



# King's Colours

Autumn 2006

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

## Head's letter

*This is a very exciting time as the new Sixth Form Centre is under construction to give pupils state-of-the-art facilities for the pinnacle of their school career. More details of this project are to be found late on in this newsletter. As well as this, the exceptionally impressive A Level results from last year have been bettered this summer. Perusing The Times and Daily Telegraph in August showed that, by one measure or another at this level, King's outperformed all the independent co-educational schools in Manchester and every independent school in East Cheshire. It is then no surprise that we now find ourselves in great demand, with the numbers in the King's Foundation being at their highest in all my time here. We could not have had a better start to the year and I hope you enjoy reading these pages.*



Stephen Coyne

## A LEVEL BONANZA

Well, we thought last year's academic results (a 10% increase in A/B grades over the previous record) were stunning but this year's are even more remarkable. In yet another new record at A Level, King's has achieved a 100% pass rate, with 73% of the grades at A or B. No fewer than 38% of the results awarded were As.

There were some truly outstanding individual performances too. Nick Petty netted half a dozen top grades: three As in A Level Economics, Chemistry and Mathematics, and three more in AS Physics, History and General Studies. Katherine Harrison and Elizabeth Conway were both among the top five students in the country in their A Level Biology exams, as was Lily Dunlop in Art and Design (pictured right). Nine students obtained four A grades at A Level and 25 achieved three A grades or better.

At GCSE, 53% of the grades were A\* or A and an A\*-C pass rate of 97% was recorded. Stars were James Fox (ten A\* grades) and Emily Middleton (nine A\* grades). In all, 29 students – almost one in five pupils – collected straight A\*/A grades.





## Calling No 11

Could the Chancellor do with some advisers? Perhaps he should come to Macclesfield. Out of over 1,000 entries in the Institute of Economic Affairs national essay competition, four King's Sixth Form economists reached the top ten, with Tom Bamford (centre, front) taking second prize.



The question for debate was: 'The Government solution is invariably more of a problem than an answer.' Opinions ranged from Gareth Littler's passionate advocacy for leftwing social engineering to Kartikaya Bhatnagar's free market beliefs. Chris McCormick, like Tom, took a more centrist position, arguing that although Governments are not always perfect, there is a role for responsible intervention.

Economics teacher Lucy Hewitson paid tribute to the boys' achievement in a competition run by an internationally respected organisation. She also noted that they appeared to feel that Tom should take a communist approach and share his £500 prize equally...

## So long

Five members of the teaching staff retired at the end of last term. Between them, they made a massive contribution to the school. Keith Perriss arrived 31 years ago and became Head of Foundation PE, Senior Master and Chairman of the Common Room. Chris Buckland and Mike Hart both joined King's 27 years ago. Chris was Head of Biology and also taught Psychology; Mike was Head of Geography and involved with athletics and rugby. Bill Beatson and Anne Cohen arrived in the 1990s. Bill, Principal of the Boys' Division, went on to become Principal in charge of Staff Development; Anne Cohen was Senior Subject Teacher for Physics and Head of Year at the Girls' Division. All five are all staying in the vicinity, so we hope to see a lot of them during long and active retirements.



## Royal garden tour

There was a royal audience recently for King's Junior gardeners – a reward for their hard work growing plants for 'The Plot'. This prize-winning, Five a Day Fruit and Vegetable Show Garden was a project involving schools across Cheshire, organised by Reaseheath College. When the Duchess of Cornwall toured the garden at the college in Nantwich, pupils were invited to meet her and several from King's helped to form a welcome party. Rebecca Ions and Rose Adams showed the royal visitor some exotic coffee, banana and ginger plants in the Asian section and Rose's mother, Sophie, was also presented to Her Royal Highness. Sophie, a former Reaseheath garden design student, co-ordinated the seed-sowing activities at the school. Junior Division Principal Geoff Shaw praised the partnership with Reaseheath College as an enjoyable and valuable learning experience for the pupils.

## Expanding options

Last term it was a taster in the form of a Japanese Club, trialled in the Boys' and Girls' Divisions to gauge the likely popularity of learning the language. This term, Japanese has become part of the Sixth Form curriculum, with students able to study it during General Studies time. An AS in Government and Politics is now also an option in the Upper Sixth – all part of the school's drive to broaden the education on offer.



## Good psychology

It's official – King's students are the tops at Psychology. They have just won the *Good Schools' Guide* award for the best A Level Psychology results at independent schools across the country. A remarkable 93% achieved A or B at A Level in what is Britain's fastest growing academic subject.

Over 90 sixth formers are now studying it at the school and Head of Department Mick Brown attributes Psychology's popularity to the fact that it attracts students from the Arts, Sciences and Humanities. Pictured with Mick are students Ally Barter and Nicola Coveney.





## Making a splash

Literally and figuratively, 12 year-old Elizabeth Bell has made a splash in the art world. Competing against over 500 young sculptors nationwide, Elizabeth came first in the 11-13 age group of the National Schools' Sculpture Competition, winning a trophy and golden pebble for herself, and £2,500 for King's Art Department.

The work that so impressed the judges at the final in London is entitled 'Splash'. The theme of the competition was 'Recycling and the Environment' and Elizabeth produced a piece made entirely from garbage. An old bicycle wheel forms the base, while a cascade of water is made up of layers of sweet wrappers. Elizabeth intends Splash to suggest the disturbing impact that mankind is having on the environment and the hope that natural energy can be drawn from water. Remarkably, King's Girls' Division had another finalist in the top six: Jilly Clifford's work was also very highly commended.



## Book people

The Junior Division's first ever Book Week was a great success, with impromptu poetry readings by both pupils and staff, visits by parents and gap students and lots of activities. A particular favourite was Character Dressing Up Day, when everyone, even the teachers, came as a favourite character from a book.



## A fine performance

Upper Sixth student Sam Lea is feeling pretty pleased with himself: he has obtained Grade 8 in his music exams. This is not too unusual perhaps, but the multi-talented Sixth Former has achieved it in four different areas: piano, oboe, percussion and singing. And, as if this were not enough, they have all been awarded with distinction.

## The water run

King's youngest pupils have had a taste of the gruelling daily routine in many Third World countries. In a scheme to raise money for Oxfam, they were sponsored to ferry water to and fro across the playground. It gave them a memorable lesson in the struggle their counterparts in poor countries have just to meet basic needs.

The initiative was devised by Oxfam to raise funds to build classrooms in Africa and India. The Infant Department's hard work produced over £2,500 – enough to fund a new classroom, a teacher and resources. Pictured from left to right are Sebastian, Sarah, Chloe and Daniel.



## Congratulations to :

### Pupils:

**Jane Barratt** and **King's young musicians** who raised £2,000 for Cancer Research by holding a sponsored practice-a-thon

**Jonathan Burman** and **Emily Middleton**, who have been selected as winners of the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2006. They will be presented with their prizes at the Globe Theatre in London on National Poetry Day in October.

**Adie Cook** on her selection for the RYA Transition training programme

**Tom Livesley**, runner up in the Macclesfield & District Billiards Final

**Jennifer Pinches** who came 6th in the National Gymnastic competition for her performance on the Bar

**Hannah Smith** who came in the top 25% of pupils in Europe in the Mathematics competition

**The Girls' Division** who raised £200 for the Linx project by holding an African party

**The U15 Girls' team**, winners of the Cheshire round of the English Schools Athletics Cup

The many pupils selected to play for their counties during the summer

### Former pupils:

**Jonathan Gartside** (studying Engineering at Balliol College, Oxford), who is one of two engineers at the university selected for an exchange with Princeton University

**David Johnson** (studying Law at Mansfield College, Oxford) who has been awarded a scholarship for the outstanding quality of his work.

### Staff and former staff:

**Mrs Nicola Few**, on the birth of her baby daughter, Rebecca

**Andrew Green**, for completing a six hour 'Mozart Marathon' and raising vital funds for Christian Relief Uganda

**Miss Victoria Mauro**, now Mrs. Jackson, who got married in July

**Mrs Valerie White** on becoming Senior Teacher in charge of Staff Development

**Graham Wilson**, whose new book *A Rope of Writers* has been short-listed for The Boardman Tasker Prize

## County Cup

A stunning maiden century from Alex Thomson secured the County Cup for King's U12 team – the first time King's has won the competition in its eleven-year history. On their way to the final, they beat sides from Culcheth, Wilmslow, Sandbach and Wirral Grammar School before playing King's School Chester. Chester had scored 145 in 30 overs when Alex, a Staffordshire Schools player, took the game by the scruff of the neck. He scored 104 not out as King's surpassed the target with only two wickets down. Alex's innings was the defining contribution but he also took 2 for 10 from 6 overs with



a superb catch. Captain Tom Foreman scored 27 runs. The team will go on to represent Cheshire next year in the national U13 competition which involves other county champions.

## Expedition to Ecuador

After two years raising money (activities ranged from running half marathons to raising and selling cattle), seventeen sixth formers set off for a month in Ecuador. The first week was spent at a small school in the village of Apuella, where they painted murals, built terraced gardens, cleaned roofs and helped teach English, as well as playing football, swimming in the river and learning to dance salsa at the village fiesta. The group then headed into the Andes to trek through cloud forests and volcanoes as acclimatisation for the attempt to climb the 15,500ft Ruminahui volcano. After a brief return through Quito, they

spent three days hacking through forests, rescuing injured dogs and avoiding giant cactus plants in Cotapaxi national park before finally setting off to the volcano. The entire ascent was under blue skies, with fantastic views of Cotapaxi, the world's highest active volcano, as well as eight more snow-capped peaks, and the whole party reached the summit. They then headed east into the Amazon basin for a four-day trek in the rain forest, along with tarantulas and lemon ants. After a day's white-water rafting, the trip ended with a visit to the equator and shopping in South America's biggest market.





# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

You can sense the anticipation and excitement in the air. Work began as soon as school ended in July and is now well under way. The project? A superb £2.5 million development scheme at Cumberland Street. Not only will it provide King's sixth formers with an impressive new home but it will also house various departments and a brand new drama studio. Work is expected to take at least two terms and, all being well, everything should be ready in time for the start of the academic year 2007.

Of course, this is just the latest in a line of major investments which have transformed King's in recent years. At Fence Avenue, the establishment of the Girls' and Junior Divisions was quickly hailed as a remarkable success story, soon followed by the setting up of the Infants' Department, another very popular initiative. The new development at Cumberland Street will ensure that the facilities for students in the Boys' and Sixth Form Divisions are also of the highest standard – as befits a school with over 500 years of tradition.





## Silver rose

Only a few years after it was launched to celebrate King's 500th anniversary, the Kingsmacc rose has won a Silver Medal at The Hague Rose Trials. The rose, bred by Fryer's Roses of Knutsford, was chosen from thousands of international entries.

Gareth Fryer recalls Gill Turner, then Vice Principal of the Sixth Form and a keen horticulturalist, arriving at the nursery to choose the new Quincentenary rose. There were several on offer but Gill was captivated by the variegated hybrid in peach, honey and apricot. With Kingsmacc's early success, Fryers now have their sights set on gold.



## Bursaries and scholarships

Stephanie Lowndes is the first student to win the I A Wilson Economics Scholarship. As the most successful student in the L6 Economics examinations, she received her prize from Ian Wilson at the school's prize-giving ceremony.

The Basil Dean Sixth Form Science Bursary will be awarded during this school year in honour of R B Rawsthorn, who taught science to Basil Dean at King's many years ago.

## Former Pupils' Association



### Former Pupils News

Clare Winstanley, who played rugby at King's, has carried on the tradition at university. Despite being a fresher, she has played for Loughborough University Women's 1st XV, one of the leading university teams. This is a remarkable achievement at such an early stage in her career.

7 December	KSMFPA AGM & Hotpot Supper 7.30 pm Old Boys' Club
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17 December	KSMFPA Rugby Festival Macclesfield RFC
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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

23-27 October	Half Term Holiday
15 November	Year 8 Music Evening 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
16 November	Year 4 Pantomime 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
21 November	Year 11 Parents' and Pupils' AS Options 6.00 pm Cumberland Street Hall
23 November	Autumn Orchestral & Band Concert 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
24 November	Infant Fun Night
30 November	Charity Fashion Show 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
1 December	Junior Christmas Concert 7.15pm Fence Avenue Hall
4 December	Year 9 Parents' GCSE Options Evening 6.00 pm Cumberland Street Hall
5 December	Chester Cathedral Carol Service 8.00 pm
7 December	Infants' Christmas Concert
9 December	Christmas Concert with NCO 7.30 pm Heritage Centre
14 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 Parish Church
15 December	Term ends for Seniors (half 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)