

King's Colours

Spring 2002

The Termly Newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Head's letter

As the school celebrates 500 years of educating young people, we welcome you to this edition of King's Colours. Founders' Day was a special occasion this



year and a momentous day in the school's history. I hope that all who took part will have fond memories of this time. There is much happening to celebrate our Quincentenary and one addition to the previously published programme is the concert at the Bridgewater Hall in November 2002. This should prove to be a landmark day for a school with a much-envied reputation for its music.

Of course, nothing stands still in education these days and we are embarking on another round of admission to the school. Demand for places is at record levels again this year. The Boys' Division, in particular, has had an exceptional number of enquiries. Last year's record A level results and the good news from Oxbridge will have done much to encourage applicants but we still feel at King's that it is the rounded education on offer that appeals to parents and gives the school its unique character. We hope that the wide collection of events happening in 2002 will provide a unique opportunity to celebrate all that the school offers and I hope that as many readers as possible will be able to come and join us this year as part of our festivities.

Stephen Coyne

PICK OF THE PREPS

King's Juniors are a class act, as we all know, but it is now true to say that they have made a national impact. *The Sunday Times Parent Power* supplement, which is printed annually, listed junior and preparatory schools in the country in order, according to their Key Stage 2 SATs results. King's was placed 25th nationally: a marvellous achievement. As if this was not good enough, we were placed fifth in the North West of England. Prestigious girls' schools in Manchester and Bolton were placed fourth and 12th respectively. Next came a preparatory school in Hale in 19th place followed by a boys' school in Crosby in twentieth position. By this reckoning, King's was the second best performing co-educational junior school

in the entire North West. No matter how dubious one is about these tables, this is a fantastic achievement and all in the Junior Division are rightly very proud of themselves.

The article in the special feature on North West schools was full of praise for the Junior Division: "A strong academic record is matched by the wide range of extra curricular activities and community action; music is a significant feature..." it reported.





Super Seven

Once again, King's students have proved their worth by obtaining offers at the country's most prestigious universities. Seven pupils in this year's Upper Sixth Form have been offered places at Oxford or Cambridge. Sciences and engineering have been the key subjects this year, but there is still the usual mix in the final list. In a year where competition has been more intense than ever and colleges are being encouraged to make offers to state school pupils, it is pleasing to see that the

quality of our applicants is still the key factor.

Pictured, from left to right, are: Lauren Hindle (PPP, Magdalen, Oxford), Richard Cartmel (Computer Sciences, Robinson, Cambridge), Hannah Roberts (Economics, Queens, Cambridge), Jonathan Gartside (Engineering, Balliol, Oxford), Andrew Geake (Computer Sciences, Oriel College, Oxford), Simon Davies (Biochemistry, Corpus, Oxford), Barbora Melezinkova – (Modern Languages, Newnham, Cambridge).

2.5% Challenge

A small group of Sixth Formers (Jonathan Petty, Ben Clifford, Alex Wilson and Alex Petrie), ably organised by Mr Schofield, took part in the annual Bank of England 2.5 Schools Competition last term. This event is designed to encourage young people to think about monetary policy and how it applies to inflation rates (hence, the 2.5%). They fought off stiff opposition from some famous local schools to emerge successful and now proceed to the regional finals. The future of the economy seems to be in good hands here: we hope that Gordon Brown is paying attention!



Sunday Times Parent Power

Every year, The Sunday Times produces a pull out brochure for parents of pupils at independent schools. In the recent edition, King's senior divisions were highlighted with a special report and feature on the school. Pupils were reported as receiving "...a broad, well rounded education with the opportunity to participate in an excellent range of activities."

MidYIS

Last year we reported that King's pupils achieve, on average, a grade higher in their GCSEs than do those of similar ability nationally. This was the result of the MidYIS (Middle Years in Schools) assessment of value added, independent research carried out by the University of Durham. This year, our pupils have proved that this was not a one-off achievement, by performing the same feat once again. This time it was a little less than one whole grade but the message is the same: pupils do better at King's.



Edinburgh Former Pupils Dinner

In late November, a small group of young men and women, and a few staff, met for the Edinburgh/Durham dinner. This is the second event of its kind: the first took place last year in Durham. Adrian Silcock

joined the select gathering at the Overseas League on Princess Street. An informal meal was organised with great efficiency by Thom Petty (class of 1999) and a good time was had by all. Later on, the nightlife of Edinburgh was sampled by the younger members of the gathering.

Senior Mathematics Challenge

33 students from King's Sixth Form entered the Senior Maths Challenge, run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust and in its 5th year under their care.

29 of these students achieved bronze, silver or gold awards making it a record success for King's. Some 53,816 applicants took part and awards are given to the top 40%. Andrew Geake, Antonia Slade and Vicky Weaver won gold certificates, putting them in the top 6% of entrants.

Chair raising stunt

Year 11 pupils Alex Clarke-Williams and Robert Colville raised over £120 for Mountain rescue when they strapped two school chairs to their backs and set off to transport their unusual cargo to the highest point in the Peak District. Their 25 mile journey to the summit of Kinder Scout was undertaken by bicycle and on foot, with a night spent at Edale Youth Hostel.

Both boys are currently completing their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards and wished to show their appreciation for the work of the mountain rescue teams.



Congratulations

To the Sixth Form Fashion Show which once again raised over £1500 for Christies Against Cancer with a great show and an evening enjoyed by all.

To Jenny Martin (Yr 10), selected for the West Zone Mirror Sailing Squad.

To Stephanie Whittaker (Yr 8), a member of the winning team in a national farm management competition.

To Jos Baxendale on his selection to play rugby for Sale.

To Charlotte Taylor, Francesca Mortimer, Katie Ridell, Claire Percival and Caroline Rice who have all been selected to represent Cheshire at hockey.

To King's U11 netball team who remain undefeated in the Primary Schools' League.

French Circus

In November pupils in years 4,5 and 6 greatly enjoyed a visit from Le Cirque Magique, a show presented by the European Theatre Company. The children helped an injured clown to recover, chose his outfit, served him drinks and helped him rediscover his juggling skills. They also met a naughty talking monkey who taught them to sing and dance - all in French.



Rugby star joins King's

Former Premiership rugby star Andy Rice is the new man in charge of King's Rugby. Having played for Waterloo, Saracens and Bath he spent a year coaching at St. Patrick's College, the top rugby school in New Zealand, and worked with Martin and John Leslie who went on to represent Scotland and the All Blacks. Andy has considerable experience as a rugby coach, taking over from the current England coach Andy Robinson at King Edward's Bath and also having been master in charge of rugby at Arnold School in Blackpool.

Infant nativity

King's Infants proudly presented their Christmas concert, *A Donkey's Tale*, written by Junior Division Director of Music Mrs Alison Lea, to a packed Fence Avenue Hall. Dry eyes were in short supply!



Foundation Concert

This annual event was a great success and featured excellent music from a variety of sources: from Mancini to McCartney and Herman to the Spice Girls. One of the high spots of the evening was the Big Band performance conducted by Mr Ron Darlington. Another session that boded well for the future of the wind group was a performance of Hallelujah Drive by four King's Boys. David Bexton, Jack Townley, Edward Beesley & Jamie Holland are all year 7/8 pupils but were not daunted by their big moment on stage and played with great confidence and skill, even though they performed





Operation Christmas Child

Each year more pupils and parents, from Infants to Sixth Form, respond to the Samaritan's Purse charity drive to send Christmas presents to the homeless and dispossessed children of Eastern Europe. This year more than 300 shoe boxes of gifts were collected. Pictured from top to bottom are helpers Amy Thompson, Alastair McVeigh, Nicola Roper, Steve Hopping and Hattie Lasman.



Cards for charity...

Once again, King's girls proved their artistic talent when five had their designs selected by the East Cheshire Hospice. The designs appeared on Christmas cards sold in aid of the charity.

Pictured here are four of the successful girls, Charlotte Knowles, Nicola Bridge, Sarah Barber and Rose Richardson

Rugby Trio

Jonathan Kay, Paul Handley and Tom Davenport have been called up to play rugby for their county. All have been selected for the Cheshire U18 squad, even though Jonathan is still a Lower Sixth Former and a year young for this age group.



Cross country stars set the pace

Congratulations go to Katherine Baker (right) and Sarah Gales (left) on their outstanding successes at the AIS North West Independent Schools Cross Country Championships held at Witton Park, Blackburn in October. They were respective champions of Under 11 and Under 10 girls out of over 100 competitors in each race. This achievement is certainly a first for King's children and, possibly, for the event as a whole. Katherine, whose mother is a PE and games teacher at King's, is also Junior School Head Girl whilst Sarah's talents extend to her school work as she has recently been selected for the finals of the UK Primary Maths challenge.

Showjumpers in fine form

Four Girls' Division equine specialists who have been cleaning up at county's show jumping championships are all in the same form – by coincidence 11GG.

Pictured with their form tutor Mrs Gill Green are Claire Percival, who has won the Prestbury and Wilmslow championships; Chloe Birch, who has won the Macclesfield and Bollin Shows; Rachel Barker, who has won two dressage classes at the Prestbury Show and Laura Davenport, who is the Macclesfield Novice Champion and Prestbury Pairs Champion.



FULCRUM CHALLENGE TO MONGOLIA

In October of last year three Kings students, Jay Watson, Louise Capper and Hannah Roberts took up the Fulcrum Challenge and embarked upon the overseas phase to China and Mongolia. Fulcrum's purpose is to provide a coherent development experience for sixth formers that is challenging, rewarding and unique. Hannah's account of the trip follows:

We did numerous worthwhile projects during the memorable fortnight as well as learning about leadership and joining in many teamwork exercises. We spent the first few days staying in gers (round tents) and learning about everyday mongolian life. With a little help from the translators we learnt about their nomadic lifestyle on the horse ranches and the

massive contrasts between their way of life and our own. We also trekked with yaks to old Buddhist monasteries in temperatures of -14°C and rose early to watch the fantastic sunrise over the Mongolian mountains.

Back in Ulaan Bataar, after visiting the monument of the eternal flame (which, incidently



had run out of gas) we started what was for myself and many others the most memorable part of the trip; helping at the orphanage. The mornings were spent in the middle of a shanty town on the outskirts of Ulaan Bataar, improving our DIY skills whilst in the afternoons, amid sub-zero temperatures but glorious blue skies, we would go down to some waste land and play with the adorable children who just craved attention and affection. In addition we took out Save The Children medical equipment to assess the degree of malnourishment. During this time we learnt about the extraordinary childhoods that some of them had experienced.

The last few days of our trip were spent in the snow walking along the Great Wall of China. After fending off all the T-shirt sellers and walking to a more remote part of the wall we started to appreciate the serene Chinese scenery.

The challenge was an amazing opportunity enjoyed by all three of us.

THE HART OF NEPAL

At the end of November, Mr Hart and his wife Margaret spent a week trekking in Nepal, one of the poorest countries in the world. The purpose of the expedition was to raise money for the Children's Society Charity, for which Mrs Hart works, and nearly £5000 was raised from sponsorships and other donations, some of them from King's staff, parents and pupils. The route walked was the Helambu Trail, north east of Kathmandu in the foothills of the Himalayas, reaching a height of about 10,500 feet (3,200m). The difficulty of the walking was about the same as the Lake District or Scotland, but the view was different, with the Himalayan giants often forming a continuous skyline of snow-clad mountains only ten or twenty miles away. The immediate landscape was mainly a mixture of forests and agricultural terraces. There were fifty-five people in the group, with an even greater number of local Nepali sherpas, cookboys, and porters doing all the hard work. One of the sherpas had been to Everest six times and had lost the ends of all his fingers through frostbite on the 1981 Japanese expedition. It was fascinating to watch the porters at work,

easily the fastest people on the trail in spite of carrying monstrous loads on their backs and wearing only flipflops on their feet. Presentations of pens, pencils, crayons and books were made to several primary schools, and in general there was considerable contact with local people who, although poor, were gracious and dignified. Altogether it was an unforgettable experience and well worth a week off work.



A Showcase of King's History

Everyone knows that King's is an old school, but most people need a few reference points in order to fully appreciate its remarkable five hundred year history. A new exhibition seeks to provide such a setting in visual form. Here you can see the men who founded the school, the documents by which they did so and the buildings which have housed it over the years. You will gain insights into the ever-changing nature of a good education and into the high and low points of the school's history; many linked directly to the fortunes of the nation in times of peace and of war. The exhibition may be seen at Cumberland Street from 25th January and at Fence Avenue from the end of April. In June it will move to various locations in the town. If you require a more complete account, the most recent publication is *A Short History of King's* by Viv Cripps. The exhibition has been created by Val White and her helpers and is complemented by scrapbooks of memorabilia compiled by the staff of the school libraries.



King's 500

King's Whisky

In 1989/90 the King's Sports Tours Committee decided to invest a small tour fund surplus in a cask of Arberlour single malt whisky. The offer from the distillery was intended to provide ten year old malt to celebrate the millenium but it was agreed that the school could leave the cask to mature for a further two years to provide a rare twelve year old malt to be offered for sale to celebrate the school's quinqucentary. Each of the edition of 300 individually numbered bottles bears a special label sporting the King's 500 logo and is available at a price of £32.50. Similar offers in the past have sold for £45-£50 at Edinburgh whisky auctions. After an enthusiastic resonse to our mailing a limited number of bottles remain for sale. Contact Ian Wilson at school for further details.



Former Pupils' Association

Four generations at King's

Young Jack Taylor is the fourth generation of Macclesfield Taylors to attend King's. Jack's great grandfather Percy started in 1911 and was followed by his grandfather John in 1945 and father David in 1968, shown right. The search is now on for a family with a line of King's pupils extending back to the nineteenth century.



Forthcoming events

Oxbridge Section Dinner

15 February at Christ Church, Oxford.
Contact Ian A Wilson at school.

London Section Supper

22 March. Contact Bruce Shaak. Tel: 01795 476140.

The Frank Moore Golf Trophy

10 May . Prestbury Golf Club. Contact Chris Shingles.
Tel: 01625 511073 (H) or 01625 420420 (B).

Quinqucentary events & dates for your diary

February 14-19	Rugby Tour U12 to Scotland
February half term	U13 & U15 Rugby Tour to Italy (Rome)
March 6	Celebrity Recital
March 12-16	<i>Such Stuff as Dreams are made on</i> Cumberland Street Hall
March 16	Myles Marshall U15 Rugby Sevens
March 16/17	Hockey Festival. Boys 1st XI
Thursday 21 March	Tylecote Memorial Lectures Stephen Venables on Shackleton 7.15pm Public Lecture
March 20 - 22	<i>Guys & Dolls</i> Fence Avenue Hall
March 25	<i>King's Sings</i> Concert Cumberland Street Hall
March 25/26	Science/Technology talk to Junior School. 500 years of Inventions
April	Opening of Kingsmacc Rose beds and Sponsored Roundabouts Commemorative tree planting. Memorial stone (K.Ed VI GS) relaid
May 3-6	1st XI Cricket Tour, Northern Ireland
April 2-9	Lake Garda & Italian Cities Tour

Admissions

For information about admissions to all Divisions, please contact the Admissions office on 01625 260000 or email: admissions@kingsmac.co.uk