



King's Colours

Autumn 2016

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

SUPERB A LEVEL RESULTS

This summer, King's pupils achieved some of the best-ever exam results, not only at the school, but also nation-wide.

At A Level, 23% of all grades were A*; over 50% were A*/A, and around 80% were at A*-B. Ten students achieved three A* grades or better (with nine pictured here). Almost all leavers taking up higher education places achieved their preferred course and 61% have joined Russell Group universities. We are particularly pleased to see our students go on to study a wide range of courses covering the full range of

artistic, scientific, language-based and humanities-based courses.

For more exam successes, please see p3.



Cambridge essay prize

Year 13 academic Oliver Quinn has been highly commended in a prestigious national literary competition organised by Cambridge University.



The Peter Lawrence Essay Prize in Modern Languages is judged by Cambridge dons and Oliver's essay on the cultural significance of film versus poetry was selected from hundreds of pieces, many by students a year above his age group.

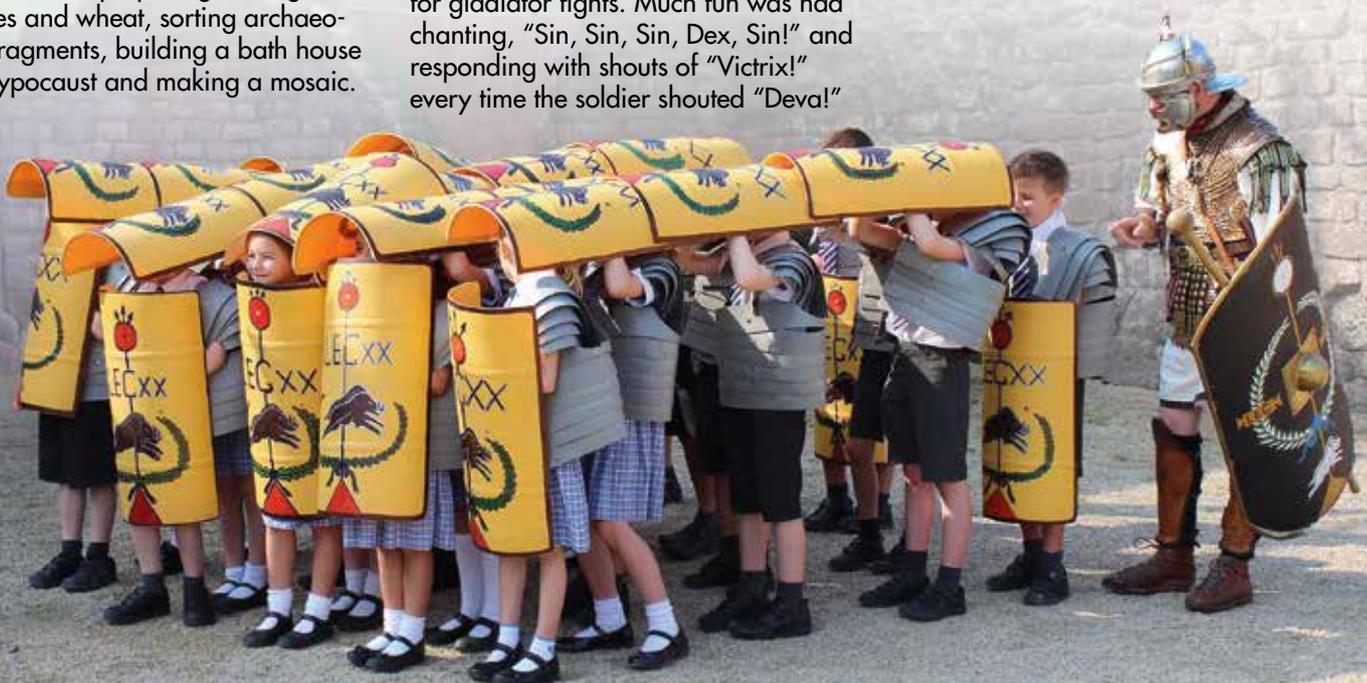
Ollie, who achieved 11 straight A*s in his GCSEs and is now studying Spanish, English and Religion & Philosophy at A Level, penned a 2000-word essay comparing the persuasive power of iconic Spanish film maker Victor Erice to the lyrical written imagery of his poetic contemporaries Gabriel Celaya and Miguel Hernández, who all used the backdrop of the Spanish Civil War.

Juniors march on Deva Victrix

At the start of term, Year 4 children travelled to Chester to find out why the Romans chose the area for their settlement.

The children enjoyed a hands-on workshop in the museum which involved dressing in Roman clothing, trying on a Roman soldier's armour, preparing food, grinding spices and wheat, sorting archaeological fragments, building a bath house with a hypocaust and making a mosaic.

A favourite activity was the march with the Roman legionary through the streets of Chester to the amphitheatre. Here they learned the formations of "Testudo" and "Contra Equites" and the command "Ite!". Pupils also learned how the amphitheatre would have looked in Roman times and how it was used for gladiator fights. Much fun was had chanting, "Sin, Sin, Sin, Dex, Sin!" and responding with shouts of "Victrix!" every time the soldier shouted "Deva!"





Our pupils have continued to set new records this year, achieving some of the best-ever examination results at the school. Those pupils who received A Level results are now en-route to the universities and courses of their choosing. We will continue to watch with interest as they find their way into careers and professions. You will see inside this magazine that we enjoy hearing of our former pupils' successes and sharing their news with current pupils and parents. At the time of going to press, it is wonderful to see the extensive media coverage of former pupil

Helen Marten, who is nominated for both the Turner Prize and the Hepworth Sculpture Prize. I hope that the critical acclaim she received at the opening of the Turner Exhibition will translate to success later this year, when the winner is announced.

This summer also saw pupils exploring many parts of the globe, with a Choir trip to Prague, surfing in Cornwall, a German trip to Berlin, sailing in Scotland, rugby training in Cardiff, and DoE exploration of the Yorkshire Dales.

Importantly, this summer the school also received permission from the Strategic Planning Board for our three planning applications. This was followed in September with the decision by the Secretary of State to approve our applications without a public enquiry. We are now busy organising the construction and funding elements of the project which will allow us to realise our ambitious plans.

I have always maintained that the project will not interrupt the normal life of the school and we remain focused on continuing to make great strides both inside and outside the classroom, reaping the rewards of the curriculum initiatives and investment in facilities of the last few years. Work is underway on our next whole-school Strategic Education Plan and I am grateful to parents for their input so far. Further comments and suggestions are most welcome.

Cognitive Accelerator!

Research has shown that the introduction of CASE (Cognitive Acceleration through Science Education) as part of our King's 'thinking curriculum', has had a significant impact on improving pupils' thinking skills.

Data analysis to look at the impact of the introduction of CASE has shown that it has hugely improved our students' cognitive growth and helped our pupils achieve thinking levels equivalent to those of students much older.

Analysis of pupils' thinking levels at the end of Year 8, after two years following the CASE programme, shows that their thinking ability levels are well above the national average for this age group. In fact, the average thinking level for our Year 8 pupils is the level of an average 18-year-old student who hasn't followed CASE.

Jim Street, Head of Science, says: "The mean thinking level of our pupils has increased by 1.48 levels in just under two years, compared with a national average increase of 0.5 levels for pupils not following CASE."

CASE was developed by King's College London as a way to challenge students to construct knowledge co-operatively which encourages 'metacognition' - students' reflection on their own thinking and problem-solving processes. Evaluation has repeatedly shown that Cognitive Acceleration has substantial, positive effects on students' cognitive growth and their subsequent academic achievement.



EXAMINATION SUCCESS AT ALL AGES

Exam successes were recorded right across the school this summer. At GCSE, around 60% of all grades were A*/A and more than 85% of grades were A*-B. Eleven pupils achieved at least 9 A*s and 84 students achieved an A* in at least one subject.

In our Infant & Junior Division, our younger pupils achieved very impressive results, reaping the rewards of our unique Learning Challenge curriculum. In the Key Stage 2 assessments taken by King's Year 6 pupils, the vast majority of pupils were shown to be working at, or beyond, the expected standard.

	King's Pupils	National Average
Reading	93%	66%
Maths	96%	70%
Writing	89%	74%
Spelling/Grammar	96%	72%

Percentage of pupils working at, or above, the expected standard



Prague Tour

This summer, 40 members of the Foundation Choir enjoyed a fantastic five-day tour to Prague. As well as enjoying a river cruise and visiting the main sights of the city, the choristers gave a number of performances in and around Prague. The first was an evening concert in the Art Nouveau central hall of Mšeno-lázn. This was followed by singing a lunchtime mass at Týn Church, the 14th century Gothic church whose twin spires dominate the Old Town Square. After singing Rachmaninov, Tallis and Duruflé during mass, pupils performed a short recital of choral works by Mozart and Maxwell-Davies plus Pachelbel's Choral-Partita, dazzlingly played on the organ, dating from 1673, by Mr Dalglish. The final planned recital of the tour was at the Church of the Holy Saviour, just round the corner from the Old Town Square. This was followed by several impromptu performances in public places including on the Charles Bridge.



Return to the Stone Age

King's juniors were transported back in time to the Stone Age to discover the brilliance of the cave-dwelling civilisation. Year 3 pupils dressed in fake animal skins and ceremonial paints to learn about early Homo Sapiens, how they lived and what animals they hunted, about the gender divisions in hunter-gatherer societies, cave art and the increasingly sophisticated manufacture of stone age tools.

Pupils were fascinated by a whole host of artefacts including an enormous tooth of a woolly mammoth thought to be 60,000 years old. They learned how our forebears used their brains as well as brawn to survive and prosper, developing their own original technologies which successive generations continued to build upon.

Spotlight on the Resource Cent

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go.” *Dr Seuss*

Within the three Resource Centres at King’s, the school aims to provide students with the opportunity and means to develop into independent and information-literate learners. The Resource Centres provide an organised collection of relevant, interesting and up to date resources that support pupils’ academic work and leisure interests whilst encouraging their enjoyment of reading. With over 18,000 items available for loan, ranging from journals to DVDs, they are sure to find something that appeals.

Each Resource Centre welcomes all pupils, encourages study and gives them the confidence to question and learn. In addition, the Resource Centres provide a welcoming and vibrant environment for pupils before and after school, as well as during break and lunch times.

Acquiring skills

Through a structured programme of Information Skills, we ensure that our pupils can make use of the Resource Centres and are able to apply those skills to any research project using any media or technology. The lessons also encourage pupils to work together, thinking about how they can achieve their goal, even if the information they seek is not immediately obvious.

Supporting learning

Pupils in Years 7 – 9 enjoy fortnightly reading sessions in the Resource Centres during their English lessons. Library staff ‘wave and rave’ about the new books arriving in the Resource Centres and support pupils to work through their Reading Matters booklets by completing written tasks on the books they have read. Study skills and research methods are essential to curriculum lessons and library staff are integral to co-teaching these core techniques.

Reading for pleasure

We place a huge emphasis on reading for pleasure and we encourage all our pupils to take part in the many and varied enrichment activities we offer. As soon as they join King’s, our Year 7s are offered the opportunity to take part in the national Bookbuzz scheme, choosing a free book and taking part in competitions. We have had several winners in

recent years in the ‘Design a Book Cover’ competition. Our lunchtime book clubs are popular and involve many activities including book monopoly, top trumps and origami. Groups of pupils follow the Carnegie Shadowing initiative and participants enjoy the announcement day party.

Enrichment events

We encourage all Senior pupils across the school to take part in as many events as possible. We celebrate World Book Day in several ways from book-themed cake bakes and inter-house book quizzes, to votes for favourite book characters, as pupils dress up and parade around the school to persuade their peers of the merits of their hero.

At King’s we turn Harry Potter Night into Harry Potter Day and celebrate all things magical including potions courtesy of the Science Department, whilst World Book Day gives us the opportunity to share our passion for a particular book with the pupils.

Visiting authors

Inviting authors and poets to speak to our pupils provides invaluable enrichment that encourages reading for pleasure, wider reading and creative writing. Over the last few years we have welcomed several inspirational poets to help us celebrate National Poetry Day including Paul Cookson, whose humorous take on the world had the Year 7s giggling for weeks.



Various authors have visited to help us celebrate World Book Day including local author Bryony Pearce, who fascinated her audience with a demonstration of the Milgrim Experiment. International bestseller and teen-lit author Cathy Cassidy (above) also visited this year; she talked to young writers from across Macclesfield about living life doing her dream job, in a special talk at King’s Girls’ Division.

Competitions

We actively encourage our pupils to enter local and national competitions. This year, Millie Brierley and Rowan Southern (pictured right), had their thought-provoking short stories published in an anthology of the country’s best young writers after coming in the top 30 from thousands of entries in the ‘National Short Story Week’ competition.





Lottie Thomas reached the slam final of the 'Poetry Rivals' competition. Her poem was chosen as one of the top 40 in the anthology to go through to the performance stage of the event, held at The John Clare Theatre in Peterborough.

Each year we take two teams to the regional heat of the National Lit Quiz and this year four Year 7s (pictured), competed in the final of the local Cheshire Book Quiz, coming a very respectable second.



Our annual school summer competition encourages our incoming Year 7 pupils to join with the rest of the Senior school community and enter a photograph of them having a 'summer read'. This year Ben Lloyd 7NEL was the winner with an outstanding entry involving Grandpa's Great Escape by David Walliams and a mock spit-fire (pictured).





Hockey selections

A bumper crop of talented young hockey stars are progressing through the national elite coaching programme. Pictured are 9 of the 10 best performers who were selected over the summer to represent North of England regional tournaments at their age groups.

Eight will be representing the Manchester Pumas whilst two, Jack Ancell and Tom Carter, will be representing Durham and Leeds respectively.

All will compete in Tier 1 Junior Regional Performance Centre (JRPC) Tournaments in coming weeks and, from these, they are hopeful of further selection to either a High Performance Academy Centre

(HiPAC) for U15 and U17 or the England Hockey Futures Cup (EHFC) for U16 and U18 level. From Tier 2 activity, players may then be selected for involvement in the National Age Group Squads (NAGS) for U16 and U18.

Pictured above from left: Mr Langley, Tom Carter U16s, Abigail Cook U17s, Archie Phillips U16s, Max Ridings U18s, Natalie Stevens U17s, Sam Buckingham U17s, Zoë Thomas U15s, Olivia Moores U16s, Jack Ancell U15s, and Mr S Moores. Not pictured: Ben Jones U15s.

Cheshire Cup Winners

An excellent cricket season from the U15s reached a thrilling climax when they met a strong Birkenhead side in the Cheshire Cup final. In a 20 over game, King's lost early wickets but recovered well thanks to batters Angus Thomson, Harry Elms, Will Davies and Charlie Toms.

The King's bowlers George Connolly and Will Fosbrook stuck to their task well and in the final over, leg spinner Harry Elms kept his nerve to allow King's to take the title of Cup winners by 7 runs.

As winners of the Cheshire Cup, the side went forward to represent the county in the North of England County finals. Playing Yorkshire winners Richmond in a closely matched game, King's fell short by just 5 runs.



King's cricket makes the Top 100 – again

King's has been selected as one of the Top 100 schools in the UK for cricket by *The Cricketer* Magazine, for the second consecutive year.

The world's number one cricket magazine based their selection on the quality of coaching, the range of fixtures, extent of facilities and the quality of cricketers making their way into the professional ranks and league cricket.

King's Head of Cricket Steve Moores said: "We are delighted to be chosen again by *The Cricketer* Magazine as a

Top 100 School for cricket this year. Generations of former cricketers remember their days playing cricket at King's with great affection and we want to maintain that long tradition."

The 2017 Guide to the Top 100 Schools will be published in October. Simon Hughes, Editor of *The Cricketer*, said: "I heartily commend the commitment that the school dedicates in coaching pupils in our wonderful sport and hope it continues long into the future."



Summer at Sale Sharks

During the summer, four King's U16 boys have been training with Sale Sharks Academy. For Sion Davenport and Sam Higginson this is their second year with the Sharks Academy. Harry Wheelton and Gus Fiennes have been invited into Academy Programmes this term, joining Sion and Sam after all four impressed during training in the summer months.

The four boys have started the school rugby season very well, and Gus is congratulated on making his first XV debut against Manchester Grammar.



Rugby reunion

Former pupils Tommy Taylor, who was capped for the England Senior rugby side in May, and Dr Phil Riley, who left King's in 1979 in the same year as Tommy's father, David Taylor, had a chance meet-up in South Africa.

Phil has worked for the Rugby Football Union as Team Doctor for the England U20s, but was chosen to go with the England Saxons on their tour of South Africa in June, for which Tommy was also selected. England played South Africa 'A' twice, winning both games. Pictured are Tommy (having already swapped his shirt) and Phil.



Channel Challenge

Congratulations to former pupil Rebecca Hughes, who was part of the Cambridge University team which competed in the Varsity English Channel Relay swim in July. Rebecca and her team mates successfully reached the French coast in 9 hours and 28 minutes, having faced giant jelly fish, cross-Channel ferries and sleep deprivation, but sadly were beaten by the Oxford team during the 10th Varsity match.

Profile: Reesha Sodha

Former School Captain Reesha [2005] is currently based in Procter & Gamble's New York office and is a Marketing Manager for Gucci, Hugo Boss and Lacoste fragrances.



After leaving King's, Reesha went on to study Biological Sciences at the University of Oxford. She said: "I had an amazing three years doing a lot of music and rowing (I learnt to cox) alongside my studies. I then took a gap year and spent 5 months travelling around the world before doing the Masters in Management course at London Business School: a one-year crash course in all things business."

After living in London for a year, Reesha moved to Geneva to work for Procter & Gamble as an Assistant Brand Manager in their global fragrances division. This was followed by a two-year stint in the P&G UK office, looking after the Hugo Boss fragrance business for the UK & Ireland. However, Reesha couldn't resist the lure of further international travel and is now fulfilling her dream to live in the Big Apple.

She explains: "My role is a mixture of core business tasks associated with brand management, including brand strategy, budget management and forecasting as well as more glamorous tasks such as planning and attending PR and sponsorship events with our brand ambassadors.

"New York is an incredible city and I am having an amazing time exploring with my husband. Initially, I was worried about missing our families and friends in the UK, but it turns out people love to have an excuse to visit New York and we have had plenty of visitors!

Reesha adds: "If I could give one bit of advice to current King's pupils, it would be to take advantage of any opportunities you have to live or study abroad. I was initially hesitant about moving to Geneva for my first job, but it was the best decision I ever made."

Legal Eagles birdy the Bursary Golf Day

The King's eighth annual Bursary Golf Day helped to raise £4,000 to fund assisted places at the school.

Cheshire solicitor Rob Thorneycroft led his team of Sean Hammil, Jonathan Salem and Martin Allmand-Smith to a stunning win with 92 points, with Ken Grant guiding his team into runners-up spot on 89 points and the last podium place taken by Ron Smart's team with 88.

President of The King's School Former Pupils' Association and organiser of the Golf Society, Alan McInnes, said: "Many thanks to our wonderful sponsors, players and those who have donated prizes, as well as Macclesfield Golf Club for access to this wonderful course."



Community

Charities benefit from pupils' goodwill

Last academic year, staff and pupils at King's raised £25,000 for a number of charities, many chosen by the pupils themselves for charities close to home or close to their hearts.

The Infant & Junior Division raised £3,073 for the East Cheshire Hospice, £181 for the Bosley Mill fire disaster and around £1,000 for children at the Destiny Garden School in Kenya.

A raffle of a signed Sale Sharks rugby ball raised £133 for the RFU Injured Players Foundation, £479 was raised for Sport Relief and a sponsored run by Year 4 raised £250 for Teenage Cancer Trust (pictured).



The Senior Boys' Division chose to support Cancer Research UK, Myeloma UK and the Cystic Fibrosis Trust through a range of innovative fundraising activities including cake sales, sponsored silences, penalty shoot outs, an evening of Poets and Players and a Christmas Fair. In total, the boys raised £1,367 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and £340 for Myeloma UK.

Our Senior Girls' Division undertook a marathon fundraising drive in order to raise £4,239 for the Congleton-based charity Visyon, which provides support to children and young people who are dealing with issues ranging from bereavement and bullying to abuse.



Subsequent events included a 'Raid My Wardrobe' lunch-time fair (pictured) which raised £245 for The Samaritans and a charity bag pack which raised £414 for the East Cheshire Hospice.

A highlight of our fundraising calendar, soon to come round again, is the Sixth Form Fashion Show, which last year raised £4,000 for The Christie.

This year, Senior girls will be fundraising on behalf of Maggie's Centres and the Boys' Division have chosen to support Connecting Kids Education Foundation (CKEF), a charity promoting education of children in Ghana. King's has previously supported this charity through donations of used furniture, sports kit and books (pictured).

At present, a consignment of text books and teaching resources is en-route to Ghana, making use of around 3,000 books that the school is no longer able to use due to curriculum changes.



Congratulations to:

Oliver Bailey, who is the British Open Fell Runners Association U9 Champion.

Mackenzie Blackaby, Joe Clayton, Pieter Coyle and Aidan Ling, who were awarded the CREST bronze in science award from the British Science Association.

Oliver Gotts, who won a silver trophy in Speed Skating at the London Inline Marathon Endurance Challenge and has been selected to race in the British Marathon Championships.

Olivia Hamblyn, who achieved Grade 8 singing with Distinction.

Eleanor Hopewell, has gained a Merit for her LAMDA Gold Medal.

Katie Hughes, who is number one in the World for Biathlon in her age group.

Madeleine Johnson, who has been selected to train with the Cheshire U12 netball squad.

John McDermot and Jessica Morgan-Hoole, who have both been shortlisted in the national Viking Young Inventors Competition.

Remy Miller, who has qualified for the Champions Week Finals of the Junior European Open Golf, to be held in Andalucia in November.

Ben O'Donnell, has been selected for the East Midlands Orienteering Squad.

Abby Todd, who qualified for Blenheim Palace horse trials 100 challenge.

Eleanor Toms, who achieved a Gold Award in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge.

Sam Wilcock, who will be representing England this November in the World Karate Championships.

Former Pupils:

Johny Marsden [2011], former King's cricket Captain, who captained the Oxford University cricket team to a unique treble last season, winning the Varsity T20 match, the one-day game at Lords and the 4-day game during which Johny took the final wicket with just 5 minutes left.

Eleanor McKenna, Henry Reavey and Henry Strutt [2016] have all had successful auditions for the Main Choir of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain.

Dr Ivan Meir [1988], who is Chief Technology Officer at Vision RT, which won two Queen's Awards for Enterprise 2016 for both Innovation and International Trade.

Jennifer Pinches [2013], who graduated with the equivalent of a first class BA in Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles. She was awarded the Ashley Peckett Scholar Award for outstanding academic achievement, given membership to the Golden Key International Honour Society and received the scholastic All-American Award

Eleanor Strutt [2012], who achieved a first in Music from King's College London.

Bridie Thompson [2012], who achieved a first in Classics (Latin and Greek) from Worcester College Oxford.

Dmitri Whitmore [2016], who won a Gold Award in the Chemistry Olympiad and was awarded the Pythagoras Prize by St John's College, Cambridge for academic excellence in his A Level results.