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# King's Colours

Autumn 2015

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

## ANOTHER BUMPER YEAR FOR KING'S PUPILS

King's aims to challenge pupils to aspire, work hard and achieve, as well as to develop ambitious and well-rounded individuals. This was very much in evidence over the summer; students taking public examinations received outstanding results whilst pupils throughout the school engaged in a wide range of activities around the globe.

Sixth Formers achieved some of the best A Level results in the country, again securing King's a place in the national league tables for top performing independent schools. More than 80% of all grades were A\* - B; 18% were at the top A\* grade and 45 students achieved three As or better.

Headmaster Dr Simon Hyde said:

"These are exceptional results born of the students' and teachers' hard work and a thirst for intellectual inquiry. I am delighted that these talented young men and women are now going on to fulfil their dreams at some of the very best educational institutions in the UK, USA and Canada."

Pictured below from left are: Anja Knudsen, with three straight A\*s, who will study Veterinary Science at Edinburgh University; rugby player Jack Bradbury,

with A\*AAB, who will read Natural Sciences at Bath; Anna Whaley, who got A\*A\*B and will read Law at Bristol; and Jen Shone, who got A\*A\*A and will read Medicine at Sheffield.

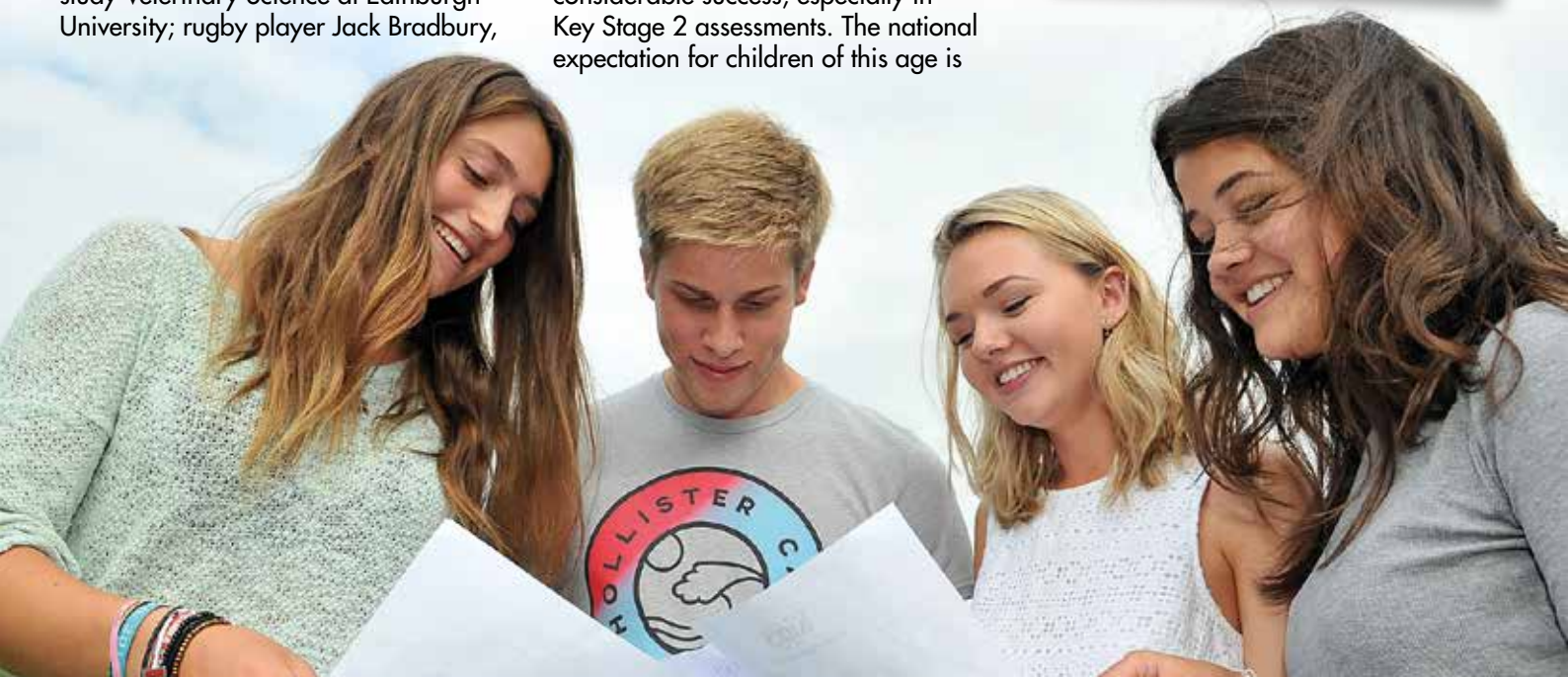


GCSE students did equally well, achieving 83% of all grades at A\* - B and 25% at A\*. Pictured above are two students each with ten A\*s: Sam Bryning, a school team cricketer and rugby player, hopes his clean sweep of A\*s will ultimately lead to a career in the City; North of England hockey star Eleanor Toms also aced all 10 GCSEs with A\*s.

Not to be outdone, Junior pupils enjoyed considerable success, especially in Key Stage 2 assessments. The national expectation for children of this age is

Level 4, with Level 5 for higher achievers. As well as 100% of children at King's achieving Level 4 in Reading, Writing, Maths and Science, an incredible third of the year group achieved Level 6 in one or more areas of Reading, Writing and Maths.

Of the 58 children in Year 6, 19% achieved Level 6 in Mathematics, 17% Level 6 in Reading and 14% Level 6 in Writing. These compare with the national average of 1%.





The School has been a hive of activity over the summer. The sports pavilion at Westminster Road has been completed, showers and toilets refurbished, various departments redecorated on both sites, and the Admissions Department relocated to Fence Avenue. We have also hosted a number of pre-planning consultation events on the School's 2020 Vision. Many thanks to our dedicated team of support staff who either oversee or complete this important work.

The consultation events were well attended and around 150 responses were received via the feedback forms, email and website. The planning application for the new School has now been submitted and we eagerly await the outcome. Timeframes are difficult to determine, but we will have a much better idea once we receive the planning decision. An overview of the School's plans is available on our website. We will bring you news of our progress in future editions of *King's Colours*.

The holidays saw the launch of a new King's learning initiative, the Headmaster's Summer Challenge. As part of our commitment to developing lively and enquiring minds, pupils in Years 7-9 were invited to tackle one of a choice of tasks, using the summer break as an opportunity to learn outside the normal school routines. The tasks allowed different talents to flourish and were open-ended so that students could be as arty or as technological (or both) as they wanted. I was delighted by the number of entries from both of our Senior Divisions. All of the tasks were attempted by at least one pupil and there were some remarkable responses, from the very academic to the more artistic. Several pupils wrote about their choice of 'man or woman of the century'; some painted or drew scenes from their holiday destinations; there were poems, drawings, essays, sketches, PowerPoint presentations, photographs, posters and even hand-made postcards. Some students learned something new (from Maths to knitting to dry-stone walling) and some wrote reviews of books they had read. The entries ranged in topic from Angela Merkel to the kinematic variables of parabolic trajectories in a vacuum. I would like to congratulate all of the participants for the quality and imagination of their entries – all will receive a Principal's Commendation and the winners will receive a prize.

Congratulations also to our public examination candidates, especially members of last year's Upper Sixth who maintained record results at A Level.

This term sees the conclusion of our 2012-2015 Strategic Education Plan. I am grateful for the hard work of my colleagues in helping us achieve so much and look forward to drafting our new plan over the next couple of terms.



Year 9 pupil Lottie Thomas with her study of Bass Rock, entered for the Headmaster's Summer Challenge.

## ICT Initiatives

Development continues apace in the world of ICT at King's. Parents will now be familiar with the Parent Portal, where assessments and reports are published to all Senior pupils. Parents are also now able to view their child's rewards and have the ability to directly contact their child's tutor via the Portal. The Parent Portal will shortly become the one-stop-shop for current parents as all letters and key documents will be published in this area.

Future initiatives include the introduction of the Pupil Portal, enabling pupils themselves access to their own academic record as well as their accrued number of house points. Pupils are also now able to access their timetable via their Outlook email calendar ensuring they have no excuse for not knowing the room or what lesson is next!



On the hardware front, the school is currently testing one of the newest LED boards in the Art Department, and feedback from both pupils and staff is extremely positive. The Sixth Form are soon to receive new Microsoft Surface devices to assist with their independent study periods in the Sixth Form Centre. These devices will, in the first instance, be used by pupils following the Global Perspectives course as part of their Year 12 studies. WiFi provision in this area has also been extended and improved in order to facilitate the school's upcoming drive to encourage pupils to bring their own device into school. In the Infant & Junior Division, pupils now all have access to iPads both in the Lower and Upper Junior areas and staff are discovering ever more exciting Apps to assist their already diverse methods of teaching.



## Clowning glory

Oliver Rushton has won The British Federation of Festivals North West Championships for Speech & Drama with a piece that took three minutes to deliver but six months to perfect.

The Year 9 pupil, who had already been crowned the Alderley Edge Festival champion, portrayed the touching Shakespearean clown Lancelot Gobbo to win the Championship against fellow festival winners from across the region.

## Musical duo play with the best

A duo of talented King's Girls' musicians have played with two of the country's top concert performers this summer. King's jazz saxophonist, flautist and pianist Alex Clarke played with multi award-winning jazz star Amy Roberts and her quintet at the 2015 Pershore Jazz Festival. Alex, who practises for two hours each day, said: "It was the most exciting and rewarding performance opportunity I could possibly have hoped for."

Violinist Georgina Bloomfield, (pictured left) who is just 12, played two concerts with the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain and Nicola Benedetti at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow and at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall.

Jo Beesley, Senior Music teacher, said: "Both young women are quite exceptional and will be the envy of thousands of older musicians to have played at such a young age with these professional performers on the world stage."

Both young women ultimately want to study at the Royal Northern College of Music and pursue careers in music.



# GETTING INTO GOOD HABITS

Richard Griffiths, Deputy Head (Academic), on a recent learning initiative

*Martin Luther King said, "Intelligence plus character is the goal of true education", and that is also our goal at King's. Parents who have visited our Senior Divisions recently may have noticed the displays which bedeck the reception areas, listing the 'King's Learning Habits'. Hopefully, some parents too will have heard their sons or daughters referring to them. If you haven't heard of them, or want to know more, then hopefully my answers to the questions below will tell you what you need to know.*

## What are the learning habits?

About 20 years ago, Professor Guy Claxton first created a list of the 'learning habits' which good students needed to develop. Sometimes known as the four 'R's, these are: Resourcefulness, Reflectiveness, Reciprocity and Resilience. These habits also have further sub-groups of skills within them. Based on Claxton's research and in the true spirit of an independent school, we decided to create our own King's Learning Habits. These are:

## Questioning

Having lively, enquiring minds which can ask good questions and then investigate them, as well as being prepared to question and challenge ideas. This also represents creative thinking and imagination.

## Reasoning

Being careful, methodical and logical. This is the cognitive element of learning.

## Collaborating

Working together to help us learn; teamwork and the skills of listening and empathy. The social element to learning.

## Resilience

Emotional toughness in dealing with situations when things don't go our way or where we find things hard.

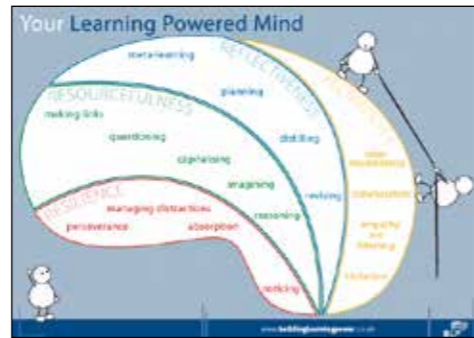
## Reflecting

Being able to learn from mistakes and reflect on successes and failures to continually improve, and to plan ahead. This is the strategic element of learning.

The King's Learning Habits very much build on the approach in our Infant & Junior Division, where our new Learning Challenge Curriculum cultivates similar investigative learning habits, giving us a coherent approach to learning throughout the School.

## How will the educational experience change for pupils?

Last year, we introduced the learning habits in Year 7. This means that, as well as delivering our usual subject content, teachers also planned to target some or all of the habits by delivering lessons which made the pupils think more; challenged them more; gave them more independence and choice and allowed them more opportunities for collaboration. At the end of the academic year, Year 7 pupils took part in the Learning Challenge, where they worked together over three days to research and prepare a presentation answering the question 'How Can We Save the World'? During the three days, all five of the learning habits were actively developed.



This year, we have introduced the learning habits throughout the rest of the Senior Divisions. Our introduction of the Global Perspectives IGCSE with Year 12 will help to embed these habits in the Sixth Form, as it is a qualification which encourages independent research, reflection and group work. It is, of course, in the Sixth Form where this is the most valuable as students prepare for the demands of higher education and the workplace.

*'Education is what remains after you have forgotten everything that you learned at school.'*

Albert Einstein

## What is the effect of the learning habits?

Think about the way that elite athletes use the gym to target particular muscle groups so that when they play competitively their performance is enhanced. We are developing the key learning muscles in our students, so that they can become more engaged, confident and independent: in short, happier about their learning. This should then have a positive effect on their general performance, including (of course) in examinations, but it is also about more than that. We know that the habits we are developing will not just help students whilst at school, but also in life and in a workplace where they will need to be equipped with skills that allow them to adapt to changes in the workplace and become a 'lifelong learner'.





## Cricket successes

Three King's cricket teams reached this year's age group finals of The Cheshire Cup. Both the U12 and U14 teams finished as runners up, whilst the King's U13 squad (pictured below) won and retained the Cheshire U13 Cup.

After another successful season playing representative cricket for Cheshire, Joey Chong was one of only three Cheshire players selected for an England U12 cricket training day held at Loughborough Cricket Academy with some of the best young players in the country.

## Regional Selections

Five King's girls have been successful in being selected for the JRPC (Junior Regional Performance Centre) Tier 1 Tournaments. Both Eleanor Toms and Annabel Hebb have been selected for the U17 age group with Allana Buckingham as a non-travelling reserve; Olivia Moores has been selected for the U15 age group and Natalie Stevens as a goal keeper for the U16 age group. They will all represent the Manchester Pumas in two tournaments this autumn where they compete against girls from all over the North of England. From these tournaments they can potentially be selected for JRPC Tier 2 and National Age Groups (England).

Two King's boys have also progressed to the JRPC tournament - Sam Buckingham and Archie Phillips have both been selected to represent the North West. If they perform well, the next step for both will be North of England selection.

A number of girls have been through a rigorous regional selection process for the imminent Cheshire County netball season. Six girls progressed through to the final trial with the following girls being selected to represent Cheshire: Izzy Moores (U12 Development Squad), Mollie Pettit (U14 Academy Squad), Ellie Morten (U14 Development Squad), and Antonia Bianchi (U16 Academy Squad).

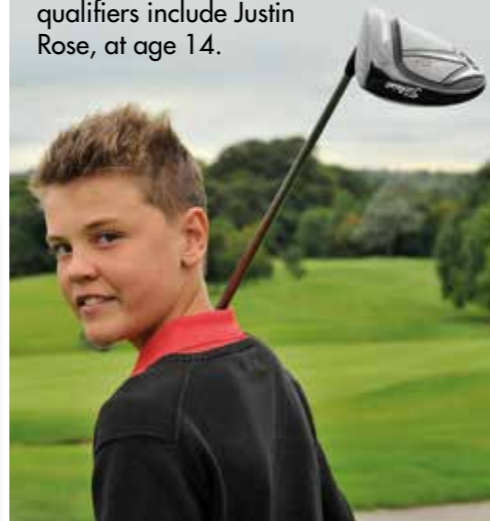
## Cheerleaders in Team UK

King's girls will make up the spine of Team UK for the World Cheerleading Championships in Berlin from November 19 to 23. Beth Burrows, Rowena Moores, Sophie Jackson and Fiona Cornish have been selected for the senior squad, while Antonia Bianchi, Izzy Stevens and Susie Moores have been chosen for the junior squad.



## Youngest ever qualifier

Year 9 pupil Remy Miller has qualified for the Champions' Finals of the Junior European Open, to be held in Spain. The event brings together the top British and European Juniors (U18) at one of the toughest tests in junior golf. Remy, 13, is the youngest ever qualifier in the 23 year history of the Championship. Past junior qualifiers include Justin Rose, at age 14.



## Great start to rugby season

King's 1st XV beat Leeds Grammar School 52-5 in the first round of the Champions Trophy, with Harry Blackwell scoring 5 tries against last year's finalists. The next round will take the team to national level, as they enter the last 16 teams in the UK. Pictured left is Tom Belt in the fixture against Durham School.

During the summer break, 51 boys, 7 staff and a physio took part in a week's pre-season training at Limerick University to improve strength and conditioning. The boys played a game against the Munster Academy, narrowly losing 17-7, and also watched Munster play Connaught at Thomond Park. Stand out performers were Ben Tatton, Cameron Redpath, Jack Hudson, Sam Worthington and Tom Blackwell.

## Congratulations to:

Former 1st XI cricket captains **Alan Day, Jimmy Lomas and Tom Foreman**, who made their debuts for Cheshire.

**Richard Barratt, Megan Barton, Jamie Edgerton, Katherine Garnett, Jordan Grocott, Hiba Kokan, Katie Mellor, Douglas Naismith, Robert Nowak, Sean Odell, Matthew Peers and Alex Shaw**, who will attend The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Presentation at St James's Palace.

**Harry Jackson**, who has been awarded a Rugby Silver Award Performance Package at Oxford Brookes University.

**Ailbe Smith**, who has won the most prestigious scholarship offered by Imperial College London.

**Hannah Gradwell**, who graduated with a First in Geography from Loughborough University.

**Olivia Soutter**, who achieved a First in English from Royal Holloway, University of London.

**Jack Walker**, who graduated with a First in Broadcast Journalism and an outstanding achievement award from the University of Staffordshire.

**Cameron McPake**, who achieved a First from Exeter University in his BSc in Accounting.

**Annie Edgerton**, who, following her First in Fashion Design at Nottingham Trent University, has won a placement at Abercrombie and Fitch in Columbus, Ohio.

**Harry Frost**, currently at Edinburgh College of Art, who is European winner of the Blumm Next Artists Prize 2015.

**Gemma Lord**, for winning the Newbery Medal, the Glasgow School of Art's highest award.

**Laura Chatwin**, who graduated with the Civil Engineering Prize at the University of Newcastle.

**Alex Swift**, who achieved a Distinction in her Preliminary Examinations at Pembroke College, Oxford and has been awarded a scholarship from the Academic Director.

**Brendan Jacot**, who has been shortlisted for the Royal Economics Society Essay Competition.

**Sameera Reyani**, who has been called to the Bar of England and Wales and will specialise in Civil Litigation.



## Familiar faces return to inspire pupils

Former School Captain and Girls' Division Head Girl **Katie Reid** (above right) came to speak to Sixth Form students about pursuing language-based degrees and careers. Katie has recently graduated in German & Spanish from Robinson College, Cambridge and is about to start a Masters in Human Rights at UCL. She spoke to current students about studying languages at university and her year abroad in Chile working as an English Language Assistant at the British-Chilean University. Katie said: "I owe a huge amount to the time I spent at King's. It gave me the confidence to take on new challenges and to never pass up on an opportunity for fear of something being too difficult. That's what pushed me to apply to Cambridge, to have the courage to aim for the grades I wanted at A level, to persevere when the work at Cambridge seemed insurmountable and ultimately to plan my year abroad."

In the Girls' Division, former pupil and West End theatre star **Fiona Finsbury** (née Wilson, left) returned to tell pupils about life on the stage. Fiona has spent the last two years performing in over 750 performances of *The Phantom of the Opera*, playing the leading character of Carlotta an incredible 250 times.

Fiona is now beginning a Masters in Opera Singing at the Royal Northern College of Music. She recalls: "During my time in the Girls' Division, I had a very active role in the music and drama departments; I was Music Prefect, a member of the Foundation choir and I led the school orchestra as first violinist. Mrs Beesley was a huge inspiration, nurtured my love of music and instilled in me a belief that I could achieve my dreams."

## Old Boys' Sevens competition triumph

In late August, the fifth Old Boys' Rugby Sevens tournament saw seven teams compete to win the cup. The Leavers of 2014 (Cheshire Jake's Dream Team - pictured left) won a thrilling final 14-12, against last year's winners (Shingles Silent Assassins, coached by Chris Shingles). There were 85 players and just as many supporters and the event was a huge success. Next year's event will be on Sunday 4 September 2016.



## Charity Touch Rugby

Last term saw compassionate pupils competing in a series of fundraising rugby matches to raise money for Cancer Research, The Brain Tumour Trust and The Christie.

The First XV were joined by around 60 boys and girls from the Seniors and Sixth Form, plus a host of staff, for three charity touch rugby matches which also had a sporting outcome.

Guy Mason explained: "During the summer break we like to keep up our skill levels by playing non-contact rugby and it has become a tradition that we raise money for good causes at the same time. In the first match, all 70 players wore hats and caps to raise money for the Brain Tumour Trust. The second match saw all players in pink for Cancer Research UK and in the final match players wore shirts from the commonwealth of rugby nations to raise money for The Christie." The matches raised over £300 for the three good causes. Pictured are around 50 pupils and staff all in pink, along with Sam Worthington, Lucy Snelson and Ben Tatton (foreground).



## Animal magic

The Infant & Junior pupils are keen charity fundraisers, last year raising over £6,000. However, Year 5 pupil, Rebecca Foster decided to raise money for the RSPCA as she is a keen animal lover. Rebecca and her team of Year 5 pupils put together events for a charity day, running stalls such as 'Guess the name of the teddy', 'How many dry cream crackers can you eat in one minute?' and a Penalty Shootout. Rebecca herself made homemade sweets and goodies. The children raised £270 for the animal charity from this one-day event and were delighted to receive a letter of thanks and a certificate.



**Oliver Bailey**, in Year 4, who won the U9 Fell Race at Grasmere Sports in the Lake District.

**Harrison Blake**, who has been selected to play for the Knutsford Rugby Club Colts against a Serbian team in Belgrade.

**Ffyon Booker**, who has been selected to represent the North West Regional team at the National Mountain Bike Championships.

**Joey Chong** represented Cheshire at both U12 and U13 age groups in 2015 and was selected by England Cricket Board to train at the National Cricket Performance Centre (NCPC).

**Olivia Hamblyn**, and former pupils **Emily Jacques** and **Will Poyser** who sang Elgar's Dream of Gerontius in the BBC Proms and at the Lucerne Festival with Sir Simon Rattle conducting the Vienna Philharmonic.

**Julia Harman**, who won the National Short Story Week competition for Year 8. Louisa Boden came second and Julia Trier was highly commended.

Head of German, **Jessica Houghton**, who received a special mention at this year's German Teacher Awards in London.

Hockey Captain, **Abigail Johnston**, who has been selected for the North of England U21 Hockey Squad.

**Sarah Laughton**, who won the Humanities category for the 2015 Student of the Year Awards.

**Hannah Ruskin**, who spent the summer doing work experience at CERN and who also achieved a Grade A in her GCSE Astronomy.

**Dmitri Whitmore**, **Sam Parry** and **Christian Tattum**, who attended the UK Chess Challenge Northern Gigafinal in July.

**Qing (Nancy) Xia** in Year 11, who achieved a Grade A in her A Level Chinese.

**Junior Athletes** who won the Boys' Team Trophy, the Girls' Team Trophy and also the Combined Team Trophy at Macclesfield Primary Schools' Athletics Championships.

King's pupils in the **Junior Co-Ed Stunt Group Cheerleaders**, who achieved a Gold medal, becoming European Champions and also the **Senior Mixed Team** who achieved Bronze Medals at the European Championships.

King's Equestrian team, who won the 70cm Class Team Competition and qualified for the National Finals. The team of **Abby Todd**, **Tasia Osborne**, **Imogen Curtis**, **Lily Evans** and **Maria Bech** beat over 20 other teams from all over the UK. Abby Todd came 2nd and Tasia Osborne, 5th.