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# King's Colours

Spring 2010

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

## Head's letter



*May I wish you a Happy New Year.*

*January is a time for new beginnings and it is always helpful to start a new term with good news. The marvellous inspection report is a tonic for*

*the whole school and has lifted everyone's spirits.*

*We meant to start term with a flourish so we were all disappointed when we had to close for two days because of the snow. This was the first such closure this century and, although it provided opportunities for some good photographs (see below), it did not give us our normal smooth start.*

*However, we soon got the bit between our teeth and were able to welcome Mr Arthur Dicken as the new Chairman of Governors (see back page). He succeeds Professor Michael Burdekin who has completed excellent service for the school with five years as Chairman and twenty five as a Governor.*

*Generally it has been an interesting time for leaders of the School's Governing Body and we would like to congratulate Bill Bromley-Davenport, Professor Burdekin's predecessor as Chairman, who was knighted in the New Year's Honours.*

*Stephen Coyne*

# OUTSTANDING INSPECTION REPORT

The whole school (from 3–18) was inspected last term and the magnificent report from the Independent Schools' Inspectorate has now arrived. It is immensely pleasing to note that the vast majority of the findings are outstanding (or good with outstanding features) and the document really does celebrate the good work done at King's. It is particularly complimentary about the educational experience provided, the relationships seen at the school and, very importantly, the pupils themselves.

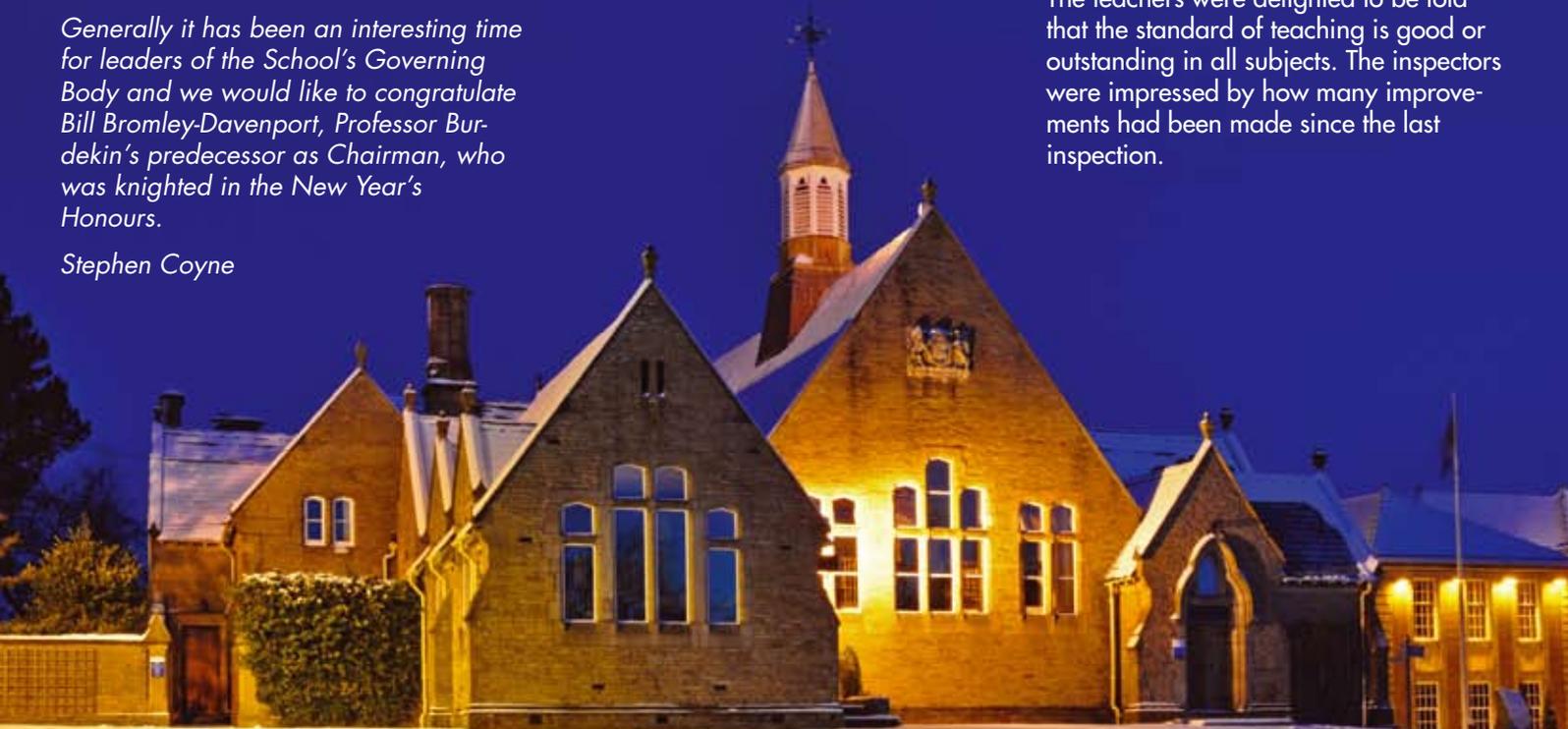
Regarding the educational experience, the report notes that the aim of promoting lifelong learners is achieved most comprehensively and there is an excellent range of extra-curricular provision. We knew this already but it is very pleasing to have it confirmed officially!

Mutual respect, between staff and students and between pupils themselves (who 'support each other remarkably'), is rightly seen as a strength of the school.

The inspectors are fulsome in their praise of the pupils, saying that they are articulate, possess an eagerness for new ideas and are keen to learn; that their ability to think independently is sometimes outstanding and their attention to work and study is excellent. Pupils are seen to be immensely proud of the school, and their learning and achievements beyond the curriculum are outstanding.

The quality of care and pupil welfare is reported to be outstanding, with the individual welfare of pupils seen as paramount. The quality of links with parents and the community is also considered to be outstanding.

The teachers were delighted to be told that the standard of teaching is good or outstanding in all subjects. The inspectors were impressed by how many improvements had been made since the last inspection.



## Taking Paris by storm

After a long journey packed with singing, talking and hula dancing, 32 GCSE students embarked on a three-day jam-packed schedule in Paris, with visits to Notre-Dame, the Louvre, L'Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower and many more. Quite an achievement if you ask me. It's safe to say a good time was had by everyone, even if a few of us suffered from vertigo on the Eiffel Tower (not mentioning any names, Mr Fico!) It was a great chance to immerse ourselves in French culture, practise our speaking skills, and provide us with memories that will last a lifetime. Watch out for the next one.

*Naomi Gildert, 11 ESC*



## Running reindeer

Junior children raised money for the East Cheshire Hospice by taking part in the 'Reindeer Run'. All the children received a flashing red nose and a pair of furry antlers and ran a mile wearing their costume—quite a tricky feat as the antlers kept falling off. Owing to bad weather, Year 5 had to complete an obstacle course in their reindeer headgear, which presented a few difficulties. The Hospice was delighted that a total of over £3000 was raised.

## Lessons from Auschwitz

Sixth Form historians Rosie Jacot and Max Elliott were given indelible impressions of the full horror of the Holocaust when they visited the death camp at Auschwitz. They gained their places on the trip, part of the government-funded Lessons from Auschwitz Project, with prize-winning essays. On their return they drew on their reactions and insights to give talks in school assemblies. Rosie and Max are pictured, left, with some of the images from their visit.

## Merchant Taylors' Company

There were celebrations when Year 11's Elisha Diamond was named runner-up in the Merchant Taylors' Company Schools' Photographic Competition. Her landscape image is printed below.

The great news came a few days after the Master and Clerk of the Company made their annual visit to the school. The Clerk gave a talk to the Girls' Division about the Company and its work while Junior pupils investigated the Master's chain of office (pictured right).



## 10% discount at kidsunlimited

kidsunlimited are offering a 10% discount off their nursery fees for existing King's parents and staff. Cary Rankin, regional manager of kidsunlimited (pictured with Head of Foundation, Stephen Coyne) welcomes the link with the school and families at King's and sees it as an exciting opportunity for both parties.

The offer is available at the following kidsunlimited Day Nurseries: Clairmont (Wilmslow), Summerfields (Wilmslow), Total Fitness Wilmslow (Handforth), and Tytherington (Macclesfield).



## Cambridge success

The following candidates have won places to study at Cambridge University this year: James Boardman to read Veterinary Science at Girton College, Emily Gilmour to read Linguistics at Newnham College and Sarah Regan to read English at St John's College. We wish them every success in their future education.

## Christmas stars

The Infants delighted parents and grandparents with their magical Christmas productions. EYFS performed the nativity musical, *Shine Star, Shine!* featuring a star which lost its sparkle. Years 1 and 2 performed *Dancing Christmas Party* with a cast of reindeer, toys, rock'n'rolling polar bears and a forgetful elf called Elfis.



## Plumbing the depths

Braving swarms of jellyfish and stormy seas, 22 students from Fence Avenue spent eight days on the Mediterranean island of Gozo in October, learning to scuba dive. Most of them passed their qualification and can now dive anywhere in the world.



## High fliers

King's trampolinists bounced their way to success at the North West Schools Championships. With eight teams taking firsts and Beth Burrows, Harry Pinches and Katie Cornish winning individual Championship titles, the school was the most decorated at the event. Trampoline coach Rachael Burrows will now be taking nine teams to the North of Britain Championships in Hull.

## Tipped for success

Fifteen-year-old sailor Elliot Hanson is one of sixteen rising stars being tipped by Sport England to make their mark at the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The '16 for 2016' will be supported by SportsAid, a charity which gives financial assistance to talented youngsters.

Elliot joins a star-studded list of those who have benefited from SportsAid's help in the past, including Sir Steve Redgrave and Paralympic legend Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson.



*Elliot recently represented RYA Volvo Team GBR at the Radial Youth Worlds and Europeans, and won the World Championships in the Topper class last year.*



## Friends of King's

Notable among the successes for Friends of King's in 2009 were the Summer Ball, where 130 parents enjoyed a fabulous Masquerade-themed evening, and the annual Christmas Fair, which raised a record £3,800. Friends of King's also provided the Sixth Form Fashion Show and the Beaujolais Evening with refreshments and 'bar staff'.

The funds raised have been put to good use throughout the school: an iMac computer and replacement Hall curtains for the Boys' Division, a replacement filtration system for the fish tank and new sports bibs for the Girls' Division, and bean bags and origami paper for the Resource Centre.

Friends of King's is open to all parents and we welcome your participation in our fundraising and social activities. If you would like to be involved in any way please contact Jane Bridge on 07725 799638.

*Pictured (left to right): Jane Bridge (Chair), Kim Ross (Treasurer), Helen Beech (Secretary), Sam Hughes (Vice-Chair)*

## Passing the baton

Already training with Macclesfield Harriers and winner of the Cheshire County 100m, 12 year-old Olivia Bollington is following a distinguished role model very close to home. Her mother Sandra is an Olympic bronze medallist. As Sandra Wright, and part of the same team as Sally Gunnell, she ran the first leg in the 400m relay in Barcelona.

When Sandra came to give a talk to the Girls' Division, pupils were captivated by her recollections of training from the age of 9 and of the great race itself, where John Major rallied them on with a wave of his fists, and the girls all borrowed her lipstick before going on the podium...



## Cross-country triumph

Coached by Dave Gee, cross-country runners from Years 7 and 8 won a place in the national final in Cornwall. It was the first time the seven boys had run as a team but, remarkably, they secured their place at Newquay by finishing second in the county event and third in the Northern regional qualifier. Pictured left to right are Toby Bianchi, Dougie Naismith, Nicholas Morris, Aaron Shaughnessy, Nicholas Gale, Gregg Booker and Edward Thompson.



## Success at home...

For the first time in a quarter of a century, King's U19 netball team has won the county title, last won by their predecessors at Fence Avenue, Macclesfield High School, back in 1984. The squad beat Christleton 11-7 in the semi final before overcoming Sir John Deane's 12-5 with a fluid and clinical display. Pictured with captain Tor French are (back row) Emma Butterworth, Laura Powell, Yasmin Lavasani, Anna Beesley, Alex Pearce and Vicky Mobbs; (front row) Helena Loynes, Meli Shannon, Hannah Murphy and Felicity Kimber.

## ... and abroad

Shortly afterwards, the girls formed part of two King's squads—a 1st VII and a mixed U16/U15—in a netball tournament in La Manga, Spain. The sun shone for all five days and the teams had to practise in temperatures soaring to the high 20s. Beach volleyball provided relaxation during breaks in training. The final day tournament was a tough affair, with a good mix of opponents from schools across the UK. The mixed group made it through to the final, with strong performances from Izzy Bell and Katie Powell, but narrowly lost by 1 goal after playing extra time. The 1st VII played spectacular netball to win their final.

## Congratulations to:

### Pupils

**Gregg Booker**, Year 7, who is U12 Regional Cyclo Cross Champion. He competes in the national championships in February.

**Jae Bowers, Rosie Christiansen, Maddie Coutts, Vicky Lomas and Katie Pickering**, who have been selected to represent Cheshire in County Hockey, and **Holly J Smith**, who has also been selected to represent the North West.

**A team of ten Year 7-9 boys** who gained the Champions award at the Lego League competition held at Liverpool John Moores University and qualified for the national final.

**Charlotte Cochrane**, Year 13, who is one of only 40 to be awarded a place at the Northern Ballet College this year.

**Laura Embrey**, Year 8, on gaining grade 8 with distinction for Theory of Music whilst only 12 years old.

**Hattie McCance**, Year 9, who was placed 4th in the individual class of the 'Jumping with Style' National Schools' Equestrian Championships in November.

**Years 8 and 9 Girls Cross Country team**, who finished in 1st place in the county championships in December.

**The Girls' Division**, who raised over £3500 for the new Children's Hospital in Manchester in the Autumn Term.

**The 1st XV Rugby team**, who won through to the last 16 stage of the Daily Mail U18 competition. (550 teams originally entered the competition.)

### Former Pupils

**Tracy Keys**, who gained a First Class degree in Chemistry at Leeds University.

**Gareth Littler**, who graduated with a First in Philosophy and Political Economy from Exeter University last summer.

**Joe Ryan**, awarded a Senior Exhibition by Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

**Sarah Pickering**, awarded 'Best Newcomer to Women's Rugby' in her first year at Durham University.

**Katie Stretton**, awarded a scholarship by Nottingham Trent University, for outstanding achievement in the first year of her degree course in Photography.

**Alex Waddingham**, selected to play rugby for England students.

### Staff

**Vicky Jackson** and her husband, Rob on the birth of their baby girl, Rosie Eve.

# BLOWING THE TRUMPET FOR KING'S

*King's Colours invited the school's new Director of Music, trumpeter Simon Mercer, to give his impressions of the department he has taken over.*

'This is a truly astonishing department.

I have known of the Music Department at King's for the last twenty years and during that time have had the privilege of working with Andrew Green and Jo Beesley on a number of occasions. I harboured an ambition to work at King's and feel it an immense honour to be the new Director of Music.

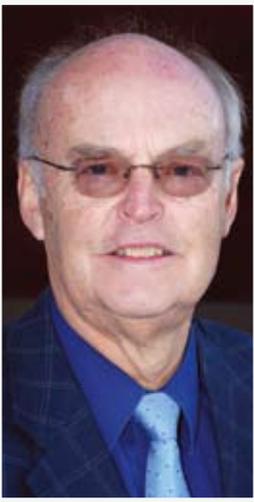
My expectations have been far exceeded by my experience thus far. The sheer breadth, depth and scale of the musical opportunities available to all pupils at King's is quite breathtaking. The level of commitment and care shown by my immediate colleagues in the department is humbling; the expertise and experience displayed by the peripatetic staff is a source of inspiration to the vast number of pupils who learn an instrument.

I am indebted to the pupils who commit themselves wholeheartedly and with boundless enthusiasm to the array of choirs, bands, orchestras and other ensembles that rehearse at lunchtime and after school every day of the week. The quality of the playing and singing in the concerts and carol services at the end of last term was truly magnificent.

My own career, which has taken me through the independent, maintained and FE sectors, includes specialist teaching at the Junior RNCM (Head of Academic Studies and Organ Tutor), as well as examining for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

I can honestly say, having visited a huge variety of schools and colleges as an examiner, that the pupils who attend the King's School in Macclesfield are blessed with, quite probably, the best Music Department in the North West (if not the world!)





## New Chair of Governors

We welcome Mr Arthur Dicken, the new Chair of Governors. Arthur attended Liverpool College and the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne before joining ICI as a chemical engineer, eventually becoming Manufacturing Director of the ICI Group. Since his retirement he has worked as a facilitator in business and was Chair of the Governors' Development Sub-Committee. He is married to Lynne, with two daughters and four grandchildren, one of whom is a pupil at King's. We wish him every success with his new duties.



## Red Rose coach

King's coaching team has a new star: Lancashire stalwart Andy Kennedy, who has joined them to teach cricket and hockey.

Andy, who scored over 10,000 first class and one day runs for the county between 1970 and 1987, played with and against many of the greats of the game. Since retiring he has worked in the West Country as a sports teacher, latterly as Director of Sport at Taunton School. His rich pedigree as a coach includes leading an England U17 tour of Australia and he looks forward to seeing the talent continue to emerge from King's.

## Former Pupils' News

### Retirement and dinner

John Blundell has recently retired as Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs and will be based in the USA from now on. He has been a loyal supporter of King's and we wish him and his family well in their new life. We hope that he will still find time to visit us in Macclesfield.

In November the Head of Foundation and Deputy Head travelled north to Edinburgh for a lively dinner with undergraduate Northern Outposters.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

13 March	Oxbridge Dinner Peterhouse, Cambridge (Tim Andrew)
7 May	London Group Dinner RAF Club, Piccadilly (Keith Aikin)
18 May	Committee Meeting Cumberland Street Staff Room
28 May	Golf – Frank Moore Trophy, Geoff Dakin Salver Macclesfield Golf Club (Chris Shingley/Alan McInnes)
19 June	Summer Dinner Dance The Bridge Hotel, Prestbury (Rob Thorneycroft)
2 July	Bursary Golf Day Macclesfield Golf Club (Alan McInnes)
7 July	Inter-Schools Golf Day Bramhall Golf Club (Alan McInnes)

### Contact telephone numbers:

Tim Andrew (school)	01625 260000
Rob Thorneycroft	01625 575912
Keith Aikin	01227 456835
Alan McInnes	01625 428961
Jonathan Spencer Pickup	01625 424479
Chris Shingles	01625 511673
Steve Moores	07880 793776

## This sporting life

Ray French, the voice of BBC Rugby League for nearly 30 years and one of a rare breed of double Union and League internationals, kept guests in fits of laughter with a hugely entertaining speech at the KSMFPA annual dinner. He is pictured at the dinner at Prestbury Golf Club with King's rugby coach Alan McInnes and the winners of this year's TT Shaw Award, Will Hanson and Emelia Bell.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

22-26 February	Year 10 Work Experience
26 February	Sixth Form Spring Ball 7.30 pm Tytherington Club
9-12 March	The Government Inspector 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
16 March	GCSE Musical Soirée 7.00 pm Cumberland Street Hall
17-19 March	Year 6 Disney's Beauty & The Beast 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
19 March	Charity Concert 7.30 pm Bollington Methodist Church
23 March	Sixth Form Musical Soirée 7.00 pm Cumberland Street Hall
25 March	King's Swings Concert 7.00 pm Cumberland Street Hall
26 March	Founders' Day Service

### 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)