

# King's Colours

Autumn 1998

The Termly Newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

## Headmaster's Letter

Dear Reader

I would like to start this second newsletter by thanking the various people, mainly Former Pupils, who have written to me. It is clear that many people have enjoyed hearing about their old school, some of whom have not been near Macclesfield for years, and I have, in turn, enjoyed reading their reminiscences of their schooldays. We have tried to present as full a picture of the school as possible and it is heartening to hear how many of our activities touch a chord for our readers.



This issue concentrates on our examination results from the summer, which are of particular interest for the girls, since these started in September 1993 and are thus the first to have enjoyed five full years of King's School education. I hope you will agree that they have been a credit to the school - as have the boys. Their GCSE results are detailed later on this page: only one other school in the country - Eton - has achieved so much with so many pupils.

The entry of 175 pupils into the new Lower Sixth represents the start of the final stage of the school's development. And a very exciting one it is!

A G Silcock

## EXAM SUCCESSES

### A Levels

- The average number of points per pupil was 24.3 (slightly above 3 Bs).
- 39 candidates (just under one third) obtained 30 points or more.
- 2 candidates (M Ford and V Vaganov) obtained 5 As.
- All 123 candidates qualified for Higher Education.
- In total there were 98 grade As.
- The pass rate was 91.7%.

Results are calculated on a system of points (an A grade:10; B: 8; C: 6, etc).

### GCSEs

By every criterion the results from the first full intake into the Girls' Division are outstanding:

- The pass rate (A\*-C) was 98.3% with 90.3% of grades A\*-B.
- The percentage of A\*/A was 61.6.
- 90.7% of all candidates achieved 9 passes.
- The average number of passes per candidate was 8.79.

The Boys' GCSE results make equally good reading, and are the best in the history of the school:



Just some of the GCSE pupils who obtained a minimum of 8 grade As.

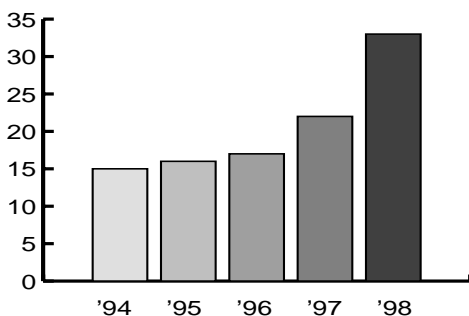
- The pass rate (A\*-C) was 97%, with 83% of grades A\*-B.
- The percentage of A\*/A was 53.
- Every boy passed at least 6 subjects.
- The average number of passes per pupil was 8.7.

Taking the year group as a whole, the following additional points emerge:

- 206 pupils achieved at least 6 A\*-C grades.
- 56% of these were A\*/A.
- 33% of the candidates achieved 8 or more A\*/As.
- In total there were 1046 A\*/A grades!

## Best ever GCSE results

Percentage of candidates with 8 or more A\* + A grades



Louise Southern,  
Katherine Coveney  
and Claire Butterworth  
share 26 A stars

# MORE ON THE ACADEMIC FRONT

## Prizes

The School Prize-Giving took place in the Silk Heritage Centre on Thursday 10th September. The numerous academic successes over the year were celebrated. Pictured right with the Headmaster are Matthew Kirby, the School Captain, who won the Headmaster's Prize, and Anna McKeating, the Girls' Division Head Girl, who won the Macclesfield High School Old Girls' Prize for the best all-rounder.

The presentations were followed by refreshments in the School Hall, which provided the opportunity to say goodbye to all those heading for university.



## First Class Honours

Congratulations to the following Former Pupils who have gained First Class Honours degrees this summer:

Mark Alexander            Mathematics  
*Balliol College, Oxford*

Gus Brooks                Medicine  
*Hertford College, Oxford*

Ben Fryer                 Biology  
*Bristol University*

Sean Lapham            English  
*Wadham College, Oxford*

Gordon McNair        Business Studies  
*Edinburgh University*

There may be others. Do let us know!

## Infant & Junior Achievers

The first ever set of King's Infant pupils' Key Stage 1 results were very encouraging. All achieved at least Level 2 grade in all areas, with a large proportion gaining the highest Level 3 in reading (67%) and spelling (72%).

At Key Stage 2 there were more outstanding performances by J4 children, who achieved far higher than national expectations at Level 4: English 99% (compared to the 1997 national figure of 63%\*), Maths 97% (62%\*) and Science 97% (68%\*). The story was similarly impressive at Level 5 and above: English 54% (16%\*), Maths 54% (18%\*) and Science 39% (18%\*). Rachel Alston and David Johnson reached Level 6 in Maths, a feat normally achieved by fewer than a thousand children in the country.

*\*extracted from the DfEE document 'Results of the 1997 National Curriculum Assessments of 11 Year Olds in England'*

the Zeneca Life Sciences Award. This involved competing against teams from all over the country. Again, they did extremely well and, although they did not win, their project was very highly commended.

## Villiers Park

One of the many opportunities for individual Sixth Formers at King's to be 'extended' academically is by attending Reading Parties near Oxford. Nominations are sent each year. Held at Villiers Park, a country mansion, each course consists of fourteen students from all over the UK and lasts about ten days. The academic programme is usually run by two young Oxford University-based researchers.

During the academic year 1997-8, the following attended courses at Villiers Park: Alistair Cotton (French), James Wilson (Economics), Michael Hordley (Chemistry), Vladislav Vaganov (Physics), Neil Ward (Religious Studies) and Andrew Aldcroft (Computer Studies).

## Has Osmosis had its Chips?

In April Simon Priestnall and Matthew Tinker entered for the Zeneca Science Prize. In their project 'Has Osmosis had its Chips?' they devised a method for measuring the sugar content of potatoes, relating this to the culinary uses of different types of potato. Along with teams from twelve other local schools, they presented their project to a panel of judges, and came second in the competition. They also earned a Crest Silver Award and were selected to take part in the National Finals in Cardiff of



## New Business Studies Award

To stimulate interest in insurance as a career, the Independent Insurance Company has generously agreed to sponsor a competition based on the Business Studies A Level projects. Five pupils from the Upper Sixth will enjoy a trip to London and the winner will also have a weekend at the company's office in Paris. The award will be based on the quality of the project and an interview. Pictured are the Principal of Sixth Form with Mrs D Geary and Sixth Formers.

# Kings at Large

## Taking to the water...

Twenty-five pupils from the Boys' Division spent a week at Plas Menai, the Welsh National Sailing Centre. Windy and difficult conditions made for exhilarating and demanding sailing. The highlight was a day's sail down the straits to Beaumaris and thence to Puffin Island. This took place in 707 yachts. The return journey was a race against a SW Force 4 in brilliant sunshine. A King's crew helmed by Richard Isherwood with brother David master-minding sail trim was first back, having left the instructors well behind.



## ...and to the hills

Eleven boys and twelve girls completed an arduous Duke of Edinburgh Silver expedition in the Lake District in July. In September, ten Sixth Formers made a brave attempt on the Welsh 3000ft peaks (fourteen peaks, thirty miles, 10,000 ft) to raise sponsorship for their expedition to Pakistan in July 1999.

## Lessons in Normandy...

For their study visit, six Lower Sixth students spent a week at Ste Croix sur Aizier, near Pont Audemer. They visited the Memorial Museum at Caen, the D Day beaches, the German defences and the Ranville British Cemetery, as well as Rouen, Honfleur, the cliffs at Etretat and the Abbey at Jumièges.

## ...and Courmayeur

Courmayeur was the base for the Lower Sixth Geography field trip this September. Surveys on the impact of tourism, commercial developments and property prices alternated with studies of glacial features, rivers and the impact of skiing on the environment.

## Working in France...

In March a group of Sixth Formers undertook a week of work experience in Rouen. Many had taken part last year but, apart from Michael Mills, who enjoyed discussing politics and sport whilst serving coffee, they opted for different placements. Hotel work was popular and placements in stores were appreciated, especially by Colin Robinson in the patisserie section. John Livesley was a regular visitor to the Courts as part of his work in a legal practice; Simon Barber enjoyed visits down the Seine whilst based at the port and Mike Hordley looked the part in

many school exchanges are fading away for lack of support!

## French châteaux...

The traditional Year 7 trip to the château at Plédéliac was replaced this year by a co-educational trip to Château de la Baudonnière near Avranches. Taking 82 pupils on a single trip could have proved a nightmare but compliments on their behaviour abounded and there was, it was universally agreed, enormous benefit to their language and to feeling a part of the school.

## ...and S African music

In July Richard Caswell (tuba), Anne-Marie Phillips (double-bass) and Sarah Varney (violin) set off with the Cheshire Youth Orchestra for a tour of South Africa. The first week was in Capetown, performing in the Tygerberg Fanfare Festival, and the remaining two weeks were spent giving concerts at Outshoorn, Port Elizabeth, Durban, Pietermaritzberg, the Drakenberg Mountains, Standerton, Bloemfontein, Kroonsrat and Johannesburg.

the recording studios at Radio France Normandie.

## ...relaxing in Germany

The exchange with Memmingen took place again this summer. As usual, the pupils greatly enjoyed the hospitality of their hosts, made friends, appreciated the sights and benefited in the development of language skills and confidence. The demand for exchanges with Germany is now so great that next year, while the Lower Sixth returns to Memmingen, we will start a new exchange with a school in Mosbach for Year 10 pupils - this at a time when

## Wetsuits... and mud

Over seventy Juniors enjoyed PGL holidays at the end of the Summer Term. At Boreatton Park, the party enjoyed abseiling, rifle-shooting, pony trekking, archery, raft-building and open canoeing. At Lake Langorse in Wales a smaller group of J4 children windsurfed and built rafts. The extremely tight wetsuits provided many laughs and some warmth and the mud tested the fortitude of many washing machines on the party's return home.



# Two Heads are better ...

Pictured are Thom and Nicholas Petty who celebrate a family success this year. Thom has been elected School Captain and Nicholas Head Boy of the Junior Division. Two head boys in one family in the same year: is this a school record? This is a genuine question: can anyone out there let us know if it has ever been achieved before? Not merely do you have to have two of the right calibre in your family, of course, but you have to ensure an eight-year gap! Since the two elections are completely separate there can be no question of collusion - in fact it was only discovered after they had taken office!



## Young Musicians and Linguists

Music in the Junior Division just seems to grow and grow. The Junior Music Competition drew over 130 entries in a wide range of classes. The standard of playing was astounding for many so young. Trophy winners were Lucy Hutchings (J1, violin), Edward Beesley (J2, trombone), Austin Sependa (J3, cello) and William Laughton (J4, saxophone).

... and now *Allons enfants* has another meaning: all the children from the Reception Class through to Year 6 are learning French. Each lesson includes singing in French and Year 2 will be the first to demonstrate their new skill when they sing a French song in their Harvest Festival.

The children's enthusiasm for their new subject is quite impressive and most encouraging. It is early days yet, but if their initial progress is anything to go by, we should have some very talented linguists coming up into the Senior Divisions in years to come.



## Art Matters!

At the end of the Summer Term, the families of the Year 11 girls on the GCSE course were invited to attend an exhibition of GCSE work held at Fence Avenue. This was accompanied by a catwalk show of the costumes produced as a result of last year's visit to the Clothes Show. It was a highly enjoyable evening and many girls had offers to buy their work!

King's students also participated in the Macclesfield Borough venture 'Art in Action'. Two ceramic sculptures vaguely in the manner of Richard Long and Andy Goldsworthy were produced by Year 7 and 8 girls and a series of ceramic totems based on plant forms by Year 9 boys. These were installed in the Bollin Valley.



### Website Update

Since going on-line in June, the new King's website has attracted over 1600 visitors, with many from as far afield as Japan, Australia, South America and the United States.

Recent additions include the full Autumn Term calendar, further information on the Junior Division and a video sequence of a dramatic chemistry experiment.

Do drop by and have a browse on:

[www.rmplc.co.uk/eduweb/sites/kingsmac/](http://www.rmplc.co.uk/eduweb/sites/kingsmac/)

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Development Trust Major Award Winners

Katie Bagshaw  
Jim Callaghan  
Robert Dafforn  
Alex Flynn  
Mark Goodsell  
Sam Mason  
Damien McAulay  
Jonathan Mitchell  
James Westcott  
Richard Wilkinson  
William Wills

### Friends of King's Year 10 Major Award Winners

Joanne Adams  
Kate Baker  
Andrea Howarth  
Nicholas Humphrey  
Edward Jones  
Jo Kirby  
Rachel Law  
Daniel Lewis  
Rebecca Morris  
Nick Parnell  
Miranda Swift  
Allan Williamson

### Music Competition Winners

Thom Petty (Senior)  
George Lawton (Boys)  
Sarah Varney (Girls)

### Selection for British Universities Cricket 1st XI

Guy Emmett (Former Pupil)

### School Colours (Cricket)

Richard Emslie  
Dan Isherwood  
Mark Jackson  
Richard Lees  
Martin Tunwell

### Division Colours

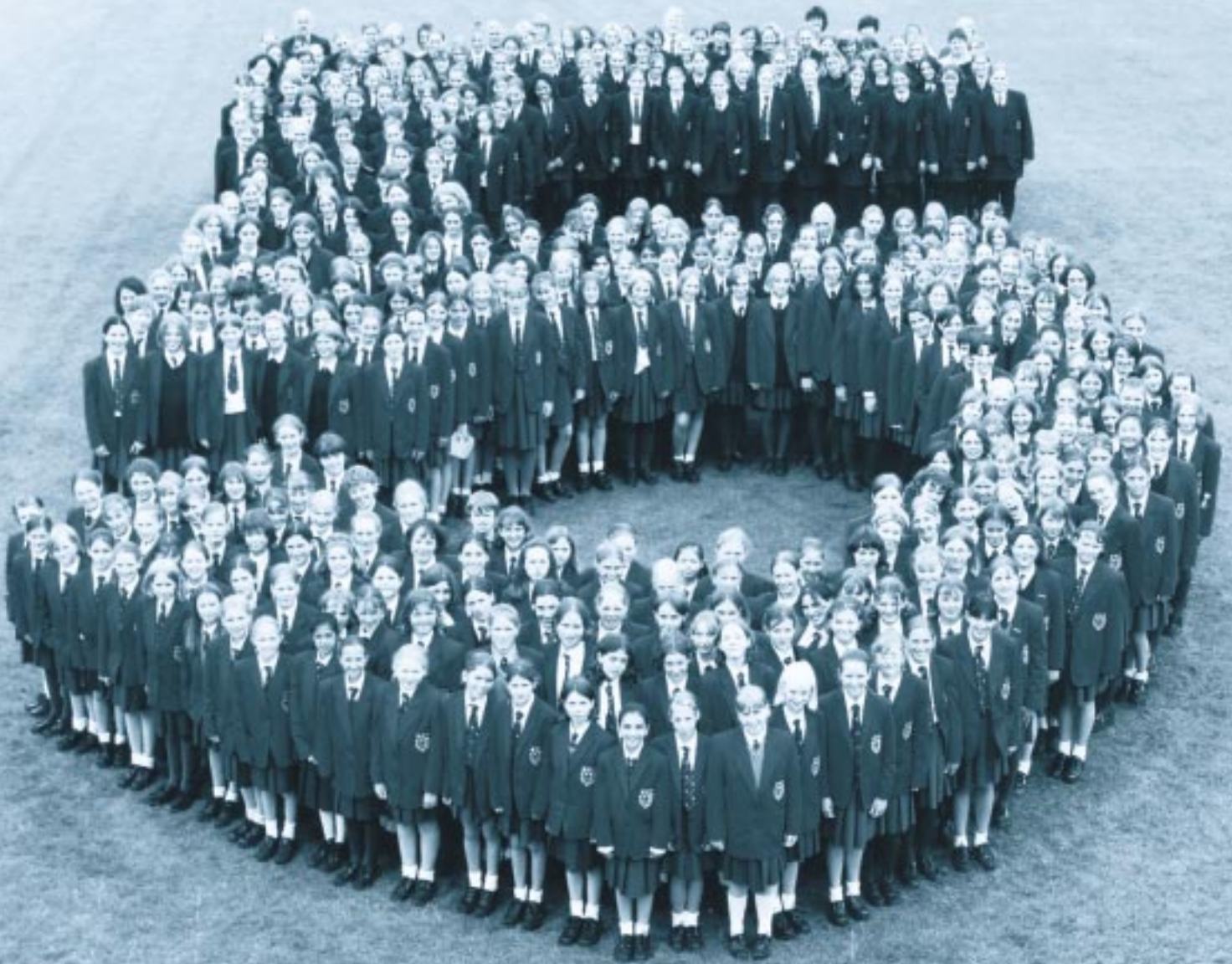
(Boys)

David Baskeyfield (Music)  
Jonathan Keep (Cricket & Rugby)  
James Hutter (Cricket)  
Michael Bamber (Orienteering)  
Nicholas Barringer (Orienteering)

(Girls)

Ruth Tunwell (Athletics)  
Jackie Barker (Athletics)  
Louise Barber (Hockey)  
Sarah Varney (Music)  
Katie Mills (Music)  
Natalie Pepper (Music)  
Becky-Kate Smalley (Drama)  
Jo Moroney (Drama)

# Happy Birthday Girls' Division!



A six-foot high number 5 fixed to the front of the King's Girls' Fence Avenue building left passers-by in no doubt about the occasion. For on September 25th the Girls' Division marked its fifth anniversary with a huge birthday party for the entire school.

Although five years may seem a very short lifespan compared with the almost five hundred years of the King's Foundation, this did not stop the girls celebrating in style.

From those eighty pupils who started as eleven-year-olds when the Division first opened its doors in September 1993, the numbers have now swelled to over 350. In this time, King's Girls has established itself as one of the premier girls' schools in the area.

'We have a great deal to celebrate,' said Principal of Girls', Mrs Catherine Buckley. 'The Division is going from strength to strength. The results obtained at GCSE this

summer by our first full intake of girls have broken all school records and confirm the standards of excellence achieved by the girls and their teachers. The girls also play a full part in the life of the town musically, artistically, in sport and in community service. We are very proud of them.'

Many prominent guests joined the girls at their celebrations, including the Deputy Mayor of Macclesfield, Miss Carolyn Andrew, Governors of the King's School, local headteachers and representatives of Macclesfield High School, which first occupied the Fence Avenue building when it opened in 1909. The address was given by Professor Baroness McFarlane of Llandaff, herself the product of a single-sex girls' school and the first Professor of Nursing in this country.

In the best birthday tradition there were also presents. The Chair of the Friends of King's,

Mrs Sheila Kirk, presented the Girls' Division with an oak table for the Fence Avenue hall to match the lectern given to the Junior Division in 1990. 'We are delighted to be able to mark the anniversary in this way,' said Mrs Kirk. 'This is a special occasion for the Girls' Division and it is an appropriate moment to underline the close links which exist between parents and school.'

At the end of the formal celebration, which included poetry reading, a choral anthem and solo musical performances, Baroness McFarlane cut a cake baked in the shape of the Fence Avenue building. After the girls had gathered on the school's playing fields to let off a flight of blue and white helium balloons, it was time for a birthday tea in the canteen with a piece of birthday cake for each girl.

# Sport

## Cricket

A young 1st XI enjoyed a very successful season, winning eight games including victories over Stockport Grammar School, Cheadle Hulme and a very strong Birkenhead side. Daniel Isherwood scored 600 runs and Matthew Jackson was the leading wicket-taker with 37. Most of the side have returned this year and form the nucleus of the squad for a nine-match tour to Kenya from 9th-28th December. The main fundraising event for the tour this term is a Race Night at Fence Avenue on Friday 9th October. For further details please phone Irene and Roger Rushton (Tel: 01477 535367).

The 2nd XI enjoyed another unbeaten season including a memorable victory against Manchester Grammar School. Uniquely, there were two hat-tricks during consecutive games by Oliver Rushton (v William Hulme Grammar School) and Simon Barber (v Cheadle Hulme). Colin Robinson scored two centuries, against Cheadle Hulme and Manchester Grammar. Amongst the junior teams there were many notable performances which bode well for the future.

## Orienteering

The appalling weather at the Lakeland Five-Day International Competition this August did not prevent some excellent performances from the Watts brothers. Chris won the Under 17 competition and James was seventh in the Under 15.

At the Junior Inter-Regional Championships in July, Chris Watts, Richard Bradfield and James Watts represented the North West and helped win the championship.

## Tennis

A team of four Year 8 girls won the final round of the U13 Midland Bank Tennis Tournament at Hartford against St Nicholas, Hartford and Bridgewater School.

## Junior Athletics and Swimming

The Macclesfield Primary Schools Athletics Sports was held the same evening as the England football team's denouement in St Etienne. However it was anything but disaster for the King's Junior team who beat off the cream of local athletic talent to win the Boys', Girls' and Combined Trophies.

A week later the Junior swimming team almost matched their athletic counterparts. A second place in the Girls' competition foiled another clean sweep as the Boys' and Combined trophies were added to the haul of awards. Three more trophies were won by winning placements in the Y5 and Y6 Boys Relays and the Y6 Girls Relay.

## Quincentenary

The King's School celebrates its Quincentenary in 2002. In preparation for this a steering committee, chaired by Mr K L Perris, has been set up, so that the year may be appropriately remembered. At the moment, the committee is gathering ideas for events to establish a programme which will run from 1st January to 31st December of the year. They are anxious to receive ideas from any quarter, in particular parents and Former Pupils who feel they would like to participate. Even an initial contact to express interest would be welcome. Ideas, please, to Mr Perris, the King's School (01625 260000).

## King's Contacts

### Your Letters

We would be delighted to include your letters in future issues of *King's Colours*. Please write directly to the Editor at the address below.

### Former Pupils - Where are you now?

As a regular feature of our Newsletter we want to hear from Former Pupils. Tell us what you're up to now. Please email or write to the Editor at the address below.

If you are interested in making contact with other former pupils and joining an on-line mailing list, please visit the King's Contact Page at:

<http://www.jaffasoft.co.uk/kings/>

### Dates for your diary

9 October	Cricket Tour Race Night
11 October	Concert, Bridgewater Hall (Foundation Choir)
17 October	Open Morning
12 November	Open Evening
26 November	St Cecilia Concert
28 November	Christmas Fair
2-4 December	School Play <i>Zadig</i>
7 December	Lessons and Carols, Chester Cathedral
12 December	Concert with the Northern Chamber Orchestra

For information about admissions, please contact:

King's Infants	Mr GJ Shaw
King's Juniors	Principal, Junior Division

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King's Girls	Mr KWW Aikin
King's Boys	Admissions Officer

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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@rmpkc.co.uk](mailto:kingsmac@rmpkc.co.uk)**

or write to:

**The King's School**  
**Macclesfield SK10 1DA**