



# King's Colours

Spring 2011

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield



*January is a time for new beginnings and it is always helpful to start a new term with good news. The splendid Oxbridge successes have lifted everyone's spirits.*

*We are also making the most of the new technology at our disposal. The skiing and cricket trips over the holiday both used new communication methods to ensure that everyone at home was kept up to date. In particular, the Twitter from the Caribbean was a great success. The Infant and Junior Division website has been well received and we are also experimenting with text and e-mail methods of communicating with parents. We will keep you informed on this front but do look out for future developments.*

*Despite all this innovation, we are still a traditional school and depend upon continuity. Two of our Principals are retiring this year, Tim Andrew of the Sixth Form and Liz Spence of the Girls' Division. We are very sorry to see them go but it is good to know that the school's structure, with its teams of Vice Principals and Heads of Year, will ensure a smooth transition as the new Principals take up their posts. The tradition and ethos of the Divisions will be upheld.*

*Stephen Coyne*

## THE TASTE OF SUCCESS

### Oxbridge octet

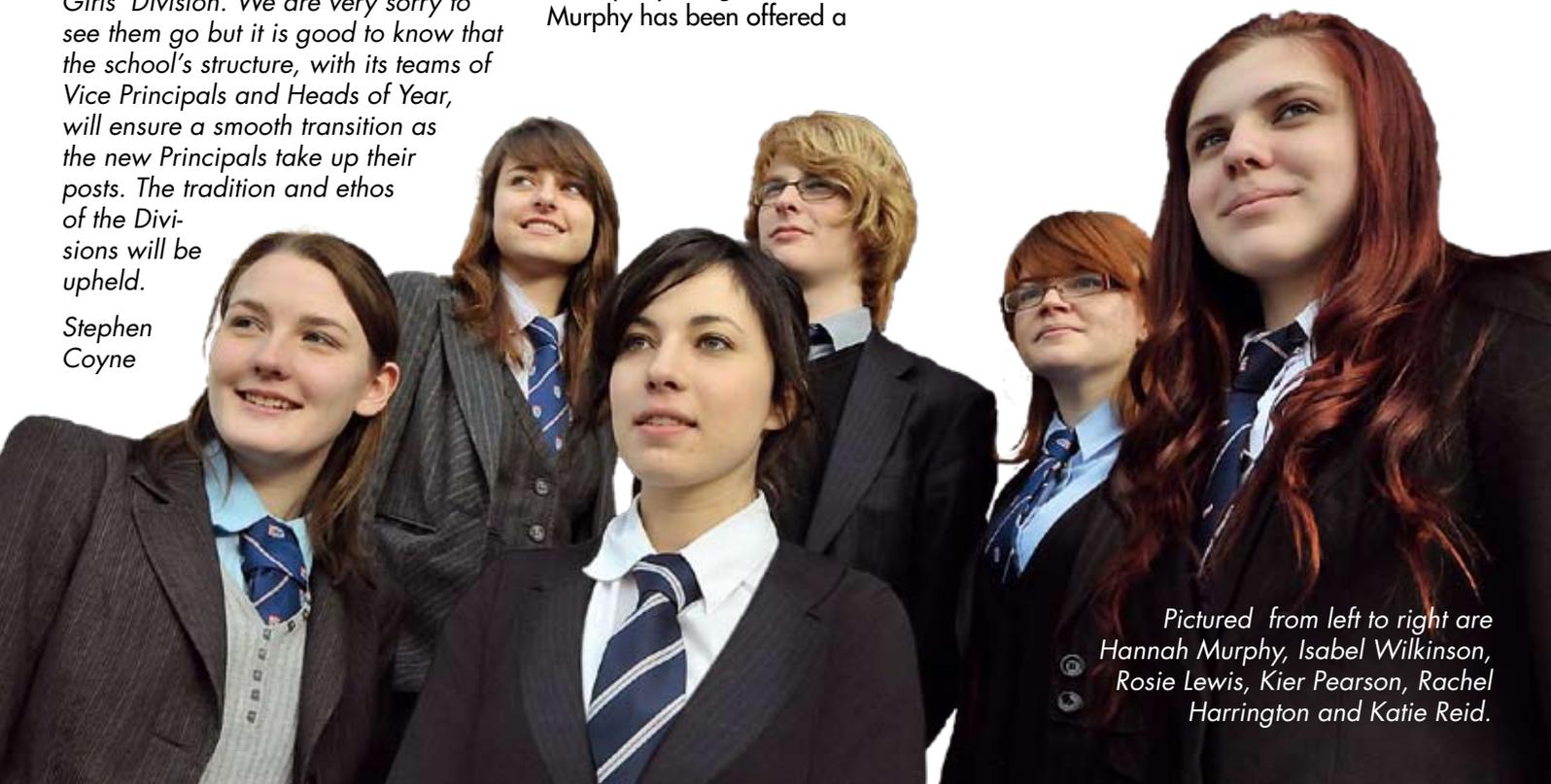
It has been another bumper year for Oxbridge offers. There is so much debate in the media about prejudice against candidates from independent schools that it is good to see the talents of our students being recognised by the most famous universities in the land. This year the offers are equally divided between Oxford and Cambridge.

Four students have been offered places at Cambridge, two to read Modern Languages. School captain Katie Reid has had an offer from Robinson College to read German and Spanish and Rosie Lewis has one from Girton to study French and Spanish. Also celebrating are Rachel Harrington and Isabel Wilkinson. Trinity Hall has offered Rachel a place to study Mathematics, while Isabel's offer is from Corpus Christi to read English.

The four Oxford-bound students are equally delighted. Hannah Murphy has been offered a

place to read History at Corpus Christi and Keir Pearson to read Classics at Worcester College. Chris Smith hopes to attend Jesus College to study Biological Sciences and Hannah Smith (no relation) is set to study Economics and Management at Brasenose. Chris and Hannah are pictured inset below.

Though Chris Smith has opted for Oxford rather than the Fens, his place represents another great success for the Smith family: his sister Alison is already at Cambridge, where she is reading Geography at Queens.



*Pictured from left to right are Hannah Murphy, Isabel Wilkinson, Rosie Lewis, Kier Pearson, Rachel Harrington and Katie Reid.*



## Winning words

A twist in the tail of a ghost story and a concise way with words has won Iona Morphet a silver medal in the Bloomsbury 247 competition. The competition, which attracted thousands of entries, invited young writers to tell a story, with a beginning, middle and end, in just 247 words. Girls' Division Iona is a big fan of one of publishing company Bloomsbury's other successful writers, one J K Rowling.



## Code-breakers

Tom Eastgate and Jonathan Pinches of Y9 have had great success in a national code-breaking competition normally tackled by much older pupils. They finished 29th out of nearly 1400 teams made up mainly of Sixth Form or Y11 students.

The Cipher Challenge is an imaginative and enjoyable exercise for those who are good at mathematics. The group was trying to decode intercepted messages from criminals planning to steal the Koh-i-Noor twin diamond. The messages were coded using a series of increasingly complex ciphers, some of which needed research before decoding.



## Maiden speech

A King's Sixth Former has delivered her maiden speech at Westminster! Elizabeth Jessop, a member of the Cheshire East Youth Parliament and their Media Representative for the North West, was in Parliament to report on five different key debates. She seized her chance to speak in the debate on sex education, arguing strongly that decisions should be made at a local level by education authorities and head teachers rather than at national level.

## Watch the birdie

The Merchant Taylors' annual photographic competition attracted 250 individual entries from throughout the Foundation. From these, 20 were selected and displayed at the Merchant Taylors' Hall in central London before Christmas. Harry Booton's photograph (below) was highly commended.

## Website evolution

A programme of significant web development is under way and links are available now to the Infant and Junior Division, the Examinations Office, Instrumental Lessons and King's Sports, plus a refreshing update to the latest news section and regular newsletters from the Head and Principals. Many more exciting developments are in the pipeline and will appear regularly, so keep an eye on [www.kingsmac.co.uk](http://www.kingsmac.co.uk).



## The Apprentices

Economics and Business Studies students are gaining an insight into the world of trade and industry. As part of a special series of A Level lectures by local business leaders at the school, former pupil Ed Beattie (pictured), director of Through Creative in Macclesfield, focused on the importance of visionary brand values to modern business. The lectures are a valuable help to the students' understanding of the real-world context of what they study in class.





## Life behind the Wall

Sixth Formers were given a rare glimpse of life in the former DDR when Gabi Killick and her husband Roger visited King's. Gabi, who now works as a graphic designer in Congleton, grew up under the old communist regime in East Germany but managed to escape in 1988 when she was allowed

to visit Hamburg. Not all her memories are bad: although there was little food in the shops, there was no unemployment, youngsters had apprenticeships, and healthcare and education were excellent. But it was like being 'in a human zoo without control over your future, without the basic human right to forge your own destiny' and she has no regrets about her decision never to return.



## Unlimited fun and games

King's Infants welcomed visitors from kidsunlimited for a morning of music and play. King's parents are reminded that they are eligible for a 10% discount at kidsunlimited nurseries.

## Happy Christmas Mombasa

Last year, the Junior Division established links with Destiny Garden School in Kenya, exchanging letters and learning about life in Mtongwe, Mombasa.

The Kenyan school is badly in need of funds, so Junior Director of Music Alison Lea came up with the idea of writing a song for the Infants and Juniors to record. Called 'I'm thinking of you this Christmas', it has a backing track by former pupil Sam Lea and was recorded at school (with duvets and pillows in the 'recording studio' to give the right acoustic!) CDs were sold, the track was available on iTunes, and the song was performed at the Switch-on of the Macclesfield Christmas Lights and at school concerts. Pupils and staff also gave interviews for local radio and a video was filmed which can be seen on Youtube. The £2000 raised will go towards building a new classroom at the Kenyan school.

## Big Christmas Sing

Infants, Juniors and Seniors all sang from the heart at the Big Christmas Sing in December. The extended concert lasted well over four hours and more than 40 Christmas songs, religious and secular, were performed to an audience of parents, grandparents and members of local churches. The choristers collected donations and Friends of King's Juniors and Infants ran a cake-and-refreshments stall. The grand total raised by this musical marathon – over £3100 – goes to the charity Christian Aid to help in the fight against poverty.



## Seasonal song and dance

There was a sparkling choice of Junior and Infant shows in the run-up to Christmas. Year 4's all-singing, all-dancing *Cinderella Jones*, an update of the fairy story, saw Sally Jones off to the disco to meet DJ Matt Vinyl. Years 1 & 2 presented *The Star Attraction* where they jived and twisted with enthusiasm, accompanied by kazoos. EYFS's contribution was *A Very Noisy Nativity* which certainly delivered what it promised. The youngest pupils sang with great enjoyment and added sound effects to the telling of the Christmas story.





## Spreading canvas

Olympic hopeful Elliot Hanson travelled to Australia with the Great Britain Sailing Team over Christmas, to take part in the Australian Laser Sailing National Championships. Elliot finished fourth in the Open Aged Nationals and second in the U19 ranking. In the Youth Nationals, which took place the following week, he came third, ahead of his two GB teammates.

He was also lucky enough to watch the New Year's Eve fireworks display at Sydney Harbour.

## Tips from the top

England's most capped cricketer, Alec Stewart, was at King's before Christmas to give 30 young cricketers a rousing send off before their tour of Grenada. His inspiring words and tips for concentration prompted a standing ovation from the audience of over 300 pupils. His powers of prediction also proved faultless: he tipped England to win the Ashes series.

Alec Stewart is pictured with cricketers Jake Knowles, Andy Hodgson and Johnny Marsden.



## Gourmet dining

For one night only, a sumptuous restaurant opened at the Girls' Division. Parents, teachers and governors dined on three delicious and innovative courses, from smoked mackerel mousse to roasted bananas. Altogether, 62 girls were involved, twelve as chefs, the rest as

waiters, sommeliers and meet-and-greet teams – or playing in the small orchestra that provided live music through the evening.

The gala dinner was the culmination of a week's cookery and front-of-house training with Chartwells chef Darren Tinkler.



## Congratulations to:

*Pupils*

**Hannah Barker, Katie Fray and Emily Robinson** who came 1st in the NW Trampoline competition.

**Tom Baston, Rachel Harrington, Euan Scott and Sean Wilson**, placed third in the regional final of the Senior Maths challenge.

**Annabelle Brooks and Sarah Stockman**, selected to represent Cheshire at the Inter Counties Cross Country Competition. Annabelle will also represent Cheshire in the ESAA National Championships.

**Andy Bryant, Jordan Grocott, Nick Harrington, Max Hayward, James Ireland, Tom Lynch, Callum McIlveen, Ed McKee, Josh Stevenson, Sam Stevenson and Chris Taylor**, selected for the East Cheshire Junior Hockey Academy.

**Fionn Carman**, Junior Swimming Captain, who was AJIS Champion in the U11 Individual Medley.

**George Drury**, selected for the North of England Schools U18 Rugby side.

**Alex and Theodora Ghorghiu** who raised £100 for Destiny Garden School in Kenya by carol singing in Romania and the UK.

**Will Hanson, Fraser Lacey and Sam Travis**, selected for the North of England Independent Schools Barbarians Rugby side.

**Kate Hawker**, awarded a Civic Service Medal by Poynton Town Council for her charity work.

**Andrew Hodgson**, selected to trial for the North of England Schools U18 Rugby side.

**Jonny Kenny**, selected for the North of England Schools U16 Rugby side.

**Tatton House** for winning the Swimathon and raising money for charity

**The Girls' Division**, who raised £3294.35 for the NSPCC. **Anna Cartwright, Helen Lyons and Holly J Smith** received Headmaster's Distinctions for raising over £100 each.

**The 26 pupils** who achieved Duke of Edinburgh Silver awards and **the 64** who achieved Bronze.

*Former pupils*

**Joe Gaffney and Chris Gibson**, who achieved Duke of Edinburgh Gold awards.

*Staff*

**Miss Jessica Morris and Mr Michael Houghton** on the birth of their son, Isaac Peter.

# AN INSPIRATIONAL REUNION

Former Head Girls gather to celebrate the past decade at Fence Avenue



Olivia Soutter

Katie Reid

Anna Beesley

Rebecca Porter

Emily Middleton

Helen Alston

Anna Seeley

Reesha Sodha

It speaks volumes for the affection and respect in which Girls' Division Principal Liz Spence is held. Mrs Spence, who will retire at the end of this school year, has worked with ten head girls during her time at King's and no fewer than nine of them returned to bid her farewell at a special reunion last term. The tenth, Ros Gathercole, who was Head Girl from 2001–2002 and is now a doctor, sent her apologies, explaining that she was on call that day.

They came from near and far. The current head girl Sophie Hurst is, of course, still at Fence Avenue, while Olivia Soutter and

Katie Reid, both now in the Sixth Form, only had to cross town from Cumberland Street. Helen Alston, head girl from 2004 to 2005, did not have a great distance to go either: she is Production Manager at an engineering company in Stockport.

By far the longest journey was for Reesha Sodha, head girl from 2002 to 2003, who flew in from Geneva, where she is a Marketing Manager with Procter and Gamble. Two former head girls travelled from Oxford: Emily Middleton (2005–2006) an award-winning poet in

her final year studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics, and Anna Seeley (2003–2004), in her final year reading Medicine.

From the North East came Anna Beesley (2007–2008), who is studying French and Arabic at Durham, and Rebecca Porter (2006–2007), reading Economics at Newcastle.

Rebecca summed up the mood, saying how delighted they all were to turn up to honour Mrs Spence. 'We all relished our school days and it was such a thrill to work with such wonderful teachers.'



## New Principal

The new Principal of the Girls' Division, who takes over from Mrs Liz Spence in September, is Mrs Jo Anderson. Originally from Leicester, she read Modern Languages at university and also has a masters degree in Education. She has taught at four leading independent schools, two of which were all girls, and is currently Deputy Head of Sixth Form at Manchester Grammar School. She is married with two children and her interests include politics, walking and music.



## Photography+maths=success

Or so it has proved for Sixth Former Ellie Morris in a national photography competition. Ellie took images of 40 household objects, all shaped as a zero or a one, and put them together to spell the word 'Maths' in binary code. Her beautifully constructed collage, with its clever twist on the idea of maths in everything, won her the runner-up prize in the Maths Inspiration Competition.



## Former Pupils' News



### New Year's Honour

Former pupil Richard West has been awarded an MBE for services to healthcare. Richard, who was at King's from 1981 to 1988, specialised in sciences at A Level and read Medicine at Manchester University. He was awarded an MBChB in 1993, becoming a Member of the Royal College of General Practitioners in 1997 and a Fellow in 2009. He now works as

a GP in Woolpit, Suffolk, and is Chair of the Dispensing Doctors Association.

### New multi gym

Thanks to a local firm of solicitors, the new multi-gym at Cumberland Street has been completed ahead of schedule. Rob Thorneycroft, who is Chair of the King's Former Pupils' Association, said, 'We are delighted that, after discussions with PE staff, Thorneycroft Solicitors have agreed to fit out the gym with state of the art equipment.' The gym will help to improve the fitness of all pupils.

### KSMFPA Dinner

The Former Pupils' Dinner, held at the Bridge Hotel in Prestbury in November, was a special reunion for Mr Davenport's rugby protégés. The large audience included the Hon David Rutley MP, the new MP for Macclesfield.

The Oxbridge Dinner will be on 11 March at the University Club, Oxford and the London Dinner takes place on 6 May at the RAF Club in London. Please contact Tim Andrew (01625 260000) or Rob Unterhalter (077258 31165 or robunterhalter@hotmail.co.uk) respectively for further details.

## SPORTNOW UPDATE

Sport Now has already raised £18,000 through donations kindly received from parents and local businesses. The recent 'Black Tie Dinner & Auction' was also a great success and details of funds raised will be announced shortly. The next event is the Sales Sharks v London Irish match, Saturday 16th April (details are in the February mailout).

If you have ideas and want to help please contact us:

Melanie Toms: tel: 07990 557 446,  
melanie.toms@momentum-projects.co.uk or  
Jane Garnett: tel: 0787 2626146, jane@jgtm.com

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16 March	GCSE Music Soirée 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
17 March	King's Swings Concert 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
22-25 March	The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
25 March	Lunchtime Music Concert 1.00 pm St Michael's Church
29 March	Sixth Form Music Soirée 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
30 March	Spring Instrumental Concert 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
30 March-1 April	Year 6 Guys & Dolls 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
6 April	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