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King's Colours

Autumn 2011

newsletter of the King's School, Macclesfield



It is an immense privilege for me to return to King's as Headmaster, the second Former Pupil to do so in the history of the school.

In welcoming you to this latest edition of King's Colours, I wanted to thank the many former and current pupils,

parents and staff who have welcomed me back to Macclesfield. King's is a family school and its success stems from the warmth of our community, its mutual support and generosity. We have a proud history and, with your backing, I intend to chart as proud a future.

I am delighted to be joined on this journey by Ruth Roberts and Jo Anderson. Both have hard acts to follow: record results at A Level and Girls' Division results which are the match of any school in Cheshire. But King's will neither rest on its laurels nor forget its broader commitment to a rounded education. We should applaud those of our community who have worked hard to achieve the best of which they are capable, whatever that level may be.

*Dr Simon Hyde
Headmaster*



A Level record-breakers

In a star-studded set of A Level results, no fewer than 36 students achieved at least three A*/A grades. Among them was biologist Alex Frankell (above) who gained a clean sweep of straight A*s.

Alex, who was also awarded the special mark of excellence in Biology, Chemistry and Maths, will read Biology at St Cuthberts College, Durham. He hopes ultimately to complete a PhD.

Overall, 95% of our students are taking up places at University this year.

Cream of the county

King's Girls' Division's GCSE results were unbeaten in Cheshire. Holly Smith and Katie Mellor celebrate their part in the triumph.

Excellence as standard

From the Infant classes to the Sixth Form, this summer's results were again stunningly good.

The success story begins with the 3 and 4 year-olds. Not only did the youngest members of the school all achieve the nationally expected level across every strand of the Early Years Foundation Stage, but many far surpassed it to attain the top level 9. This is considered quite outstanding. (You can read more about our Infants on page 5.)

Not to be outdone, Year 2 children excelled at Key Stage 1, bucking all national trends, particularly in Writing, where the percentage of Level 3s gained was over four times the national average.

Key Stage 2 assesses the progress made by juniors at the end of Year 6, when children are expected to reach Level 4. Here, too, the children performed far beyond national norms in all areas. Three-quarters achieved Level 5 in Reading. In Writing, the percentage of Level 5s was over three times the national aver-

age and in Mathematics it was double the national average.

The pupils' magnificent progress continued at GCSE. Over 60% of grades were A*/A and almost one-quarter of the year group (166 students) gained nine A*/A grades or better.

Finally, to A Level, where all previous records were broken. This year, 75% of all grades were A*- B and almost half the grades were at A*/A.

Upstairs Downstairs

Mob caps and waistcoats were the new uniform for Year 2 pupils during their visit to Tatton Hall. Transformed into Victorian servants, they were greeted by Philip the footman and told to don their aprons before meeting the housekeeper.

Their duties in the 'big house' included polishing the silver and scrubbing the floors, making beds and lighting fires. They were given a guided tour of the house by Ma'am and the day ended with a scone-making session in the kitchen with Cook. As a reward for working so hard, they were allowed to take their scones home with them.



Accentuate the positive

According to psychologist Dr Penny Marsden-Booth, the power of positive thinking is the biggest single influence on business performance.

She was the latest in a line of leading marketers, politicians and business leaders to discuss the secrets of success with King's A Level students.

Team work, kindness, drive, logic and attention to detail are just a few of the key qualities necessary and Dr Marsden-Booth took students through some of the practical methods of identifying and then building on those key qualities.



From boot camp to festivals

King's rugby season kicked off vigorously. A tough training camp in France (pictured below) was followed by two festivals at the Derby Fields at the start of September.

The twenty-second 1st XV Festival, as always, allowed some of the best rugby playing schools across the country to bring a squad of 25 players to Macclesfield.

The following day, the Derby Fields hosted the inaugural Old Boys' Sevens Festival. Past players returned to take part in a day of Sevens rugby and to rekindle old friendships. Given the number of Old Boys currently playing premierships, championships and national league rugby, the standard was very high.



From Salford to Sofia

Winning their age groups (U16 and U13) at the British Biathlon Championships in August means that Rebecca and Katie Hughes now have a bit of travelling to do. They dealt magnificently with the rigours of the event (a 1 km run, followed by a 200m swim, followed by another 1 km run) at Salford Quays; now they are to fly out to Bulgaria to represent Great Britain at the World Championships in Sofia on 25th September.



Carmina Burana

There was a standing ovation even before the last notes had died away. The school production of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* was hailed a triumph by an enraptured capacity audience who had queued to get in.

Over 100 singers aged 11–18 from the Foundation Choir, Chamber Choir, Barbershop, BFC and the Girls' and Boys' Choirs were accompanied by two pianists and six percussionists. The joyous welter of sound was further enriched by the soloists, Jack Leslie (counter-tenor) from the Sixth Form and professional singers Fiona Clucas (soprano) and Richard Strivens (baritone).

The evening began with a fine performance by the Foundation Choir of 'God is Gone Up' by Gerald Finzi, and a group of lovely songs from the BFC which featured pupils in Years 7 and 8.

King's science goes global

You Tube fame awaits King's award-winning chemists. Already, under the expert eye of Senior Science Technician Peter Jackson, the school has posted more than 30 of its experiments on its own virtual learning environment, Moodle. Now one of their eye-catching experiments, demonstrating the process of catalysis, has been snapped up for the new O2 educational site. This spectacular site is designed to offer multimedia education any time, any place and anywhere, and the experiment devised and videoed in King's science labs will be seen by a global audience of young learners.

Senior Subject Teacher Jim Street confirmed King's determination to be at the forefront of educational delivery, offering pupils a learning environment which they can tap into whenever they like using their laptops or smart phones. According to Peter Jackson, there is nothing new in designing eye-catching practical experiments – generation after generation of King's pupils have been inspired by them – but what is new is 'that this can now be seen in Madrid and Madagascar as well as in Macclesfield'.



Showstoppers

Why stay at home on a weekday evening, when a group of sixth formers are providing such great entertainment?

The talented bunch originally took to the stage in the spring to celebrate great musical masterpieces. Aided by Mrs Barratt, a hugely entertaining programme was devised, with witty dance routines and wonderful renditions of songs from *Bugsy Malone*, *Spamalot*, *South Pacific*, *Wicked* and many others.

The success of *Songs from the Shows 2011* prompted invitations to perform at Alderley Edge Primary School and at St Michael's Church. Again, the recitals went down very well, astonishing audiences with the amount of musical talent at King's and raising a great deal of money for the East Cheshire Hospice.

Diploma with distinction

Natural musical gifts, as well as a prodigious knowledge of musical theory, unusual in one so young, have won Laura Embrey a Distinction in her A(mus)TCL diploma.

This very challenging diploma, involving a series of rigorous exercises, as well as set works, is more usually attempted by 1st or 2nd year music undergraduates, which makes Laura's achievement, at only 14 years of age, all the more remarkable.



Much to cheer about

It's official: Girls' Division cheerleaders are the best in Britain at every age group. They came home holding every title from the National Schools' Cheerleading Championships at the Manchester Velodrome.

King's Kittens (Year 7) won the KS3 beginners' class, King's Cats (Year 8) won the KS3 intermediate class, King's Simbas (Year 9) won the KS3 advanced class and King's Cubs (Years 10 and 11) the KS4 advanced class.



Scuba diving off Sinai

It was an action-packed week. Under the interested underwater gaze of eight-foot long Moray eels, a group of 27 King's students learned to scuba dive in the clear blue waters of the Red Sea. Other spectators included turtles, eagle rays, white-tipped reef sharks, dolphins, a giant hammerhead shark and a huge manta ray. During a night dive, the swimmers were surrounded by poisonous lion fish which came from all over the coral reef to hunt in the torchlight.

Highlights were the days spent moored by the side of the Sinai peninsula, jumping off the boat and diving in water with 50 foot visibility. The trip was a huge success and will run again next year.



Owzat?

Fast bowler Johnny Marsden has rounded off a fine cricketing career at King's by being selected for the Derbyshire 2nd XI. Johnny, who plans to apply to Oxbridge, is spending his gap year working in engineering for W S Atkins. Captain of the school's 1st XI, he also plays for Buxton and the Cheshire Cricket League and is described as 'genuinely quick and suitably hostile' by King's coach Steve Moores.



Congratulations to:

Pupils

Alix Barton, Matthew Harris, Felicity Kimber and **Alice Taylor** (Year 13) for successfully completing their Community Sports Leaders Award.

Gabriella Brough, chosen to perform in Giselle with the English Youth Ballet.

Maddie Coutts, Pippa Forsythe, Anna Howarth, Abigail Johnson and **Victoria Lomas**, selected for the North West Hockey Junior Regional Performance Centre.

Elliot Hanson, for winning the U19 Laser competition in the Europa Cup sailing event at Warnemunde.

Charlotte Horne, champion in the working hunter pony class at the Cheshire County Show.

Hattie Lasman, selected for National Cheerleading squad.

Ruairidh Nichols, who represented Cheshire U17 athletics squad in the pole vault this summer.

Jenni Pinches who won a Bronze medal in the British Gymnastics Championship in July.

Briseis Preston and **Emma Smyth**, awarded places on the Y13 Cheshire LEA Gifted and Talented Art Trip to Italy.

Alex and **Tom Voysey**, whose band The Majestix has had two songs produced by a professional record producer and accepted for download on iTunes and Amazon.

1st XV rugby players **Andrew Hodgson, Johnny Kenny** and **Jack Sadler** who represented Sale Sharks Academy side against Leeds Tykes Academy in August.

Former pupils

First Class degrees

Jenny Campbell, Geography, Manchester University.

Jack Edwards, Philosophy, Bristol University.

Lyam Hollis, MSc, Physics, University of Lancaster.

Joe Ryan, Natural Sciences, Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Matthew Shribman, MChem, Magdalen College, Oxford. He also received a Lacrosse Blue, was top goal scorer in Lacrosse Varsity and founded '9th Art Magazine'.

Katie Stretton, Photography, Nottingham Trent University. Katie achieved the highest mark in her year.

Other

Joe Gaffney and **Chris Gibson**, who have attained their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Dominic Hall, awarded the college's Moberly Scholarship in Physics and Philosophy by St Hilda's College, Oxford.

Jonny Holland, who achieved top marks in all of his first year Physics examinations at Imperial College, London.

Helen Marten, whose work 'Dust and Piranhas' was exhibited at the Serpentine Pavilion Gallery in London.

Joschka Roffe, awarded a prize for being the best student in the 'North West Year in Industry'.

Staff

Lorraine Cunliffe and husband Mark on the birth of their baby son, Ben.

Rachel Richards, SST for Art and Design, who has achieved a Masters Degree with Distinction from Manchester Metropolitan University.

OUR LEARNING JOURNEY

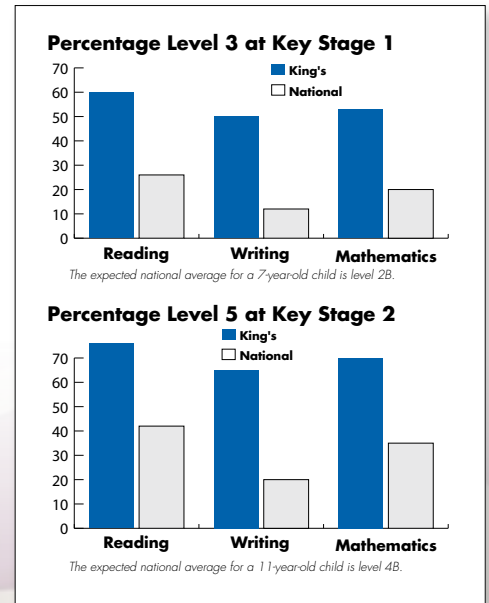
Here at King's, where the learning journey begins at 3 and 4, something truly remarkable is happening. With continuous assessment through observation compulsory from this tender age, the national expectation is that children will achieve a scale point 6 at EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage). Yet, by the end of EYFS all our pupils not only achieve this, but many gain the top point 9. This is even more astonishing when you reflect that the infants are not selected for entry by ability.

This lays a strong foundation for their learning journey, a fact soon proved by the exceptional results each year at Key Stages 1 and 2 (see charts). Clearly we are doing something right! But to what can we trace our success?

Among the many positives, two things stand out. One is the effectiveness of

our Learning through Play methods, where activities allow the children to begin acquiring skills and knowledge without realising they are being taught. (Mark-making, for instance, is an enjoyable precursor to writing.) An outdoor classroom environment mirrors the indoor classroom, with freedom of movement between the two, enabling an active, hands-on, physical approach which suits the boys particularly well, meaning that they, too – instead of following the national trend and trailing girls in reading and writing – achieve top points.

The other major factor is, of course, our excellent pupil : staff ratio. At Nursery stage, it is usually 1:6, and often 1:5. This allows close personal attention to be paid to each small pupil, focusing on each as an individual, and their learning and development needs.



Former Pupils' News

International success

David Baskeyfield (1992-2001) has won first prize in the St Alban's International Organ Competition, one of the premier competitions for organists in the world. It is the latest in a whole string of successes. Earlier this year he was awarded the 2011 Rodland Memorial Scholarship (New Jersey) and last year won first and audience prize at the Miami International Organ Competition, first prize at the Mader organ competition, Los Angeles, and first and audience prize at the AGO National Competition in Organ Improvisation.



At King's, David was taught by former Head of Music Andrew Green. He read Law at Oxford, where he was organ scholar at St John's College, and is now a doctoral student at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester.



Emily's triumphs

Not only has Emily Middleton (1997-2008) gained a First Class honours degree at Oxford University but she has also received a Civic Award from the Vice Chancellor.

The Vice Chancellor's Civic Awards recognise and promote the positive impact of Oxford students on the local, national and international community. Emily, who read PPE at Wadham College, was President of the Oxford UNICEF society and is one of two Youth Advisors to the UNICEF UK board of Trustees. As part of this role, Emily attends Board meetings and advises on organisational strategies and programmes. She also represents UNICEF UK at external events and speaks about the organisation's work and campaigns. In 2009, she co-ordinated a TravelAid teaching project at a secondary school in rural Tanzania.

Emily has also been active in Amnesty International, serving on the national Active Members Sub-Committee and the Youth Advisory Panel. She was President of Oxford University Amnesty International in 2009.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

18 November KSMFPA Annual Dinner
7.00 pm Hollin Hall

SPORTNOW UPDATE

To date SPORTNow has raised £39,000. The whole Foundation made a great effort in the sponsored run organised by Mrs Booker in the Lloyds TSB National School Sport Week. A host of other events last term included Recycling Clothes & Books, Sale Sharks Ticket Sales, Thai Night, Pampered Chef Luncheon and the NGS Charity Gardens Weekend Cake Sale.

Your ongoing support is requested for:

- Mrs Ord and The Sheffield 10K Run on Sunday 9th November
- Recycling Clothes & Books on Friday 18th November
- Pampered Chef Luncheon on Thursday 1st December

Many thanks to those of you who have already donated, have supported our fundraising events or have suggested ideas for raising money. If you would like more details of any of our future events please contact:

Mel Toms, tel: 07990 557446

melanie.toms@momentum-projects.co.uk

or Jane Garnett, tel: 0797 2626146 jane@jgtm.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7 October	Open Evening 4.30 pm Cumberland Street & Fence Avenue
8 October	Open Morning 10.00 am Cumberland Street & Fence Avenue
11 October	Piano Recital & Masterclass 5.00 pm Cumberland Street Hall
12 October	Friends of King's AGM 7.30 pm Sixth Form Centre
14 October	Lunchtime Concert 12.30 pm St Michael's Parish Church
16 November	Year 8 Boys' Music Concert 7.00 pm Cumberland Street Hall
18 November	Sport Now Clothing Collection All Divisions
23 November	Instrumental Concert 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
24 November	Year 4 Pantomime 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
25 November	Lunchtime Concert 1.00 pm St Michael's Parish Church
26 November	Friends of King's Christmas Fair 1.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
1 December	Sport Now Pampered Chef Event 11.00 am Derby Fields
3 December	Music Concert with NCO 7.30 pm Heritage Centre
7 December	Early Years' Christmas Concert 10.00 am Fence Avenue Hall Key Stage 1 Christmas Concert 2.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall
8 December	Charity Fashion Show 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
9 December	Junior Christmas Concert 7.15pm Fence Avenue Hall
13 December	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 8.00 pm St Michael's Parish Church
15 December	Term ends for Infants and Juniors
16 December	Term ends for Seniors (half day)