



# KING'S MATHS SCHOOL

SPRING TERM 2018

## WE'RE THE BEST!

The Department of Education published the annual Key Stage 5 performance tables in January. What the tables showed was simple and clear - King's Maths School is the best! We topped the tables outright when looking at the average A Level grade per entry, beating all independent as well as state schools, and have the highest value-added score of any school with more than a handful of A Level entries.

## MORE MATHS FOR EVERYONE!

Lord Agnew visited King's Maths School to meet past and present students in the run up to an announcement publicised on BBC breakfast about the government's plan to open more university-sponsored maths schools around the country. The school was then featured in the backdrop to this announcement: Mr Abramson took the opportunity to teach some serious maths to the nation, and John (a Year 13 student who is holding an offer to study maths at Cambridge) did some live problem-solving on camera for the BBC's twitter feed!

## KING'S CERTIFICATE

This term has seen our Year 12 students continuing their research – and making outstanding progress! – on the briefs set by either academics from KCL and Imperial or industry partners. All groups have documented their methodologies and results, and are working towards their final conclusions for their articles. The next step will see students beginning their presentations. While further details will be issued shortly, our students will be showcasing their incredible efforts and research products at Bush House, KCL, on 28 June followed by a celebratory reception.

## OUR UCAS JOURNEY SO FAR

Year 13 have had a spectacularly successful term, achieving offers from many of the very best universities. Our students are holding a record 16 places at Oxbridge, and a huge 47, 42, and 39 places at Bath, Warwick and Bristol respectively: a testament to their hard work and the excellent grades they achieved last summer. We are also delighted to celebrate the success of two

of our students who have made successful US applications, holding offers at Princeton and MIT. We would like to offer our sincere congratulations to all!

## MIGRATION MUSEUM

Our Year 12s (and a few Year 13s) visited the Migration Museum, which is currently exhibiting a collection on seven migration moments that have shaped Britain's history, from the expulsion of the Jews in 1290 to the 2011 Census that revealed an 85% increase in the number of people identifying as 'mixed or multiple ethnic,' compared with the previous 2001 Census. Students participated in a workshop and then had the opportunity to explore the carefully curated exhibition – a combination of historical artefacts, personal narratives, the media, and impactful discourse.

## SPEAKERS' PROGRAMME

Our speaker programme has continued, with a full spring term calendar featuring a diverse range of speakers. We first heard from Caroline Edgar of Surrey County Council, who provided a short overview of transport



John problem-solving for the BBC; 'Darwin's Evolution' KCLMS's latest (functioning) robot.

planning and modelling. Our keynote address was delivered by Wrenna Robson (a former KCLMS teacher, no less) who shared her roundabout route from studying maths at Cambridge to working at Arm. We then heard from David McHardy and Isobel Ashbey from Cambridge Consultants, who introduced us to their work and demoed some of their projects including an accent classification tool. Dr Konni Rietsch, Professor of Geometry at KCL, explored Apollonian Squares through a series of closely (and cleverly) linked problems. To round out the term, we heard from Capgemini who displayed some applications of AI and recent graduates from Deutsche Bank who shared their work within banking technology. We expect to have a couple of talks on the horizon - stayed tuned!

## PEER MENTORING

Peer Mentoring launched this term and is off to a great start. Twenty-eight Year 13s volunteered to mentor a similar number of Year 12 students and support them in a variety of ways, from helping with homework to thinking about how to attain relevant work experience. Our Year 13s have shined in their roles as mentors, passing on their own knowledge and experience to their peers. As we approach the

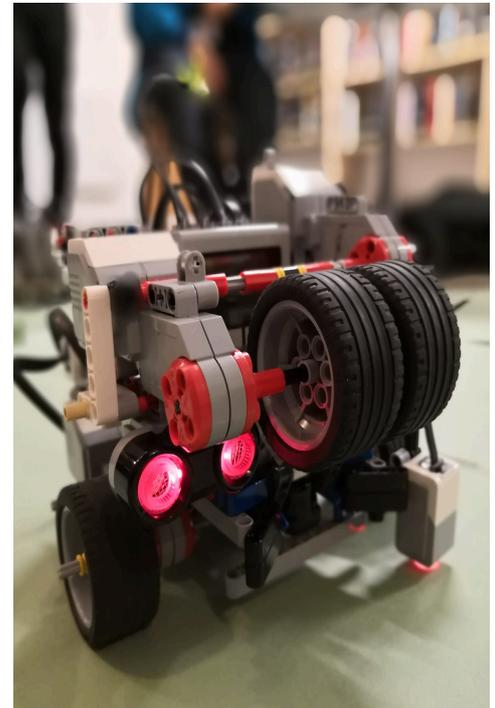
end of the academic year, we look forward to our Year 12s becoming peer mentors themselves, no doubt guiding our new cohort with similar enthusiasm and grace.

## AS PHYSICS CHALLENGE

Driven by Mr Lawsen's extension physics lessons, forty Year 12s took on the AS Physics Challenge this year. The paper is sat by 4000 of the top physics students in the country and is indeed a very stern test of the application of physics ideas. Congratulations to Sae and Dmitry for achieving Gold and coming in the top 124 competitors in the country! We would also like to congratulate the six students who achieved Silver (top 430), and the sixteen students who achieved Bronze (top 1700).

## CULTURAL LITERACY

This term, we have explored new themes and ideas through a series of cultural assemblies. Mr Blades explored the concept of privilege, followed by Mrs Lawsen with a talk about cultural



representations of gender. Miss Saundry and Mr Abramson rounded out the series by sharing some of their favourite books (including *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith and *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy) as part of a wider discussion on decolonising libraries. This pairs well with our inter-house 'Reading Challenge', which ignited a competitive fire across the school.

## LEGO ROBOTICS

KCLMS have been invited to participate in the RoboCup finals this summer in Montreal. In preparation for the event, Isabel, Abu, Tanveer, Irina, Mark and Eito have carefully constructed and programmed four robots, to take part in a game of autonomous football. Under the guidance of last year's national finalists Ife and Natalie they're on their way to success, subject to funding: suggestions and offers of sponsorship would be most welcome!

## WEEKLY MATHS CHALLENGE

WHAT IS THE LARGEST POSSIBLE AREA OF A QUADRILATERAL WITH SIDE LENGTHS 1CM, 2CM, 2CM AND 3CM?