



# King's Colours

Autumn 2008

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

## Head's letter

*It is good to be able to write with such clear evidence of the success of the King's philosophy. This summer we obtained record GCSE scores, with the percentage of A/A\* grades at its highest ever, and super A level results. This is very pleasing and I would like to congratulate the staff and students involved. On top of this, the results at Key Stages 1 and 2 are superb, thanks to the hard work of the teachers.*



*This should be enough to celebrate for any school – but it is the combination of these academic achievements with successes outside the classroom that distinguishes King's at present. We have a world champion sailor in Elliott Hanson, a Great Britain rider in Alex Shaw, Jenny Pinches at the Olympic gymnastics in China, and national championship cheerleading teams at two age groups – and many more distinctions that I do not have room to list here.*

*King's is once again on the crest of a wave and also has another anniversary to celebrate. February 2009 represents the 100th anniversary of the opening of the building at Fence Avenue. A special Founders' Day celebration is happening on February 13th and we are delighted to announce that the Honourable Ann Widdecombe MP has agreed to speak at the service.*

*This should prove to be a memorable year at King's as we hit the high spots on a whole range of fronts. I hope that you enjoy reading about these successes in this newsletter.*

Stephen Coyne

## RECORD BREAKERS

GCSE and A level students celebrated superb examination results this summer and a new record was set. For the seventh year running there was a 100% pass rate at A level, with an impressive 71% of grades at A/B. Equally impressive were the A–C grades at 92%. There were many notable successes as one quarter of the year group (26 students) gained three straight A grades or better.

The GCSE results broke all previous records, reaching 57.4% A\*/A grades. A stunning 25% (47 students) gained nine straight A\*/A grades or better and across the whole Foundation there was much to celebrate as 97% of all GCSEs were at A\*–C grade.

Joschka Roffe deserves special mention as he achieved a spectacular eleven A\*s, but hot on his heels were James Boardman and Rosanna Jacot, each with ten A\*s. Lydia Rex gained eleven GCSEs (nine A\*s and two As), including an A\* in Astronomy which she took a year early in Year 10. Lydia, who wants to be an astronaut, spent last summer at space camp in America.



From left: Joschka, Lydia, James and Rosanna



## Student of the Year

Sixth Former Natalie Burns has won the Cheshire Young Enterprise Student of the Year award. After heading King's own young enterprise company, 'Innovation Textiles', she reached the Cheshire shortlist of six and endured a rigorous interview assessment before winning the glass trophy. Natalie, a great fan of Sir Alan Sugar and *The Apprentice*, is hoping to study Business Management at Nottingham University.



## All in a good cause

From Victoria to Delia – high-profile British women featured in two fundraising events last term.

The Girls' Division end-of-term fancy dress party celebrated The Greatest Women in History and raised £300 for the Genesis Breast Cancer Appeal. Queen Victoria was beaten into third place by winners Ellen MacArthur and crew (Alice Taylor and Charlotte Howlett) and runner-up Amy Winehouse (Rosie Taylor). Vice-Principal Val White, as suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst, got a special mention.

Sixth Form fundraisers, meanwhile, took their inspiration from Delia Smith's new cookbook *How to Cheat*. Their special food hamper, put together using ingredients from the book, raised over £500 in a raffle for Help the Aged.



## Gruffalo graphics

Infants had the rare chance to watch a top illustrator at work when Axel Scheffler spent a morning at the school. Famous worldwide for his drawings for *The Gruffalo*, he held the children spellbound as he told them a story, illustrating it as he went along. Afterwards the drawings were raffled at King's annual charity coffee morning to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Relief.



## Tuscan travels

Three Sixth Form art students have been selected for a Cheshire Education Gifted and Talented trip to Tuscany.

Wangui Wanjau, Olivia Howick and Gemma Lord (pictured left) will spend this coming half-term in the hills above Florence as part of a county-wide project to introduce creative young minds to the great art of Western civilisation.

They will visit all the galleries and cathedrals in Florence, Sienna and San Gimignano, while completing their own practical projects.

Wangui, who wants to study Architecture at Manchester, is looking forward to seeing the cathedrals and learning how they were constructed. Gemma Lord, who plans to take an Art Foundation Course, hopes to draw some of the great landscapes and Olivia Howick is focusing on a project to design a costume that fuses Marie Antoinette haute couture with latter-day punk.



## Concerts by the lake

The biennial summer tour is a highlight for King's singers and never fails to bring an extra edge of excellence to the Foundation Choir. This year, the spa town of Evian, on the shore of Lake Geneva, provided a charming base from which to sightsee and sing. French and Swiss audiences responded



## Masterchef

Top chef Paul Smith's life-skills course proved a huge success at the Girls' Division. A dozen aspiring chefs won a place on the six-week course, learning about nutrition, cookery, presentation and service. The grand finale was a feast served up to parents, governors, teachers and friends: sesame and Stilton cookies, paprika cheese straws, chilli fennel and pineapple salad, Swiss ice berries and white chocolate sauce, baby cottage pies and, of course, that British cultural icon, fish and chips...



enthusiastically to the choir's contagious *joie de vivre*, giving standing ovations at each concert. The singers also enjoyed impromptu busking in squares and market places, and endeared themselves further to the local people by giving presentations in French.

## Beside the sea

The Infants presented *Off on a Summer Holiday* as their July concert. The theme was a family enjoying a traditional seaside holiday at Mrs Valley's boarding house. The children took part in a sandcastle building competition, watched Punch and Judy and enjoyed a Pierrot show at the end of the pier. It was a colourful and humorous concert, much appreciated by the audience.



## Bridges to the future

King's new Arkwright scholar Laura Chatwin has a passion for bridges and tunnels, and her prestigious scholarship, awarded after a fiercely competitive selection process, will help her find the best work experience opportunities in engineering. It comes from the Arkwright Trust, which is dedicated to encouraging talented students to become the engineers of the future. The award gives Laura £250 a year for her Sixth Form career, as well as £800 to the school's DT department. Laura hopes to study Civil Engineering at Imperial College London.



## Bolivian bonanza

This summer 23 King's students spent a month travelling in Bolivia. The group climbed the 18,000-foot Pico Austria, swam with pink dolphins in the Amazon jungle, travelled across vast salt flats and helped build an orphanage and a school. The students also spent time in La Paz, the highest capital city in the world, staying in the famous Witches market and sampling the local delight of roasted guinea pig. They are pictured on Isla Del Sol, Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world and site of the ancient sacrificial temple of the Incas.



## Congratulations to:

### Pupils

**Immie Ashwood**, selected as a team member at age 11 to represent Northern England at the U21s International Dressage Championships in Southern Ireland.

**Johnny Barratt**, on becoming one of the very few players to complete five full seasons in the 1st XI, and **Jimmy Lomas**, on his appointment as school cricket captain for 2009.

**Alix Barton**, who won the U17 hammer at the Cheshire Championships and came 4th in the nation's young athlete finals.

**Tom Coleman, Ben Foreman** and **Jimmy Lomas**, who completed their Level 1 cricket coaches' course.

**Alex Grocott**, the U14 county tennis champion, and **Laurence Reeves**, U12 county tennis champion and doubles champion with **Thomas Minshull**.

**Rory Heywood**, who raised £450 for Cradle Concern by requesting donations for the charity in lieu of birthday presents.

**Charlotte Horne** who will compete in The Horse of the Year Show in October.

**Isabelle Kenyon** on winning a national writing competition.

**Stephanie Main, Eleanor Strutt** and **Mary Thorp** who performed with the National Youth Choir this summer.

**Johny Marshall** on being awarded a Swire Charitable Trust Flying Scholarship.

**Dominic Sherrate**, who represented England Youth in Fly Fishing.

**Alex Thompson** for scoring a century in U14 Staffordshire cricket.

**Alex Voysey**, for walking the Cotswold Way, raising £3,000 for charity.

**Alice Wilson**, voted Lacrosse Coaches' Player of the Year for the second year running.

**Junior Division pupils**, who raised £600 for the charity Help 4 the World and over £2,000 for Sport Relief.

**U13 Girls Athletics Team** who came first in the English Schools' Athletics Cup NW Regional 'B' finals in June.

**U14 Netball Team**, winners of the Macclesfield and District League Championship and runners-up in the County Tournament.

**Senior Girls Netballers**, selected for County Teams: **Luisa Bianchi, Jenny Calnan, Petra Gillian, Ellie Hix, Lydia Hix, Katie Powell** and **Charlotte Stafford**.

### Staff

**Kate Darch**, on the birth of baby Charlie.

**Jill Gribble** who married **Phil Major** in July.

**Eileen Olsen** on becoming Vice Principal of the Girls' Division from September 2008.

## Leading the cheers

No wonder the Girls' Division is doing so well in cheerleading, the country's fastest growing sport: their coach is British champion Rachael Burrows. Already the Cubs team (Years 8 and 9) and the Lions Team (Year 11) have won the national titles at the British Gymnastics of the UK Cheerleading Association's School Championships. Even the youngest team, the Kittens, managed to finish fifth in a competition featuring 150 schools.

## Cricket

A very successful cricket season for the Boys' Division was dominated by the Marsden brothers. Head Boy Johnny took four wickets for five runs at Shavington, and was selected to play for Derbyshire at U15 level. His brother Ben (see below), captain of the U13 squad named King's Team of the Year, achieved four centuries (all undefeated) in his matches against Cheadle Hulme, Newcastle, King's Chester and Bury. Retiring coach Geoff Laurence said that was about as many hundreds as he had seen at this level in all his time at King's. Another success story was the boys' U14 side, who came second in the county. Team member Hannah Gradwell also captained the Cheshire U15 Girls XI.



## Junior sports

It has been a bumper summer for King's Juniors, with successes across a whole range of sports.

The trampolinists were silver medallists in the National Schools Championships, while the swimmers were Macclesfield Primary Schools Champions. The cross-country runners won the Macclesfield Primary Schools' Year 3/4 Girls and Year 5/6 Boys and Girls titles and were AJIS U11 Boys Champions, while the athletes won the Macclesfield Primary School title for Boys and Combined teams.

The footballers won the Macclesfield Primary Schools 1A and 1B divisions and the rugby team finished runners-up in the AJIS competition. In netball, the squad won Macclesfield Primary Schools' Division 1, sharing the cup with Upton Priory, while the cricketers reached the final of the Association of Junior Independent Schools North-West Tournament.

# Olympic ambitions

**Any school would be thrilled to have a pupil with Olympic potential. King's has not one but two contenders for places in Team GB in London 2012.**

Girls' Division gymnast Jenni Pinches has already racked up an amazing tally of medals, and this summer she had a foretaste of the unique Olympian atmosphere. In recognition of her outstanding performances in national and international championships this year, she was invited to join other 2012 hopefuls visiting Beijing during the Games. It was a wonderful experience and one she hopes will stand her in good stead in four years time.

Over at the Boys' Division, 14 year-old Elliot Hanson has also had a terrific year, winning a grand slam of junior sailing titles: the World Championships, the National Championships, the Inland Championships and the Nationwide Series in the Gul Topper class. This junior grand slam has never been achieved before (not even by legendary fellow Maxonian Ben Ainslie) and Elliot has been nominated for a Sports Aid grant to enable him to prepare for 2012.



## Former Pupils' Association



### Congratulations to:

**James Collinson** (above), who left King's in 2007 and spent his gap year working for Shell Global Solutions through the Year in Industry scheme. He was so successful that he won an award for Best Physicist 2008 which was presented at the Awards Evening in July. James has agreed to come back to King's and talk to pupils about his experiences.

**Rebecca Lea**, who has recently been awarded the Oxford Lieder Festival Scholarship for 2008-9. This prize is given to a postgraduate student whose aim is to pursue singing as a career. Rebecca has performed recently in opera productions at the Riverside Studios, the Arcola Theatre and the Trafalgar Studios in London.



**Rosie Childs** (Edinburgh), **Laura Davenport** (Harper Adams), **Samantha Gush** (Bangor), **Robert Hart** (Oxford) and **David Johnson** (Oxford), who have recently gained First Class degrees.

**Elizabeth Conway** and **Joe Ryan**, who have been awarded Senior Exhibitions by Emmanuel College, Cambridge in recognition of the high standard of their work.

**Duncan Robinson**, Former Pupil and Speaker at Founders' Day 2008, on receiving an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. **Professor Michael Burdekin**, Chairman of Governors, was similarly honoured.

### Former Pupils' Events

16 October	KSMFPA Drinks in the City Reception 6.30 pm London
14 November	KSMFPA Annual Dinner 7.30 pm Hunting Lodge, Adlington
10 December	KSMFPA AGM 7.30 pm Sixth Form Centre

## Horace Hurrell

The recent death of Horace Hurrell closes a long chapter in King's history. Thousands of former pupils will remember his stocky figure patrolling the grounds and making sure all was well with his beloved school. Horace joined the maintenance staff on leaving the Navy in 1946 and was School Engineer for more than 45 years. Even after his retirement, he was still a frequent presence at the place he described as 'my family'.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

19 November	Year 8 Boys' Music Evening 7.00 pm Cumberland Street Hall
20 November	Year 4 Pantomime 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
27 November	Instrumental Concert 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
28 November	Friends of King's Infant Fun Night 6.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall
29 November	Friends of King's Christmas Fair 1.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
1-3 December	Daisy Pulls It Off Fence Avenue Hall
4 December	Charity Fashion Show 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
5 December	Friends of King's Junior Disco 7.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall
6 December	Foundation Choir with NCO 7.30 pm Heritage Centre
10 December	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 8.00 pm Chester Cathedral
12 December	Junior Christmas Concert 7.15pm Fence Avenue Hall
15 December	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 8.00 pm St Michael's Parish Church
16 December	Term ends for Infants and Juniors Junior Carol Service Park Green URC, Macclesfield
17 December	Term ends for Seniors (half day) Senior Divisions' Carol Service St Michael's Parish Church
13 February 2009	Founders' Day Service and Celebration of 100 Years at Fence Avenue Guest Speaker: Ann Widdecombe 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](mailto:mail@kingsmac.co.uk)