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# King's Colours

Summer 2006

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

## Head's letter

Once again, it is a delight to write to you about so many successes at school. I have rarely been more proud of King's as the achievements in music and drama last term were complemented by significant achievements in sport. The success of the rugby 1st XV in going a whole season undefeated would be something to shout about in any season but there have been other triumphs outside the classroom.



We are used to having tremendous productions but in all my time here I do not remember the school producing four dramatic performances in one term, all of which were of an extremely high standard. Having met many of the cast, I can also testify as to how much fun the students had staging them. The truly excellent concerts added to a magnificent term. Even a superb musician like Mr Green had to rehearse the accompaniment in depth, such was the quality of performance by the senior musicians.

All of this helps to explain why the school is so much in demand. The Girls' Division is extremely popular and the number of registrations for places in the Sixth Form has doubled. Despite demographic trends, numbers at King's are very healthy and one cannot be surprised when one considers how much is on offer here. As well as the arts and sport, subject-related activities have also proved successful as students pursue their academic interests in external competitions.

Stephen Coyne

# This sporting life

The 75th anniversary of rugby at King's has been marked in spectacular style. Little did anyone realise it at December's grand reunion dinner but the celebrations were to continue all season, with the 1st XV completing all fifteen fixtures unbeaten. The match against Stonyhurst was drawn 10-10 but the rest were victories, with some notable scalps taken along the way. This is only the second time in the school's history that this feat has been achieved. As a result, the 1st XV has been featured as Team of the Month in the magazine *Rugby World* (as they were only year ago).

Three of the players were picked for the North of England squad but the greatest

single achievement was that of scrum-half David Williams, who was picked for the U19 full international side to play Scotland in March. This was a great honour for David and the school but unfortunately he was injured during squad training and did not actually get to pick up his cap. However, he is still young and will surely represent his country one day.

Girls' rugby did well, too, with the team reaching the semi-final of the Berkhamsted Sevens, and the school's highly successful sporting season was crowned when the boys' hockey 1st XI won the Cheshire Cup.



Anyone wishing to keep up to date with sports results at the school can see the Sports Bulletin online at [www.kingsmac.co.uk](http://www.kingsmac.co.uk)

## The view from Europe

Visits by high profile politicians are becoming a bit of a habit! Last autumn it was Shadow Chancellor George Osborne; this spring it was the Liberal Democrat leader in Brussels, Chris Davies. In a lively forum with King's economics, history and politics students, the MEP discussed a range of topics from the future of Europe and the fate of Palestine to the Government's drugs policy and the Lib Dem leadership contest. Andrew Reeve, Head of Economics, who is organising a whole series of such events, was delighted with Mr Davies's candour and the eager, well-informed response of the audience.



## Page-turners

Bestselling children's author Alan Gibbons visited King's on World Book Day. In his lecture, Alan (pictured here with pupils Jack Purdham and Charles Gilman) said that he wanted to nail the myth that boys won't read. 'Of course they will read; they will devour literature – it just has to be appropriate to them.' His *Legendeer* series certainly succeeds in attracting a worldwide fan base and Alan emphasised his commitment to visiting schools and keeping in touch with his readers.

## Eyes on Westminster

An early start didn't dampen the spirits of the Year 13 economists as they made their way down to London for a two-day trip. Day One included a conference in Westminster on the future of the European Union, followed by dinner and a night at the National Theatre. Day Two saw the group up early, enjoying stunning views over the City of London from

atop the London Eye before setting off to the Department for International Development for a meeting with its chief policy makers.

The students found the trip extremely relevant to their A Level course and a lot of fun.



## Lure of the lab...

Boring? Science? Absolutely not. If you ever felt tempted to make that mistake, you'd know better after listening to Nick Arnold. The author of the best-selling *Horrible Science* books gave a talk at the Girls' Division recently and his young audience shuddered pleasurably at a gruesome catalogue of horrors, from cowpats rubbed into the scalp (an ancient cure for baldness) to black holes and the grisly residents of your bedtime pillow. The distinctive, no-nonsense and entertaining approach left the children amused, intrigued and keen to know more.

## Alice in Wonderland

The Dramatic Society's production in March was an ambitious adaptation of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass* by Lewis Carroll. The Wonderland adventures present a considerable theatrical challenge but thanks to imaginative staging, the seemingly impossible demands of the text were admirably met in a series of visual delights. Not content with that, the hardworking cast went on after the interval to present the sequel, *Through the Looking-Glass* (below). There were many memorable performances and vignettes but the marathon role of Alice was undertaken by Emma French who led the audience through the eccentric episodes of the two books with a relaxed charm and poise.



## A wizard of a show

There wasn't an empty seat in the house for the Junior Division's bewitching staging of *The Wizard of Oz*. Directed by Alison Lea and Angela Soutter, 90 children sang, acted and danced their way through three unforgettable performances. Lara Knowles was the Lion, Chris Hanak the Tin Man, David Moores the scarecrow and George Walker the Wizard, with the whole brilliantly held together by Chloe Bullock as Dorothy.



## Beauty & the Beast

For the first three days of February the hall at Fence Avenue was transformed into a wonderful palace for the Girls' Division production of Laurence Boswell's *Beauty and the Beast*. This timeless tale recounts the story of a brave young girl who leaves behind her beloved, if chaotic, family to discover the mysteries of passion, imagination and love in the Beast's palace.

Jenny Campbell's portrayal of Beauty was sensitive and captivating and provided an excellent foil to Alex Gillespie's lifelike Beast. Alex Smith delighted and amused the audience in her role as Beauty's older brother, André, and the talking pieces of furniture entertained with their squabbling and gossip. The highly skilful dramatic performances were matched by outstanding dancers, singers and musicians. Kanza Khan's singing was especially melodic and poignant.

Catherine Thompson and her team are to be congratulated for their creativity and dedication which resulted in such an excellent production.

## Surging ahead

With finalists in every event and consistent point scoring, Junior Division swimmers again won the Macclesfield and District Swimming Championships. The team's overall strength was apparent at a thrilling gala final at the Leisure Centre, where David Moores won the backstroke and Josh Vohra the event for non-club swimmers.



## Salad Days

In February pupils from across the Divisions performed the musical comedy *Salad Days* with great style and flair. Written by Dorothy Reynolds and Julian Slade in the 1950s, this charming tale of a boy, a girl and a piano is rarely performed nowadays.

The main leads were performed beautifully: Charli Murray's stunning singing was matched by Sam Lea's relaxed

swagger. The show was stolen, however, by Tim James, whose comic perfection had the audience rolling in the aisles.

The dances were step perfect and the singing was vibrant and energetic. A great time was had by the cast and the audience's laughter and cheers were a fitting tribute to the hard work of all involved.

## Congratulations to -

**Lucy Askey, Katherine Baker, Sarah Broadbent, Rachel Burgess and Emma Wood** on their selection to play hockey for the county.

**Edward Beesley and Sam Lea**, who achieved a distinction in their Associated Board Grade 8 piano and percussion exams respectively.

**Daniel Cotterill**, who came 17th in the National Biathlon Final.

**Katherine Edgar** on being awarded a gold medal in the Cheshire swimming championships for her performance in backstroke.

**Katherine North**, who has qualified for the European Mathematics Olympiad.

**Boys' Hockey 1st XI**, undefeated for the first time ever at the Bath Festival and very successful tourists of South Africa.

**Junior Cross Country Runners**, who claimed 1st team position in three out of four age categories in the Macclesfield and District Primary Schools' Cross Country, making them overall champions. **Sam Stockman** won a gold medal in the Year 3/4 race.

## Staff

**Keith Dunkley, Debbie Gibson, Zoe Hall, Ruth Pownall and Melanie Turner**, who are all preparing for weddings during the summer holidays.

## Former chair of governors

**Mr William Bromley-Davenport** who has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from the University of Chester.



# The fruits of success

They came, they saw, they conquered. We're used to winners in all arenas at King's but, even so, it was very gratifying to have victories in three demanding contests last term.

The Classics joust took place in Manchester, where a host of the region's leading schools gathered for the fray at Withington Girls' School. Thirteen year-old Alex Smith saw off competition from forty contestants to win the Latin Reading Competition, which is run annually by the Manchester Classical Association. Alex, who eventually wants to study Latin at Oxford, read two unseen passages and impressed the judges with her understanding.



As far as Alex is concerned, there is no question of Latin being a dead language: 'It is alive in every western European language and is the cornerstone of how we communicate.' She isn't alone in her appreciation of the enduring fascination and relevance of the subject: Latin has undergone a revival in recent years at King's. Over fifty students now study it at GCSE, with many progressing to A Level.

## Soda power

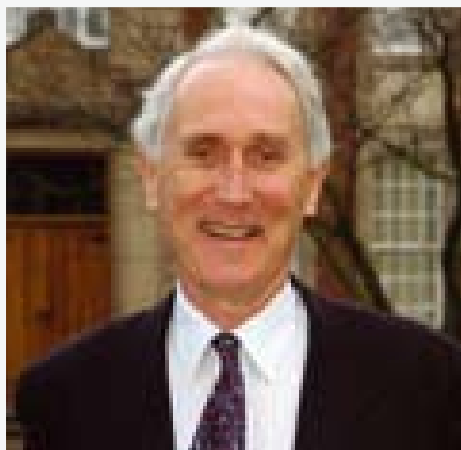
The second academic duelling ground was Physics. Over twenty schools from the North West battled it out for the Paperclip Physics Award, a highly regarded competition run every year by the Institute of Physics. The objective was to explain a concept in its simplest form. King's scientists triumphed with a demonstration of rocket propulsion. Their dramatised – and dramatic – presentation made use of everyday objects, from the ironing board and rubber bands shown here to a skateboard and a soda siphon. According to student Dom Hall, the theory of the Conservation of Momentum is actually child's play: 'You throw fuel out of one end to produce momentum at the other...'

## No mean feat

And, finally, Ben Hope in Year 6 was awarded a Bronze Medal for his superb performance in the national Primary Maths Challenge for Junior Schools, putting him in the top 0.3% of 110,000 children who competed from over 2,900 schools.

What is clear from all three successes is the satisfaction and pleasure our students derive from tackling rigorous subjects in a stimulating environment. These are the real prizes.





### New Chair of Governors

Professor Michael Burdekin was elected Chair of Governors following the recent retirement of Mr Bromley-Davenport. Professor Burdekin has been a governor at King's for over twenty years and has most recently served as Chair of the Education Committee, a task now taken over by Mr David Moore, a retired headteacher and former member of staff. Professor Burdekin has been in education for nearly thirty years as Professor of Civil and Structural Engineering at UMIST/University of Manchester, following periods in industrial research and the construction industry. We wish him every success with his new duties.

### Sixth Form Upgrade

The school has obtained planning permission to rebuild the Sixth Form block and the governors have agreed to put the work out to tender. If this stage of proceedings goes smoothly, building work could start in the autumn. Obviously we shall keep you informed of developments in this exciting new venture.

## Former Pupils' Association

### Former Pupils News

We are sad to report the death of George Frith, captain of the 1934 1st XV, who was pictured in last term's newsletter.

Frank Scott has written to the school, reminding us that he played in the first rugby XV that ever took to the field at King's. Frank is 92 years young and is likely to be our oldest living rugby player. Can anyone better this claim?

Thursday 18 May	Golf Day Wilmslow Golf Club
Friday 26 May	Golf Frank Moore Trophy & Geoff Dakin Salver 1.00 pm Prestbury Golf Club
Wednesday 5 July	Golf Inter-School Old Boys Trophy 1.00 pm Bramhall Golf Club

### Scholarships

After another very successful 11+ entry round, we are delighted to announce the following scholarships for pupils entering the senior school this September: Christopher Hanak (King's Juniors), Bethany James (St Edward's Catholic Primary), Lara Knowles (King's Juniors), Molly Laker (Brabyns), Holly Pinkham (King's Juniors), Lauren Rousseau (Mellor Primary), Amy Sanderson (Broken Cross), Rio Tuli (Styal Primary). Congratulations to them and to all successful pupils.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 25 May	Year 13 Leavers' Morning Derby Fields
13-15 June	Years 7, 8, 9 Internal Examinations
Friday 16 June	No School for Pupils Teaching Staff Marking Day
Friday 23 June	Friends of King's Summer Ball 7.30 pm Hunting Lodge, Adlington Hall
Tuesday 27 June	Cricket v MCC 11.30 am King's Sings Concert 7.30 pm Methodist Church Infant Welcome Evening 7.00 pm
Wednesday 28 June	Girls' New Year 7 Welcome Evening Fence Avenue
Thursday 29 June	Boys' New Year 7 Welcome Evening Cumberland Street
Friday 30 June	Junior School Walk Junior School Talent Show Sixth Form Leavers' Ball 6.30 pm Shrigley Hall
Monday 3 July	Big Band Concert 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
Tuesday 4 July	Junior School Welcome Afternoon
Wednesday 5 July	King's Taster Day
Thursday 6 July	Junior Prize Presentation 1.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall Junior Summer Concert 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
Friday 7 July	Term ends at lunchtime
Thursday 17 August	AS & A2 Results Day
Thursday 24 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)