

# King's Colours

Summer 1998

The Termly Newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

## Headmaster's Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the King's Newsletter. So much goes on in the various Divisions that we feel it will be helpful to give a full picture of our activities and achievements.



In future we intend to issue this termly. This particular letter takes a look at the events of the last three terms and inevitably we have had difficulty deciding what to leave out! Nonetheless, I hope you will agree that there has been a great deal of positive activity which reflects credit on the pupils.

We also want to tell the outside world about recent developments within the school and how these will shape our plans for the future. Many people still think of King's as just an independent grammar school for boys - albeit one with a fine tradition and reputation. They do not know that we also now have a first class, co-educational Sixth Form; a separate single sex school for girls, about to celebrate its fifth anniversary; a well-established Junior School for five to eleven year-olds and, our most recent addition, an Infants' School on the same site in Fence Avenue - a continuity of quality education for both sexes from three to eighteen and one which adds great breadth and depth to The King's Foundation as it approaches its 500th Anniversary in 2002.

We hope, in future, to involve parents and former pupils in our newsletters, both with special features and with correspondence. To that end we would welcome your thoughts on this edition and about the school in general, so that we can keep this newsletter up-to-date. Letters should be sent to me directly, and we can receive e-mails at [kingsmac@rmpc.co.uk](mailto:kingsmac@rmpc.co.uk). You will also notice in this letter that we have a re-designed web-site on the Internet. Comments on this will be most welcome.

## OXBRIDGE OFFERS

Six students have been offered places at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Oxford has made offers to four students. Musician Richard Coxson will study Music at New College. Darius Farshchi will study Chemistry at Brasenose College. Both pupils hope to pursue careers in the City.

Michael Ford will go up to Worcester College to study English and Classics and intends to become a senior academic.

Gordon Jones is one of a select few pupils nationwide to be accepted for an Egyptology course at University College. Gordon aims to become an Oxbridge Don.

Cambridge has made offers to two students. William Gamble will read Chemical Engineering at Churchill College and wants to become a research scientist with one of the North-West's top pharmaceutical companies.

Vladic Vaganov will read Natural Sciences and Physics at Robinson College. Vladic emigrated from his native Russia and has made exceptional progress. He too intends to become a Don.

## KING'S INVENTORS CHARM INDUSTRY



## BBC INVITATION FOR COMPOSER THOM

King's composer Thom Petty is one of five gifted teenagers to be invited by the BBC on a Young Musician's Workshop. The results of his working sessions with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra are to be broadcast on Radio 4 and made into a BBC 2 documentary.

Thom, 17, who is studying Biology, Maths, Chemistry and Music in the Sixth Form, wants to study Medicine at either Oxford or Cambridge. Thom's work has been performed to much acclaim at school concerts and he has won a series of high profile national competitions with work influenced by both classical music and jazz. His favourite composers are Messiaen and Turnridge.



King's School inventors and Zeneca engineers have teamed up to produce a fluorescent light tube recycling machine. Their new invention is now attracting attention from leading manufacturers.

Disposing of the 2,000 light tubes used by Zeneca each year safely and cleanly can turn anyone off. The project was to design and build an on-site lamp crush to take care of the problem. King's engineers Alex Flynn, Mark Goodsell, Rosanna Wilson and Jonathan Mitchell devised a cylindrical system of rotating blades which disintegrates the glass, siphons off the mercury and withdraws the metallic caps. Zeneca engineer Dr. Ali Ali, said: 'The designers of our current system are very interested and want to see the King's report.'

# KING'S ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

King's commitment to the dynamic medium of the Internet was reinforced this term with the unveiling of a completely redesigned school site on the World Wide Web coupled with a substantial investment to provide dedicated Internet access throughout the Foundation.

Designed and constructed by Head of Information Resources, Michael Patey-Ford, the website is a major initiative with comprehensive information on every aspect of school life, clearly and elegantly presented. Visitors to the site are even able to make a 'virtual reality' tour of the school and its facilities from their computer desktop.

The simplicity of the design belies the months of planning and discussion required to ensure that the site can adapt to changes in the curriculum and evolve as the Internet assumes an increasingly significant role in education.

## New network

In line with this, the school is upgrading its Internet access by investing in a new network of computers, linking the two sites across town, which will allow pupils to 'surf the net' at high speed. The network will be based in the Information Resource Centres on each site, providing



The King's Home Page can be found at the address below. Please visit and let us know what you think

a perfect base for controlled open access to this exciting medium throughout the day. From this starting point the network will extend to further clusters of computers throughout the school.



## YOUNG ENGINEERS

Girl Power reigns at Fence Avenue. Seven young King's Girls' Division engineers have attended a prestigious Engineering Technology Week at universities across Britain.

Scientists Abbie Bullivent and Kate Baker were selected for the advanced phase of the Engineering Technology Week and attended a week long course of lectures and practicals at Plymouth University.

Deborah Harrison, Jody Ball, Amy Percival, Stephanie Page and Amanda Barker attended a first phase series of lectures at campuses in Carleon and Newton Abbott.

Jody said: 'We were split into groups and had to complete a specific design task. My group designed a club class seat for a British Airways plane.' Amanda added: 'It was brilliant. I built an FM Radio. I'm now thinking seriously about a career in engineering.'

King's Girls' Division Principal Mrs Catherine Buckley said: 'It is a remarkable achievement for so many of our younger girls to be selected for such a significant project.'

King's Website is at : <http://www.rmplc.co.uk/eduweb/sites/kingsmac/>

# INFANTS IMPRESS OFSTED

The new King's School Infant department earned a glowing report from the OFSTED inspection team just two months after its opening.

Mr Silcock welcomed the report's findings: 'It is an outstanding report and a great credit to the dedicated team of staff who have put their energy and expertise into the planning, development and opening.'

The report was commissioned by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED). It stated: 'Children are very well behaved, polite and co-operative. Staff actively foster self-esteem and encourage the children to care for each other and their environment.'

Across the six main areas of learning in which OFSTED seeks to promote desirable outcomes: Personal and Social Development, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Knowledge and Understanding of the World, Physical Development and Creative Development, the Inspector makes extremely positive comments about King's.

The report states: 'The approach to planning is excellent. There are detailed curriculum documents which reflect the six areas of learning and desirable outcomes. These will help to ensure continuity and progression in children's learning. The quality of teaching is excellent. Staff are clearly confident in their knowledge. They work well as a team, sharing ideas and information. They are developed

effectively. Assessment and recording procedures are excellent.'

King's was also praised for the standard of accommodation and resourcing: 'The school is very well-equipped and the quality of accommodation is excellent. Resources have been well selected to support all areas of learning.'

The strong relationships which have been forged between staff, parents and the local community are also valued: 'The partnership with parents and carers is excellent and many positive links have been established. They are kept fully informed about all aspects of the school and are actively encouraged to be involved in children's learning. The school serves its community very well.'



# King's On Stage

## King's Foundation actors give original and highly entertaining interpretations of two classic pieces of English theatre

### Tempest whips up a storm

The King's School Drama Company won rave reviews for its ambitious production of *The Tempest*.

'An outstanding piece of highly original theatre', wrote one critic; 'gifted acting from an imaginative, superbly drilled cast,' commented another. Shakespeare's final work, a bitter-sweet celebration of life's potentialities and restrictions, was updated to the 19th Century.

Prospero became a showman, Caliban the sideshow freak and Ariel a troupe of skaters. Curtis Jordan in the central role was commanding, both pitiful and potent. Miranda was played on alternate nights by Esme Patey-Ford and Annie Phillips, both of whom brought a radically different yet equally valid interpretation to the role. Tom Johnson was menacing and fanciful as Caliban, while youngster Alex Healey as Trinculo also gave a very promising performance.

The 16 pupils playing Ariel demonstrated considerable discipline and skill as they delivered Shakespeare's verse while executing complex choreography on their roller blades.

A suite of incidental music was commissioned from Winston Barraclough for the production and arranged by Thom Petty. Many of the costumes were made by the Friends of King's Drama Committee and the production boasted an elegance and style rarely found in school productions - further enhancing Frank Walker's reputation as one of the most talented directors working in schools' drama.



### Pity the Ragged Child

The Girls' Division stage witnessed a telling piece of social commentary, with a vividly imaginative production of *The Ragged Child*.

The tale revolves around a brother and sister who become separated by Victorian class divisions. Youngsters James Hatt and Rebecca Lea gave performances beyond their years and were ably supported by a superb cast. Sandy Gibson's direction used a wide range of dramatic effects to highlight the injustices. The beat of the chorus and musical accompaniment drove forward the action to its dramatic denouement, with barely a dry eye in the house.



## CHRISTMAS WITH THE NCO

The King's Foundation Choir joined the prestigious Northern Chamber Orchestra for a powerful mixture of orchestral and choral music, carols, poetry and prose.

The Northern Chamber Orchestra, renowned for its imaginative programmes and superb music-making, played works by Mozart, Schubert, Arnold, Wagner and Josef Strauss.

The choir then joined the NCO on stage to perform the beautiful *Hosianna dem Sohne David*, an advent cantata, by the 17th-century composer Franz Tunder.

Carols sung by the choir from the Heritage Centre Gallery were a seasonal contribution to the festive evening. Throughout the evening members of both the choir and the orchestra read poetry and prose between the music.

Andrew Green, King's Director of Music, said: 'We were delighted to be able to perform once again with such a fine ensemble as the NCO. It is a great opportunity for the choir to be able to sing with a professional orchestra, and study their professional disciplines and standards.'

Headmaster, Mr Adrian Silcock, said: 'The Foundation Choir surprised the NCO professionals who had been a little hesitant about performing with school-age children. By the end of the evening the NCO realised that our choir achieves exceptionally high standards. It was a thrilling evening and one which we hope will be repeated in years to come.'

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*Pictured are scenes from the recent productions of The Ragged Child and The Tempest*





## GIRLS CONFESS TO 10 MILLION

### Six Girls' Division pupils delight the nation with their tales of the unexpected for TV's Simon Mayo

'Honesty is the best policy.' This is a lesson that six pupils from the King's School Girls' Division will never forget after confessing their misdeeds in front of a 10 million audience on Simon Mayo's *Confessions*.

They are pictured wreaking their revenge on supergrass Michelle Williams who had written in to the hit BBC programme. The girls were exposed after Michelle told researchers of their antics on a school trip more than two years ago.

The girls, including Michelle's own twin sister, were supposed to complete a 12 kilometre walk from Edale to Hope as part of the King's Outdoor Activities programme - but they foresook the blisters and hitched a lift from a local landlady instead.

The TV revelation was all taken in good part. Trickster Charlotte Heaton said: 'It was an ordeal, but it was still an experience we will never forget. We met Simon Mayo and his guests and had a fabulous day out in London.'

At the end of this school year Dai retires. He is the school's longest serving master and over 36 years has taught more than 10,000 pupils.

Under his tutelage England Skipper and British Lion Steve Smith developed his skills, there were other England representatives such as Ian Pringle and Norman Hodgkinson, and it is fitting that as he retires, two more of his charges - Jos Baxendell and Richard Poole-Jones have earned their first caps for their country.

He gave up his own rugby career to concentrate on coaching his boys, but says: 'I never regretted giving up the game, I got far more enjoyment out of coaching the boys.'

Headmaster Mr. Silcock said: 'Dai Jones is one of the teaching profession's great characters, combining professionalism with a strong individuality that has endeared him to both colleagues and pupils over the years.'



## BYE BYE BOYO

Dai Jones came up from the Welsh valleys 36 years ago intending to spend one year in Macclesfield before emigrating to New Zealand. Since then he has been what he himself describes as the King's School's token Welshman, bringing that mystical Welsh 'Hwyl' to the classrooms, corridors and playing fields.

## ALL THAT JAZZ

'It don't mean a thing if you ain't got that swing' or so say the King's School's Big Band who are making a recording of their live concerts.

The 22-piece orchestra is to record its concerts over the coming months for a Christmas CD.

Conducted by jazz impresario Ron Darlington, the Big Band laid down their first tracks at a concert in aid of Macclesfield Amateur Dramatic Society (MADS) at the Little Theatre. The evening raised £250 for the group.



The evening was also a tribute to the late great Frank Sinatra. As well as Cole Porter classics, there was music from Duke Ellington, Neil Hefty, Herbie Hancock and Woody Herman.

## THE KING'S SINGERS

King's singers John Livesley and Andrew Aldcroft will be exercising their vocal chords for the National Youth Choir this Summer.

The tuneful teenagers have been selected for the UK's premier youth choir following rigorous auditions, and will be giving concerts in top venues later in the year.

John is studying English Literature, History, French and Music in the Sixth Form. After his A Levels next year, John is hoping to gain a choral scholarship at Oxford University, combining Music with History.

Andrew is studying Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Computing and Music in the Sixth Form. After his A Levels next year he is also hoping to gain a choral scholarship at Oxford University, combining Music with Mathematics and Computing.



## CONGRATULATIONS

James Coates, James Triggs and James Evans on the Mathematics Olympiad Gold Award and on their selection for the national finals.

Junior Division pupils Richard Johnson and Rachel Alston on winning scholarships to the Senior Divisions.

James Hutter on hitting two consecutive centuries for the school, the first time since records have been kept.

Cricketers Oliver Rushton and Simon Barber on performing hat-tricks.

The under-14 swimming team on winning the Eyam Trophy for the fifth year in succession.

Junior Division pupil Eve Marchant on being selected for the National Youth Ballet Company and the Junior Division 1st XI on an outstanding football season.

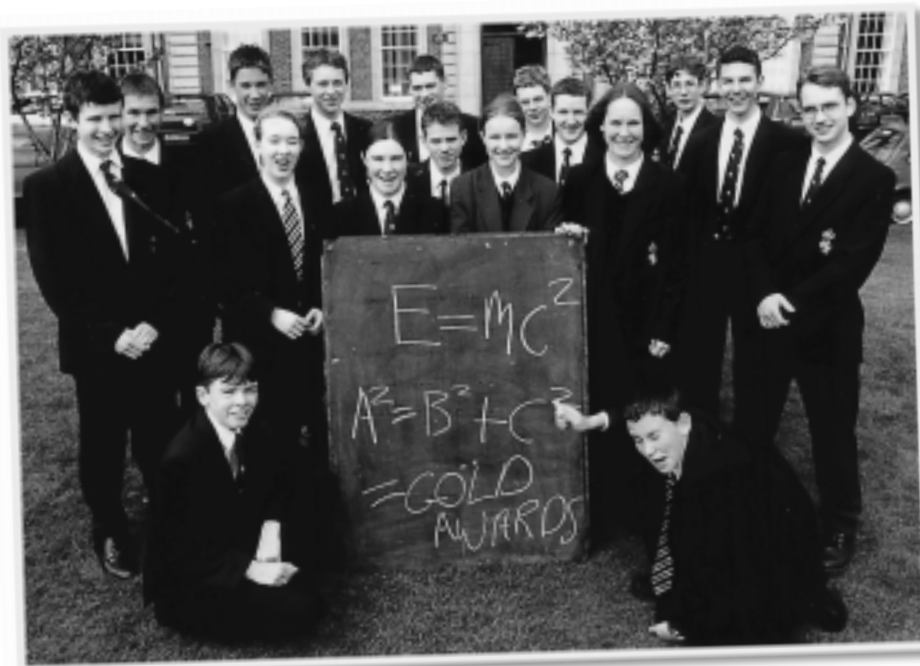
Mother and son, Angela and David Cooper, who successfully completed the London Marathon while raising money for numerous good causes.

Former pupils Jos Baxendell and Richard Poole-Jones on selection for the England tour of the Antipodes, and Steve Swindells who scored the second highest number of points of any player in the English Rugby Leagues.

King's Junior Division cross country athletes who had a series of podium finishes in the Macclesfield and District Primary Schools' Cross Country Championships.

Former Head of English Graham Wilson on the success of his book 'Macc and the Art of Long Distance Walking' published by Millrace.

# KING'S STRIKE GOLD



King's School mathematicians have earned a host of gold awards in the Intermediate National Mathematics Challenge.

There were 19 students who gained the top honours, with three high fliers earning qualification to the prestigious 1998 Invitational Challenge.

Pictured are James Evans, James Coates, James Triggs, John Howell, Will Roberts, Richard Bradfield, Peter Dale, Tom Hawley, Oliver Morley, Matthew Batchelor, Richard Cowgill, John Percival, Chris Knowles, Louise Southern, Sharon Ketley, Vicky Weaver and Katherine Coveney.

King's also had 38 silver awards and 35 bronze awards - three times better than the national average.

## Ten Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards

King's School adventurers have gained a record 10 gold awards in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.

The award scheme, which is said to test the parts that normal education does not reach, challenges youngsters in four set sections.

Gold award winners must provide a service to the community; plan and undertake a major expedition; develop a new technical skill, and achieve prowess in a sport.

The golden students are: Ben Brown, Edward Cox, Harith Haboubi, Richard Hibbert, Mark Jackson, Chris Malkin, Alex Morgan, James Perriss, John Phillips and David Unterhalter.



## KARAN'S PEDAL POWER LIFTS LOOT

The King's Foundation's Charities Week raised more than £5,000 for a wide range of local, national and international charities.

Tireless Second Year pupil Karan Vij raised the largest sum of any single pupil amassing over £500 from a sponsored 20 mile cycle ride.

Other attractions included Sixth Form Vice Principal Gill Turner who turned the clock back 26 years.

Mrs Turner charged 20p for a glimpse of her wedding photos, which reveal her now respectable accountant husband sporting long hair and herself a perfect imitation of Seventies' icon, Marianne Faithful.





## KING'S ARE GREAT BRITAIN

The King's orienteering team were selected en masse to represent Great Britain in the World Schools' Championships in Latvia in May.

Pitting their athleticism and navigational skills against teams from the rest of the world, the King's team did not let their country down. Pictured are Nick Mills, Yanick

Malins, Andrew Bruce, James Watts, Nicholas Barringer and Chris Watts.

Number One orienteer Chris Watts was selected for the elite GB under-15 team, while the other runners competed at under-14 level.

The event took place in the Latvian capital Riga on a unique

course which combined glacial moraine, sand dunes and mountain forests.

King's were given this unique honour after winning the British Schools' Championships in November last year. King's Coach Chris O'Donnell said: 'It's an intelligence as well as a physical test. This is an exceptional team.'



## UNDER 16 CUP TRIUMPH

The King's under-16 side beat the cream of northern schools' rugby to win the Liverpool St. Helens Floodlit Cup.

Twenty of the region's top schools' sides met in this 15-a-side end of season celebration. King's beat Stonyhurst, the winners for the past three years, in the quarter finals 17 - 7, before taming MGS 10 - 3 in the semi-finals. Then in appalling conditions, King's mastered the wind and rain to beat Cowley 31 - 7 in the final with tries from Charlie Levins, Alex Forshaw, Eddie Bones and Ashley Sharp.

Coach Tony Browne said: 'Courageous defence characterised our performances. In the final, the team stuck to a preconceived game plan, playing nine man rugby, keeping the ball in the forwards to counter the terrible conditions. It was very much against King's traditional open attacking game, but as a one-off, it worked perfectly.'

This side will form the basis of the squad to tour Australasia in the Summer of 2000 and omens are promising that King's will give the Southern Hemisphere sides a testing time on their own territory.

# King's Contacts

## Your Letters

We would be delighted to include your letters in future issues of *King's Colours*. Please write directly to the Editor at the address below.

## Former Pupils - Where are you now?

As a regular feature of our Newsletter we want to hear from former pupils. Tell us what you're up to now. Please email or write to the Editor at the address below.

If you are interested in making contact with other former pupils and joining an on-line mailing list, please visit the King's Contact Page at:

<http://www.jaffasoft.co.uk/kings/>

## Dates for your diary

Friday 3 July	Term ends at 12.30
Thurs 20 Aug	A level results published
Thurs 27 Aug	GCSE results published
Friday 4 Sept	Term starts Half day until 12.30pm
Thurs 17 Sept	Junior Division New Parents' Social Evening
Mon 21 Sept	Year 12 Parents' meeting with Headmaster
Friday 25 Sept	Big Band Concert

For information about admissions, please contact:

King's Infants	Mr GJ Shaw
King's Juniors	Principal, Junior Division

King's Girls	Mr KWW Aikin
King's Boys	Admissions Officer

King's Sixth Form	Mrs V Kendal Sixth Form Secretary
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If you would like further information about King's, please contact us

**tel: 01625 260000,**  
**email: kingsmac@rmpkc.co.uk**

or write to:

**The King's School**  
**Macclesfield SK10 1DA**