

King's Colours

Spring 2019

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

We're top performing again!



Double bill of drama



Students have staged two plays this term, with a largely female cast performing Willy Russell's bitter sweet classic 'Blood Brothers' and Sixth Form students tackling the jet-black psychological comedy 'DNA' by revered modern master Dennis Kelly.

The Blood Brothers cast of pupils from Years 8–10 staged a moving version of the classic nature versus nurture tale of twins separated at birth and brought up in completely different environments. The tragicomedy ends with devastating consequences for all.

Drama teacher Mrs Thompson said: "Willy Russell is a giant of the British stage and a master of tragicomedy. The cast loved the subtle mix of Liverpool

wit, wisdom and world-weariness he brings to all his work."

Sixth Form actors tackled a dark shocker of a play that cleverly piles on the twists, as guilt and madness work their way through a group of teenagers who try to cover up what they think has been a murder among their group, only eventually to find they were mistaken.

Head of Drama Donald Forbes said: "It is a fascinating study of how young people will defend themselves and avoid reality.

"It is very sparse and psychologically menacing, but not without its moments of black humour and it gave our young actors some powerful dialogue and action to work with."

Department for Education performance tables published last month show King's to be the top performing school in Cheshire East at both GCSE and A Level for the fifth consecutive year.

At GCSE level (Key Stage 4), King's Attainment 8 score was 6.6. This is an average of a pupil's grades across eight subjects taken from the compulsory Maths and English and a mix of the Sciences, Languages and Humanities. King's achieved the best performance by any school in Cheshire East. Pupils' average E baccalaureate score was 6.41, again the best in Cheshire East.

At A Level (Key Stage 5), King's average point score was 42.19 with an average grade of B+, again the best in Cheshire East on both measures. The grade for a student's best three A levels was B+, also the best in Cheshire East.

In addition, looking at the key 'Value Added' ranking, demonstrating how much progress pupils make, King's was ranked in the top 15% of all schools nationwide.

Headmaster Dr Hyde said: "Whilst it's good to celebrate another great set of results for our students, we must never forget that education is about more than just grades. We know our students are also excelling in a range of musical, creative, sporting and extra-curricular activities and will be well-equipped with the skills required for life after school."

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pupils

JUST try new things. Don't be afraid. Step out of your comfort zone and soar!



Michelle Obama's exhortation to embrace change and to experiment is a helpful prescription for our modern world. Rarely, however, do we get the chance to think about everything we do from first principles.

This opportunity is another benefit of our 2020 plans to move to a new campus. I've always been keen to welcome change and I have to confess that I enjoy the sense of excitement, even exhilaration from doing something for the first time.

Our 'Life at King's' morning and our entrance examination this year were run for the first time with boys and girls together on one site.

Planning the events afresh allowed us to keep the best of what we do, whilst experimenting as we tackled fresh logistical challenges, such as the need to manage much larger numbers of pupils and parents without losing the personal touch the school is renowned for.

January also saw our first ever Physical Assessment morning for pupils applying for our new Sports Scholarship and Elite Athlete Programme. Did everything go well? There were a few lessons learned, but basically the answer is yes.

Most importantly, colleagues and pupils discovered yet again that we can cope with change and experienced the excitement that comes with trying new things. As Michelle Obama says, it's nothing to be afraid of.

Dr Simon Hyde, Headmaster



For all the latest information on the new school, scan the QR code with your phone's camera.



SCAN ME!

Orators win regional competition



Tough-talking Sixth Form students Josh Clayfield and Ciara Allen won Round Two of the regional finals of The English-Speaking Union's National Debating Championships and will now go to the Northern event hoping to become the first ever King's students to go to the national finals.

The post war political subject they were proposing – 'No essential service should be provided on a profit basis' – saw Josh arguing on practical economic grounds and Ciara on moral sociological reasons.

Josh, who wants to study at Law at university and is Chair of King's Debating Society, said: "Success is down to research, confidence and preparation and the more you practise the better you get. Before each debate, I read and reread my notes to make sure I can instantly respond to any challenge." Ciara added: "We get quite a lot of time to prepare, make sure we work as a team and are ready for whatever is thrown at us."

Head of English Richard Kellett, said: "This is a real test of reasoning and intellectual clout, particularly at this late stage in the competition. Anyone can prepare a convincing speech but the skill is in thinking around the issue, such that you can anticipate and respond to your opponents' arguments instantly and decisively. I have the greatest respect for what they do."

Magical MATHS WEEK

At the start of term, all our infant and junior pupils enjoyed a 'magical maths' week, celebrating all kinds of numerical conundrums and learning how maths is used in everyday life.

Our Early Years pupils focussed on using colour and printing to bring shapes to life. Reception focused on weighing and measuring, creating delicious buns, whilst the classroom shop was used to experience money and think about quantities.

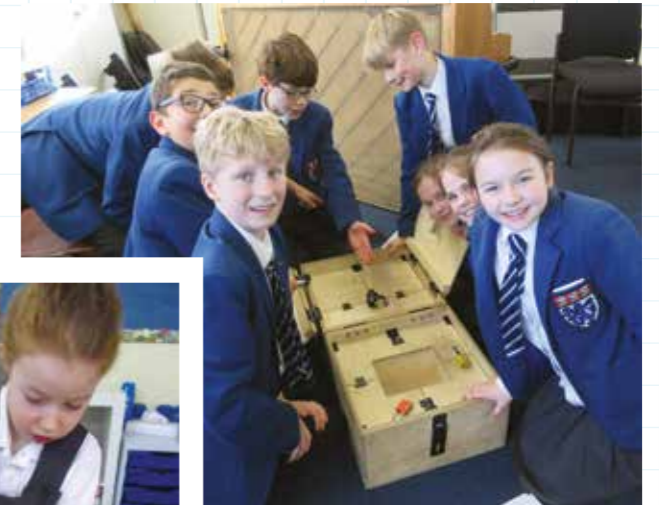
Year 1 used water to investigate quantities: pupils had to work out how to pour exactly 7 litres of water into a bowl using one 5 litre container and one 3 litre container. In the Ginkgo Meadow, the children collected leaves and twigs and went on to use a Carroll Diagram to compare their colour, size and shape.

Number patterns and sequencing were the focus for Year 2 pupils, while Year 3 chose to concentrate on shape and measurements, looking at how housing developments are planned and mapped. Year 3 also explored pentonimoes, measured miniature items, measured rivers and had fun playing giant battleships!

Year 4 had a mathematical theme for each day: 'Shape Day' saw pupils



learn about the names and properties of 2D shapes and use Venn diagrams. A 'maths trail' led to lots of problem-solving both outside and inside, while 'Pizza Day' saw pupils design and make pizzas working with a budget to calculate costs. Thursday was all about symmetry art and triangular art. On Friday, children used maths to solve mysteries. Three parents also visited to discuss how they use maths in their respective professions, showing pupils that maths is everywhere! Year 5 used straight lines to create 'magical' parabolic curve pictures. They also made board games with a maths focus, which



were tested by Year 4 children who gave out star ratings!

Year 6 experienced a host of exciting activities using geometry and tangrams. An 'Escape Room Challenge' saw pupils work in teams to solve a series of riddles and puzzles to open padlocks and eventually halt the ticking stopwatch!

Parents Mr Berry and Mr Hufton gave enlightening presentations about how vital maths is in their professional roles. Mrs Knuckey shared how she uses formulae, percentages and very precise measurements as a gemologist to assess and value jewellery. Mr Michael Malone from VINCI Construction explained his role as an Estimator and worked through a practical example using calculations of area, perimeter and volume to cost the construction of an AstroTurf pitch. Many thanks to all our visitors and parents who came in to visit.



Chess team through to National Finals

Chess at King's continues to go from strength-to-strength, with the school team qualifying for the National Chess Finals and Year 9 pupil Sam Parry being selected for the England Elite Junior Player Programme.

Sam started playing chess aged just seven and his selection means he now has the opportunity to represent England in U14 international events later this year. Sam plays once a week at King's, as the Board One player in the school team which came joint winners in the North West Schools' qualifier of the ECF Team Chess Challenge. Sam, James Wolstenholme, William Cann and Simon Trier will all travel to London in April for the hotly-contested National Finals.

King's Maths teacher Tracy Aston said: "We have a number of very talented players and are delighted to have qualified for the National Finals."

Learning beyond the CLASSROOM

KING'S firmly believes that a good education takes place not just inside the classroom, but outside it too. Research shows that learning in the outdoors offers a huge range of benefits in terms of bringing learning alive, allowing exploration, creativity and helping pupils develop self-confidence, resilience and independence.

We provide a broad range of experiences and enrichment opportunities to provide a rounded education with personal development at the heart of it. From our Pre-School – with the outdoor classroom and regular Forest School days – to the Sixth Form, with the opportunity to volunteer and participate in World Challenge expeditions, opportunities beyond the classroom abound.



Trips and Visits

We recognise the advantages of learning away from school in enriching the educational experience of our pupils and in contributing to their personal development. We offer an impressive range of trips, which start with exploring the local environment in the Early Years, and extend through to expeditions in the Seniors. They provide pupils with excitement, challenge, motivation and an opportunity to contextualise their learning and link areas across the curriculum. Benefits include development of an appreciation of social differences, heritage and culture, development of emotional intelligence and opportunities to assess risks and develop decision-making skills. They also provide different settings within which pupils can develop the five King's Learning Habits.

Outdoor Pursuits

King's has a long tradition of providing an extensive outdoor activities programme, through which pupils can challenge themselves, conquer fears and develop their resilience and teamwork.

John Fitzgerald, who Co-ordinates the outdoor pursuits programme, says: "Weekly adventures of climbing on the crags and crawling through the cave systems of the Peak District contrast to longer more adventurous trips, such as winter mountaineering and sleeping in snow caves in Scotland's Cairngorm Mountains. All Year 7 pupils have their first outdoor experience within the first two weeks of term, to either Tegg's Nose or Lockerbrook, to scramble over the landscape and learn team-working skills. Year 8 and 9 pupils enjoy camps and conservation work in Lyme Park. For older pupils, midweek sporting activities

include the opportunity to go climbing, caving, orienteering and sailing. Various weekend trips give students opportunities to canoe, wild camp and attempt challenges such as the Welsh 3000s. More adventurous Sixth Form students have traversed Norwegian hills on cross country skis, crossed glaciated terrain and scaled alpine sized peaks as far afield as Kyrgyzstan."

The majority of our outdoor programmes are run with in-house staff; a testament to the level of skills, experience and dedication of the staff involved.

Personal Achievement

Having fun is clearly an important element of outdoor activities, but importantly students always return from an outdoor trip with a sense of self-fulfilment and personal achievement. Their experiences help them to develop the confidence

and character necessary to face future challenges and aspire to explore differing environments. As well as a personal journey of development, the team work and sense of community that develops within groups of pupils of differing ages helping and caring for each other, goes a long way to supporting our school aims.

World Challenge Expeditions

Every two years, our Senior pupils are given the opportunity to participate in life-changing expeditions to some of the most remote parts of the planet. 'World Challenge' expeditions are designed to be empowering journeys for students who are ready to step outside their comfort zones. These student-led expeditions involve rigorous planning, preparation and fundraising – after all, raising money is the best way to learn its value. At the core of every expedition is a sustainable,

Education is about so much more than good exam grades and should focus on the development of character, learning in the widest sense and the development of life-long skills.

community project to create positive, long-lasting change for rural communities. Students at King's have taken part in teaching English in India, laying water pipes in Namibia, building houses in Costa Rica and renovating a school in Bolivia. Students work hard, stretch themselves, overcome challenges and come back with a greater sense of their role as a global citizen.

DofE Awards

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme provides pupils with a range of experiences that help them to develop new skills and an understanding of their wider community. Many of these experiences are designed to make them attractive recruits to universities and

employers. Paul Bartle, who is in charge of the DofE programme, says: "Examples of when pupils have solved a problem, or demonstrated good organisational skills can help with university applications and interviews. Participation can also help show that students are organised, generous with their time and have a good understanding of the world." The DofE's volunteering section is a perfect opportunity for pupils to find out about a possible future career path and get a taste of roles they may be considering for later in life.

Extra-curricular Provision

Our pupils' ambition and competitive spirit is often

applied with equal gusto to the sporting arena and activities encountered through clubs. Debating competitions, Model United Nations heats, engineering competitions and STEM Challenges all provide significant learning opportunities beyond the typical classroom environment.

The Equestrian squad's successful season saw two teams qualifying for the national finals of the dressage competition. A team from the relatively recently formed Pistol Shooting Club came 7th in the National Finals.

With the number of extra-curricular activities exceeding one hundred, participation helps pupils to learn how to balance their workload and, of course, work with others beyond their usual circle of friends.

There is a huge potential for developing social skills such as communication, the importance of reliability and commitment.





Cheerleading

King's pupils took on the world when they represented the United Kingdom at the World School's Cheerleading competition in Florida. Despite tough competition from the best teams in America and around the world, King's achieved third place in the world rankings. Congratulations to all pupils and their coach Rachael Burrows on this significant achievement.



Rugby

Attacking full back Toby Moule has been selected for the North of England Schools' side. The power house runner is now in the showcase series of regional games which act as England trials.



This season, King's has again produced a number of stars: Captain and fly half Will Davies has been selected for the Sales Sharks U18 Academy, Number Eight Owen Jones was appointed Captain of the Independent Schools' Lambs Team to tour South Africa, with centre Gus Fiennes alongside him on the select trip. Will Davies has represented Sale Sharks U18 Academy, and Sam Worthington, Cyrus Kerfoot, Ben Kersh, Oscar McCormack, Joe Ward, Alex Davies and Will Davies all represented Cheshire U16s this season.



Blackwell who have been selected for Performance Centre hockey, whilst some 40+ girls and boys have been selected for various Academy Centres.

Particular congratulations to Joe Tabachnik who made his National League debut joining his School 1st XI Captain (Sam Buckingham) and 1st XI coach (Mr Mattingly) in representing Alderley Edge HC 1st XI.

Hockey



U11s

In February, the U11 Girls' Hockey team took part in the National In2Hockey School Championships. In an exciting group stage, the girls won two games (4-0 v The Grange and 4-0 v Queens B) and lost one (2-1 v King's Chester) to progress to the semi-final. The close fought match ended in

Penalty Flicks, which unfortunately didn't go our way. The girls received Bronze Medals and showed great sportsmanship.

U14s

Congratulations to the U14 girls' squad who won the Cheshire and North West rounds of the National Schools' Competition before finishing runners-up in the North of England finals, missing out on the National Finals by just one goal!

The U16s and U18s are both through to the County Finals in March. Individual plaudits go to Lara Tabachnik, Scarlett Brough and Flossie



Netball



The U15s netballers have qualified for the quarter finals of the Independent Schools' Netball Plate. They go through as one of the last eight teams in the country after convincing wins against Queen Ethelburga's 31-17 and Bradford Grammar School 38-32. They will now play St Bede's College for a place in the semi-final.



Indoor Athletics



24 junior pupils travelled to Wigan to compete in the AJS Indoor Athletics competition, a large annual tournament bringing together the best young athletes from more than 20 junior schools. With hundreds of young competitors, a top three position in any event is an amazing achievement. William Cheney and Phoebe Woods won silver medals in the U11 standing long jump and U11 chest push. Oliver Pinches and Savannah Keefe both claimed bronze medals in the U10 standing long jump, while Sophie Payne and Marianne Knuckey also claimed bronze in the six-lap relay race.



Cross-Country

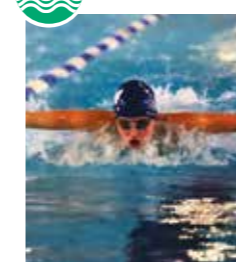


Five King's pupils were selected to represent Macclesfield in the Cheshire Schools' Cross Country championships in February. Jake O'Donnell came 3rd in the Minor boys and has been selected to run for Cheshire in the inter-counties race.

In the Junior Boys, Phillip Goodfellow came 6th and has been selected to run for Cheshire in the English Schools' National Cross Country championships in March. The girls also performed well, with Maddie Lucchi (37th) and Rebecca Foster (40th) in the Junior Girls and Lottie Woods (21st) in the Inter Girls category.

Congratulations also go to Philip Goodfellow for coming 1st in the U13s Cheshire Cross Country Championship and Peter Goodfellow for coming 6th in the U17s category. They will both represent Cheshire at the National competition in March in Loughborough.

Swimming



Reece Grady competed at the 2019 Cheshire County Swimming Championships and won 14 medals including three county titles in the 100m and

200m backstroke and the 200m Fly. Reece is now ranked in the top 10 in the UK for his age group. His goal is to compete at this year's British Swimming Summer Championships.

Trampolining



49 pupils travelled to Belfast to represent King's in the North of Britain trampolining finals. Despite some tough opposition, a total of 29 pupils (in 7 teams and 2 individuals) have qualified for the National finals in March in Birmingham. Particular mention goes to Harry Wallace, Harry Collett and Harry Pinches who have qualified for their last ever national finals, having represented King's every year from Year 3 to Year 13.

Queen's honour

Former pupil **Martin Stevens** (1981) was awarded an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's New Year's Honours for his services to people with multiple sclerosis (MS). Martin was diagnosed with MS in 1995 and has been supporting people with the condition and other disabilities for more than two decades. He is currently a trustee at the MSIF, a global network of MS organisations, and is also Chair of the Board of Trustees at charity Disability Rights UK. Acclaimed musician and former pupil **Christian Blackshaw** (1965) was also recognised in the New Year's Honours List. The classical pianist, who lives in Cheshire, was awarded an MBE.



Art Update

Former pupil **Harry Morgan** (2009) has been shortlisted for the highly prestigious LOEWE Foundation Craft Prize 2019 for his breath-taking sculptural works in glass and concrete. The competition recognises artists and crafts people from all over the world and the finalists are selected for their fundamentally important contributions to the development of contemporary craft. Harry is one of 29 finalists chosen by a panel of experts from over 2,500 submissions worldwide. As well as being one of only 7 selected from the UK, he is also the youngest to be recognised at age 29. Harry's work will be exhibited in Tokyo from 26 June - 22 July 2019, when the winner of the 50,000 euros prize will be selected.

Events round-up

There was a fantastic turnout in November to celebrate 25 years since **King's Girls' Division** opened its doors. Over 200 former girls and staff took a trip down memory lane, walking around their old classrooms and looking through the archives.



Every year group from 1998 through to 2016 were well represented. The annual **Drinks in the City** event was held at Brown's Courtrooms in Covent Garden in October. It was great to catch up with London-based alumni and former staff, as well as those in the capital for the day.

Charity rugby match

King's former pupils won in the annual charity fixture against Macclesfield Rugby Club. The winning score was 33-17 with Tom Fairclough scoring 4 tries in a performance reminiscent of his days at King's when he played with the longest ever unbeaten run! The oldest alumni playing was Tristan Wood (class of 1996) and the youngest were Owen Jones and Tom Blackwell at 19. Between the two sides there were 24 old boys playing - a fantastic turn out and a great occasion.

DIARY DATES

Over 60s Lunch Club

Thursday 6 June, 12noon | Sutton Hall | £20pp

Manchester Drinks

Thursday 13 June, 6pm | Cloud 23 | £15pp

Alan McInnes Bursary Golf Day

Friday 5 July | Macclesfield Golf Club | £200 per team

London Drinks

Thursday 17 October, 6pm | Browns Courtrooms, Covent Garden | £15pp

Alumni Open Day (Cumberland Street)

Saturday 28 March 2020

Helping hands for fundraising



The Infant, Junior and Senior pupils have been united in their fundraising efforts this academic year for local charity 'Hand on Heart'. So far, pupils have raised an enormous £3,632 through numerous activities including an art exhibition, cake sales, a disco, carol concert (*pictured below*), Christmas Fair, Santa's sleigh, sales of Will Gem's book on the antics of Bollington gingerbread men and even a sponsored climb of Mount Snowden by Jemima Jordan.

Macclesfield 'Hand on Heart' appeal is aiming to raise £15,000 to provide defibrillators and the associated staff training for the 12 Macclesfield schools which currently do not have the lifesaving resource. Earlier this term, Jemima Jordan was able to visit Bollinbrook School when they were presented with their defibrillator.

Last term, our Sixth Form students hosted the annual Fashion Show (*pictured above*) in aid of The Christie, which raised a record-breaking £7,007.

Our Friends of King's have also been incredibly busy, raising over £5,000 at the Christmas Fair and £18,000 at the Winter Ball, of which £1,500 went to Hand on Heart, £1,500 to Destiny Garden School in Kenya and £1,500 to East Cheshire Hospice.



Sam Andersen and **Adam Murray**, both in Year 13, who have received Silver awards in the Physics Olympiad.

Beth Henshaw, who passed her Grade 7 Piano exam with Merit and **Ben Sneddon**, who passed his Grade 7 Piano exam.

Jake O'Donnell, who won the East Midlands U16s Orienteering Championships, aged just 12. He was 4 years younger than most competitors and beat three England internationals who are in Year 10.



Congratulations to **Madi Baxter, Sophia Calderwood, Daisy Sutton, Natasha Clark, Lydia Hine, Maddie Johnson, Anna Warham** and **Susie Moores** who have all been selected for their age-groups to represent Cheshire Netball.

Lydia Hine and **Minty Kight**, who have been selected to represent U13 Manchester Thunder youth academy. This is part of the England Netball Pathway and Lydia and Minty are now representing the North West.



Will Gem, in Year 8, who was announced as one of the highly commended runners-up in the junior category of the Merchant Taylors' Photographic Competition.

The **editorial team of 'Tapestry'**, who have published the first edition of the English Department magazine. The termly magazine features original stories, poems, literary reviews and articles from pupils in all senior years.

Annabel Wong, who recently achieved third place in both the Graves Winter Regional Tennis Tour and the Shrewsbury Christmas Tennis Open, and was awarded Runner-up at the Hull Christmas Tennis Open.

Dr Becky Williams, who has been shortlisted for a national i25 Award.

Former pupil **Dan Percival**, who has just graduated with an MSc in Environmental Water Consultancy from The University of Leeds.

Beth Tatton (Year 12), **May Broadley** (Year 11) and **Eben Cooper** (Year 7), who have had artwork selected to represent King's in the forthcoming 'Living Edge' Schools Art Exhibition at The Lowry in Manchester.

