

The distinctive sound of King's

From euphonium to electric guitar, harp-sichord to French horn, the range of music-making possibilities at King's is enormous. Pupils can choose from over 20 different instruments and are taught by specialist instrumental tutors, most of whom are also professional performers themselves. The fact that over 400 pupils choose to learn an instrument in school reflects the vibrancy and popularity of music at King's.

Although music is of course part of the curriculum, beyond the classroom there is an enormous commitment to extra-curricular music. Ensembles, orchestras, choirs and bands all offer pupils the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and to experience what Director of Music, Andrew Green, describes as, 'the life-long and life-enhancing pleasure of making music.'

There is great scope for performance too: musicals, concerts, carol services, charity concerts and music competitions are all part of the rich programme on offer to all age groups from the Infant School to the Sixth Form.

The many successes achieved by the school's musicians underline King's strong record of excellence. The Foundation Choir has performed during the year with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the Northern Chamber Orchestra, whilst the Big Band was invited to perform at the Wigan Jazz Festival in March.

King's musicians are also generous in using their talent when it comes to helping others. The Big Band has played at

numerous charity events, including most recently for Cystic Fibrosis Research and for the Drop-in Centre in Macclesfield, while the choirs have sung to raise money for Kosovo and the Mast Scanner Appeal.

So what is the secret of this success? Jo Beesley, Senior Subject Teacher in the Girls' Division, is quite clear: 'In the department there is a great team spirit. We all appreciate each other's different talents and thoroughly enjoy making music together. Enthusiasm is infectious and the pupils seem to respond to that.'

Anyone who has watched Mrs Beesley conduct school choirs with her own special brand of charisma will

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agree – and will also understand why her energetic conducting won her the prize for 'Most Expressive Posterior' in the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition.

The staff are modest about their own talent, but the sheer range of their musical credentials is impressive. Andrew Green lectured in music at Newcastle University, is a professional accompanist and organist, and is renowned for his encyclopaedic knowledge of the subject. Alison Lea, Director of Music in the Junior School, began her career as a professional orchestral percussionist and now also writes musicals, including the superb production of *Dragon* performed recently by the Junior Division. Linda Pyatt, Co-ordinator of Instrumental Studies, is a highly-regarded examiner for the Associated Board whilst Ron Darlington, director of the BigBand, is a professional trumpeter who plays with the Bryan Jones Orchestra.

King's pupils take their love of music with them when they leave. Several past pupils are singers or orchestral players in this country and abroad and one runs a recording studio specialising in jazz and classical music. Many former choir members are returning to join the Foundation Choir on its Quincentenary tour abroad next summer.

Former Pupils' Association

Who was the first girl?

Last term's *King's Colours* featured Jean Burridge, who attended Science lessons at King's in 1948. We suggested that she was King's first girl pupil but two former pupils have written in to say we were wrong! Alan Whittington, who first came to King's as a Stretford Grammar evacuee pupil, remembers several girls coming from the High School for Science classes before he left to join the army in 1945. Brian Critchley recalls that in 1944 the Lower Sixth 'enjoyed visits from about six girls to the Science Department ... There was one girl from the High School who attended U6Sc Biology tuition under our excellent master in that subject - Mr Skellam.' Any advance on 1944?

News

The committee of the Former Pupils' Association are preparing for a bumper 2002 to celebrate 500 years of the King's School. Already former pupil, Ian Price, has been commissioned to produce a Quincentenary print, showing the two sites (Cumberland Street and Fence Avenue) in all their glory and this will be on sale from November 2001. The Annual Dinner in 2002 will be a celebratory Quincentenary Dinner and is provisionally booked for Friday 4 October at Adlington Hunting Lodge.

The FPA continues to be progressive in its ideas for the future. Having successfully renovated the cricket pavilion, it is now turning its thoughts to bursaries for young children. Any ideas on this matter would be most appreciated by Alan McInnes.

Forthcoming events

The Frank Moore Golf Trophy

25 May at Prestbury Golf Club 2.30 pm
Contact Chris Shingles on 01625 511073 (H) or 420420 (B).

Inter-School Golf Competition

27 June at Bramhall Golf Club.
Contact Alan McInnes on 01625 428961 (H).

Cricket – School 1st XI v Old Boys

6 July 1.00 pm

Jazz Festival – Mart Rodgers' Manchester Jazz

15 September at Macclesfield Heritage Centre 7.30 pm.
Contact Ian Price on 01625 876476 or Vin Thomas on 01625 425776 or Alan McInnes on 01625 428961.

Howard Worth Golf Shield

King's Former Pupils v Stockport GS Former Pupils
24 September at Prestbury Golf Club 2.00 pm.
Contact Alan McInnes on 01625 428961.

Former Pupils' Annual Dinner

5 October at The Hunting Lodge, Adlington 7.30 pm.
Contact Vin Thomas on 01625 425776.



King's
500

Quincentenary rose

Kingsmacc is the name of our very own rose, propagated especially for the Quincentenary. It is a hybrid tea, apricot in colour as a bud and opening to cream in full flower, with a wonderful scent. It will be available this autumn, ready to flower in 2002, and can be bought from Fryers of Knutsford, price £7.00.

Dates for your diary

17th May	Friends of King's Mothers' Lunch 12.00 pm Derby Fields Pavilion Sportswomen's Dinner 7.00 pm Fence Avenue Canteen
18th May	Spring Instrumental Concert 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
23rd May	Year 12 Tutors/HE Advisers Evening for Parents & Students 6.00 pm Rock Block
25th May	Junior Division Founders' Day Service 2.15 pm St Michael's Church
13th June	Infant School Sports Day
19th June	Junior School Sports Day
21st June	Junior School Walk
22nd June	No School for Pupils Teaching Staff Marking Day
25th June	Infant Induction Evening
26th June	Welcome Afternoons for 3+, 4+, 7+ Boys' Division Induction Evening 6.45 pm
27th June	Inter-House Music Finals Years 7, 8 & 9 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
28th June	Choral & Instrumental Concert 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
29th June	Friends of King's Summer Ball 7.30 pm Hunting Lodge, Adlington Hall
30th June	Friends of King's Juniors/Infants Summer Fair
4th July	Infant Summer Concert (am) Junior 8+, 9+ & 10+ Welcome Afternoon 1.30 pm Girls' Division Induction Evening Junior School Cricket Social Evening 6.00 pm
5th July	Junior School Prize Presentations 2.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall Junior School Summer Concert 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall

Admissions

For information about admissions to all Divisions, please contact the School Office on 01625 260000.

New Girls' Principal
page 2

King's drama
page 3

Sports news
page 4

Music at King's
page 5

Former pupils
page 6

Diary dates
page 6

King's Colours

Summer 2001

The Termly Newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Head's letter

Welcome to this edition of *King's Colours*. It has been a very busy time since I last wrote because of the admissions season.

Since Christmas much energy has been directed towards recruiting pupils at all age levels for the coming academic year.

I am pleased to report that the school is more popular than ever, with the number of applicants for the senior school being the highest for several years. An extra class has also been arranged for the Junior Division to cope with the demand for places in the Infants.

All this is symptomatic of a school that is very much on the crest of a wave and I am very proud to be associated with it. The interest in our Quincentenary will generate even more enthusiasm for the education we have on offer at King's.



GLITTERING PRIZES

Congratulations go to all the 88 award winners in the UK Intermediate Mathematics Challenge 2001, held earlier this year.

Twenty gold, 26 silver and 42 bronzes—that's the glittering total of awards scooped by King's pupils in the UK Intermediate Mathematics Challenge 2001. The international competition was entered by Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils.

Top of a brilliant bunch was Year 10 pupil Nabila Hasbullah, the 'Best in School'. Nabila, pictured below, gained an outstanding score of 95 in the competition which comfortably took her through to the next qualifying round in the competition. Year 11 pupil, Nick Mills was another high achiever and also goes through to the next round.

The annual competition challenges the young mathematicians to think. The Mathematics Department are keen to develop thinking skills and introduced a 'Thinking Maths' programme into Year 7 this year. It is claimed, by maths educationalists, that such a programme, run over two years in Years 7 & 8, accelerates cognitive development at crucial times, resulting in a boost in intellectual capacity.

King's author in London

Dr Gillian Banner, who joined King's in September, was recently invited by Waterstone's in Hampstead to give a presentation and reading from her book *Holocaust Literature*.

The event, staged as part of Waterstone's contribution to a week celebrating Jewish culture and heritage, was attended by more than a hundred readers, many of whom were either survivors of the death camps, or had come to England as children on the Kindertransport.



Holocaust Literature has been very well received by the academic community with significant sales to university departments and libraries in the USA.



Pictured from left: Andrew Green, Linda Pyatt, Alison Lea, Jo Beesley and Jane Barratt

Evolution, not revolution

Manchester born and bred Liz Spence is King's new Principal of Girls, taking over from Catherine Buckley in September. The third generation of her family to attend Manchester High School, Liz read English at Leeds University and returned to her home city to teach.

Her posts there have varied from a top state school in Didsbury, Parris Wood, to Moston Brook, then reputedly the worst school in Manchester. Currently Deputy Head at Buile Hill, she has helped preside over an impressive turnaround in the last seven years, with a 35% improvement in examination results.

In taking up the post at King's, Liz is returning to the independent sector in which she herself was educated. She is a firm believer in single-sex schooling, which allows girls and boys to develop their strengths at their own rate. But they also need social education and she considers that King's offers the best of both worlds: co-education at Junior and Sixth Form level, with single-sex teaching and social mixing in the years between. 'King's ideal combination is quite unique,' she declares.

After the enormous problems of inner-city schools, how does Liz feel about running the Girls' Division? She views it as another exciting challenge but one with an entirely different focus. 'I'm a great believer in evolution, not revolution,' she says. 'I want to maintain and improve the excellent academic standards and make sure the girls get the best deal.' The warm, welcoming atmosphere at Fence Avenue particularly impressed her. 'It is wonderful – I wish it could be bottled and kept for ever!'

Passing the baton

Catherine Buckley is moving on to Chester to take up the reins as Head of The Queen's School. It is a much deserved promotion.

Catherine has brought her own very individual style to the Division since she arrived in September 1997, turning a section of the school that was in its infancy into the thriving establishment we know today. She has been involved in so many aspects of life at King's that it is impossible to list all she has done. Her flair for marketing and her presentational skills have set the tone for the way the Division operates. Indeed, she has made a major contribution to the way King's Colours has developed over its relatively short life. Mostly, Catherine will be remembered for being such a warm human being: always willing to listen to people's problems and offer support. She will make an excellent headmistress and we wish her well.



Braving the questions

King's own version of *The Weakest Link* raised £500 towards this summer's Sixth Form expedition to the Himalayas. Eight brave teachers submitted themselves to grand inquisitor Gill Taylor in a show orchestrated by the students. Peter Edgerton suffered the ignominy of being dismissed first, in front of an audience of nearly 500 pupils; Nick Riley was the last survivor. He commented, 'I always knew I was in with a decent chance - after all, I knew the quality of the opposition.'



Classical stuff

A group of 45 pupils and seven staff, led by Mike Houghton enjoyed a trip to Greece at Easter. There was a day's island hopping and a visit to the Parthenon in Athens before they embarked on a round trip which included Delphi, Olympia, Mycenae, Epidauris and Corinth.



Technology in action

Lower Sixth technologists were given the chance to see first-hand some of the processes and systems studied as part of their AS Product Design course. A visit to Micro Shape and HW Spectus in Hurdfield gave them an insight into the business of manufacturing PVC u-products. They had an overview of chemical formulation and mechanical requirements, watched a demonstration of CAD and CAM systems, and witnessed the whole process of manufacturing replacement window components.



The road to Wigan Pier

King's own Big Band joined some of the greats of American jazz to perform at the Wigan Youth Jazz Festival in March - the only school in the country to be invited to do so. They also attended master classes directed by Mike Tracy, former tenor saxophone with the Buddy Rich orchestra and now Professor of Music at Louisville University, and Phil de Greg, pianist to Woody Herman and Professor of Music at Cincinnati. The Big Band was founded in 1989 and continues to flourish under Ron Darlington, professional trumpeter and King's School trumpet teacher.

Their CD is available from the school office.

Greasepaint

A standing ovation paid tribute to the Fence Avenue production of *Grease*. The huge, talented, energetic cast turned the clock back to mid America in the 1950s on five riotous evenings. Acting, singing, dancing and coordination were all first-rate. The West End musical theatre should look to its laurels...



Dungeons and Dragons

The eerie Northumbrian folk tale *The Ballad of the Lambton Worm* was revived in the Junior Division musical. Entitled *Dragon*, it was directed by Pennie Aspinwall and Junior Division Director of Music, Alison Lea, who also composed the music. It featured medieval mummung, superstition and a terrifying dragon.

Congratulations

To all 56 pupils gaining 40 passes, 21 merits and 9 distinctions in the Associated Board music examinations. Especially:

David Baskeyfield (U6) Organ Grade 8 (Dist)

Rosie Childs (yr 11) Piano Grade 8 (Dist)

Rebecca Lea (yr 10) Piano Grade 8 (Dist)

Katy Mills (U6) Piano Grade 8 (Merit)

Laura Flint for representing Great Britain at the gymnastics Junior International

Stephanie Lowndes, Ashley McDow & Rosa Caulfield for art work exhibited at the Lowry Gallery

Stephanie Whittaker (yr 7) for achieving First place in the Junior Handling section at the National Holstein Show, Stoneleigh

Liam Murray has been awarded a sports bursary by Cardiff University

Katie Bagshaw & Andrew Unterhalter, have been elected JCR secretary and president at Hatfield College, Durham

Solihull Sevens

The U13 rugby team had a very impressive season winning all their games at 15 a-side. They were similarly successful in sevens tournaments as they won the Solihull Sevens, beating King's Worcester 31-5 in the final. They also won the U12 and U13 junior rugby festival, which King's has hosted for many years now. The U12 also reached the final of this festival.

The U15 rugby team also had a successful season, reaching the final of two competitions. They played Wirral GS in the final of both the Cheshire Sevens and the Myles Marshall Sevens.



South American invasion

King's welcomed rugby and hockey teams from Florida Day School in Buenos Aires as part of a programme of international fixtures. The home teams won 2-0 (girls' hockey) and 10-5 (rugby) in two highly competitive games.

The next leg of the overseas tours programme comes this summer when King's Girls' netball and hockey squads travel to Canada.

Katie Riddell, Francesca Mortimer (U16 XI), Caroline Rice and Claire Percival (U15 XI), pictured above, were called into the Cheshire hockey squad in this Spring's county series. Sixth formers Lyndsay Lomax and Charlotte Taylor were also selected to don the famous Cheshire Wheatsheaf. Lyndsay played goal keeper for the U21 XI and Charlotte captained the U17 team.

Decline and Fall

A stylish production of Evelyn Waugh's *Decline and Fall* was staged at Cumberland Street in March. Set against a black background and using only chairs and two tables to suggest locations, the production focused on the skill of the actors to dramatize Waugh's grimly comic novel with its gallery of eccentric

characters. All the actors rose superbly to the challenge, impressing audiences with their versatility as they swiftly transformed from one character into another. Enhanced by imaginative use of lighting and sound, the production moved at a brisk pace and proved a most entertaining evening at the end of term.



North of England call-up

Jonathan Keep (pictured right) and Paul Handley (above) have been selected to play for the North of England under-18 rugby team. Both are hoping to join the ranks of the professionals after university.

