

# KINGS' SCHOOL ALUMNI



A welcome to the new Headteacher at Kings' School

We have a new Headteacher at Kings' and I am sure that all members of the Alumni would like to join the rest of the school community in wishing Dr James Adams a warm welcome at what has been not only a very strange time for the school, but the whole country and in fact the whole world. As was common throughout the UK, Kings' was once more closed to the vast majority of pupils from the start of the spring term until March 8th., with learning for most being remote based once more.

Dr Adams joined Kings in January 2021, having been a senior leader in Dorset and Somerset. His teaching career started at the Thomas Hardy School in Dorset, teaching Geography. He undertook teacher training at the University of Bath, following the completion of a PhD in engineering surveying at the University of Nottingham, with a focus on monitoring cliff erosion rates. James is a Founding Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching.

Dr Adams' vision for Kings' is a one of a culture of excellence, with the highest standards of academic performance and holistic development for every pupil, regardless of educational learning need or background. He passionately believes that it is Kings' mission, through 'Una Laborantes', to ensure that each pupil feels confident, valued and is enabled to discover the things which excite and inspire them so they leave Kings' well-rounded and ready to embrace a life of opportunity and choice.

Dr Adams has a passion for the outdoors as a teacher and from a personal perspective, living in the New Forest and enjoying endurance events. James' wife is a PE teacher and he has three young children.



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## The Kings' Masked Singer

Inspired by such characters as Sausage and Viking on ITV's hit show, the House team have staged their own version of The Masked Singer, with pupils and parents able to vote remotely to allow their favourite characters to progress.

Kings' put out a call for singing talent and, as is always the case the Kings' staff answered. The event also attracted a total of 1,698 votes

After some notable performances and some fiercely contested heats, the inaugural Kings' Staff Masked Singer finalists were: The Stallion, The Cloak, Darth Vader, The Judge, The Ninja, T-Rex and The President.



And the first ever Kings' Masked Singer champion was....

The President - AKA Mrs Ellis from Humanities



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## **Kings' sport returns**

After an agonising hiatus of over four months, extra-curricular sport returned to Kings' on Monday 15th March.

Although we have still not been able to compete against other schools, over seven hundred pupils took part in at least one after school activity sports club within their Year group Covid bubbles.



And further to that, Kings' was able to offer onsite House football which was incredibly well attended.





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## Virtual House Bake Off

And after all the running around, it's time for some cake! Thankfully the House bake off, staged remotely this year, was even more popular than ever. It was a fierce contest, but the results were as follows:

3rd Place: Isabella Patterson with a Velvet Valentine

2nd Place: A tie between Natalie Harris with a Two Tiered Madeira Rose Cake and Isabel McGregor with The Queen of Hearts Valentines Tea Party

1st Place: Milly Westall with A Charming Box of Chocolates

Congratulations to them and all this year's contestants for some mouth watering offers



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## Close charitable collaboration with ex-pupil

Throughout the lock down period Deputy Headteacher, Mr Rob Jeckells was delighted to collect daily newspapers from the One Stop shop at the bottom of Kings' road. These provided invaluable daily reading material for our onsite pupils. As a thank you to this ex-pupil Chris George from One Stop was delighted to receive a £500 donation from the school which he in turn donated to the Wessex Kidney Centre.





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Oxbridge offer success for our recent Alumni

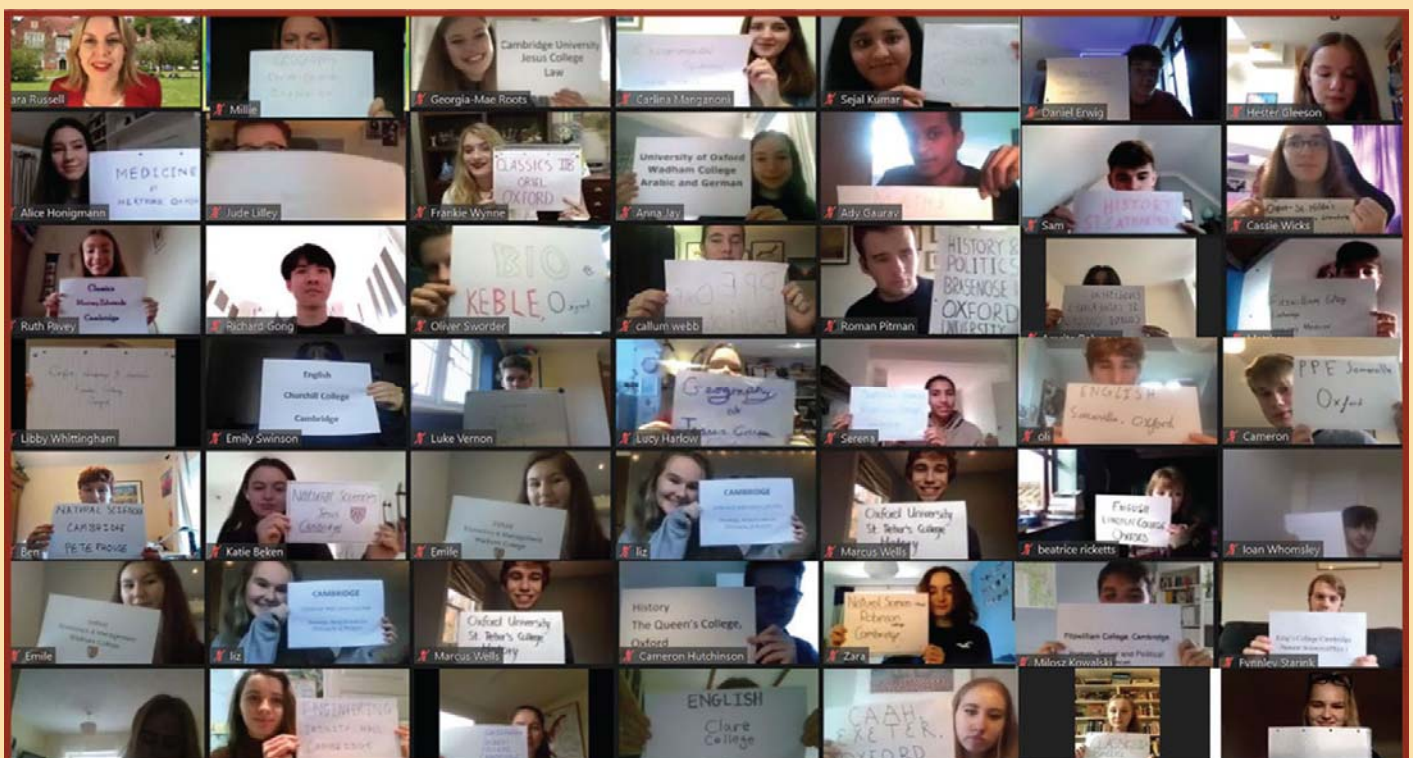
Some lovely news from Peter Symonds College....

'Congratulations to ex-pupils Amelia de Lara, Aditya Gaurav, Marcus Wells, Charles Boyd, Cameron Hodgkinson, Alice Honigman, Oliver Jupe, Amrita Rahman and Charles Talks, all of whom have been successful in their Oxbridge applications and hold conditional offers.

They are part of the group of 56 students from Peter Symonds College who have been successful in their Oxbridge applications this year.

We very proud of their success as they have worked so hard in challenging times and we are also very much aware that much of the credit should go to our students' previous schools'.

Well done Kings' Alumni, you have done us proud as ever!



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## **And some thoughts from our Head teacher**

Joining Kings' in January has been an interesting and highly enjoyable experience. We have seen the school at its best, with staff, pupils, parents and the volunteering of the local community rising to the challenges we have faced. We have maintained the learning of pupils, despite having to move learning online; maintained our support for all pupils, but especially those who are most vulnerable through regular calls home which in some instances were daily; managed the children of key workers on site; introduced and maintained COVID testing regimes for up to 600 pupils a day; and continued to support our staff and their wellbeing throughout these endeavours. It has been fantastic to witness 'Una Laborantes' in the true spirit of Kings'.

We are mindful that some of the challenges from COVID are yet to come. We do and will maintain a close vigilance on the wellbeing of pupils and on supporting pupils to continue to enjoy and master their learning.

As we approach the end of the Spring Term, pupils have returned to learning in the classroom and it is a personal delight to see extra-curricular activities return. To hear the sounds of balls being kicked and hit on the pitches and to see pupils' enjoyment at being active with their friends is a real joy.

**Dr James Adams, Headteacher**

