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King's Colours

Summer 2014

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

NEW MULTISPORT COMPLEX FOR ALL

Current King's pupils and staff were joined by previous generations, a host of local dignitaries and England sports stars Andy Bull and Karen Greig to officially open the stunning new multisport development on Westminster Road.

The new sports development includes: five new artificial cricket nets; four tennis courts; four netball courts; two new astro pitches, one full-size county standard pitch and a smaller pitch; plus a rugby pitch, athletics facilities, running track and new coach and car parking facilities.

Headmaster Simon Hyde said: "We are delighted to officially open this exciting scheme which has been designed not only to benefit King's pupils of all ages from Infants right through to Sixth Form, but also local clubs and community groups who we want to encourage to use the facilities."

England GB hockey international Andy Bull said: "The development of these

fantastic multi-purpose facilities is at the heart of the 2012 Olympic legacy and is part of the continuing drive to ensure we maintain our national sporting excellence and aim of healthy lifestyles for all."

England international netball player and coach Karen Greig, who has earned 31 England caps, added: "There are relatively few high quality outdoor netball facilities across the North-West and to have such superb courts at both the King's sites at Westminster Road and

Fence Avenue is a great credit to the vision of the school." After the official opening, both Andy and Karen spent the afternoon coaching King's pupils on the new astro and netball courts.

Ex-President of the Former Pupils' Association, former Wigan rugby league professional Alan McInnes, added: "We very much want to ensure current and future generations of King's pupils enjoy their sporting lives just as much as we did and ensure that King's maintains its national reputation for sporting excellence."



Pictured with King's young sports stars are Sir Nick Winterton, Karen Greig, Headmaster Simon Hyde, Andy Bull and David Rutley MP



As a schools' inspector, I have always found that the pupil survey offers a fascinating insight into school life. It surprises me therefore that more schools don't regularly conduct them.

We've just completed our second annual pupil survey in the Girls' and Boys' Divisions. Classes take a quick electronic questionnaire and the

staff then analyse the results. An action plan is drawn up and we communicate the results to parents and pupils.

This year 96% of boys and 97% of girls reported that they felt they were making good progress. 91% said they found their work interesting and 94% said their teachers were helpful.

As an historian, I'm used to casting a rather sceptical eye over percentages as high as these. But the survey is not the only way we seek the pupils' feedback. This year Richard Griffiths, our Academic Deputy, has launched Learning Councils on similar lines to the Divisional Councils, but focusing on pupils' perceptions of teaching and learning.

In addition, groups of pupils are interviewed as part of our now routine process of work scrutiny. A representative sample of work is collected and examined by a small team of staff, who then meet with the pupils to talk about their learning before providing feedback to staff.

Of course, you don't always get the answers you want. Only about 50% of pupils when surveyed thought that the school asked for and responded to their views. Perhaps we have a way to go in convincing some of our pupils that responding to their views does not necessarily mean agreeing with them!

Morocco, Easter 2014

Over Easter, 16 students and two members of staff jetted off to Morocco for the 'Snow and Sand's' expedition, which saw them summit the highest peak in North Africa and trek across the Sahara on camels. On arrival in Marrakech, the students were in awe of the sights and smells of the main square. On Day Two, the team headed out to Imlil, a village in the High Atlas Mountains, ready for their trek up the mountain. The next day, the team undertook a 7 hour trek to the Neltner refuge at the foot of Mount Toubkal. The students were fantastic, helping and supporting each other to make sure that everybody made it to the refuge centre. The next day, the students undertook training with crampons and ice axes, learning how to walk in the crampons and how to stop themselves from sliding down the mountain if they fell over. The team had a very early start (4.30 am) the next day to start their ascent to the summit of Toubkal. The climb was very challenging and students battled snow, ice, rocks and altitude to make it to the summit, where they were rewarded with spectacular views and plenty of photo opportunities. Following an equally challenging climb down the mountain, the team made their way back to Imlil before heading to Marrakech.

Learning to haggle is a big part of the Marrakech experience and the students very much enjoyed the 'Souk Challenge' – to buy the most expensive item possible with only 30 MAD (around £1.80). Saying goodbye to Marrakech, the team headed out for the Sahara. Along the way, they drove towards Erg Chebbi over the Tizi n Tichka pass (as seen on 'Top Gear'), stopped off to see fossils seen on David Attenborough's 'Life on Earth' series at Erfoud, before ending the day in the stunning Dades Gorge. On arrival in the Sahara, students picked and named their camels before trekking out to a Bedouin camp as the sun set. The Bedouin camp was an amazing experience; all of the students slept under the stars and a few even made it up in time to see the spectacular sunrise over the sand dunes. The team then waved goodbye to the Bedouin camp, mounted their camels and completed the trek back out of the desert. A drama and delay at the airport (a tornado) couldn't dampen the team's spirit as they headed back to Manchester to report their adventures to family and friends.



Author John Malam visits Infant & Junior Book Week

Infant and Junior pupils enjoyed a wonderful focus on literature during Book Week, with exciting activities to enrich their learning.

Pupils were astonished to find an 'alien object' which had landed on Monday morning and much imaginative writing ensued as pupils imagined what it might be and wrote letters to the aliens.

In addition to visits to Macclesfield Library, pupils spent time with other year groups reading their favourite books, entered book competitions and dressed

up as book characters. Leading children's non-fiction writer John Malam, who has written over 200 books, gave pupils a masterclass in researching and writing about the past. Infant & Junior Literacy Coordinator, Erica Merriman, said: "The children were very engaged by John's talk which explained the process of writing a non-fiction book from start to finish. The children also learned about the jobs done by the editor and the illustrator. It was a fascinating insight into the world of publishing." John Malam is pictured with Joey Chong and Mila Waseem.



Pupils win medals in code-breaking challenge

King's Sixth Formers have scooped a number of medals in the Linguistics Olympics. Laura Embrey (pictured far right), won a Gold Medal to add to her gold in the Mathematics Olympics whilst Bronze Medals were awarded to (from left): Victoria Tann, Ruairidh Nichols, Maria Kuzova and Anja Knudsen.

Laura, who wants to study Music or Mathematics at Oxford or Cambridge, said: "It is actually quite a mathematical challenge with each text requiring detailed analysis to decipher the meaning. It's like code-breaking as much as translation."

Ian Dalgleish, Head of Modern Foreign Languages, said: "They sat a fiendish set of tests requiring considerable logical thought and an ability to look at language in the abstract, analysing the patterns in a small amount of linguistic data, and working out how the underlying system works. The languages they had to translate included Turkish, Kairak, which is spoken in New Guinea, Ilokano, spoken in the Philippines and Buginese which is spoken in Indonesia."



Young scientist to work in top Cambridge laboratory

Sixth Form scientist Jennifer Galbraith will spend her summer working on ground-breaking DNA sequencing in one of the world's top research laboratories. Jennifer has been accepted for the extended work experience placement by the prestigious Babraham Institute in Cambridge and will be working in the laboratory of world authority, Dr. Anne Corcoran.

Jennifer applied through the Nuffield Foundation, set up to inspire the next generation of leading British scientists, and says, "It is a great opportunity to be mentored by two Cambridge PhD students and to observe and take part in the controlled testing procedures at one of the world's top laboratories."



International art winner

Artist Alex Barlow used 1970s computer games as his inspiration to win a global glass art competition. Alex heated and manipulated fine, coloured glass rods over a candle flame to form the shapes created by Pac-Man and Space Invaders and then fused the shapes onto a sheet glass panel. His work was selected from hundreds of entries from around the world. The judging panel, led by Lani McGregor, Director of an internationally renowned gallery in the USA, said: "Alex's work shows a rare attention to detail, painstaking technical excellence and an artistic gift in fashioning art glass from retro computer games imagery."



MUSICAL HIGH NOTES

Martin Luther once said: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world" and there are many that would agree with him. And it is the variety and vibrancy of music at King's that makes it a true treasure not only for those pupils making music, but for those family, friends and staff who regularly have the pleasure of experiencing it.

Simon Mercer, Director of Music, says: "I have never failed to be amazed by the variety of music produced and the versa-

tility of our young musicians: they are just as happy to play in a jazz band or the Concert Band as they are to sing a Mass or play Mozart. More than 400 pupils have instrumental or vocal lessons and participate in an enormous number of ensembles including a symphony orchestra, two jazz bands, two flute ensembles, two wind bands, brass ensemble, string orchestra, three school choirs - to name just a few!"

Laying the foundations

"Many pupils develop their interest in music whilst in the Infants & Juniors under the expert guidance of Jane Barratt and Alison Lea and all pupils are involved in the big Junior productions such as the Year 4 pantomime and Year 6 musical. This year's *Alice in Wonderland* was truly

magnificent and nothing beats the delight of watching 60 or 70 youngsters singing their hearts out and dancing in chorus lines."

A packed calendar

The Music Department calendar of events boasts more than 30 recitals, concerts or performances in a variety of different venues. Many are charitable events and in the last 12 months King's musicians have raised £3,500 at the King's Sings for Syria concert, over £1,000 at the Raise The Roof concert in aid of St Michael's church, plus donations to East Cheshire Hospice through our regular Music @ Mike's lunchtime concerts and the King's Swings concert given by the Jazz and Big Bands.

The Pirates of Penzance

The highlight of this year has undoubtedly been *The Pirates of Penzance* - an operetta produced by the senior divisions under Donald Forbes' expert direction. King's singers and actors revelled in the colour and comedy of this Gilbert & Sullivan classic. At the heart of the action were George Walker, as the bombastic, buffoonish Major General; Ben Lynch as romantic hero Frederic; the sweetest of

sweethearts Mabel, exquisitely delivered by Eleanor McKenna; nursemaid Ruth performed with great maturity by Juliette Gorb; and a band of lusty pirates and policemen led by the redoubtable Henry Reavey and the regal Will Poyser as the Pirate King. The production will live long in the memories of all the performers, the generous and enthusiastic audiences and the orchestra, expertly directed by Jane Barratt.

Travelling minstrels

As well as performances at school, King's musicians enjoy many opportunities to play at locations around the UK and Europe. The choir tour to Malta in 2012 was a huge success and the tour to Tuscany in July is eagerly anticipated. Each year, the Year 7 and 8 choir (the BFC) sings at Cartmel Priory in the Lake District (main picture) and our string players in the Senior Divisions participate in Strings Weekends at Trigonos in the heart of Snowdonia (below).



Passing the baton

From September 2014, Ian Crawford will be taking over from Simon Mercer as the Director of Music at King's. Ian is currently the Assistant Director of Music at Merchant Taylors' Boys' School in Crosby and has previously taught in schools in London as well as working in theatres and concert halls. He has managed and conducted a number of chamber orchestras and choirs, including the Southport Bach Choir and the Christ Church College Choir, Oxford University.



Jersey Sports Tour 2014

Over Easter, 33 Year 6 pupils enjoyed a fabulous five-day Sports Tour to Jersey, which included rugby and netball coaching clinics, a tournament, excursions and activities. The island was bathed in sunshine for the entire visit – helping pupils enjoy the sport, beautiful beaches and countryside.

The sports' coaching helped our future sports stars to develop their skills in a positive atmosphere amongst new friends. The children worked really hard and were commended on their attitude, behaviour and abilities.

The final morning of sport saw our teams compete in the 'Jersey Games' tournament. All received medals for their participation and one of our boy's teams was proud to win the event and trophy, with the other team finishing as runner up.



South Africa Rugby Tour 2014

In July, 52 pupils, five staff and a Sports Therapist will embark on a two and a half week rugby tour of South Africa playing 10 games across the country, starting in Pretoria and Johannesburg, flying to Port Elizabeth and then along the Garden Route, before finishing in the beautiful city of Cape Town.

The boys will play some of the biggest rugby playing schools in South Africa, like Paul Roos Gimnasium and Jeppe High School for Boys. They will also play in a deprived township, help coach rugby to Primary age children and assist the 'United Through Sport' Charity.

Whilst in South Africa, they will also train and stay at the High Performance Centre in Pretoria, visit the world famous Apartheid Centre and Loftus Versfeld rugby stadium, spend two days in the Kariega Game Reserve and then visit both Robben Island and Table Mountain.

Rugby trophy haul

The U16s won the Stonyhurst Sevens, beating the hosts 17-12 in the final in front of around 300 spectators. They then went on to win the Cheshire Plate the following day, beating Lymm High School in the final.

The U11 rugby team enjoyed a fantastic season, winning all 11 of their competitive fixtures whilst scoring almost 500 points. To cap this outstanding effort, the boys won the 'double' of Association of Junior Independent Schools Sevens and 12 aside competitions, which is the first time this feat has been achieved by any school. In the Sevens tournament, King's dominated from start to finish, with ferocious tackling in defence and dynamic skilful play in attack. This resulted in a 42-7 win against Kirkham Grammar in the final.

King's played the same opposition in the final of the 12 aside knockout competition, and were narrow victors after captain Ben Kersh forced his way over the line in injury time to claim a 26-21 victory.



Kings of swing

King's golfers conquered one of the toughest links courses in world golf to finish as medal winners in the Independent Schools Golf Championships at Carnoustie. Having already been crowned North-West Champions, brothers Matt and Elliot Payne along with captain Matt Aldred competed against the very finest U19 golfers in the country. The two Matts came away with bronze medals, while Elliot achieved a silver medal after a superb 74 on day one. Pictured from left are: Matthew Payne, Matt Aldred and Elliot Payne.



U12 County Netball Champions

King's U12 netball team won the County Championships after an unbeaten run of 10 games in a marathon tournament at Ellesmere Port High School. Playing a fluid but highly competitive style, King's girls scored 87 goals and conceded 25. The U14 team nearly made it a double, losing to Christleton 9-6 in the final, with King's pupil Antonia Bianchi winning player of the day.

PE teacher Lisa Booker said: "The girls are thrilled to be crowned County Champions and thoroughly deserved the win after an amazing season."



Pictured above with Captain Chantelle Carroll are Saffron Milner, Sarah Abrahamse, Molly Pettit, Eloise Morten, Alex Cairns, Francesca Sawyer, Beth Talbot and Sophia Eastgate.

Peter Moores appointed to top England job



Former King's pupil Peter Moores is the new England Cricket Coach and takes up the role following a successful career as an English county cricketer and coach at Sussex and Lancashire CCCs.

Peter joined King's in 1974, one year after his older brother Steve, who is currently the school's Head of Cricket and Hockey. Peter was selected for the school's First XI at the age of just 14, as a skilful batsman and the best wicket keeper in the school. In his final year at school, 1981, he skippered the side and scored 980 runs in the season – breaking a record that had stood since the 1930s. Ian Wilson, King's former cricket coach (far right in the team picture), recalls: "He was an outstanding captain, tactically very astute, and held in the highest esteem by his fellow players. His enthusiasm for the game has always stood out and I am delighted that he now has a real opportunity at the England job."

Following school, he went on to play cricket as a wicket keeper for Worcestershire and Sussex. Peter became captain at Sussex in 1997 before retiring from playing in 1998 and becoming the coach at Sussex – taking them to the County Championship in 2003. After a 2-year spell with the National Academy, Peter was appointed England coach in 2007, holding the position for 2 years. In 2009, Peter joined Lancashire as coach and guided them to the County Championship in 2011, for the first time in 77 years, making him the only coach to have won the trophy with two different counties.

Peter says: "I look back on my days as a King's pupil with great affection for the staff and the friendships that I formed, mainly through the cricket team. My school days were fantastic, and I feel very fortunate to have had the start that I had. Steve keeps me up-to-date on the current goings on and I try to make it back to the former pupils' dinner every couple of years, to stay in touch with old friends and former teachers."

Peter is the first man in England's big three traditional sports to hold the top coaching job twice.

The First XI team photo for the 1980 season below, shows Peter on the left and his older brother Steve on the right in the inset.



Community action

Our senior pupils have worked hard all year to raise vital funds for their two chosen charities. In the Girls' Division, pupils chose Destination Florida, a local charity aiming to send children with serious or life threatening illnesses on holiday to Florida. School Nurse Becky Murphy is a volunteer for the charity, providing medical care for children during the trips. With a packed fundraising calendar which included cake sales, hoodies, card sales and a Santa Dash, all girls played their part in ensuring that they exceeded the original target and raised a staggering £5,317.

The Boys' Division chose to support The Seashell Trust, a local charity that provides education and care for young people with complex and severe learning disabilities. This charity was chosen for its special significance to one of the school's own students, Harry Norton in Year 7, whose two brothers regularly receive respite care through The Seashell Trust. Harry himself has done a great deal of work to raise money for the charity, including selling his own art work and speaking at fundraising events. Other boys rose to the challenge and organised an impressive range of fund-raising events including a Santa Dash, a penalty shootout and numerous cake sales. The charities prefects were delighted to present a cheque to Harry for £2,064.



Dates for your Diary

25 June	Music Competition Soirée 7.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall
26 June	King's Sings Concert 7.15 pm United Reformed Church
27 June	Lunchtime Music Concert 1.00 pm St Michael's Church
30 June	King's Taster Day
1 July	Junior Summer Concert 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
2 July	Infant Summer Concert 2.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall
3 July	Year 7 & 8 Performance Evening Fence Avenue Hall
4 July	Term ends at lunchtime
14 August	AS & A2 Results Day
21 August	GCSE Results Day

Freddie Higginbotham and **Jimmy Foxton**, joint winners of the King's Junior Chess Tournament and to **Josh Rajendran**, **David Harris** and **Christian Tattum** who will join them in the North West finals of the UK Chess Challenge.

The Y10 team of **Ben Lynch**, **Ben Allmand-Smith**, **David Jessop** and **Alex Welsh** who came 1st out of 23 teams in the Regional Finals of the Further Mathematics Competition.

Jamie Edgerton, who is a member of the Wigan Youth Jazz Orchestra which won the Youth Category of the Great North Big Band Jazz Festival. Jamie has also achieved a third Grade 8 Distinction, this time on the Saxophone.

Oliver Rushton, who achieved three first places, a second place and the Huw Lloyd Rowlands trophy for prose reading at the Hazel Grove Music Festival.

Brendan Jacot, who achieved Grade 8 Piano with Distinction and **Helen Lyons** and **Aaron Shaughnessy** who both achieved Grade 8 Flute with Distinction.

Laura Embrey, who was invited to participate in the prestigious British Mathematical Olympiad.

Anna Townley and **Julia Smith**, who achieved Gold awards in the British Biological Olympiad.

Jamie Edgerton and **Darragh Burke**, who won the King's Has Talent competition with a witty musical performance.

Matthew Peers, **Jonathan Jones** and **Anna Sass**, who were selected at a national level to participate in Villiers Park courses for those gifted in particular areas of study.

Patrick Symmons Roberts, who was commended by Warwick and Royal Holloway universities for an outstanding creative writing portfolio.

Robyn Lalic and **Charlie Toms** who were highly commended in the 'Lowry/Living Edge Art Competition.'

Sarah Abrahamse, **Imogen Collinson**, **Alice Carter** and **Katie Hayward** whose artwork was shortlisted in the Browne Jacobson North West Arts competition.

Ed Nathan, **Tom Cann**, **Anna Townley** and **Richard Southern**, who all achieved Silver Awards in the RSC Chemistry Olympiad.

George Holden, who has been selected for the Derbyshire U12 cricket squad.

Max Thompson who has been selected for the Manchester United scholarship programme.

The three King's teams who took the Gold Medal in the British Schools Trampoline Championships 2014; U13 elite boys (**Harry Pinches**, **Harry Wallace**, **Harry Collett**), U11 novice boys (**Ted Broadley**, **Elliot Naylor**, **Tyler Keefe**, **Toby Gray**) and U19 Elite girls (**Rowena Moores**, **Beth Burrows**, **Katie Fray** and **Katie Cornish**), with **Rowena Moores** placing 2nd individually.

Katie Hughes (2nd), **Charlotte Taylor** (8th) and **Rebecca Hughes** (3rd), who competed in the National Finals of the Schools Biathlon.

Jordan Grocott who was successful in helping the U18 Cheshire Boy's Tennis Team to achieve a second place position in Division 2 of the six UK divisions.

William Poyser who was awarded his Gold Duke of Edinburgh award at St James's Palace on 8 May.