

King's Colours

Autumn 2004

The Termly Newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Head's letter

Hello and I hope that you enjoy the new academic year at King's. I would like to extend a particular welcome to all those who are reading this newsletter for the first time.



We have been working hard on contacting former pupils who have not been in touch for a while. Over the summer, we sent out a note to all subscribers to the Friends Reunited website, asking them to contact us if they would like to be added to our mailing list. If you know of any Maxonians, or their parents, who would like to be kept up to date with the school, please send me their address and I will make sure that they receive the newsletter. I can be e-mailed at hm@kingsmac.co.uk and I promise you that we simply want to extend our network of interested parties; we will not be sending out begging letters!

It has been a very busy summer and a lot of work has been put into improving the facilities and a great deal of refurbishment and redecoration has taken place. A large number of new computers and whiteboards have also been purchased to enhance IT provision.

Once again, our academic performance has been outstanding. Details are in the main article on this page. This may be one of the reasons why the school is in such demand at the moment. Numbers in the Foundation are still growing, particularly in the Juniors and Infants, something that is contrary to the national demographic trend. 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 hope that you have an enjoyable term.

Stephen Coyne

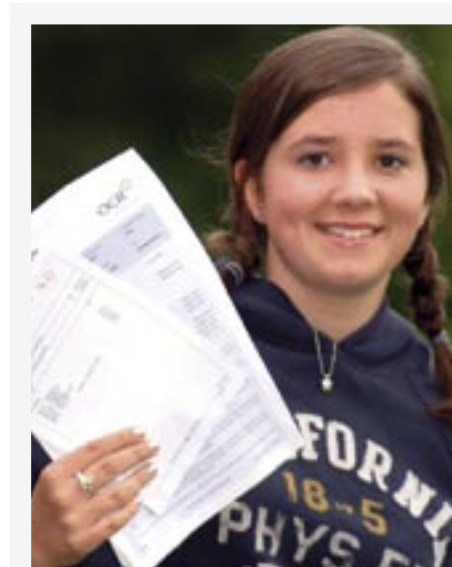
ANOTHER VINTAGE YEAR

Our A level students have done it again—a remarkable 100% success rate! One in three results (32.4%) was an A grade and 57% were As or Bs. Highlights were:

- Four A grades at A level for 18 students
- Three or more A grades for 29 students
- Four A grades at A/AS level for 24 students

Even among these stunning statistics, a few stand out. Matthew Beardmore achieved six A grades at A and AS level (three at each). In Computing, David Illingworth was one of the top five candidates out of almost 6,000. Lizzie Harrison matched this in Biology, beating nearly 13,000 candidates. (Lizzie achieved a similar feat at GCSE two years ago.)

At GCSE, 53% of King's pupils achieved A or A* grades, and the A*-C pass rate was 95%. The results from the Girls' Division were truly exceptional: five girls, along with two boys from the Boys' Division, obtained nine straight A* grades. One, Katherine Harrison (pictured right), was in the top five in the country in three separate subjects – German (out of 63,000 candidates), Biology (19,000) and French



(163,000). Katherine is Lizzie's sister, so it was a great year for the Harrison family. Rosie Campbell, Kay Doncom, Katherine Harrison, Ben Illingworth, David Kennerley, Anna Seeley and Samantha Whipp were the stars who got the top grade in every subject. Nearly a quarter of the year group (42 pupils) obtained straight A/A* grades. Definitely a time for celebration.





New quartet

A new Deputy Head and a trio of Vice Principals join King's at the start of the new school year. David Pook was Director of Studies at Churcher's College in Hampshire before replacing Alan Brown as Dr Coyne's deputy. In the Sixth Form Division, Joanne White from Stockport Grammar School has taken over from Gill Turner as Vice Principal. Maureen Denovan's position, now re-titled Vice Principal (Infants) in line with the recommendations of the ISI Inspection Team, has been filled by Emma Warburton and Caroline Hulme-McKibbin, who was acting Vice Principal of the Junior Division last term, has taken over the role on a permanent basis.



Publishing success

Alison Lea, the Director of Music in the Junior Division, has recently had five works published under the pen name of Alison Carver. The sets of songs and mini-musicals were written especially for the younger children at King's and many parents will remember seeing them performed. The books are available from music shops or from Kevin Mayhew Publishing.



All change

The improvement initiative continues. Over the summer, much has been done to make facilities at King's even better. At Fence Avenue, the Girls' Division now has a splendid new language laboratory and a new quiet room (above), while the Juniors are enjoying a brand new set of computers. At Cumberland Street, the Art Department has been transformed, ensuring that the Boys' Division and Sixth Formers have an inspiring new environment to work in.



Room at the top

Former pupil Olly Burr is the youngest British climber ever to have reached the summit of Mount Everest. Aged just 22, he hoped to have his father by his side but they were forced to abort their attempt at 8500 metres. Three days later Olly took advantage of a rare break in the late May weather to make the ascent. His achievement is all the more remarkable because of a long-term battle with ME.

Olly got the climbing bug at the age of five in the Lake District. At 13, he climbed the Matterhorn—still the youngest person to have done so. At King's, he was a member of the Adventurers' Society, an intrepid group who climbed peaks around the world, including in the Hindu Kush.



Muffins and pizza

King's singers enjoyed memorable tours to Paris and the Italian lakes this summer. Mrs Malkin's homemade muffins sustained Baby Foundation Choir members through a four-hour wait with a dead coach at Newport Pagnell services. Fortified, they went on to conquer Paris and to delight audiences in splendid concerts in the city and on

the Fantasy Stage at Disneyland. A month later, in Italy, the Foundation Choir also had a taste of wonderfully enthusiastic concert crowds, as well as stunning scenery, pizza, culture, ice cream and... more pizza. The time spent together created a real sense of magic in the singing of both choirs.



Summer Ball

King's Sixth Formers celebrated the finish of their A Levels at a glittering Summer Ball at Mottram Hall Hotel and Country Club.

School officers

Most schools have a head boy or a head girl—or even a school captain. In line with its unique structure, King's has all three. This year, a new collection of young men and women have been given responsibilities. Reesha Sodha is School Captain, leading a team of three school officers in the Sixth Form Division. Both the Boys' and Girls' Divisions have a leading pupil: Helen Alston is Head Girl and Leo Thompson Head Boy. In the Junior Division the new Head Boy and Girl are Sean Wilson and Elizabeth Bell. All five are pictured right.



Congratulations to:

Laura Bridge on her selection for the U15 Cheshire County Netball Squad

Nicola Chadwick and Chris O'Donnell on the birth of their son Benjamin Archie

Tracey Elliot and Jamie on the birth of their son Alfie

Friends of King's for raising thousands of pounds last year for the benefit of the school

Alison Smith who has been selected to sing in the National Youth Girls' Choir

Kay Doncom and Sarah Barber for gaining full marks for their GCSE Design Technology coursework

Peter Moores for his honorary MA conferred by University of Brighton

Junior Boys' Athletics Team who won the Macclesfield & District Championship in May

Nick Parnell on becoming Cardiff University Student Photographer of the year

Stephen Beard, James May and Alex Waddingham who played for Cheshire U15 rugby team

Jos Baxendale for being awarded a testimonial as Sale's longest serving player

Iain Taylor who was appointed Cheshire Rugby Captain for the County Championships

Edward Barker on being awarded hockey colours at the end of his first year at St Andrew's University.

Kiwi cricketing star

For one memorable game, the ranks of King's cricketers were swelled by a New Zealand test player. Daniel Vettori, recovering from a pulled hamstring, had called Lords to find a practice game before the first one-day international at Old Trafford. He was offered a place in the MCC side that plays King's every summer.

MCC skipper, Andy James of Alderley Edge and Cheshire, decided that Vettori would get a better game if he played for the King's side.

King's skipper Justin Perring said: 'Most of us at the school, indeed probably all of us, will never have the opportunity to play with such a talented test cricketer and it will be a day that I am sure we will remember for the rest of our lives. He behaved like one of the lads and was a joy to play with. I only wish he could have bowled from both ends.'



Tour of a lifetime

It was a memorable tour: three weeks in South Africa's rugby heartlands where, aided and abetted by specialist coaches from Macclesfield Rugby Club, King's players won eleven out of their dozen games. Pitched against some of the toughest young opposition in the southern hemisphere, they proved that their slick running and handling skills were too strong a match for the young Springboks.

King's Head of Rugby, former Saracens fly-half Andy Rice, said: 'The manner of our performances, the friends we made and the sights we witnessed showed rugby union at its very best. It was, in short, the trip of a lifetime, one that neither I, nor my colleagues or the boys will ever forget.'

After seeing how the gift of some old boots and sports tops was appreciated by the youngsters in the township of Nzondelela, a community of 200,000 people living in shanty huts, the King's boys are now aiming to set up a permanent link. Their plan is to send their former hosts a container of second-hand sports equipment.

Milk vodka and marmot

Galloping on horseback across the Mongolian steppe, climbing 10,000-foot mountains, watching the sun set over desert sand dunes and organising activities for a hundred street children — this year's World Challenge group certainly had a busy summer. Fifteen students, accompanied by two members of staff, spent a month in China and Mongolia. They camped under the stars, cooked on an open fire every night and braved temperatures from 33 to minus 5 degrees—as well as the local milk vodka. The entire group spent a



Gold medal

Year 9 student Adrienne Cook not only earned a chance to compete in the National Windsurfing Regatta in Weymouth, but came home with a gold medal.

lot of time interacting with the Mongolians. They left with memories of a huge, empty country, full of beautiful scenery and incredibly friendly people who were always willing to share everything they had—even roasted marmot!



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

From Ancient Greece to Victorian Styal – King’s Juniors jump aboard a Time Machine for an unforgettable journey through the centuries.

First stop is Greece, 2000 years ago. King’s intrepid Year 3 time-travellers arrive in the land of heroes and monsters, the setting for fabulous myths and legends. They try their hand at making musical instruments and learn to dance in the inimitable Attic way. There’s even a chance to taste an array of Greek delicacies before they are whisked back to the present day, where study continues – from a distance.

The next destination – this time for Year 4 – is Roman Britain. Pupils are transported back to 400 AD. They sample mosaic design, write on wax tablets, have a go at Roman Mathematics and try chariot racing. The whole experience is rounded off by a banquet fit for an emperor. Then it’s off to Jorvik, to become Viking villagers. After fending

off turbulent attacks from Saxons, the pupils settle into domesticity, learning crafts and listening to sagas around the Long House fire.

It is Tudor England for Year 5, who enjoy being put through their paces at Bramall Hall. Meanwhile, Year 6 pupils experience the rigours of Victorian Britain in the Apprentice House at Styal Mill – and discover that school in the twenty-first century is not such a bad option after all!



Dinner date

In May, former pupils held a dinner in London at the RAF Club. Organised by Bruce Shaak (1952-1960), it was the first time there has been a formal dinner rather than an informal get-together,



though the southern group has been meeting in London for several years. It was such a success that a date has already been set for 2005 (13 May). Over seventy Maxonians, young and old, attended—with any luck there will be over 100 next year. One of the most enjoyable aspects of the event was the number of young former pupils who attended. The Head of Foundation gave a brief report on the school year but formalities were kept to a minimum.

This was the second major initiative of 2004, following the joint dinner with Macclesfield High School Old Girls earlier this year. It is part of a drive to provide more social opportunities for the former pupils. James Westcott has been setting up events for those at university or of similar age. The school has also been trying to contact as many people

as possible who have lost touch with the school. All the subscribers to the Friends Reunited website were contacted over the summer, with the aim of providing them with a free copy of this newsletter. If you know anyone who would like to be kept up to date with progress, do get them to contact the Head of Foundation at hm@kingsmac.co.uk.



Former Pupils' Association

To mark Ian Wilson's retirement and his contribution to School Cricket for more than 30 years, the Association arranged a cricket match between former First XI Cricket Captains on 2 July 2004. A well played match was followed by a barbeque and a late night in the British Flag.

On 8 October, the Association held its Annual Dinner at Adlington Hunting Lodge and over 80 former pupils and members of staff enjoyed a very sociable evening. The Association is planning to hold its second Young Former Pupils Christmas Dinner Dance on Sunday 19 December at the Deanwater Hotel for former pupils who have left in the last five years. The Association is also holding its annual Rugby Day on the afternoon of Sunday, 19 December at Macclesfield Rugby Club. Please contact the Foundation Office for more information on these events.

Quincentenary Bursary Fund

The King's Quincentenary Bursary Fund continues to grow thanks to the generous donations from former pupils and the parents of existing pupils. Several Sixth Form students have received significant financial help under this scheme which was set up in King's 500th anniversary in 2002 by Governors and staff.

A letter to the Governors from a student receiving a bursary confirms the need for this fund, he writes, "During the past year I have participated in many activities. I have played first team rugby throughout the UK and have sung in the Foundation Choir appearing in locations in Europe. I am very grateful for the help that has given me these opportunities and for the chance to study at King's".

Anyone wishing to donate to the Bursary Fund should contact the Head of Foundation directly and anyone requiring financial assistance through the Sixth Form should contact Admissions.

Dates for your diary

25-29 October	Half Term Holiday
11 November	Remembrance Day Service
18 November	Orchestral and Band Concert 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
19 November	Junior Pantomime 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
20 November	Friends of King's Beaujolais Evening 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
22 November	Year 11 Boys' & Girls' Parents and Pupils AS Options Evening 6.00 pm Cumberland Street Hall
25 November	Charity Fashion Show 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
27 November	Friends of King's Christmas Fair 1.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
1 December	Junior Christmas Concert 7.15pm Fence Avenue Hall
3 December	Choral & Ensemble Concert 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
6 December	Year 9 Boys' & Girls' Parents GCSE Options Evening 7.30 pm Carol Service 8.00 pm Chester Cathedral
8 December	Nursery Christmas Concert 2.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall
9 December	Infant Christmas Concert 10.00 am Fence Avenue Hall
11 December	Foundation Choir Christmas Concert with Northern Chamber Orchestra 7.30 pm Heritage Centre
14 December	Term ends for Infants and Juniors Family Carol Service 8.00 pm St Michael and All Angels Church
15 December	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