

King's Colours

Summer 2005

The Termly ... g's School in Macclesfield

Head's letter

I have rarely been more proud to be Head of this fine school.

Once again, it is a delight to write to you about our many successes. The achievements in

music and drama were matched by those in sport and the performance of our pupils is a constant source of inspiration to us all. Read all about it in these pages and judge for yourselves the quality of extra-curricular life at King's.



In the classroom, the Gifted and Talented programme has attracted much attention, too, especially among prospective pupils and parents. This is an opportunity to extend our most able pupils as part of a national scheme and a group is already lined up to attend a residential course later this term. I hope to give you more details of this initiative in future reports.

Last term finished, as always, with the Founders' Day service, and the speaker was former pupil and school captain, Ian Taylor, who impressed us all with stories of his achievements since leaving King's. I hope our boys and girls will realise that they too could become a director of a major company one day if they follow Ian's advice.

Stephen Coyne



Toad trouble

Wind in The Willows, Under Milk Wood and Cyrano de Bergerac— three great shows in one school term



Rugby glory & hockey hopes

National finalists in two sports details page 4

Where have all the sparrows gone?

Starlings, too, for that matter. The RSPB's David Tulliday told King's Infants and Juniors how some of our once common birds are now sadly in decline. The news wasn't all bad, though – the children managed to spot quite a range of other birds when they descended on the Ginkgo Meadow, King's own wildlife reserve. Watched over by David, they were taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch, the RSPB's annual recording project, now in its 25th year. The children saw ten different types of bird: blackbird, blackheaded gull, blue tit, carrion crow, goldfinch, great tit, greenfinch, magpie, missel-thrush and wood pigeon.



Scholarships

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

Danielle Allwright (Beech Hall), Elizabeth Bell (King's), Tamsin Dykstra (Pownall Hall), Andrew Hodgson (Beech Hall), David Lowndes (Mossley), Emma Rheinberg (Romiley), Declan Shanahan (St Albans), Alex Slater (Altrincham PS), Bridie Thompson (Parkroyal) and Chris Ward (King's).

Congratulations to them and to all successful pupils.

Rattling good tunes

The Big Band's sparkling concert in aid of the Tsunami Appeal last term was given an extra dash of glitter by guest performer Alan Barnes (right). Alan, a professional musician, left the audience gasping as traditional tunes were injected with new life. Pupils, delighted to be able to combine examination practice with performing in public, had great fun: Mary's little lambs made an appearance, as well as two extraordinary policemen.

Another treat was a stunning recital by pianist Richard Meyrick, who delighted audiences with his virtuosity.



Polling it

Election fever struck the Girls' Division when a mock election, along the lines suggested by the Hansard Society's Y Vote Campaign, took place in school. Party candidates Francesca Walsh (Conservative), Charlotte Green (Green), Hannah Beard (Labour) and Emily Middleton (Liberal Democrat) battled it out at the hustings in friendly fashion, getting the policies across to their electorate by means of speeches in assembly, poster campaigns, canvassing and rallies. Behind the scenes a dedicated team of election officials, led by Returning Officer Mrs White, organised voter registration, poll cards, postal votes and ballot papers in time for Polling Day on April 29. Voting at the four polling stations was brisk throughout the day and when the count was completed, Charlotte Green was duly declared the winner. Sadly, she will not be able to take a seat in the House of Commons but it is hoped that the educational experience has been valuable for candidates, party workers and voters.



Choral and rock

Thirteen year-old Alex Davies has been chosen to join the county's best young singers in the elite Cheshire Choir. Alex, who has previously sung in King's Foundation Choir and Langley Methodist Church, comments: 'I love singing great choral works and being in the choir is very sociable and great fun, but I prefer to listen to rock bands such as the Darkness and Keane.'



Wind in the Willows

The Fence Avenue Halll became a woodland setting for the Year 6 production of *Wind in the Willows*. The musical's witty script, tuneful score and complex dance numbers gave the children plenty of opportunity to display their talents. It was directed by Alison Lea and Caroline Hulme McKibbin and they were supported by a dedicated team of parents and staff. Oliver Pickstone was hilarious in the role of the boastful Toad and mature performances were also given by Eleanor Strutt (Mole), Richard Barratt (Rat) and Emily Pasquale (Badger). All the Year 6 children showed great enthusiasm and commitment to the production and this was reflected in the rapturous response they received from their audiences!



Under Milk Wood

A cast of over fifty students from Year 8 to Sixth Form presented *Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas at Fence Avenue in February. From the moment the audience entered the auditorium they were delighted by the soothing sounds of the musicians' original melodies, creating a sleepy village. Visually this was enhanced by the image of the full cast in various positions sleeping. This was very much an ensemble piece, which demanded a disciplined cast who would remain on stage throughout the performance.

The three voices: Katy Koyich, Charlotte Tighe and Hannah Beard, brought out the poetry and beauty of the language, delivering each line with confidence and commanding the audience's attention with every look and gesture. Although the cast was predominantly female, the success of the show was enhanced by the performance of four talented young men from Year 11 and the Sixth Form who injected an energy and intelligent wit to the proceedings.



Sophie Vohra sang a beautiful ballad written by Jo Beesley and Harriet Fraser and Lizzie Moors sang a hauntingly melodic duet written by Alison Lea.

Directed by Catherine Thompson and stage-managed by Heather Shribman, *Under Milk Wood* appealed to everyone, whether experiencing the delights of Dylan Thomas for the first time or as an old familiar friend.

H. Shribman



Cyrano de Bergerac

Cyrano de Bergerac tells the tale of a romantic, heroic soldier and poet, whose infamous existence is blighted by his alarmingly outsized nose. In love with the beautiful and intelligent Roxane, Cyrano is forced to keep his love secret, wooing her instead on behalf of the honourable but un-poetic Christian de Neuvillette.

The comic tale, with its tragic conclusion, was beautifully told in King's recent production. Leo Thompson's lead as Cyrano was remarkable. He presented a charmingly complex character for whom the audience could not help but feel enormous sympathy and admiration. On alternate nights he was joined by Claire Winstanley and Laura Marten, playing the eloquent beauty, Roxane. Both brought their own grace

and poise to the role, creating the dazzling yet sophisticated focus for the attentions of Cyrano and Christian. Richard Madden as the handsome but plain-talking lover, pitiful himself in his desperate love for the sharp-witted Roxane, was a credible, likeable partner to Cyrano.

Callum Roxborough as the Comte de Guiche and Robin McArthur as the Captain of the Guard led the rest of a large cast in an atmospheric and polished production, with ambitious scenery, evocative lighting, comic crowd scenes, energetic battles and romantic intimacies. Once again, Frank Walker succeeded in directing, designing and choreographing a vibrant and entertaining production.

Congratulations to:

Amy Cotterill, Emily Gosling, Katie Grundy who had their Art displayed at the Lowry Centre and featured in Living Edge magazine.

Charles Gilman on being selected to train with the England U12 Chess Squad.

James McCormick on his golf scholarship to Loretto Golf Academy.

Emily Middleton who, representing the National Children's Bureau, made a presentation on the Green Paper at a conference at Westminster in March.

Katherine North, Amy Wilson, Alex Smith and **Tom Waters** who came 6th in the northwest team Mathematics Challenge in March.

Robert Wreglesworth who won the Longshaw Estate Junior Orienteering Competition.

U15 Girls'netball team on winning the Macclesfield District League and remaining undefeated.

U11 Netball team who played magnificently to win the Macclesfield Schools Netball Tournament.

Year 7 pupils who raised £1000 with their Sponsored Read.

Year 7 and 8 girls who won the NW region national on-line Science race, beating 50 other schools and coming 14th nationally out of 450 schools.

Former pupil **Pauline Scott** on her selection for the U21 Scotland netball team at the World Student Games

Former pupil **Peter Moores**, who has been appointed Director of the new National Cricket Academy. He will take over from Rodney Marsh at the end of the season.

Former pupil, Captain **Ken Owen**, who was voted Shipmaster of the Year by the Nautical Institute.

Scrum half David Williams, who was voted Player of the Sedburgh Tens Tournament, is pictured with Jonny Lee, Captain of Rugby and Lyam Hollis, Captain of the U16 hockey team



Souks and sand

Caves, sheep pens or rooftops in local villages – you can certainly expect

luxury overnight accommodation while trekking in North Africa! At Easter, nine pupils from the Girls' Division spent eight days travelling in Morocco. The greater part of the trip took place in the remote Todra Gorge region, just north of the Sahara desert. For four days the girls trekked over 55 kilometres in temperatures of around 35°C. For light relief, they played (and won) two football matches, swam in rivers and rode camels. The finale of the trip was an evening bartering in the souks of Marakesh, whilst trying to avoid buying lizards or eating sheep's heads.

THE FABULOUS FINALISTS

It has been a great season for sport at King's. Our rugby and hockey teams have both reached the national finals. In fact, the rugby 1st XV reached two – and won one of them. With this triumph and the U16 hockey team all set to play in the final of the National Schools Hockey Knock Out Competition, there can be no doubt of King's position as one of the leading sporting schools in the north of England.

The end of the rugby season already looked promising when five 1st XV players were selected for a Cheshire match in February. The 1st VII went on to retain the Solihull Sevens tournament, beating the hosts 24-12 in the final. They also reached the final of the North of England Sevens Tournament, where they played a very good Sedbergh side.

But the victory the players are probably most proud of was at the Sedbergh Tens tournament. In this national competition, they were drawn in a group with Millfield, QEGS Wakefield and RGS High Wycombe. Making any progress against such a formidable opposition would be impressive, but King's coolly went on to win the trophy, beating the hosts in the elimination rounds and RGS 21-12 in the final.

Not to be outdone, the U16 hockey team beat Merchant Taylors' 5-1 in the North West regional finals and went on to the national quarter and semi-finals, winning two crucial and tight games against Eggescliffe College (North East) and Hitchin School (East) on penalties. Hopes are high for their national final against Kent College (South East) later this term. We wish them the best of luck.



RON'S LAST TEQUILA

It's goodbye to one of King's great characters. Ron Darlington, trumpet teacher and maestro of the Big Band, retires this summer after twelve years at the school. No-one who has heard the band can fail to have been impressed by the standards of musicianship achieved by the young players, the wit of Ron's banter and the audience's riotous shouts of 'Tequila!' in the band's trademark finale.

When asked what he will remember most, Ron talks of many individual pupils over the years, but also of the way in which he has been able to take the Big Band into the community. He has so much to be proud of: raising over £30,000 for charity; forming the Training Big Band, sold-out concerts at the Silk Heritage Centre and the Bridgewater

Hall, successful CDs, appearances at the Wigan Youth Jazz Festival and a seminar given by the president of the International Association of Jazz Educators, Richard Dunscomb. Finally, the Big Band is the only school band to have played on Jazz FM.

Ron is a professional jazz trumpeter and entertainer. As a young man he started in brass bands and played in the inaugural National Youth Brass Band. After army service, when he played in the Royal Signals Staff Band, he spent over twenty-five years

in show busi-

ness, with summer seasons with many of the stars in theatre venues and working in the television studios of Granada, BBC North, Central TV and the Elstree Studios. He played lead trumpet in the Double B Jazz Orchestra and is currently with the midlands-based Bryan Jones Orchestra and local jazz group, Impact.

The list could go on. Personality is one reason for Ron's popularity and success. He has enjoyed it all and will be very difficult to follow. Anyone who would like to help to celebrate Ron's work at King's is invited to contribute towards funding the Ron Darlington Jazz Prize, to be awarded annually to the most promising young musician in the field of jazz.



Members of the King's Big Band on stage with Ron and with American Jazz Legend Dick Dunsford



Salad days

Forget burgers and chips – eating fresh fruit and vegetables has earned William Paterson and Thomas Howell £250 between them. King's caterers Eurest ran a two-month competition to encourage Boys' Division pupils to opt for healthier options at lunch time.

Every day the boys chose from five options, with their menu cards marked to show whether they had the healthy alternatives.

Catering manager Marley Kyra Antonis (pictured with William, right, and Thomas, left) said: 'The younger generation has a wider awareness of good and bad nutritional habits and their tastes are changing. We want to speed up that rate of change and believe we have a key role outside the classroom in educating children about healthy eating.'

William won £150 in vouchers for the Trafford Centre and Thomas £100. Principal of the Boys' Division, Mr Ian Robertson, paid tribute to Eurest's initiative and added, 'Never mind the boys; some of the teachers could perhaps forgo the occasional temptation.'



Former Pupils' Association

Bruce Shaak

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of Bruce Shaak, who was rugby captain in 1958/9. Bruce was an excellent supporter of the school and arranged the Former Pupils' London Supper Club for many years. It was very pleasing to see him witness a group of nearly 100 in the RAF Club last year, celebrating the transformation of this event into a formal dinner. He was a very proud man that evening and this year's dinner on 13 May at the same venue will be a memorial to him. Dr Coyne is also planning to name a bursary in Bruce's honour. Anyone interested in attending the dinner or contributing to the bursary should contact the Head's Secretary at school.

Dates for diaries

13 May	London Dinner at RAF Club, Picadilly
19 May	Golf Day at Wilmslow Golf Club
6 July	Golf Interschools Championship Macclesfield Golf Club
8 July	Former Pupils' Golf Day, Front Field

Please contact Jonathan Spencer Pickup on 01625 260010 for further information. He would be delighted to hear from former pupils who would like to join the Former Pupils' Committee which meets three times a year. The next committee meeting is on Tuesday 7 June 2005 in the Front Field pavillion.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12 May	Year 11 Prom 7.30 pm Tytherington Club
16 May	Year 7 Drama Evening 6.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall
27 May	Year 13 Leavers' Morning Derby Fields Girls' Division Sports Day
16 June	Year 12 Parents & Students Meeting with Tutors & HE Advisors 6.00 pm Cumberland Street Main Block
17 June	Sportswomen's Dinner 7.00 pm Fence Avenue Canteen
21 June	Junior Division Open Afternoon 1.15 pm
22 June	Infants' Sports Day
21-23 June	Years 7, 8, 9 Internal Examinations
23 June	Junior Sports Day 1.00 pm Infant New Parents Evening 7.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall
24 June	No school for pupils Teaching Staff Marking Day Friends of King's Summer Ball
28 June	Cricket v MCC 11.30 am Musical Soirée, 7.30 pm Fence Avenue
29 June	Boys' Division New Year 7 Evening
30 June	Infant Concert FOK's Second Hand Uniform Sale 2.30 pm Derby Fields Pavilion Girls' Division New Year 7 Evening King's Sings for Silk Heritage 7.30 pm Macclesfield Heritage Centre
1 July	Junior School Walk and Talent Show
5 July	Junior Welcome Afternoon 1.30 pm Infant New Pupil Welcome, 1.45 pm
6 July	King's Taster Day Activity Day
7 July	Junior Prize Presentation 1.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall Junior Summer Concert 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall Sixth Form Ball, 6.15 pm Shrigley Hall
8 July	Term ends at lunchtime
18 August	AS & A2 Results Day
25 August	GCSE Results Day

OPEN EVENTS

Open Evening Friday 14 October 4.30 – 7pm
Open Morning Saturday 15 October 10am – 1pm

The early Open Evening was very popular, with many visitors and parents popping in after school on Friday. Hungry children were catered for and some families enjoyed it so much that they came back for more the following morning!

If you would like to come along or know of friends who are interested in King's then make a note of the dates!

Admissions

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