



King's Colours

Autumn 2009

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Head's letter



It was really good to be able to report in the January edition that the number of pupils in the Foundation is at a record level. This is a difficult time financially and it is encouraging

to enter such a period in a position of strength and confidence. We are very aware of the sacrifices that many parents are making to guarantee the continuity of their children's education and I hope this newsletter helps to show why such sacrifices are worthwhile.

The school has been on a remarkable journey academically over the last ten years and the record GCSE and A level results are evidence of how far we have come. In the context of a very tough year for university entry, almost all our Upper Sixth Formers have obtained a place, usually at their first choice of university.

We will soon have hard evidence of our progress as the Independent Schools Inspection team will arrive in November and I will report back on their findings next term. Meanwhile, enjoy reading about our recent successes!

Stephen Coyne

Sarah, 'the best young biochemist in the world'

Eminent scientist Norma Bainbridge, Chair of the British Biology Olympiad, named 17 year-old Sarah Gales 'the best young biochemist in the world' after the Upper Sixth Former came top in a challenging practical examination at the Biology Olympiad in Japan this summer. Sarah, one of a team of four chosen from 1800 candidates to represent the UK, went on to win a silver medal.



That was only the start of her success. When results day came, Sarah found she had gained straight As in all five of her A levels, as well as achieving the highest marks in the country in Chemistry. With her place at Jesus College well and truly confirmed, she's off to Cambridge this autumn to read Natural Sciences.

All ten King's Sixth Formers with Oxbridge offers also had good reason to celebrate: each and every one of them achieved their required grades. There were many other smiling faces besides, as staff and students rejoiced in the school's best ever A level results. For the eighth year running, the pass rate was 100% and 76% of all grades were at A or B.

Jubilation continued the following week with the GCSE results. Once again, they set a new record, with 62% of all grades at A*/A, while forty-two students gained nine straight A*/A grades or better.

The Infants and Juniors were delighted with their Key Stage 1 and 2 results. The writing results at Key Stage 1 were particularly pleasing: following the introduction of a new scheme, they have shown a marked improvement over the last couple of years. Although internally marked, these progress tests are rigorously conducted, and at both stages the pupils achieved marvellous results – well above national averages.



Challenging the Chancellor

Three Girls' Division economists have taken on the Chancellor – and won! Elizabeth Bell, Amy Higinbotham and Elizabeth Jessop beat opposition from hundreds of schools nationwide to win the annual Schools' Challenge the Chancellor competition. Between them, they set out redesigning the tax system to enable more teenagers to get into full and part time work by simplifying the P45 system, helping children understand how tax works, and ensuring payment on a chip and card, pay as you earn basis.

As well as winning £300 for the school's own economics think tank, the girls were invited to lunch in the City with the country's government and banking glitterati.



Flying high

Sixth former Jonty Marshall had an important appointment this summer. After winning an Air League flying scholarship in a rigorous competitive examination at RAF Cranwell, he was invited to a reception at Buckingham Palace to meet the League's Patron, Prince Philip.

Jonty, who also secured a prestigious three-month summer work placement with aviation innovators Lockheed Martin, is to study Aeronautical Engineering at Imperial College.



Infant readers

The infants are to have their own dedicated library. A small extension has been built to house the Infant Offices, freeing up a quiet space where the infants can research and investigate books. This flexible area will also provide display facilities for the children's creative work.

Minibeast sculpture triumph

Using materials ranging from tyre levers to milk cartons, three Boys' Division pupils have won the Robert Bowman Sculpture Award – and a cheque for £2500 for King's Art Department. Elliot Doy, David Marchington and Alex Moore also received a prize of £50 each for their highly original and imaginative pieces. Elliot used tyre levers, screws and screw caps to produce a superb metallic spider and David, who lives on a farm, took a dung beetle as his inspiration, soldering his minutely detailed copper wire creation onto an old copper disc. Meanwhile Alex Moore fashioned a fabulous prehistoric arthropleura, now commonly known as a centipede, with a combination of milk cartons and rawl plugs. The stunning sculptures were exhibited in the Robert Bowman Gallery in London over the summer.



Helicopter heroics

Record-breaking pilot Jennifer Murray captivated her audience at King's with tales of epic flights. Although she did not start flying helicopters until she was 54, she now holds the Guinness world records for circumnavigation of the globe, both east to west and north to south. But what held her young audience particularly spell-bound was the story of her crash in Antarctica and the dramatic rescue which followed.



A really wild bunch

After weeks of rehearsing, the Infants enjoyed their respective moments of fame at the Infant Concert. Performed in front of an admiring audience in a packed Fence Avenue Hall, the chosen musical was 'The Wild Bunch'. The children appeared as a variety of weeds battling for space in their patch at the bottom of the garden. The costumes were colourful, the singing and dancing enthusiastic – particularly a splendid Gay Gordons performed by 2ELW appearing as creeping thistles – and the acting expressive. The audience was delighted!



Young violinist

It was a great summer for young violinist Laura Embrey. Then only in Year 7, she scooped two trophies at the Alderley Edge Music Festival: the Knocker Cup in the Strings Orchestral Solo category (open to competitors from Years 7 – 13) and the Roskill Medal for her 'outstanding' repertoire. She also regained the Junior String Recital title.



Equestrian squad

Since it was set up two years ago, the Equestrian squad has gone from strength to strength. With over twenty members across all four Divisions, the squad has enjoyed many successes, including winning twelve rosettes at the Interschool Show Jumping Challenge in May, and beating ten other schools to take second



place. Individual members have also done extremely well. Pictured is Josh Rhodes (13MTH), who competed at the One Day International event at Chatsworth.

In October the squad will compete in an Interschool Dressage Competition. Meanwhile, they enjoy farm rides and training sessions for dressage and show jumping at all levels.



Big Top trainees

As a grand finale to their circus topic last term, Nursery pupils showed off their newly acquired skills to an enthusiastic audience of parents and carers. After the exciting display everyone sampled clown cakes made by the children.

Compleat Angler

After an impressive performance at the national championships in Cambridgeshire, fly fisherman Dominic Sheratte represented England at a Home Nations event at Llandegfedd in South Wales in August. The England team finished first and Dominic has already been selected for next year's event.



Jubilant Jenni

Jenni Pinches' Olympic dream came a step closer when she won the Junior British Gymnastics Championships and was selected for the Great Britain Youth Olympic squad. The squad travelled to Finland in July to take part in the European Youth Olympic Festival.



County captain

This summer Boys' Division cricketer Alex Thomson added the captaincy of the Staffordshire U15 to his other cricketing roles. He was already an established member of King's 1st XI and the Leek U15 and U17 XIs. Alex has also been appointed Sports Prefect at King's and will be helping to organise and supervise tournaments.



Congratulations to:

Junior Pupils

Thomas Huddy and **John Le Moignan**, who won the regional final of the K-nex Challenge competition in Manchester.

Nathan Jones, Matthew Peakman, Jacob Percival and **George Phelan** who, as part of the Macclesfield RUFC U11 team, won the U11 Cheshire County Cup, the NW and Midlands Area Championship, and were the National U11 Championship Plate Winners at Twickenham.

Alex Krajewski, who won a gold medal for high jump at the AJIS Athletics championships in Blackpool, and the **Junior Athletics team** who won the boys', girls' and combined team trophies at the Macclesfield and District Primary Schools' Athletics.

Senior Pupils

Peter Jackson, who participated in the National Shooting Squad of the Army Cadet Corps in Portsmouth.

King's cheerleading teams, **Kittens, Simbas** and **Lions**, who became National Champions in their age groups at the Manchester Velodrome.

King's cricketers who have won representative honours: **T Foreman** (Cheshire U15), **H Gradwell** (Cheshire U15, U17 girls, Cheshire ladies), **A Hodgson** (Cheshire U15 and North England Trial), **J Marsden** (Derbyshire U17) and **A Siddall** (Manchester Boys).

Alison Smith, who scored the highest mark ever achieved at King's for Geography A level and achieved a distinction on the Advanced Extension Award paper.

Charlotte Stafford, who has qualified for the Cheshire U16 County elite netball squad, and **Luisa Bianchi, Jenny Calnan, Megan Jones, Emily Pasquale** and **Katie Powell** who have qualified for the Satellite squad.

Former Pupils

First Class degrees: **John Hardy** (Computer Science Innovation, Lancaster; John has also won the Chancellor's Medal), **David Kennerley** (History, Worcester College, Oxford), **David North** (Computer Science, Magdalen College, Oxford), **James Partington** (Business Management, Nottingham), **Hannah Shaw** (Law, Newcastle) and **Katie Usher** (Psychology, Nottingham).

Gemma Lord, who reached the national final of the MTA Manufacturing Technologies competition.

Elliott Purdom, who has signed a contract to play soccer for Rochester Thunder in the USA (an ambition since school days).

Joe Ryan, re-awarded a Senior Exhibition by Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in recognition of his repeated good performances in Natural Sciences examinations.

Staff

Rachael Burrows, on becoming European Cheerleading Champion.

Lorraine Cunliffe and husband Mark, on the birth of a son, Adam Jamie.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

Home or abroad, cultural or sporting, trips are part of the ongoing way of life at King's. As well as the obvious benefits – mixing with new people, trying out new languages, seeing history and geography come to life – pupils gain insights into a whole range of local and global issues.

The last *King's Colours* gave a brief snapshot of just some of the globetrotting so far this year: the classicists visited Rome and Sorrento and the historians St Petersburg; hockey players were active in South Africa and skiers tested the snow slopes of Colorado. Trips continued well into the summer, from surfing in Cornwall and sailing in Cumbria to a stay in a French chateau and a voyage down the Rhine.

A regular feature of the school calendar, and one which never fails to enlighten and move, is the tour of the First World War battlefields. This July, 50 pupils and five members of staff visited Ypres and the Somme. Pictured is Alice Ross of the Girls' Division beside the grave of her great grandfather.

In sport, overseas tours allow pupils to measure their skills in wholly new arenas and this year 44 rugby players visited New Zealand. On South Island, as well as three matches, they took part in night skiing, white water rafting and helicopter and speedboat rides. On North Island, they played St Pat's Town in Wellington, a predominantly Polynesian school that has produced several All Blacks. In a grip-

ping game, they pulled off a 16-15 victory and returned to the UK undefeated and much the richer for their experiences.

But travel and exploration on the most significant scale happen on the biennial Sixth Form expeditions to such remote parts of the world as the Mongolian desert and the mountains of Bolivia. These intensely rewarding experiences can make huge demands on the students' reserves of enterprise, self-reliance and endurance but add immeasurably to their maturity and understanding. Next summer's expedition is to Borneo, where the students will trek, canoe and drive through the unspoilt rainforest for a month, work in local schools and visit orang-utan sanctuaries and the famous bat caves.



Golf Day

The Former Pupils' Association held their first annual Golf Day in aid of the Quincentenary Bursary Appeal in June. Seventy-six former pupils braved an early storm at Macclesfield Golf Club, then basked in glorious afternoon sunshine at an event superbly organised by Alan McInnes. It raised over £2,000 for the Appeal which assists able pupils of limited financial means. A similar event is planned for next year.

Pictured below with Dr Coyne are the winning team of Neil Drummond, Sam Baker, Steve Plews and Simon Carter, who each received a framed limited edition Geldart print of the school.



Welcome and farewell

King's is delighted to welcome back Mrs Caroline Hulme-McKibbin as Principal of the Junior Division, following Mr Geoff Shaw's decision to return to his first love, teaching mathematics. Mrs Hulme-McKibbin is well known to many parents, pupils and staff, as she first joined the Junior Division at its inception in 1993. She was later appointed Academic Head and Vice-Principal before moving to her first headship at Alderley Edge School for Girls.

The Junior Division bade an emotional farewell to Mr Shaw at an event in June involving many present and former colleagues. The Friends of King's Juniors and Infants also made a presentation at the end of year Junior Celebration in July. Happily, Mr Shaw is not lost to the school, as he will be teaching in the Girls' Division.



Former Pupils' News

Drinks and dinners

The Head of Foundation and several members of staff attended two excellent dinners in May. The Oxbridge meal for undergraduates (and some graduates) was in Oxford this year, followed by the London dinner a few weeks later. Both events received a report from the Head of Foundation about the splendid progress made by the school.

There are two social events for Former Pupils this term. John Blundell is once again throwing open the doors of the Institute of Economic Affairs in London for drinks and the Former Pupils' Annual Dinner will be at Prestbury Golf Club (a new venue for this event).

15 October	Former Pupils' Association Drinks in the City Reception 6.30 pm London
13 November	KSMFPA Annual Dinner 7.30 pm Prestbury Golf Club Contact JMSP for details
14 November	FPA Northern Outposts Dinner
9 December	KSMFPA AGM 7.00 pm Sixth Form Centre

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10 November	Instrumental Concert 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
18 November	Year 8 Boys' Music Concert 7.00 pm Cumberland Street Hall
19 November	Year 4 Pantomime 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
20 November	Friends of King's Beaujolais Evening 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
27 November	Friends of King's Infant Fun Night 6.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall
28 November	Friends of King's Christmas Fair 1.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
3 December	Charity Fashion Show 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
4 December	Junior Christmas Concert 7.15pm Fence Avenue Hall
5 December	Foundation Choir with NCO 7.30 pm Heritage Centre
9 December	Nursery Christmas Concert 10.00 am Fence Avenue Hall
10 December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Concert 2.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall Instrumental Concert 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
14 December	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 8.00 pm St Michael's Parish Church
15 December	Term ends for Infants and Juniors Junior Carol Service 2.00 pm
16 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