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King's Colours

Autumn 2014

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

OUTSTANDING EXAM RESULTS SUCCESS

This summer's A Level results not only set new records for the school, but also put King's above other leading independent schools in the region in The Telegraph top 120 schools.

In what are some of the best examination results in the country, our 128 students achieved:

- 24% of all grades at A*
- 54% of all grades at A*/A
- More than 80% of grades at A* - B
- 14 students achieved three A*s or better

An incredible 50 students achieved three As or better, an impressive 12 students will go on to Oxford or Cambridge universities and 65% are joining Russell Group universities.

The high flyers who achieved A*s in four or more subjects are: Richard Southern, who will now read Medicine at Pembroke College, Cambridge; Anna Townley, who is a grade 8 flautist and will read Molecular & Cellular Biochemistry at Oriel College, Cambridge; Charlotte Harrop, who

will read Engineering at Queen's College Cambridge and hopes to become a Formula One race engineer; and Edward Nathan, who got an amazing five A*s will go to Durham to read Physics.

Not to be outdone, our GCSE students also celebrated record results, with sharp rises across all key performance indicators:

- 32% of all grades at A*
- 65% of all grades at A*/A
- 87% of grades A* - B

An impressive 52 students achieved 9 As or better; 32 students got 10 As or better and 19 students got 9 A*s or better (pictured below).

18 students received an A[^] (A* with distinction) in their Further Mathematics and James Shering (below, far right), was one of only 8 students in the country, out of 21,000 entrants, to get full marks in the exam.

Former Head Girl and member of the hockey and athletics teams, Aiman Aslam (below), achieved 11 A*s and an A[^] in Further Maths. Aiman wants to study Medicine at university and said: "King's creates a really supportive atmosphere, with so much help, particularly in the crucial GCSE years. However, for me it is the opportunities outside the classroom such as astronomy club and the sports teams that have given me such a rounded education."



Above: Aiman Aslam achieved 11 A*s
Below: Students with 9 A*s or better





The school year got off to a tremendous start with the news of students smashing school records at GCSE and A level. All twelve of our students with offers from Oxford and Cambridge realised their ambitions and the overwhelming majority of their peers were placed at their first-choice university.

As always, we will miss last year's leavers enormously, but one thing I will not miss is the 'temporary' ATCO building on Coare Street. Dismantling this costly blot on the landscape has been a long term ambition and its removal has allowed us to re-house the Medical Centre, Learning Support department and Girls' changing in much improved facilities. Meanwhile at Fence Avenue, we have completed the next stage of our Infant and Junior refurbishment, with new classrooms, a new Infant Hall and an improved staff-room.

In September, we greeted the customary collection of eager, new faces to our staff and student bodies. We also welcomed a new school day and timetable, the aim of which is to deliver our enhanced curriculum structure. In the Infant and Junior Division, the Learning Challenge Curriculum is designed to build further on the core skills of English and Maths, whilst adopting an enquiry-based approach to the remainder of the pupils' studies.

In the Senior Divisions, we launched King's Learning Habits, a cross-curricular initiative with the objective of encouraging pupils to develop the five key learning habits of collaboration, reasoning, questioning, reflection and resilience. One of the school's ten strategic objectives is to 'make independent learning a reality' and we feel that by starting young, we will promote this aim.

Finally, I am delighted to see our new sports facilities and Astro pitches in full use by teams of our juniors, girls and boys, each afternoon and after school.

Sizzling summer sixes!

An incredible number of our Year 6 pupils received record-breaking results in their Key Stage Two assessments in the summer. An amazing 22 pupils achieved the outstanding award of a Level 6 in at least one of their assessments in Reading, Writing or Maths. The national expectation for children of this age is to achieve a Level 4, with Level 5 for higher achievers, so this is a remarkable result. Eleven pupils achieved Level 6 in Maths, seven pupils achieved Level 6 in Reading, and five in Writing.

Mrs Hulme-McKibbin, Principal of King's Infant & Junior Division said: "Our Juniors benefit enormously from our stretch and challenge programme and the wide range of enrichment opportunities at King's. The Year 6 pupils achieved exceptional results at the same time as excelling in sport - winning regional and national titles - music, art and drama."



Girls go on trial!

His Honour Judge John Phillips CBE came to King's Girls' Division to stage a mock trial and show pupils how judges have to make life-changing decisions on a daily basis.

Director of Training for Courts at the Judicial College, the organisation responsible for training all young barristers in England and Wales, Judge Phillips said: "The main challenges are decisions on bail, sentencing and the admissibility of evidence. Managing child and vulnerable witnesses is also a difficult and sensitive area."

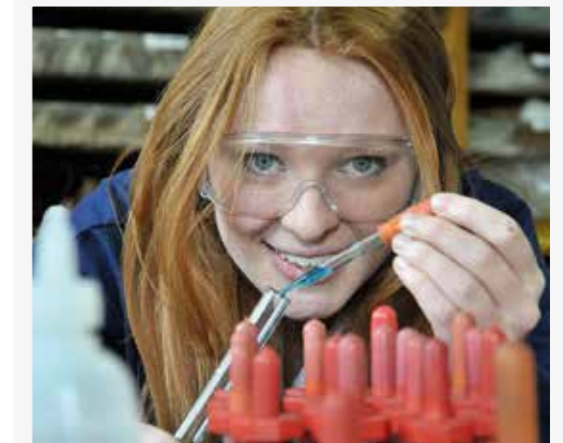
Mrs Anderson, Principal of King's Girls' Division said: "Judge Phillips provided our girls with a fascinating insight into the life of one of England and Wales' top legal professionals, giving his talk with both great humour and detail."

Harry is Arkwright Scholar

Year 12 student Harry Booton has won a prestigious Arkwright Scholarship, which he hopes will be the first step towards a career in engineering. Harry will receive £300 for each of his two years in the King's Sixth Form and then hopes to study engineering at university.

Chair of the Arkwright Scholarships Trust, Linda Scott said: "Our objective is to identify talented and committed students and fire their enthusiasm for a career in engineering, technology, maths and science."

Harry was selected from over 2,000 applicants nationwide, following a rigorous selection process including an interview and a practical assessment. Harry is the fifth King's student to be awarded the Arkwright Scholarship in as many years.



Jennifer wins Gold CREST Award

Sixth Form scientist Jennifer Galbraith, who spent her summer working on DNA sequencing in the prestigious Babraham Institute in Cambridge, has just had her hard work rewarded with a prestigious Gold CREST Award for her scientific report based on her research.

CREST is Britain's largest national award scheme for project work in the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). The Gold CREST is the highest award and has been awarded to Jennifer for her research in the Nuclear Dynamics department in the Babraham Institute.

Jennifer explains: "The research focused on the way in which DNA interacts in the nuclei of B-cells to produce a massive variety of antibodies. The five weeks I spent in the lab were incredibly exciting and I have learned so much from my experience, not only about science but also about how to become more independent."



Year 6 girls enjoying the new sports facilities



From left are Olivia Phillips, Ella Keen, Lauren Whitney, Judge John Phillips and Georgia Hehir.

KING'S CHALLENGE & ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

The first two fundamental aims of the King's School are to 'challenge our pupils to work hard, aspire and achieve' and 'to develop lively and enquiring minds.' To be fully successful in this, challenging our exceptionally able students is crucial. Our philosophy is an inclusive one: we aim to provide rigorous challenge for all students, at the same time as stretching the most able.

Teaching for Challenge



Rory Abbotson has recently taken charge of King's Challenge & Enrichment Programme. Here he explains about our dual approach of challenge both within and outside of the classroom.

Inside the Classroom

"At King's, we believe that challenge and enrichment should focus on what happens during lessons on a day-to-day basis at all levels. We aim to create an environment in which all learners are presented with challenge. Teachers strive to present students with tasks that develop the skills of evaluation and analysis, questions and tasks are open-ended and our students are encouraged to take risks in their learning – to be unafraid to 'get stuck'."

King's Learning Habits

Education isn't just about imparting knowledge for students to pass exams, but instead about focussing on and developing learning skills which are crucial throughout life. Rory explains: "By helping our students to develop underlying dispositions, we can ensure that pupils work with increased motivation, enhanced creativity, greater confidence and will develop habits of lifelong learning."

With this in mind, the school is committed to fostering five 'King's Learning Habits' amongst our students: resilience, collaboration, reasoning, questioning and reflecting. He adds: "In lessons, students are encouraged to consider how successfully they have worked together and to be persistent when they encounter difficulty. Whether confronted with a poem in English or a formula in Mathematics, we expect our most able students to generate the probing questions themselves."

Outside the Classroom

"King's students are presented with myriad opportunities to challenge themselves beyond the classroom environment, whether attending regular lunchtime workshops, listening to visiting speakers or entering national level competitions," adds Rory. Students benefit from many excursions and field trips to support and enhance their learning. Students tell us that many of these trips bring a new dimension to the material on the syllabus, as well as being hugely enjoyable.



For the more adventurous, King's has a long tradition of global exploration, including the renowned 'World Challenge' adventures. In recent years, students have explored Iceland, Russia and Namibia, whilst trips to China, Sicily and Bolivia are already planned.

National Competitions

Pupils are entered into many national competitions, including the Linguistics and Chemistry Olympiads. In one of the toughest challenges at King's each year, a number of students are put forward for the Mathematics Challenges run by the UK Mathematics Trust. These challenges involve a large amount of problem-solving and mental arithmetic. Taken by schools across the country, the difficulty of the papers is always very high. In the most recent Senior Challenge, King's students were awarded 8 Gold, 25 Silver and 14 Bronze awards. Two students, Arthur Green and Laura Embrey, qualified to take part in the National British Maths Olympiad – the standard for which is exceptionally high, with only the most able students making it through to this stage. In the Intermediate Challenge, students achieved 15 Gold, 28 Silver and 33 Bronze awards, whilst in the Junior Challenge we achieved 11 Gold, 32 Silver and 29 Bronze awards. Junior pupil David Harris achieved a Gold Award against competitors three years his senior.



Alex Welsh; Ben Allmand-Smith; David Jessop and Benjamin Lynch beat teams from 23 top schools to win the regional Further Mathematics Challenge.

Cultural Enrichment

Last year, some of the most talented Year 8 writers took part in a creative writing workshop at the John Rylands Library in Manchester. Students toured this historic and fascinating building as inspiration for a piece of Gothic fiction. A resident expert helped pupils work through an innovative drafting and planning process and the students took great delight in both writing and reading their pieces.

A Level English Literature students recently had the opportunity to watch Maxine Peake (pictured right) in a production of *Hamlet* at the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester. The play is one of Shakespeare's most iconic works and will form the focus for a challenging 3000 word essay exploring genre, language, structure and context.



Aspire

In order to prepare those students who wish to apply to highly competitive universities or seek places on competitive courses such as dentistry, medicine, veterinary medicine and law, King's offers its 'Aspire Programme'. Our students have the opportunity to attend a series of lectures and workshops covering topics as diverse as Literary Eco-Criticism, Medicine, Philosophy and Modern American Fiction.

Hockey selection success

A fantastic four boys and four girls are progressing through the national elite hockey training programme.

The four young men - Christian Harrop, Charlie Toms, Sean Neary and Sam Buckingham - have all made it through to the Junior Regional Performance Centres (JRPC), the equivalent of North-West regional squads, and are now hoping to be selected for the High Performance Assessment Centre (HIPAC), which is the equivalent of the North of England standard.

Four girls - Allana Buckingham, Natalie Stevens, Eleanor Toms and Abigail Johnston - have qualified for the JRPC competition, with Victoria Blackwell and Annabel Hebb going forward to Cheshire trials.

King's girls will be attending the National Schools' Tournament in October. Pictured on the front row are: Annabel Hebb, Allana Buckingham, Eleanor Toms, Natalie Stevens and Victoria Blackwell. Back row: Olivia Moores, Elena Boden, Bryony Phillips, Charlotte Horne, Anna Cartwright, Freya Kapadia, Saffi Rossi and Evie O'Brien.



U13 cricketers win Cheshire Cup

Spin wizard George Connolly played a major role in leading the U13 cricket team to victory in the Cheshire Cup. George took five wickets for just two runs to halt Cheadle Hulme School in their tracks in an exciting final.

King's Master in Charge of U13 cricket Chris Maudsley, who is pictured with his team, said: "This is a very talented King's side full of characters who play with intensity and purpose. They won 10 of their 12 games this season and have been great fun to work alongside."



Girls' Division hot shots

King's girls formed the backbone of three Cheshire netball squads at U12, U14 and U16 level. The successful girls are (bottom photo from left): Olivia Moores, who plays at U14 level; Sophie Jackson, Natasha Salem, and Antonia Bianchi at U16 level; Saffron Milner and Chantelle Carroll who play at U14 level and Frances Gurney at U16.

Izzy Moores Y6 and Susie Moores Y7 (below) have both been selected for Cheshire U12 netball. Izzy is the first Y6 pupil to be selected at this level.

King's girls are looking forward to their Tour to Barbados during October half-term. 26 girls, in the U15 and U17 netball teams and U17 hockey side, will play the top club and school sides on the island.



Old Boys' Rugby

On 31 August, King's hosted their annual Old Boys' 7s competition. Many former King's pupils returned to Derby Fields to take on teams of other old boys from the last two decades. It was a fun, yet competitive afternoon, very well supported by past and present staff, with pupils and parents enjoying a good chance to catch up. Frankie Barker's Cobras have won the competition over the last two years, but the Leavers of 2011, Team Reg, captained by Will Hanson, were keen to make an impression. The two teams met in the last game of the day, and in a pulsating final, Team Reg (pictured below) came back from behind to win 21-12.



Congratulations to:

Richard Riley, who has recently been appointed Professor of Medical Statistics at Birmingham University.

Andrew Michael Dodd (Mike), who has gained a First class honours Masters in Chemical Engineering from Manchester University.

Dominic Ferdani, who has graduated from The University of Warwick with a First Class Degree in Chemistry.

Rebecca Sugden, who was awarded a triple First Class degree in Modern and Medieval Languages with Distinction in French from Cambridge University, being the top student in her year.

Izzy Bell, who has been awarded a Thomas Hobbes (1631) Scholarship by St Catherine's College, Cambridge University.

Molly Ross, who has graduated from the University of Nottingham with a First Class Joint Honours degree in History and Ancient History.

Abigail Johnson, who has graduated with a Joint Honours degree in French and Japanese from the University of Birmingham. She was awarded the university's top French prize, the Cercle Français, as the 'best all-round student' in the Department of French Studies.

Bursary Fund News

Two years ago, King's launched the 'Leavers' Bursary' to help fund additional places at the school for those families unable to meet full fees.

Dr Hyde explains: "Leaving school is a particularly poignant time for parents and for those pupils embarking on the next stage of their life. Many parents and pupils express their gratitude to me for what the school has provided for them and this fund allows them to mark their departure in a tangible way by contributing to the bursary fund."

Sincere thanks go to our 2014 leavers who have chosen to donate money to this cause. One such former pupil is Justine Blake who says: "Attending King's has been an incredibly positive experience and I know I have benefitted enormously from the inspirational teachers and huge array of extra-curricular activities. I decided to contribute towards the Bursary Scheme so that a student in the future might enjoy and get as much out of their time at King's as I have done."



Bursary Golf Day

It was a family affair for the Tomlinson brothers who won the annual Former Pupils' Association Bursary Fund Golf Day.

Nearly 100 King's golfers turned out at Macclesfield Golf Club to help boost the Bursary Fund by over £4,000. Pictured with Headmaster Simon Hyde (left) and event organiser Alan McInnes (right) are Tomlinson brothers Gary, Paul, Dave and Wayne. In second place were Moores the Merrier, while third place went to Ken Grant's team.

The Bursary Fund has now raised over £750,000 and aims to provide full fee and part fee places for families who would not normally be able to afford a place.



Donations help Ghanaian children

King's links with Connecting Kids Education Foundation (CKEF) in Ghana is continuing to benefit many children in the West African country.

Now, nearly 12 months since the first consignment of books, chairs and tables (from King's Junior Department) arrived in Ghana, hundreds of nursery and school-aged children in the towns of Kissi and Anum are putting the items to good use.

The books and furniture have been allocated to St Peter's Nursery and to Kissi Bisease Primary School, the latter of which now has its first ever, fully furnished library. CKEF are also well on the way to completing a new library and ICT lab at the Anglican Primary School in Anum.

In the summer, the sports equipment and kit donated by King's staff and parents arrived in Ghana. Items were distributed by the headmasters of the different schools and the football team of Kissi Bisease School – the Black Stars – was delighted to receive the kit which had its first outing against a select 11 of teachers and former King's student Harry Hayward.



Harry, who was spending a Gap year working with CKEF, arrived in Ghana at Easter and was quickly set to work helping to install flooring for St Peter's Nursery. More recently, he has been helping in Anum.

Mrs Ellen Blamires, Country Director for CKEF, said: "I do not have the right words in English to express enough the impact of King's generosity. We can't solve all the problems of this community, but the kids are happy and for the first time this academic year there were no teenage pregnancies. It's just a delight and a heart-warming feeling. Everything donated is put to good use and all are beginning to appreciate the importance of education. Just wonderful. Thank you very much to all the staff, pupils and parents at King's who have pledged their support to the CKEF projects!"

The latest consignment of books donated by King's Infant & Junior Division, which were surplus to requirement following the opening of our new Library, were shipped last month and will be shared between schools in Anum, Kissi Bisease and a new project location in a remote part of Brong Ahafo region.

Callum McIlveen, who has been appointed 1st XI Hockey Captain for 2014 and **Finlay McCance**, who has been appointed Cricket Captain for 2015.

Callum Barr, who sailed a Topper to 2nd place in his class and has been asked to compete in a National Sailing Regatta at Southport later this term.

Adam Russ, who represented Great Britain in the Laser Radial U17 European Youth Championships in Denmark and also in the Laser Radial U17 World Youth Championships in Poland.

Sophie Quinn, who was selected to represent Cheshire at the English Schools' Athletics Association Championships in Birmingham.

Sam Danson, who is the AJIS U10 Champion in both the 150m and the Long Jump.

Sam Worthington, William Davies, Ben Kersh and Charlie Boddy who are AJIS U11 4x100m Relay Champions and also Macclesfield and District Relay Champions, where they set a new Championship record.

Oliver Bailey (Year 3) who achieved 3rd place in the last round of the U8 English Fell Running Championship 2014.

Rebecca Hughes, who became the U20 English National Champion 2014 for Sprint Distance Triathlon after winning the National Championships in Milton Keynes.

Kate Correia De Campos, who played the viola in the NYOGB prom at the Albert Hall in August.

Kit drummer, **Darragh Burke**, who has gained a place in the prestigious Wigan Youth Jazz Band.

Emily Roberts, who gained Grade 8 flute and **William Fox**, who achieved Grade 8 piano, both with distinction.

Adam Beeston, who has just completed Y13, has been accepted for commercial pilot training in New Zealand with the airline pilot training programme, CTC.

Dates for your Diary

14 November	Former Pupils' Annual Dinner with Big Band Performance 7.00 pm Adlington Hunting Lodge
19 November	Autumn Instrumental Concert 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
20 November	Year 4 Pantomime <i>Hoodwinked</i> 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
29 November	Friends of King's Christmas Fair 1.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
1 December	Family Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 8.00 pm Chester Cathedral
5 December	Charity Fashion Show 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
12 December	Family Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 8.00 pm St Michael's Parish Church
15 December	Junior Carol Service 2.00 pm St Paul's Church
16 December	Term ends (half day)