



Engineering scholarship
page 3



Sporting successes
pages 4-5



African adventure
page 6

King's Colours

Autumn 2013 The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

King's students seeing stars!

Our students were jumping for joy after receiving their A Level and GCSE results this summer.

At A Level, 42% of all grades were A*/A; 76% of all grades were A*- B; 35 students achieved three As or better and there were some stunning individual performances including four students who achieved four A*s and six students who achieved three A*s or better.

This year's AS levels were also King's best ever results, with 43% at the top A grade.

Dr Hyde said: "I am delighted that both our A2 and AS level results have improved, when across the country results have fallen. Our recent Year 13 leavers made a major contribution to the school in terms of their sporting and artistic talents and they are now going on to some of the best universities in the UK, including Oxford and Cambridge."

At GCSE level, both boys and girls achieved some stellar grades:

- **nearly 60% of all grades were A*/A**
- **86% of all grades were A* to B**
- **40 pupils gained 9 As or better**
- **9 students achieved 9 A*s or better**

One of the top performers was the remarkable musician Laura Embrey, who achieved 10 straight A*s including perfect scores in both her GCSE Mathematics and Further Maths exams, a feat described by Head of Maths Mr Colville, who has over 30 years' experience, as "completely unprecedented."

A Level students pictured above right are: Cheshire U18 hockey captain



Maddie Coutts, with two A*s and one A who will read Business Management at Leeds; national netball champion Charlotte Stafford, who got three As, and will read Psychology at Cardiff; Lauren Rousseau, with three As, who will read French & Spanish at University College London; and Young Scientist of the Year finalist, Keir Birchall, with four As, who will read Physics at Nottingham.



Celebrating their impressive GCSE results, pictured from left are: Alistair Thomson, with 6 A*s and 4 As; Issy Shone, a talented flautist, with 4 A*s and 5 As; Jamie Edgerton, also a

gifted musician, with 9 A*s and 1 A; Jen Shone, with 9 A*s and 1 A, who wants to become a doctor; trampolining champion Jonathan Pinches, with 4 A*s, 5 As and 1B; Anja Knudsen, with 7 A*s and 3 As,

who wants to be a vet; Jack Bradbury, with 7 A*s, 2 As and 1 B; Anna Whalley, with 6 A*s and 4 As, and Lydia Myers, with 9 A*s and 1 A, who both want to become lawyers.



The Summer of 2013 was one of the hottest for many years, with temperatures soaring and people soaking up the sun the length and breadth of the country. For once, our athletes and cricketers were largely untroubled by rain-clouds, our leavers celebrated in near-perfect conditions and the sun shone on those in school for examination results.

Whilst our students enjoyed their break, our ICT Support team was extremely busy working on a number of projects to implement our ambitious ICT strategic plan.

First and foremost, was the installation of a brand new, single network, which entailed a great deal of behind-the-scenes work with servers, switches and cables, as well as physically visiting each and every one of the 700+ PCs across our two sites.

Secondly, a campus-wide Wi-Fi solution has been installed and will soon be accessible by everyone. This provision is key to delivering a platform for digital learning.

Three new computer suites have been installed: a new ICT suite and a refurbished language lab in the Girls' Division and a new ICT suite in the Percyvale building.

Another new initiative is the roll-out of pupil email addresses, which will support pupil-teacher communication, as well as help prepare students for the formal use of email in the workplace.

Finally, the IT team will be installing a VDI (Virtual Desktop Infrastructure) so that teachers and pupils can access King's systems and files "wherever and whenever" they are, whether on or off site.

We trust that the outcome of all this investment will be a hugely positive impact on teaching and learning. Staff and students are now able to login to one single network wherever they are in the Foundation. Resources can be shared by teachers and pupils alike and email communication will enhance our academic and pastoral monitoring systems still further.

Our thanks go to the whole ICT team for their dedication and determination in making this happen in such a short period of time. Later this academic year, we will adopt a new Management Information System, which will bring tangible benefits to parents as well as increasing our operational efficiency. We will, of course, keep you updated as we bring the new system on-stream in 2014.

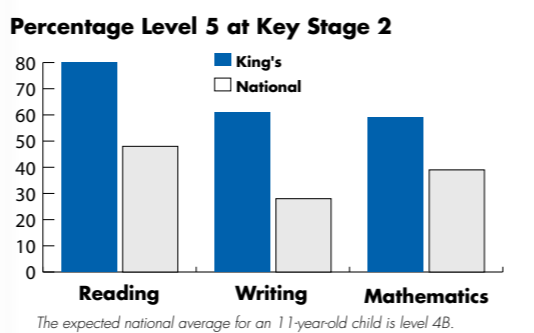
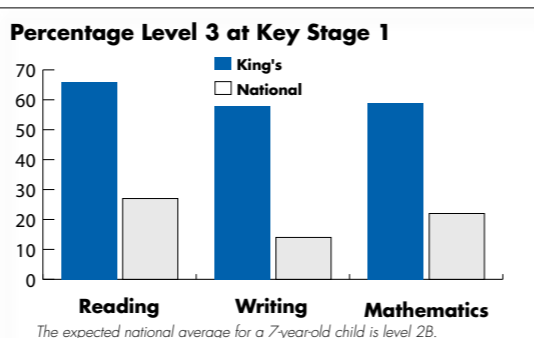
Infant and Junior success

Even the youngest children at King's celebrated stunning results in the summer. Following the government's revisions of the Early Learning Goals to contain a broader range of targets, we are delighted that our pupils exceeded the targets by 15%.



At Key Stage One, our Year 2 children once again excelled against national norms (see graphs), bucking the trends especially for Writing where the percentage of Level 3s attained was more than 4 times the national average. Mrs Hulme-McKibbin said: "The introduction of the *Read, Write Inc.* literacy scheme has had a positive impact on results; we are very proud of the children and delighted with their rapid progress."

The final milestone, Key Stage Two, assesses the progress made by the end of the junior years, when children are expected to reach Level 4. Once again, the results were a triumph: in all areas the junior children performed far beyond national norms; over three quarters achieved Level 5 in Reading with an impressive 14% achieving Level 6 (KS3 standard) compared with a national average of 1%. In Writing, the percentage of Level 5s was more than twice the national average and in Maths, 8% of children achieved the Level 6 standard.



Matt aims for the skies

Young engineer Matthew Peers has won a prestigious Arkwright scholarship, which he hopes will help him secure a future role in the aviation industry. The Year 12 student will receive £300 for each of his two years in King's Sixth Form and subsequently wants to study aeronautical engineering.

Matthew, who is studying Physics, Maths, Art and Design & Technology, said: "Engineering is constantly evolving and presents new challenges on a daily basis and I want to be part of creating a bigger and better future for Britain. As well as the financial help, the scholarship is immensely important to my CV and will hopefully impress university admissions tutors and future employers." Matthew was selected from over 2,000 applicants after a rigorous selection process. He is the fourth King's student to win the Arkwright Scholarship in as many years.

Kate joins National Youth Orchestra

After practising for the last decade for two hours each and every day and even more at the weekends, Kate De Campos has won a place in the prestigious National Youth Orchestra. Kate, who joined our Sixth Form in September, has already enjoyed one season with the NYO playing in the country's finest venues including the Royal Albert Hall and is now hoping to repeat her success in 2014.

Kate, who plays the viola, is also one of 130 exceptional young instrumentalists in the UK to win one of this year's 'Awards for Young Musicians' after selection from thousands of applicants.

She is studying AS level Music, English Literature, History and Geography and says: "I hope to go to one of the country's leading conservatoires to study musical performance. I would love to become a soloist, work in orchestras and perform in chamber groups, and hopefully this is the start."



King's Sings for Syria

King's Foundation Choir raised the roof, and around £3,000 for Syrian refugees, with a glorious *King's Sings* concert in St. Alban's Church in July.

It was an exhilarating evening with the young members of the BFC delivering their repertoire of sacred and secular songs with electrifying energy and warmth. A slick scene change in the interval set the stage for the King's Foundation Choir and Court Orchestra. The performance of Haydn's vibrant and lyrical *Maria Theresa Mass* was thrilling, and it was felt by all that the performances of singers and players alike could have graced a professional stage.

The event was organised by Mrs Beesley who said: "We are delighted to be able to offer this humanitarian aid for the growing number of refugees fleeing the violence in Syria."



This term marks the 20th anniversary of the opening of King's Girls' Division. We are marking the occasion with a series of activities throughout the year, including

this full division photograph; a commemorative artwork for the reception area of the Girls' Division; a new Facebook page containing historical photos and videos; plus a netball

festival next summer. If you were one of the original King's girls who blazed a trail for so many others to follow, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/kingsinmaccfp>



Sporting successes and developments

Work is now well under way on our exciting sports development scheme to improve facilities for our senior pupils as well as the wider community and local clubs.

When completed, the new sports facilities will include a County-standard astro pitch, a half-size astro pitch, six artificial cricket nets, four tennis courts, four netball courts and a new sports pavilion.



Pupils are already seeing the benefits of the arrival of Jenny Dunn, our new Head of Academic PE. Jenny is currently the captain of the Cheshire Women's County cricket team and a former England Academy player, and has also played county table tennis, badminton, lacrosse and football. Jenny said: "As Head of Aca-

ademic PE, I will be trying to encourage greater participation and to inspire pupils to achieve more within the academic side of PE as well as the extra-curricular side."

Jenny has some immediate objectives: "I will be working with the hockey squads as a coach and also as a mentor for all of the sports team. I will be helping our elite athletes with their training programmes and, after Christmas, I will start an indoor cricket team to enter the National Indoor Championships."

Already, Jenny has introduced "multi-sports" to the Games session to engage a wider range of pupils and teach transferable skills. The aim is to diversify the curriculum and this has seen the introduction of handball, dodgeball and lacrosse. The new strength and conditioning training has been very well received, with over 50 girls attending this term.

The summer saw some outstanding individual and team performances across a number of sporting disciplines, including Year 11 Topper sailor Adam Russ who had a brilliant summer, coming first in his fleet in a world championship race, second overall in his fleet in the international series with second and third place

finishes in the national Topper championships. Adam has also been learning to sail a Laser, in anticipation of moving up a class this Autumn and in preparation for his bid to earn Olympic Gold by 2020.



Sixth Form student Jordan Grocott, completed a brilliant tennis season by winning the county U16 Boys' Championship and the U18 Boys' Doubles title. He then went on to win the Men's Doubles with his older brother Alex and was, amazingly, a semi-finalist in the Mens' Singles. He is currently ranked number 2 in the county in the U16 category and also achieved outstanding GCSE results this summer.

In netball, our Girls' Division players won the Macclesfield & District U15 netball title and now qualify for the regional matches at U16 level, which they hope will lead to the nationals – the team's long-term ambition. Our U11 netballers were equally impressive, being crowned Macclesfield & District Champions and winners of the Terra Nova tournament.

Our Girls' Division pupils also triumphed in the National Schools Cheerleading Championships, winning four of the five main titles, whilst in trampolining, Rowena Moores was crowned U15 national champion and our U13 Elite boys' team also came first.



In cricket, our 1st XI surpassed all expectations and recorded no fewer than 10 victories with only 3 losses in 16 full

games, with some notable scalps under their belts. King's were also the undisputed winners at this year's Barnard Castle festival, winning all three games for only the fifth time in the festival's 40-year history. The U11 cricket team were runners-up in the Reeman 6s Tournament, which included 11 other AJIS schools.

In rugby, the 1st XV's unbeaten season and national second place in the Daily Mail's rugby ranking, was the product of incredible dedication, teamwork and leadership skills. In addition, six of our students have been invited to join the Cheshire U18 Squad for the County season: Archie Thorneycroft, Daniel Percival, Joe Hale, Matt Stubbs, Michael Parker and Oscar Kenny.



Our boys' hockey teams enjoyed one of the most successful seasons on record with the 1st XI reaching the NW finals and the U16 and U13 teams reaching the North of England finals.

Our U11 football team won the Reliance Sevens tournament, whilst the B team won the Macclesfield & District Primary School League. Our Junior athletes were outstanding at the AJIS Athletics Championships, achieving 10 medals and new records being set by Ben Kersh, Anna Mouteney and the U10 Relay team. Our Juniors (pictured above) were also crowned Macclesfield & District Combined Team Champions.

Working with one of the oldest civilisations on earth

After two years of planning and fundraising, 32 students and three staff spent a month in the Namibian bush, working with one of the last nomadic tribes on the planet.

The trip included a tour of the Skeleton Coast, a safari, whale-watching, teaching in a school, and a working week with the San people, hunter-gatherers who live in the bush and one of the oldest civilisations on earth.

The students worked for a week to complete a major capital installation, building a 1km-long water main from the source to the village. It was built deep enough to stop elephants digging down to eat through the pipe and drink the water.

The group flew into Windhoek, then spent three days travelling to reach the San people: first on tarmac roads, then on dirt tracks and, finally, in specialist off-road vehicles across the last 30 km.

Not only were the San people welcoming, they were also pleased that the students had come to work, not just to look. The students rose at 6am each day, taking it in shifts to complete the digging by the deadline, whilst also working in the local school and teaching lessons.

The aim in the classroom was to bring some of King's teaching style to the African bush, so the students took over the running of the school for two days. This involved teaching lessons from 8am until noon, containing topics that allowed the group to cover everything from food chains to English grammar and types of weather. The students taught interactive lessons to 27 students who took part in role-playing, games, quizzes and much more. Games lessons involved cricket, rounders and football, as well as party games. The teaching was enthusiastically received and staff at the school took notes on different teaching styles. The pupils were very keen to be involved in every activity on offer; the cricket match proved to be a high point, and every hit was cheered as though it was an Ashes test.

The trip was not without its risks and students had to be wary at all times. Footprints suggested the presence of lions and leopards close by the village; jackals rummaged through the tents and tried to get into vehicles, and there were herds of wild elephant locally.



Chateau trip

Sixty pupils from Year 7 spent a fun-packed week in the wonderful Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy. As well as improving pupils' language skills and confidence in using the language, they all had an enormous amount of fun, sampled some exquisite French cuisine, enjoyed orienteering in the extensive grounds, canoeing in the lake, climbing, archery, fencing and tackling the notorious assault course.

The weather was glorious for most of the trip, allowing activities to go on well into the evening, including a very competitive sports tournament, a fancy-dress competition and "It's a Knockout" tournament. The final day included a trip to the massive market in Caen, where the children excitedly set about buying French ingredients for their picnic, with many children showing a real curiosity about French products and an interest in buying typical food.



Surf trip

The four days when students and staff went surfing in Cornwall were amongst the hottest this year. There were few large waves: those that arrived on the beach were small – ideal for beginners. Temperatures were in the high 20s; the sea glistened; the sand glimmered. This trip was a golden start to a great British summer.

D of E Gold in 2013

The following pupils (past and present) are congratulated for completing their Gold D of E this year: Jae Bowers, Oliver Brown, Rachel Dimery, Jamie Duncan, Jonathan Emery, Harry Frost, Becky Grimes, Emily Pasquale, Anton Petho, Fran Pieczarka, Alex Quinlan, Dominique Roberts, Rosie Swinhoe, and Harry Wood.

Old Boys' cricket match

The annual Old Boys' cricket match took place on the hottest day of the season and was a closely-contested game. Captain Tom Foreman was the top scorer for the Old Boys with 54, but contributions all down the order enabled them to declare at 224-7. King's then made a brave effort, faced by top County League spinner Jimmy Lomas in particular, and 44 from Siddall, and 57 from Jamie Winrow – his first 1st XI half-century in his final innings – enabled them to stay in with a chance. Surprise package, Guy Mason caused great consternation with 6-24 from a superb 10-over spell, and the School just managed eventually to hang on for a draw on 201-8.

The match was watched by former pupil Philip Dale, (pictured) who attended King's from 1933 to 1940 and played both 1st XI cricket and 1st XV Rugby.



Congratulations to Former Pupils:

Tom Baston, awarded a Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship for Academic Excellence at Durham University.

James Duffy and Khalid Sawas of the Cheshire cricket team which won the Minor Counties Cricket Championship this year.

Emily Gilmour, awarded a First at Leeds University and a prize for the highest degree result in Linguistics & Phonetics.

Elliot Malkin, awarded a First in Mathematics from Pembroke College, Oxford.

Jonny Marsden, who has gained a cricket Blue for representing Oxford in the 2013 Varsity match at Lords.

Frank Scott, who attended King's in the 1920s and celebrated his 100th birthday in September.

Top turnout for Annual Sevens Competition

On 1 September, King's hosted its 3rd annual Old Boys' Sevens competition, which featured over 80 former pupils in 7 teams, spanning 23 years of leavers. The winning team, the Cobras (pictured below), was captained by Frankie Barker (leaver 2006) and narrowly beat the Leavers of 2011 in a keenly-contested final that also featured King's legend Jos Baxendale (England and Sale Sharks). It was a super day, watched by many supporters, with the best turnout of players to date and a great atmosphere.



Andy Wilson

This year's nail-biting Ashes series saw England win three of the five tests, and one man who was there to witness all of the action unfolding was former King's pupil, Andy Wilson.



Andy has the enviable role of covering both cricket and rugby league for *The Guardian* and *The Observer* – not bad for someone whose fondest school memories are of playing both those sports. Andy's interest in journalism started early: "Probably reading my dad's *Guardian*, especially the sports section with Matthew Engel on cricket. But Dave Woodhead's English teaching was also a big influence."

Andy left King's in 1990, had a year working for a news agency in Manchester, prior to studying Politics at Leeds University. Since 1997, he has been writing for *The Guardian* and *The Observer*.

Andy recalls several King's teachers who had a strong influence on him: "There were so many great teachers – Rev (Robin) Craig was great; Tony Jordan was memorable as a maths teacher; Pete Mathews was firm, but fair. Mark Harbord, Reg Davenport, John Melling, Keith Perriss were all fantastic, and Dave Woodhead was wonderful for English as well as cricket."

"The sport at King's obviously had a lasting impact on me, but exposure to drama and music have also helped me later in life."

Andy's advice to current King's pupils is: "Try and appreciate how lucky you are, it's a lovely place to have your schooldays. Have a crack at as many different things as you can – music, drama, sports will all stand you in good stead in later life. And try not to get too depressed if you're rubbish at a subject – incompetence in some areas doesn't matter a great deal as long as you have passion and drive in other areas."

Community

During the course of the last academic year, pupils and staff at King's raised nearly £25,000 for a range of charities nominated by pupils. This included £2,750 for charities that relieve poverty, including the BBC's Children in Need, plus £22,000 for charities that save lives or improve health, including East Cheshire Hospice, The Christie and Teenage Cancer Trust.

In addition, King's also donated items such as gift boxes, hampers and shoes to The Harry Lawson Retirement Flats in Macclesfield, Children of Romania and Destiny Garden School in Kenya.

King's has also donated books and furniture to two schools in Ghana. The consignment of hundreds of desks and chairs from our Junior Department and dining hall, plus the books donated by parents, are currently en-route to a nursery school and a primary school in the village of Kissi in central Ghana.

Last term, the Girls' Division raised more than £1,200 with a 'Raid My Wardrobe' event for three charities: Teenage Cancer Trust, The Make-a-Wish Foundation and Medcare. Manchester fashion designer Vicky Martin (pictured) joined our pupils for the event to raise money for teenagers facing life-threatening illnesses.



Dates for your Diary

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|----------------|--|
| 14 November | Year 4 Pantomime <i>Hansel & Gretel</i> 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall |
| 20 November | Autumn Instrumental Concert 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall |
| 26-28 November | Girls' Division Play <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> 7.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall |
| 29 November | Lunchtime Concert 1.00 pm St Michael's Parish Church |
| 30 November | Friends of King's Christmas Fair 1.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall |
| 6 December | Charity Fashion Show 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall Junior Christmas Concert 7.15pm Fence Avenue Hall |
| 10 December | Family Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 8.00 pm St Michael's Parish Church |
| 11 December | Early Years' Christmas Concert 9.45 am Fence Avenue Hall |
| 12 December | Key Stage 1 Christmas Concert 2.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall |
| 16 December | Junior Department Carol Service St Paul's Church |
| 17 December | Term ends (half day) |

Former Pupils Association Events

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|-------------|---|
| 15 November | Annual Dinner with Big Band performance 7.00 pm The Hunting Lodge, Adlington |
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For more information please email: formerpupils@kingsmac.co.uk

Congratulations to the following pupils:

Charlotte Abbott, Emma Jarvis and Maddy Townley who were runners-up in the Oxford German Olympiad.

Antonia Bianchi, Fiona Cornish, Katie Fray, Nikki Hughes, Jess Milton-Edwards, Olivia Moores, Rowena Moores, Ella Solomon, Mimi Stevens, Kira Stevenson and Emily Underwood, who won bronze medals in the European Cheerleading Championships.

Antonia Bianchi who trialled for Cheshire County and gained a place in the U14 Satellite netball squad.

Gregg and Ffyon Booker, who won the 2013 Midlands Mountain Bike Cross Country Series in their respective categories.

Andrew Bryant, Christian Harrop, Robin Laughton and Todd Leddy who reached the hockey tournament stage in Tier 1 in the Joint Regional Performance Centre.

Laura Embrey, who was invited to take part in the UK Mathematics Olympiad for Girls and to audition for BBC's Young Musician of The Year.

William Fox, Henry Reavey and Henry Strutt, who have been awarded places at the Royal Northern College of Music's Junior School.

Rebecca and Katie Hughes who received world placings in the Schools' Biathlon and awards based on their personal best times. Katie received a World Bronze Medal.

Helen Lyons who was selected for hockey goal keeper training with the Junior Regional Performance Centre.

Hattie McCance who was selected for an International 1 star horseriding event.

Edward Nathan and Richard Southern who won gold medals in the British Physics AS Challenge and will enter the 2013 British Physics Olympiad this term.

Sophie Quinn, who achieved a Bronze Medal, jumping a personal best of 11.53m in the Inter Girls' Triple Jump at the ESAA National Schools' Athletics Championships.