

KINGS' SCHOOL ALUMNI



Welcome by Rob Jeckells, Acting Headteacher

Hi all ex-pupils and friends of Kings',

I have been Acting Headteacher this term and have really enjoyed it, although it has been a term like no other I can remember in my time at Kings' School! It has been a term of regularly revised government guidance for schools; pupils and staff adapting to new arrangements; year group bubbles; staggered timings; virtual celebrations; pupils self-isolating; hand sanitiser and face coverings; online Parents Evenings; remote learning; and teaching from 'behind the line'.

I am proud of the way that the entire Kings' School community has risen to the challenges faced this term and have been humbled by the way that staff, pupils and parents have collectively demonstrated the strength of our school motto, 'Una Laborantes', working together, at this time.

Although it has been a frantically busy term, present conditions have meant that we have been prevented from doing some of the things that we would usually do in the Autumn Term. I am delighted to say, however, that in spite of this, the following events have taken place:

- An online, virtual Kings' School Open Event
- A virtual Study Skills Event for Year 11 parents
- Parents' Evenings for Year 7 and Year 11 parents via our Parents' Evening app
- A virtual whole-school Remembrance Ceremony
- A virtual Year 11 Presentation Evening with celebrity guests (including Mr Leeming!)
- A virtual Christmas Cracker event
- House events including cricket, softball and rounders (pre-current restrictions); House crest design competition and virtual versions of 1k, 3k and 5k races; House Christmas card and poetry competitions and a charity event / collection for Winchester Basics Bank.
- A House Quiz event also took place in our whole school 'Ethos Lesson' on 30 November.
- A virtual Careers Week
- GCSE Geography trips to the New Forest
- The Christmas Carol Concert – online for the first time ever!

We are delighted by the success of these events but we also are all very much looking forward to a time when current restrictions will cease and when life at Kings' can return to something akin to normal!

I am sure that you will join me in offering Dr Adams a warm welcome to the school in January and that he will be the beneficiary of the strong support afforded by the Kings' parent community.

With very best wishes for the festive season.

Rob Jeckells

December 2020



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Kings' School remembers

Remembrance Day at Kings' – a 'virtual' tour de force by Edyth Miles

Of all the annual events in the Kings' School calendar, the one that strikes a chord with one and all is our much-loved service of Remembrance. Every year, on the 11th November, Kings' pupils join in an act of remembrance along with St Thomas's old boys and representatives from the armed forces. Parents of pupils who serve or have served are invited to attend and the day is always one of pomp and ceremony, pride and reflection. Music is provided by the pupils and children mingle with the invited guests over a cup of tea. Our older guests love nothing more than chatting to the children and sharing their stories.

But in 2020 all this must change. We cannot gather in any sort of number and we simply cannot invite vulnerable, elderly guests to share the day. Covid-19 has robbed us of that, but it has not stopped us commemorating the day with the Kings' community. In place of our traditional service, we have marked the day with a virtual one.

As usual, former deputy head of Kings', the Reverend Neil Birkett was there to officiate, following an opening address by our acting Head Teacher, Mr Rob Jeckells. Pupils were invited to share their own reflections and Alex and Tegan were chosen. Both read their words with sensitivity and feeling. Representing the St Thomas's Old Boys were Tony Dowland and Roy Williams, who laid a wreath on their behalf. Once again, one of our music pupils had the honour of playing the Last Post and Reveille, and this year the trumpeter was Thomas Talks, a highly talented Year 11 pupil. Once Mrs Miles had prepared the set and Mr Palmer had set up his filming equipment, all these individuals came together to prepare our first ever filmed Service of Remembrance.

The result was a beautifully edited video which we were able to share with our school community. Pupils, suitably socially distanced, watched from their classrooms, while parents and friends of the school watched from their homes. Our grateful thanks to all involved in this unique undertaking in this most unique year.



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Kings' Carol Service at the Cathedral:

This year, we were unable to hold our annual carol service in Winchester Cathedral, due to the pandemic, however we wanted to keep the tradition, celebrate the message of Christmas and keep music alive in the school during these difficult and challenging times. We have produced an online version of the carol service, with a mixture of carols, readings, poems and prayers, that will be available from 7.30pm on Tuesday 8th December – the time when we would have gathered in the Cathedral. The link will then be available until the new year - please do join us if you can! Search “Kings’ School Carol Service” on YouTube, or click the link: <https://youtu.be/m2ldZviBBz0>



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England Trials for Kings' pupils

Whilst for many the October half-term break was a chance to chill-out and re-charge, three pupils from Year 11 and one from Year 10 underwent the toughest physical challenge of their lives. Matthew DeLara, Emily Chainey, Max Wedderburn and Joe Jenkinson were put through their paces by England Hockey as they bid to make it into the National Age Group squads. Matthew and Emily tried out for the Under 18 Boys' and Girls' squads respectively, whilst Max and Joe were aiming to make the U16 Boys' squad. To even be granted a trial is a huge accolade for all four pupils and testament to their hard work and progression combined with their skill and ability. We await their progress with great enthusiasm.



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Kings' on the Beeb

On December 10th Kings' welcomed a BBC film crew and a team of reporters who were producing a piece on a school that had coped well with the trials and tribulations of Covid-19 disruption. They were left with an overwhelmingly positive impression of the school and the pupils in particular, commenting on how well behaved, upbeat and articulate they were. It is likely that the piece featuring Kings' will air on BBC South Today from approximately 6:20pm on Tuesday 22nd December.



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Kings' Staff Photography Competition

Following on from the recent pupil Photography competitions, the Media and photography department decided to run a competition for staff at Kings' to draw out the photographic talents of our team. With the theme of 'A Walk in Hampshire', a total of 93 images were submitted for the competition. Ranging from rambles in the forest to landscape panoramas, the quality on display was impressive to say the least. The winning entries were from our resident wildlife photographer Mr Alderman, who submitted beautifully composed images of wildlife in the New Forest area. Miss Clarke came second with a vivid sunset upon a country lane and (although not quite in Hampshire) Mr Clarke's beautiful panoramic view of the walk from Lulworth to Durdle door was an impressive third place.

Mr Alderman took first prize with this stunning horse and forest vista



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Kings' Staff Photography Competition

In second place was Miss Clarke with this colourful winter sky.



In third place was Mr Clarke with this timeless shot of Lulworth Cove



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Kings' Staff Photography Competition

In fourth place was Miss Gibson's stunning monochrome effort



In fifth place was Miss Laing's secret garden snap



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Kings' House Christmas Card Competition

As ever, the standard of Christmas cards entered into this year's House competition was very high—please see the top three as chosen by Mr Jeckells below and enjoy a safe and merry Christmas from all the staff and pupils at Kings'

