



King's Colours

Autumn 2007

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Head's letter

I normally write at this time about the tremendous success of our students in their GCSEs and A levels. Indeed, this year we have many impressive events to note. However, our enjoyment of all these achievements has been tempered by the terrible tragedy that occurred over the summer.



The loss of James Painton, hit by a car in Argentina during the recent rugby tour, was a terrible tragedy and our thoughts and condolences go to his parents and Sophie, his sister at this traumatic time. The memorial service was a very moving occasion at which staff and pupils spoke fondly of their memories of a supremely cheerful and likeable young man.

It is hard to find positive outcomes in such a situation but I was very impressed and proud of the reaction of colleagues and pupils who rallied round to help support the Paintons, as well as each other. I am particularly grateful to all the staff involved for their efforts under extremely distressing circumstances. This was a better measure of a school than any sets of results could ever be.

Rest in peace, James, our thoughts are with you.

Stephen Coyne

BREAKING RECORDS

The country's top marks in no fewer than thirteen GCSEs were scooped by six King's students this summer.

Stars of the show were Sarah Gales, Hannah Hills, Natasha Perry and Rebecca Sugden, who all gained a straight ten A*s. In addition, Sarah Gales (pictured right) gained top marks in five different subjects – Chemistry, Maths, French, Spanish and Statistics. (This incredible achievement is all the greater given that she is only 15 and has been working a year ahead of her peer group.) Hannah Hills attained top marks in Maths and French, Rebecca Sugden in French and Spanish and Natasha Perry in Maths. Other high fliers were Katherine North, with top marks in French and Maths, and Joschka Roffe (Year 10) with top marks in his German.

At GCSE, two significant statistics were better than recent years: the percentage of A*/A grades, which reached a superb 54%, and the percentage of grades achieved at A*–C, which was 98%. In all, 33 students – almost one in five pupils at the school – collected straight A*/A grades.



A level results were also record-breaking, with a 100% pass rate for the sixth year running. A remarkable 43% of all passes were at A grade, and 73% at A/B level. Joe Ryan and Andrew Gales gained four A levels and two AS levels, all at grade A, and Peter Tutton and Matthew Shribman excelled by each achieving five A levels at A grade. Other notable successes included eleven students gaining at least four A grades and one quarter of the year group (29 students) achieving three straight A grades or better.





Rock around the clock

What a way to end the school year! With the 1950s as the theme, the Girls' Division hall was packed with 200 girls drinking ice-cream sodas and jiving in flared skirts and bobby sox. With a highlights sequence from *Grease* and an inter-house quiz on the decade, £400 was raised for the Born Free Foundation and a Congleton-based charity, Children of Romania. This term the Girls' Division aims to raise £1700 to build a classroom in Africa.

Pictured right are Anna Beesley, Alex Howlett, Flora Woodruff (fancy dress winner) and Emily Gosling.



Designs on the future

Sir Richard Arkwright might have raised a disbelieving eyebrow but, over 200 years after his death, many of the sought-after scholarships named in his honour are being awarded to girls. King's student Gemma Lord (above) is one, winning £500 for her two years in the Sixth Form – and £450 for the Design and Technology Department. The awards are to encourage top students to take up careers in design and engineering. Gemma, one of nearly 800 applicants, clearly impressed the judges during an aptitude test, a team exercise and a board interview. The Chief Executive of the Arkwright Scholarships Trust, Linda Scott, described her as a talented and motivated young woman and an ideal candidate.

Gemma, who hopes to become a product designer working on the aesthetics of furniture or cars, will be presented with her award at a ceremony at the Institute of Engineering and Technology in London, in October.



Making the cut in California

Teeing off with golfers from all over the world at the under-14 World Championships in California this summer was a marvellous experience for James Spencer. With a handicap of four and hoping to get down to scratch in the next two years, he was the highest placed British player. Competing against a field of 150 young golfers at the Riverwalk Golf Club in San Diego, James made the cut with rounds of 75 and 76 before carding a 73 to finish a highly creditable 28th.

Sculptor Laura wins national prize

Driftwood, spaghetti and insulation foam, transformed into a striking sculpture, proved a winner for 12 year-old Laura Horne. Her confident and original piece won the 11–13 category and gained £2,500 for King's Art Department. The national Sculpture 4 You competition was held at the Royal Society for British Sculpture's Kensington studios, with a brief to use recyclable materials to warn of the dangers of global warming to coral reefs. Laura's ultimate aim is to become an architect and design some memorable buildings. Meanwhile, her art teachers have promised to spend some of the prize money on specialist art materials so she can continue to indulge her passion for 3D work.



Birds, beasts and song

Donkeys and dogs, cats and roosters, robbers, woodland folk and narrators... every infant had a part to play in the Summer Concert. In a tale of four animals that take to the road in search of adventure, Max Turner, Alice Robinson, Natasha Salem and Toby Spencer Pickup starred in the main roles and each class performed a special song and dance, to the great delight of the audience.



It's a centurion's life

How was it possible for an army of only 400,000 men to rule most of the known world? All was made clear to King's Classics students when latter-day Roman soldier Jefficus vividly recreated the life of a centurion stationed on Hadrian's Wall. Demonstrations of Roman weaponry and battlefield tactics brought home the discipline, training and organisation necessary for Rome's success; the entertaining lecture also highlighted two ancient imperial scourges: inflation and traffic gridlock.

Jefficus (aka Jeff Barret) is pictured left with Jenny Wilson and Joe Traynor.

Wicket wizard

The school's triumph in the Cheshire county final was made especially memorable by wicket keeper Alex Thomson. The 13 year-old took a record-breaking five stumpings off the bowling of Hannah Gradwell, Greg Eyre, Phil Gibson and Callum Jones before going on to score 45. The opposition, Caldway Grange, were beaten by nine wickets.

Alex (right), who has only played cricket since the age of 10, is already a Staffordshire county player and represents Leek at various age levels.



Charity and birthday bash

The Infants' annual Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief was even more of an event this year as it was combined with the Infants' 10th birthday celebrations. The distinguished guests included staff who helped to set up the department in 1997. The choir sang, pupils from the very first intake shared their memories and Year

Two children served drinks and sold raffle tickets. Birthday celebration packs, including car stickers, mouse mats and key rings, are available at £10.



Sights on the Olympics

Not one but two Olympic hopefuls! Pictured left are biathlete Hannah Hills and gymnast Jenni Pinches. Thirteen year-old Jenni has come home from the UK Gymnastics School Games with an astonishing haul of medals: the overall title in the under-18 competition, golds in the asymmetric bars, floor and beam, and a silver in the vault. Jenni trains in Liverpool with world champion Beth Tweddle for 28 hours every week and is looking forward to the 2012 Olympics in London.

Meanwhile Hannah is competing in the World Championships in Monaco. After university the Sixth Former, ranked number two in Britain for her age group, aims to represent Britain in the Modern Pentathlon at the 2116 Olympics.



Congratulations to:

Pupils:

Rebecca Bamford, Hannah Hills, Matthew Parris, Howard Shribman and **Joseph Traynor** who represented Cheshire Schools Athletics Association at the Mason Trophy Meeting in Birmingham.

Harry Stewart who played for the U13 NW England hockey squad in a tournament at Nottingham University.

Dmitri Whitmore, aged 9, who won second place in The Times under 12 Junior Sudoku Championship.

Junior Division Choir who won the Year 6 and under Choir Class at Alderley Edge Music Festival.

Staff:

The Head of Foundation, elected Chair of North West HMC 2007-8.

Chris O'Donnell on his marriage to Nicola Chadwick

Andy Rice, Head of Rugby, who obtained an A* grade in GCSE Spanish, and **Christine Morton**, Head of Spanish, for her A* Italian GCSE and achieving one of the top five marks in the country.

The following staff and their partners, on the births of their babies: **Kirstin & Simon Bailey, Ann Hunt & Paul Little** and **Colin and Rachel Richards**.

Former Pupils:

Emma Bentley, awarded a First in Modern Languages & Linguistics from Jesus College, Oxford.

Lucy Collier and **Claire Percival**, awarded Firsts in Medical Science, and Philip Felton, awarded a first-class M Math degree, all from St Andrew's University.

Elizabeth Conway, awarded the Prettjohn Senior Scholarship by Emmanuel College, Cambridge, having gained a First in her first-year exams.

Jonathan Gartside, awarded a First by Balliol College, Oxford, having gained the highest mark in the university in his final exams in engineering.

Sarah Greenhough, awarded a First in Medical Sciences with Psychology from UCL.

Alexandra Hill, awarded a First in English Literature from Durham University.

David Illingworth, awarded a First in English from Worcester College, Oxford, achieving the highest mark in English at Oxford this year.

Helen Sullivan, awarded a First in Economics & Social Studies from Manchester University.



Engineering challenges

Six local schools visited King's for an engineering challenge day. The 72 students were asked to design self-righting emergency buoy, a fuel cell for a car of the future and a robot that would follow a course without external help. The day was a huge success and Macclesfield mayor Barry Burkhill presented prizes to the winning team, including King's students, who will compete in the national finals in London.



Space odyssey

Following in the footsteps of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, John Glen et al, Lydia Rex of the Girls' Division spent two weeks at the NASA laboratories in Alabama this summer. Lydia, a Texan who has lived in Cheshire for the last four years, recrossed the pond to take part in the camp with young space

enthusiasts from all over the world. Weightlessness, astrophysics and cutting edge engineering were all on the agenda and confirmed Lydia's ambition to become an astronaut. She already has an A* GCSE in Astronomy (after just one year's study) and plans to take a medical degree, as a useful launch pad into her chosen career.

Primary champs

Junior Division athletes have won the overall title at Macclesfield Primary Schools Championships. In a keenly contested meeting at the Leisure Centre, the boys' team won their title and the girls came a creditable third in theirs.



Sixth Form Centre for the 21st century

King's Sixth Form moved into its new home this September and a link lasting over half a millennium between the Bromley-Davenport family and the school was gloriously commemorated. William Bromley-Davenport, Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire and former Chair of Governors, officially opened the new centre, which has been named in his honour. Guests and staff were joined at the celebrations by three generations of Bromley-Davenports, whose forebears Rauf and William Davenport were among the governors of the school founded by Sir John Percyvale just 505 years earlier.

It was a memorable ceremony and a great start for a splendid new building. Already much admired by staff, pupils and visitors, the centre has a magnificent entrance hall, fine, purpose-built classrooms and a superb drama studio. Perhaps most remarkable of all is the sheer amount of space available for sixth formers, including a huge common room and a dedicated computer work room.

But undoubtedly the most popular with the students, and fast proving an excellent feature of Sixth Form life, is the café, which is extremely busy at break and lunchtime. Next to it is a picnic area, also much frequented when weather permits. Possibly destined to be less popular is Mr Andrew's electronic notice board, which allows him to transmit reminders about deadlines etc. We have yet to see how well this goes down.





Early cricket at King's

Thanks to the generosity of Tony Laughton, the school archive has been given a remarkable old photograph. Taken by Bullock & Sons of Macclesfield between 1865–1867, it shows the Macclesfield New Free Grammar School Cricket Club. It is a fascinating portrait of one of the very earliest King's School cricket teams and an extremely rare image of mid-Victorian sporting costume.

The players are assembled on the step of the current school library, at that time the main school building. Seated in the front are J B Bromley, who went to Wadham College, Oxford, W Norbury, who went to Brasenose College, Oxford, and E A Sanford. The other young men from left to right are William Young, H Stringer, H E Bridgman, J Wright, A W May, H L Coulton, W Bullock (perhaps the son of the photographic firm) and C E Russell. It has been suggested that this may be the oldest English school cricket team photograph, apart from those of Eton and Harrow.

Commemorative wooden jigsaws

Top quality jigsaws commemorating 150 years of cricket at King's are still available from the School Shop at £25.00 each or by post at £30.00. The jigsaws are of traditional wooden construction and have each been signed by England cricket coach Peter Moores. All profits go to the King's Bursary fund.

Former Pupils' Association

Database of Former Pupils

The Head of Foundation has begun a systematic exercise to locate all former pupils, starting with recent year groups. Those who are members of the Former Pupils' Association will have received a letter so that records can be updated but an attempt is also being made to ensure that all other former pupils receive the school newsletter. If you know the address of any old boy or girl who fits into this category, please send details to Dr Coyne at the School.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8 November	KSMFPA Annual Dinner Hunting Lodge, Adlington
17 November	Northern Outposts Dinner Edinburgh
6 December	KSMFPA AGM 7.30 pm Sixth Form Centre

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17 October	Friends of King's AGM 7.30 pm Alan Cooper Library
14 November	Year 8 Boys' Music Evening 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
15 November	Year 4 Pantomime 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
22 November	Autumn Concert 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
23 November	Infant Fun Night Fence Avenue Hall
24 November	Friends of King's Christmas Fair 1.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
29 November	Charity Fashion Show 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
30 November	Junior Christmas Concert 7.15pm Fence Avenue Hall
7 December	Friends of King's Juniors/Infants Disco/Cheese & Wine Fence Avenue Hall
10 December	King's Sings for Christmas 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 Parish Church
14 December	Term ends for Seniors (half day) Senior Divisions' Carol Service am St Michael's Parish Church

Admissions

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