

# King's Colours

Summer 2004

The Termly Newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

## Head's letter

Success continues to abound at King's as another national title comes the way of our students, just as our reign as BBC *Songs of Praise* Choir of the Year comes to an end. This is also matched by a great deal of achievement in sports and the arts, as you will read in these pages.



At the end of last term, we broke with tradition and held our Senior School Founders' Day Service at the United Reform Church. Our home, literally and metaphorically, is St Michael's and All Angels and we hope that the work programme there will allow us to resume normal service in the near future. However, we were made most welcome at the United Reform Church and it proved a very intimate venue for such a service. Our speaker was former pupil, Peter Ellwood, who impressed us all with his clarity of thought, understanding of young people and words of wisdom. I hope our boys and girls will realise that they too could become Chairman of ICI one day, as Peter has.

The school continues to be extremely popular, particularly at junior level. As a result of parental requests, we introduced an extra form in the Infant Department a few years ago and this group will be entering Year 4 in September, giving us an additional form in each year up to that level. Demand for places has been strong and, as I write, there is a waiting list for several classes. It is nice to see so many parents valuing the education we provide at King's and this bodes extremely well for the future.

May I wish good luck to everyone with examinations, external or internal, during this term.

Stephen Coyne

## HIGH PROFILE PHYSICS National recognition for Sixth Form team

With props consisting of little more than a toy xylophone and a party balloon, five King's Sixth Formers have triumphed in this year's national Paperclip Physics Competition, coming away with the top prize. Organised by the Institute of Physics, the competition attracted 207 teams from 133 schools across the UK and Ireland. The brief was to produce a five-minute presentation on a principle or application of Physics, illustrated only by everyday objects and delivered in terms that can be understood by a non-scientist.

At the London finals, author Colin Dexter, creator of *Inspector Morse* (another expert at clearing up mysteries) was principal judge on a panel which included a professor and a Physics teacher. Colin congratulated the King's

team on their enthusiastic explanation of the evidence for the expansion of the universe. Afterwards, the students were delighted to answer the judges' questions on the Doppler shift and the curvature of space.

Pictured below are Rachel Alston, Lee Greenwood, Vicky Howarth, Robert Fett and David Johnson. David was standing in for Chris Clark who unfortunately could not attend the final. To mark their superb win, each member of the team was presented with a palm top computer and enjoyed star treatment. Earlier that morning, they had been interviewed by John Humphrys on Radio 4's *Today* programme, while the competition itself was recorded by a professional film crew. Later, a live link to GMR Radio allowed them to be congratulated on air and to give a further explanation of their work.



## Hallé & King's

It's almost an orchestra within an orchestra! King's students now make up virtually 10% of the Hallé Youth Orchestra, formed last year from the cream of the North West's young musical talent. The King's musicians (pictured from left to right) are: clarinettist David Kennerley, flautist Reesha Sodha, violinist Fiona Wilson and cellist Austin Sependa, all aged 16, with bassoonist Sarah Potter, 17, percussionist Sam Lea, 15, and horn player Rebecca Lea, 18.

Like their senior counterparts, the Hallé Youth Orchestra rehearses and performs in the Bridgewater Hall. Later this year they will also be touring across the North of England and in Germany.



## Scholarships

King's has had another very successful 11+ entry round and is delighted to announce the following scholarships for pupils entering the Senior School in September:

Tom Baston (The Ryleys School), George Boustany (Outwood PS), Ross Elliott (King's JS), Chris Heath (Hayfield PS), Katie Reid (Whaley Bridge PS), Christopher Smith (King's JS), Hannah Sugden (King's JS) and Sophie Worrall (Whaley Bridge PS)

Congratulations to them and all successful pupils.

## Veni, vidi, vici!

Far from dismissing Latin as a dead language, Rebekah Overton and Michael Dodd have proved that it is still very much alive and kicking. The two young classicists went, saw and conquered at the North-West Schools' Latin reading competition. Rebekah, 13, won, while Michael, 12, came second, between them defeating sixty top Classics scholars from across the region.

Rebekah said: 'It was fascinating to read a language that hardly anyone has spoken for the last 1000 years. I really felt I was bringing history back to life.'

Michael can't see why Latin is regarded as a dead language when 'so much of English is made up of old Latin words.'

Both students were coached by Head of Classics, Mike Houghton, who is delighted by their success and by the increasing number of pupils choosing to study Latin. 'Long may that trend continue! It offers so much to those studying other languages, particularly our own.'



## Turning on the heat to banish 'cool'



Boys' Division linguists have won a global competition to banish the word 'cool' from the German language. Over 1,000 schools worldwide took part, with King's emerging as one of ten winners.

The challenge—set to foreign schools by popular German youth magazine *Juma*—was to replace the over-used Americanism in typical German sentences. German teacher Michaela Jautz (pictured left with Lyam Hollis) explained: 'It was a test that challenged the boys' vocabulary and their understanding of sentence structure and they were extremely inventive.' As the prize was a German dictionary, which did not exactly inspire all the boys, Michaela also baked them a German cake, *Kaskekuchen*, to celebrate.



## Fiddler on the Roof

Dancing, singing, acting and even stage-managing the scene changes—it was all grist to the mill for Year 6 children in this year's stunning Junior musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*.

The character of Tevye was played by Jonathan Downs who tackled the role with conviction. Katherine Edgar played his long-suffering wife, her wonderfully droll delivery much appreciated by the audience over three successive nights. It was a hugely enjoyable production and the whole cast was well supported by staff and a team of hardworking parents.

# £3573.51

That was the grand total raised by The Big Hush, a sponsored silence organised by the Junior Division in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief. This staggering amount must surely be the most money ever raised by the Junior School in one event!



## The beat goes on

With two CDs already under their belt, King's musicians now have their very own recording studio. A 48-channel mixing desk with 16-track digital facilities, it is the brainchild of former pupil Steve Plews, a distinguished composer and musical technician. Not only will the studio archive all King's music, it will also allow students to develop their mixing and mastering skills and record GCSE and A Level work.

Steve said: 'Primarily we have built this to record and promote some of the school's fantastically talented classical musicians, developing their technical education alongside their musical skills. However, popular music is increasingly created not in some lonely bedroom but in a sophisticated studio and this will give all our youngsters a chance to embrace the necessary technology.'

Steve is pictured with Head of Music Andrew Green and 17 year-old Matt Boyd.



## An unrivalled success

In the fading industry of drama in schools, King's thespians once again showed why the tradition is worth preserving.

During the three-hour production that was staged over five nights, the professional performances of every cast member kept their audiences enthralled.

School Captain Robbie Unterhalter, who has been in every King's play for the past seven years, said, 'The Rivals was without doubt the most challenging and enjoyable production I have been involved in.'

John Sheridan's witty comedy, an interesting variation from the Shakespearean experience, proved to be a unique and memorable occasion for actors and audiences.

Tom Green 13JRP



## Rugby by numbers

### Sevens

In a good term, the 1st VII won the Solihull Sevens and reached the finals of the North of England Plate and the Cheshire Sevens. The U16 squad, meanwhile, won the Cheshire, Warwick and Stonyhurst Sevens (King's being the first school to retain the title since the tournament began) and the U15s reached the semi final of the Cheshire Sevens and the final of the Solihull Sevens, where they lost to a strong Warwick side.

### Tens

At the Sedbergh Tens, an 'invitation' tournament to sixteen of the country's leading rugby schools, the senior rugby squad defeated Brighton College and Llandovery College and drew with Haberdasher Aske School from Hertfordshire. The King's side performed very creditably in all six of their matches against Kirkham GS, Rushworth and Filton College, an 'academy side' from Bristol.

### A flying start

It has been a cracking first season for King's Year 7 boys cross-country runners. Not only did they win the Macclesfield Championships in December, but six of them were selected to represent the town in the Cheshire Championships in January. Then, to crown it all, James Burke was chosen to represent Cheshire at the National Championships.

## Young Reporter of the Year

A cheque for £100 and an expenses-paid trip to a glittering awards ceremony in London were Tom Green's reward for winning *Rugby World* magazine's Young Reporter of the Year competition. Tom, who is studying English Literature, Philosophy and Business Studies in the Sixth Form, has been honing his journalism skills over the last two years by filing reports on King's rugby for the *Macclesfield Express*. He also writes for *King's Colours* and hopes to read English at university before going to journalism college. He says: 'I love sports and I love writing so a career in sports journalism really would seem to be the perfect combination.'



## Congratulations to:

**Katherine Baker** and **Sarah Gales** who won the B Course Orienteering event

**Elliot Banks** on his selection for North of England Sailing Development squad

**Nicola Bridge, Elizabeth Conway, Kay Doncom, Anja May, Carly Mellor, Anna Seeley** and **Jenny Swetman**—all awarded Gold certificates in the National Mathematics Challenge

**Libby Cooper** who won £500 for the Science Department in the national final of the Astra Zeneca Science Prize

**Amy Cotterill** who was selected for Cheshire in the English Schools' Cross Country Championships

**Rob Hart** and **David Illingworth** for raising money for Fair Trade

**David Jones** on his trial for the U16 North of England rugby squad

**Junior School swimmers** who won the Macclesfield & District Swimming Gala

**Rebecca Lea** and **Amy O'Connor** for excellent work at the Drop In Centre

**Robert Moxon** who won the 100m Boys' Freestyle at the Macclesfield Amateur Swimming Gala

**Pauline Scott** on her selection for Scotland's U19 & U21 netball squad

**David Williams** on his U16 England rugby trial

**U16 Girls' hockey team** who reached the final of the Cheshire Cup

**U18 Girls' rugby team** who reached the Preston Grasshoppers Sevens final

**Year 7** for raising over £2000 for charity in a Sponsored Read

## Next stop the RA?

Visitors to Bollington Arts Centre in April were dazzled by Sixth Former Tom Brown's remarkable landscape paintings of the Cheshire Plain and North Wales. Inspired by the Old Masters, particularly Reubens' epic paintings, and described by King's Head of Art Debbie Inman as having 'a fantastic technical mastery of his craft,' Tom only started painting seriously 18 months ago. Since then he has produced 30 canvases ranging from detailed realistic works to those drawn from the imagination and is hoping to attract commercial commissions. Buyers at the Bollington exhibition will have got a real bargain for, as Debbie Inman notes, 'his pricing structure reflects his age, not his ability and I have to say his commercial work is more than just value for money—it's something of a steal!'

# 'Smash the glass ceiling...

... and go for it!' was the advice given by Dawn Gibbins, Veuve Cliquot Business Woman of the Year and founder and chairman of Flowcrete plc (pictured far right). A parent of two girls in the Senior Division, she visited the Girls' Division in February to talk to and encourage members of the Speakers' Club. Forty girls gathered in the Resource Centre to listen to her advice on succeeding as businesswomen and her philosophy on running a large company.

Speakers' Club started in September 2003 as a new lunchtime activity. It was designed to bring home the idea that there are successful women in every area of commercial and civic life and that King's girls can and should aspire to reach the top. There are four lectures per year—this year's other speakers were Ann Winterton MP,

Chief Constable Penny Wilson and Madeleine Moulden, former Governor of Styal Prison—and Year 11 girls are responsible for hosting the speakers, taking them for lunch, introducing them and giving the vote of thanks. A fifteen-minute talk is followed by a question-and-answer session which invariably proves very lively and informative.

The club is open to the whole Division and other Senior Divisions are welcome to come along. Previous visitors have included actor Helen Atkinson-Wood (pictured above), who attended Macclesfield High School for Girls at the Fence Avenue site.



Emily Middleton (Year 9) said: 'Speakers' Club is a great way to find out about possible professions and hear women talk about their successful careers. The talks are extremely interesting to listen to. All the speakers talk about their jobs, as well as giving general advice and all have been very inspiring.'

Next year's speakers will include Brenda Smith, Managing Director of the newly merged Granada and Carlton television companies.



## 160 not out

Add up the number of years devoted to King's by the members of staff who are retiring this term and it reaches a grand total of over 160!

Pictured on the right are (back row, from left) Martin Badger, Gill Turner, Alan Brown, Trevor Adams and (front row) Ian Wilson and David Smith. Between them, they have fulfilled the roles of Professional Tutor, Vice-Principal of the Sixth Form, Deputy Head, Head of History, Principal of the Sixth Form and Bursar. Maureen Denovan, Head of Infants, is pictured below in the Wildlife and Environmental Study area set up to commemorate King's Infants 5th birthday.

All seven have served the school with great energy and enthusiasm and it is very sad to be saying goodbye to such good colleagues. We wish them a long and happy retirement and hope to see them back at King's on a regular basis. We shall miss them.



## Former Pupils' Association

### London Group Dinner

The London Group Dinner will be held at The RAF Club, Piccadilly on Friday 14 May  
Contact: Bruce Shaak 01795 476140

### Golf

Frank Moore Trophy & Geoff Dakin Trophy  
Wilmslow Golf Club on Thursday 20 May

Inter-schools Trophy  
Bramhall Golf Club on Wednesday 7 July

Howard Worth Shield  
Davenport Golf Club on Thursday 16 September

Contact : Alan McInnes 01625 428961

### Cricket

Former Pupils Cricket Day with Mark Harbord XI v Ian Wilson XI, Front Field on Friday 2 July  
Contact: Steve Moores or Mark Harbord at School: 01625 260000

### Dates for your diary

9 June	Year 10 Sixth Form Taster Day
14 June	Year 12 Students' & Parents' Evening
15 June	Infants Sports Day
16 June	Junior Sports Day
17 June	Junior School Walk & Talent Show
18 June	No School for Pupils Teaching Staff Marking Day
22 June	Cricket v MCC, 11.30 am Cumberland Street King's Sings Concert 7.30 pm Macclesfield Methodist Church
23 June	Boys' Division New Pupil Welcome Evening Year 11 Ball
24 June	Infant Summer Concert, 10.00 am Girls' Division New Pupil Welcome Evening
25 June	Sixth Form Leavers' Ball Friends of King's Summer Ball Years 7, 8 & 9 Music Festival
26 June	Friends of King's Jr/Infants Summer Fair
29 June	Junior School New Pupils' Welcome Afternoon
30 June	King's Taster Day
1 July	Junior Summer Concert
2 July	Term ends at lunchtime
19 August	AS & A2 Results Day
26 August	GCSE Results 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)