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# King's Colours

Spring 2017

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

## Major donation helps 2020 Vision

**King's ambitious plans to build a new school have taken some important steps forward in recent weeks.**

Cheshire East Council has issued and sealed the planning permissions granted last July and the school has just received its largest ever donation to help achieve the plans.

The major philanthropic gift has been donated by a former pupil and is the largest donation in the school's history. It was given to fund the purchase of the 50 acres of land adjacent to the Derby Fields.

In addition, the school has received a very strong response to the marketing of its current sites. As the new school will be funded principally from the sale of these, this is an encouraging development.

Dr Hyde, Headmaster, said: "Early design and pre-construction work on the

new school has given us confidence that it can be delivered to an appropriate and affordable specification."

The whole project is based on a turnkey operation, with the school's current sites being released for development once the new school is ready. This will avoid the disruption otherwise caused by major building projects and allow the new school to open for a September start.

Dr Hyde adds: "There is a strong educational case for co-locating all of our pupils, from Pre-School to the Sixth Form, on a new, single site. We don't wish to change either the ethos or the feel of our school, but the opportunity to redevelop our facilities is an exciting one.

"Our intention is to deliver an outstanding educational establishment, rivalling the best in Britain, with facilities that match and enhance our already outstanding academic, cultural and sporting reputation."



### Oxbridge fabulous five

A fabulous five King's students have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge Universities this year across a range of highly competitive subjects.

From left to right: Freddy McNulty has won an offer from St. John's College, Cambridge to read Mathematics. A brilliant natural mathematician, Freddy scored a perfect 100% in his AS Maths paper in the summer.

Eleanor Toms, who got 10 A\*s in her GCSEs and is a North of England Hockey player, has an offer to read Natural Sciences at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

Cricket Captain Oliver Quinn has an open offer from Oxford to read English. He achieved a stunning straight 11 A\*s in his GCSEs and was highly commended in a national Cambridge University Spanish essay writing competition last year.

Freddie Hayward has an offer from St. Peter's College, Oxford to read Politics, Philosophy and Economics and John Le Moignan has an offer to read History and Politics at Jesus College, Oxford and ultimately would like to run for elected office.





I am sometimes asked what it means for King's to be a member of the Merchant Taylors' Family of Schools. The Merchant Taylors are one of the great twelve livery companies of the City of London. Our connection with the Company is through Sir John Percyvale, the school's founder, who was Master Merchant Taylor before becoming Lord Mayor of London in 1498.

These days, the Company's work is mainly focused on charitable activities, including support for education. There are ten members of the Merchant

Taylors' family and in recent years, the Company has been working increasingly hard to support its schools. The annual education seminar provides us with an opportunity to discuss topics of common interest and listen to high-profile speakers. The Company also sponsors research grants for staff, with Richard Griffiths, our Deputy Head, being a recent recipient.

The Merchant Taylors' photography competition gives pupils and staff the chance to share their work and a high point of each year is the Doctors' Dinner. The dinner is hosted in the sumptuous Merchant Taylors' Hall, where members of the Company meet with the Heads, Governors and School Captains of their associated schools.

Pictured are the School Captains with Simon Jack, BBC Business Editor, speaker at this year's Doctors' Dinner held in the hall, right.

We are especially grateful to the Master and Wardens for their sponsorship of a new Sixth Form bursary. It will provide a means-tested place for someone from Macclesfield and thereby help ensure that the work begun by Sir John in 1502 continues to this day.

Dr Simon Hyde, Headmaster



## Golden visit from Paralympic swimming star Hannah

Junior pupils received a visit from Paralympic gold medalist Hannah Russell MBE, who brought in her two golds and bronze medal from the Rio Games.

Hannah, who is visually impaired, told the children, "It's not about your disabilities or what you can't do; it's about your abilities and what you can do."

"My favourite motto is 'If you believe... you can' and that's how I have always lived my life and what I recommend to all of you. Have belief in yourself and your dreams can come true."

Her dreams came true when she set a new world record in the 100m S12 freestyle. She started training at the age of five and added: "I was inspired by my heroes Rebecca Adlington and Ellie Simmonds and I now want to inspire youngsters just like you, whatever your gifts and your talents."

## Spellbinding performance

Girls' Division actors relived the traumas of the lucky few when they staged Diana Samuels' modern day classic "Kindertransport."

Audiences were spellbound by the tale of a few Jewish children fortunate enough to escape the Nazi death camps to flee to Manchester in 1938.

The play spans four decades with the narrative criss-crossing from World War II right up to the 1980s and the continuing drama caused by their dislocation from family.

The subject demanded sensitive, powerful and intelligent performances from all the cast.



Jewish children waving goodbye to a life they will never know and to parents they will never see again.

## Supersonic cars, dinosaurs and Lego!

There was a fantastic buzz around the Infants & Juniors in January, as the children immersed themselves into a variety of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) challenges.

The Infants thoroughly enjoyed their Lego Workshop where they designed and built a town and village with transport links using 60,000 Lego pieces. Reception pupils designed a life-size class dinosaur and constructed it from chicken wire and Modroc. They made 'fossils' and became paleontologists, chipping away at a solid plaster lump to reveal a dinosaur inside.

### Garden Scarecrows

Year 1 investigated how to make hand puppets linked to the Chinese New Year story. Year 2 had a very exciting and busy week designing and constructing scarecrows for their Growing Garden.

Year 3 pupils were challenged to create a bridge to cross the River Nile that would be strong enough to support the weight of animals crossing it. In Music, pupils designed and made a string instrument with all the required component parts of a soundbox, a bridge and strings.



The highlight of the week for Y2 to Y6 pupils was the undoubtedly the Bloodhound Supersonic Car workshops. The engaging activities included a driving simulator and a demonstration of the rocket-powered engine. Pupils learnt a lot about the many aspects of designing a supersonic car – a truly inspirational experience!

### Real-life Problems

Year 4 and Year 6 pupils enjoyed a range of exciting activities including learning about structures such as bridges and buildings. A lot of fun was had building towers using a range of materials.

Year 5 children visited the Silk Museum to learn about Macclesfield's silk industry. They also studied mechanical devices and used them to solve a real-life problem in Nepal where villagers struggled to get tomatoes down the mountain to market without being squashed.

Throughout the week, the children also enjoyed lunchtime activities such as designing catapults, lollipop bridges and towers from marshmallows and spaghetti. Our budding young Town Planners, Civil Engineers and Architects had a wonderful week full of creative and enthusiastic ideas.



## JRNCM success for musical trio

Three talented musicians have earned places at the Junior Royal Northern College of Music (JRNCM). Opera singer Olivia Hamblyn, pianist and clarinet player John Daly, and violinist Georgina Bloomfield will all spend each Saturday at the famous central Manchester college.

Georgina has also just won three prizes at the prestigious Bowdon Music Festival and has been invited to perform at the British and International Federation of Festivals North West Championship in September.

Sixth Form student Olivia has already sung with the National Youth Choir and the Hallé Youth Choir for several years. She is delighted to have just been offered a place at the RNCM to study Voice from September.

Head Boy, John Daly, has been selected for the third successive year for the JRNCM, spending all day Saturday working on piano lessons, improvisation, composition classes and with the JRNCM's jazz band.



# King's House system... wizardry alive and well!



**THE House system at King's is very much alive and kicking or, more literally, baking, singing and kicking. But what are the benefits of this system and why do we put so much effort into it?**

Several schools in the UK have recently re-introduced the 'old-fashioned house system' following the success of the Harry Potter films.

At King's, our House system is firmly embedded in all our divisions and our pupils' association with Capesthorpe, Adlington, Tatton or Gawsworth is very much in evidence in day-to-day school life. The House system has different significance for different age children: for Juniors the emphasis is on earning House points and winning on Sports Day, whilst in the Seniors the focus is a series of hotly contested competitions and an avenue for



creativity and fun throughout the year. Clearly, there is more to it than this and evidence suggests that a well-resourced House system can improve results, raise morale and provide pastoral support for pupils. The rich and varied programme of House events is also a good counterbalance to the academic pressures for older pupils.

## Leadership opportunities

Hannah Crockart, Head of Houses in the Girls' Division, says: "The House system is a key way to offer positions of responsibility and provide leadership opportunities. Our House Captains and Vice Captains never fail to impress me with their organisational skills and ability to motivate girls across the division.

Already this academic year they have organised a song competition, a gym competition, a Macmillan Coffee morning for parents, poetry and photography competitions and countless quizzes. They are very effective at enthusing pupils in younger year groups and, especially in the Autumn term, at engaging girls who are new to the school. These skills will stand them in good stead at university and later in life."

The House system gives all our pupils a sense of identity within the school



community and provides a fun vehicle for teaching important lessons around success, pride and graciously dealing with defeat too. As schools nationally have been encouraged to celebrate and teach so-called traditional British values, the House system provides pupils with a means of learning about democracy, mutual respect and tolerance.

## Peer support

John Percival, Head of Houses in the Boys' Division, says: "The House system provides an architecture for pupil networks and peer support. Every student benefits from having a whole team of individuals in all year groups who belong to the same House. Shared activities and working toward common goals – whether its playing House football or organising a Christmas Fair – build healthy relationships between pupils outside of normal social groups. "It makes it easier for younger students to get to know and be supported



by the older students in their House. The vertical mixing leads to natural opportunities for mentoring and role modelling."

## Pupil participation

The House system also encourages pupil participation in extra-curricular activities and offers opportunities for pupils to lead or take part in activities independently and without too much direction from adults.

Often, it takes them beyond their comfort zone and builds resilience in an informal setting. House activities such as foreign language competitions, song competitions, quizzes, sports fixtures, speed-stack challenges or bake-offs test students' skills and allow many to share hidden talents.

In the recent Christmas Song competition in the Girls' Division, judges awarded extra points for creativity and originality. This resulted in girls working hard to create bespoke medleys of Christmas songs, ingenious choreography, extreme fancy dress

outfits and, unforgettably, cameo appearances from teachers, sports coaches and catering staff. Such events provide opportunities for pupils to take risks, test their creativity and organisational skills as well as show



*"It's a great way for us to get to know pupils in other year groups, building a really friendly atmosphere"*

*Katie Hayward, House Captain, Adlington, Girls' Division*

off talents. It is often in these events that unlikely students come out of their shell and gain new-found confidence. Later this year, House events planned for Senior Girls include a competition to help celebrate International Women's Day, an Easter Egg design competition, a Dance Contest and House netball.

## Hotly contested

In the Boys' Division, events include University Challenge, a Pancake Race, Football Competition, Geography Competition, Chess Competition, Cake Bake and Easter Egg Drop to design a capsule that will allow an egg to be dropped from the Rock Block without breaking! World Book Day Quizzes and Sports Days will be as hotly contested as ever.

It is not surprising that the House System is being revived by many institutions; at King's it provides so many opportunities for self-growth, skill development and leadership at a personal level whilst engendering camaraderie, team spirit and building our friendly community.

Headmaster Dr Hyde, says: "The House system supports those less measurable qualities of community, tolerance, cooperation and resilience which are part of educating young people to become happy and valuable members of society. There is always a keen interest in the House competitions, but to win the overall trophy you need strength in breadth as well as depth. This helps our pupils appreciate the need for diverse talents and interests."





## Sixth Form duo get North of England selection

Students Tim Phillips and Simon Ridgway have both earned their North of England jerseys.

Second row Tim and hooker Simon have played rugby together throughout their school careers and believe that vital connection helped them progress through the county ranks to the North of England squad. The six foot, two inches boys dedicate most of their time to A Level studies and rugby. Tim, (pictured left) who wants to read

Chemistry at Liverpool, and Simon, (right) who aims to study Sports Science at Loughborough, would both like to get a few England Schools' caps. Like their King's predecessor Tommy Taylor, who got a full England cap in the summer, both have concentrated on schools' rugby for King's and are now hoping to impress the national assessors when they play their trial match against the Midlands in February.

them display both attacking ingenuity and defensive solidarity. The finishing score was SGS 7 – 20 King's. The toughest game was in the semi-final against St. Ambrose winning 14 – 10, but in the quarter finals they beat Cheadle Hulme School 60 – 0 in something of a rout.

Coach Joe Walker said: "These lads play both with their heads and their hearts and have a structure and intelligence to their game well beyond their years."

## U14 Cheshire Cup winners

King's U14 rugby team has won and retained The Cheshire Cup during another outstanding season.

Since coming together three years ago, this strong squad has lost only one competitive fixture and are unbeaten over the last two seasons, combining fast, fluid, 15-man rugby and defensive grit. They proved too strong for Stockport Grammar in the cup final match that saw



## Cross Country Runners reach national final

Having competed against schools from across the North West and Midlands, King's Inter Girls cross country team qualified for the ESAA Schools National Cross Country Finals in Formby.

Of the 450 schools that initially entered this competition, only the top 24 proceeded to the National Finals. The girls completed a demanding 2800m course across fields and between the sand dunes in a very competitive race. The team event demands great individual resourcefulness allied to team discipline

and all six encouraged each other to keep going. Lulu Griffiths finished in a very credible 21st place, Jodie Foxton 78th, May Broadley 91st, Susie Moores 116th, Imogen Curtis 120th and Betty Kemp 125th out of 144 runners. The team finished in 21st place. In addition, Lulu, Jodie, May, Susie, Lottie Dennett, Rebecca Foster, Maddie Lucchi, Grace Cornford and Lottie Clark have all been selected to represent Macclesfield at the County Cross Country Championships.



Pictured (left to right) are Lulu, Jodie, Imogen, Susie, Betty and May.



## Hot shot Lottie

Pupil Lottie Dennett took 8th place in the National Schools' Pistol Shooting Championships in Cardiff last month. Having only taken up the sport 12 months ago to become a modern pentathlete, Lottie said: "I'm delighted I made it through to the National Finals. It was a great experience, and I was thrilled with a top 10 place."

She added: "It's all about mental control and maintaining focus, even when you miss." Lottie – who also plays hockey and netball at King's and is keen on running, swimming, cycling and riding – wants to see how far she can progress as a pentathlete.



## Hockey selection success

A huge number of pupils have been successful in progressing through to the next stage of the England Hockey Pathway. A record number of hockey players have been selected to play for either East Cheshire or Greater Manchester and some have now been selected to play at regional level. A total of 42 pupils have progressed from the Junior Development Centre to Junior Academy Centre (JAC) and will represent their county.

In addition, pupils Olivia Moores, Zoe Thomas, (pictured right) Abigail Cook, (pictured above with Natalie Stevens, Archie Phillips and Max Ridings (both pictured above left), Jack Ancell and Joe Tabachnik, have all been selected for their respective Performance Centre, where they will attend national training sessions and competitions, competing against each other. In July, players may be selected to attend the England Hockey Futures Cup and represent the North of England.



## Reece's impressive medal haul

Reece Grady accrued an impressive 12 silver and 3 bronze medals, as well as a Top 3 overall, at the recent Cheshire County Swimming Championships. Currently in Year 7, Reece set 9 new club records and 13 personal bests. Highlights were bringing home the 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay team in a time of 28.64 – a time that would rank 2nd in the UK for his age group if swam in an individual event. Other swims that rank him in the top 5 in the UK include the 100 Individual Medley of 1.13 and 200 Individual Medley of 2.37. Reece has now qualified for the North West Regional Championships in all of his events.

## Helen wins world's biggest art prize

This year's Turner Prize was awarded to former King's pupil Helen Marten. Since its establishment in 1984, the Turner Prize has become one of the most prestigious international visual arts awards and has contributed to a growing public interest in contemporary art.

Helen Marten was the youngest on the shortlist and is described by *The Evening Standard* as 'the artist who makes us archaeologists of our own time.' Her work uses sculpture, screen-printing and writing to produce installations that are full of references from the contemporary to the historical, and the everyday to the enigmatic. For the Turner Prize exhibition, she brought together a range of handmade and found objects drawn from daily life and more unusual sources including cotton buds, coins, shoe soles, marbles, eggs, snooker chalk and snakeskin. Her collage-like gatherings of objects and images create 'poetic visual puzzles that encourage the viewer to consider familiar items as if they were seeing them for the first time'. In the process, the objects become strange and abstract - 'husked down', Marten says, 'to geometric memories of themselves', that give rise to new and unexpected ideas.



After studying A Levels at King's, Helen went on to study at Central Saint Martins and The Ruskin School of Fine Art, Oxford. As well as scooping this year's Turner Prize, Helen was also named the winner of the inaugural Hepworth Prize for Sculpture.

## Drinks in the City

This year's Drinks in the City reception took place in the sumptuous Drawing Room of The Merchant Taylors' Halls. Around 55 former pupils and staff assembled in the historical venue in the heart of the City. The event proved to be a hugely entertaining evening and afforded former pupils, staff and current staff an opportunity to catch-up and socialise.



The Merchant Taylors' Company is an integral part of the history of the City of London and, as one of their affiliated schools, King's was delighted to be hosted by the Company at their headquarters.

## Rugby charity match

At Christmas, around 50 brave souls participated in the third annual Former Pupils vs Club fundraising match at Macclesfield Rugby Club. The conditions underfoot were terrible but, despite this, the standard of rugby was excellent. The game was high tempo and the crowd was treated to a real contest. King's former pupils were the eventual winners by 12 points to 10. It was a family affair with several sets of brothers playing their part including James and Jonathan Keep, Dan and Jake Percival, Bruce and Frazer Lacey, Ben and Johnny Marsden, Will and Andy Hodgson. The match raised around £1,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust and East Cheshire Hospice.

## Community

Pupils have been extremely busy with their fundraising activities. Infants & Juniors raised £831 for Save the Children and an additional £767 to help the children of Destiny Garden School in Mombasa, which will buy all 420 children at the school seven exercise books each to help them with their learning.



In the Girls' Division, pupils raised a staggering £4,500 for Maggie's Centre at The Christie.

Fundraising Organiser for Maggie's, Ruth Tobi, gratefully accepted the enormous sum that will now fund the centre for cancer patients for an entire day. Friday 10 March will be 'King's Day' at Maggie's with our Songbirds choir visiting to sing for users of the centre and bring home-made cakes for one and all to share.

Ruth said: "Maggie's Manchester is so grateful to all the girls at King's for their amazing fundraising achievement. Last month was our busiest yet at Maggie's Manchester, we had over 1,400 visits and we are totally reliant on donations and gifts to be able to provide the support that is needed."

This academic year the Boys' Division is supporting CKEF (Connecting Kids Education Foundation), a charity dedicated to improving education for children in rural Ghana. Pupils were delighted to welcome Ellen Blamires, the charity's Director, to an assembly in October. Ellen described the charity's latest project, providing a nursery school for younger children. Boys have been hard at work on a range of fundraising initiatives, including charity football matches, cake sales, a Santa Dash, activities fair and the annual House Christmas Fair.

In January, Ellen returned to King's to collect a donation of 75 old-style hockey and cricket style tops, which were supplemented further with old PE kit from the Second Hand Uniform shop run by FoK. The kit and around 3,000 textbooks will all arrive in Ghana in February.

Ellen said: "A big thank you to King's for their marvellous generosity. The opportunity to wear a sport kit is special and carries so much meaning for these lovely kids. The kits will bring so much joy and excitement, but most importantly a necessary tool to combat absenteeism. Wearing a sport kit is a privilege reserved for well-behaved students."

## Congratulations to:

**Joseph Bailey-Heald, Oliver Carter, Eleanor Collett, Sophie Fletcher, Will Gem, Toby Gray, Oliver Jones, Izzy Moores, Harry Pinches and Georgie Sanders**, for qualifying for the North of Britain Trampoline Championships in their respective category.

**Lewis Bell, Samuel Cockayne, Alex Galbraith, Ben Lynch, William McIlveen, Alex Welsh and Hannah Wilcock**, for achieving a Gold Award in the UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge. Ben also qualified for the British Mathematics Olympiad.

**Abigail Breese-Tovey, Emma Graham, Connie Jordan, Trinity Mack, Jo Whiteley and Julia Zjawinska**, for coming second place in The Institution of Engineering and Technology 'Faraday Challenge'.

**Alex Clarke**, who has achieved Grade 8 Flute with Distinction.

**Eleanor Collett**, who has competed in trampolining and cheerleading at both national and international level.

**Daniel Crosby**, who has achieved Grade 8 Singing with Distinction.

**Sion Davenport, Will Davies, Gus Fiennes, Sam Higginson, Toby Moule and Harry Whelton**, who represented Sale Sharks U16s rugby.

**Alastair and Verity Griffin**, for attaining Powerboat Level 2 qualifications.

**Chloe Henshaw**, for passing Grade 8 Violin with Distinction.

**Agnes Homer**, who was highly commended in the Merchant Taylors' Photography Competition.

**Will Jones**, who won the National Air Force Cadets' Bugle Championship.

**Connie Jordan**, who was the winner of her age category in the 'Not In Our School' hate crime poster competition with Cheshire Police.

**Ollie Leatherbarrow and Ike McCormick**, who represented Cheshire U15s rugby, and **Sam Worthington**, who represented Cheshire U18s rugby.

**Izzy Moores**, for qualifying for the North of Britain Trampoline Championships and being crowned North West Champion.

**Tim Phillips and Simon Ridgway**, who represented Cheshire and the North of England U18s rugby.

**Oliver Rushton**, who has passed his LAMDA Grade 8 (Gold) Speaking Verse and Prose with Distinction.

**Christian Tattum**, who has been selected to play chess for Cheshire County.