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King's Colours

Summer 2012

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield



PARENTS HAVE THEIR SAY

Dr Hyde is interviewed about our parental questionnaire and its overwhelmingly positive response.

Why did you choose to do a parent survey with this particular company?

It seemed the best way to find out quickly what our parents think about the school. We chose Kirkland Rowell because I have been impressed by their efficiency and incredible value. Being used by so many schools, the company has a very large dataset against which to benchmark our results.

Why is that important?

It's important because the survey works by comparing our results with those of similar schools (independent day schools). In that context, the results are extraordinarily positive. That's what the survey tells me.

Were you surprised by the results?

I was astonished and delighted by the 'outstanding rating' achieved in the senior school in three-quarters of the key parent priorities which include such core items as teaching quality, pupil happiness, exam results and developing confidence. In the Infants and Juniors, teaching quality, community spirit and caring teachers again came out very well.

Were you encouraged by the results?

Yes. All of the senior and junior schools' academic departments were judged to be at least good, which is a fantastic endorsement of my colleagues' hard work. The overall satisfaction rating was 'outstanding' and the response rate was 66%, which gives us real confidence in the data's reliability. I was delighted that one of our highest overall scores was achieved in the category of the school's image in the local community.

Will the findings influence what you do?

In good schools surveys should really tell you what you already know. With a new Head, it's a bit different. I'm working hard to get a complete picture of King's and the more information I have the better job I'll do.

Will the findings make a difference?

They already have. All of the teaching and support departments are examining the results and considering their implications. There's no point in just being satisfied with excellent overall scores. King's is better than that. We're drilling down in the areas where parents have indicated they are less happy. We want to know why and I want to know what we're going to do about it. You can't please all of the people all of the time, of course, but we can have a jolly good try!

In practical terms, we will shortly be starting a major investment programme to upgrade our facilities in a number of areas. We'll need the support of the wider King's community if this is to be the success we're aiming for, but we're making a start.

Will you do a parent survey again?

Absolutely. A key aspect of our success as a school is the support and interest of our parents, many of whom make considerable sacrifices in sending their children to King's. As I've said, the school really does want to know if there are problems we can help with. I'm not naive enough to think that we'll solve every difficulty, but we'll try. It's also good to hear every so often that you're doing a good job and that it's appreciated. So, yes, we will be doing another survey.



Code breakers

Competing against over 2,000 teams, Sixth Form code breakers came 23rd in the National Cipher Challenge, just a few seconds outside a medal finish. It was a superb performance, with the students taking the challenge home and exchanging ideas via Drop Box, Facebook and email. The Lower School team also did very well, finishing in the top 100.

Pictured are Robert Phythian, David Ormrod Morley, Sean Wilson, Euan Scott, Oliver McCloskey, Alex Moore, Tim Eastgate, Elizabeth Bell and Ben Cree.



Meet the authors

Last term, King's was visited by two very different authors. For GCSE English Lit students, Diane Samuels' day at the school gave a rare and special chance to talk to the writer of one of their set texts, *Kinder Transport*. For boys and girls in Year 8, the visit by award-winning Sophie McKenzie was an eagerly awaited opportunity to hear about her new novel.

Kinder Transport deals with the separation of a Jewish girl from her mother when children were evacuated from Nazi Germany in 1938. Diane, a playwright from Liverpool, talked to students about the universal themes in the play and how a minority culture can influence a majority one. Since it was first published nearly 20 years ago, *Kinder Transport* has received worldwide acclaim.

Sophie's visit tied in with the release of *Hit Squad*, the latest book in her bestselling *Medusa Project* series about teenagers with psychic abilities. She read an extract, talked about what inspired her to write and played a story-game with her audience, where they made choices to decide the direction of the action. The visit lived up to all expectations – and pupils took the opportunity to get their books signed.



Annie

Broadway came to Macclesfield when Year 6 gave three delightful performances of *Annie*, directed by Alison Lea. The musical showcased the children's singing and dancing talents as they played hobos and orphans, New Yorkers and servants. Comic moments were provided by Charlotte Heath as the tyrannical Miss Hannigan; Harry Wallace was the billionaire Oliver Warbucks, with Emily Foster as his secretary and Harry Collett as his very English butler. The role of Annie, the feisty orphan herself, was taken by Fiona Beeston.



Cool classics

George Walker and Thomas Rheinberg are proof that Classics is very much alive and kicking in the 21st century. Between them, they have picked up the top prizes in the Manchester Classical Association's Latin Reading competition.

George's reading from Cicero won the A Level section, while Thomas's rendering of Virgil's *Aeneid* won the GCSE section. The Manchester Classical Association is a revered organisation that demands the highest standards and Mike Houghton, Head of Classics, expressed his pleasure at the boys' achievements: 'I would have been delighted if one of our pupils had won the competition, but to have two Victor Ludorum or more correctly Victores Ludorum is remarkable.'

Bookworld

Book Week held a host of imaginative delights for the Infants and Juniors.

The discovery of a nest of three giant eggs in the Ginkgo Meadow, with associated clues, inspired a range of writing, from stories and fact-files to radio and newspaper reports. Poet Jan Dean worked with Years 1 to 6 to produce some wonderful class poems and author Diana Shaw told Year 3 about her spooky tales. As a grand finale, everybody dressed up as their favourite book character.





Arctic challenge

Not the most relaxed half-term – in fact, one of the most extreme school trips ever undertaken! Eleven Sixth Formers spent four days and three nights on the Hardangervidda ice plateau as part of a ten-day visit to Norway. Camping and cross-country skiing in temperatures of minus 20°C and icy gale-force winds of up to 60mph were a real test of physical and mental stamina. Accompanied by two experienced teachers from King's and two tour professionals,

the party skied for 8-12 km each day, carrying 30kg packs. They then had to spend two hours putting up their tents, securing them by piling snow high up the sides. Despite the hardships, the rewards were great. One student recalls how, after a long, arduous climb, they came to a plateau surrounded by snow-capped mountains, with the sunlight glinting off the peaks. 'It just took your breath away.'



Sherlock on stage

Roll over Rathbone and Bruce, Brett and Burke, Cumberbatch and Freeman. In *Sherlock Holmes-The Musical*, Tom Stevenson and Tom Cunningham proved a double act to rival all others.

Directed by Donald Forbes, with musical direction by Jane Barratt, the five-night sell-out show featured Stevenson as Holmes displaying super-quick timing and a sharp, ironic humour, and Cunningham as the willing, gullible and slow Watson, with an abundance of male chauvinism. Other star performances came from Sophie Hurst as Bella, William Strutt as Inspector Lestrade and Olivia Soutter as Mrs. Moriarty.

Top trampolinists

In a dazzling display of skill at the National Trampolining Championships in March, all four King's teams won places on the podium. The U11 Elite Boys (Harry Collett, Sam Jones, Harry Pinches and Harry Wallace) were crowned National Champions, the U15 Elite Boys (Tom Eastgate, Dan Hinchcliffe and Jonathan Pinches) were awarded second place, and the U11 (Fiona Beeston, Olivia Moores, Susannah Moores and Izzy Stevens) and U15 Elite Girls (Hannah Barker, Katie Fray, Evie Hancox and Rowena Moores) achieved third places.

Arabian Nights

The irresistible power of story-telling – and the wit and wisdom of women – was vividly demonstrated in the Girls' Division's gorgeous production of *Arabian Nights*.

Stella Moss played the spellbinding young bride, Isobelle Kenyon the vengeful king, Jenna Self the vizir and Anna Watson the bride's younger sister, while a cast from across the Division brought the exotic tales abundantly to life. The producer was Catherine Thompson, the director Gordon Mounsey and the choreography was by Kate Hawker in Year 11.





Full sail ahead

Life looks set to become ever more demanding for world-class sailor Elliot Hanson. Last year he became the U21 European Laser champion and won a silver medal at the World Youth championships. This year he joins the adult ranks, with a range of World Series events.

He is currently one of six young sailors in the National Olympic Development Squad all bidding for the Rio 2016 spot which will be vacant when Beijing gold medallist Paul Goodison retires after the London Olympics. Being part of the squad, Elliot says, makes you realise how much effort goes into every tiny detail, how professional the support team is and how hard you have to work to get into the squad and stay in the squad.

Despite the intense pressure, Elliot has also been flourishing academically, gaining four A grades in his AS levels.



You'll never walk alone

Certainly not when you have your design selected as a banner for Liverpool FC's Facebook page. Already thousands have 'liked' A Level artist Harry Frost's retro-feel cover image. Deliberately choosing a limited colour palette, Harry, an ardent, life-long Liverpool fan, included iconic images and key club dates in the winning design. He has received a prize but is far more thrilled to have created something used by LFC.

Netball

The Junior Division netball team have won the Macclesfield and District Primary Schools League, one of the season's hardest fought but most friendly sporting local leagues.

The girls are pictured with coach Caroline Jeans, who worked with Nicola Squares and Alison Moores.



Cheshire Sevens win

In a nail-biting finish, goal kicker Andy Hodgson held his nerve to win the Cheshire Sevens tournament for King's with the last kick of the game. He dropped the goal to convert a try from England international Jonny Kenny to beat Wilmslow High 24-22. Hooker and skipper Kamlesh Sodha had earlier scored two tries in an end-to-end contest.

In the group stages of the tournament, King's had had a clean sweep of wins against Sandbach High, Bishop Heber High in Malpas and Cheadle Hulme School to reach the semi-final, where they beat Wirral Grammar School 26-10.

On top of it all

Spectacular performances by King's girls helped the Macclesfield club Maximum Cheer achieve astonishing success at the National Cheerleading Championships in February. The team came home with nine first place trophies, three second places and one third.

Over 80% of the club's membership is made up of girls from King's, from the Junior Division to the Sixth Form, and all the performances were outstanding. Especially breathtaking were the displays by the Stunt Groups, involving only five individuals and the ultimate in teamwork.



INSPIRING RESEARCH

From mad cow disease to Hollywood's over-glamorisation of the mafia, from the effects of isolation to classic French cuisine – this is the dazzling range of topics chosen by Year 13 students for their Extended Project Qualification, part of the AQA Baccalaureate.

Maria McMaster, Head of Extended Studies, has no doubts at all about the long-term benefits of the programme. In addition to encouraging students to devote around 120 hours to researching an area of special interest and training them to work independently, EPQ ensures that they acquire time- and project-management skills which will be invaluable at university and beyond.

Last term, guests at the Sixth Form Centre had the opportunity to judge the success of the projects for themselves when 27 students presented their findings to parents, friends, governors and teachers.

As an aspiring vet, Ellie Morris chose to examine the causes of the BSE/vCJD outbreak in the 1980s/90s and the mechanism by which such diseases occur. She also investigated the effect on the meat industry, visiting an abattoir as part of her fieldwork.

A rather different affliction is the mafia and Madeleine Hodson's project focused on Roberto

"It has enabled me to study something in my own time which genuinely interests me; it's almost like shaping your own fourth A-Level."

Georgie Lucas

Saviano's book *Gomorrah*, showing how his depiction of the Camorra challenges the media's over-glamorous portrayal of La Cosa Nostra.

Isolation – why some people enjoy it while others cannot cope – was explored by Louise Kelsey in a study which looked at both the psychological and biological effects, as well as case studies of enforced isolation, including solitary confinement in prison.

Georgie Lucas's topic, by contrast, had more of the *bon viveur* about it: 'The origins, history and characteristics of the dishes that English people see as stereotypical French cuisine'. For the presentation evening, she made one of the dishes concerned, *tarte tatin*, which went down a treat.

As Head of Sixth Form Ruth Roberts says, 'It is good to see so many students wanting to challenge themselves to work beyond the A Level curriculum'. The wide range of EPQ subjects and the dedicated research that has gone into them over the last year denote a truly impressive achievement.



Congratulations to:

Pupils

Rosalind Armstrong and Annabel Hebb, who completed the Cheshire Hike.

Callum and Katie Barr (Junior Division) who raised £317 for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

Ellie Bird, Sophia Bird and Imogen McCance, selected by Cheshire County Netball for the Excel Pathway.

William Cann, Edward Elder, James Foxton, Jodie Foxton, Adam Murray and James Wolstenholme, who qualified for the NW finals of the UK Chess Challenge.

Jamie Edgerton, for his Distinction in Grade 8 Recorder.

Christian Harrop, Todd Leddy and Ben Lynch, selected for the Tensworth NW Hockey Academy.

Katie and Rebecca Hughes, winners of silver and bronze medals at the National Biathlon Championships.

Johnny Kenny and Jack Sadler, included in next season's U18 Sale Rugby Elite Player squad.

Lauren McNeill, who won two shields in the Wirksworth Incline Race.

Duke of Edinburgh Award: the 25 pupils who have recently won certificates.

Team Heskey, King's Student Investor team, placed 10th overall in the regional finals.

U11 hockey team, who won the Ladybarn Tournament.

U12 and U13 rugby teams, who won the King's Junior Festival.

U14 Seven, winners of the Rydal Penrhos Sevens, the Solihull Plate and runners-up in the Wirral Sevens.

U16 rugby team, who reached the Cheshire Cup Final.

1st Seven, winners of the Solihull Plate and runners-up in the Stonyhurst Sevens.

Hockey players Oliver Andrews, Andy Bryant, Jordan Grocott, Chris Harrop, Max Hayward, Henry Holden, Zach Howdle, Alfred Jackson, Adam Kendall, Robin Laughton, Todd Leddy, Ben Lynch, Tom Lynch, Paul Roberts, Chris Taylor and Josh Towne, who have progressed to the East Cheshire and Greater Manchester JAC squads.

Netball players Megan Barton, Ellie Bird, Sophia Bird, Annabelle Brookes, Louisa Bianchi, Jenny Calnan, Kate Garnett, Erica Jones, Anja Knudsen, Imogen McCance, Priya Sharma and Charlotte Stafford, who have achieved Cheshire County success.

Former Pupils

Katherine Baker, who played in the England Student hockey team.

Jeremy Done, recently selected for the Army Hockey team.

James Duffy, appointed captain of Cheshire 1st XI for the 2012 season.

Christopher Gartside, who competed in the London marathon, raising over £2000 for Oxfam.

Emily Gilmour, Hannah Lock and Jonny Sampson, who have completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Staff

Gemma Shorrocks (now Mrs Bruncker) on her recent marriage.



New FPA chair

In January 2012, the KSMFPA elected Mr David Barratt as its new chair following the retirement of Mr Rob Thorneycroft. David Barratt is a prominent local businessman who left King's in 1980. His three children have all been educated at King's.

KSMFPA EVENTS

1 June	FPA Golf, Frank Moore Trophy & Geoff Dakin Salver 1.00 pm Macclesfield Golf Club
12 June	KSMFPA Committee Meeting 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Staff Room
4 July	FPA Inter-Schools Golf 1.00 pm Bramhall Golf Club
8 July	FPA Bursary Fund Golf Day 12.00 pm Macclesfield Golf Club Former Pupils' Cricket Match 11.30 am Cumberland Street

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

25 May	Lunchtime Music Concert 1.00 pm St Michael's Church
31 May	Olympic Torch through Macclesfield
1 June	Marking Day No school for pupils
22 June	Infant Sports Day
29 June	Junior School Walk & Talent Show Lunchtime Music Concert 1.00 pm St Michael's Church Girls' Division Sports Day Junior Division Summer Fun Friday Year 13 Leavers' Ball 6.15 pm Hollin Hall Hotel
1 July	Year 6 Leavers' Party, Fence Avenue
3 July	Infant Summer Concert 2.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall King's Sings Concert 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
5 July	Junior End of Year Celebration 1.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall Junior Summer Concert 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
8 July	Term ends at lunchtime
16 August	AS & A2 Results Day
23 August	GCSE Results Day