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King's Colours

Summer 2010

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield



It hardly seems possible that ten years have elapsed since I took the reins in 2000. This has been a very fulfilling time, full of significant achievements, but I have

now decided to retire in August 2011. Advertisements for the position have already appeared and the Governors have the matter firmly in hand.

One of the great strengths of our structure is that we have a strong team of Principals in all Divisions to provide continuity. The Chairman of Governors is keen to maintain the ethos of the school and to continue its tradition of academic and extracurricular excellence. He anticipates being able to name my successor by the end of this term or the beginning of the next.

I am not quite taking up the carpet slippers yet as there is much still to do and the role requires 100% commitment at all times. I am proud of what we have achieved here in the last decade and am still keen to set new targets for the school.

Stephen Coyne

BBC NEWSHOUNDS

What an opportunity! Out of over 1000 schools taking part in the BBC News School Report Day, King's Girls was one of three North West schools invited into the BBC studios to spend the day working with specialist staff and equipment.

In preparation for the big day, Year 8 English students turned themselves into reporters, bidding for stories in teams, writing scripts, allocating roles, filming and editing clips, and generally developing all the multimedia skills of the modern journalist.

Many of the stories were recorded around 'breaking news' at school – the mock elections, Science Week, Book Week, a visiting falconer and the school play, *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. The Charities Team went to Manchester Children's Hospital to film an 'on location' report, and the Sports Team conducted a live telephone interview with Olympic gymnast Beth Tweddle at the BBC radio studios in Manchester.

On the day itself, 11th March, ten girls went to the BBC studios in Salford, where



they video-conferenced with schools at BBC London, bid for stories, collected vox pops from the public and presented pieces to camera. Meanwhile, the rest of the class transformed the Resource Centre into a broadcast newsroom. Starting at 8.30 am, wearing their press passes and looking very much the part, they had a deadline of 2.00 pm to prepare their bulletin for broadcast. There was a real buzz as the girls competed to produce original stories and took part in the attempt to break the World Record for the largest interactive weather report. Full reports can be seen on the BBC News School Report channel and the King's School website.



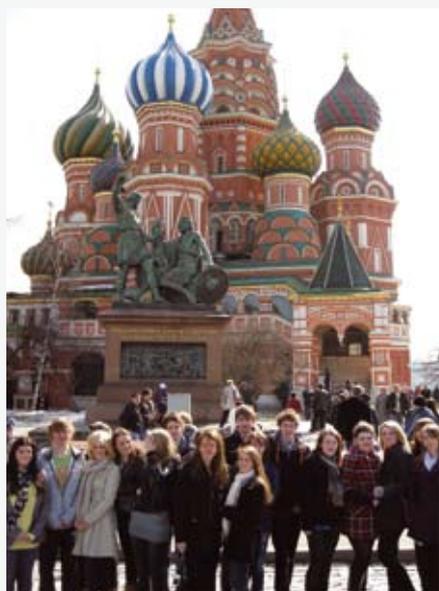
To Russia, with love

Palaces, museums and Russian rail – the Easter trip to Russia was packed with interest. In Moscow, the 24 students and staff visited the Kremlin, the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, the Armouries and the Lenin Mausoleum. Then it was time for an overnight train to a warm and sunny St Petersburg, where they took in the St Peter and Paul Fortress, the Hermitage, the Yusupov Palace and the Leningrad Memorial. The trip ended with a visit to Catherine's Palace and the Amber Room followed by *Swan Lake* at the Mariinsky Theatre and a lively Folk Show called *Feel Yourself Russian*.



What am I bid?

National junior gymnastic champion Jenni Pinches has taken time out of her packed schedule to raise more than £200 for the Haiti earthquake appeal. An auction of her Olympic memorabilia was held in the Girls' Division. Twenty-three items, including many signed by Jenni's training partner Beth Tweddle, went under the hammer. Jenni said, "I realise that there are quite a lot of gymnastic fans in the school, so I thought it would be a good idea to raise some money for Haiti."



Pot au feu, not noodles

An inspiring week of masterclasses by Darren Tinkler, formerly a top chef, has transformed the palates – and the culinary outlooks – of 18 Boys' Division students. On Monday they began with soup and homemade bread; by Friday they were cooking a magnificent three-course meal for parents, teachers and governors. A far cry from Pot Noodles...



March melodies

Winter blues were well and truly chased away when King's musicians staged a dazzling mid-March concert to raise funds for the Community Centre in Bollington. Held in the village's Methodist Hall, the programme included contributions from the school choir, barber shop, orchestra, jazz group and soloists.

Academia, US style

Two Upper Sixth students will be crossing the Pond to read Liberal Arts at American universities this autumn. Lydia Rex (left) has won a place at the Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. Her attendance at an Open Day recently was made extra-complicated when flights were grounded because of the volcanic ash cloud...

Rebecca Craigie (right), winner of the Cheshire Schools' Cross Country Championships for seven consecutive years, has been offered an athletics scholarship at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. She hopes it will give her a much better chance of achieving national representation as a British athlete.





Beauty and the Beast

Three outstanding performances of Disney's musical *Beauty and the Beast* were staged by Year 6 in March. This challenging piece gave the young performers the chance to display their impressive dancing, singing and acting abilities. Elena Boden delighted as the sweet but feisty Belle, Anna Cartwright was a splendid, bad-tempered Beast and the rest of the cast appeared as villagers, wolves and assorted enchanted household items.



Books unlimited

A whole range of activities was on offer for Infants and Juniors during Book Week. Author Ian Billings ran creative writing workshops with Year 6 pupils before entertaining all the Junior pupils with his comedy stand-up literacy show. Infant classes were visited by King's parents, who shared their favourite books with the children. There were library visits, quizzes and competitions and Junior forms decorated their classroom doors in the style of a book cover. But the highlight of the week was Character Dressing Up Day, when pupils and staff donned costumes to transform themselves into their favourite book character.



Return to the Forbidden Planet

Transformed into a spaceship, Fence Avenue hall was the setting for February's electrifying production of *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, a joint venture for the Music and Drama Departments. The music for the high-energy show – based on *The Tempest* and the 1950s sci-fi film *Forbidden Planet* – was stunning, featuring rock and roll classics from the 50s and 60s, beautifully sung and choreographed. Tom Stevenson made an impact as Captain Tempest, the 'nice but dim' chap who won the heart of Miranda, beautifully played by Sophie Hurst. Kieran Wesley gave an outstanding performance as Cookie, showing his versatility as a guitarist, and Ariel was imaginatively created by Tessa Kadler and Ruairidh Nichols, with silver suits and robotic moves.

In all, the production involved forty actors and musicians from the Girls' and Boys' Divisions and was a perfect opportunity to showcase their tremendous array of talent.

All the King's horses

Hopes were high when King's equestrians qualified for a place in the National Schools' Equestrian Association Jumping with Style Championships. It was the first time the recently formed squad has competed at national level, so it was a triumph when Hattie McCance (pictured) came fourth in the Individual Open Class. With a horse ill, the team was one member short but still managed to achieve 15th place overall.

Girls who count

Pictured (from left to right) are Rebecca Lowndes, Laura Embrey, Sophie Quinn and Hiba Kokan. The girls, from Years 8 and 9, have beaten students from fifteen other top schools in the region to win

a place in the national final of the UK Mathematics Trust's Team Mathematics Challenge. It will take place at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London, on Monday 21 June.





Unbeaten U12s

Pictured below are the U12 rugby players, who capped an impressive, unbeaten season by winning the Wirral Grammar Schools Sevens competition, beating Bradford Grammar School in the final.



On the pitch

He ended his season with a broken leg – but former King’s student Alex Waddingham has had the consoling honour of being capped by England Students. The 20 year-old, open side flanker is studying Sport at Durham University and for the last three years has been part of Sale Sharks’ Academy. He pays tribute to his years in the King’s team as “a fantastic building block ... it really helped my development and confidence.”

Still at King’s, Andy Hodgson has been selected for the England U16 Rugby Union Development Squad. He plays fly-half for the school, but has an option also to play at inside centre for England. The Development Squad comprises the top 35 young rugby players in the country and sees Andy take the first stepping-stone towards his goal to wear a full England jersey.

Playing to win

King’s girls are proving every bit as committed rugby players as the boys. In the Northern Schools’ Sevens Trophy they produced some superb flowing rugby with outstanding handling and running, leaving the region’s top teams trailing in their wake. After beating Caldys Grammar School, St Bees, The Grange and Giggleswick in the round robin, they met Giggleswick again in the final, and beat them 19-5. Player of the tournament was Katie Pickering.



Going swimmingly

Girls’ Division swimmer Alice Bailey’s committed approach won her a place at the British Championships in Sheffield in March. Captain of the Cheshire County team, she spends 13½ hours in the pool every week, with a further 3½ hours in the gym. Alice (below) has already represented the North-West in the inter-regional championships and won a host of county and district gold medals.

Also in March, the Junior Division proved that there are plenty of other talented young swimmers at King’s when they won the Macclesfield Primary Schools Gala.



Congratulations to:

Current Pupils

All Foundation pupils for raising over £2500 in aid of the DEC Haiti Earthquake Appeal.

Ellen Barratt, Alex Davies and Pippa Forsythe, selected for the U14 Cheshire hockey squads.

Gregg Booker, who won the U12 British Schools National Mountain Bike Championships.

Annabelle Brookes, who represented Cheshire in the English Schools’ National Cross Country Championships.

Harry Brown (Conservative), **Amy Sanderson** (Independent People’s Party) and **George Walker** (Conservative) for winning the mock general elections in the Sixth Form, Girls’ and Boys’ Divisions.

Jamie Edgerton, who has achieved Grade 5 in Treble and Descant Recorder, both with Distinction.

Rebecca Hughes, on achieving 18th place in the National Schools Biathlon Championships.

David Jessop, Siraj Lyons and Alec Welch, who qualified for the North West finals of the UK Land Chess Tournament.

Keir Pearson, who has secured a place on the Nuffield Bursary Scheme.

Matthew Peers (winner), **Alex Moore** (runner-up) and **Louis Wardle** (highly commended) for their designs for a leaflet in the Beacon Counselling Service’s competition.

Year 5 and 6 Girls’ cross country team, who retained their Macclesfield Cross Country Team trophy at the Championships.

U14 Girls’ netball team, winners of the Macclesfield and District B League.

U15 Girls’ netball team, winners of the Macclesfield and District A League.

U19 swimming team, who won the U19 Newcastle-under-Lyme freestyle relay trophy in a record time.

Former Pupils

James Fox, appointed President of the Law Society at Cambridge for the forthcoming year.

Tom Lloyd (1993–2000), awarded a PhD in History by Edinburgh University.

Natalie Robinson, awarded a first class degree in Psychology by Manchester University.

Matthew Shribman, awarded an Exhibition by Magdalen College, Oxford.

TWO DRAMA KINGS

Following Simon Mercer's piece on the Music Department, King's Colours has invited new Head of Drama, Donald Forbes, to give us his first impressions of drama at King's, working with Catherine Thompson (pictured), and this year's two major drama productions.



"It's astonishing to realise that we're already approaching the end of April and I have completed two whole terms as Head of Drama at King's. For me the year has flown by in a swirl of activity, adjustment and excitement. So much so that there has been little time to dwell on the feelings of trepidation I undoubtedly had, knowing I was following in the mightily impressive footsteps of Mr Frank Walker.

What struck me most on arriving at the school was the overwhelming sense of confident, dynamic energy: energy from excited, expectant Yr 7s hungry to explore the vast open spaces of the Drama Hall; energy from an alert and motivated Sixth Form, keen to embark upon auditioning, rehearsing and performing the new production of *The Government Inspector*. Then, of course, there was the energy emanating from all the Creative Arts: Mrs Thompson being dramatically vibrant at Fence Avenue and a Music and Art Department that don't stop zinging with enthusiasm and talent.

We drama teachers thrive on energy; at times it's manic and needs a bit of harnessing, but it's always passionate and productive and it's what ultimately inspires and engages students. It's a real joy to be working alongside such a generous staff that has that inspiring quality in abundance. The production of *Return to The Forbidden Planet* oozed with the spirit of creativity inspired by teachers

and pupils working together. Rehearsing *The Government Inspector* was an exhilarating experience where students and staff combined magnificently to produce a show of which I was immensely proud. Pupils rehearsed with huge commitment three to four lunchtimes each week from October to March (as well as several weekends). The Art Department spent endless extra hours realising some stunning design ideas. A small, but highly dedicated group of student technicians poured enthusiasm and skill into an intense week of rigging lights and solving problems. These are the ingredients that, when given a good stir, create fantastic, life-lasting experiences for staff and pupils alike. I've little doubt that over the coming months and years, the Drama Department will be at the heart of many more such joyous experiences."



Former Pupils' News

Sarah Gales, who left us last summer, was one of six students in the country to win a Royal Society of Chemistry Competition. Her prize-winning essay on why chemistry is important in everyday life won her an all-expenses-paid trip to Boston and visits to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard.

Emily Middleton, currently studying PPE at Wadham College, Oxford, was awarded a scholarship to participate in a three-week poetry exchange with Sarah Lawrence College, New York, over Easter. She has also secured an eight-week summer internship with the Boston Consulting Group, one of the world's leading advisors on business strategy.

Meanwhile, two recently graduated former pupils are putting together significant careers for themselves in the arts and media worlds. **Rosie Childs** has finished her production training with the BBC and has been offered her first job as an assistant producer with Radio Three. She has also produced work for *Strictly Come Dancing* and acted as a researcher for *The Weakest Link*.

Helen Marten, who left Oxford to become a successful Fine Artist (see www.helenmarten.com), recently had an exhibition in Naples, following four months working in America. She is now producing new works for a Biennial, as well as an individual show in London later this year.



Former Pupils' Dinners

Following the Edinburgh Dinner in November (pictured above) a group of about 25 students and staff (including the Master of Magdalene College, former pupil Duncan Robinson) enjoyed a splendid dinner at Peterhouse College, Cambridge in March, courtesy of undergraduate James Fox.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18 May	FPA Committee Meeting Cumberland Street Staff Room
28 May	FPA Golf, Frank Moore Trophy 1.00 pm Macclesfield Golf Club
19 June	FPA Summer Dinner Dance The Bridge Hotel, Prestbury
2 July	FPA Bursary Golf Day Macclesfield Golf Club
7 July	FPA Inter-Schools Golf 1.00 pm Bramhall Golf Club
14 July	Former Pupils' Cricket Match Cumberland Street

Scholarships

We are pleased to announce that the following pupils have won scholarships for the Senior School:

Academic

Josh Bryning (Greenbank School)
Sam Bryning (Greenbank School)
Georgia Cooper-Taylor (Hollinhey Primary School)
Daniel Crosby (Alderley Edge Community Primary School)
Katie Hughes (Wilmslow Preparatory School)
Hannah Li (King's Junior Division)
Sameera Lyons (King's Junior Division)
William McIveen (Taxal and Fernilee CE Primary School)
Olivia Shaughnessy (King's Junior Division)

Music

Olivia Hamblyn (Wilmslow Preparatory School)
Ben Lynch (King's Junior Division)
Lucie Willis (Burbage Primary School)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

13 May	Year 11 Prom 8.00 pm Tytherington Club
20 May	Sixth Form Prefects' Dinner 7.00 pm Cumberland Street Canteen FOK's Secondhand Ball Gown Sale 7.30 pm Sixth Form Caf�
27 May	Year 13 Leavers' Morning Derby Fields Governors' Sherry Party 6.00 pm Capesthorpe Hall
28 May	Marking Day - No school for pupils
11 June	Junior Sports Day
18 June	Friends of King's Summer Ball 7.30 pm Hunting Lodge, Adlington Hall
25 June	Junior School Walk and Talent Show Friends of King's Juniors & Infants Summer Fun 3.30 pm Sixth Form Leavers' Ball 6.15 pm Buxton
27 June	FOK's Juniors & Infants Year 6 Leavers' Party Fence Avenue
30 June	Years 7-9 Inter-House Musical Festival 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
1 July	Infant Sports Day 12.00 pm
4 July	Friends of King's Family Walk 10.00 am Fence Avenue Car Park
7 July	Infant Summer Concert 2.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall
8 July	King's Sings Concert 7.00 pm Cumberland Street Hall
9 July	Girls' Division Sports Afternoon 1.30 pm
12 July	Foundation Choir Charity Concert 7.30 pm Macclesfield Methodist Church
13 July	Junior End of Year Celebration 1.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall Junior Summer Concert 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
14 July	Term ends at lunchtime
19 August	AS & A Level Results Day
24 August	GCSE Results Day