

King's Colours

Summer 1999

The Termly Newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Headmaster's Letter

Dear Reader

This edition features the Junior Division, reviewing its progress since its transfer in 1993 from Cumberland Street to Fence Avenue when it became co-educational. The addition of an Infants' Department (3-7) in 1997 completed its transformation and added the final touch to a school which now caters for boys and girls from 3-18.

The purpose of opening the Department was to provide the same high quality of education that we offer throughout the school to children in their crucial early years. The results of the Year 2 pupils who sat our Junior Division entrance exam indicate clearly that the foundation for academic achievement is well laid and we shall have some distinguished A Level scholars in 2011!

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It will also be clear from the activities outlined here that we at King's very much prize the 'whole person' and individual development in line with individual talents.

A G Silcock



ADDING UP TO SUCCESS

Talented King's mathematician Andrew Aldcroft has joined the country's mathematical élite after a superb performance in this year's British Mathematical Olympiad. The Sixth Former's success in the first round of this competition for top maths students places him amongst the best twenty five in the country, higher than any other candidate from local independent schools.

Andrew (pictured bottom right) had to tackle a gruelling three and a half hour written paper. Working without a calculator, he got to grips with the considerable technical difficulty of the exam and his ingenuity and determination were rewarded with a top score which took him through to Round Two. Alongside him were other crack mathematicians whose outstanding performances in the Senior Mathematics Challenge qualified them for the Olympiad.

Said King's Head of Maths, Philip Colville: 'This is an outstanding performance from Andrew and one which sets a fine example to our younger mathematicians. All pupils are to be

congratulated on their success.'

King's mathematicians have also produced spectacular results in other national contests. Of the thirty who entered the Senior Mathematics Challenge, eight won Gold awards (pictured below), eleven Silver and nine Bronze.



The UK Intermediate Mathematics Challenge brought more success. Over 100 pupils won Gold, Silver or Bronze certificates. Five Year 9 pupils - Jenny Gladman, Antonia Slade, Daniel Laird, Yannick Malins and Nick Mills - were chosen to go through to the 'European Kangaroo'. This involves 21 countries, with almost 2000 participants coming from the UK, and pupils enter by invitation only. Nick Mills and Daniel Laird were awarded Distinctions in this round, putting them in the top 500 for the country.

Top students choose King's

Interest in joining King's is greater than ever across all Divisions, despite the loss of Assisted Places. Girls' Division Principal, Catherine Buckley, said, 'I am delighted that we are attracting such a large number of talented girls to King's. Our new intake in September will certainly maintain the high standards of academic excellence already established.'

Waiting list

The Infants' Department will again be completely full. Places are so much in demand that there is a waiting list at every age. We do not register unborn children!

At 11+ seven full classes will be admitted, including a number of scholars and bursary holders, joined by groups in Year 9 from local preparatory schools.

The ranks of Sixth Formers will also be enriched by pupils from outside, adding to the Year 11 intake from the Boys' and Girls' Divisions. King's Sixth Form at the Millennium is expected to number 300 pupils.



Grounds for satisfaction

Infant staff and children are delighted with their new sign, which includes portraits drawn by several Year 1 and 2 children. They will have something else to cheer about when a grounds development project for Infants and Juniors comes to fruition in the near future. The project is funded jointly by school and the Friends of King's Juniors and Infants, augmented by a substantial donation in memory of a former pupil of the school. It has received advice from a playground design consultant and plans have been drawn up by a landscape architect experienced in designing school playgrounds.



Dates and gingerbread dormice

Stuffed dormice (made from gingerbread), stuffed dates (real), olives and other authentic delicacies, all washed down with (black-currant juice) wine, were on the menu when Year 4 pupils transformed their classroom into a Roman banqueting hall. Dressed in period fashion, complete with togas and headbands, the children thoroughly enjoyed the feast, the culmination of their Roman History topic.



Sharpening their skills

Two Year 10 students in the Girls' Division have won places on a prestigious engineering course - after they designed an improved version of the Stanley knife.

Debra Harrison and Amy Percival were first introduced to the scheme through a holiday course last year which aims to encourage students to consider a career in engineering. To win a place on the more advanced course, they had to submit an engineering design of their own. Said Amy: 'We came up with several modifications for a Stanley knife'. Debra added: 'It was quite a challenge, but very enjoyable'.

King's couture

A fun evening of fashion was enjoyed by Sixth Form students and parents at the end of March. Enthusiastic student models were joined by staff and choreographed by Samantha Franks, a Year 12 student. Champagne and canapés were served and clothes were on sale.

This was the first event of its kind - a joint Sixth Form and Friends of King's venture - and profits will be shared between the Sixth Form charities fund-raising and Friends of King's.

Scholarship winners

Congratulations to Junior Division pupils Kay Doncom and David Kennerley who were awarded Senior School Scholarships on the strength of excellent results in the 11+ entrance examination. Kay and David are both house captains and play a full part in the Junior Division's extra-curricular programme. Both live in Macclesfield.



Charity begins at...

Over £4000 was raised in King's Charities Week in March. Popular events included taping the Principal of the Boys' Division to a wall, a penalty shoot-out with the Macclesfield Town goalkeeper, Ryan Price, and a sponsored silence. Planned to coincide with National Red Nose Day, the Friday was a non-uniform/fancy dress day. Pictured left is David Hill of the History Department, entering into the spirit of things. In the evening a superb concert by the School Big Band helped to swell the total considerably.

The fun and high spirits of Charities Week were tempered by an awareness of the serious purpose behind it and various charities, including the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Comic Relief, Actionaid, Intermediate Technology, Park Lane Special School, MAST and Sanyang Primary School in the Gambia, benefited from the money raised.



King's On Stage

Annie

Three fantastic performances of the musical *Annie* played to packed houses of Junior Division parents and friends. All 96 Year 6 children were involved and all played their part in creating a truly memorable production. Particularly outstanding performances came from the principal characters, who showed confidence and talent way beyond their years. The production was aided greatly by parents who created costumes and props, and further expert help was received from the michaeljohn hair studio.

Infant talent

Budding thespians, dancers, comedians and musicians were on display at the Infant Talent Show, keen to display their talents in a variety of ways (some rehearsed, others not!) Recitations, sketches, songs and dance routines featured children from each class, all apparently nerveless in front of a large audience.



Girls' double bill

The Caged Birds and *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations* formed the Girls' Division double bill. The former, involving a series of unconnected speeches, was beautifully sustained by the cast as each character immersed herself in private preoccupations unrelated to her colleagues. When the opportunity of a bid for freedom challenged the security of imprisonment, the tension rose to a truly moving climax – a remarkable triumph for so young a cast. The latter was a lively light-hearted romp, in which the cast of girls (with a few 'guest' performers from the Boys' Division) moved from vision to vision in Ernie's 'illucinations' with hilarious results.

How to succeed...

In the last *three weeks* of term the seniors rehearsed and presented *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, a light-hearted musical from the sixties. Despite the time pressure, all the performers - musicians and actors - rose to the challenge. It was yet another delightful production, natural, slick and precisely timed.



Staging Voltaire

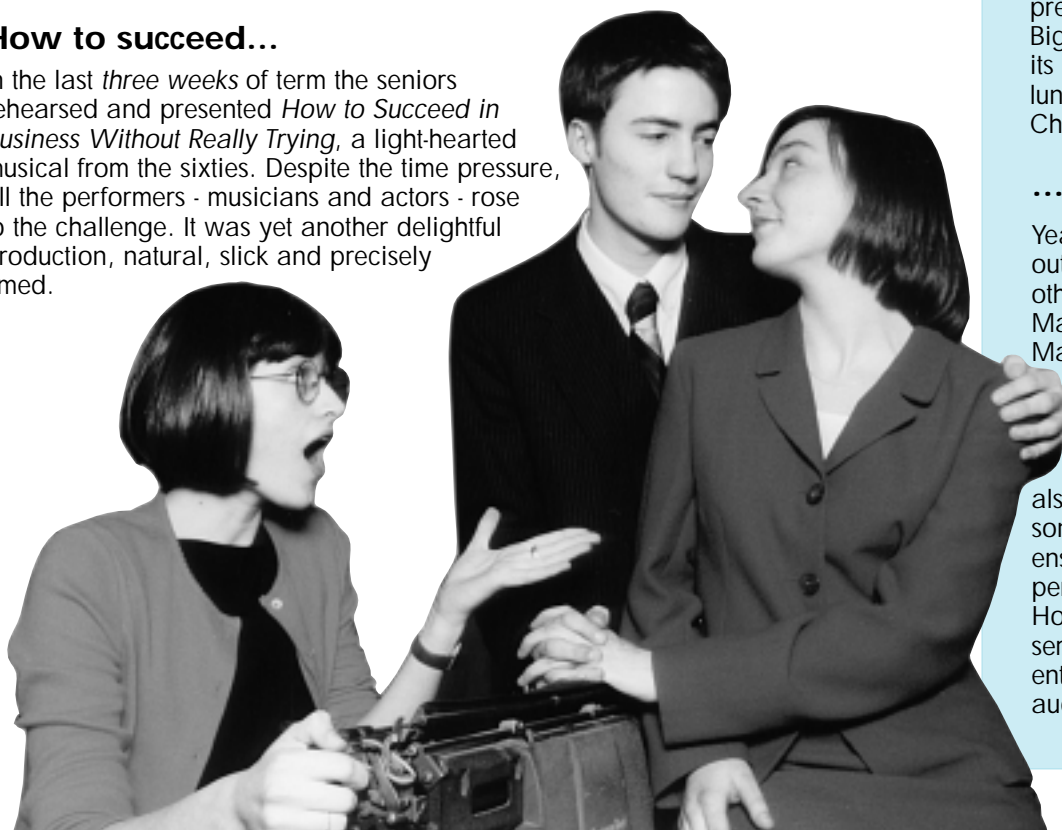
Zadig, an adaptation of Voltaire's philosophical tale, was the first of the Spring Term's four dramatic offerings. In a delightful, fast-moving and very amusing production, it explored such ideas as the consequences of man's actions and the definition of goodness. These are rarely considered the stuff of entertainment but the audience was entranced and stimulated.

Music at home...

Andrew Green and Thom Petty (organ scholar) gave an organ recital; the Foundation Choir prepared for Founders' Day; the Big Band gave a concert (and its CD sold out!) and King's lunchtime concerts with Chetham's started up again.

... and away

Year 5 pupils sang their hearts out alongside children from seven other local primary schools at the Macclesfield Music Festival in March. There were traditional sea shanties, a modern cantata entitled 'Ocean Commotion', and excerpts from the musical *Cats*. Dancers and speakers also accompanied some of the songs and the wind & brass ensemble gave an outstanding performance of 'Galloping Home' (the theme tune to the TV series *Black Beauty*) which was enthusiastically received by the audience of around 500 people.



Sport

Top team

King's Girls' hockey team have lifted the county championship after a stunning display in the finals at Chester. Their success is all the more remarkable because the Division has only had a full U16 team for the last two years.

Coach Di Barker said: 'The girls have shown great commitment and dedication; this is a superb achievement.'



Rugby

The 1st XV reached the last sixteen of the Daily Mail national competition and the 2nd XV and U15 XV also enjoyed very successful seasons. Meanwhile, the U12 XV won the Junior Festival and the U13 XV improved their performance in the Junior Festival from last year (play-off for last place) to this year (finalists).

Ciba Sevens football

King's U11 football team swept into the finals of the prestigious seven-a-side competition by winning their preliminary round recently at St Alban's Junior School. A convincing 3-0 win over Ivy Bank Junior School in the final saw them through to the four-team final to be held in June.

Cross country champion

At the recent Macclesfield Primary Schools Championships, Ian Hart, Junior Division boys' cross country captain, gave an outstanding performance. Ian came 1st in the U11 boys race, beating over 100 runners, making him the best junior cross country runner in Macclesfield.

CONGRATULATIONS

School Colours

Richard Bradfield (orienteering)
Chris Watts (orienteering)
Katherine Coveney (hockey)
Thom Petty (music)
Andrew Aldcroft (music)
John Livesley (music)
Andrew Unterhalter (drama)
James Sweetzer (rugby)
John Spicer (rugby)
Iain Selbie (rugby)
Con Allday (hockey)
Guy Basnett (hockey)
James Westcott (hockey)
Mark Yates (hockey)

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr Trevor Adams and Mrs Lynne Adams (*née* Warrington) on establishing the best possible link between the school's sites.

David Unterhalter (FP 1989-1996) on his place at St Edmund's College, Cambridge to do a degree in Land Economy.

Ben Clifford on attaining Grade 8 with distinction on the trumpet in Year 10.

Alice Betton, Eleanor Cowan and Miranda Swift on being Poets of the Term.

Junior netball

The Junior Division Netball Squad (pictured right) set the standards for the school's teams this year by winning the League and the Cup in the Macclesfield and District Primary Schools Championships. They enjoyed an outstanding season in all their other games too, showing great promise as they enter the Senior School.



Out and about

As usual, last term and the holidays were filled with educational visits and exchanges. There were no fewer than three German exchanges (Mosbach, Memmingen and Heidelberg) involving sixty-five pupils. French language trips included the exchange with Collège Beauregard, La Rochelle, four days' work experience in Paris for Sixth Formers and a Year 7 visit to Mayenne in Normandy for seventy pupils. Older Classics students visited Rome and Sorrento for a week and Year 8 pupils had a two-day trip discovering Roman Britain. A five-day creative writing

course at Hebden Bridge was enjoyed by sixteen girls, while geologists ventured further north to South-West Scotland and Cumbria for their field course.

For outdoor pursuits enthusiasts, there were two skiing trips - one to Courchevel in France, the other to Lake Tahoe in California - and a five-day climbing trip to the Cairngorms. A practice expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh Award (Silver) took place in the Peak District and Zeneca sponsored a week-long Outward Bound course for six Year 10 pupils.

'A veritable Aladdin's cave.' The normally dry, factual tone of an Inspection Report written in June 1997 becomes almost lyrical in describing the classroom displays in the Junior Division. This one detail exemplifies the dedication to high standards among the staff there and it is this that provides, not merely an attractive environment in which the pupils can work, but a clear indication of what the staff expect of themselves and, therefore, of their pupils.

In September 1993 the Junior School of 130 boys moved to the newly acquired Fence Avenue site and settled into the beautifully refurbished buildings there. It is now a co-educational school of more than 300 pupils with a recently opened Infants' department. Morale is high and the most frequent comment heard from visitors to the school is how happy the pupils seem.

Environment certainly helps. It is not just the classrooms which provide pleasant surroundings. The school is blessed with the most marvellous position, with grounds that appear to be set in open country. When the trees are in blossom or the gorse is out on the hills it is indeed a delightful place to work. And

that has an effect on the atmosphere.

The classes are small and the teachers well qualified and very dedicated, so it is no surprise that the academic results are outstanding. Pupils regularly win scholarships to the Senior School and the results at Key Stage 1 and 2 indicate that the pupils have acquired an excellent grounding by the time they move on.

But the pupils are not just happy because they work hard! The range of extra-curricular activities ensures that they all have the opportunity to develop their talents. In sport they benefit from the fact that the facilities are the same as those available to the Girls' Senior Division and are therefore of a very high standard. Teams of all sorts flourish and win honours.

Drama and music are acknowledged strengths of the school too. The range of instruments played and the quality of performance are regularly commented upon, and the major musical production of the year is generally deemed worthy of a secondary school.

The teaching of French at all ages from 4-11 and the widespread use of IT

ensure that the pupils' experience is much wider than the demands of the National Curriculum.

So, was it all worth the upheaval in 1993? Let us return to the Inspection and allow the report to have the final word: 'the pupils are polite, confident, eager to communicate and, above all else, happy.'



Kings Juniors

Former Pupils' Association

Since the last edition of *King's Colours*, the Former Pupils' Association has established itself as a registered charity: 'The King's School Macclesfield Former Pupils' Association Scholarship, Memorial and Benevolent Fund'. This will enable it to aid the school in its future development in areas such as buildings and scholarships, which previously it was not able to do. The latter is an area which the Association hopes will gather momentum as time goes on - particularly with the abandonment of the Assisted Places scheme.

The refurbishment of the fiction library/cricket pavilion is gathering momentum, with £25,000 already in the fund and another £10,000 pledged - still another £40,000 to go! Any former pupil wishing to contribute should contact the Association via the school, or Alan McInnes (Chairman) on 01625 428961.

Forthcoming events and contacts

Frank Moore Golf Trophy Day: Wilmslow Golf Club
Tuesday 4th May 1999
Contact: Chris Shingles on 01625 420420 (B) or 01625 511073 (H)

Barnaby Dance: Joint Social with Macclesfield High School Old Girls' Association at Fence Avenue
Saturday 26th June 1999
Contact: Mike Hyde on 01625 423732

Inter-school Golf Day: Heaton Moor Golf Club
Friday 16th July 1999
Contact: Alan McInnes on 01625 428961

Annual Dinner: Hunting Lodge, Adlington Hall
Friday 8th October 1999
Contact: Mike Hyde on 01625 423732

Jazz Evening: Macclesfield Heritage Centre
Saturday 30th October 1999
Contact: Ian Price on 01625 876476

Annual General Meeting: Old Boys' Club
Thursday 2nd December 1999
Contact: Mike Hyde on 01625 423732

What's new on the King's website?



You can now listen to selected tracks from the Foundation Choir CD direct from the school website. Also available from the new archive are copies of past Annual Reports, newsletters and a collection of high resolution drama posters from 1993 onwards. Visit the site on:

www.kingsmac.cheshire.sch.uk

New Archive

The Baker's Wife
A Comedy Musical

Music and Lyrics by
Stephen Schwartz
Book by
Joseph Stein

"La Femme du Boulanger"
Marcel Pagnol
and Jean Giono

Tuesday March 26 to
Friday March 29
7.30pm in the
Cumberland Street Hall
(In conjunction with Lord's Theatre Ltd)

King's Contacts

Dates for your diary

28 May	Upper Sixth Leavers' Day Junior Division Founders' Day Service 2.15 pm St Michael's Church
16 June	New boys' (11 and 13) Induction Evening
18 June	Junior Schools' Workshop at King's
25 June	Friends of King's Summer Ball 8.00 pm Adlington Lodge
29 June	1 st XI v MCC 11.30 am Induction of 3+ and 7+ pupils (Junior Division)
6 July	New girls' (11 and 13) Induction Evening Induction of 8+, 9+, 10+ (Junior Division)
7 July	Finals of Music Competition 7.00 pm Cumberland Street
9 July	1 st XI v Former Pupils 1.00 pm

Admissions

For information about admissions, please contact:

King's Infants Mr G J Shaw,
King's Juniors Principal, Junior Division

King's Girls Mr K W W Aikin,
King's Boys Admissions Officer

King's Sixth Form Mrs V Kendal,
Sixth Form Secretary

If you would like further information about King's, please contact us

tel: 01625 260000,
email: kingsmac@rmplc.co.uk

or write to:

The King's School
Macclesfield SK10 1DA