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King's Colours

Autumn 2010

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield



This is my eleventh start to a school year at King's and I still find the beginning of a new academic year a very exciting time. Lots of pupils in new uniforms are enthusiastically finding their way around the buildings and many students are quietly proud of their splendid examination achievements. In particular this year, the record GCSE results, improving even further on last year's great success, have been a boost to all and a tribute to the hard work of staff and students.

This is an important time in the history of the school for two reasons: the Governors have appointed my successor from September 2011 and the school has passed through the process of incorporation to which I referred last year. Like his father and brother, Dr Simon Hyde is a former pupil of King's; he is also a first rate academic who understands the school ethos of excellence in all areas. I have had lengthy conversations with him already and I can foresee a smooth transition as I hand over the reins in twelve months.

The process of incorporation has been lengthy but has produced two benefits. Her Majesty the Queen has granted King's a supplemental Royal Charter which I have already shown to the pupils. We have, in the process, passed our requirement to provide a public benefit. Although our contribution to the community has always been massive, this was a cause of concern under the previous government and it is satisfying to have overcome that particular hurdle.

I hope that you enjoy reading about our recent successes in the pages of this newsletter.

Stephen Coyne

Stephen Coyne

ANOTHER VINTAGE YEAR

From Key Stage 1 to A Level, the whole Foundation has been celebrating outstanding results.

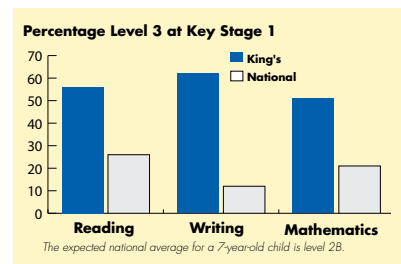
The results at Key Stages 1 and 2 far exceeded national expectation – always the case at King's but spectacularly so this year. With a particular target to improve writing skills and a bold initiative introduced three years ago to follow the exciting philosophy devised by educational consultant Pie Corbet, the improvement has been dramatic. Remarkably, at Key Stage 1, where the children are not selected for entry by ability, the percentage Level 3 results was 62% (compared with a national average of 12%). The results were equally impressive for both reading and mathematics and, at Key Stage 2, across the range of subjects.

Best ever GCSE results

Senior school pupils and teachers were ecstatic at having achieved the school's best ever GCSE results. Sixty-four per cent of all grades awarded were at A* or A grade. There were many stellar performances, with over a fifth of the year group gaining nine A*/A grades or better.

A Level celebrations

Jubilation continued in the Sixth Form as the stunning A Level success of recent years was sustained with an exceptionally large year group. The percentage A* to B grades was held at an impressive 75%, with 32 students gaining three As or better. Forty per cent of all grades were at A*/A.



Pictured are David Ormrod Morley, who achieved A in each of his nine GCSEs, and Eleanor Strutt, with eleven GCSEs, eight at grade A*, three at A.*



What are the odds...

... against this year's maths gold medallists *both* coming from Congleton? Dr Coyne says, 'To have one child in the top 50 nationwide from over 250,000 entrants would be outstanding. To get two is simply astonishing.'

The two winners in the UK Mathematics Trust Maths Challenge are 12 year-old Dmitri Whitmore and 13 year-old Laura Embrey. Dmitri is a former runner-up in *The Times* Sudoku Championships and Laura has just passed her Grade 8 Theory musical examination with Distinction.

Queen honours King's

In an historic moment, the Queen has granted the school a supplemental Royal Charter. (The first one was bestowed over 450 years ago in 1552 when the school was re-founded by King Edward VI.)

It is nearly two years since King's sought incorporation, effectively applying to be a new charity with a new charity number. This type of application, to update working practices, has happened several times over the school's long history and last occurred in 1958. At that time only boys were admitted to the school and none of them were to be under 8 years old. Clearly the code of administration needed revising in the light of development!



Jazz legend to perform at King's

He's played at the Royal Festival Hall, Sydney Opera House and the Hollywood Bowl. Now Jerry Bergonzi, one of the world's greatest jazz tenor saxophonists, is to perform at King's. His special concert is part of a new series promoted by former pupil and jazz composer Steve Plews and local impresario Steve Darlington. You can hear the Jerry Bergonzi trio in the Main Hall at Cumberland Street on Thursday 28th October at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (£6 concessions) are available from the school or online at www.ascrecords.com

Isabel's world

Sixth former Isabel Wilkinson's tackling of a philosophical problem which challenges today's top thinkers has greatly impressed dons at Cambridge. Her entry in the Corpus Christi philosophy essay writing competition, which attracts hundreds of entries each year, has won her second place and a £100 prize. Isabel's 2500-word essay, which she spent over two months researching and writing, explores the mysteries of the space-time continuum.



Peak poet

The poem that has won Tabitha Green a national prize was inspired by a view of the Roaches – but she will be giving it a public reading in a more urban setting: St Pancras Station. In October Tabitha, from the Girls' Division, will join other prize winners in John Betjeman's Young People's Poetry Award and read her poem aloud beside Jennings' statue of the former Poet Laureate. Tabitha came second in the competition, which attracted 2,600 entries, and has won a £50 book token plus a collection of books.



Hungarian rhapsody

The Foundation Choir's tour to Hungary in July was packed with pleasure. Concerts brought the exhilaration of singing in beautiful basilicas and the fun of open-air performances, sparking a warm rapport between singers and audience. Budapest is to be recommended, with its glorious spa baths, unique history and vibrant market. A final dinner on the Danube, accompanied by folk musicians and dancers, epitomised the joy and camaraderie of the whole experience.



Trophies galore

It was a summer of sporting success for the Junior Division, with no fewer than three major trophies. The U11 boys' football team won the Macclesfield Schools' Sevens, the U11 cricketers the Reeman Cup, which involved twelve teams from other NW independent schools, and junior athletes won the boys', girls' and overall titles in the Macclesfield and District Primary Schools' Championships. For good measure, the rounders team took the silver medal at the AJIS Northern championships.

Pictured are captains Sam Brindle (football), Harry Broughton (cricket), Allana Buckingham (athletics) Zarin Salehin (rounders) and Finlay Calder (athletics).



Destination Borneo

As part of the school's challenging expedition programme, 22 sixth formers spent a month this summer travelling round Borneo, a country still unspoiled by tourism and western influences. They climbed the 13,000ft Mt Kinabalu, trekked through primary rain forest on the Headhunters trail, took dug-out canoes down rivers and worked with local communities. They also visited an orang-utan rehabilitation centre, taught English, science and maths at a local school, (pictured above) helped renovate a church and went white-water rafting. The trip was an amazing experience and the students gained leadership skills and many new friends. This year will see trips to Morocco and Egypt as well as the launch of the 2012 expedition to India.



Supporting sport

SPORT NOW is the brainchild of two parents, Melanie Toms and Jane Garnett. The aim is to raise £150,000, with local sponsorship, grants from national sporting organisations and help from King's parents, to provide sports facilities at the Fence Avenue site. A number of fundraising events are already under way and details are available on the school's website.

Did he fall or was he pushed?

Humpty Dumpty, that is. In their lively production, the Infants set out to answer the question of how he cracked his shell. The story was set in a courtroom presided over by an authoritative judge. Jack and Jill, Little Bo Peep and the Grand Old Duke were all called to the dock to give evidence and the culprit was eventually discovered. The infants – appearing as organic sheep, the Duke of York's Men and other Nursery Rhyme Land characters – danced and sang, raising the roof with their catchy songs. A cracking afternoon was had by all.

Peter is top tech

It's official! Peter Jackson is one of the best Science Technicians in the country. As one of just six professionals selected as finalists in the Salters' Institute National Award for Science Technicians, Peter received a certificate and the applause of colleagues at a recent staff meeting. The Chairman of the Selection Committee, Professor David Waddington, came to the school to meet Peter and various science staff. The Head of Foundation, himself a chemist, was particularly pleased by this as he has been using the professor's Organic Chemistry book as background to his teaching for over twenty years.



Big hitters

In the school's first ever Cricket Sixes competition, teams from across the region enjoyed a hugely exciting tournament, where King's got through to the finals only to be beaten by Bury.

Dreamed up by sports coach Peter Allen, and based on the adult version, the new competition encourages an explosive, uninhibited approach to batting, inventive bowling and athletic, tireless fielding. What a way to end the season!

Pictured are King's U12 captain Will Hodgson (left) and Bury U12 captain Chris Brownlow.



Kerridge to Kamnic

Tegg's Nose, Shining Tor, Shutlingsloe... Olivia Walwyn made the most of the local hills to train for the World Mountain Running Championships in September. She flew out to Slovenia for the race, representing Great Britain for the third time. She has already worn the England vest four times and last year came seventh in the Commonwealth Games at Keswick.

An English and Philosophy graduate, Olivia is the librarian in the Resources Centre at Fence Avenue.



Congratulations to:

Pupils

Imogen Ashwood for her outstanding performance at the International Dressage championships in Ireland.

Rafia Aslam who represented Cheshire in the Inter Girls Triple Jump at the English Schools' National Athletics Championships.

Eleanor Bird, selected for the U14 County Netball Academy.

Beth Burrows and **Katie Cornish**, 5th in a team event at the National Trampoline Championships.

Rebecca Craigie who won the Senior Girls' 1500m at the English Schools' National Athletics Championships.

George Drury who attended the U18 England Rugby Performance Camp at Leeds this summer.

Hannah Gradwell who scored 121 in the Cheshire U17 v Oxford cricket match.

Rosie Jacot who gained full marks for Biology A level, and **Amy Higinbotham**, **Andrew Hodgson**, **Elizabeth Jessop** and **David Ormrod Morley** who gained full marks for Biology GCSE.

Elizabeth Jessop, media representative for the Youth Parliament in NW England and deputy member of the Youth Parliament for East Cheshire.

Abi Johnston, County Javelin Champion.

Charlie Leddy, selected for the NW U18 Hockey Trials.

Hannah Li, invited to compete in the Faldo Asia Series Shanghai Golf Championship.

Hannah Smith, placed on the KPMG Gap Year Programme.

Cheerleaders **Beth Burrows**, **Katie Fray** and **Beth James** 2nd in the European Championships. **Senior Girl Cheerleaders** to perform before Princes William and Harry at the Albert Hall.

King's Equestrian Squad, placed 3rd in the Inter Schools' Show Jumping Challenge.

Former Pupils

First Class Honours degrees: **Kay Doncom**, Chemistry, Leeds; **Matthew Dunne**, Biomedical, Birmingham; **Polly Edwards**, History, Birmingham; **Ben Illingworth**, Business Management, Birmingham; **Joe Ryan**, Natural Sciences, Emmanuel, Cambridge; **Matthew Shribman**, Chemistry, Magdalen, Oxford; **Rachel Sinton**, Genetics, Nottingham.

Scholarships and exhibitions: **James Fox**, Exhibition in Law, Peterhouse, Cambridge; **Dominic Hall**, Exhibition in Physics and Philosophy, St Hilda's, Oxford; **Elliot Malkin**, Scholarship in Mathematics, Pembroke, Oxford; **Matthew Murray**, Exhibition in Natural Sciences, Gonville and Caius, Cambridge.

Hannah Beard and **Heather Shribman** who cycled from Lands End to John o'Groats to raise £4000 for Cancer Research.

Sarah Branley, **Amy Cotterill**, **Sarah Gales**, **Suki Javle**, **Helena Loynes** and **Laura Stafford**, who have completed their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Rebecca Lea, who sang in the Classical Brit Awards.

Emily Nesbitt, awarded rowing colours by St Edmund Hall, Oxford.

Nicolas Parnell, awarded a 12-month scholarship by the Marketing Academy.

Rachel Thornley, whose work has been selected for the 'New Designers Exhibition' at the Business Design Centre.

ALL IN A GOOD DAY'S WORK

King's Fashion Show organisers are pictured below with Vickey Bissett from Christie's, Junior Division reindeer runners with Liz Reynolds from East Cheshire Hospice and national junior gymnastic champion Jenni Pinches is shown auctioning her kit and memorabilia for the Haiti Earthquake Appeal.



King's has a glowing reputation in academic and sporting fields, arts and music. Less well known, perhaps, is the hard work put in to raise funds for local, national and international aid agencies. Last year alone the Foundation donated over £20,000 to good causes chosen by the pupils themselves. Three non-uniform days during the year generated £1500 each.

Charity begins at home and, as inspectors for the school's recent Incorporation application noted, King's has a special relationship with its home town:

'The quality of links with the community is an outstanding feature of the school's provision.'

The Junior and Senior Divisions regularly make gifts such as hampers to Macclesfield Rotary Club, Macclesfield Care and the Winlow flats. They also raise funds for the East Cheshire Hospice, the Juniors taking part in a sponsored Reindeer Run last Christmas. Two Manchester hospitals have benefited greatly from pupils' fundraising efforts. The Sixth Form Fashion Show, a glitzy annual event, raised over £3000 for Christie's while the Girls' Division organised cake sales, a sponsored run and carol singing to reach their target of £3500 for a high-dependency bed in the Children's Hospital. Other local charities supported include Lifeshare, the Royal School for the Deaf, VISYON, Teenage Cancer Trust and Friends for Leisure.

Overseas, the cries for help grow ever greater and pupils respond generously both to major disasters and long-term projects. Last year, appalled by the suffering in Haiti, they worked swiftly to raise £2500 for the Oxfam DEC appeal. At the same time, the Boys' Division gave over £1000 to Educaid, an organisation providing hope and education for the children of Sierra Leone.

The non-human world isn't forgotten, either. Michelle, a young orphaned orang-utan in a rehabilitation centre in Borneo, was adopted by the Girls' Division after 7VHS held a cake sale and raised £140. Michelle will eventually be released back into the wild.



Former Pupils' News

New Head of Foundation

A distinguished former pupil will take up the reins when Dr Coyne retires next year. From an excellent field of applicants, the Governors have appointed Dr Simon Hyde as Head of Foundation from September 2011. Dr Hyde is currently Deputy Headmaster of the Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School in Elstree, Hertfordshire with particular responsibility for school development and strategic planning.



On leaving King's, Dr Hyde read Modern History at Christ Church, Oxford, and completed his doctorate at Oxford and the University of Bonn. He then spent three years teaching at Loughborough Grammar School before being appointed Senior Teacher and Head of Humanities at Oakham School.

Having been born in Macclesfield, Dr Hyde is excited at the prospect of returning to his home town and taking up the role as Head of his old school.

Rugby shirts

King's is pleased to announce that Thorneycroft Solicitors are the new rugby shirt sponsors for the school teams. The company has recently appointed former pupil Rachael Kirk to its private client department where she joins fellow former pupil Rob Thorneycroft in the transfer of the department to refurbished offices at Bridge Street, Macclesfield. Rachael can be contacted on 01625 503444.

Golf Day

At the annual Golf Day at Macclesfield Golf Club, superbly organised by Alan McInnes this summer, nearly £3000 was raised for the Quincentenary Bursary Appeal.

London Dinner

The annual London Dinner, held in May, was very enjoyable. It was the last to be organised by Keith Aikin, pictured right, who has done such an excellent job for the last few years. Next year's dinner will be on 6th May 2011. Details are available from the school or via Rob Unterhalter, who has kindly taken over as organiser (077258 31165 or robunterhalter@hotmail.co.uk).



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12 November	KSMFPA Annual Dinner 7.30 pm The Bridge Hotel
27 December	Former Pupils' Rugby Match 1.30 pm The Derby Fields

Men of iron

Two former pupils, Matthew Forbes and Nick Mason, travelled to Zurich in July to complete the fabled Ironman event. Even harder than a Triathlon, the Ironman involves swimming 3.8km, riding 180km on a bicycle and finally running a full marathon (40km) without stopping. Both did fantastically well to complete the course in around 12 hours.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

13 October	Friends of King's AGM 7.30 pm Sixth Form Centre
28 October	Jerry Bergonzi Jazz Concert 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
12 November	Lunchtime Concert 12.55 pm St Michael's Parish Church
17 November	Year 8 Boys' Music Concert 7.00 pm Cumberland Street Hall
18 November	Year 4 Pantomime 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
24 November	Instrumental Concert 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
26 November	Friends of King's Infant Fun Night Fence Avenue Hall
27 November	Friends of King's Christmas Fair 1.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
3 December	Junior Christmas Concert 7.15pm Fence Avenue Hall
6 December	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 8.00 pm Chester Cathedral
7 December	Nursery & Reception Christmas Presentation 10.00 am Fence Avenue Hall
8 December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Production 2.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall
9 December	King's Big Sing for Christian Aid 10.00 am Fence Avenue Hall Charity Fashion Show 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
10 December	Friends of King's Junior Disco 2.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall
13 December	Infant Christmas Party 1.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall
14 December	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 8.00 pm St Michael's Parish Church
16 December	Term ends for Infants and Juniors
17 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