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King's Colours

Summer 2016

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Musicians from across all year groups have celebrated numerous successes and hosted some brilliant concerts in recent weeks.

Our Big Band participated in a spring concert performed by the Merchant Taylors' Company of Schools.

Around 300 students from across the country put on a spectacular performance at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, with individual schools showcasing their own musical talent before joining together for a mass orchestral and choral performance of Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*. King's Big Band impressed the 1200-strong audience with their two numbers *Spain* by Chick Corea and *Blowing Hills* by Rick Taylor. Olly Macfadyen, Alex Clarke, Will Fox and Henry Reavey each amazed the audience with some wonderful solos.

In May, King's celebrated 25 years of jazz brilliance with its annual King's Swings concert. Both King's Jazz Band and the Big Band played a score of timeless classics including *Birdland*, *Watermelon Man*, *Green Onions* and *The Chicken*. But one of the finest pieces was



composed by our own Alex Clarke for her GCSE music exam. The 16-piece Big Band and 20-piece Jazz Band meet every week, with pupils from Year 7 through to Year 13, coming together under the expert care of top northern jazz musicians Kevin Dearden and Gareth Brown. The school's best young players feature with a thrilling brass section, fantastic wind players, brilliant pianists and powerful drums giving the ensembles an almost professional timbre.

Our choristers have also had their opportunity to shine in this year's Alderley Edge Music Festival, with our girls' Songbirds choir scooping second place in their Large Choir category. Our Junior musicians brought back two first place silver cups. Our 22-piece Woodwind Wonders

performed a varied programme of *Yellow Bird*, *Lavender Blue* and the *Wallace and Gromit* theme tune. The 8 members of Stringstars played the folk tune *Dingle Regatta*, *Pizzicato Polka* (which many a professional orchestra find tricky) and *Londonderry Air*, with a lovely cello solo from Thomas Bailey.

Looking forward to the summer, senior songsters in the Foundation Choir will be heading off on tour to Prague. This follows the Songbirds and Cambiata choirs' tour to Cartmel Priory. They will then raise the roof at the annual King's Sings concert on 5 July. Year 11 pupil Blake Richardson will be heading off to America straight after his GCSEs. Blake, who is a singer, songwriter and guitarist with the band New Hope Club, has recently returned from a one-month tour supporting The Vamps. The band is signed to Virgin EMI and Disney and will be spending the summer playing and filming in America.





The summer term has already provided us with a timely reminder of the school's proud history as well as opportunities to consider our future.

The discovery of the school's original Royal Charter from

1552 in the vault of the NatWest in Macclesfield was one of those rare and exciting moments that allowed us to reflect on what school life was like nearly half a millennium ago. The Royal Charter has not been seen since 1959 when a fire in the main school led to it being placed in the bank for safe-keeping. Re-discovered during the recent Easter holidays, the Charter and surviving wax seal (pictured) were taken to archivists in Chester to gently unroll the parchment using specialist techniques. However, what no one was expecting was to find the original Will of Sir John Percyvale from 1502 rolled up inside the Charter. It was this document that led to the formation of the school using funds bequeathed by Sir John who was Lord Mayor of London. The Will has never been seen by anyone alive today.

Both the Will and the Royal Charter are currently with the County Conservation team, who will clean the documents and provide the school with reproductions to go on display.

As well as reflecting on our past, we have been continuing to progress our plans for the future. The school's three planning applications were discussed at Cheshire East's Strategic Planning Board in May. The council deferred decisions on all three proposals, affording us time to work with Planning Officers to address their issues. We anticipate that we will re-submit our planning applications later this summer for further consideration.

Also firmly focussed on their futures are our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils who are currently taking their GCSE and A Level exams. We are delighted with the number and range of offers that our Year 13 students are holding and we wish all of them, and our Year 11 pupils, the very best for the exams and with the next stage of their educational journeys.



Year 5 French trip

Year 5 pupils experienced a fabulous 5-day trip to Le Château du Broutel in Picardie, Northern France. The immersion in the French language is hugely beneficial and all experienced going shopping at the weekly market in Etaples, interviewing local people in Abbeville and buying cakes in the local patisserie in the beautiful town of Rue.

In addition, everyone learnt about French culture and tried their hand at pétanque and making la mayonnaise à la française, as well as trying some snail pâté at the local snail farm.

A memorable day was spent visiting the WW1 Somme battlefields. At the Thiépval monument, Christian Tattum (below) found the location of a lost relative in the directory of the 73,000 soldiers whose names are inscribed on the breathtaking monument. This was just one of so many unforgettable experiences for our young pupils.



Conscientious objectors

Young historians have been unearthing details of Macclesfield's conscientious objectors. Several Year 9 girls have been working with local history society Macclesfield Reflects and local Quaker groups to discover the stories of the town's men who had a succession of white feathers handed out to them 100 years ago.

History teacher Lianne Hughes said: "Because of Macclesfield's strong Quaker connections, the town had some 200 men who refused to serve. Normally we might not know much about these men, but the local newspapers covered all court proceedings in detail and named and shamed the men in print."

The most outspoken it seems was a John Moxon Nesbitt who was employed as the Macclesfield Relieving Officer (making 'relief' payments to the poor) and was also temporary Registrar. The report of his first tribunal appearance, which took place in March 1916, took up almost two full columns of the Macclesfield Times. He was exempted from combatant service, referred to the national Pelham Committee to be given suitable employment, and worked on a farm near Pott Shrigley.

Hannah Robinson said: "John Nesbitt had a respected position in the community and had four brothers all of whom served in the military, so it must have been a difficult decision."

Mrs Hughes added: "Macclesfield has an incredibly rich social, industrial and political history and it has been fascinating for our girls to work with Macclesfield Reflects on discovering more of those personal details."



Inspiring Book Week

Summer started with a real buzz in the Infants & Juniors, with 'Book Week' providing a wide variety of inspiring literary activities designed to ignite pupils' imaginations. As well as dressing up as book characters, classrooms were transformed into scenes from well-known classics, children penned their own stories and met several visiting authors who ran workshops.

Prolific children's author Caryl Hart tapped into the imaginations of our very youngest readers. She spent time with our infants in order to get them excited about reading and writing stories and to experience the pleasure to be had from books.

Year 2 focussed on Beatrix Potter and created their own creature characters. Junior pupils met author Alan Durant and were inspired to write their own ingenious stories, while Year 6 undertook an in-depth study of Shakespeare to coincide with the 400th anniversary of The Bard's death and, it's fair to say, were transfixed by the blood, gore and deceit in his stories and fascinated by their enduring relevance.

Pictured with Caryl are Layth Loota and Kanya Langhorn-Neillans.



EPQ highlights intellectual dexterity

From the deficiencies of European Union diplomacy to the artistic merit of a symphony consisting of nothing but silence, Year 13 students have shared their in-depth studies into subjects that they find fascinating.

Part of our Extended Studies programme to take students above and beyond the curriculum, the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) allows students to work independently for at least 120 hours on a subject of their choosing and then to share their findings with fellow students, staff and parents.



Talented musician Will Fox, who wants to study piano at The Royal Academy, chose to examine one of the 20th-century's most controversial pieces of music, John Cage's '4'33", where the orchestra enters the room but doesn't play. Will said: "It is about the audience appreciating everything outside of their own existence, their own nervous systems, the sound of the air in the auditorium, and is a work of genius."

Zoe Richmond, who is studying Chemistry, Maths and German A Levels asked whether German Nobel-winning chemist Fritz Haber was a saint or a sinner. She said: "His method was used on an industrial scale to synthesize ammonia from nitrogen and hydrogen and led to both fertilizers and explosives. Haber is also considered the father of chemical warfare for his years of pioneering work developing chlorine and other poisonous gases during WW1, so for me he is a sinner. Even his fertilizers have led to the destruction of natural ecologies. He was a product of his time, but he was still responsible."

Other topics studied by students included the portrayal of mental illness in literature and the issue of why men are more likely to commit crime than women.

Pupil wellbeing

We believe that children perform best when they are part of, and encouraged within, a supportive community. King's has a reputation for delivering outstanding pastoral care and helping to develop happy, confident young people. From their very first day at King's, right through to the Sixth Form, we want every pupil to feel that their wellbeing is a priority for all staff.

Pastoral aims

Two of our school aims are to support parents in raising ambitious and well-rounded individuals, and to foster a friendly, polite and caring community. While pastoral care is the responsibility of every member of our community, there are also teams in place to lead the care and to monitor pupil progress and wellbeing. Central to this are our Form Tutors, who deliver a tutor programme and take an overview of their tutees' wellbeing. They work together with Heads of Year, Heads of Section, Principals, Vice-Principals, Careers Officer, School Nurses, Learning Support Department and other support staff to provide comprehensive care for pupils.

Delivering care

Our divisional structure allows pupils to feel part of a small, nurturing community within a larger school and to ensure that every pupil is known by their teachers and feels able to make a valuable contribution to their class.

Pupil wellbeing runs through all aspects of school life. It is promoted not just through our pastoral teams, but also in assemblies in which moral, spiritual and cultural awareness is developed; our House system which brings together different year groups; mentoring; peer support and leadership programmes; our PSHE curriculum; safeguarding policy and specific projects aimed at promoting wellbeing for students during exams.

PSHE education

Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education helps to give pupils the skills to lead confident, healthy, independent lives. Throughout King's, our PSHE programme aims to ignite students' personal, moral and spiritual development, enabling them to grow into responsible citizens.

Our pupils work with teachers and visiting speakers to explore a wide variety of topics under three strands of learning: Being Well, Working Well and Living Well. They learn about factors affecting their physical and emotional wellbeing and learn how to make positive choices that will affect their future learning, careers and lives. The curriculum also explores social and political issues to increase pupils' awareness of their responsibilities, rights and duties as individual members of communities.

Senior pupils benefit from a varied PSHE programme which, in Year 7 and the Sixth Form, is taught by Form Tutors, reinforcing this integral pastoral relationship. In Year 8, pupils benefit from a cross-curricular approach with the Drama Department to focus on issues through performance and workshops. Year 9 pupils (pictured) participate in three dedicated PSHE days which explore health issues, study skills and human rights. Years 10 and 11

have access to a dedicated PSHE teacher in addition to external speakers such as The Samaritans and local magistrates.

The support also extends to parents, with our Head of PSHE, Mrs Emma Smith, offering updates and information evenings on issues affecting our young people, such as mental wellbeing and how to stay safe online.



Work-life balance

In the run-up to this summer's exams, Year 11 and Year 12 students were encouraged to participate in a range of activities to boost their mental wellbeing.

Shortly before starting their exam leave, pupils enthusiastically swapped their normal Wednesday afternoon activities for a fun and relaxing afternoon designed to help pupils keep their work-life balance and mental health in a positive state. Forgetting any academic pressures for a few hours, pupils organised cake sales and quizzes to fundraise for charity, undertook mindfulness sessions and interacted with animals from Support Dogs UK. Senior Teacher, Ruth Roberts, who organised the de-stress explained: "King's has always taken a holistic approach to education and encouraged pupils to pursue a range of interests

outside the classroom. This initiative has helped us bring the emphasis back onto wellbeing for those pupils approaching exams. Research suggests that working with animals, supporting charities and practising mindfulness can all help to create a healthy approach to life, so combining all of these into one event was both highly enjoyable and very helpful for the pupils."

Mindfulness

The power of mindfulness is increasingly recognised by big businesses, schools and professional sportsmen and women as a way of improving performance and focusing on what matters. Research suggests that mindfulness training may provide young people with a valuable life skill by supporting them in a number of areas including being able to concentrate and learn more effectively, to manage stress and anxiety, to think more clearly and to perform better in all areas including music and sport. A number of King's staff have now undertaken mindfulness training and, from September, pupils in Years 11 – 13 will be able to attend mindfulness sessions as part of the range of activities on offer during Wednesday afternoon activities.



Juniors sweep the board

Our Junior boys and girls have had a fantastic season of sport and celebrated multiple successes. In the AJIS Swimming Tournament, Oliver Davies took the bronze medal in the U10 freestyle final, Reece Grady took silver in the U11 individual medley and Oliver Jones also received a bronze medal in the U10 backstroke final.

King's U11 girls came second in the Cheshire Hockey Tournament, third in the invitational Rossall Tournament, fourth in the AJIS North West Tournament and seventh in the North of England finals, despite missing several key players.

Our U11 footballers won the Macclesfield Primary Schools' Tournament and Primary Schools' A League, the Manchester City Tournament and the ISFA North West Tournament. Significantly, the boys played in the ISFA National Finals, in which they came a creditable third. They also took second place in the Reliance Sevens Finals. Three of our boys qualified for the National Danone Cup as part of the Macclesfield District U11 squad, narrowly missing out on a place in the World Championships in Paris after losing in the Semi-Finals.

Our U11 trampolinists brought back silver and bronze medals from the National Championships. King's U11 novice boys and novice girls both placed second, the U11 intermediate girls placed third and Oliver Jones, competing as an individual, came fourth.

Our U11 netballers have also had an incredibly successful season, winning the Macclesfield & District Primary Schools' League One and tournament, as well as coming second in the AJIS Tournament. The girls also won the cup in an exhilarating final at The Jersey Games, clinching the win with a 'golden goal'.

The annual Jersey Sports Tour provides Year 6 pupils with a multitude of sport and leisure activities including both netball and football coaching. All pupils developed their skills, brought home medals for their contribution to The Jersey Games, and had an incredible experience.



Girls' Sports Tour

The twenty six players on the Girls' Sports Tour not only benefited from some excellent training sessions but also experienced the demands of playing in very hot weather! They produced some superb netball against very competitive Gibraltar teams, to win three of four matches. From Gibraltar, the girls transferred to Spain, where they took on local hockey opponents, playing excellent hockey against teams from Málaga: again they won three of four matches. The tour was a great success and a splendid finale to the netball season, in which the U19 and U14 netball teams came second in the Cheshire County Tournament. In the Cheshire Round of the National Schools' Tournament, U14s were third, U16s fourth, whilst the Seniors qualified for the North West Round, where they secured fourth place.

Victorious hockey tour

The boys' hockey season culminated with an extremely successful tour of Bath for the 1st XI. 13 players made the trip down at the end of the Spring term and the boys came away with 5 wins from 5 matches. It capped off a great season for the 1st XI squad who were only defeated once after Christmas. This was a terrific reward for a squad that has displayed great camaraderie and produced impressive displays of hockey throughout the year. Equally

impressive performances came from the U16 squad which qualified for North of England finals in both the indoor and outdoor competitions.



HSBC National Schools Sevens Champions

For the first time in the school's history, King's Senior Sevens team won the HSBC National Schools Sevens Bowl in thrilling circumstances at Rosslyn Park. The grueling two-day tournament saw the boys play 10 games, win 8 and score 265 points, only conceding 155. Captain Will Hodgson was instrumental in the success, with superb goal kicking throughout. On three occasions the squad looked

to be beaten, but showed a huge amount of resolve and determination to win the games. A last second try from Sam Brindle ensured that King's won their group on day one. The final was a tense affair with the lead only changing hands in injury time, followed by Joe Turner leaping over the try line and Will Hodgson kicking the conversion to see King's win the Bowl.

The season finale was a fitting outcome for Guy Mason who, after six "incredibly happy years at King's" will be relocating to Lancaster and taking up a new job in September at The Royal Grammar School. Guy said: "I will leave with a very heavy heart. Being in charge of the rugby at King's has genuinely been both a pleasure and an honour."

Everyone at King's would like to thank Guy for his hard work, commitment and passion over the last six years and wish him every success for the future. His successor is Giles Heatherington (pictured bottom left) who has been schooled on the tough South Yorkshire circuit combining playing National League rugby with a teaching career at his old school Crossley Heath in Halifax.



Pictured above, with England World Cup winner and legend Jason Robinson, are (back row, from left): Stew Gurney; Tim Phillips; Jack Hudson; Will Fairclough; Sam Worthington; Ollie Kenny. Front row: Tom McClusky; Kieran McKeever; Joe Turner; Callum Lavelle; Will Hodgson (Captain). Missing from the photo - Sam Brindle.



Helen Marten

Former pupil Helen Marten (2004 leaver) has been nominated for the 2016 Turner Prize, one of the world's most prestigious contemporary art awards with previous nominees including Damien Hurst, Grayson Perry, Steve McQueen and Antony Gormley. The winner will be announced on 6 December, after an exhibition of all the nominees' works.



Helen is shortlisted for her recent shows 'Eucalyptus, Let Us In' at Green Naftali in New York and 'Lunar Nibs' at the 56th Venice Biennale. She is known for her sculptures and likes to use a range of found objects and immaculately crafted elements in her 3D collages. The Tate described her art as "slippery and elusive in both form and meaning: it attracts and intrigues while also resisting interpretation and categorisation."

After leaving King's, Helen studied art at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts, London and then the Ruskin School of Fine Art at University of Oxford.

In 2012 she won the LUMA Award and this year Helen is also nominated for the Hepworth Prize, a new British sculpture award.

King's Head of Art, Debbie Inman, who taught Helen for Art A Level, said: "Helen's talent was clearly evident even as a young artist. She was technically very able, and her drawing and painting skills were outstanding, creating some beautiful portrait work in particular, but it was the strength of her ideas that set her apart."

Helen is the second former King's pupil to be nominated for The Turner Prize, following in the footsteps of Ian Davenport who was nominated in 1991.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- Friday 1 July**
Bursary Fund Golf Day
Macclesfield Golf Club

- Friday 1 July 11.30am**
Former Pupils' Cricket Match
Cumberland Street

- Sunday 4 September**
Old Boys' Rugby Sevens Festival
Derby Fields

- Friday 25 November, 7pm**
Annual Dinner
The Bridge Hotel, Prestbury

Community

Pupils have continued to show their compassionate sides this term, with numerous fundraising activities across all divisions. Pupils have been aptly rewarded with a visit from representatives of Silk FM (pictured) who presented King's with an award for being the school that donated the most eggs to their Easter Egg Appeal; generous King's pupils donated a whopping 800 eggs, more than any other school in Cheshire East.



The Mayor of Cheshire East, Cllr Hilda Gaddum, visited pupils in the Girls' Division to receive the funds that the girls had raised for the Mayor's charities. In April, industrious pupils in Years 7 - 10 gave up a Saturday morning to help pack shoppers' bags in Tesco, raising £414 for the Mayor's chosen charity, the East Cheshire Hospice.



In the Boys' Division, Sam Cheetham and Will Fosbrook have been fundraising for Myeloma UK. Throughout the term, Sam and Will have run a series of football tournaments for boys in each year group and managed to raise £340 for the charity. Sam was inspired to help Myeloma UK after his friend's brother died from cancer and he wanted to do something to support the family.



Congratulations to:

Former pupils:

Elizabeth Bell, Laura Venables and Kate Garnett, who played in the recent Oxford vs Cambridge Varsity Netball matches.

Jordan Holt, who has secured a four year PhD working for the Institute for Cancer Research.

Rebecca Hughes, who will be swimming the Channel with the Cambridge University team against Oxford this summer.

Emily Middleton, who has been awarded a Kennedy Scholarship and will begin a Masters in Public Policy at Harvard University in September.

Tommy Taylor, who was called up for the England Rugby squad in March ahead of the Grand Slam.

Becky Williams, who gained a PhD in Developmental Biology.

Pupils:

Christian Beeston, who provided the winning design in the school's 'Design a rugby shirt' competition.

Sophia Bird, who was one of the youngest runners in the London Marathon in April.

Millie Brierley and Rowan Sutton, who are runners-up in the National Short Story Week Young Writer 2016 competition and will have their stories in the anthology, available in November.

Holly Burke and Lulu Griffiths who were both selected to represent Cheshire in an Inter-Counties Cross Country race.

Alex Clarke, who achieved Grade 8 piano with Distinction.

Harry Elms, who has been selected for the U15 Derbyshire development cricket side and **George Holden** who has been selected for the U14 Derbyshire cricket side.

Grace Harrison, who received a Special Commendation for her Book Review for The Portico Sadie Massey Awards for Young Readers.

Will Hodgson, Will Harris, Rosie Turner, Oliver Meads and Aiman Aslam, who have all received offers of places to read Medicine in September.

Oliver Gandy, James Dowling, Finlay Blakemore, John Daly, Griff Roberts, Emma Graham, Lottie Thomas, Kate Somekh, Abigail Breese-Tovey, Emily Foster, Sophie Vlissidis and Zuva Mutambasere, who have had their work chosen for publication in the Young Writers 'Poetry Rivals' Anthology, as part of a competition organised by Forward Poetry.

Abigail Johnston, who has been reselected this season for the North of England U21 Hockey Squad.

Henry Strutt, who achieved Distinction in his LAMDA Musical Theatre Gold Medal.

Lottie Thomas, who has been selected as one of 40 finalists to go through to the Forward Poetry Slam Final.

Angus Thomson, who has been selected for the U15 Cheshire cricket side and **Joey Chong**, selected for the U14 side.

King's Science Department, which has been invited by The Royal Society of Chemistry to give this year's Ernest Worthington Memorial Christmas Lecture.

Dmitri Whitmore, who has achieved a Gold Award in the Chemistry Olympiad to go with those already achieved in Maths and Physics.

Jen Young, who was runner-up in the 16 and under category of the Lowry/Living Edge Magazine Schools Art Competition. Her work was displayed at the Lowry in Salford.