



# King's Group Academies Newsletter

December 2018

Welcome to the very first newsletter for KGA staff, governors and Trustees.

This has been a very busy and productive term for me as the interim CEO for KGA since September and I am delighted to share with you all its comings and goings.

The summer examination results saw the best ever for King's Academy Ringmer for a very long time, exceeding both County and National averages. Lyndhurst also continued on its upward projection. Both academies are well posed for the OFSTED inspection we expect in the Spring term 2019. College Park Infants continues to lead the way with student outcomes well above national average still justifying their category as an outstanding school.

September 3rd we welcomed our first Year 7 - 120 amazing students into King's Academy Binfield. This is our first brand new purpose built all-through KGA school which, when full, will have 1750 students from 4 to 19. September 5th saw the ground breaking ceremony for King's Academy Oakwood. This purpose built, one form entry primary academy will open in September 2019 alongside our first primary intake into King's Academy Binfield. Next September also sees the opening of our 52 place nursery at King's Academy Binfield.

At last, we have virtually waved goodbye to the builders who have undertaken the massive refurbishment of our Northern Parade Schools. We, know as with all building projects, there is still a way to go with snagging but the Infant and Junior schools look wonderful; we look forward to holding our inaugural MAT INSET day on the 25th February in their wonderful new accommodation.

We have spent some considerable time this term working with colleagues to articulate more clearly to our

academies and potential joiner academies what the 'King's Offer'. We are confident that our offer is strong, focusing on our capabilities to deliver tangible school improvement and secure financial sustainability.

We were delighted that Sir Roger found time in his busy schedule to visit all our academies in early September and is, at the time of writing, with us in the run up to Christmas as he is attending the Christmas festivities in our Portsmouth academies.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

**Di Smith**

Interim CEO



## NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL FOR LYNDHURST JUNIOR



In September KGA was delighted to welcome Ali Beechurst as Head of School for Lyndhurst Junior .

Ali is pictured above with the incredible Lyndhurst Year 6 prefects

## NEW SCHOOL OPENS

In September, we opened the doors to 120 Year 7 students to King's Academy Binfield. As the writer for the bid to win KGA the opportunity to sponsor this academy, I can't tell you how good this felt. The bid was submitted back in 2015 and it's been a long time coming.



Today you just have to take one look at the amazing building and the exceptional facilities that our King's Academy Binfield students will enjoy to know what an exceptional educational facility we are privileged to have as part of our group.



# GROUNDBREAKING FOR KING'S ACADEMY OAKWOOD

## Building works officially start at King's Academy Oakwood School

Wednesday 5th September saw the ground-breaking ceremony to commemorate the start of the building works of King's Academy Oakwood at Pocket's Copse, a new Primary school located in Bracknell Forest that will provide education for children from Reception to Year 6.

The ceremony was attended by the Mayor of Bracknell Forest, Cllr Alvin Finch, our Principal, Sir Roger Fry, and the Principal of King's Academy Binfield, Sarah Howells, among other authorities.

Located in a new building on a 8,116m2 site area, King's Academy Oakwood will provide education from Reception to Year 6 and will have a capacity of up to 210 students.

The school will include 7 classrooms, a communal hall, learning resource centre and a multi use games area (MUGA) together with grassed pitches.

The existing mature oak tree will be a key feature of the

development and has given the inspiration for the name. It will include seating areas and a wildflower planted habitat zone. We are looking forward to welcoming our first pupils through the door in September 2019.



## COBIS STUDENT LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

This Council of British International Schools weekend, organised by King's Group, was held in mid November.

King's Academy Ringmer's current Headboy and Headgirl, Chris Whitehead and Bay Street, travelled to Madrid to meet student leaders from around the world.

Before going, each participant was asked to make a 'selfie' style video to introduce themselves to other participants. The weekend included a range of activities and challenges and it is clear from the comments below how valuable they found this experience.

"The weekend was amazing - thank you!!! I learnt so much and met so many amazing people. The public speaking course was really helpful and I really enjoyed



our free time in Madrid. I would love to see you when you are in next to tell you more. I have attached some photos of the things we saw and some of the people we met.

Thank you SO much for letting us go; it was a once in a lifetime experience."

*Chris Whitehead - Head Boy King's Academy Ringmer*

"I just wanted to thank you very much for the Student Leadership weekend. I really appreciated the opportunity and particularly enjoyed the public speaking workshop which I found really useful. Madrid was lovely too!"

*Bay Street - Head Girl King's Academy Ringmer*

# THE KING'S GROUP ACADEMIES SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIP

Oscar Beale, former Headboy of King's Academy Ringmer, packed his bags at the beginning of September to travel to Kings College, The British School of Madrid. Oscar is the first student to be awarded the KGA sixth form scholarship set up by Sir Roger Fry, Founder of the King's group and Chair of the KGA Board of Trustee. The scholarship includes all tuition fees, including text books, boarding fees together with access to all extracurricular activities. With a career in medicine as his goal, Oscar is delighted to be undertaking his sixth form studies focusing not just on his science A levels but also aiming to become a proficient Spanish speaker by the end of the two years.

Oscar will be followed by current King's Academy Ringmer year 11 student Ellie Gross. Ellie commented, "it's such an incredible opportunity. I feel absolutely honoured to have been awarded it. It is one of those surreal offers that you hear about but never think you will get a chance to take.

I am overwhelmingly excited to be starting there next summer." Ellie has already been over to Madrid to visit the school earlier this term and took the opportunity to meet up with Oscar. Oscar and Ellie are in regular contact making it a lot easier for Ellie to find her feet in not just a new school but a new country in contrast to Oscar whose resilience we are all in admiration of.



## WHY KING'S?

*Opportunity and Success  
on a Global Stage*

### Our offer

Since September, we have been working with Headteachers /Principals, Chairs of Governors and Trustees to articulate more clearly what it means to be a KGA academy. We wanted to clarify our offer to our academies of what they can expect from us in terms of school improvement support, professional development for staff and Governors, professional services including and unique to our MAT, the International Dimension and how this can ensure our students develop into global citizens, confident and equipped for a life in an ever changing world.

King's Group Academies values each of its academies as individual organisations which reflect the needs of their students and the communities they serve so our offer is not a 'one size fits all'. It is bespoke to meet the individual needs of each academy and maximise its overall effectiveness including financial stability and sound governance.

We now have a working document which will be published in the New Year. Our offer will remain flexible to ensure it is always fit for purpose as our MAT grows and develops.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MAT INSET Day February 25th

Plans for the Trust wide INSET day on February 25th 'Why King's?' are well underway.

Our keynote speaker is Dame Alison Peacock, Chartered College Chief Executive. Alison was Headteacher of The Wroxham School, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, a single form primary school in 'special measures'. The school emerged from 'special measures' ten months later and within two and a half years was rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted. Subsequently, when re-inspected in both 2009 and 2013, it was judged to be 'outstanding' in all categories.

In 2012, **The Wroxham Foundation** was established. The school generated international interest in its "Learning without Limits" inclusive, creative approach to school improvement and hosted delegations from around the world.

Our Headteachers/Principals have identified a number of workshops from which colleagues can select. This broad range of workshops will draw on both our own expertise within the Trust together with that of our chosen external presenters. The day will also include a session on our International Dimension led on behalf of King's Group by the Headteacher from Panama. Dawn Akyurek, Academic Director for King's Group, has also been invited to attend. We do hope that a number of



Governors and Trustees will be able to join us on this day.

The picture above is of the Foundation Stage Christmas show held in the new theatre at Northern Parade where we will be holding our MAT INSET.

## KGA SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT OFFER

As part of The KGA offer, we have developed, with our Headteachers/Principals, our core school improvement support offer.

This offer is part of the bespoke KGA support plan for each academy.

All academies submitted their requests of how they wish to deploy their core entitlement of 3 days which includes the 1 day Quality Assurance Review.

The programme for this academic year has been finalised and Debbie Anderson, Executive Headteacher of College Park Infants and Lyndhurst Junior, is leading this work on behalf of KGA.

## STAFF WELL BEING AND RETENTION SURVEY

In June, the KGA Board approved a MAT wide well being strategy. As part of implementing this, we volunteered to take part in a nationwide survey. This is a fully funded project carried out by Edurio who specialise in stakeholder surveys in conjunction with the Institute of Education, University College London.

We are one of 17 MATs taking part in this countrywide survey which includes 185 schools. This will be largest data set on well being collected to date. A huge thank you to all staff for taking part in this survey. This should give us some valuable information and insights, not just as individual academies, but across our MAT and will enable us to benchmark ourselves nationally.

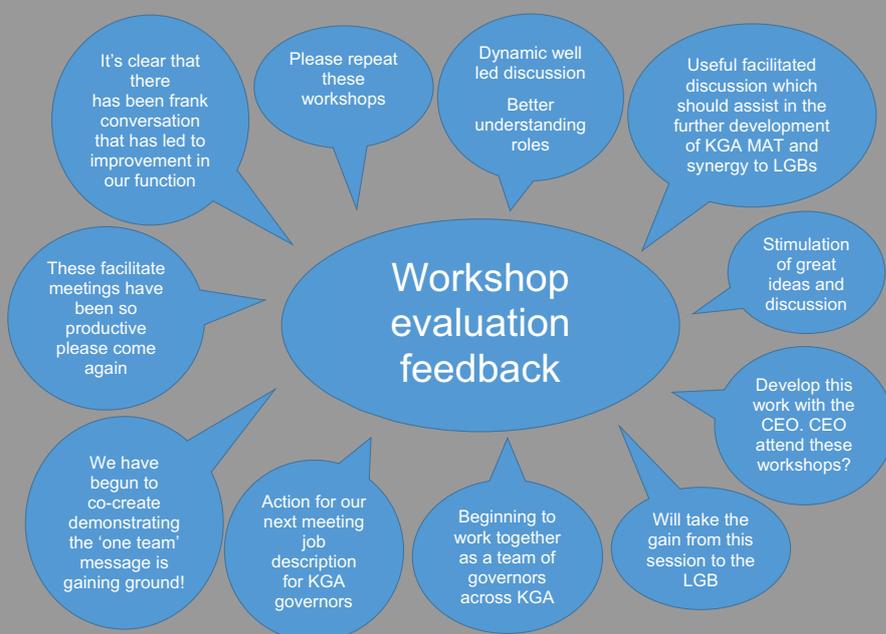
## KGA LOCAL BOARD LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

A second MAT wide Local Governing Boards Leadership Workshop was held on the morning of November 3rd and attended by Chairs of Governors and, where possible, two other Governor representatives from each of our 4 academy Local Governing Bodies. As before, this was facilitated by Jenny Barnard-Langston, a National Leader of Governance and attended by myself.

The agenda for this workshop covered:

- Developing confidence of the local Governing Body
- Building capacity
- A strong identity as a KGA school leader
- Focus on monitoring and evaluation
- Succession planning
- Networking
- Accountability

Very positive feedback on this workshop included the following comments



A KGA job description for Governors and Chairs of Governors has been circulated for adoption. Two further workshops have been planned for March and June at the request of the group.

## KING'S GROUP 50 YEARS

2019 sees 50 years since King's Group was founded with a number of celebrations and activities planned throughout the year by our partner International schools. We have started to plan how KGA can also mark this momentous milestone for King's Group.

As a starter for 10, one challenge for all of us is to learn 'Happy Birthday to you' in Spanish

