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# King's Colours

Spring 2014

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

## A BUMPER CROP OF OXBRIDGE OFFERS

Students and staff are celebrating after King's came out as the top performing school in Cheshire East at both GCSE and A Level, just days after the school enjoyed one of its best ever years for Oxbridge offers.

An incredible 12 students - around 10% of Year 13 - are set to go to England's two oldest universities, with six young men and six women earning Oxbridge offers across a wide range of subjects.

Ruth Roberts said: "This is a stunning set of results from an extremely talented cohort of students. It represents one of the highest Oxbridge success rates for any school in the country."

Pictured are (front row, from left): Joanne Collins has an offer to read Law at Newnham College, Cambridge and wants to become a human rights lawyer. Tom Rheinberg has an offer to read Classics at Worcester College, Oxford and has also won sponsorship from Ernst and Young. Tom Meadows has an offer to read Linguistics at Downing College, Cambridge and hopes to go on to study for a Masters and then a PhD.

First step: School Captain George Crummack has an open offer from Oxford to read History. Winner of the prestigious Manchester Latin Prose Reading competition, George wants to be a diplomat. Kate Garnett has an offer to read Veterinary Medicine at St. John's College, Cambridge. A national trampolinist, Kate wants to specialise in equine medicine. King's chorister Alex Swift has an offer to read History and English Literature at Pembroke College, Oxford.

Second step: Anna Townley has an offer to read Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry at Oriol College, Oxford and wants to be a research scientist. Richard Southern has an offer to read Medicine at Pembroke College, Cambridge. A gold medallist in the senior Maths and Physics challenges, Richard wants to be a surgeon.

Back row: Captain of the King's net-



ball team Laura Venables has an offer to read Economics and Management at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Max Hayward has an offer from St. Peter's College, Oxford to study Economics and Management and wants to be a billionaire philanthropist. Charlotte Harrop has an offer to read Engineering at Queen's College, Cambridge and wants to be a Formula One race engineer. Former Head Boy George Walker has an offer to read Modern History at Merton College, Oxford and wants to work in the Foreign Office.

### King's In The Community

King's pupils and staff make an enormous contribution to the local community, and last year was no exception. During 2012/13, King's raised £25,000 for a variety of charities including Children In Need, East Cheshire Hospice, The Christie Hospital and Teenage Cancer Trust.

This year, our pupils have chosen Destination Florida and The Seashell Trust as our charities, and we are well on the way to raising £6,000 to be split between the two. The Infant & Junior Division has also participated in a sponsored Jump Rope event raising £3,000 for The British Heart Foundation.





As the country battles storms and floods, this year's Upper Sixth have had to cope with a more pleasant kind of inundation as university offers arrive. Our students always impress us with the diverse range of courses and locations they choose, including more students considering overseas applications. News that the school topped the Cheshire East League Tables at GCSE and A level

last year will doubtless encourage our students to aim high this June.

In December, Arthur Dicken stepped down as Chairman of Governors and we are delighted to welcome Dr John Kennerley as his successor (pictured below left). John is both a father and son of former pupils and knows the school well having served as Arthur's deputy. We also welcome two HMC heads to our Board.

Stephen Wright was until last year Headmaster of Merchant Taylor's School, Northwood. He is a former pupil and will chair the Education Committee. Chris King (below right) is Headmaster of Leicester Grammar School and brings with him the experience of having planned, designed and executed LGS's move to a new site in 2008. We congratulate Chris on his election as the next chairman of HMC (Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference).



Also joining the Governing Body are Steve Webb and Ian Bradley. Steve brings to us a wealth of business expertise and has previously served as a Governor of Christ's Hospital School. Ian is the nominee of the University of Manchester where he works in the Engineering Faculty.

There is certainly plenty to keep our new Governors busy as we press ahead with our development plans. Let us hope for at least some sunshine in March, when we plan to open the new sports facility on Westminster Road. We hope that both our boys and girls will enjoy using the two new astro pitches, tennis courts, netball courts and cricket nets.

**Gifted and Talented specialist challenges young brains**

Gifted and Talented educator Paul Pickford recently spent a day with Year 1 pupils. A commercial illustrator and animator with a string of top industry credits, Paul came to King's to help children explore their full potential: "When working with gifted and talented children, you really need to extend them and challenge them not just through one task but through a series of connected tasks."

He added: "The gifted and talented respond to more and more challenges and extending the concept further and further into different skills. They don't get bored by the idea, they get excited and want to do more. Using Chinese New Year as the theme of the project, I wanted to extend pupils' interest across the full process of not only designing their own masks, but making and decorating them and then using them in a dramatic scenario."

*Pictured are Emily Danson and Samuel Booth.*



**Student Art Exhibition**

Senior students are currently exhibiting their artworks in a high-profile Art Exhibition at one of Macclesfield's leading law firms. Open to the public until the 28 March, 25 students are exhibiting a range of paintings, textiles and ceramics in the spacious gallery of Jobling Gowler.

Senior Partner Heather Jobling said: "The creativity of these young artists from King's is outstanding and Jobling Gowler is delighted to be associated with such a first rate exhibition." Heather is pictured with (from left): Stephanie Redfern, Robert Nowak, Matthews Peers and Alex Swift.



**Cipher Challenge**

King's Boys' Division brains recently won the final round of the internationally renowned Southampton University Cipher Challenge. The friends (pictured from left) Matt Harden, Dmitri Whitmore, Theo Roffe and Oliver Nowak beat teams from over 1500 schools nationwide to the final and most difficult challenge to work out a highly complex cipher in record time. The fearsome foursome worked together to complete the gruelling intellectual test that world famous ciphers, like local war hero Alan Turing, might have had to unravel at Bletchley Park.

Head of Mathematics, Phil Colville said: "The Cipher Challenge demands intense analysis under very strict time constraints. Teams across the country are racing to find the solution, so to find the answer first in the final round is a quite remarkable achievement from some very agile young minds."



**Rocket science takes engineers to the top**

It was rocket science that helped our young engineers to win the Macclesfield Schools' Faraday Challenge. Contestants had to build a model rocket and transporter that would successfully launch and carry its payload all the way to Mars.

The exercise was part of the STEM project to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in schools. Design & Technology teacher Gareth Steele said: "STEM subjects are recognised for

their strategic importance for the economy and we want to encourage our brightest and best to take up these disciplines."

King's is renowned for producing outstanding engineering scholars, with four students having been awarded Arkwright Engineering Scholarships in as many years. *Pictured from left: Sion Davenport, Susie Stoker, Katie Murphy, Austin Barlow, Charlotte Wardle and James Rous.*

**Young bakers rise to the challenge**

King's Year 5 pupils rose to the challenge when Cheshire family bakers Roberts Bakery gave a master class in the art of baking the perfect loaf. The budding bakers were guided through every stage of the bread-making process by Keith Birkett, who said: "The children just loved making the bread, but also learned how the bread they see in the shops is manufactured, how it reaches the shelves and how it can contribute to a healthy lifestyle."



# A THINKING CURRICULUM

Our new curriculum, which will be launched in September 2014, places an emphasis on developing pupils' thinking skills and lifelong learning habits. Unlike the pupils described in *Hard Times* by Charles Dickens as, "vessels ready to have imperial gallons of facts poured into them until full to the brim," we don't want our pupils to be passive, but instead to have lively, enquiring minds, to think carefully about the world around them and to challenge concepts before making up their own minds.



## A Learning Philosophy

In terms of the subjects offered, our new curriculum may not seem dissimilar to our current model. But a curriculum is more than just the subjects pupils study. It is also the way that they study them, and one of the key aspects of our new curriculum is the emphasis on developing pupils as thinkers and learners.

## Developing Critical Thinkers

From September, pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 will study a subject called 'Critical Thinking.' Richard Griffiths, Deputy Head (Academic), explains: "This has nothing to do with 'critical' in the negative sense of the word, but instead, it is 'critical' in the sense of 'reasoning' and 'weighing up alternatives.' Critical Thinking as a subject is rather like a mental gym; a way of training the thinking muscles. There is no subject content in the same way as there is for a subject like History or Mathematics. Instead, pupils will carry out a range of tasks which

will develop their higher-order thinking skills such as analysis and evaluation. They will learn how to analyse arguments, reason and spot flaws in other people's reasoning. These are highly transferable skills which will benefit them in other subjects, will help improve attainment and be an excellent preparation for life."

The new curriculum will also emphasise careful thinking in other subject areas. Both Drama and Religion & Philosophy have embraced a style of teaching called 'Philosophy for Children', which involves the pupils thinking carefully about moral and philosophical issues in the work that they cover and then being able to articulate their ideas

and opinions. In General Science in Years 7 and 8, one period per fortnight will be spent on CASE – Cognitive Acceleration through Science Education – which requires pupils to develop their thinking and reasoning skills through analysis of scientific issues. Evidence suggests that this kind of cognitive acceleration greatly improves pupils' attainment. A strong focus on developing thinking skills in the earlier senior school years, will form excellent foundations that pupils can build on at GCSE and beyond.

## Developing Lifelong Learners

Here at King's, we know that we are preparing our pupils for a challenging and changing workplace where it is increasingly important that they are flexible and able to learn and develop new skills at various stages of their lives. It is for this reason that we want to develop young people who are not only good at passing exams, but also

able to take the initiative and learn for themselves. We can do this by planning activities to sit alongside the usual lesson content that will develop pupils' individual learning habits, such as resilience, independence, collaboration, resourcefulness and ability to plan effectively.

This will mean that pupils will become good at learning, rather than just good learners, developing skills that will stand them in good stead as they move on to university and then to the wider world beyond.



## CASE

Cognitive Acceleration through Science Education (CASE) is a programme developed by King's College London - backed up by over 30 years of research - designed to improve students' thinking skills, problem solving skills and their ability to process information and draw conclusions. It has been shown to raise students' cognitive skill levels and GCSE grades by up to 15%. The lessons, which run in Year 7 and 8, require students to solve problems, develop theories and test them, and learn to make accurate conclusions from all forms of data. Students' skills are assessed at the beginning and end of the course and compared against national data. The aim is to develop our students into skilled independent learners who can use the skills they learn in all their subjects. It will also help with the new national curriculum and exam system which puts an emphasis on problem solving.

**World Silver for Cheerleaders**

A team of 30 King's girls gave it their all in Florida at the recent World Schools' Cheerleading Championships and they didn't disappoint, bringing home a Silver Medal in the international team event and a Bronze in the Stunt Group event. King's is the first-ever British school to represent the UK in this prestigious competition and went up against the 10 best teams from the USA plus the 10 best from around the world.

The team is: Holly Brierley, Jessie Milton Edwards, Elli Holder, Lucy Miller, Rowena Moores, Grace Pulley, Fran Robbins, Kira Stevenson, Lauren Whitney, Fiona Cornish, Nikki Hughes, Tilly Stott, Emily Naismith, Evie Homer, Polly Cartwright, Lauren Kitchen, Eleanor Collett, Emily Underwood, Kelly Corcoran, Briony Phillips, Sophie Jackson, Antonia Bianchi, Olivia Moores, Jessie Krajewski, Izzy Stevens, Millie Turner, Ella Solomon, Mimi Stevens, Katie Fray and Beth Burrows.



**Hockey**

King's boys are at the heart of the county and regional elite hockey development programme. A whopping 16 pupils have progressed to the East Cheshire & Greater Manchester Academy, with three star players going a step further and playing at the Junior Regional Performance Centre: they are Todd Leddy, Christian Harrop and Robin Laughton who form the spine of one of the best hockey sides King's has produced in recent years. Hockey Coach Steve Moores, who is pictured with the elite players and fellow coach Tom Parfett, said: "Hockey is going from strength to strength at King's and the county selections prove we have a talented and determined group."

**County Cross Country**

King's had a record number of girls selected to represent Macclesfield in the County Cross Country Championships in January. Congratulations to Lucy Griffiths and Jodie Foxton, who were both selected to represent Cheshire in the Inter-Counties race in March, and also Georgina Boden, Olivia Moores, Clea Kapadia and Amy Johnson. Year 12 student Rebecca Hughes finished 5th and was selected to represent Cheshire in the Inter-Counties race. Of the boys, 10 were selected to represent Macclesfield in the same competition and two of our Year 7 boys, Peter Goodfellow (9th) and Thomas Barker (13th), were asked to represent the Cheshire Cross Country team in March.



**U16 netball success**

A team from Year 11 finished in fourth place in the North West round of the U16 National Schools' Netball Tournament after winning four out of five matches. This was an amazing achievement, taking into account the high standard of competition and the terrible weather. King's was one of two schools representing Cheshire and the girls maintained an excellent standard of strategic and tactical netball throughout.



**North of Britain Trampoline Championships 2014**

Around 30 King's pupils participated in this year's North of Britain Championships in February. Four King's teams qualified for the National Championships on 22 March; U19 Elite girls, U13 Elite boys, U11 Elite girls and U11 Novice boys. Three individuals also qualified to represent the school in the National Championships: Rowena Moores, Toby Gray and Elliot Naylor. All other teams were placed within the top five teams in the North of Britain.



**Rugby round-up**

King's has had its best ever call-up for representative rugby with an astonishing 29 players from U13 to U18 selected by Cheshire and the District. Two pupils - Will Hodgson (scrum half) and Matt Peakman (flanker) - have both been selected for the North of England U16 rugby squad prior to possible national selection for the England U16 team. Their success is on the back of a gruelling term of rugby in which they represented the school 1st XV, Sale Sharks U16s and Cheshire.

King's U12 team remains unbeaten after nine games, having now scored 364 points and only conceded 40. Guy Mason said: "Half-back pair Remy Miller and Murray Redpath have been superb in a very talented back line, while the back row of James Davis, Ike McCormick and captain Oli Leatherbarrow have been tough terriers. A few brilliant displays from centre Charlie Ward saw him drafted into the A team and it is now a battle between him and flying winger Tom Barker for top points scorer."

Our U11s have also been very successful; their record now stands at 9 wins out of 9, with 350 points scored and fewer than 100 conceded. Wins have been recorded against MGS, Liverpool College (twice), The Grange, Birkenhead Prep, Terra Nova, Kirkham Grammar, Cheadle Hulme and St Ambrose.



**Swimming star Susie**

Year 6 pupil Susie Moores swam her way to success in the recent North Midland Swimming Championships which were held over two weekends at the Macclesfield Leisure Centre. Susie won a medal in 12 of the 13 events she entered, gaining 6 Gold, 4 Silver and 2 Bronze medals. This resulted in Susie, who swims for Macclesfield's Satellites Swimming Club, being placed overall second in the competition.



Congratulations to:

**Tom Baston**, in his third year at Durham University, who has been awarded a Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship for Academic Excellence. This is the highest award for academic excellence at undergraduate level and only 60 Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships are awarded each year.

**Colin Westcott-Pitt**

attended King's from 1977-1988 and is one of many former pupils who call the USA 'home'. Currently Vice President of Marketing at Heineken USA, Colin says he, "got into marketing more by luck than design." After studying Business Studies in King's Sixth Form, he attended the University of East London to study Business Studies & Marketing, then took a job with Whitbread Beer in the South East of England. "By then, I had decided I wanted to be involved in advertising," says Colin, "so I kept pitching to my company for a chance to do marketing. I ended up with my dream job - marketing Boddingtons to ex-pat markets in the late 1990s - and then moved to the US in 2000 to market Boddingtons."

Asked to reflect on his days at King's, he says: "I remember King's as being not just a school but a way of life. My memories now centre on the characters - nobody at the school during my time will ever forget Alan Cooper; Ian Wilson always treated you as an adult, even when you weren't behaving like one, and it was always great to find out a master's pet passion, like Trevor Adams' beloved Stoke City, or Alain Reid's devotion to WWII Cemeteries.

"King's was instrumental in instilling in me the importance of personal connections. I've always worked best in highly social businesses, which are as much about people as anything else. King's prepared me for that, and I'm grateful for it. I've always believed success is a combination of hard work, luck and talent, often in that order! The US then taught me how powerful the belief is that anything is possible. As a naturally cynical Northern lad, this was quite a discovery!"

**George Boustany**, who has been accepted by Ohio Wesleyan University and been offered a substantial scholarship.

**David Kennerley**, who has been awarded a D. Phil in History from the University of Oxford.

**Michael Barratt, Rachel Dimery, Kay Doncom, Jamie Duncan, Jonathan Emery, Harry Frost, Becky Grimes, Anton Petho, Fran Pieczarka, Alex Quinlan, Dominique Roberts, Jonathan Sampson, Charlotte Sampson, Rosie Swinhoe and Harry Wood** who have all been invited to Buckingham Palace to receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

**Lt Col Leigh Drummond** (1993), of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, who was awarded an MBE by Her Majesty The Queen in the New Year Honours List for 2013, for services to the Military. Lt Col Drummond is currently serving in Afghanistan.

## Community

Thanks to the generosity of King's parents, pupils and staff, the children of a small village in central Ghana have recently been able to equip their school with tables and chairs and importantly, open a library.

Organised by Friends of King's at the suggestion of Mick Brown, Head of Psychology, our parents generously donated books for the library. Together with desks and chairs from the refurbished Year 5 and Year 6 classrooms, plus the old tables and chairs from Fence Avenue dining hall, a consignment was sent to Ghana through CKEF, a charity supporting the education of children in Ghana.



Pictured are the recipients in the village of Kissi Besease. Ellen Blamires, Director of Connecting Kids Education Foundation (CKEF) says: "The needs of this community are overwhelming. We can't solve all the problems, but collectively we are making a difference. The items from King's were divided between St Peter's Nursery and Kissi Besease Primary School. The pupils urgently needed the furniture, as the children were previously bringing in stools from home or sitting on the ground.

"The primary school now has a fully furnished library – thanks to King's! The impact of your generosity is really far reaching. It is quite humbling to witness how excited the pupils are; many have not seen a library before. At the formal opening ceremony, the chiefs and the entire community were beyond excitement and the entire town was at a standstill. An embargo was placed on farming for the whole day to enable parents to join in the activities. It was quite an overwhelming occasion even for me, a Ghanaian. I am so grateful for what you have done! Providing hope is one thing, but ultimately we need to see children making more of their lives as a result of a better education."

### Dates for your Diary

7 March	Friends of King's House Party 7.30 for 8.15 pm Mottram Hall
12 March	EPQ Presentation Evening 6.00 pm Sixth Form Centre
13 March	King's has Talent Evening (FOK) 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
19-21 March	Year 6 Musical <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
1-4 April	<i>Pirates of Penzance</i> 7.00 pm Cumberland Street Hall

## Congratulations

**James Raval**, who has been awarded the Queen's Scout Award by Bear Grylls (Chief Scout) and Kate Middleton (Duchess of Cambridge). This is the highest possible award for the entire Scouting movement.

**Rebecca Hughes** and **Katie Hughes** who won the U19 and U15 West Midlands Regional Schools Biathlon and will represent King's at the British School National Championship finals, which are to be held at the Olympic Park in April.

Junior Swimmers, **Susie Moores**, **Ben Kersh**, **Joe Tabachnik**, **Luke Stevens**, **Sam Worthington** and **William Davies** who won medals in four events at the AJIS Swimming Gala.

**Katie Robertson**, who has been selected to attend a residential screenwriting course run by the British Film Institute during February half term.

**Alex Moore**, who was hand-picked to stage manage and assist the costume director on the filming of *Minister of Chance* – a sci-fi fantasy which is now in post-production. He has also gained a place on the prestigious National Youth Theatre's stage management team.

**Kate De Campos**, who has again been selected for a place in the National Youth Orchestra. She has also recently been awarded a significant scholarship towards the purchase of a new viola.

**Clare MacKinnon** (Year 13) who won first prize in the voice section of the Chester Young Musicians of the Year competition beating a number of Conservatoire and Young Professional performers.

**Michael Parker** (13MJB) who has been selected for the North of England and the Sale Sharks Academy and Dan Greer and Archie Thorneycroft (Year 12) who have been selected for the Sale Sharks Academy.

**Ed Nathan** and **Richard Southern** in Year 13 who achieved Gold awards in the British Physics Olympiad. Such awards are only given to the top 50 students in the country.

King's Maths Team **Richard Southern**, **Charlotte Harrop**, **Elisabeth Clivery Adamson** and **Laura Embrey** who were awarded second place in the regional final of the Senior Maths Team Challenge.

Year 13 pupils, **Fred Green**, **Max Sykes**, **Richard Southern**, **Edward Nathan** and **Hattie McCance** who were awarded Senior Maths individual challenge national gold awards. Year 12 Gold Standard Awards went to **Laura Embrey** and **Alistair Thomson**.

52 of our Y12 pupils who have now attended and passed a full 2-day first aid course at Macclesfield College.

The cast of the Senior Girls' production of *Wind in the Willows*, particularly **Maddie Phillips**, **Olivia Watkins**, **Kat Humphrey** and **Emma Maxwell** for their talent and commitment.

**William Fox**, who has been awarded the King's Sixth Form Organ Scholarship. This is a significant award and he is only the third recipient since its inception in 1990.

**Stephen Shaw**, who has gained an unconditional offer to study Graphic Design/Motion Graphics at Ravensbourne, part of London's University of The Arts for what is arguably the top graphics course in the country.

The Business Studies and Economic Department for the successful launch of their magazine 'King's of Commerce', available to download from the school website.