km round trip taking its toll on weary limbs. A BBQ on our last evening, final bible studies and clean up followed. Then a tranquil journey in canoes down the River Wye, with no-one capsizing this year. A peaceful and beautiful way to finish the trip!



Andy Reeves

SECONDARY ARTS FESTIVAL CONCERT

On Thursday 20th June we gathered for our evening summer concert, with items prepared by pupils from our Secondary arts festival. There was a range of instrumental and vocal items for the audience to enjoy, with a couple of dance items this year being welcome additions. Mrs Smith, our violin teacher, played in a duet and quartet and it became something of a goodbye concert for her, as she moves on to new things after the summer. Thank you Mrs Smith, for all you have brought to our Music department over the last 8 years or so.



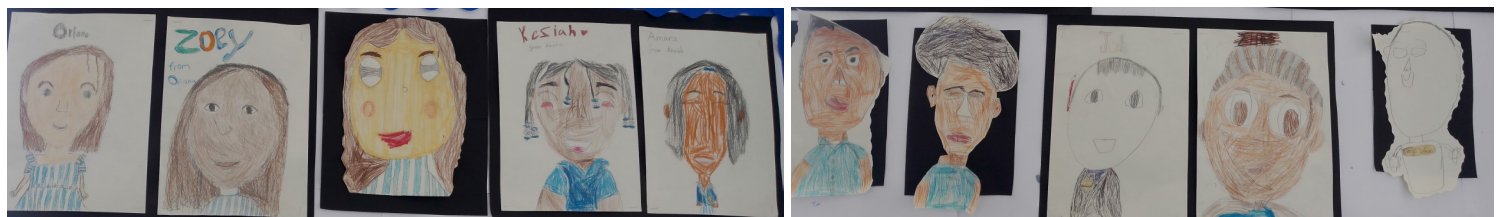
PRIMARY SPORTS DAY

We enjoyed an afternoon of fun and friendly competition and we were blessed with perfect weather. All of the children in Primary took part and gave their best effort in all their races. Our winners were

Campbell, but we were incredibly proud of everyone who took part. A highlight has to be the parents obstacle race at the end of the afternoon which was some of the fiercest competition we'd seen all afternoon! A big thank you must go to Mrs Weldon for stepping in to run the event and to all the adults who helped out to make it run smoothly.

BEAUTIFUL ARTWORK BY YEAR 2

The Year 2s enjoyed drawing their friend's portraits. Each child had a go at drawing their friend by looking closely at the features on their friend's face.



The Year 2s expressed their thankful hearts for all the blessings they enjoy. They wrote each blessing on some fruit to show how grateful they are to the LORD.



Learning about cool and warm colours, the Year 2s painted beautiful pictures of an ocean in cool colours and a lovely sunset in warm colours.



YEAR 11S LEAVERS 2024

Year 11 Leavers' Day on 3rd May was a colourful affair this year, with the pupils all choosing different coloured Leavers Hoodies, which was quite a sight when they were unwrapped and tried on. Following the Leavers' assembly they faced off against the staff at Volleyball and lost the first game, but the pupils came back to win 2 games to 1. The Year 11s then went on to Mrs Hart's house for their traditional garden party. Thank you to Mrs Hart for hosting once again.

After five weeks of exams, our Leavers 2024 then returned to site at 7pm on Thursday 27th June dressed in their finery for their Leavers' dinner. It was blustery but sunny and the Year 10 class had planned a lovely evening, set in a beautifully decorated marquee on the lawn. Battered prawns, spring rolls and chicken were enjoyed, whilst sipping various fruity blends, as the pupils enjoyed being filmed on the 360 photo booth and chatted together. We then sat down for BBQ food and delicious desserts, before Ethan gave an inspiring speech and Lara shared a creative gift that she had made. A fitting finale to the Year 11's time at the school. Thank you to all involved, especially the planning team within the Year 10 class, ably supported by Mrs Williams; Mrs Hughes and her catering team; Mr Forde; Mrs Hart and all the Year 10s who served us so well on the night. A lovely evening.



YEAR 2 TRIP TO STOTFOLD WATERMILL AND NATURE RESERVE

The Year 2's had an adventurous trip to Stotfold Watermill and Nature Reserve. The children had a great time looking at the waterwheel that has powered the mill for the past 1,000 years! It was fascinating to see how the mill works by pulling the signal bell to let the chain down after carrying the sack to the machine. They also had an opportunity to make their own flour with the help of the miller using the old fashioned quern. How exciting! Thereafter, they took an endless journey through the woods as they enjoyed the sights and sounds of nature in the Nature Reserve.



KEY STAGE 2 GO TO THE ZOO

What a fantastic day we had at Whipsnade Zoo for our last trip of the year. The weather stayed dry (amazingly!), so we were able to enjoy almost the whole site, seeing lots of animals, insects and marine life. We all had a lovely picnic at the view point overlooking Dunstable downs, and we finished the day with a brilliant bird show.

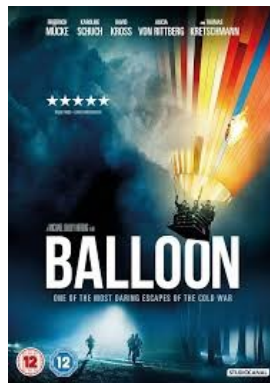


ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOCUS

Once we are up to date with our course content, and exams are safely out of the way, we have a window of time to examine some of life's key themes through the media of film. All the Secondary pupils have been involved in a short project which involves watching a movie together, extracting key themes and then presenting to each other the impact of them experienced.



Years 7 and 8 watched "What about Bob?", a comedy about a somewhat neurotic, hypochondriac man who finds acceptance (eventually!) within a family who are faced with engaging with his oddities. Themes here included brokenness, acceptance, family, uniqueness and normality.



Years 9 and 10 watched "Balloon," a dramatization of the 1979 air escape out of the then East Germany by two families. Themes included state oppression, family, loyalty, courage and risk.

Life is not a straight run for any of us, even with our dear Jesus at our side. It is healthy for the children to consider the struggles of those around us and of those in other nations. How might we respond to them?

Teddy Bears Picnic

Wednesday

7th August 2024

11am - 2pm

Rothamsted Park



- Fun Activities
- Outdoor Games
- Face Painting
- Teddy Bear Hospital
- Entertainment
- Storytime

www.harpenden.gov.uk



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ASTRA RECYCLING TEXTILE BANK

Please continue to make use of the Astra Recycling Textile Bank to help raise school funds. The company collect every other week, so there will always be room for more bags. They collect clothes, shoes (tied together), bags, belts, bed clothes, towels and soft toys. Always tie your bags of items up so they don't all fall out!



WORK DAY

Thank you to all those who turned out for our delayed annual work day on May 18th. The broken and damaged goalposts on the MUGA were re-vamped, fences were painted and the garden club beds were cleared ready for planting. We made major progress in The Dell, erecting some smart-looking wooden posts throughout the site to mark the various trees. It is looking great down there now, with Year 8's mega-project of the bridge/boardwalk nearing completion after being two years in the making, from initial design ideas through to construction. Thank you to Mr Edwards for supporting the pupils throughout this process and staying patient with them!



Contact us to book:
Millie Herbert:
milliesmakingwaves@gmail.com
07507 038250



Summer Crash Courses - 2024

Our crash courses are designed for absolute beginners through to advanced stroke improvers. Minimum age 3.5 years old, no maximum child age.

When?
These crash courses will take place:
22nd July - 26th July
29th July - 2nd August
5th August - 9th August

Time slots available?
8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30

**£50 per
child for
the week!**

Where?
Sandringham School - All 3 weeks
Aldwickbury School - 29th July to 2nd August

Find out more about us on our website!
[makingwaves-swimschool.co.uk]

Or visit our social media:
Facebook : Making Waves Swim School

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE AUTUMN TERM

Tues 3 Sept	Staff INSET Day	
Wed 4 Sept	START OF TERM	
Thurs 12 Sept	Induction Evening (Prim & Sec)	7:30pm
Mon 23 Sept	Yr 0 & KS1 Reading & Literacy (Zoom)	7:30pm
Wed 25 Sept	PTA Meeting	7:30pm
Fri 4 Oct	Day off in lieu of Open Day morning	
Sat 5 Oct	Open Day (guests welcome 9:30-12)	8:50/9 - 12:30
Wed 17 Oct	Celebration of The King's School 2023/24	7:30pm
Fri 18 Oct - Tues 29 Oct	Missions Adventures trip to Albania	
Wed 23 Oct	Staff INSET Day	
Wed 23 Oct - Sun 3 Nov	Half-term break	

Our last memory verse of 2023/24:

"Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise."
Ephesians 5:15

We pray you will all have a very happy, restful and fun-filled summer holiday

