

King's Infants

It is just over two years since the Infants' section of the Junior Division was founded. Such was the demand that on our opening day in September 1997 all 78 places from Kindergarten to Year 2 were taken. Since then, the school has flourished to such an extent that we have waiting lists at all ages, including children below the age of one.

The aim was to provide a top quality academic and all-round basis for future learning in a happy, secure environment. In this way our pupils would be well prepared for the rest of their education – and for life. To see how we have succeeded so far, let us look at what the OFSTED inspector said in October:

'The educational programme at King's School has many strengths. By the time they are five the children should

make good progress towards desirable learning outcomes in all six areas. Special strengths are planning, partnership with parents and carers, teaching and assessment, personal and social development, language and literacy and music.'

'The children are confident and well behaved, showing self-respect and an awareness of right and wrong. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered well.'

'The quality of teaching and assessment is strong, promoting learning well in all areas.'

'Interactions with the children are gentle and often humorous. Close, friendly relationships foster the expression and development of children's ideas. A quiet and relaxed staff attitude results

in happy, actively involved children, whose behaviour is mature, co-operative, calm and purposeful.'

'A particular strength is the close co-operation between staff and parents in the children's learning.' 'Partnership with parents and carers is strong, supporting children's learning well. Parents express, very positively, their appreciation of the high standard of care and teaching staff provide in promoting the good progress made by their children.'

'There are no significant weaknesses to report as key issues.'

Parents, pupils and staff are commended. You will not be surprised to learn that, in response to demand, we are opening a second Reception class in September 2000!

SPORT

Daniel Bowers catching the lineout in the December 1999 match at the Derby Fields versus Sydney Church of England Grammar School who King's will play in July on the Rugby tour to Australia



In the swim

Three Year 7 Girls' Division pupils snatched victory in the Northern Schools' Biathlon Championships. Kay Doncom, Jenny Swetman and Anika Bulcock completed the 50 metre swim and the 800 metre run to beat teams from sixteen other schools and win the Year 7 title. They are now in training for the national finals in February where they hope to repeat their triumph.

CHARITY NEWS page 2

ARTS & SCIENCE page 3

KING'S AT LARGE page 4

KING'S INFANTS page 5

FORMER PUPILS page 6

DIARY DATES page 6

King's Colours

Spring 2000

The Termly Newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Headmaster's Letter

As we look back in this issue on the achievements of the final term of the past millennium, it is pleasing indeed to reflect on so much that has been positive and worthwhile. Young people do not receive a particularly good press, which tends to emphasise their misdemeanours. Our experience is that, where the opportunities are offered, they will give time, energy and whole-hearted commitment to positive achievement and show an awareness of each other and the needs of the wider community quite at odds with their image.



Our Infants' section, established in 1997, has been inspected by OFSTED. Its report praises all aspects of its work unreservedly and is, in fact, a splendid tribute to its staff. (Full inspection report available on request from the School Office.)

Elsewhere you will see reports on our Oxbridge successes and academic projects undertaken by our pupils, details of sport, music and drama, some of the many trips abroad over the course of the term, and some examples of the ways in which our pupils have been involved with others in the community. I hope you will agree that the picture which emerges is as positive as I claim.

A G Silcock

OXBRIDGE JACKPOT

Eleven students gain offers from Oxford and Cambridge

Once again, King's students have impressed the Oxford and Cambridge dons. Despite increasing competition, no fewer than 11 have been given offers of places for October 2000. (Some of these have been very favourable offers, indicating how well the candidates did at interview.) With the first full intake of girls from 1993 now in the Upper Sixth, it is good to see the numbers of boys and girls evening up. Equally pleasing is the fact that their successes come across the full range of subjects. They follow a stream of highly successful

scholars, many of whom have achieved distinction in their time at Oxford or Cambridge.

Pictured below from left to right are: back row Jonathan Aitken (Engineering); Christopher Gartside (Chemistry); James Triggs (Mathematics); middle row Angela Kail (Classics); Ben Crabstick (English); David Botham (Philosophy and Theology); front row Katherine Coveney (Natural Sciences); Esmé Patey-Ford (English); Mark Greaves (English); Philip Reynolds (Modern Languages); Sharon Ketley (Natural Sciences).



Former Pupils' Association

Former Pupils have responded very generously to the appeal for the refurbishment of the fiction library/cricket pavilion and the necessary £53,000 has been raised, although £9000 in interest free loans needs to be repaid. Anyone who would still like to contribute can obtain details by writing to Alan McInnes, c/o The King's School. The opening ceremony will take place on Wednesday 3rd May at 11.00 am, followed by an Old Boys XI v The School cricket match. It is hoped that as many former pupils as possible will be able to attend at least some time during the day, and all those who have contributed will receive an official invitation in due course.

The Association, now a registered charity, is embarking on an adventurous project to raise sufficient funds to enable a bursary or scholarship to be provided for a student or students – this is particularly relevant since the abandonment of the Assisted Places Scheme.

Finally, the committee is always looking for interested former pupils to serve the Association by taking a little responsibility and joining the committee. Anyone who is interested, male or female (the girls are very much in evidence as former pupils now), should contact Alan McInnes at school.

Forthcoming events

Opening Ceremony for Cricket Pavilion
Wed 3 May 2000, followed by Old Boys XI v School

Frank Moore Golf Trophy Day
May 2000 – Prestbury Golf Club
Contact: Chris Shingles on 01625 420420 (B) or 511073 (H)

Annual Inter-School Golf Day
Wednesday 12 July 2000 – Bramhall Golf Club
Contact: Alan McInnes on 01625 428961

Dates for your diary

29 January	King's Big Band Charity Concert Little Theatre, Lord Street 7.30 pm
7 February	School Entrance Examinations (Pupil Holiday: all Divisions)
12 February	Foundation Choir with Northern Chamber Orchestra Silk Heritage Centre 7.30 pm
17 February	Years 11 & 12 Careers Evening Rock Block 6.00-9.00 pm
2-10 March	French Exchange students in Macclesfield
4 March	King's Big Band Concert Trinity Methodist Church 7.30 pm
11 March	U12, U13 Rugby Festival Derby Fields
21-25 March	School Musical: Into the Woods Cumberland Street Hall 7.30 pm
29-31 March	Junior Division Musical: Pied Piper Fence Avenue Hall 7.15 pm
6 April	Sixth Form Fashion Show Cumberland Street Hall
6-19 April	German Exchange students in Macclesfield
7 April	King's Big Band Concert in aid of NSPCC Cumberland Street Hall 7.30 pm
8 April	Rugby 2000 Barn Dance Fence Avenue Hall 8.00 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

Charity News

Operation Christmas Child

With a little help from their friends, sixth formers Lydia Robertson and Gemma Garton (pictured below left) processed 117 boxes for Operation Christmas Child – part of a scheme to bring a taste of Christmas to children who are victims of war, poverty and neglect.

The filled shoe boxes, all festively wrapped, were donated by staff, pupils and parents. They were collected in late November by the national organisers of the scheme and joined millions of other boxes on the journey to Eastern Europe. Tony Hallatt, who co-ordinated the King's part of the operation, said, 'Many people were genuinely moved by the very act of filling the boxes with items of little consequence to us but which mean so much to needy children.' Parents not only paid to assist in the delivery of the boxes but were most generous in making additional donations; to these was added a very substantial sum from the school's charity fund.

The Infants also did their bit, contributing 72 shoeboxes full of goodies.

Christmas party

Thirty local senior citizens enjoyed a Christmas party organised by sixth formers. A splendid tea, gifts from Santa, games, carols and a musical entertainment provided a memorable afternoon for students and guests. (See photo below centre.)

Silk FM Award

Sixth former Jo Southall, Chair of the Charities Social Committee, is pictured below with the Silk FM Award which she won for her extensive work in the community.



More on the charities front

The Big Band held a full programme of public concerts in aid of charity over the year. Other activities by the various charity committees:

A Year 7 Sponsored Read raised £500 for Actionaid.

The Sixth Form raised £45 for Body Positive.

Further donations were made to 'Schools for the Gambia' and the Indian Cyclone Appeal.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Day was actively supported.

The carol services raised over £500 for 'Help the Aged'.

Guide Dogs for the Blind received a cheque for £100 as a result of Girls' Division fundraising efforts. The girls held a mini Christmas Fayre, selling gifts and cakes, collected stamps and organized a number of competitions.

East Cheshire Hospice has had its funds boosted, thanks to Christmas card designs produced by Girls' Division artists. Sarah Levitt's design of a Christmas tree was joint winner of the competition and Laura Tunwell was one of three runners-up.

QUINCENTENARY (2002)

Former pupils: We need your memorabilia!

We would like to mount a display and photographic exhibition celebrating 500 years of education at the King's School. Do you have, from your days in the school: a cap, a tie, a rugby shirt, an exercise book, a project, a register, photos (of teams, excursions, school plays, foreign exchange visits), a school report, a detention slip ... anything that will contribute to a picture of school life in your time? If so, could you please telephone the School Office with details of the item, your name and dates of attendance at the school, the event or focus of interest represented by the item. Some time in the year 2001 we will contact you again to ask for the item itself or a photograph of it. Arrangements will be made to return everything appropriately.

Pictured below with Keith Perriss and Christine Harrison are the prototypes of the rucksacks developed in the 1960s in the PE Department under the guidance of Deryck Siddall. These were developed after detailed research (by pupils) into weight distribution, materials and convenience of use. The final design, produced by Accles & Pollock, was used by Sir John Hunt's expedition to Greenland. The PE Department also undertook research into a whole range of outdoor equipment, with significant development in design and materials – at the time, true 'cutting edge' work.



Sunspots and blisterstrips

Already a bronze CREST award winner, sixth former Kate Baker set her sights on silver with an astronomy project involving the study of sunspots. By careful drawing of the spots on several consecutive days, she was able to see them move across the face of the Sun as it rotated and determine the rate of rotation for the equatorial regions of the Sun. She safely projected the image of the Sun through the telescope's eyepiece on to a white screen – not an easy task. For her excellent work she gained her silver and is now considering her project as she goes for gold.

Four other sixth formers have already got there. Last term, Jonathan Aitken, Mark Frederick, Chris Gartside and Alex Grimes received Engineering Education Certificates and CREST Gold Awards. Working under the auspices of the Engineering Education Scheme, with the guidance of an engineer from Astra Zeneca, they spent six months preparing a project. The brief was to deliver tablet blister strips, in a specific orientation and at a specified rate, to a packaging machine.



Chris Watts, Mark Frederick, Chris Holden and Jonathan Aitken at the 1999 Physics Olympics.

Headstart

Six King's pupils were successful when they applied to join the Engineering Education Scheme's Headstart programme. J Aitken, A Bexon, R Caswell, M Frederick, C Holden, M White all spent time at different universities, finding out what it is like to study engineering for a degree. The courses were very practical, and both valuable and beneficial.

Mark Frederick also had the honour of being selected for the residential course on Engineering at Villiers Park.



Pictured above are Max Williamson, Harriet Fraser, Sam Stockwin and Ross McNeill in the Junior Division production of Puss in Boots. Pupils from Years 3 and 4 delighted the audience with this charming production in early December.

Millennial art

Creative ceramics and hand-crafted domestic pottery, tapestries and embroidery, silver jewellery, paintings and multimedia work all caught and held the eye at the last King's art exhibition of the millennium.

The imaginative exhibition featured 'Moving Clay & Friends', a group that started as a pottery co-operative but now attracts painters, printmakers, sculptors, jewellers and textile artists to its ranks. Twenty-six members of the group displayed their work, which had much to offer King's pupils. Many GCSE and A Level Art students gathered first-hand information for their projects, while pupils lower down the school used the event as a stimulus for creative writing in their English lessons.



Little Women

New England came to Fence Avenue in December. Authentic American accents were sustained throughout when the Girls' Division staged Louisa May Alcott's much-loved novel, *Little Women*. Performing on a set which perfectly recreated a nineteenth-century domestic interior, the cast produced a sensitive and convincing interpretation of this classic, set at the time of the American Civil War.

The story revolves around the lives of Mrs March and her four daughters when their father goes off to serve as an army chaplain. Central to the action is the relationship between the sisters Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy – parts which called for, and received, strong individual performances.

King's at Large

Making waves

Nineteen intrepid pupils spent a November weekend on Windermere: King's fourth end-of-season excursion to the lake. Although used to Toppers, the crews – from Years 7 to 13 – are becoming familiar with the chartered yachts now. The charms of boats that do not tip over at the first gust of wind and on which one can brew up whenever the winter chill sets in are beginning to be appreciated.

On both sailing days, the wind was blowing straight down the lake. On Saturday, a long beat up to Ambleside was followed by a rather quicker return, sailing goose-winged. The boats were not racing, of course, but each seemed particularly keen not to be passed by another... On Sunday there was little wind to help the journey south but the lively sail back to Bowness and the stunning views enjoyed on the weekend left everyone wanting more.



Remembrance of things past

King's History Department set off on its sixth pilgrimage to the First World War battlefields in the October half term. Based on two centres, Dunkerque and Arras, the five-day trip concentrated on visits to the Ypres Salient, the 1915 front line and the landscape of the battle of the Somme. A wreath was laid on behalf of the school at the Thiépval Monument.

In the photo, Jonathan Dunkeley matches a memorial with the victim's medals at Caterpillar Valley on the Somme.



La dolce vita

At half-term thirty-six pupils and six members of staff discovered the art treasures of Florence and explored the wonders of Venice.