

# King's *Colours*

Autumn 2017

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

## Superb A Level results



This summer, King's pupils achieved another incredible set of A Level results that were amongst the best in the region.

Over 80% of all grades are A\*-B, continuing King's track-record as one of the best performing independent schools in the UK. More than 40 students achieved three As or better and 92% of students will be taking up their choice of university place, with others joining apprenticeships, employment or taking a Gap year.

Headmaster, Dr Hyde, said: "Our continued success in these key exams is down to the detailed preparation by staff and the hard work and determination of our pupils.

"I'm delighted to see so many heading off to their choice of university to study a broad range of courses for the next stage of their learning journeys."

**Pictured above (from left):** Cricket captain Oliver Quinn, who got A\*A\*A\*A and will now read English Literature at Somerville College, Oxford; Freddy McNulty, A\*A\*A\*A and has an offer to read Mathematics at Cambridge University; hockey captain William McIlveen, who got A\*AAB and will read Mathematics at St. Andrews; musician and sportswoman Eleanor Toms, who got four A\*s and will read Natural Sciences at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge; Olivia Shaughnessy, who got A\*AAA and will read Chemistry at York; Kate Marsh, who got A\*A\*A and will read English Literature at Collingwood College Durham; rugby player Sam Bryning, who got four A\*s and will read Chemistry at Warwick; Alex Galbraith, who got A\*A\*AA and will read Biology at Durham and Alex Welsh, who got three A\*s and an A and will read Physics at Manchester University.

### Exam success at all ages

At GCSE, pupils took the changes in the national examination system in their stride, recording some stunning results: 46% of all grades are A\*/A and a third of all students got at least 8 As or better.

In our Infant & Junior Division, where the foundations are laid for success later in life, very impressive results were recorded. In the Key Stage 2 assessments taken at the end of Year 6, nearly all pupils were shown to be working at, or beyond, the expected standard. In Reading, 100% of King's pupils achieved or exceeded the expected standard, compared to 71% nationally. In Maths, 96% of our pupils achieved the expected standard (75% nationally) and in Writing, 93% of our pupils achieved this level compared with 76% nationally.



**Pictured (from left):** GCSE students Ciara Allen, who got five A\*s, four As and a 7 in Maths; Zara Shutt, who got eight As, a B and a 7 in Maths; and Anisa Choudry, who got two A\*s, six As and a 7 in Maths and wants to be a doctor.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Costa Rica adventure P3



STEM Focus P4-5



Rugby Down Under P6







The start of a new academic year is always a time of much excitement and celebration following the summer's exam successes. This year, our A Level students achieved exceptionally good results which, importantly, will see them heading off to study their chosen courses at some of the best universities, art and drama schools across the UK, and one in the USA. The sheer range of courses selected by King's students, which range from Acting and Criminology to Marine Biology and Nuclear

Engineering, never ceases to amaze me and, I am sure, most parents too.

Our students continue to be in demand by universities that recognise and value their breadth of experience, their aspiration and desire to work hard, and their range of extra-curricular interests. With the majority of A Level students now choosing three academic subjects, in line with what universities are seeking, King's Extended Studies programme continues to ensure that our students maintain a breadth of interest and knowledge.

It was a great pleasure this summer to see the fantastic results recorded by our Year 12 students who completed their IGCSE in Global Perspectives, with two thirds of all grades at A\*/A. The Global Perspectives course plays an important role in preparing students for university. Students complete both an individual and a group project on topics of their choosing and we focus on the research, writing, referencing and critical thinking skills that are essential for the rigours of university level study. The combination of choosing topics to research and the development of essential skills makes Global Perspectives a valuable qualification.

A new academic year also means that we welcome a number of new members of staff to our community. This year, I am delighted to welcome Paul Cooper (pictured right) as our Deputy Head and Principal of the Boys' Division. Paul brings with him a wealth of pastoral expertise after 10 years at Merchant Taylors' Boys' School in Crosby as Head of Student Progress and Head of Physics. As well as being an astrophysicist, Paul is also a keen musician and rugby coach. Also new to King's are Dominic Hunter, our new Pupil Manager, who again brings with him a wealth of pastoral experience, and Lauren Tidey, our Development & Alumni Officer (see page 7).



Dr Simon Hyde, Headmaster

### Trip to Normandy 2017

In July, a group of pupils from Years 7 and 8 headed off to Normandy to try out their language skills with native speakers whilst enjoying a range of exciting activities.

During the week, pupils were blessed with beautiful weather for the high-energy activities scheduled. All the children enjoyed canoeing, archery, climbing, orienteering, the infamous assault course, aeroball, and a sports tournament.

They also visited a local market, to buy typically French picnic items for lunch. The judges were particularly impressed by these, especially when invited to sample the produce!



### New School Captains

Adding their names this year to a long list of School Captains are Alex Fray and Lauren Hayward.

Alex, who got a stunning 11 A\* grades in his GCSEs and is now studying Chemistry, Biology and History with a view to reading Medicine, said: "What makes King's special is the support you get from both staff and senior pupils and I want to make sure the younger children in the school enjoy the same level of attention I enjoyed."

Lauren, who also has 11 straight A\*s at GCSE, is now studying English Literature, Psychology and Spanish A Levels with a view to reading English at university.

A former runner-up in the National Schools' Essay Writing competition and Cheshire award-winning orator, Lauren said: "It's a great honour and I'd love to leave my mark like the generations before me, perhaps by introducing events for the benefit of all pupils."

Headmaster Dr Hyde said: "Selecting the School Captains is always one of my most pleasurable duties as I get to interview some wonderfully talented and community-minded young people who want to make their mark and give something back to the school."

## Greetings from Costa Rica!

Continuing what is a long tradition of globe-trotting by King's pupils, this summer saw the adventure of a lifetime for 27 young explorers who enjoyed a month-long working expedition to the rainforests and mountain ranges of Costa Rica.

As well as experiencing the rich wildlife in what is the most bio-diverse region on the planet, they trekked through the rainforests and worked with indigenous people to help build housing. The community project saw students clearing land and digging out foundations for two family dwellings in the remote and traditional village of Dos Brazos De Rio Tigre. The team encountered daytime temperatures of 30°C and humidity levels up to 90%. However, this didn't dampen their spirit as they set to work transporting rocks and sandbags from the river uphill to the houses.

Students divided into two teams to explore separate parts of the country with Team 1 undertaking a four-day Zona Santos trek, which winds its way through 45km of dense, mountainous rainforest, farmland and coffee plantations. The trek covered steep, rocky mountain trails, river crossings, and slippery, mud tracks and snake-infested gullies. The trek also involved overnight stays



in remote mountain huts providing memorable experiences of open air cooking and sleeping in the wild with no electricity or hot water.

Team 2 took another four-day trek up Cerro Ena, covering 3144 metres altitude including a passage across the eerie Páramo, an alpine tundra ecosystem that sits just above the clouds with some stunning views over miles of flat, white clouds.

Highlights of the trip included a visit to Tortuguero National Park, where

students spent a night watching endangered Green Turtles lay their eggs on the beaches, plus spotting monkeys, butterflies, tapirs, dolphins, whales, turtles, toucans and sloths.

Expedition leader and King's teacher Grant Wallwork said: "There were mountains to climb both physically and mentally, and each individual rose to the challenge set out for them. Our students were a credit to themselves and to King's and should be incredibly proud of themselves for all they achieved."

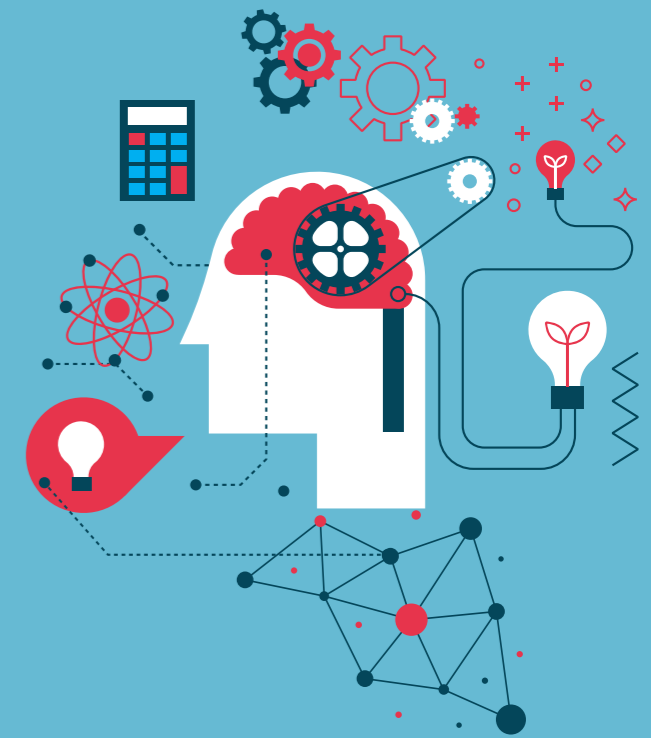
### Return to the Stone Age

King's juniors enjoyed a trip back in time to the Stone Age, spending a day living and learning as our ancient cave-dwelling predecessors. Pupils in Year 3 were joined by real cave-man "Clod" who shared the secrets of his ancient civilisation: "Your ancestors were just as brilliant as you are today and used their initiative to develop original technologies to survive."

Dressed in fake animal skins and ceremonial paints, pupils learned how early humans lived in hunter gatherer societies, what animals they hunted, how they built Stonehenge, used cave art and manufactured stone age tools. Pictured with Ian Morris are (from left) James Unsworth, Jennie Banks, Alexander Rowe and Poppy Holding.







# Engineering success with STEM

Engineering, in its many guises, is directly involved in solving all the big issues facing society today: including energy production and storage, medical advances, the future of nuclear energy, the electrification of the automotive market, pollution and waste management. And yet engineering, some might say, still has a rather dry image to overcome. At King's, a range of initiatives are bringing to life the exciting and innovative role that STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) will play in pupils' futures. A combination of curriculum-based projects and a range of extra-curricular clubs such as STEM Club, Electronics Club and Physics Club, provide pupils with hands-on opportunities to solve real-world problems.

## STEM Learning Challenge

In Year 8, pupils undertake a 'STEM Learning Challenge' (pictures 3 & 6) at the end of the Summer Term. The two-day project aims to develop specific skills – problem-solving, team working, communication, creativity and enterprise skills – at the same time as giving pupils a better understanding of what engineering is, together with how elements from Science, Technology and Maths fit within it.

DT Teacher Mr Steele says: "STEM subjects are recognised for their strategic importance for the economy and, as a nation, we need to encourage our pupils to take up these disciplines."

Pupils work in teams alongside professional engineers in order to design and manufacture a prototype in response to a brief, before presenting their findings. This year's brief was to make a device that could be used by homeowners to remove water from their homes in the event of a flood. Each group shared the roles of Managing Director, Design Engineer and Quality Controller. The outcomes ranged from water pumps to water wheels all created with the support of engineers

from companies including Siemens, Costain, Mott MacDonald and Murphy. Pupil Emma Graham said: "The STEM Challenge was incredibly interesting and gave us a chance to collaborate on something entirely new."

Stuart Campbell MEng, Project Director at Costain, said: "The world needs more engineers and projects such as this can spark an interest inside pupils who may not otherwise have considered engineering to be a creative and exciting career choice. The rapid pace of technological change means that these young people are being trained for jobs that haven't been invented yet, so it is critical that they develop skills such as problem-solving, innovation, resilience and working as a team, all of which were in evidence in this project."

## Faraday Challenge

Each year, aspiring young engineers compete in the IET (Institution of Engineering & Technology) Faraday Challenge, (picture 2) a competition for teams of pupils aged 12 – 13 years. Teams compete to solve real-life engineering problems and, this year, a team of King's girls won second place

with their response to a brief to help Ben Ainslie's BAR Land Rover team to win the next America's Cup. The girls developed and presented their two ideas for the coding and design of a temperature sensor to protect sailors from overheating and a motion sensor to allow quick tacking. The girls divided into specific roles covering project management, programming, environmental management and health and safety, with their presentation skills just as important as their prototypes. Pupil and aspiring engineer Connie Jordan said: "The most important thing was to work as a team, be organised and make best use of the time. We were successful because we cooperated and worked together."

## Infant & Junior STEM Week

Early in the year, our young pupils spent a full week immersed in all things engineering-related. The Infants enjoyed a Lego Workshop (picture 8) in which our budding Town Planners, Civil Engineers and Architects designed and built a town and village with transport links. Year 3 pupils undertook a challenge to create a bridge to cross the river Nile which had to be strong enough to support the weight of animals. Year 4 pupils built bridges and buildings and studied electricity. Year 5 sought to find an engineering solution using pulleys and levers to a real-life problem facing farmers in Nepal. At lunchtimes, children designed catapults, lollipop bridges and towers from marshmallows and spaghetti.

## Bloodhound SSC

One of the most inspirational events was the visit from the Bloodhound Supersonic Car education team. Pupils learned how the Bloodhound and its component parts worked, (picture 1) and enjoyed making rocket and balloon-powered cars. As a follow-up, a number of Junior and Senior pupils undertook a project to make and race their own rocket cars – some with speeds up to 200 MPH (picture 4). Later this term, pupils will enjoy watching the Bloodhound as its attempts to set a new land speed record of over 1000 MPH.

## Rollercoaster Challenge

The annual Siemens Rollercoaster Challenge aims to promote STEM subjects and encourage their take-up in Higher Education. Mr Steele said: "Drivers and controls on their own may not seem very interesting until you look at what they are used to control, such as the drivers on the Nemesis at Alton Towers. The Rollercoaster Challenge is designed to encourage participation from pupils with a variety of skill sets – from innovators and project managers to creative thinkers and entrepreneurs. Over 10 weeks, teams plan, design and build their rollercoaster using the kit provided by Siemens and put together a presentation video outlining their progress. Teams then compete against each other in the final at Congleton Town Hall.

## Arkwright Scholarships

Young engineer Josh Blake (picture 5) is the latest in a long line of pupils to successfully win an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. Josh will benefit from work experience and mentoring while at school and university, plus a financial package to support his A Level studies in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Design Technology. Josh says: "I love designing new products and innovative solutions to improve on what has already been produced." Chair of the Arkwright Scholarships Trust, Linda Scott, said: "Our objective is to identify, inspire and nurture future leaders in engineering and technical design."

## Engineering Education Scheme (EES)

EES is a national scheme that seeks to inspire talented 17 year olds into STEM careers by linking schools and companies to work on real-life industrial problems (picture 7). Teams work for 6 months alongside their partner company whilst at the same time gaining key skills for employment. This year's team of Fionn Carmen, Natalie Stevens, Jen Young and Dan Harrop worked with Opus Technical Ltd to build a high pressurised chemical injector. They produced an impressive dissertation and, after showcasing their work at the University of Liverpool, graduated from the EES scheme in April. They were highly commended for their work and received a Gold Crest Award.



## Rugby roundup



### Aussie tour triumph

King's returned from Australia and Singapore having had an incredibly successful tour: winning 13 out of 17 matches. King's fielded three teams; the 1st and 2nd XV Development teams alongside a Leavers XV which consisted of the recently departed Year 13 students. The Leavers XV produced

some magnificent rugby, winning 4 out of 5 matches with a fitting victory in their last ever match together as a team.

The 2nd XV won 3 of their 6 games, but definitely saw the most progress over the three weeks. Captain Joe Moores, hooker Tomos Rands and winger Angus Homer were the key-men

and all were selected for the 1st XV whilst on tour.

The 1st XV were in devastating form and went all 6 games undefeated, amassing over 250 points and conceding just 7. New captain Owen Jones (Number 8) was player of the tour and his offload game was deadly alongside his ball carrying abilities.

James Crummack (second row) was equally as damaging; he bulldozed his way through the most organised of defences. Whilst in the back division, centre Gus Fiennes' elusive running and Tom Blackwell's sharp finishing were virtually unstoppable.

Away from the rugby field, the boys visited the beautiful Sentosa Island (Singapore), learn to surf in Surfers Paradise, snorkel in the Great Barrier Reef and Jet Boat around Sydney Harbour, taking in the sights.

## 1st XV Rugby Festival

Once again King's hosted the annual pre-season Festival, with no fewer than 20 teams attending from some of the very best schools in England and Wales. There were over 500 players and 15 officials in action under blue skies and sunshine, plus hundreds of supporters on the side-line including many former pupils who were involved afterwards in the Former Pupils' Sevens. King's were in a group alongside Oundle, Trent College, KES Bath and St Joseph's College, Ipswich. After four very pleasing performances (W2, D1, L1) the team travelled to the home of the game itself, Rugby School, for their season opener. Thanks go to Mercedes-Benz of Macclesfield and Robinson's for sponsoring the Festival and former pupils' event respectively.



## Athletics



King's athletes Sam Worthington, Brandon Morgan and Ben Kersh all had an excellent season at local and national level. At the Cheshire County Athletic Championship, Sam was crowned Cheshire 300m Champion and Ben was crowned Cheshire Javelin Champion. The boys then competed at the Cheshire Schools' Athletic Championship, with Sam and Brandon winning 1st and 2nd place in the 300m, whilst Ben won the javelin.

All three boys were selected to represent Cheshire Schools in the Mason Trophy Championship at which Sam won Gold and Brandon picked up Bronze; with the

Cheshire team finishing as winners. In July, Sam and Brandon represented Cheshire in the 300m at the English Schools' National Track and Field Championship, with both boys helping Cheshire win the Boys' English Schools Trophy.

August saw the Northern Athletics Championship, at which Sam won Gold and Brandon won Bronze in 300m.

Sam then went on to the English National Athletics Championship, where he was placed 4th. In September, all three boys represented Sale Harriers in the National YDL Championship and, again, were instrumental in the team winning the event.



## Equestrian honours

King's Equestrian squad has qualified for the National School Equestrian Association Final in October with disciplines in Dressage, Jumping with Style and Show Jumping. Team members who competed at the qualifying event included Tasia Osborne, Tom Dennett, Lily Evans, Cyrus Kerfoot, Olivia Burns, Sam Burns and Lucas Fisher.



## Netball success

Congratulations to the King's girls who were successful at the recent Cheshire County Netball trials and will now represent their county: in the U12 squad are Lydia Hine and Leah Shadwell, and in the U13 squad are Madeleine Johnson and Anna Warham.

## First Alumni Officer takes up post

Lauren Tidey is the school's first ever Development & Alumni Officer, with a remit to help our former pupils stay in touch with each other and the school and also to implement the school's fundraising strategy. Using her background in events management, Lauren has already set about using social media to re-connect with former pupils and to invite them to a series of events in the North West and London. Exciting developments in the pipeline include a women's Manchester networking event and implementing a new system to help former pupils provide a mentoring service for those training for a profession or entering the workplace.



## Will named Young Structural Professional of the Year

In June, William Arnold MStructE was named "Young Structural Engineering Professional of the Year" by The Institution which makes the awards annually to recognise the most outstanding young engineering professionals. Will was recognised for his work on innovative projects like the Fubon Tower in Tapei (a skyscraper in an earthquake-zone), a whiskey distillery in Scotland featuring an innovative timber roof the size of five football pitches, and the 2012 Serpentine Pavilion. Will, who left King's in 2005 and has worked for Arup for the last seven years, was inspired to become a structural engineer at age 14 when a family friend said that he had worked for the company that helped to design Sydney Opera House: "I immediately decided that was what I wanted to do," said Will. "Without my Maths and Physics teachers, I may not have kept up such an interest in the built world. Mr Nicholls, my DT teacher, also greatly influenced my passion for design, something I rely on today."

## Driving the future

Former pupil Dominique Roberts has just graduated with a high First Class Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Motorsports from the University of Central Lancashire. Dominique also received the award for the best Bachelors project across the School of Engineering for her dissertation on the use of regenerative energy in future automotive performance vehicles. In addition, she also received an award for gaining the highest overall grade on her degree course. In September, Dominique took up an exciting role at Bentley Motors, which came about following her dissertation. She is now part of Bentley's Sales and Marketing Department in London, working as part of the future strategy team and will spend the next few years supporting concept project vehicle development.



## Congratulations to our former pupils ...

**Amy Sanderson**, who has received a First Class Honours degree in European Social & Political Studies (BA) from UCL.

**Paddy Symmons Roberts**, who has been awarded a First Class Honours degree in English Literature with Creative Writing from Warwick University

**Olivia Soutter**, who received her PGCE in Secondary English in June from Homerton College, Cambridge. Olivia was also awarded the Charles Fox Prize "for outstanding contributions to all aspects of the PGCE course." In July, Olivia began teaching at The Freman College in Buntingford.

**Dmitri Whitmore**, who is currently an undergraduate at St John's College, Cambridge, was awarded the Cambridge prize and a university scholarship after achieving the highest first in his college at the end of his first year.

## We've been framed!

King's has teamed up with local photographer Jon Cruttenden to offer former pupils, parents and staff the opportunity to buy framed prints of the school's sites. Photographs are available in a range of sizes and prices range from £25 - £160. To order, please see: [www.kingsmac.co.uk/kingsphotos](http://www.kingsmac.co.uk/kingsphotos)





## Community



Last academic year, staff and pupils at King's raised more than £29,000 for a number of charities, many chosen by the pupils themselves. In addition to fundraising, pupils have also generously donated to a number of appeals for items such as Easter Eggs, school shoes and, most recently, Harvest items.

At the end of last term, King's pupils donated more than 400 pairs of shoes to their counterparts in some of the poorest rural communities in Ghana. The shoes were donated to Connecting Kids Education Foundation (CKEF), a cause that King's has supported for the last three years and whose aim is to improve education and literacy for rural children.

A consignment containing the shoes along with around 3,000 textbooks is now on its way to Ghana and supplements previous donations which have already had a huge impact on the lives of hundreds of children in rural villages.

Ellen Blamires, Director of CKEF, said: "It is hard to describe the huge impact that these donations are having on the lives of children in the villages that we support. Basic necessities such as school shoes and text books can have a huge impact on reducing rates of absenteeism teenage pregnancy, as well as driving up literacy rates. King's previous donations of sports kit, furniture and books have successfully motivated students and parents alike."

Ellen, (pictured above, left), was able to visit King's in September to attend a special assembly in the Boys' Division, at which Charity Prefect Harry Norton presented a cheque for just under £3000, which was raised last academic year to help CKEF build two new classrooms for a junior school in Antweem Kumase, Ghana.

This term, our Infant & Junior pupils have generously donated hundreds of Harvest boxes and baskets which will be distributed to good causes across the local community including to homeless charities, foodbanks and to residents of Harry Lawson Court.



## Congratulations to:

**Susannah Austin**, who passed her Grade 5 flute exam.

**Oliver Bailey**, who is currently ranked third in UKA English U11 fell running.

**Flossie Blackwell** (U15), **Zoe Thomas** and **Olivia Moores** (U17), who have been selected for the Hockey Performance Centre.

**Alex Clarke**, who achieved Grade 8 alto saxophone with Distinction.

**John Daly**, who scored 100% for both his GCSE English Literature and Language qualifications: a remarkable achievement.

**Will Davies**, who represented Sale Sharks U18s rugby, whilst on tour in Ireland.

**Aisling Day**, who achieved Grade 8 cello with Merit.

**Tom** and **Lottie Dennett**, who came 3rd and 4th in the Laser run pistol shooting competition run by Pentathlon GB.

**Isabella Fairbanks**, who achieved an A\* in GCSE Chinese, **Pietre Coyle** who achieved an A\* in GCSE Dutch, **Claudia Rodriguez Martinez** who gained an A\* in GCSE Spanish and **Jacob Brown** who achieved an A\* in GCSE French.

**Sophie Fletcher**, who achieved distinction in her Grade 2 flute exam.

**Ellie Hopewell**, who has passed her LAMDA Diploma PCertLAM.

**Ollie Leatherbarrow**, who represented Sale Sharks U16 rugby in matches against Harlequins, Bath and Saracens at the Warwick Rugby Festival.

**Remy Miller**, who has been selected to represent England at U16 in an international golf match against Scotland at the end of September. This is Remy's 1st full England cap and he is now playing off +0.2 as a handicap.

**Eleanor Mitchell**, who passed her Grade 1 flute exam.

**Zuva Mutambasere** and **Eloisa Webster**, for achieving a Merit in their Bronze LAMDA Speech & Drama Exam.

**Sam Parry**, who has won the Minor league at the Sheffield Chess Congress.

**Jonathan Provis**, who achieved Grade 8 drums with Distinction.

**King's Standard** has won the national award for best school history magazine.

Staff member **Tina Campbell** who has been awarded '2017 Teacher of Legend' in the Age of Sigmar National School League Final.

**Natalie Stevens**, who was selected as goalkeeper for the Pennine Pumas in the U18 England Hockey Futures Cup, and also selected for the England U18 training squad.

**Sam Buckingham**, who represented the Pennine Pumas in the U18 England Hockey Futures Cup.

**The Senior Hockey Team**, who won the county round of the National School's Tournament and will progress to the North West Round.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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