



# KING'S MATHS SCHOOL

SPRING TERM 2021

## Bouncing back

The last year has reminded us that schools are more than just places of learning: they are vital communities that bring people together. We have found many ways to keep our community going when we physically haven't been in the same space. For instance, our online virtual pods, which made remote working less isolating, meant that students could still collaborate in important ways. We also had great online success with our admissions interviews in February, welcoming over 150 strong candidates. We are delighted to have made our offers for Sept. 2021. We can't wait to welcome our new students. It has been exhilarating having students physically back in school. How we missed the sounds of laughter and chatter! We have so much continued gratitude in KCLMS' ability to rise to whatever challenges are put our way. We have emerged even stronger and more resilient. Bravo!

## Maths competitions

KCLMS has a strong history in the MathsBombe competition, a team mathematical challenge run by the University of Manchester. We have won the contest outright in two of the last four years. Due to Covid-19 it has only run informally this year, but our students have stepped up impressively, with 45 students forming 12 teams. The KCLMS competition was won by the team of Nikhil, Seryn, Eddie, and Lola. Our students produced the fastest solution nationally to 3 of the 8 problems, which bodes well for next year!

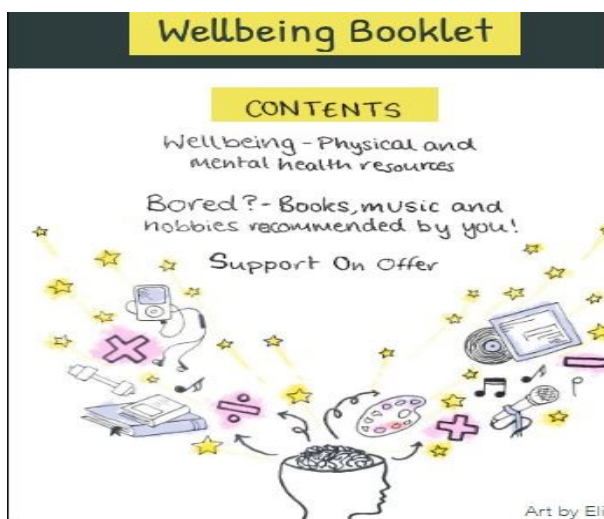
## Step-o-thon

An evocative photo of a foggy Hyde Park (right) from Zane in Year 12 on his intrepid trek from home in South West London to school. All done in honour of Well-Being Week and our first step-o-thon in which students raised steps and house points. Well done Zane!

## Visual Arts Week

We celebrated our inaugural virtual Visual Arts Week in which staff and students enjoyed seeing and discussing arresting films, photography, and paintings. What a great platform for fomenting creativity and dialogue. Students and staff recommended renowned creations and pieces, which were then compiled into a vibrant virtual bulletin *KMS Recommends*. We were also treated to after-school virtual movie screenings, chosen by our students. As Gustav Klimt once wisely observed, "Art is a line around your thoughts."





Left: The Wellbeing Booklet's gorgeous art cover. Right: Alumna Tabs doing her virtual teaching.

## Wellbeing

Looking after our wellbeing has never been so vital. Our students compiled a wellbeing booklet, focusing on mental and physical health. Crammed with useful recommendations and resources, the booklet featured artwork made by our artistic students. For a special wellbeing school assembly, the student council narrated and produced a series of audio and video clips on wellbeing activities. These ranged from embroidery to the importance of just being, to making the perfect cup of hot cocoa. One highlight was a joyful video of Kowalski, a Shiba Inu dog belonging to Egor in Year 13, frolicking in the snow. Students and staff have also benefitted from weekly sports and wellbeing classes. Since January we have teamed up with a fantastic range of instructors, ranging from dance and yoga to fitness sessions with an ex-team GB climber. There's been something for everyone.

## Alumni connections

We were thrilled to have alumna Tabs Goldman recently teach a Curriculum X course (optional extension for year 13 students) on functional programming. Tabs, who is studying Maths and Computer Science at Imperial, explained the material as "a great mix of computer science and maths." One of her favourite aspects was seeing so many students proactively doing the homework and uncovering the breadth of their answers. Tabs hopes to pursue software engineering when she graduates.

## Exciting outreach

GCSE7+ is our new free online Easter masterclass course for Year 11s aiming for a top grade in their GCSE maths. We are thrilled to have offered over 300 places. Other outreach schemes include: 'Teaching a top set' training for Y10/11 teachers; fortnightly GCSE+ for Y10s in London and weekly GCSE+ for Y11s, which is a nationwide course. Over 100 regular attendees!

## Cambridge virtual

Year 12s took a virtual trip to Cambridge's physics dept. which included experiments and a lively Q&A.



## WEEKLY MATHS CHALLENGE

ABC is a right-angled triangle with the right angle at A. P is a point on the hypotenuse BC, and points S and T lie on AC and AB respectively, such that PS is perpendicular to AC and PT is perpendicular to AB. Where should P be placed on BC so that the length of ST is minimum?