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King's Colours

Spring 2012

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Pre-School new name, new flexibility

In an exciting, natural evolution, and in response to feedback from parents, King's will be launching a Pre-School class to replace the Nursery class from September 2012. Parents see King's Nursery as far more than just a nursery ('The education, variety and stimulation are what we wanted and why we chose King's') and have suggested the name change to reflect the reality of what the children do – and because even the children like to know that they are part of 'the big school'.

It is clear, too, that some working parents want a bit more flexibility in provision so that they can still have some time at home with their child, building up gradually from part-time to a full-time place in Reception. There has also been demand for more provision over the school holidays, which can be a difficult time to cover, especially for the younger children.

Bearing all this in mind, the newly named Pre-School class will still allow children to take up a full-time place but will also offer the flexibility of half-day sessions to suit, as well as provision during the holidays. Caroline Hulme-McKibbin, Principal of the Infant and Junior Division, has no doubt that these changes are what parents want and she is confident that they will help many families with youngsters starting out on their learning journey.



Oxford and Cambridge offers

Five Sixth Formers have won places at Oxford and Cambridge in subjects ranging from Classics to Chemistry. The Oxford-bound trio are Bridie Thompson, Johnny Marsden and David Ormrod-Morley: Bridie plans to read Classics at Worcester College, Johnny Engineering Science at St Hilda's and David Chemistry at Lady Margaret Hall. Elizabeth Jessop and Tom Cunningham are both headed for Cambridge, Elizabeth to read History at Clare College, and Tom Geography at Robinson College.

The heart of the matter

In a new initiative last term, the Physics Department took nineteen A Level students to Geneva to see the Cern particle accelerator. A fascinating guided tour of the Cern site included the place where the first anti-matter in the world was created, the machine used to invent the worldwide web and the room where the first evidence of the God particle (Higgs boson) was described. The students also visited the Microcosm, a museum of particle physics, and the Globe of Science and Innovation. Taking a break from Physics, they explored the old town in Geneva and visited the UN building.



Musical idyll

The stunning scenery of Snowdonia was the setting for some wonderful music-making at the Trigonos Strings Weekend. By the time the students, energised by gourmet meals, returned home on Sunday, they had thoroughly prepared their programmes of Mozart and Handel for the November concert, as well as rehearsing Monteverdi's 'Beatus Vir' in its entirety, ready for a performance with the NCO at the Heritage Centre. Evenings were given over to less intense and esoteric pursuits – murder mysteries, bonfires and campfire singing.



Charity at Christmas

Kenyan orphans in a poverty-stricken suburb of Mombasa were given a real taste of British Christmas when they received 240 present-bags from King's Juniors. The gifts were part of the Junior Division's long-term commitment to Destiny Garden orphanage, set up by former King's parent Judy Roper.

Closer to home, East Cheshire Hospice benefited magnificently from funds raised by the Infant and Junior Division's Reindeer Run. Wearing antlers and red flashing noses, the children negotiated an obstacle course through hurdles and hoops and raised over £4300.

At the other end of the school, and also in aid of East Cheshire Hospice, Sixth Formers were delighted to present former teacher Verna Costello (pictured above with students) with a cheque for £652.19. The money was raised by their *Songs from the Shows* extravaganza.

The war to end all wars

Moving contemporary source-material brought home the realities of the Great War to Year 9 boys. On a visit to the Imperial War Museum, memorabilia-handling sessions allowed them to read letters from a rifleman killed in June 1915, as well as learn about such topics as life in the trenches, trench warfare and the role of women on the Home Front. The shocking number of amputees showed the scale of damage that could be caused by grenades and shell fire, and the boys were very interested in the development of prosthetic limbs and facial coverings. Afterwards, they walked across the bridge over the Ship Canal to watch *Journey's End* at the Lowry Theatre.

Diva in waiting

August will be the busiest month for Eleanor Strutt. In a real coup for the Sixth Form soprano, professional touring company Heritage Opera have offered her the role of Barbarina in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. Eleanor will appear alongside stars from English National Opera, Glyndebourne and D'Oyly Carte as the company tours the North West this summer.

Eleanor, who has been performing solos at King's since Year 2, is described by Director of Music Simon Mercer as a fantastic young talent. She hopes to go to Cambridge on a choral scholarship before training at the Royal Northern College of Music. A voice to listen out for.



History isn't bunk

A chance visit at half-term to a Munich cathedral, bombed during WWII, led George Walker to examine his conscience about the role of family members during the conflict and provided the inspiration for his speech in the Historical Association Debate competition. It was an excellent occasion, with representatives from top local schools delivering speeches on 'Why History Matters'. Topics ranged from the impact of the Peterloo Massacre to the role of Keir Hardie and the standard was extremely high. George's speech, revolving around different interpretations of history and the quest for truth, impressed the judges greatly and won him the runner-up prize.



Programmed to win

Demonstrating highly innovative engineering and programming skills, Boys' Division pupils have won this year's North-West Lego League Games Challenge. In the competition, held at Manchester University, the team of six (back row: Ed Nathan, Jez Nichols, Tom Cann and Edward Mullock; front row: Rhodri and Callum Evans and Leo Skinner) built their own miniature robot. Programmed with a version of NXT/G code, it succeeded triumphantly in crossing a terrain full of obstacles.



Red Riding Hood

There were packed audiences for the Year 4 Christmas pantomime *Red Riding Hood*. Every Year 4 pupil had a role, on or behind the stage, and the production, directed by Alison Lea, was greeted with huge enthusiasm.

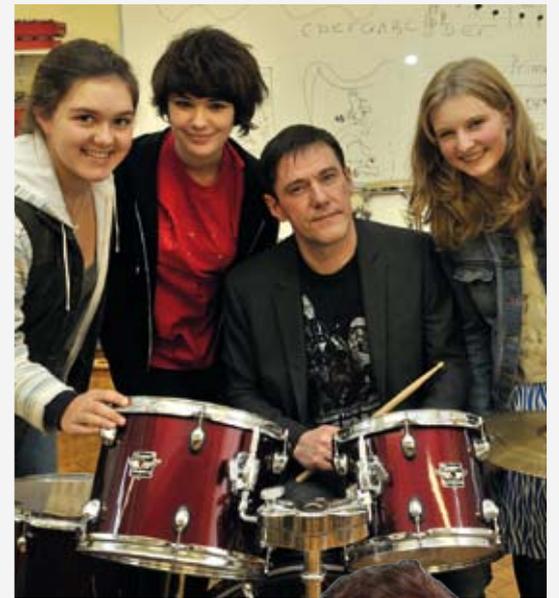
Sevens success

Spirited and intelligent performances from King's U11 footballers have won them the Macclesfield Primary Schools Seven a Side Cup. After a 2-1 win over St Gregory's in the semi-final, they beat Upton Priory 3-0 in the final, with goals from Sam Buckingham and Daniel Capon. Pictured from left to right are Daniel Capon, Charlie Toms, Remy Miller, Sam Cheetham, Alex Watkins, Ben Sleath, Vinnie Townley and Jack Crichton.



Joy Division

Forty years ago, Joy Division rock drummer Stephen Morris was a pupil at King's. Now he has a daughter here and he returned to the school as one of a series of eminent figures invited to talk at the Girls' Division Speakers' Club. Pupils were enthralled to hear about his life in music, his early memories of Ian Curtis as a prefect ('I was scared of him') and the truth behind some of the myths which have grown up around Joy Division.



Stephen approves of the broad range of subjects offered at King's these days. 'If we had studied topics like Buddhism, Philosophy and Psychology back then, I would have wanted to stay on in the Sixth Form!'





Horse sense

Tom Davison, King's equestrian squad's new coach, comes from impeccable stock. His father is captain of the British Olympic dressage team, his mother is an international eventer, and Tom himself is a former Great Britain show jumper.

In the ten years since Rachel Maddocks, now Head of Government and Politics at the school, founded the squad, it has grown into one of the largest and most successful at any day school in Britain. National and county-level prizes have been coming thick and fast and Rachel says that Tom's knowledge, experience and expertise will be invaluable.

Polar challenge

In a real test of endurance, twelve King's students will spend February half-term on the Hardangervidda ice plateau in Arctic Norway. According to Andrew Puddephatt, Head of Geography and expedition leader, no school has ever attempted such an endurance expedition in winter before.

To provide a taste of things to come, Polar Girl Helen Turton visited King's to give a talk. Helen, for whom working and exploring in the polar regions has become a passion and a way of life, warned of the wide range of rapidly changing conditions they might expect, from a 'relatively benign' minus 12 degrees with little wind, to minus 40 with a wind chill of minus 55.

County players

No fewer than four King's rugby players have been selected to represent Cheshire U15s in the forthcoming county championship matches. Dan Greer, Archie Thorneycroft, Joe Hale, and Harry Jackson have all been stalwarts of the school's U15 side, currently enjoying a highly successful season, and richly deserve their chance to represent the county.

Congratulations to:

Pupils

Joshua Burke, who won the King's 'Design a rugby shirt' competition.

Bethan Davies and **Jonathan Emery**, highly commended in the Schools Photographic Exhibition organised by the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors.

Edward Elder, **Tommy Elder** and **James Wolstenholme**, medallists at AJIS Junior Chess Tournament.

Laura Embrey, promoted to Acting Leader of the Hallé Youth Orchestra.

Tom Fairclough and **Dan Percival**, selected for the Cheshire U16 rugby team.

Lauren Garner, **Helen Lyons** and **Pari Mehra-bani**, who raised outstanding amounts for The Donna Louise Trust.

Dan Greer, **Joe Hale**, **Andrew Hodgson**, **Will Hodgson**, **Ed Horton**, **Harry Jackson**, **Johnny Kenny** and **Jack Sadler**, all currently training with the Sale Sharks Elite Player Development Squad. **Andrew Hodgson** and **Jack Sadler** are in the Cheshire U18 rugby squad.

Johnny Kenny, selected to play for England Rugby U18s.

Vicky Lomas, selected to play hockey for the Cheshire U21 team and join the North U21 Development Squad.

Virgine Nobbs and **Georgie Snell**, awarded a place in the final debate after an outstanding performance in the Northern Schools' Spanish Debating Competition.

David Ormrod-Morley and his team, who came 23rd overall out of over 1600 teams in the National Cipher Challenge, along with a team from Year 10, led by **Tom Eastgate**, who were 97th overall.

Derrin Scott (Year 3), whose artwork has been chosen to raise funds for Greater Manchester Police Museum.

Dom Sheratte, selected as Vice Captain of the England Youth Fly Fishing team.

Rebecca Tenney, selected to join the Royal Yachting Association Topper North Zone Squad.

Girls' cross country team, who came 2nd in the ESAA Regional Finals Schools Cup and 18th in the National Finals.

U16 rugby team, placed 4th in the Schools' Rugby Website League Table.

Trampolinists, boys and girls who achieved outstanding results at the North West Championships at Bolton in December.

Former Pupils

James Duffy (King's 1st XI cricket captain 2001), recently appointed Cheshire 1st XI cricket captain for 2012.

Rebecca Lea, who achieved a distinction for her MMus in Vocal Performance from the Royal Northern College of Music.

Staff

Nicola Squares and her husband John on the birth of their baby boy, Broderick.

ON TRACK FOR SUCCESS

The year of the Olympics looks like being a bumper year for King's sportswomen. From horse-riding to hockey, running to rugby, levels of participation across all age-groups are impressive and the standards inspirational.

Pictured right are Sixth Former Jenni Pinches and Junior Division pupil Grace Gudgeon. As one of the six-strong team at the World Championships in Tokyo, Jenni played a key role in winning GB's women gymnasts a guaranteed place at the London Olympics and is now training hard to ensure her own place in the team. Grace, meanwhile, has held off all challengers to win the North-West Association of Junior Independent Schools cross-country title.

National and international achievements by members of staff (mountain runner Olivia Bush was fourth in last year's Commonwealth Championships and fell runner Kirstin Bailey has won the British Championships seven times) have inspired many girls to join the Running Club. Those pictured with them below include British Biathlon Champions Rebecca and Katie Hughes. No fewer than 18 girls, from Years 7 to 10, have qualified for the semi-finals of the Schools' Biathlon Championships.

Trampolining, too, is on a high. There were some excellent results at the North of Britain Championships in January and

the U15 Elite team, Hannah Barker, Katie Fray, Evie Hancox and Rowena Moores, will represent the school at the National Championships in March, along with four other winning teams from the Juniors and from the Boys' Division. Watch this space.

Sixth Formers have been blazing a trail in girls' rugby over the last few years and the netballers, runners-up in the Cheshire County Tournament, are also a force to be reckoned with, with nine of the team representing Cheshire. In swimming, huge potential was disclosed by the superb times achieved at the English Schools' North West Divisional Championships, despite many of the swimmers being under age, and in show jumping Charlotte Horne, aged just 12, was chosen to represent her country last year. Last summer, too, King's Cheerleaders won every category which they entered in the UK Cheerleading Championships.

Girls' Division Principal Jo Anderson, who joined the school last autumn, says: 'I have been astonished by the number of sporting activities on offer at King's and am delighted to note how many of our girls are eager to take part in a whole range of sports. This healthy culture and positive outlook is something of which we are extremely proud.'





David Pook 1963–2012

'It was with the deepest sadness that we learned of David's death on 16 January. He was at home in Guildford surrounded by the love of his family.

Whilst the speed of David's passing will come as a terrible shock to us all, I know that he especially would want us to temper our sadness with an

awareness of his resolute faith and his confidence in what is to come. Let us remember as we grieve that the pain we experience now is but a reflection of cherished memories and a life well lived.

Uppermost in our thoughts at this time will be David, Charlie, their family and friends.'

*Simon Hyde, Headmaster
17 January 2012*

David Pook joined King's as Deputy Head in September 2004, following a distinguished career as a teacher of Religion and Philosophy at Kingston Grammar School and as Head of Department, Head of Sixth Form and Director of Studies at Churcher's College. His rapid promotion suggested the abilities from which King's and its pupils would in turn benefit.

David was a charismatic and inspiring teacher. Pupils greatly enjoyed his lessons and achieved very high standards under his guidance. He could stretch and stimulate the most able pupil, but he also showed exceptional gifts when teaching those who otherwise tended to be less interested: for such pupils, results in Religious Studies were well above those achieved in any other subject. David's erudition and his versatility as a teacher were shown by his teaching beyond his first subject: at King's, he also taught Latin, English and A Level Philosophy, and he brought his unique qualities to each of them.

David's faith was of central importance to him. It informed his teaching and his approach to wider school life. His enthusiastic fostering of the Christian discussion group, Crossfire, was typical of him. It is not easy to persuade young people that earnest discussion of ethical and theological issues is the best way to spend a lunch hour, but David's passionate and entertaining approach caused Crossfire to flourish. He was also an interested and enthusiastic supporter of a wide range of extra-curricular activity, sport, music, drama and social events, such as dinners and balls.

In recording David's immensely worthy characteristics, one is far from capturing the man himself. There was something of the Renaissance Man about David, in his knowledge of philosophy, in his ability as a writer, and lately a poet, and in his acting and directing skills: among the projects that he had in mind even near the end of his life was a fervent wish to direct a play at King's, as he had many times elsewhere. Above all, David was great fun. He had a shining intellect and exceptionally ready wit. It was enormously entertaining

to be in David's company. His charisma was such that he could get away with things that would have seemed outrageous in others. David's Sixth Form assemblies could be weighty and wrestle with theological matters, but he also sang Tom Lehrer songs, including the wonderfully tasteless 'Poisoning Pigeons in the Park', and, on another occasion, his own version of Cole Porter's 'Let's Do It', in which he thought of humorous ways in which every member of staff present might be expected to fall in love. There can be few teachers who would have had the nerve to undertake these performances and even fewer who could have done so without causing offence to their audience.

Pupils' comparisons of David with figures from popular culture were invariably affectionate and often telling. They likened him to Tigger, a reflection of his bubbling enthusiasm and refusal to be daunted by adversity, and to Buzz Lightyear, not just because of his impressive chin, but also in recognition of his boyish enthusiasm and his delightful tendency to aim for the stars.

Towards the end of his life, David faced the likely, and then the inevitable, outcome with remarkable optimism and good cheer. Visiting David in hospital was an extraordinary experience. He had formed immediate warm relationships with staff and fellow patients, and the affection that they all felt for David was clear. David sadly had several stays in hospital, but they did not dull his spirit or his intellect. His light reading included works of Christian philosophy, and there is no doubt that he found continuing strength and support in his faith.

David will leave an unbridgeable gap in the lives of his family, friends, colleagues and pupils. Everyone at King's is greatly indebted to him. Although the School must now manage without his unique gifts, his legacy will continue, for example in the School's further development of approaches to teaching and learning, but above all in the enormous impact that David had on individual colleagues and pupils.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7-9 February	Arabian Nights 7.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall
24 February	Lunchtime Music Concert 1.00 pm St Michael's Church
14 March	GCSE Music Soirée G3 Cumberland Street
14-16 March	Year 6 Annie 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
19-23 March	Sherlock Holmes 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
23 March	Lunchtime Music Concert 1.00 pm St Michael's Church
29 March	Founders' Day Services St Michael's Church Junior Easter Service St Paul's Church

KSMFPA EVENTS

6 March	KSMFPA Committee Meeting 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Staff Room
4 May	London Group Dinner at RAF Club, Piccadilly