

# King's Colours

Autumn 2003

The Termly Newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

## Head's letter

It has been a very busy summer. We have worked hard to improve facilities for our pupils, not to mention the signage for people trying to find us. A lot of refurbishment has taken place in the Design



Technology department, which is now state of the art. A new Resources Centre has also been provided for the younger boys at Cumberland Street in the Rock Reading Room. As well as this, a large number of new computers and whiteboards have been purchased to enhance IT generally at the school.

We are not resting on our laurels however and the ISI inspection team saw to it that we have been on our toes this term. It is too early to report on their findings but I do hope to be in a position to give a full account of their recommendations in the next issue.

Once again, our academic performance has been outstanding and details of our examination results can be found in the main article on this page. This could be why the school is in such demand at the moment. Applications for places have been flooding in, even during the summer holidays. Numbers in the Foundation have grown as a result of this demand, particularly in the Juniors and Infants, and are at near record levels. I am pleased to report that new entrants to the Sixth Form Division include more students under the Quincentenary Bursary scheme, which continues to be a great success. I look forward to reporting on more successes in next term's issue.

Stephen Coyne

## 100% A LEVEL SUCCESS

Well done, everyone! We're used to excellent examination results at King's but this summer has been really special. For the first time in the history of the school, every single A Level taken has been passed. It's a terrific achievement. Add to this that one in three results (33.2%) was at A grade and that 61.1% were at grades A/B (making them the second best ever results at King's on this basis) and you'll see that we have cause to celebrate!

### Star pupils

Francesca Mortimer's sparkling achievement included A grades for A Level Biology, Chemistry and Psychology, as well as AS Classical Civilisation and General Studies (not to mention the B in History that she obtained in the Lower Sixth). She was just one of eight King's students who scooped five A grades.

The overall picture at A level was:

- 61% of grades were A/B
  - All 334 entries were successful
  - 1 in 3 entries was passed at grade A
- If AS results for this year group are included:
- 27 pupils achieved 3 A grades or better
  - 18 pupils obtained 4 A grades
  - 8 pupils achieved 5 A grades

### Three get straight A\* grades

In a bravura performance, Hannah Shaw, Katie Grundy and David Johnson (pictured below) all obtained nine straight A\* grades at GCSE. The overall A\*-C pass rate at King's this year was 95%, with 42% of the grades at A/A\*.





## Principal roles

Pictured are Bill Beatson, who has stepped down as Principal of the Boys' Division after ten years of distinguished service, and his replacement Ian Robertson, who was Head of Biology and then Pastoral Director in the Boys' Division at Bolton School. Mr Beatson takes up a new role as Principal in charge of Staff Development. This is a particular interest of his and one he shares with Dr Coyne, who is reported to be exceptionally pleased with the make up of his new senior team.

## Five farewells

Five teachers, who between them have notched up a remarkable 154 years at King's, have retired this summer. Colin Kinshott taught Mathematics here for a mere 26 years and was Senior Subject Teacher at the Girls' Division for the last ten. Art teacher Robin Hidden, who now plans to become a full-time artist, was at the school for 30 years, as was Tony Jordan, Head of Economics since 1979 and a teacher here since 1973. David Hill joined King's in 1970 and filled a large number of roles. He has recently published a book about former pupils who fell in the Great War and plans to do more writing in retirement. It is Peter Seddon, though, who must take the palm for longest service. He taught at King's for 35 years and was Head of Art for 30. Peter regularly organised the school's art exhibitions and exhibits his own work as an expert potter. He, too, plans to continue as a full-time artist in his retirement. We would like to pay tribute to all five and to wish them well for the future.

## Team at the top

School Captain Rob Unterhalter and Vice-Captains David Illingworth, Nicola Roper and Laura Davenport would like to share their thoughts on an exciting year to come.

As the main representative for the school, Rob sees his role as 'challenging but ultimately rewarding' and proclaims that he is 'privileged to be in such a position to have a positive effect on school life'.

Operating in a pyramid system, with Rob at the top delegating responsibility down through the Vice-Captains and sixteen Senior Prefects to eighty Prefects, a smoothly run campaign is bound to ensue. As the link between staff and pupils, Rob and his colleagues will always be on hand to give support and advice.

*Tom Green*





### Mrs Miggins' masterclass

Television and theatre actress, Helen Atkinson-Wood, perhaps best known for her role as Mrs Miggins in *Blackadder III*, began her career on the King's School stage. Since then she has found great success as a comedienne, stage actress, television presenter and commercial voice-over artiste.

Last term King's Girls' Division was delighted to welcome her back when she returned to give a masterclass. Ms Atkinson-Wood advised the girls 'to keep an open mind and when you see an opportunity to jump in with both feet'. She also added that actresses need to be professional, punctual, extremely fit and commercially astute.



### Spellbinding stuff

Days off school usually mean exhausting field trips or visits to old museums. But forty pupils from King's did not have that sinking feeling when they were chosen to attend J K Rowling's enchanting incantations.

The lucky cluster from King's joined 4,000 others at the Royal Albert Hall to witness this once-in-a-lifetime extravaganza. Rowling herself read a few pages from the latest Harry Potter book and endured a fascinating interview with Stephen Fry in which she dispelled some of her own personal myths.

Tom Green

### Spread a little happiness

The Foundation Choir have never been busier! Not only has the BBC been to film them on two occasions for *Songs of Praise* but they have also been invited to sing at the Bridgewater Hall on November 2. They'll be taking part in a Christmas choral fest with Cliff Richard, Peter Waterman and other choirs. The concert will be broadcast on television on Sunday 7 December.

Talking of Christmas, the perfect gift surely has to be the choir's latest CD, 'Spread a Little Happiness'. Out in November, it will be on sale through the Foundation Office.



### Congratulations to

**Rosie Childs** for passing the Diploma of the Associated Boards of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM)

**Libby Cooper** who is through to the CREST national final at the Royal Society

**Daniel Cotterill** (high jump), **Andrew Parton** (cricket ball) and **Caroline Shorland** (high jump) for their gold medals in the Macclesfield PS Athletics Sports

**Polly Edwards, Katherine Harrison, Charlotte Parrish, Jemma Sherratt** for winning the AstraZeneca CREST regional final

**Katie Grundy, Emma Mycock, Frances Seddon and Rose Richardson** who won the Best Teamwork award at the Royal Society of Chemistry event

**David Illingworth and Rebecca Lea** who gained full marks (300/300) in two of their A/S levels this summer

**Sarah Levitt** for winning the school prize at Merchant Taylors' Art Exhibition

**Ross McNeill** who has been accepted into the National Youth Treble Choir

**Emily Middleton** who is Girls' Division Writer of the Year

**Andrew Parton** for winning a gold in the U11 javelin in the NW Independent Schools Athletics competition

**Sarah Petry, Ramya Ravikumar and Rose Richardson** who won the Salford University SATRO competition

**U11 cricket team** who reached the AJIS (NW Independent Schools) cricket final

**U11 football team** who won Macclesfield Primary Schools Football Cup

**Jackie Barker** for her Half Blue in her first year at Birmingham University

**Edward Coxson** who was awarded 1st Class Honours in Physiological Science at Bristol University

**Alan Day** for winning the Selwyn Russell-Jones Prize as outstanding school sportsman

**Guy Emmett** who played for Cheshire minor counties

**Vicki Atkinson, Rachel Barker and Nicola Thompson**, all Junior Division staff who got married during the summer holiday

**Mrs Eardley** (Y2 teacher) and **Mrs Roberts** (parent) for the creation of the Ginkgo Meadow



Barry Edwards skips the 36' cruising yacht *Santa Vey* on the Clyde Estuary during a school trip to the National Sailing Centre at Great Cumbrae

### Winning trio

King's had a great day out, with no fewer than five wins, at the Macclesfield District Athletics Championships in May. Aundre Umebuani won the 100m and was also part of a winning relay team. James Partington was first in the 400m, while Sam Baker won the 1500m. James also succeeded on the field, throwing the discus further than anyone else on the day.

### Vive la rugby!

The pre-season rugby tour to France (from which the Upper Sixth players were omitted) proved a great learning experience for the younger lads as they battled it out against top French youth sides. In their defeats against formidable Beziers and Montferrand Under 17 sides, they exhibited monumental progression in terms of both mental and physical stamina. The players were also able to bond during activities such as a gruelling assault course, bowling and swimming - all in the cultural serenity of the South of France.

The 34-strong tour party thoroughly enjoyed the rugby-oriented vacation. It bodes great success for the forthcoming season, when they join up with their older team-mates who can add their experience to the cause.

Tom Green.



### Record relays

The King's team broke two school records in the 4x100m freestyle and 4x50m medley relays at the Public Schools' Swimming Championships in London. King's finished first in the medley and second in the freestyle. The team included Simon Birch (pictured left), Stephen Campbell, Edward Barker and Robert Barker.

### Netting a national place

Sixth Former Pauline Scott has been picked for the Scottish Under 19 Development Squad. The 16 year-old follows in the footsteps of her sister Lesley, who was also at King's and has represented the Scottish Under 21s in the World Youth Championships.



# A DECADE AT FENCE AVENUE

An aerial photograph of the Fence Avenue school campus. The image shows a large green sports field with a cricket pitch and a tennis court. In the foreground, there are several school buildings, including a large red brick building and a white building. A parking lot with many cars is visible on the right side. The campus is surrounded by trees and a road.

It's hard to believe that the Girls' and Junior Divisions have been at Fence Avenue for a whole decade! Back in September 1993, on a heady wave of optimism, special ceremonies were held to launch two exciting initiatives for the King's School - the opening of the brand new Girls' Division and the relocation of a newly co-educational Junior School. Years of detailed planning and the transformation of the deserted shell of Macclesfield Girls' High School were at last complete. Since then, those high hopes have proved more than justified. The Girls' Division is firmly established as a leading Senior Girls School, its popularity confirmed by the waiting list for entry this year. Similarly, the Junior Division has flourished beyond all expectations, with an Infant Department opening in 1997.

By any measure – academic success, sporting achievement, musical acclaim or, simply and most importantly, the happiness of the pupils, the Fence Avenue site has been a huge success.



There was a sad gap this summer when the Memorial Gates were taken away for repair after an accident with a delivery van. It is good to see them restored to their rightful place.

## Former Pupils' Association

### Jazz fit for King's

The open air jazz concert on 28 June in the main School Quad attracted over 200 people. They enjoyed picnics on the front field before being entertained by the Mart Rodger Jazz Band. Over £1600 was raised, with all proceeds going to the East Cheshire Hospice.

### Golf

The annual Frank Moore golf competition was well supported at Wilmslow Golf Club in May and was won by Ian Kellie (1968). Next year's golf day is 20 May 2004. Those interested in playing please contact Alan McInnes on 01625 428961.

### Cricket

At the annual end of summer term cricket matches on the front field the Old Boys beat both the Old Old Boys in the morning and School First XI in the afternoon.

### Forthcoming events

**Annual Dinner**, Friday 3 October 2003

**Annual General Meeting**, Thurs 18 December 2003

**Spring Dinner Dance**, Saturday 14 February 2004  
Joint Spring Dinner Dance at the Hunting Lodge, Adlington for King's Former Pupils and Macclesfield High School Former Pupils. Please contact Jonathan Spencer Pickup on 01625 424479 for further details.

**London Section 30th Anniversary Dinner**, Friday 14 May 2004 at the RAF Club in Piccadilly. Please contact Bruce Shaak on 01795 476140 or Keith Aikin on 01227 456835 for further details.

### Quincentenary Bursary Scheme

Thanks to generous donations, seven Sixth Form bursaries have been taken up. If you would like to contribute to this important initiative please contact the Head of Foundation.

### Leek bus

The long awaited bus route for the Leek and Rudyard area is now a reality! Anyone interested in using the new service should contact the Main Office.



### Dates for your diary

27-31 October	Half Term Holiday
6 November	Open Evening 6.30 pm Senior Divisions
7 November	Sixth Form Freshers' Ball
11 November	Remembrance Day Service 10.50 am Cumberland Street Hall
13 November	Years 11 & 12 Higher Education Evening Cumberland Street Hall & Main Block Year 3/4 Pantomime 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
20 November	Year 11 Boys' & Girls' Parents & Pupils AS Options Evening 6.00 pm Cumberland Street
22 November	Friends of King's Beaujolais Evening 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
24-26 November	<i>My Mother Said I Never Should</i> 7.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall
26 November	Concert in aid of East Cheshire Hospice 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
27-28 November	Foundation Concert 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
2 December	Year 9 Boys & Girls Parents GCSE Options Evening 7.30 pm
3 December	Nursery Nativity Presentation 10.00 am Fence Avenue Hall Charity Fashion Show 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
4 December	Infant Christmas Concert 10.00 am Fence Avenue Hall
4-6 December	<i>Making a Scene</i> - dramatic extracts 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
5 December	Junior Christmas Concert 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
6 December	Friends of King's Christmas Fair 1.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
7 December	King's Music Centre Christmas Extravaganza Concert 2.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall
11 December	Junior Division Carol Service 2.15 pm St Paul's Term ends for Infants and Juniors Family Carol Service 8.00 pm United Reformed Church (TBC)
12 December	Senior Division Carol Services Term ends (half day)

### Admissions

For information about admissions to all Divisions, please contact the Admissions Office on 01625 260000 or email: [mail@kingsmac.co.uk](mailto:mail@kingsmac.co.uk)