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King's Colours

Autumn 2005

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Head's letter



Hello, and a warm welcome to the new academic year at King's. Selecting just one specific news item for this column is always a challenge because there is always so much happening. This year is no exception. There have been two recent events that would both normally be headline news on their own. The record A level results were a great credit to the pupils and staff who worked very hard on ensuring that our percentage of A/B grades at A level exceeded our previous best by 10%.

A Royal visit would also be headline news in any term and this was the perfect way to get things going on the first Friday in September. The Princess Royal was only passing through but she actually spent a lot of time talking to the school officers when she landed her helicopter on our playing fields.

All in all, we could not have had a better start to the year.

Stephen Coyne

A level results leap to an all-time high

Outstanding record results at King's this summer gave students and staff a real cause for celebration.

The A level figures were particularly pleasing. Not only, for the third year running, was the pass rate 100% but the percentage of grades at A and B has leapt from 57% last year to 72% this year – a massive increase of 15%. This is not due to national grade inflation but is welcome confirmation that initiatives brought in over recent years are paying dividends for the students.

The GCSE results were the second best ever, with over half the passes (53%) attained at A* or A grade.

In French, Charlotte Green (pictured) and Anja May came in the top five in the country out of 138,508 candidates – a remarkable achievement. Another star was Dominic Hall, who gained



ten A*s, closely followed by Alice Fox, Heidi Hughes and Rachel Sinton, who each achieved nine A*s. In all, 26 pupils gained straight A*/A grades.



No carpet slippers yet

Between them, Alan Batchelor and Barry Edwards have clocked up over 70 years of teaching at King's. Though they officially retired this summer, you could be forgiven for not noticing, for both are back at the school sharing their enthusiasms.

Barry came to King's to teach English in 1970 and is particularly well known for his love of sport. He has been the mainstay of the sailing club for many years and has been persuaded to stay on to do some sailing with pupils.

Alan joined the school in 1968 and has taught French, Russian and Information Technology. He has also been Head of Year and, more recently, co-ordinator of such events as the Founders' Day Service. Alan is returning to give squash lessons at



Cumberland Street.

It looks like being a very active retirement for them both. We wish them a long and happy one as well.

Checkmate

Chess is a way of life for 11 year-old Charles Gilman, who has just won the London Junior Chess Championship and been selected for the North of England. He has played for Cheshire and North Wales since he was 8 and last year represented the Cheshire Under 15 side, even though he was only 10 at the time.

Charles, who learned the game at his grandfather's knee and developed his expertise under regional master George Davidson, now regularly practises against the best young talent in the North West. 'My next aim is to get into the national junior team,' he said.



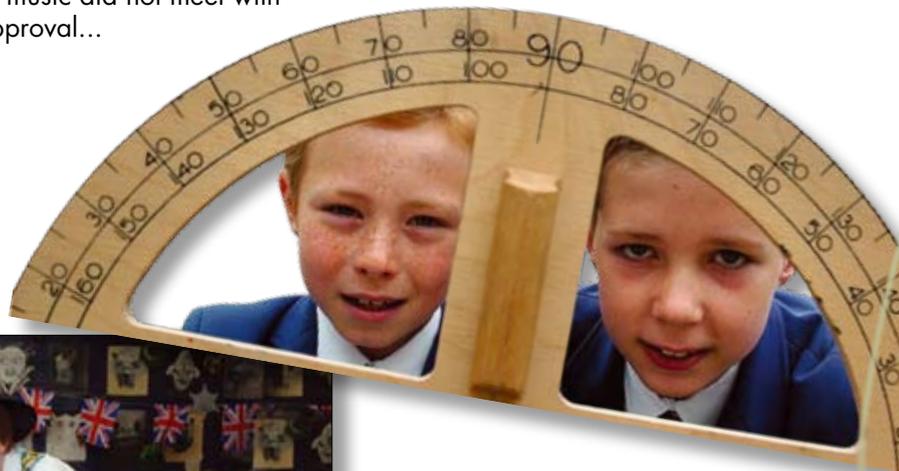
Putting out the flags for VE Day

Sixty years on, Girls' Division teachers and pupils celebrated the end of the Second World War and raised £400 for the British Legion's 'Thank You' campaign. The girls threw a traditional street party, complete with forties music, period dress and victory bunting.

Their first aim, as historian and Vice-Principal Val White pointed out, 'was to give thanks for the bravery and endurance of that previous generation, whose sacrifices have given 60 years of relative peace and prosperity.' But the re-enactment also provided the girls with a vivid idea of life at that crucial

time in history. One pupil remarked: 'I cannot imagine how horrifying the war must have been and I think our great grandfathers and grandmothers were all heroes.'

The party was a great success – even if the forties music did not meet with universal approval...



It all adds up

Even though they are years younger than the standard age of entry, two Junior Division mathematicians have won gold certificates in the Under 13 category of the British Mathematical Association's Junior Mathematics Challenge. Principal Geoff Shaw applauded the achievement of 9 year-old David Moores (above left) and 11 year-old Sean Wilson as stunning. The boys said: 'We just love working out the solutions – a good maths problem is a genuine challenge.'

Exploring the mind

This year's gifted and talented residential course was based on the human mind. Twenty students from Years 9-12 spent three days studying all aspects of the mind. Guest speakers included Professor Andrew Bridges, who gave a talk on eye-witness testimony and how questioning can be used to place false information, and the primary intervention team from Macclesfield hospital, who gave an excellent insight into the whole range of mental health problems that exist in modern society. There were also film showings and a variety of team based activities. The students worked in mixed groups and produced booklets and other resources for use in PSE lessons.



Sound of success

Young King's singers collected another accolade when the Junior Division choral ensemble won the Small Choir Award at the Alderley Edge Festival. Trained by the Division's Director of Music, Alison Lea, the singers beat strong competition from schools across the region with songs 'The Boston Trot' and 'When Love Comes Trickling Down'.

Wildlife week

Badgers and bats, birds and dragonflies – these were just some of the creatures studied during the Junior Division's local wildlife week. Given free range of the Ginkgo Meadow, King's own nature sanctuary, pupils were shown how animals

and insects have evolved to flourish in and around Macclesfield. They were given expert guidance by Tina Hanak from the RSPB, badger expert Chris Dakin and Ged Ryan from the Cheshire Bat Group.

The wildflower-filled meadow was designed by consultant field botanist Jane Roberts, a parent at the school, working in part-

nership with Junior Division teacher Anne Eardley. Anne said: 'The creation of the Ginkgo Meadow has enabled us to foster a deep passion for and interest in the countryside in the very youngest members of our community and we feel that can only be good for the future.'



Skipping and spacehopping

After weeks of practice, the Juniors held a sponsored skip for charity. They kept the skipping ropes turning for four whole hours, raising £2652 for the British Heart Foundation.

King's Infants, meanwhile, got astride their space hoppers to tackle an obstacle course and a relay race in aid of the Happy Days Children's Charity, which provides exciting holidays and day trips for children with special needs.



Congratulations to:

Alistair Barter for competing in the sonar class World Championships on the Isle of Wight.

Tom Baston, who was awarded first place at the Alderley Edge Music festival in two piano solo classes.

Alex Billings, Matthew Edgar, Elliot Hanson, Peter Machin and Sean Wilson, for winning gold medals at the Macclesfield and District Primary Schools Athletics Championships.

Elizabeth Conway (Biology), **Lily Dunlop** (Art), **Katherine Harrison** (Biology), **Carly Mellor** (Psychology), who got full marks in A/S level for these subjects.

Adie Cook, who is National Wind-surfing Champion (U15 class) 2005.

Hannah Hills for climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.

Ben Illingworth, who was selected for Wigan Youth Jazz Band.

Andrew Kenyon and Caroline Vass for being the first students at King's to complete their ECDL ICT qualification.

Emily Middleton for winning the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award.

Khalid Sawas for completing two centuries in four days for the first cricket XI.

and former pupils and staff

Edward Barker on his appointment as captain of hockey at St Andrew's University.

Mark Frederick, Christopher Knowles, Beaudry Kock, Miles Leahy, Andrew Wallen, Christopher Watts and Alexander Wilson who graduated recently with first class honours.

David Illingworth, who obtained the top mark out of 250 students in his English Mods at Oxford University.

Will and George Laughton, who made their rowing debuts on consecutive weekends.

Neil Makin for receiving an OBE in the Queen's Honours.

Catherine Whelpton on the birth of her daughter, Emily Jasmin.

Watch out, chaps

Cricket fans have been bowled over by the talents of young Hannah Gradwell! She had a successful innings as the first ever female cricket captain of the Junior Division and was also selected to play for the Cheshire Girls' U13 team. In her debut match against Durham she scored a tremendous 103 not out. Hannah is also a member of Poynton U11s and Poynton Ladies' team and her ambition is to play for England.



King's became a non-smoking site on 1 September 2005. The school is grateful to all staff, parents and visitors for refraining from smoking.



Counting centuries

Elliott Purdom confirmed his reputation as a potential professional cricketer by scoring 150 for King's 1st XI. The 16 year-old, two years younger than the majority of his team mates, scored the runs off only 131 balls in a 40-over match against King's Chester. King's Macclesfield went on to win convincingly.

Elliott is an attacking opening bat who takes the game to the opposition. He said: 'I want to play at as high a level as possible and intend to do everything I can to make that happen.' King's coach Steve Moores, whose brother Peter has just been appointed head of the England Academy, said: 'Elliott is a talented and athletic cricketer with an admirable approach to the game. He realises that county cricket has become increasingly competitive over the last decade and that only those who work extremely hard will get an opportunity.'

Going for gold

King's athletes emerged triumphant in the North-West Regional B final of the Schools' Athletics Cup. Competing against fifty schools and helped by a string of personal best performances, they won three events. Hurdles and discus specialist Sam Wilmot was the individual athlete with the highest points score and there were gold medal performances from Ben Hearn in the 100 metres, Jake Rathbone in the 200 metres and David Swetman in the 800 metres.



Flying visit from Princess Royal

The official version was that HRH the Princess Royal was coming to launch a charity event at the Methodist Church. Confidentiality was a priority – though the local press was clearly given slightly different advice, as it outlined details before the day!

King's was to provide a landing ground for HRH's helicopter and a maximum of 10-15 seconds with the royal visitor was all we could expect. In practice, we were much more fortunate.

Princess Anne stopped to talk and showed great interest in the school and what our pupils were doing. She met the school officers and chatted to them for ten minutes, making an excellent impression on all. Lots of little boys (aged between 11 and 54) were hugely impressed with helicopter, even though they did not get to meet the passenger. The school officers were full of praise for our special visitor and School Captain, David Kennerley, describes his impressions:



Those who had not been aware of the Princess Royal's visit to Macclesfield could not fail to miss the thundering whirr of HRH's helicopter as it descended onto the rugby field. Whisked off almost immediately, HRH

barely had time to admire the scenic delights of the Rock Block before proceeding directly to the Methodist Church in support of their African School project. On her return, she was greeted by Dr Coyne as she stepped from her car

and was introduced to the welcoming party of the school officers, vice-captains David Begg, Ben Illingworth and Theresa Olsen-Rong and school captain David Kennerley. Entirely by chance and unaware of the visit, each of us had put on a different tie that morning, which conveniently provided a talking point. As a keen promoter of female sports and an Olympian herself, the princess was particularly interested in Theresa's participation in netball and



girls' rugby. In all, HRH talked with us for a full ten minutes, time which was not included in her schedule and which she was most generous to give. She also met the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire (as did we) before blasting us all with the fierce wind of the huge helicopter as she flew to her next appointment. We were all impressed by how friendly and relaxed she was with us and how interested she was in everything we did. It was a most extraordinary and memorable meeting: another day in the life of King's.

DK



The Princess Royal and her lady in waiting are greeted by the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire and Chair of Governors, Mr William Bromley-Davenport, with Mrs Bromley-Davenport and the Head of Foundation.



So where do you read King's Colours? Colin Richards, of the CDT Department, took his copy along on an underwater photography dive at Virginia Rock in the Algarve. If you've been snapped reading the newsletter anywhere unusual, do send us the photo and we might even include it in a future issue.

Colin was inspired by a competition run by the Resource Centres to find out where library books go for their summer holidays. A host of entertaining entries were produced, with photos of books on the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, at the top of the Eiffel Tower and half way up a rock face. The winning Girls' Division photo showed Olivia Souter absorbed in John Betjeman's poems beside his grave at St Enodoc Church. Michael Buckley, Boys' Division winner, was photographed (above) with Mike Mime in York, reading *Third Player* by Warren James Palmer.



Bursaries and scholarships

There has been a crop of generous new awards. Not only has the first Brookfield Elizabethan Prize been presented to Richard Madden at the annual Prize Giving, but a new bursary and scholarship have also been announced.

The Ashness Bursary for Sixth Form Study has been given by former pupil, Richard Ashness (1960-71) in memory of his father. Stewart Ashness was a pupil at King's from 1939 to 1946.

The I A Wilson Economics Scholarship is named after Ian Wilson, who taught the subject here from 1969 to 2004. It will be awarded to the most successful student in the L6 Economics examinations. Both these awards will be offered for the first time from September 2006.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24-28 October	Half Term Holiday
2 November	Big Band Concert 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
11 November	Remembrance Day Services
18 November	Year 4 Pantomime 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
19 November	Friends of King's Beaujolais Evening 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
22 November	Year 11 Parents' and Pupils' AS Options Evening 6.00 pm Cumberland Street Hall
24 November	Instrumental Concert 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
25 November	Infants' Fun Night
26 November	Friends of King's Christmas Fair 1.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
1 December	Junior Christmas Concert 7.15pm Fence Avenue Hall Sixth Form Fashion Show 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
2 December	75th Anniversary Rugby Dinner 7.30 pm Tytherington Club
5 December	Year 9 Parents' GCSE Options Evening 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall King's Sings for Rotary 7.30 pm Macclesfield Methodist Church
13 December	Term ends for Infants and Juniors Junior Carol Service 2.15 pm St Michael's Parish Church Family Carol Service 8.00 pm St Michael's Church
14 December	Term ends for Seniors (half day)

Former Pupils' Association

Dates for diaries

19 November	Northern Outposts Dinner
21 October	Jazz Fit for King's Cumberland Street Hall at 7:30 pm featuring the Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz Band. Tickets available from Foundation Office 01625 260000.
8 December	AGM & Hotpot Supper Old Boys' Club Macclesfield Tickets available from Jonathan Spencer Pickup 01625 260010

Admissions

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